City of Mount Gambier

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I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date:	**Tuesday, 16 July 2024**
Time:	**6.00 p.m.**
Location:	**Council Chamber** **Civic Centre** **10 Watson Terrace** **Mount Gambier**

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting
16 July 2024

Sarah Philpott
Chief Executive Officer
12 July 2024

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BOANDIK PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WHERE WE MEET TODAY. WE RESPECT THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND RECOGNISE THE DEEP FEELINGS OF ATTACHMENT OUR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES HAVE WITH THE LAND.

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting - 18 June 2024

Special Council Meeting - 18 June 2024

Special Council Meeting - 25 June 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 18 June 2024, the Special Council meeting held on 18 June 2024 and the Special Council meeting held on 25 June 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

5 MAYORAL REPORT

5.1 MAYORAL REPORT - JULY 2024 – REPORT NO. AR23/81570

- Elected Member Briefing – Budget Consultation and Budget Update
- Catch-up meeting with Deb Brokenshire, LCLGA Executive Officer
- Meeting with South East Art Society
- McDonald Park Primary School – Art Show judging
- LCLGA Mayors Catch Up (virtual)
- Citizenship Ceremony
- LCLGA General Meeting (Bordertown)
- Radio Interview with Llew Jones – 5GTR FM
- Special Council Meeting – Budget adoption
- Meeting with Emma Poland – Limestone Coast Local Health Network CEO
- Catch-up meeting with Deb Brokenshire, LCLGA Executive Officer
- Meeting with Prof. Chris Brebner and Prof. Romy Lawson – Flinders University
- MJ Dance Debutante Ball
- Meeting with CEO and Deb Brokenshire, LCLGA Executive Officer
- LCLGA Mayors Catch Up (virtual)
- Blue Lake Bar & Bistro – 20 Years in Business Celebrations & Opening of the Deck
- Naidoc Week – Flag Raising Ceremony

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Nil

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Nil

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Nil

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11.1 ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW - PREFERRED STRUCTURE - JULY UPDATE – REPORT NO. AR24/48191

Committee:	**Council**
Meeting Date:	**16 July 2024**
Report No.:	**AR24/48191**
CM9 Reference:	**AF23/328**
Author:	**Michael McCarthy, Manager Governance and Property**
Authoriser:	**Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services**
Summary:	**This report is presented to enable Council to consider further information relating to Council's requirement to determine a proposal it considers should be carried into effect for inclusion in a public consultation report on the Elector Representation Review process being conducted under section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999.**
Strategic Plan Reference:	**Goal 1: Our People** **Goal 5: Our Commitment**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report No. AR24/48191 titled 'Elector Representation Review - Preferred Structure - July Update' as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.
2. That, having considered Council Report No. AR24/48191 as a report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer under regulation 21 of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*, parts 3 and 4 of Council Resolution 2024/133 dated 18 June 2024, as follows:

   3. That Council determine, in principle for the purpose of the preparation of a draft "Representation Report", the future composition and structure which it believes should come into effect at the next Local Government elections in 2026, be comprised of:

   (a) The Council area be named The City of Mount Gambier.

   (b) No Ward Structure.

   (c) A Mayor as Principal Member elected as a representative of the area as a whole.

   (d) 8 or 9 Area Councillors.

   4. That a draft "Representation Report" be prepared presenting Council's proposed/preferred future elector representation arrangement for consideration and endorsement by Council prior to the initiation of the public consultation process.

   be revoked.

3. That Council determine, in principle for the purpose of the preparation of a draft "Representation Report", the future composition and structure which it believes should come into effect at the next Local Government elections in 2026, be comprised of

   (a) The Council area be named City of Mount Gambier.

(b) No Ward Structure.

(c) A Mayor as Principal Member elected as a representative of the area as a whole.

(d) 8 Area Councillors.

4. That a draft “Representation Report” be prepared presenting Council’s proposed/preferred future elector representation arrangement for consideration and endorsement by Council prior to the initiation of the public consultation process.

TYPE OF REPORT

Legislative

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting in June 2024 Council considered Report No. titled *'Elector Representation Review – Preferred Structure*' which referenced an earlier report to the February Council meeting (Report No. AR24/4944 titled *'Elector Representation Review – April 2024 – April 2025*'). This followed an information/briefing session with Members in May 2024 at which Council's engaged consultant presented on the Elector Representation Review process and options that Council will need to consider for inclusion in a Draft Elector Representation Review Report for public consultation purposes.

At the Council meeting on 18 June 2024 Council resolved as follows:

> ***RESOLUTION 2024/133***
> *Moved: Cr Paul Jenner*
> *Seconded: Cr Max Bruins*
>
> 1. *That Council Report No. AR24/40295 titled 'Elector Representation Review - Preferred Structure' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.*
> 2. *That the Discussion Paper pertaining to the Representation Review (Attachment 1 - dated May 2024) be received and noted.*
> 3. *That Council determine, in principle for the purpose of the preparation of a draft "Representation Report", the future composition and structure which it believes should come into effect at the next Local Government elections in 2026, be comprised of:*
>
> *(a) The Council area be named The City of Mount Gambier.*
>
> *(b) No Ward Structure.*
>
> *(c) A Mayor as Principal Member elected as a representative of the area as a whole.*
>
> *(d) 8 or 9 Area Councillors.*
>
> 4. *That a draft "Representation Report" be prepared presenting Council's proposed/preferred future elector representation arrangement for consideration and endorsement by Council prior to the initiation of the public consultation process.*
>
> ***CARRIED***

Upon notification of the above resolution to the consultant engaged by Council in this matter concern has been raised with the non-singular option in resolution 3(d), and also with one of the options being an increase to the current Councillor representation.

This report presents the consultants concerns (reproduced under the report heading '*Proposal)*'.

A recommendation to revoke parts 3 and 4 of Council Resolution 2024/133 of June 2024 is also included, with this report and recommendation being submitted by the Chief Executive Officer under Regulation 21 of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*.

PROPOSAL

Following Council's resolution of its proposed future composition and structure at the June 2024 Council meeting, Council's Elector Representation Review consultant has provided the following commentary to assist Council in re-considering its endorsed proposal that it considers should be carried into effect from the next general elections:

> *"At its meeting on the 18th June 2024 Council made a number of resolutions pertaining to matters relevant to the representation review. I am particularly interested in resolution 3(d) which essentially indicates that Council is of the opinion that the Representation Report and upcoming public consultation should indicate to the community that the future Council should comprise either eight (8) or nine (9) area councillors. I raise this matter for the following reasons.*
>
> *Section 12(6)(a)(i) of the Local Government Act 1999 states:*

"The representation report must—

(a) examine the advantages and disadvantages of various options that are available to the council under subsection (1) (insofar as the various features of the composition and structure of the council are under review) and, in particular (to the extent that may be relevant)—

(i) examine the question of whether the number of members should be reduced; ".

My interpretation of this provision is that it specifically requires Council to consider reducing the number of elected members, which also infers that the status quo can be maintained in the case where Council decides that a reduction is not warranted. Interestingly, the relevant provisions of the Act make no mention of increasing the number of elected members. As such, it is questionable whether the Act affords the opportunity for councils to consider, let alone propose, an increase in the number of elected members.

Further, Section 12 (6) (b) of the Act states:

"The representation report must—

(b) set out any proposal that the council considers should be carried into effect under this section;"

Again, I believe the intent of this provision of the Act is clear. The Review Report is to set out the proposed composition and structure that Council believes should come into effect at the next Local Government election in November 2026. The Act does not mention anything about presenting options or alternatives for consideration by the community. This being the case, I believe that Council cannot go to public consultation with the option of eight or nine area councillors. It must specify how many members it is proposing. I have previously consulted Electoral Commission SA over this matter and have been advised that ECSA concurs with this interpretation.

I also draw you attention to the Discussion Paper which was presented to the elected members in May 2024. Under 5. Elector Representation (page 8) it is stated: "Further, it could be reasonably concluded that it will be difficult to mount a sustainable argument to increase the number of elector members at this time, despite the likelihood of some population growth in the foreseeable future."

In addition, when addressing this matter at the workshop conducted with Council on the 14th May 2024, I advised the members who were in attendance that the Representation Report must present the proposal that Council wants to bring into effect. This advice has been consistently presented to all fifteen (15) of our current client councils since we commenced helping with representation reviews in March 2024. The elected members may have simply misunderstood the advice provided.

In summary, I believe that the Representation Report can only present the elector representation arrangement (i.e. the future composition and structure of Council) which is intended to be carried into effect at the next Local Government election in 2026. This being the case, it would be inappropriate to present the option of eight or nine area councillors for consideration by the community. I therefore suggest that Council reconsider its position in respect to this issue; and initiate the appropriate course of action at the earliest opportunity to vary its position regarding the preferred future number of elected members.

As Council does not have to complete its review until the end of April 2025, ample time exists to rectify the aforementioned situation."

In addition to the above commentary, it is also noted that section 12(6)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999 does require the Representation Report to

(a) examine the advantages and disadvantages of various options that are available to the Council under subsection (1) (insofar as the various features of the composition and structure of the Council are under review), and in particular (to the 0065tent that may be relevant)-

(i) examine the question of whether the number of members should be reduced; and

(ii) [n/a]

(b) Set out any proposal that the Council considers should be carried into effect under this section; and

(c) In respect of any such proposal – include an analysis of how the proposal relates to the principles under section 26(1)(c) and the matters referred to in section 33 (to the extent that they may be relevant); and

(d) Examine such other relevant as the Council or the person preparing the report thinks fit.

It is the combination of section 12(6)(a)(i), (b) and (c) that the consultant is referring, with 12(6)(a)(i) requiring the Representation Report to *'examine*' various options, whilst under (b) and (c) to *'set out any proposal Council considers should be carried into effec*t' and *'include analysis of how the proposal relates to the principles in sections 26 and 33*'.

The principles in section 26(1)(c) and matters in section 33 are reproduced in **Attachment 2**, and are what the consultant will address in the Representation Report for Councils proposed option.

Confirmation of the Electoral Commissioners position has been sought in writing this report.

Noting the consultants commentary, and more particularly that of the Electoral Commissioner as the agency responsible for certifying the elector representation review process, confirming that section 12 requires Council to set out a singular proposal it considers should be carried into effect, and that the *Local Government Act 1999* does not anticipate increasing the number of Councillors in setting out matters to be considered in conducting an elector representation review, it is recommended that Council re-consider the position resolved at the June 2024 Council meeting to enable a Representation Report to be prepared for public consultation purposes consistent with the legislative requirements for a single proposal to maintain or reduce the number of Councillor representatives.

The consultant will then be able to prepare a Representation Report for consideration by Council to endorse for public consultation purposes.

Should Council seek to explore an increase in the number of Members/Councillor representatives, this may be a future consideration for an administrative reform proposal under Part 2 of Chapter 3 (i.e. sections 26-34) of the *Local Government Act 1999* which can include proposals '*of a kind prescribed by the regulations*'. However, there being no current regulations relating to this Part/Section to capture proposals to increase Council membership (or any other proposals) it would seem to be a political position of the Parliament that reform proposals should be limited to boundary alterations and that Council membership should be maintained or reduced, but not increased.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The conduct of an Elector Representation Review during the relevant period determined by the Minister is a legislative requirement of section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 1999.

Failure to undertake a review or to take appropriate action or publish appropriate notices as required by section 12 of the Act are matters that must be referred to the Electoral Commission under section 12(19), who may take such action as appear appropriate in the circumstances (subsection 20) and recover the reasonable costs incurred from the Council (subsection 21).

The Council must address certain matters in the review process, which include certain discretionary decisions around review options to be included in the Draft Representation Review Report.

A motion the effect of which, if carried, would be to revoke or amend a resolution passed since the last general election may be by a report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer under regulation 21 of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*, being an alternate to the requirement to be by written notice of motion in accordance with regulation 12(3). Accordingly, this report is submitted in accordance with regulation 21 with a recommendation to revoke parts 3 and 4 Council Resolution 2024/133 of June 2024.

STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

COUNCIL POLICY

N/A

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

VALUE FOR MONEY

N/A

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The risk of Council not conducting, or not properly conducting an Elector Representation Review is that it may not deliver a Council structure that the community seek, the review may not be certified by the Electoral Commissioner, or the review or any deficiency may be conducted by the Electoral Commissioner removing Council and Elected Members influence over the options and outcomes.

The engagement of an experienced consultant to guide Council through the review process, including the preparation of relevant papers and reports, assists in mitigating foreseeable risks.

Noting that the consultant has identified a potentially fatal issue with respect to the number of Councillor representatives that Council has proposed, it would be prudent to act on the consultants advice and address this matter before the elector representation review process continues.

Indeed, based on the Electoral Commissioners consistent view of the consultants position, failure to rectify this matter could result in the Electoral Commissioner refusing to certify the review process such that Council would not meets it's statutory review obligation within the gazetted timeframe (by April 2025).

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Public Consultation is an important part of the Elector Representation Review process. Information on the public consultation steps will be presented when the Representation Review Report is presented for endorsement.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

An indicative review process and schedule was presented to Members at the May information/briefing session, as follows:



This report represents the 2nd step in the review process, of Council determining the preferred (in-principle) structure before next considering the Draft Representation Review Report for endorsement for public consultation purposes. Notwithstanding that Council has had to re-consider its preferred structure, the process remains on target with the above timeframes for completion by December 2024.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This report is provided to enable Council to re-consider its preferred option for inclusion in a Draft Representation Review Report, which report is to be presented to Council at a subsequent meeting for endorsement for public consultation purposes.

To enable Council to resolve an alternate preferred structure to that resolved in June 2024, this report presents a recommendation by the Chief Executive Officer under regulation 21 of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* to revoke parts 3 and 4 of Council Resolution 2024/133 of June 2024 relating to this matter, to enable an alternate resolution on the same subject matter to be considered.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Representation Review Discussion Paper May 2024 ⇩
2. Extract from sections 26 and 33 of the Local Government Act 1999 ⇩

DISCUSSION PAPER

REPRESENTATION REVIEW

(Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999)

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER

May 2024

C L Rowe & Associates

1. INTRODUCTION

Section 12(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) indicates that Council must undertake a "representation review' to determine whether its community would benefit from an alteration to Council's composition or ward structure.

Section 12(4) of the Act states: *"A review may relate to a specific aspect of the composition of the council, or of the wards of the council, or may relate to those matters generally – but a council must ensure that all aspects of the composition of the council, and the issue of the division, or potential division, of the area of the council into wards, are comprehensively reviewed under this section at least once in each relevant period that is prescribed by the regulations".*

The Minister for Local Government has specified that Council is required to undertake and complete a review during the period April 2024 – April 2025.

Council last completed a review of its elector representation in March 2017, the outcome of which was to retain the then existing "no wards" structure but amend the composition of Council to the Mayor and eight (8) area councillors (i.e. a reduction of two "area councillors").

Essentially the task now before Council is to determine (in principle) the future composition and structure which it believes should come into effect at the next Local Government elections in 2026. More specifically, Council will need to:

- examine the question of whether the number of elected members should be retained, reduced or increased;
- determine whether the existing "no wards" structure should be retained or whether the Council area should be divided into wards; and
- if the preference is for the Council area is to be divided into wards, identify the preferred future ward structure, including the names/titles of the proposed wards and the level of representation in each ward, and determine whether there is a need for "area councillors" in addition to "ward councillors".

This Discussion Paper provides relevant information and ward structure options to assist the elected members with the aforementioned task. The "in principle" decisions made by Council at this time will be presented to the community, along with all supporting information, in a "Representation Report" which will form the basis of the upcoming public consultation stage of the review process.

Ultimately, at the end of the review process, any proposed changes to Council's composition and/or the structure should serve to uphold the democratic principle of "one person, one vote, one value".

2. REVIEW PROCESS

Sections 12(5) - 12(12a) of the Act outline the process that Council must adhere to when undertaking its review. A brief summary of this process is as follows.

2.1 Representation Report

The review is commenced with the preparation of a "Representation Report" by a person who, in the opinion of Council, is qualified to address the representation and governance issues that may arise during the course of the review.

The "Representation Report" must:

- examine the advantages and disadvantages of the options available in respect to a range of issues relating to the composition and structure of Council;
- examine whether the number of elected members should be reduced; and/or whether the Council area should be divided into wards, or not;
- set out the proposal that Council considers should be carried into effect at the next Local Government election; and
- include an analysis of how the Council proposal relates to the relevant principles under Section 26(1)(c) of the Act and the matters referred to in Section 33 of the Act.

2.2 Public Consultation

Section 12(7) of the Act requires Council undertake public consultation based on the "Representation Report". This process must be in accordance with Council's Public Consultation Policy, or alternatively incorporate the publication of a notice in a newspaper circulating within the area of the council, on the Council website and in the Government Gazette.

The notice must invite interested persons to make submissions in relation to the report within a specified period (at least 21 days).

2.3 Final Report

At the completion of the prescribed public consultation stage Council must either:

- finalise its report (including information pertaining to the outcome of the public consultation process) and refer the final report to the Electoral Commissioner; or
- reconsider and/or amend its proposal (perhaps in keeping with public submissions), alter the Representation Report accordingly, and undertake further public consultation.

2.4 Exemption Certificate (If required)

In the unlikely circumstance that Council proposes a composition which exceeds the "member cap" specified under Section 11A of the Act, it must seek an "exemption certificate" from the Electoral Commissioner prior to finalising its review.

Should the Electoral Commissioner determine that there are "exceptional circumstances" that justify a refusal to grant an "exemption certificate", the matter will be referred back to Council with written reasons for the refusal. In response to this action Council will be required to amend its proposal so that it will comprise a number of elected members equal to or less than the "member cap"; amend its report; undertake further public consultation; and ultimately forward an amended final report to the Electoral Commissioner for further consideration.

2.5 Final Gazette Notice

Upon receipt of notification that the representation review has been completed to the satisfaction of the Electoral Commissioner, Council will be required to publish a notice in the Government Gazette, on or before a date to be specified by the Electoral Commissioner. The notice will outline Council's proposed future composition and structure and will give notice of the day that the proposal will come into effect (i.e. the day of the next Local Government election in November 2026).

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The most relevant provisions of the Act are the following.

Section 11A specifies that a council must not be comprised of more than thirteen (13) members (including the principal member) unless it has been granted an "exemption certificate" by the Electoral Commissioner under Section 12(11b) of the Act.

Section 26(1)(c) requires that, when considering a reform proposal, Council should have regard to a list of principles, the most relevant being the following.

- Proposed changes should, wherever practicable, benefit ratepayers.
- A council should reflect communities of interest of an economic, recreational, social, regional or other kind, and be consistent with community structures, values, expectations and aspirations.
- Residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with councils of a similar size and type should be avoided (at least in the longer term).

Section 33 requires that, in the formulation of a proposal that relates to the boundaries of a ward or wards, the review must also take into account, as far as practicable:

- the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind;
- the population of the area, and of each ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;
- the topography of the area, and of each ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;
- the feasibility of communication between electors affected by the proposal and their elected representatives;
- the nature of substantial demographic changes that may occur in the foreseeable future; and
- the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term).

Section 33(2) of the Act requires that a proposal which relates to the formation or alteration of wards of a council must observe the principle that the number of electors represented by a councillor must not, as at the relevant date (assuming that the proposal was in operation), vary from the ward quota by more than 10 per cent.

Section 51 specifies that the principal member of council must be appointed (by the Governor under circumstances prescribed under Section 10 of the Act) or elected as a representative of the area as a whole; and is to be called mayor.

4. COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

4.1 Principal Member

The principal member of Council must be appointed (by the Governor under circumstances prescribed under Section 10 of the Act) or elected as a representative of the area as a whole; and is to be called mayor. The Act no longer affords any alternative.

4.2 Councillors

Section 52(1) of the Act specifies that all members of Council, other than the principal member, shall have the title of councillor.

Section 52(2) states that a councillor will (depending on how the council is constituted):

- be elected by the electors for the area, as a representative of the area as a whole (whether or not the area is divided into wards); or
- if the area is divided into wards, be elected by the electors of a particular ward, as a representative of the ward.

Where the Council area is divided into wards, an "area councillor" adopts a similar role to that of the former office of alderman and focuses on matters pertaining to the Council area as a whole rather than a ward.

Arguments in favour of "area councillors" (in addition to ward councillors) include:

- the area councillor should be free of parochial ward attitudes and responsibilities;
- the area councillor may be an experienced elected member who can share his/her knowledge and experience with the ward councillors;
- the area councillor is free to assist the principal member and ward councillors, if required; and
- the lines of communication between Council and the community are enhanced through the greater number of elected members.

The opposing view is that an "area councillor" (in addition to ward councillors) holds no greater status than a ward councillor; has no greater responsibilities than a ward councillor; and need not comply with any extraordinary or additional eligibility requirements. In addition, it should be noted that:

- additional elected members ("area councillors") will create additional expense;
- any contested election for area councillors must be conducted across the whole of the council area at considerable cost;
- area councillors are considered to be an unnecessary tier of representation and therefore are not a popular option amongst councils (i.e. only the City of Adelaide has "area councillors" in addition to councillors);

- ward councillors do not have to reside in the ward which they represent and, as such, the traditional role and/or basis for the ward councillor has changed to a council-wide perspective;
- ward councillors generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward, but the Council area as a whole (like an area councillor), and it is suggested that their role and actions within the council chamber, and the functions they perform on behalf of council, generally reflect this attitude and circumstance; and
- the task and expense of contesting council-wide elections for an area councillor can be prohibitive and may deter appropriate/quality candidates.

5. ELECTOR REPRESENTATION

Council must provide adequate and fair representation and generally adhere to the democratic principle of "one person, one vote, one value". In addition, there needs to be sufficient elected members to:

- manage and guide the affairs of Council;
- lead and form the core of the Council committees;
- share the demands placed upon them by their constituents;
- provide adequate lines of communication between the community and Council;
- achieve the desired diversity in member's skill sets, experience and backgrounds; and
- ensure a range of viewpoints that spurs innovation and creativity in Council planning and decision-making.

Council has comprised the Mayor and eight (8) "area councillors" since the Local Government elections in 2018.

Section 11A of the Act specifies that a council must not be comprised of more than thirteen (13) members (including the principal member) unless it has been granted an "exemption certificate" by the Electoral Commissioner under Section 12(11b) of the Act.

In addition, Sections 26(1)(c) and 33(1) of the Act express the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term).

The comparison of councils is not a straightforward exercise, given that no councils are identical in terms of their size (elector numbers and/or area), population, topography, character, communities of interest and/or land uses. However, it can provide some guidance in regard to an appropriate elector ratio or level of representation (i.e., number of councillors).

Table1 provides (for comparison purposes) the elector data, elector ratios (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a councillor) and the size/area of councils that are considered to be of a similar in size (elector numbers) and type (outer metropolitan/regional council) to the City of Mount Gambier. The data indicates that the current elector representation arrangements of Council compares favourably with the arrangements of the cited councils.

Of the regional councils, eighteen (18) comprise nine councillors; ten (10) comprise eight councillors; nine (9) comprise seven (7) councillors; and five (5) comprise six councillors.

Table 1: Representation comparisons with councils of a similar size and type

Council	Councillors	Electors	Elector Ratio
Whyalla (1,032.5 km^2)	9	15,960	1:1,773
Murray Bridge (1,832 km^2)	9	15,977	1:1,775
Barossa (912 km^2)	11	19,395	1:1,763
Alexandrina (1,827 km^2)	9	22,992	1:2,547
Mt Gambier (33.9 km^2)	**8**	**20,401**	**1:2,550**
Mt Barker (595 km^2)	10	29,916	1:2,992

Source: Electoral Commission SA (24th April 2024)

A reduction in the number of councillors will result in elector ratios of **1:2,914 (seven councillors)** or **1:3,400 (six councillors**), and a minimum cost saving of $19,110 per annum (i.e. the annual allowance for a councillor).

Further, it could be reasonably concluded that it will be difficult to mount a sustainable argument to increase the number of elector members at this time, despite the likelihood of some population growth in the foreseeable future.

There are no inherent disadvantages in having an even or odd number of councillors. An odd number may overcome the requirement for the Mayor to cast a deciding vote but may require the development/implementation of a ward structure that exhibits a varying level of representation between wards. The latter can be perceived as an imbalance.

6. WARD STRUCTURE

Section 12(1)(b) of the Act indicates that Council can "divide, or redivide, the area of the council into wards, alter the division of the area of the council into wards, or abolish the division of the area of a council into wards".

The Council area has not been divided into wards since the Local Government election in 2010.

Currently thirty-five (35) of the forty-nine (49) regional councils have no wards, as do two (2) of the nineteen (19) metropolitan councils (i.e. the Towns of Gawler and Walkerville).

6.1 Wards

The advantages of introducing a ward structure include:

- wards guarantee some form and level of direct representation to all parts of the Council area and/or existing communities of interest;
- ward councillors can focus on local issues as well as council-wide issues;
- ward councillors are more likely to be known to their ward constituents (and vice versa);
- ward councillors can have more of an affiliation with the local community and more understanding of the local issues and/or concerns;
- the task and expense of contesting a ward election may be less daunting to prospective candidates, whereas the task and expense of contesting council-wide elections (under the "no wards" alternative) could be prohibitive, and therefore may deter appropriate/quality candidates;
- Council only has to conduct elections and supplementary elections within contested wards (potential cost saving), whereas under the no ward" alternative Council has to conduct elections and supplementary elections across the whole of the Council area (at a significant expense);
- ward councillors deliberate and make decisions on the basis of achieving the best outcome for the whole of the Council area and the electors within their ward; and
- ward based elections have the potential to deliver councillors from various parts of the Council area, potentially resulting in a greater diversity in the skill sets, experience, expertise and opinions amongst the elected members.

The disadvantages of a ward structure include:

- ward councillors do not have to reside within the ward that they represent and, as such, may have no affiliation with the local community and/or empathy for the local issues and/or concerns;
- electors can only vote for councillors/candidates within their ward;

- candidates can be favoured by the peculiarities of the ward based electoral system (e.g., candidates elected unopposed or having been unsuccessful despite attracting more votes than elected candidates in other wards);
- ward councillors may develop ward-centric attitudes and be less focused on the bigger council-wide issues;
- ward boundaries are lines which are based solely on elector distribution and may serve to divide the community rather than foster civic unity;
- despite comparable ward elector ratios, inequitable levels of representation between wards and/or the physical sizes of wards can create a perception of imbalance in voting power within Council; and
- as ward councillors generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward but the Council area as a whole and, as such, the need for wards is questionable.

6.2 No Wards

The advantages of retaining the existing "no wards" structure include:

- "no wards" is the optimum democratic structure as it enables the electors to vote for all of the vacant positions on Council;
- the most supported candidates from across the Council area will likely be elected, rather than candidates who may be favoured by the peculiarities of the ward based electoral system (e.g. candidates being elected unopposed or unsuccessful candidates who attracted more votes than successful candidates in other wards);
- the elected members should be free of parochial ward attitudes;
- the lines of communication between Council and the community should be enhanced, given that members of the community should be able to consult with any and/or all members of Council, rather than feel obliged to consult with their specific ward councillors;
- small communities within the Council area can still be directly represented on Council, provided they muster sufficient support for a local candidate;
- the structure automatically absorbs fluctuations in elector numbers and there is no requirement for compliance with specified quota tolerance limits;
- the introduction of postal voting has facilitated the dissemination of campaign literature throughout the Council area, thereby reducing the difficulty and cost of contesting a council-wide election campaign;
- successful candidates generally have to attract no more votes than what they would have received/required under a ward election;
- candidates for election to Council will require the genuine desire, ability and means to succeed and serve on Council, given the perceived difficulties and expense associated with contesting "at large" elections;

- a supplementary election does not have to be held to fill a casual vacancy on Council (Section 6(2)(b) of the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999); and
- the retention of the existing "no wards" structure could be perceived by the community as a sign of stability within Local Government.

The disadvantages of a "no wards" structure include:-

- the elected members could come from the more heavily populated parts of the Council area rather than from across the whole of the Council area;
- a single interest group could gain considerable representation on Council;
- concern council-wide elections will not guarantee that elected members will have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the whole Council area;
- Council will have to conduct elections and supplementary elections across the whole of the Council area (at a significant expense);
- the more popular or known councillors may receive more enquiries from the public (i.e. inequitable workloads); and
- potential candidates for election to Council may be deterred by the perceived difficulties and expense associated with council-wide elections.

6.3 Ward Representation

Wards represented by **a single councillor** are generally small in area and therefore afford the ward councillor the opportunity to be more accessible to his/her constituents and able to concentrate on issues of local importance. Due to the smaller size of the wards it is generally difficult to identify suitable ward boundaries; maintain entire communities of interest; sustain significant fluctuations in elector numbers; and comply with the specified quota tolerance limit. The work load of the ward councillor can also be demanding, and absenteeism by the elected member (for whatever purpose and/or period) will leave the ward without direct representation.

Three (3) regional councils have a ward structure which includes single-councillor wards.

Wards represented by **two councillors** are common throughout the State; allow for the sharing of duties and responsibilities between the ward councillors; lessen the likelihood of ward parochialism; and afford continuous ward representation should one ward councillor be absent.

Multi-councillor wards are generally larger in area and therefore the overall ward structure can be relatively simple. Councillor absenteeism can be easily covered; the work load of the ward councillors can be reduced; there are greater perceived lines of communication between ward councillors and their constituents; and there is more flexibility in regard to ward quota, allowances for fluctuations in elector numbers, and the preservation of communities of interest.

Six (6) metropolitan councils and thirteen (13) regional councils have ward structures which have three (3) or more councillors representing a ward.

There are no inherent disadvantages associated with **varying levels** of representation between wards, provided the elector ratios within the wards are relatively consistent. However, such structures can be seen to lack balance and/or equity, with the larger wards (in elector and councillor numbers) being perceived as having a greater, more influential voice on Council.

Four (4) metropolitan councils and ten (10) regional councils have ward structures which exhibit varying levels of representation between wards.

6.4 Ward Boundaries

A ward structure should have a logical basis and, where possible, exhibit boundaries which are easily identified and readily accepted by the community. Accordingly, every effort should be made to align proposed possible future ward boundaries with existing, long established district boundaries, main roads, or prominent geographical and/or man-made features.

6.5 Ward Identification

The means of ward identification are limited.

The allocation of alphabetical letters, numbers and/or compass points are all considered to be acceptable, but lack imagination and fail to reflect the character and/or history of the Council area. The same cannot be said for the allocation of names of local heritage/cultural significance.

The allocation of certain district or town names can be confusing and fail to reflect the existence of all of the other communities within the Council area. Whilst this is not a major issue, the review affords the opportunity for the community and Council to consider appropriate alternatives.

7. WARD STRUCTURE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Section 33(1) of the Act requires that the following matters be taken into account, as far as practicable, in the formulation of a proposal that relates to the boundaries of a ward or wards:

- the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind;
- the population of the area, and of each ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;
- the topography of the area, and of each ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;
- the feasibility of communication between electors affected by the proposal and their elected representatives;
- the nature of substantial demographic changes that may occur in the foreseeable future; and
- the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term).

Relevant information pertaining to the above matters is provided hereinafter.

7.1 Communities of Interest

The issue of "communities of interest" can be complex and, as such, local knowledge will be particularly valuable.

In the past the Local Government Boundary Reform Board indicated that:

- "communities of interest" for the purpose of structural reform proposals, are defined as aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment; and
- "communities of interest" are identified by considering factors relevant to the physical, economic and social environment, including neighbourhood communities; history and heritage communities; sporting facilities; community support services; recreation and leisure communities; retail and shopping centres; work communities; industrial and economic development clusters; and environmental and geographic interests.

In addition, Sections 26 and 33 of the Act make reference to "communities of interest" of an economic, social, regional or other kind.

The Council area only covers approximately 33.9 km^2 and comprises the whole of the township of Mount Gambier and parts of the surrounding districts/localities of Glenburnie, Suttontown, O B Flat and Worrolong. As such, the Council area is considered to comprise a single entity or community of interest.

In addition, given the character of the township and the adjacent districts/localities, and the distribution of electors across the Council area, there are no particularly obvious or identifiable smaller communities of interest.

7.2 Population and Demographic Trends

When developing potential future ward structures, consideration was given to demographic trends, as allowances have to be made to accommodate any identified or likely future fluctuations in elector numbers.

The following information should be of assistance in regard to this matter.

Data sourced from **Electoral Commission SA** indicates that the number of eligible electors enrolled to vote in a Council election increased by 2,461 or 13.72% (i.e. 17,940 – 20,401) over the period 2010 to 2024

Interestingly, since the Local Government election in 2018, elector numbers have increased by 1,065 or 5.51% (as of 24th April 2024).

Population projections prepared by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (Local Area (SA2 and LGA), Population Projections for South Australia, 2021 – 2041, published March 2024) indicate that the population of the City of Mount Gambier is anticipated to increase by 4,511 or 16.3% (i.e. 27,635 – 32,148) during the period 2021 – 2041.

Data provided by the **Australian Bureau of Statistics (refer 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia)** indicates that the estimated population of the Council area increased by 3,578 or 14.12% over the period 2001 – 2018; and then increased by a further 604 or 2.22% during the period 2018 – 2023. This equates to a total increase of 4,182 or 17.67% during the period 2001 - 2023.

Australian Bureau of Statistics **"Quick Stats"** indicate that the estimated population of the Council area increased by 4,222 people or 18.64% during the period 2001 - 2021 (i.e. 22,656 – 26,878).

Initial investigations have revealed that future residential growth opportunities (primarily via existing approved land division applications) generally exist throughout the township and the areas at the periphery of the township (i.e. Glenburnie, OB Flat, Suttontown, and Worrolong). Further investigations will be required to ascertain the locations and scale of these land divisions so as to assist in the assessment of the capability of any future ward structure to accommodate anticipated future population growth.

It is also understood that urban infill/redevelopment is not currently a key development factor in the township and, as such, does not currently contribute significantly to the population growth within the City.

7.3 Quota (Elector Ratio)

Section 33(2) of the Act requires that any proposal which relates to the formation or alteration of wards of a Council must observe the principle that the number of electors represented by a councillor must not vary from the ward quota by more than 10%.

Ward quota is the number of electors within a ward divided by the number of ward councillors, whereas the "elector ratio" for the Council area is the total number of electors divided by the number of councillors (i.e. the Mayor is excluded).

Given the aforementioned, any potential future ward structure must incorporate wards wherein the distribution of electors is equitable, either in terms of numbers (if the wards have equal representation) or elector ratio. Under the latter circumstance, the elector ratio within each ward must be within 10% of the average elector ratio for the Council area. The Act only allows for the 10% quota tolerance limit to be exceeded in the short term if demographic changes predicted by a Federal or State government agency indicate that the ward quota will not be exceeded at the time of the next periodic Local Government election.

8. WARD STRUCTURE OPTIONS

As indicated earlier, the Act states that:

- a review may relate to a specific aspect of the composition of the council, or of the wards of the council, or may relate to those matters generally – but a council must ensure that all aspects of its composition, and the issue of the division, or potential division, of the area of the council into wards, are comprehensively reviewed; and
- Council can "divide, or redivide, the area of the council into wards, alter the division of the area of the council into wards, or abolish the division of the area of a council into wards".

Five (5) ward structure options have been provided to **demonstrate** how the Council area can potentially be divided into wards. These options are only **examples** of how the Council area can be divided into wards based on seven (7) and/or eight (8) councillors.

Given the relatively small size of the Council area; the distribution of electors; and the likely low number of elected members, the ward structure options are limited. Notwithstanding this, the presented ward structures have been developed to:

- ensure that all of the proposed wards exhibit a similar character (where possible);
- reflect some logical basis and an equitable distribution of elector numbers;
- exhibit a consistent level of representation between the proposed wards (where possible);
- accommodate anticipated future fluctuations in elector numbers;
- maintain existing communities of interest (where possible); and
- incorporate proposed ward boundaries which align with district or locality boundaries, main roads and/or prominent features.

The existing "no wards" structure has obviously also been presented as an option, given the provisions of Section 12(1)(b) of the Act which allow for the abolition of wards, and the fact that this structure has been in place for fourteen years.

8.1 Option 1 – No wards

8.1.1 Description

The retention of the existing "no wards" structure.

8.1.2 Comments

In brief, the "no ward" structure:

- can accommodate any number of "area councillors" (i.e., councillors elected to represent the whole council area), as determined appropriate by Council;
- has been in place for fourteen (14) years and, as such, should be known and generally accepted by the community;
- automatically absorbs any fluctuations in elector numbers and, as such, the provision of the Act relating to quota tolerance limits do not apply;
- overcomes the division of the local community into wards based solely on the distribution of elector numbers;
- should prevent ward-centric attitudes; and
- enables the electors within the community to vote for all members of Council, with the most favoured candidates being elected to represent (and act in the best interests of) the whole of the Council area, despite the geographical location of their place of residence.

The arguments for and against the "no wards" option have been previously presented (refer 6.2 No Wards, pages 10 and 11).

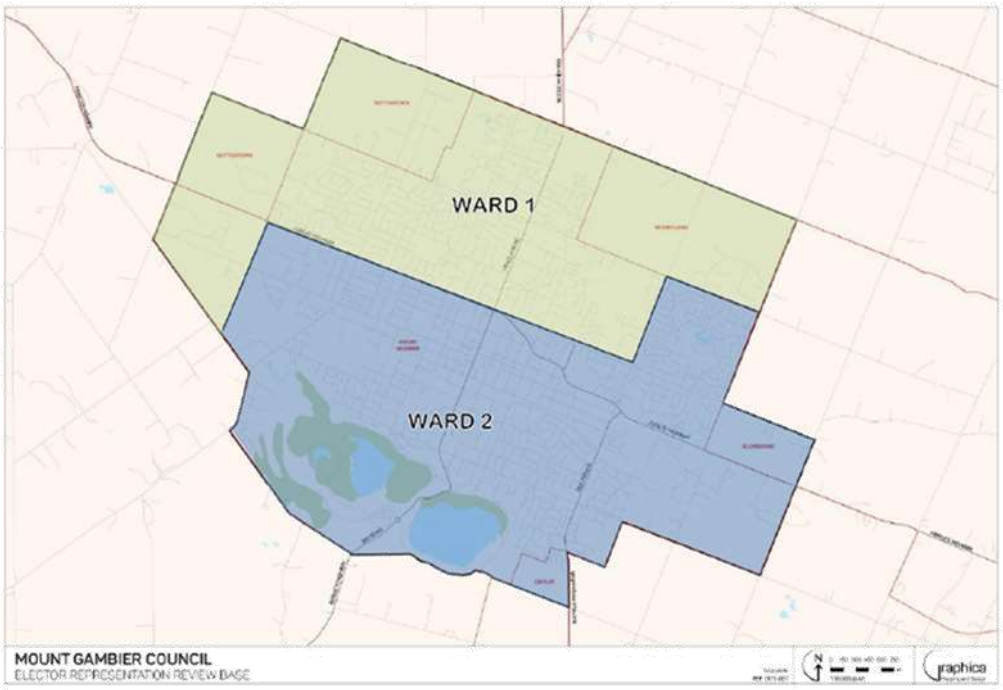


8.2 Option 2 - Eight Councillors/Two Wards

8.2.1 Description

The division of the Council area into two (2) wards, both of which are to be represented by four (4) councillors.

The proposed ward boundary aligns with Wireless Road East, Kennedy Avenue, North Terrace, Jubilee Highway West, Graham Road and Avery Road.



8.2.2 Ward Representation

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	4	9,915	1:2,479	- 1.89
Ward 2	4	10,298	1:2,575	+ 1.89
Total	8	20,213		
Average			1:2.527	

Source: Electoral Commission SA , House of Assembly Roll (March 2024)
Council Voters Roll (March 2024)

8.2.3 Comments

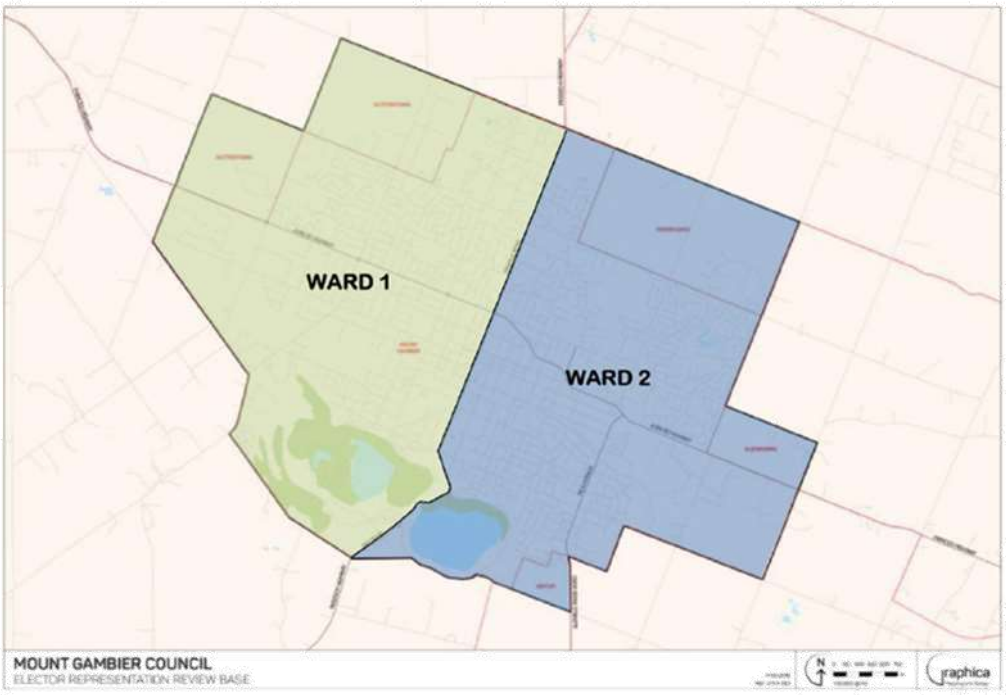
- A simple but somewhat awkward ward configuration.
- The ward structure exhibits an equitable distribution of electors between the wards and the same level of ward representation.
- The four councillors in each of the proposed ward can share the workload and demands.
- The proposed wards have comparable elector ratios which lay comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits.
- The proposed wards can accommodate considerable population growth (i.e. an additional 2,500 – 2,700 electors could be accommodated in the wards under the "worst case" scenario whereby all future growth occurs within the one ward).
- The communities in the eastern and western parts of both of the proposed wards may not have any real similarities or common aspects.

8.3 Option 3 – Eight Councillors/Two Wards

8.3.1 Description

The division of the Council area into two (2) wards, both of which are to be represented by four (4) councillors.

The proposed ward boundary aligns with Penola Road and Bay Road.



8.3.2 Ward Representation

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	4	10,084	1:2,521	- 0.22
Ward 2	4	10,129	1:2,532	+ 0.22
Total	8	20,213		
Average			1:2,527	

Source: Electoral Commission SA , House of Assembly Roll (March 2024)
Council Voters Roll (March 2024)

8.3.3 Comments

- This is the simple two ward structure which was abolished in 2010.
- The ward structure exhibits an equitable distribution of electors between the wards and the same level of ward representation.
- The proposed boundary is uncomplicated and readily recognizable.
- The proposed wards exhibit elector ratios which lay well within the specified quota tolerance limits and, as such, are capable of sustaining considerable fluctuations in future elector numbers.
- It is doubtful that a return to this ward structure will afford any practical or financial benefits to the community.

8.4 Option 4 – Eight Councillors/Four Wards

8.4.1 Description

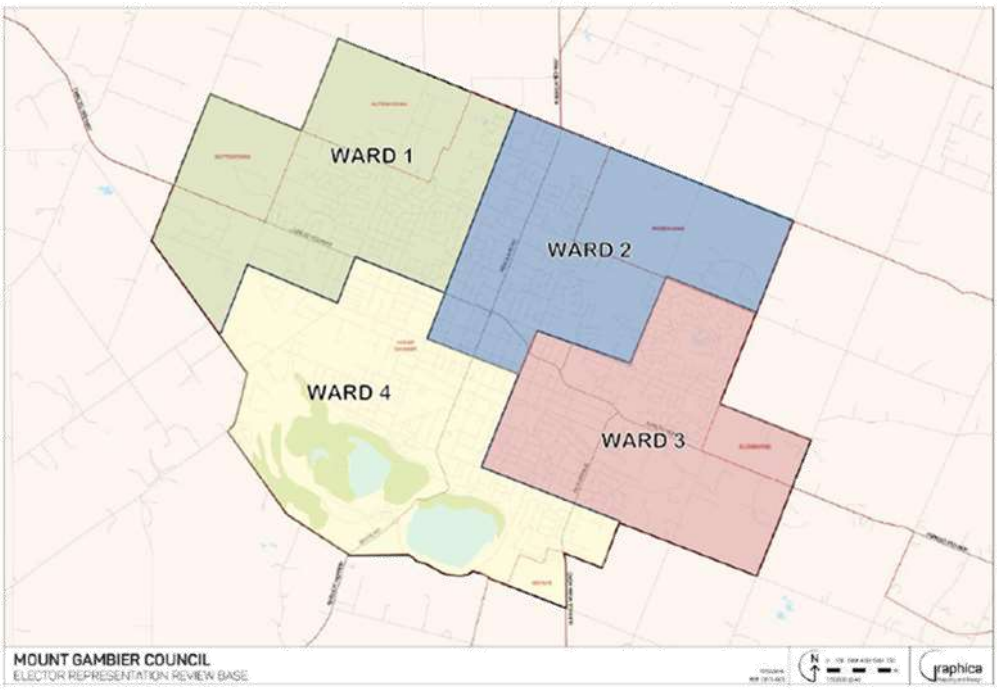
The division of the Council area into four (4) wards, with each of the proposed wards being represented by two (2) councillors.

Ward 1: Wehl Street North, Jubilee Highway West, Sutton Avenue, Commercial Street West and Avery Street.

Ward 2: Wireless Road East, Kennedy Avenue, Crouch Street North, Commercial Street West and Wehl Street North.

Ward 3: Wireless Road East, Kennedy Avenue, Crouch Street North and Lake Terrace East.

Ward 4: Lake Terrace East, Crouch Street North, Commercial Street West, Wehl Street North, Jubilee Highway West, Sutton Avenue, Commercial Street West and Avery Street.



8.4.2 Ward Representation

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	2	5,143	1:2,572	+ 1.78
Ward 2	2	4,942	1:2.471	- 2.20
Ward 3	2	5,363	1:2.682	+ 6.13
Ward 4	2	4,765	1:2,383	- 5.70
Total	8	20,213		
Average			1:2.527	

Source: Electoral Commission SA , House of Assembly Roll (March 2024)
Council Voters Roll (March 2024)

8.4.3 Comments

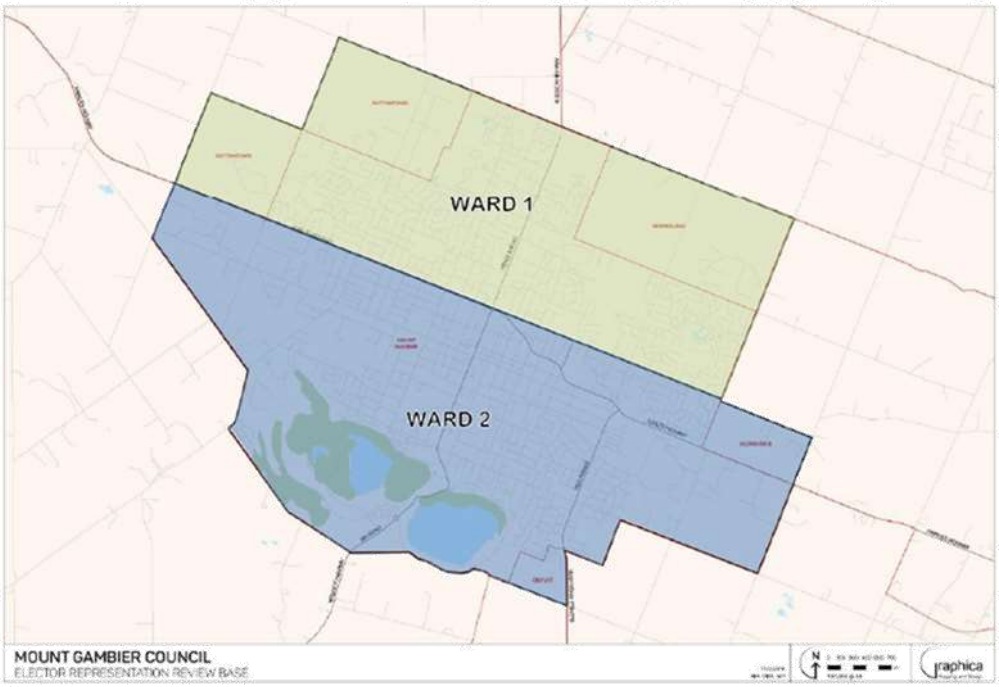
- This ward structure demonstrates the difficulty of dividing the Council area/township into small wards on a rational basis.
- There is some difference in the distribution of elector numbers between the proposed wards.
- Whilst the elector ratios within the proposed wards lay within the specified quota tolerance limits, they are a little uneven (especially in relation to proposed Wards 3 and 4).
- Whilst the proposed boundaries are considered to be acceptable, the wards lack a logical basis (other than to define areas with similar numbers of electors).

8.5 Option 5 - Seven Councillors/Two Wards

8.5.1 Description

The division of the Council area into two (2) wards, with proposed Ward 1 being represented by four (4) councillors and proposed Ward 2 being represented by three (3) councillors.

The proposed ward boundary aligns with North Terrace and Jubilee Highway West.



8.5.2 Ward Representation

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	4	10,963	1:2,741	- 5.08
Ward 2	3	9,250	1:3,083	+ 6.78
Total	7	20,213		
Average			1:2,888	

Source: Electoral Commission SA , House of Assembly Roll (March 2024)
Council Voters Roll (March 2024)

8.5.3 Comments

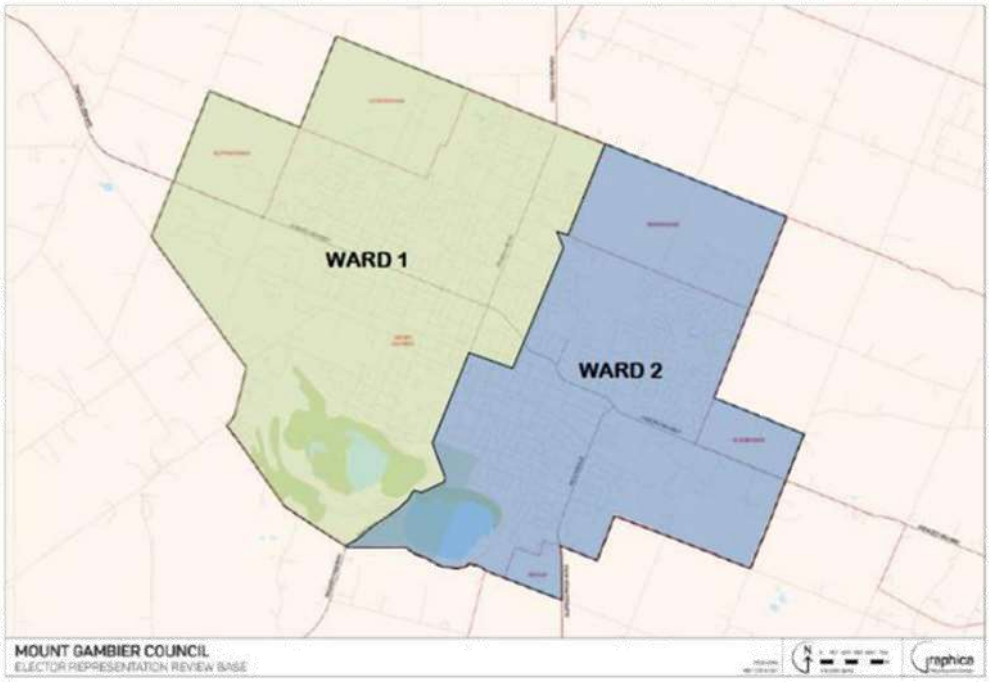
- A simple two-ward structure (north/south) based on seven (7) councillors.
- There are only nine (9) regional councils in the state that comprise seven (7) councillors (and five (5) councils that comprise six (6) councillors).
- The imbalance in the levels of ward representation may be perceived as favouring the communities within proposed Ward 1.
- The reduction in the number of councillors will provide some cost benefits (e.g. member's allowance of $19,110 pa).
- Whilst the proposed wards exhibit elector ratios which lay within the specified quota tolerance limits, the elector ratios are on the high side (in terms of the quota tolerance limits). As such, the structure may not be capable of sustaining significant population growth unless future growth occurs across the whole Council area).
- It is doubtful that the introduction of this ward structure will afford any practical benefits to the community.

8.6 Option 6 - Seven Councillors/Two Wards

8.6.1 Description

The division of the Council area into two (2) wards, with proposed Ward 1 being represented by four (4) councillors and proposed Ward 2 being represented by three (3) councillors.

The proposed ward boundary aligns with Gladigau Road, Crouch Street North, Alexandra Street and Bay Road.



8.6.2 Ward Representation

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	4	11,361	1:2,840	- 1.64
Ward 2	3	8,852	1:2,951	+ 2.19
Total	7	20,213		
Average			1:2,888	

Source: Electoral Commission SA , House of Assembly Roll (March 2024)
Council Voters Roll (March 2024)

8.6.3 Comments

- This east/west division is a little awkward in its configuration and lacks a logical basis (other than to divide the Council area based on the distribution of elector numbers).
- The proposed wards exhibit elector ratios which lay comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits. As such, the ward structure should be capable of sustaining reasonable population growth in both proposed wards.
- Again it is questionable whether this proposed ward structure will afford any real benefits to the community.

9. SUMMARY

The representation review being undertaken by the City of Mount Gambier must be comprehensive; open to scrutiny by, and input from, the local community; and, where possible, seek to improve elector representation. Further, Council must examine and, where necessary, identify amendments to its present composition and ward structure, with the view to achieving fair and adequate representation of all of the electors across the Council area.

At this early stage of the review process Council will have to make some "in principle" decisions in respect to its future composition, and the future division of the Council area into wards (if required). The proposal that Council desires to bring into effect at the next Local Government elections (November 2026) will need to be presented to the local community, for consideration and comment, in the prescribed " Representation Report".

The key issues of the review are the future composition and size of Council, and whether the Council area should be divided into wards, or alternatively whether the existing "no wards" structure should be retained.

The principal member of Council will be a **Mayor** elected by the community, as per the requirement of Section 51 of the Act. All elected members other than the principal member have to bear the title of councillor.

Area councillors represent the whole of the Council area and are generally associated with those Councils which have abolished wards. The alternative is a **ward councillor** who is specifically elected to represent a particular ward area. However, ward structures can also include area councillors (in addition to ward councillors) and this arrangement is unique to one council in South Australia (i.e. the City of Adelaide). It is considered that this office/form of elected member provides an unnecessary second tier of representation; affords few advantages; and comes at a financial cost. Further, ward councillors are generally quick to point out that they represent the Council area as a whole and participate equally in determining matters of council-wide importance that are presented before Council. It should also be noted that any contested elections (and/or supplementary elections) for the position(s) of area councillor have to be conducted across the Council area at a considerable cost to Council.

Whilst there is no formula that can be utilised to determine the appropriate **number of elected members**, Sections 11A, 26(1)(c) and 33 of the Act provide some guidance as they establish a 'member cap" of thirteen (including the Mayor); and/or specifically require Council to avoid over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term). Such a comparison has revealed that the current elector representation arrangements of Council compare favourably with those of similarly sized regional councils.

A reduction in the number of elected members warrants some consideration during the review.

However, there is little room to move and care must also be taken to ensure that any future Council will comprise sufficient elected members to adequately represent the community; meet its obligations in respect to its roles and responsibilities; afford sufficient lines of communication with a growing community; provide for a diverse range of skill sets, expertise, experience and opinions; and manage the workloads of the elected members.

Any proposal to increase the number of elected members must identify the benefits to the community and justify the additional commitment of resources. Given the aforementioned provisions of Sections 26(1)(c) and 33 of the Act (which require avoidance of over-representation), it is considered that any proposal to increase the number of elected members may likely be difficult to justify.

The Council area is currently **not divided into wards**, and this structure has been in place for fourteen years.

The "no wards" structure enables an elector to vote for all of the vacant positions on Council; ensures that the most supported candidates from across the Council area will be elected; and overcomes parochial ward attitudes. Wards can also be seen as an unnecessary division of the community, an assertion that has some basis given that ward councillors do not have to reside within the ward that they represent.

On the other hand, the **division of the Council area into wards** guarantees some level of direct representation of all parts of the Council area; enables ward councillors to focus on local as well as council-wide issues; prevents a single interest group from gaining considerable representation on Council; enables and attracts candidates to contest ward elections; reduces the cost and effort required to campaign at an election; and potentially provides cost savings to Council in regards the conduct of elections and supplementary elections.

Five (5) **ward structure options** have been presented as examples to demonstrate how the Council area can be divided into wards under circumstances whereby Council comprises seven and/or eight councillors. Whilst these ward structures exhibit ward elector ratios which lay within the specified quota tolerance limits, they demonstrate the difficulty of dividing a relatively small Council area into wards on a logical basis. In addition, it is considered questionable whether this proposed ward structures will afford any significant financial or practical benefits to the community.

As for the issue of **ward identification**, further consideration will have to be given to this matter later in the review process once it is known whether Council will be seeking to introduce wards or retain the existing "no wards" structure. Regardless, there are several conventional options in respect to ward identification, however, the allocation of names of local geographical and/or heritage significance may be the most appropriate.

The next step of the review process will be the preparation of a "Representation Report" which will present Council's preferred future composition and structure to the local community, for consideration and comment, as part of the prescribed public consultation stage of the review process.

Part 2—Reform proposals

Division 3—Principles

26—Principles

(1) The South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission should, in arriving at recommendations for the purposes of this Chapter (but taking into account the nature of the proposal under consideration), have regard to—

(a) the objects of this Act; and

(b) the roles, functions and objectives of councils under this Act; and

(c) the following principles:

(i) the resources available to local communities should be used as economically as possible while recognising the desirability of avoiding significant divisions within a community;

(ii) proposed changes should, wherever practicable, benefit ratepayers;

(iii) a council should have a sufficient resource base to fulfil its functions fairly, effectively and efficiently;

(iv) a council should offer its community a reasonable range of services delivered on an efficient, flexible, equitable and responsive basis;

(v) a council should facilitate effective planning and development within an area, and be constituted with respect to an area that can be promoted on a coherent basis;

(vi) a council should be in a position to facilitate sustainable development, the protection of the environment and the integration of land use schemes;

(vii) a council should reflect communities of interest of an economic, recreational, social, regional or other kind, and be consistent with community structures, values, expectations and aspirations;

(viii) a council area should incorporate or promote an accessible centre (or centres) for local administration and services;

(ix) the importance within the scheme of local government to ensure that local communities within large council areas can participate effectively in decisions about local matters;

(xi) residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with councils of a similar size and type should be avoided (at least in the longer term);

(xii) a scheme that provides for the performance of functions and delivery of services in relation to 2 or more councils (for example, a scheme for regional governance) may improve councils' capacity to deliver services on a regional basis and therefore offer a viable and appropriate alternative to structural change; and

(d) the extent and frequency of previous changes affecting the council or councils under this Chapter or the repealed Act.

(2) The Commission should, so far as is relevant, give preference to structural changes that enhance the capacity of local government to play a significant role in the future of an area or region from a strategic perspective.

Part 3—General provisions

33—Ward quotas

(1) In addition to the other requirements of this Chapter, the following matters must be taken into account, as far as practicable, in the formulation of a proposal that relates to the boundaries of a ward or wards:

(a) the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind;

(b) the population of the area, and of each ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;

(c) the topography of the area, and of each ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;

(d) the feasibility of communication between electors affected by the proposal and their elected representatives;

(e) the nature of substantial demographic changes that may occur in the foreseeable future;

(f) the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term).

(2) A proposal that relates to the formation or alteration of wards of a council must also observe the principle that the number of electors represented by a councillor must not, as at the relevant date (assuming that the proposal were in operation), vary from the ward quota by more than 10 per cent.

(2a) For the purposes of subsection (2)—

(a) if it is proposed that two or more councillors represent a particular ward, the number of electors represented by each councillor will be taken to be the number of electors for the ward (as at the relevant date) divided by the number of proposed councillors for the ward (ignoring any fractions resulting from the division); and

(b) the ward quota will be taken to be the number of electors for the area (as at the relevant date) divided by the number of councillors for the area who represent wards (assuming that the proposal were in operation and ignoring any fractions resulting from the division); and

(c) the relevant date, in relation to a proposal that relates to the formation or alteration of wards of the council, will be taken to be the date on which the proposal is finalised for the purposes of this Chapter.

(3) The 10 per cent tolerance referred to in subsection (2) may be exceeded if, on the basis of demographic changes predicted by a Commonwealth or State government agency, it appears that the ward quota will not, as at the next periodic elections, be exceeded by more than 10 per cent (the relevant date in this case being the date of the next periodic elections).

(4) If under the repealed Act a proposal relating to the formation or alteration of wards did not comply with the corresponding provisions to subsections (2) and (3) and the relevant proposal proceeded (either in its original or an amended form) then, unless otherwise determined by proclamation, the relevant council (or each relevant council) must conduct (and complete) a review of its composition and wards under Part 1 so as to enable appropriate changes in the composition and wards of the council to take effect on or before the date of the second general election of the council after the proposal took effect or, if an earlier date has been fixed by proclamation, on or before that date.

12 ELECTED MEMBERS INFORMATION BRIEFING SESSIONS

12.1 ELECTED MEMBER INFORMATION/BRIEFING SESSIONS FROM 17/06/2024 TO 12/07/2024 – REPORT NO. AR23/81517

Meeting: **Council**

CM9 Reference: **AF23/328**

Author: **Melissa Telford, Councillor Support Officer**

Authoriser:

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report No. AR23/81517 titled 'Elected Member Information/Briefing Sessions from 17/06/2024 to 12/07/2024' as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings - 18/06/2024 - Budget Consultation and Budget Update ⇩
2. Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings - 02/07/2024 - Draft Affordable Housing Plan - Presentation by Stand Like Stone Foundation ⇩
3. Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings - 09/07/2024 - Crater Lakes Bushfire Rehabilitation Report - Confidential Parks and Gardens - Confidential Crater Lakes - Cultural Heritage Survey - Impromptu - Legal Advice ⇩

INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION
8.06 PM, TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2024

Ref: AF22/549

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
8.06 PM, TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2024
Council Chamber, Civic Centre
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BOANDIK PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WHERE WE MEET TODAY. WE RESPECT THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND RECOGNISE THE DEEP FEELINGS OF ATTACHMENT OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE WITH THIS LAND.

The sessions described at Item1. was open to the public.

1. BUDGET CONSULTATION AND BUDGET UPDATE

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Max Bruins	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Frank Morello	Manager Financial Services
Cr Josh Lynagh	
Cr Paul Jenner	
Cr Jason Virgo	
Cr Mark Lovett	
Cr Kate Amoroso	

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Nil	Nil

DISCUSSION:

Draft Budget and Annual Business Plan - consideration of community feedback.

Discussion closed at 8.54 p.m.

INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSIONS
TUESDAY, 2 JULY 2024 COMMENCING AT 5:00 PM

Ref: AF22/549

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
5:00 PM, TUESDAY, 2 JULY 2024
Council Chamber, Civic Centre
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BOANDIK PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WHERE WE MEET TODAY. WE RESPECT THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND RECOGNISE THE DEEP FEELINGS OF ATTACHMENT OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE WITH THIS LAND.

The session described at Items 1 and 2 were open to the public.

1. DRAFT AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN UPDATE

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Cr Max Bruins	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Frank Morello	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Jason Virgo (virtual)	Manger Economy Strategy and Engagement
Cr Josh Lynagh	Economy, Strategy & Engagement Project Officer

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Nil
Cr Paul Jenner	
Cr Kate Amoroso	

DISCUSSION:

Community and Stakeholder Feedback.

2. STAND LIKE STONE FOUNDATION – PRESENTATION FROM CEO, ROGER BABOLKA

GUESTS:-

Roger Babolka, CEO, Stand Like Stone Foundation

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Cr Max Bruins	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Frank Morello	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Jason Virgo (virtual)	Manger Economy Strategy and Engagement
Cr Josh Lynagh	

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Mayor Lynette Martin Cr Paul Jenner Cr Kate Amoroso	Nil

DISCUSSION:

Update on 2023/2024 activities.

The sessions described at Item 3 will not be open to the public as the matter to be discussed is of a confidential nature within the ambit of Section 90(3) of the Local Government Act 1999 being:

(b) information the disclosure of which:
(i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and

(h) Legal Advice

(k) Tender for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of works.

3. CONFIDENTIAL OPERATIONAL UPDATE

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Cr Max Bruins	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Frank Morello	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Jason Virgo (virtual)	Manger Economy Strategy and Engagement
Cr Josh Lynagh	

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Mayor Lynette Martin Cr Paul Jenner Cr Kate Amoroso	Nil

DISCUSSION:

Progress with Cultural Heritage Survey, Waste Management Operations and Visitor Servicing Model

Discussion closed at 6.20 p.m.

INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION
5:00 PM, TUESDAY, 9 JULY 2024

Ref: AF22/549

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
5:00 PM, TUESDAY, 9 JULY 2024
Council Chamber, Civic Centre
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BOANDIK PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WHERE WE MEET TODAY. WE RESPECT THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND RECOGNISE THE DEEP FEELINGS OF ATTACHMENT OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE WITH THIS LAND.

The session described at Item 1. was open to the public.

1. CRATER LAKES BUSHFIRE REHABILITATION REPORT

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Cr Max Bruins	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Frank Morello	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Josh Lynagh	Manager Operations Infrastructure
Cr Paul Jenner	Co-ordinator Parks and Gardens
Cr Jason Virgo	Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement (arrived at 5.15 pm)

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Nil
Cr Mark Lovett	
Cr Kate Amoroso	

DISCUSSION:

Presentation of Crater Lakes Bushfire Rehabilitation Report.

The session described at Item 2. was not open to the public as the matter to be discussed is of a confidential nature within the ambit of Section 90(3) of the Local Government Act 1999 being:

(b) information the disclosure of which:

(i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council.

2. CONFIDENTIAL - PARKS AND GARDENS

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Cr Max Bruins	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Frank Morello	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Josh Lynagh	Manager Operations Infrastructure
Cr Paul Jenner	Co-ordinator Parks and Gardens
Cr Jason Virgo	Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Mayor Lynette Martin Cr Mark Lovett Cr Kate Amoroso	Nil

DISCUSSION:

Confidential briefing – Parks and Gardens.

The session described at Item 3. was not open to the public as the matter to be discussed is of a confidential nature within the ambit of Section 90(3) of the Local Government Act 1999 being:

(g) matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the council does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligation or duty.

3. CONFIDENTIAL - CRATER LAKES - CULTURAL HERITAGE SURVEY

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Cr Max Bruins	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Frank Morello	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Josh Lynagh	Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement
Cr Paul Jenner	Manager Operations Infrastructure
Cr Jason Virgo	Co-ordinator Parks and Gardens

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Mayor Lynette Martin Cr Mark Lovett Cr Kate Amoroso	Nil

DISCUSSION:

Confidential briefing – Crater Lakes – Cultural Heritage Survey.

The session described at Item 4. was not open to the public as the matter to be discussed is of a confidential nature within the ambit of Section 90(3) of the Local Government Act 1999 being:

(g) matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the council does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligation or duty.

4. IMPROMPTU - CONFIDENTIAL - LEGAL UPDATE

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Cr Max Bruins	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Frank Morello	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Josh Lynagh	Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement

Cr Paul Jenner	Manager Operations Infrastructure
Cr Jason Virgo	Co-ordinator Parks and Gardens

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Nil
Cr Mark Lovett	
Cr Kate Amoroso	

DISCUSSION:

Confidential briefing - Legal Update.

Discussion closed at 6.58 p.m.

13 ELECTED MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Nil

14 COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

14.1 COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS - 18/06/2024 – REPORT NO. AR23/81542

Meeting: **Council**

CM9 Reference: **AF23/328**

Author: **Melissa Telford, Councillor Support Officer**

Authoriser:

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report No. AR23/81542 titled ‘Council Action Items - 18/06/2024’ as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Actions Items 18/06/2024 - 16/07/2024 ⇩

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
<tagCommitteeText>	<tagOfficer> <tagManager>	<tagSection>	<tagSubject>
<tagResolution> <tagNotes>			

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Scoggins, Julie Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Council Reports	2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget - Community Consultation Feedback

RESOLUTION 2024/104

Moved: Cr Mark Lovett
Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

1. That Council Report No. AR24/38805 titled '2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget - Community Consultation Feedback' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.
2. That Council notes the written submissions and questions received on the 2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget.
3. That an additional submission was late, received on 17 June, and has been circulated to members via email for their consideration.
4. That Council thanks the organisations and individuals for their written and verbal submissions as presented at the Special Council meeting on 18 June 2024 and notes:
   - The community interest in Wulanda's borrowings, operating costs and performance, and in addition to the information already provided, will provide a first full financial year report within the first quarter of 24/25 with financial and key performance outcomes.
   - Council further notes, that Wulanda attendances and memberships continue to exceed the targets set, with latest attendance figures of YTD 143,531 (annual target 120,000) and memberships of 1,188 (target 600).
   - The community feedback on rating affordability, hardship and capacity to pay, noting that Council's hardship approach is included within the Rating Policy.
   - Interest in further information on the breakdown of expenditure and notes that an additional functional breakdown will be included in the final version of the Annual Business Plan and Budget.
   - The community interest in Council's general operations, communication and transparency and notes that while much of the information requested is in the public arena, it can be difficult to navigate.
   - The importance of waste management in the context both of Council's future master planning, waste service planning but also sound environmental management in line with State Government requirements.
   - The importance of effective asset maintenance and careful management of depreciation, and further notes that there has been a significant effort on

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
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the conduct of independent valuations, useful lives and condition assessment for Council's major asset classes.

- The interest in how the various strategic documents fit together, and how Council reports against performance, noting that a more comprehensive explanation will be provided in the final version of the Annual Business Plan and Budget.
- Further consideration to all feedback will be given at a workshop prior to the adoption of the final budget.

5. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make minor textual changes to the 2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget to correct typos and errors of fact and to update the Mayoral Message if required in consultation with the Mayor.

CARRIED

28 Jun 2024 10:02pm Scoggins, Julie - Completion
Action completed by Scoggins, Julie

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Wilson, Sally Cernovskis, Barbara	Elected Members Information Briefing Sessions	Elected Member Information/Briefing Sessions from 20/05/2024 to 14/06/2024

RESOLUTION 2024/107

Moved: Cr Mark Lovett
Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

1. That Council Report No. AR23/81514 titled 'Elected Member Information/Briefing Sessions from 20/05/2024 to 14/06/2024' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

24 Jun 2024 4:19pm Wilson, Sally - Completion
Action completed by Wilson, Sally

	Division:	**Date From:**	18/06/2024
	Meeting: Council	**Date To:**	16/07/2024
	Officer:		
Action Sheets Report		**Printed:**	**8 July 2024 11:17 AM**

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Wilson, Sally Cernovskis, Barbara	Council Action Items	Council Action Items - 21/05/2024

RESOLUTION 2024/108

Moved: Cr Sonya Mezinec
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council Report No. AR23/81541 titled 'Council Action Items - 21/05/2024' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

24 Jun 2024 4:19pm Wilson, Sally - Completion
Action completed by Wilson, Sally

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Telford, Melissa Philpott, Sarah	Junior Sports Assistance (Section 41) Committee Mi	Minutes of the Junior Sports Assistance Fund held on 12 June 2024

RESOLUTION 2024/109

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Kate Amoroso

That the Minutes of the Junior Sports Assistance Fund meeting held on 12 June 2024 as attached be noted.

CARRIED

24 Jun 2024 3:56pm Chant, Tahlee
Action completed by Melissa Telford in CM9 on 24/06/2024
24 Jun 2024 3:57pm Telford, Melissa - Completion
Action completed by Chant, Tahlee
26 Jun 2024 10:51am Telford, Melissa
No action necessary

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Telford, Melissa Philpott, Sarah	Reports	Correspondence Received

RESOLUTION 2024/110

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

1. That Junior Sports Assistance Fund Report No. AR24/35733 titled 'Correspondence Received ' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

24 Jun 2024 3:57pm Chant, Tahlee
Action completed by Melissa Telford in CM9 on 24/06/2024
24 Jun 2024 3:57pm Telford, Melissa - Completion
Action completed by Chant, Tahlee
26 Jun 2024 10:50am Telford, Melissa
No action necessary

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Telford, Melissa Philpott, Sarah	Reports	Statement of Revenue and Expenses - as at 31 May 2024

RESOLUTION 2024/111

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Junior Sports Assistance Fund Report No. AR24/35735 titled 'Statement of Revenue and Expenses - as at 31 May 2024 ' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. The financial statement of the Fund as at 31 May 2024 be received, noting a cash balance of $126,593.90

CARRIED

24 Jun 2024 3:57pm Chant, Tahlee
Action completed by Melissa Telford in CM9 on 24/06/2024
24 Jun 2024 3:57pm Telford, Melissa - Completion
No action necessary

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Telford, Melissa Philpott, Sarah	Reports	Applications for Financial Assistance for Junior and Payments from the Fund - 01/11/2023 - 31/05/2024

RESOLUTION 2024/112

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Paul Jenner

1. That Junior Sports Assistance Fund Report No. AR24/35736 titled 'Applications for Financial Assistance for Junior and Payments from the Fund - 01/11/2023 - 31/05/2024' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

24 Jun 2024 3:58pm Chant, Tahlee
Action completed by Melissa Telford in CM9 on 24/06/2024
24 Jun 2024 3:58pm Telford, Melissa - Completion
No action necessary

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Telford, Melissa Philpott, Sarah	Reports	Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes - Youth Empowerment Sports Program (formerly the Disadvantaged Junior Sports Program)

RESOLUTION 2024/113

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Kate Amoroso

1. That Junior Sports Assistance Fund Report No. AR24/35742 titled 'Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes - Youth Empowerment Sports Program (formerly the Disadvantaged Junior Sports Program)' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. The funding be made available to the Member Organisations named below to assist the identified juniors to achieve their fullest participation with the specific purpose donation from the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes – Youth Empowerment Sports Program initiative, to be used in accordance with their respective confidential application:
   (a) Basketball Mount Gambier $600
   (b) Limestone Coast Football Association $300
   (c) Mount Gambier Netball Association $600
   (d) Mount Gambier Swimming Club $300

CARRIED

24 Jun 2024 3:58pm Chant, Tahlee
Action completed by Melissa Telford in CM9 on 24/06/2024
24 Jun 2024 3:58pm Telford, Melissa - Completion
Letters sent to Successful Applicants and Monies disbursed

Action Sheets Report

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:

Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024

Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Pasquazzi, Ashlee Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Audit and Risk Committee Minutes and Recommendation	Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 3 June 2024

RESOLUTION 2024/114

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

That the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024 as attached be noted.

CARRIED

24 Jun 2024 3:34pm Pasquazzi, Ashlee - Completion
Action completed by Pasquazzi, Ashlee

	Division:	**Date From:**	18/06/2024
	Meeting: Council	**Date To:**	16/07/2024
	Officer:		
Action Sheets Report		**Printed:**	**8 July 2024 11:17 AM**

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Scoggins, Julie Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget

RESOLUTION 2024/115

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/29751 titled '2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget' as presented on 03 June 2024 be noted.

2. That the Audit and Risk Committee feedback on Council's Draft 2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget and/or the associated processes and risks, as follows:

   - The Audit and Risk Committee acknowledge the significant work Council's administration have undertaken to prepare the Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/2025.
   - The Audit and Risk Committee acknowledge the importance of maintaining financial sustainability and recognises the proposed rate increase is required to support financial sustainability.
   - The Audit and Risk Committee encourage Council to closely monitor the financial performance throughout the year in the context of the financial ratio targets.
   - The use of the average residential rate and the waste service charge by comparison to other Council's should be considered as a guide only.

   be incorporated with the public consultation feedback to be presented to the Special Council meeting to be held on the 18 June 2024 for consideration of the adoption of the Draft 2024/2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

CARRIED

28 Jun 2024 10:04pm Scoggins, Julie - Completion
Action completed by Scoggins, Julie

	Division:	**Date From:**	18/06/2024
	Meeting: Council	**Date To:**	16/07/2024
	Officer:		
Action Sheets Report		**Printed:**	**8 July 2024 11:17 AM**

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Scoggins, Julie Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034

RESOLUTION 2024/116

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36612 titled 'Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034' as presented on 03 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the Audit and Risk Committee feedback on Council's Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034 and/or the associated processes and risks, as follows:
   - The Audit and Risk Committee recommends that Council considers the future impact of new and upgraded assets on the financial sustainability.
   - The level of financial and operational risk that is posed by waste and the Audit and Risk Committee seeks a further update on waste financial modelling.
   - The Audit and Risk Committee notes that the Long Term Financial Plan financial sustainability ratios are trending in the right direction of the plan.
   - The Audit and Risk Committee notes the importance of the rating review in informing the future rating forecasts in the Long Term Financial Plan.
   - That the outer years of the Long Term Financial Plan be considered in the next version of the Long Term Financial Plan in terms of the application of the 2% sustainability index.

   be incorporated with the public consultation feedback to be presented to the Special Council meeting to be held on 25 June 2024 for consideration of the adoption of the Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034.

CARRIED

02 Jul 2024 3:41pm Scoggins, Julie - Completion
Action completed by Scoggins, Julie

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Wilson, Sally Cernovskis, Barbara	Reports	Draft Asset Management Plans (AMPs) 2025-2034

RESOLUTION 2024/117

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/37154 titled 'Draft Asset Management Plans (AMPs) 2025-2034' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

2. That the Audit and Risk Committee feedback on Council's Draft Asset Management Plans (AMPs) 2025-2034 and/or the associated processes and risks, as follows:

   - Acknowledges the work undertaken to date on asset planning and the increasing maturity of the assets data.
   - Notes the allocation of new planning and delivery of assets in the building and structures asset management plan, and suggests Council consider the proportion of new versus renewal in future iterations of the plan as the asset planning and master planning progresses.
   - Recommends that Council continues to consider any underutilised buildings and structures and notes the strategic work plan projects will inform this consideration.
   - Notes the plant asset management plan and that the plan allows for some redundancy in plant due to difficulty in supply of new equipment and parts.
   - Recommends that future iterations of the infrastructure asset management plans provide a breakdown of proposed recommended expenditure for key asset classes.
   - Notes the variance between depreciation and proposed asset renewal expenditure and recommend that further context to the variation between depreciation and proposed asset renewal expenditure be provided to Council.
   - The Administration provide an update to the Audit and Risk Committee on a half yearly basis on the further refinement of the asset management planning process.

   be incorporated with the public consultation feedback to be presented to the Special Council meeting on 25 June 2024, for consideration of the adoption of the Draft Asset Management Plans (AMPs) 2025-2034.

CARRIED

03 Jul 2024 4:46pm Wilson, Sally - Completion
Action completed by Wilson, Sally

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Scoggins, Julie Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	Unaudited Infrastructure Valuation as at 1 July 2023

RESOLUTION 2024/118

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/10208 titled 'Unaudited Infrastructure Valuation as at 1 July 2023' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

02 Jul 2024 3:43pm Scoggins, Julie - Completion
Action completed by Scoggins, Julie

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Rolton, Kahli Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	Policy Review - Asset Accounting

RESOLUTION 2024/119

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36754 titled 'Policy Review - Asset Accounting' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the Asset Accounting Policy as attached to Report No. AR24/36754 having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 12 June 2024 be adopted.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate be authorised to make any necessary changes to the policies arising from this meeting, together with any typographical corrections, amendments to position or organisation titles, and finalisation of the document's formatting that do not materially alter the integrity of the document.

CARRIED

26 Jun 2024 2:26pm Rolton, Kahli - Completion
Action completed by Rolton, Kahli

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Little, Leanne Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	Policy Review - Risk Management

RESOLUTION 2024/120

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/38120 titled 'Policy Review - Risk Management' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the Risk Management Policy as attached to Report No. AR24/38120 having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 12 June 2024 be adopted.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate be authorised to make any necessary changes to the policies arising from this meeting, together with any typographical corrections, amendments to position or organisation titles, and finalisation of the document's formatting that do not materially alter the integrity of the document.

CARRIED

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Little, Leanne Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	Risk Management Report January - March 2024

RESOLUTION 2024/121

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36616 titled 'Risk Management Report January - March 2024' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. That an update on the Leases and Licences and Policy Reviews be presented to the July Audit and Risk Committee meeting.
3. That the environmental compliance inherent risk be increased from high to extreme.

CARRIED

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Little, Leanne Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	Work Health Safety (WHS) and Wellbeing Quarterly Report - January - March 2024

RESOLUTION 2024/122

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36617 titled 'Work Health Safety (WHS) and Wellbeing Quarterly Report - January - March 2024' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Scoggins, Julie Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	Quarterly Internal Audit Update Report

RESOLUTION 2024/123

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36613 titled 'Quarterly Internal Audit Update Report' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

02 Jul 2024 3:43pm Scoggins, Julie - Completion
Action completed by Scoggins, Julie

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Scoggins, Julie Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	Draft Revised Internal Audit Program

RESOLUTION 2024/124

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36992 titled 'Draft Revised Internal Audit Program' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the Revised Internal Audit Plan as attached to Report No. AR24/36992, having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 12 June 2024, be adopted.
3. That plant and fleet be subject to a future internal audit in a later iteration of the Internal Audit program.
4. That the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate be authorised to make any necessary changes to the Draft Revised Internal Audit Plan arising from this meeting, together with any typographical corrections, amendments to position or organisation titles, and finalisation of the document's formatting that do not materially alter the integrity of the document.

CARRIED

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Scoggins, Julie Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	External Audit Management Report

RESOLUTION 2024/125

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36615 titled 'External Audit Management Report' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

02 Jul 2024 3:44pm Scoggins, Julie - Completion
Action completed by Scoggins, Julie

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Scoggins, Julie Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	Review of 2024 Audit and Risk Program

RESOLUTION 2024/126

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36971 titled 'Review of 2024 Audit and Risk Program' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the revised work program as reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee for the calendar year 2024 (attached) be adopted, with the addition of the presentation of the quarterly budget review to the Audit and Risk Committee following its presentation to the Council meeting.

CARRIED

02 Jul 2024 3:44pm Scoggins, Julie - Completion
Action completed by Scoggins, Julie

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Scoggins, Julie Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Reports	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report

RESOLUTION 2024/127

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/29748 titled 'Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

24 Jun 2024 3:33pm Scoggins, Julie - Completion
Action completed by Pasquazzi, Ashlee

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	McPherson, Tegan Philpott, Sarah	Council Reports	Draft Vision Document - Mount Gambier 2035: A Community Vision for our Regional Capital

RESOLUTION 2024/129

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That Council Report No. AR24/39050 titled 'Draft Vision Document - Mount Gambier 2035: A Community Vision for our Regional Capital' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.
2. That Council endorse the draft vision document – Mount Gambier 2035: A Community Vision for our Regional Capital for broad community engagement as attached to Report No. AR24/39050.

CARRIED

08 Jul 2024 9:36am McPherson, Tegan - Completion
Action completed by McPherson, Tegan

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Mahmud , Abdullah Cernovskis, Barbara	Council Reports	Railway Lands - Learn to Ride, Nature Play and Youth Space - Community Consultation

RESOLUTION 2024/130

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Paul Jenner

1. That Council Report No. AR24/32732 titled 'Railway Lands - Learn to Ride, Nature Play and Youth Space - Community Consultation' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.
2. That Council endorses the final concept plan of the Learn to Ride space as attached to this report AR24/30771 for delivery on the western railway platform at the Railway Lands.
3. That Council appropriately commemorates the contribution made by Mount Gambier Out of School Hours Care to the Learn to Ride project.
5. That community consultation commence on the draft concept plans for the Railway Lands - Nature Play and Youth Space, with community feedback being presented to a future Council meeting for final endorsement.

CARRIED

	Division:	**Date From:**	18/06/2024
	Meeting: Council	**Date To:**	16/07/2024
	Officer:		
Action Sheets Report		**Printed:**	**8 July 2024 11:17 AM**

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Pasquazzi, Ashlee Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Council Reports	Submission - Dog and Cat Management (Breeder Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024 Consultation

RESOLUTION 2024/131

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

1. That Council Report No. AR24/39003 titled 'Submission - Dog and Cat Management (Breeder Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024 Consultation' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the submission Dog and Cat Management (Breeder Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024 as attached to Report No. AR24/39003 be approved, with the addition of a request for a review of the legislation as it pertains to greyhounds on leash in public areas and fenced dog parks.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate be authorised to make any necessary changes to the document arising from feedback given at the meeting, and to make minor typographical or formatting corrections that do not materially impact the intention of the submission.

CARRIED

26 Jun 2024 12:27pm Pasquazzi, Ashlee - Completion
Action completed by Pasquazzi, Ashlee

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Scoggins, Julie Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Council Reports	Third Quarter Report on Annual Business Plan 2023/2024 Annual Objectives

RESOLUTION 2024/132

Moved: Cr Frank Morello
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council Report No. AR24/33473 titled 'Third Quarter Report on Annual Business Plan 2023/2024 Annual Objectives' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

28 Jun 2024 10:03pm Scoggins, Julie - Completion
Action completed by Scoggins, Julie

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	McCarthy, Michael Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Council Reports	Elector Representation Review - Preferred Structure

RESOLUTION 2024/133

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council Report No. AR24/40295 titled 'Elector Representation Review - Preferred Structure' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the Discussion Paper pertaining to the Representation Review (Attachment 1 - dated May 2024) be received and noted.
3. That Council determine, in principle for the purpose of the preparation of a draft "Representation Report", the future composition and structure which it believes should come into effect at the next Local Government elections in 2026, be comprised of:
   (a) The Council area be named The City of Mount Gambier.
   (b) No Ward Structure.
   (Note: If a ward structure is preferred, must include proposed structure inc. names/titles of each ward, level of ward representation, and whether area councillors are required in addition to ward councillors)
   (c) A Mayor as Principal Member elected as a representative of the area as a whole.
   (Note: The alternative appointment of a Mayor may only occur by proclamation of the Governor under section 10 or by council in the case of a failed supplementary election
   (d) 8 or 9 Area Councillors.
   (Note: In considering whether to retain, increase or decrease the number of area Councillors consideration should be given to the representation quota relative to other comparable Council's)
4. That a draft "Representation Report" be prepared presenting Council's proposed/preferred future elector representation arrangement for consideration and endorsement by Council prior to the initiation of the public consultation process.

CARRIED

Division:
Meeting: Council
Officer:
Date From: 18/06/2024
Date To: 16/07/2024
Action Sheets Report
Printed: 8 July 2024 11:17 AM

Meeting	Officer/Authoriser	Section	Subject
Council 18/06/2024	Ferguson, Derek Fetherstonhaugh, Jane	Council Reports	No Parking Blackwood Street (Northern and Southern Sides) from 7:30am to 9:30am and 2:00pm to 5:00pm

RESOLUTION 2024/134

Moved: Cr Jason Virgo
Seconded: Cr Kate Amoroso

1. That Council Report No. AR24/39904 titled 'No Parking Blackwood Street (Northern and Southern Sides) from 7:30am to 9:30am and 2:00pm to 5:00pm' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.

2. That further consultation be undertaken with neighbouring businesses.

3. That a further report be provided to Council.

Carried

15 JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE (SECTION 41) COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

16 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

17 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

17.1 MINUTES OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 JUNE 2024 - Go to Attachment

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting held on 18 June 2024 as attached be noted.

18 BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Nil

19 COUNCIL REPORTS

19.1 MOUNT GAMBIER 2035: A COMMUNITY VISION FOR OUR REGIONAL CAPITAL – REPORT NO. AR24/47824

Committee:	**Council**
Meeting Date:	**16 July 2024**
Report No.:	**AR24/47824**
CM9 Reference:	**AF23/328**
Author:	**Tegan McPherson, Manager Strategic Projects**
Authoriser:	**Sarah Philpott, Chief Executive Officer**
Summary:	**This report presents the community's vision and strategic priorities for Council's endorsement.**
Strategic Plan Reference:	**Goal 1: Our People** **Goal 2: Our Location** **Goal 3: Our Diverse Economy** **Goal 4: Our Climate, Natural Resources, Arts, Culture and Heritage** **Goal 5: Our Commitment**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report No. AR24/47824 titled 'Mount Gambier 2035: A Community Vision for our Regional Capital' as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.
2. That Council endorse the community vision document – Mount Gambier 2035: A Community Vision for our Regional Capital as the community's vision and strategic priorities to 2035.
3. That Council undertake to create its Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028 with consideration of the community vision in developing its strategic priorities for the next four years.

TYPE OF REPORT

Other

BACKGROUND

Mount Gambier 2035 is a community vision that has been developed by the Mount Gambier community in collaboration with Council. It has been drafted to directly reflect the views and aspirations of the Mount Gambier community which have been collated through a variety of engagement methods between November 2023 and May 2024.

A community vision is a collective agreement about what we want our community to be like in the future. This vision covers the next 11 years, leading up to 2035, and it's a shared commitment among everyone who lives, works, and enjoys our city.

This vision will serve as the guiding principle for all planning and decision-making by the City of Mount Gambier Council and our community.

To develop the community vision, a process was developed and launched to the community in November 2023 where we engaged with Mount Gambier residents, students, workers, businesses and visitors to hear what we collectively value, what we want to be known for, and what we can do together as we approach 2035. This process was presented to Elected Members at an information and briefing session (Elected Member Workshop) held on 10 October 2023.

On 12 December 2023, Council endorsed the establishment of a Community Panel to collaborate in the development of our community vision to 2035.

In summary, the process has been as follows (for full details please refer to the attached Mount Gambier 2035 Engagement Report):

- **Phase 1: Exploring our Community Vision (Nov - Dec 2023)**

  We invited our community to read about our city and future trends, and share their thoughts on what we value, how we want to be described, and the opportunities and challenges we face as we approach 2035.

- **Phase 2: Exploring the key themes (Jan - Apr 2024)**

  We hosted a series of roundtables and discussions with subject matter experts and key stakeholders. These sessions aimed to delve deeper into the themes derived from the feedback received from the broader community and prepare clear and well-considered briefing materials to inform deliberation on the vision and strategic priorities for Mount Gambier 2035.

- **Phase 3: Shaping Mount Gambier 2035 (May 2024)**

  We established a Community Panel who met across 3 separate sessions and brought their diverse expertise, ideas and life experience to the table to review and reflect on the feedback from our community in responding to the following ‘charge’ (or task) set by Council:

  - What are the key elements that will inform the vision for Mount Gambier 2035?
  - What should the strategic priorities for our community as we approach 2035?
  - How might we describe our cultural identity as a city?

The community panel presented their recommendations to Council on 28 May 2024 to ultimately inform the final draft of Mount Gambier 2035.

Council subsequently met to finalise the draft document on 4 June 2024 which was released for broad community engagement from 19 June 2024 to 10 July 2024.

The feedback has been considered in producing the final document for Council’s endorsement.

PROPOSAL

In considering the community feedback (outlined in the engagement and communication strategy section of this report), the following amendments have been made in finalising the community vision document:

- Adjusted sequencing of the document with the introduction and background information moved so that it follows the core content of the vision document.
- Corrected the spelling of the word “infrastructure” in the strategic priorities’ graphics.
- Inclusion of, “Our local businesses and industry are supported by modern and efficient freight networks that enhance our connectivity to regional and international markets” under the ‘Economic and Business Growth’ strategic priority.
- Inclusion of the following, under the ‘Infrastructure and Services’ strategic priority:
    - We have access to affordable, accessible and reliable air transport that helps connect Mount Gambier to the rest of the world.
    - We have the infrastructure that supports active transport and a sustainable lifestyle.
    - We have access to aged care services that are compassionate, inclusive, and high-quality, supporting the health, wellbeing and dignity of our elderly population.
    - Amendment to “We have diverse and affordable housing options”, with the addition of, “… that meet the diverse needs of our community”.

The final document has also been graphically designed to create a community document that reflects the imagery and artwork highlighted by the community panel as important to the narrative of the work.

In addition, a commitment statement from the Council has been included in the 'Achieving our Vision' section. This statement articulates the City of Mount Gambier’s commitment to the community’s vision, emphasising the Council's role in ensuring a deep understanding of the vision, thus making it central to Council thinking beyond election and planning cycles.

It is proposed that Council receive and note ‘Mount Gambier 2035: A Community Vision for our Regional Capital’ and it be endorsed as the community’s vision to 2035.

Once endorsed, Council will commence its strategic planning process with consideration of the community’s vision to inform its strategic priorities for the next four years. This will be completed and adopted by November 2024.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Although there is no legal requirement to adopt a community vision, the vision will serve to guide legislatively required activities, such as Council’s strategic management plans, to make them more relevant to community members and stakeholders.

Under Section 122(1) of the Local Government Act, a council must develop and adopt plans (which may take various forms) for the management of its area, to be called collectively the strategic management plans, which identify the council's objectives for the area over a period of at least 4 years.

A council may review its strategic management plans under this section at any time but must undertake a comprehensive review of its strategic management plans within 2 years after each general election of the Council with the deadline for this due in November 2024.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The development of a new vision inherently influences the City of Mount Gambier’s strategic planning. The integration of the vision into Council’s strategic planning will present a major opportunity for Council to interpret and apply the community’s vision for Mount Gambier.



In addition, the findings from the engagement throughout this initiative has significant benefits relevant to various strategies across the Council.

COUNCIL POLICY

P195 Community Consultation and Engagement Policy

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Community values and aspirations relating to Mount Gambier's economy are captured within the community vision.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Values and aspirations relating to Mount Gambier's natural environment were one of the strongest themes from the engagement. These have been captured within the community vision.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The community vision captures the themes of our community's social values and aspirations.

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

One of the key elements of the community vision is an identity statement that summarises the stories, values and unique qualities of what it means to be from Mount Gambier.

Throughout the early phases of engagement, it became clear that culture and identity meant a lot to us all and played an important role in shaping our plans for the future.

Each community has its own traditions, values, and norms that shape its identity over time. These aspects are very important because they give us pride, a sense of belonging, and a responsibility to each other. In deliberating our future vision, Council asked the Community Panel to describe our cultural identity as a city.

Utilising the insights gathered through community feedback, survey responses and reflections from their lived experiences, community panel members were able to delve deeper into the common statements about our city and identify what really matters to us. Ultimately, being from 'the Mount' is about belonging, a connection to place.

The identity statement that has been developed, or parts of it, may not speak to everyone, but it is the start of a conversation and future storytelling. With meaningful words that honestly convey who we are as a community and our potential for change, it captures the most powerful themes that emerged from the feedback of our community.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

We need to ensure the community vision is embedded and manage ongoing engagement to keep it relevant and active. This will require appropriate resourcing for effective delivery.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The final stages of the community vision development are covered by the project budget allocation for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Community values and aspirations relating to equity and diversity implications are captured within the community vision.

The community vision contains an Acknowledgement of Country written by one of our community panel members and Boandik Elder, Aunty Michelle Jacquelin-Furr.

Once a final version is adopted, an 'Easy read' and audio version will be developed to ensure the vision is accessible for people who have difficulty reading.

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The draft community vision was released to the community for review between 19 June 2024 and 10 July 2024. As part of this engagement, community members were provided the opportunity to respond to one or more of the following questions in their reflections of the Mount Gambier 2035 community vision document:

- What aspects of the community vision document resonate most strongly with you, and why?
- In what ways does the vision document reflect your personal values and aspirations for the community?
- How do you envision your role and contribution in bringing the vision to life?
- Which elements of the vision document do you think need more focus or detail to make them actionable?
- Are there any additional thoughts or reflections that come to mind that you would like to add?

During the engagement period, the draft community vision document was downloaded over 630 times and we had 9 respondents to the survey with variations on the questions answered.

A summary of the feedback received under each question was as follows:

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">What aspects of the community vision document resonate most strongly with you, and why?</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">• Sense of belonging and connection.
• The final quote in the Identity Statement profoundly resonated. The light on the hill serves as a powerful symbol for our beautiful city.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">In what ways does the vision document reflect your personal values and aspirations for the community?</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">• Sustainability and environment.
• Commitment to being inclusive, accessible, and vibrant.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">How do you envision your role and contribution in bringing the vision to life?</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">• Achieving success across the region.
• Connecting with stakeholders and making a personal strategic contribution.
• Promote the vision.
• Alignment in values and reinforcement of key principles.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Which elements of the vision document do you think need more focus or detail to make them actionable?</td></tr>
<tr><td><u>Summary of Feedback:</u>

Important to focus on local and interstate visitors.</td><td><u>Council Response:</u>

The importance of tourism has been captured under the Strategic Priorities section of the Community Vision.</td></tr>
<tr><td><u>Summary of Feedback:</u>

Each item needs to be broken down in greater detail and determine action timelines. Consider date for goal review.</td><td><u>Council Response:</u>

In working towards the vision, contributors will need to give consideration to how they might play their part and when.

Council will do this for the priorities that it has a role in as part of its Strategic Plan due in November 2024.</td></tr>
</table>

Summary of Feedback: Needs to be greater emphasis on Council delivering the services we already have in place with more focus on keeping the city clean and maintained.	Council Response: This community vision document has been developed by the community and covers a range of topics important to community members, some within the remit of the council and others outside it. With this in mind, Council will use the vision as a guiding principle for all planning and decision-making including in the management of Council services.
Summary of Feedback: The word infrastructure is incorrectly spelt in the 2 graphics on pages 7 and 11 "Infrustructure and services"	Council Response: This has been corrected.
Summary of Feedback: Need to capture the importance of freight transport and its needs to dedicated routes (existing and future) to support Mount Gambier's businesses and industries.	Council Response: Freight transport has been added to the strategic priorities section under 'Economic and Business Growth' and is reflective of feedback received throughout the process.
Summary of Feedback: Need to capture how Mount Gambier will make it easier to use alternative fuel vehicles (large and small) for both locals and visitors.	Council Response: Active and sustainable transport options have been added to the strategic priorities section under 'Infrastructure and Services' and is reflective of feedback received throughout the process.
Summary of Feedback: Need to address if Mount Gambier will be advocating to improve existing regional airport with larger planes and more service.	Council Response: Air transport has been added to the strategic priorities section under 'Infrastructure and Services' and is reflective of feedback received throughout the process.
Summary of Feedback: Consideration of affordable, efficient and environmentally suitable housing for seniors.	Council Response: Diverse and affordable housing options has been captured under the strategic priorities section under 'Infrastructure and Services'.
Are there any additional thoughts or reflections that come to mind that you would like to add?	
Summary of Feedback: Nice work with great thoughts about a vibrant community and a better future for our regional economy with more local tourism, the service industries and key areas of local business.	Council Response: Thank you for your feedback.
Summary of Feedback: Aged Care has been overlooked, as a key item in Infrastructure and Services.	Council Response: Aged care has been added to the strategic priorities section under 'Infrastructure and Services' and is reflective of feedback received throughout the process.

Summary of Feedback:	Council Response:
No incidents of racism have been observed in this area. While it is important to acknowledge and respect Indigenous culture, the necessity of repeated Welcome to Country ceremonies at every community and council event is questionable, particularly when there are no international visitors present. The Council should prioritise essential services such as rates, roads, and rubbish.	This topic is a polarising one for the Mount Gambier community with different perspectives reflected throughout community feedback. The community panel has produced a document that is reflective of the community's overarching aspirations for the future and aligns with the City of Mount Gambier's commitment to reconciliation.
Summary of Feedback:	Council Response:
Mount Gambier as a training hub for medical professionals seems to be missing from innovations.	The content under the strategic priorities section 'Education and Innovation' has been updated with "We are an attractive place for professionals to develop and grow on their respective fields", acknowledging that this may extend beyond just medical professionals. This is reflective of feedback received throughout the process.

It should also be noted that from time to time in engagement processes, commentary and feedback is received which is directed at a person or persons, and may be offensive, derogatory, defamatory or otherwise determined to be inappropriate. Such feedback is removed or redacted.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Once the community vision is endorsed, the organisation will support it by sharing stories from community members who are already 'living the vision', helping to bring the document to life. This approach was a recommendation of the community panel during their presentation to Council. Additionally, we will develop alternative and accessible formats for the community.

Achieving this vision will require a collaborative approach. Its success depends on the engagement and response of all Mount Gambier stakeholders, including the Commonwealth and State governments, business and industry, and the community at large. Ongoing engagement within the community will ensure collective alignment with our community's vision.

Council will commence its strategic planning process with consideration of the community's vision to inform its strategic priorities for the next four years. This will be completed and adopted by November 2024.

The community vision will be reviewed every four years to ensure it remains current and reflects any changes and trends affecting Mount Gambier and its community. The intent of the review will focus on checking in with the community; not to conduct a complete rewrite or start from scratch. This review will coincide with the Council's strategic planning cycle.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that Council receive and note 'Mount Gambier 2035: A Community Vision for our Regional Capital' and it be endorsed as the community's vision to 2035.

Once endorsed, Council will commence work on its Strategic Plan 2024 -2028 with consideration of the community vision in developing its strategic priorities for the next four years. This is due for completion by November 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Mount Gambier 2035 - A Community Vision for our Regional Capital ⇩

MOUNT GAMBIER 2035

A community vision for our regional capital

"A volcanic past with a crystal clear future."



Acknowledgement of Country

The Boandik people are the Aboriginal people of the lands around Mount Gambier/ Berrin. They have been here for thousands and thousands of years. Their creation story Craitbul, is oral evidence of the timing of eruptions of Mount Muirhead/Beleter, Mount Schank/Parreen and Mount Gambier/Berrin.

Through the ancestors and Elders teachings; values, laws and culture have been passed down. The strong connection to Country and the Waters of the lakes, sinkholes and sea is evident in the name – The Boandik – 'the people of the reeds and rushes'.

Their ancestors practiced what is now the oldest living culture on Earth.

They respected Country and knew the seasons. They listened to Mother Earth and moved to different sites to allow new growth, for resources to replenish, to gather medicines for healing, burnt Country to cleanse Country and maintain rich hunting grounds and access to songlines. The ancestors lived with the Land and cared for the Land. Nothing was taken for granted. Respect and honour systems were in place.

The Boandik people and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community continue to uphold these values today but need support. Support from all community to walk the path, hand in hand, step by step, to build a stronger future together.

Aunty Michelle Jacquelin-Furr
Boandik Elder and Mount Gambier 2035 Community Panel member



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The Vision Statement

The vision statement is the overarching message about how we want to approach the future for Mount Gambier. It consists of a simple and poetic statement that reflects the key themes of our community's values and aspirations.

Informed by the inherent strengths and shared values of the city, it outlines a path forward that emphasises family, connection, nature and growth.



A volcanic past with a crystal clear future.

In 2035, Mount Gambier is a connected hub nestled on the slopes of an ancient volcano; a haven of natural beauty. It is a place of stories, where our community is family, nurtured through growth, opportunity and connection.

Our inherent strengths and shared values of family, connection, growth, and nature have been identified as fundamental to our vision and are outlined below.

Mount Gambier is where our community is family which provides us with:

- support and care.
- opportunities.
- interactions.
- a foundation to find meaning.

Mount Gambier is a hub for connection to:

- services.
- the wider region.
- networks.
- our natural environment.
- culture/s.
- each other.
- share stories and history.
- celebrate.

Mount Gambier is a hub for considered and sustainable growth through:

- innovation.
- diversity.
- accessibility and services.
- entrepreneurship.
- ourselves, family and community.
- economic ambition.
- affordability.

In Mount Gambier, our natural environment holds significant value, and it is important that that:

- we maintain our access to interact with nature.
- we prioritise sustainability in our utilisation of natural resources.
- we act as custodians, preserving and protecting our natural environment.
- we enjoy urban living within a rural setting.
- we uphold the quality of our natural resources, including water, air, and soil.

Strategic Priorities

Five strategic priorities represent the key focus areas that will contribute to achieving our vision for the future.

These priorities are interconnected and underpinned by three key principles. We need to ensure Mount Gambier is: connected, accessible, and sustainable. These principles acknowledge that we will only achieve our community vision when all of the strategic priorities work together, ensuring that whether you are new to Mount Gambier, or an existing member of our community, that you feel valued, supported, and enabled to thrive.

The priorities are about Mount Gambier in the future – reflecting some of what the city is now, but also what our community wants it to become.

Idea submission: 'How would you like Mount Gambier to be described in 2035?'

"Progressive, vibrant, creative, inclusive, culturally diverse. 'A connected community'."



Key Principles

The key principles are not stand-alone; they underpin how we should approach everything we do.

Connected

The ripple effect:
We consider how working on one priority can link to the others to multiply the outcome for our community.

Local, national, global:
We consider how our city can be strengthened by connecting with others - our local communities (District Council of Grant, South-West Victoria), regional and state (Limestone Coast towns, tourism, health and education), national (investment and business), and global (export and trade).

Accessible

Welcoming:
We consider how our strategic priorities can be welcoming and inviting for all to participate. A vibrant community is where people of all abilities, linguistic, cultural backgrounds and age groups can connect, contribute and are valued.

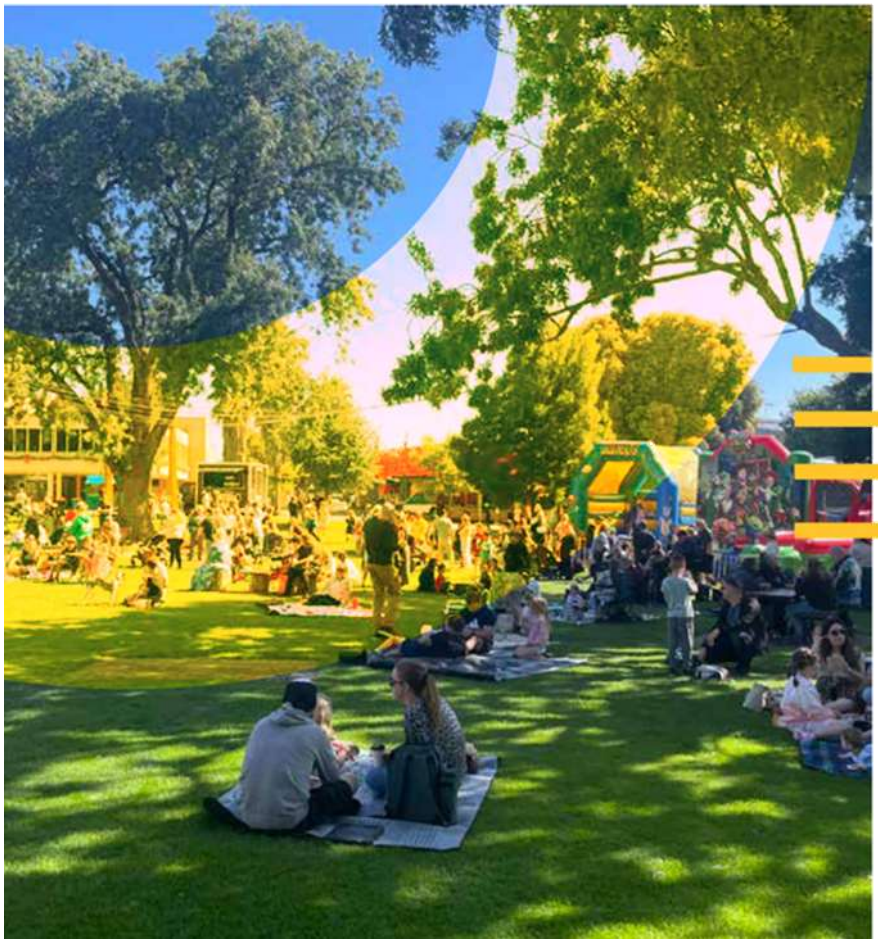
Universal design:
We consider the principles of co-design to ensure the incorporation of universal design - informational, physical, systematic, communication, and cultural accessibility.

Sustainable

Environmental stewardship:
We embed a culture of environmental responsibility among residents and industries, collectively working together for the stewardship of the air, land, soil and water.

Protecting and preserving our natural resources:
We consider urban planning and design principles that ensure our unique natural resources are protected and preserved - clean air, volcanic soil, crystal clear groundwater, green and open space (sinkholes, crater lakes and urban parks).

Circular Economy:
We demonstrate leadership and consider infrastructure that supports a circular economy and reduces waste to landfill.



Idea submission: 'What do you value about our city?'

"Cleanliness, pretty, easy to get around, would not live anywhere else, affordable."

5

Environment and Liveability



We are custodians of the landscape, committed to protecting and preserving our natural environments, creating a liveable city.

Areas under this priority include:

- Biodiversity.
- Land management of the Crater Lakes precinct and other natural assets.
- Reducing urban sprawl impacts.
- Sustainable energy.
- Tourism.
- Waste management.
- Water; security and sustainable use.

In 2035 success looks like...

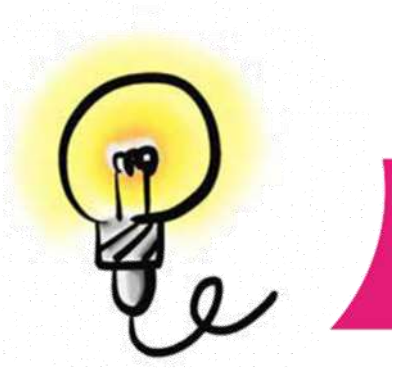
- Our green connections, such as wildlife corridors along the Rail Trail and interconnected track networks, enhance the connectivity of our city, including the Crater Lakes precinct.
- We protect and preserve our Crater Lakes precinct, including weed management and considered, connected design for a sustainable track and trail network.
- We protect and preserve our natural assets, acknowledging the key role they play in our tourism economy and the vibrancy of our city.
- We enhance the connection of our city to nature and green spaces to make a liveable city that helps to attract and retain people.
- Our volunteers are actively engaged and contributing in the custodianship of our nature and green spaces.



Idea submission: 'What do you value about our city?'

"A beautiful, safe, clean and friendly place to visit. With so much natural beauty there is so much to offer visitors."

Learning and Innovation



A regional learning hub that fosters innovation and local industries.

Areas under this priority include:

- Career development and pathways for experts and professionals.
- Education options for all ages.
- Emerging technologies.
  - Education, use, support, and opportunities.
- Equitable learning options.
- Industry training.
- Pathways that lead to ongoing learning and development in the city.
- Seamless connections across all levels of learning.

In 2035 success looks like...

- We are a local learning hub.
- We have learning pathways linked to our local industries - forestry, fisheries, dairy, agriculture.
- We encourage business innovation and an entrepreneurial mindset.
- We attract experts in their field and support innovative business initiatives.
- We are an attractive place for professionals to develop and grow in their respective fields.
- Regional students can earn and learn here.
- We can attract the experts we need to live, learn and grow.
- We retain professionals by having further development and promotional opportunities.
- We share and connect community elder knowledge to younger people.
- We create opportunities for people to innovate and find solutions to the issues impacting our region.



Idea submission: 'How would you like Mount Gambier to be described in 2035?'

"Future proof and ready for anything. A hub of development and opportunity for regional SA."

7

Infrastructure and Services



A high quality, affordable lifestyle where people are happy, healthy, and housed and able to access all available resources.

Areas under this priority include:

- Aged care.
- Air transport.
- Community safety.
- Emergency services.
- Health services.
- Healthy child development.
- High-quality sport and recreation spaces and facilities.
- Housing and accommodation.
- Infrastructure.
- Public transport.
- Social services.
- Sustainable healthy food system.

In 2035 success looks like...

- We have easy access to health services with experts who maintain an ongoing presence within our community.
- We have access to transportation that supports everyday life by connecting essential services such as schools, dentists, hospitals, medical centres, and green spaces.
- We have access to affordable, accessible and reliable air transport that helps connect Mount Gambier to the rest of the world.
- We have transportation that links the community and tourists to our iconic sites.
- We have access to aged care services that are compassionate, inclusive, and high-quality, supporting the health, wellbeing and dignity of our elderly population.
- We have equitable health and social services that are accessible locally.
- We have diverse recreation spaces that are connected and accessible.
- We have diverse and affordable housing options that meet the needs of our community.
- We live in a great place to raise a family, with the support and services to be happy and healthy.
- We feel safe in our community and out in public, both day and night.
- We look out for one another.
- We have the infrastructure that supports active transport and a sustainable lifestyle.



Idea submission: 'How would you like Mount Gambier to be described in 2035?'

"A clean city where you can learn, work and play. An affordable lifestyle city."

8

Economic and Business Growth



A creative, entrepreneurial mindset that creates a thriving, resilient community.

Areas under this priority include:

- Business and regional development.
- Business development and learning.
- Circular economy with waste management.
- Events.
- Freight transport.
- Investment and development opportunities.
- Migration.
- Revitalisation and improvements of commercial precincts.
- Tourism.

In 2035 success looks like...

- We have diversity within our commercial mix, both in supply and consumer offerings.
- We have diversity in our local industry creating employment opportunities and contributing to our local economy and resilience.
- Our local businesses are thriving due to a strong local economy and tourism.
- Our local businesses and industries are supported by modern and efficient freight networks that enhance our connectivity to regional and international markets.
- Our people have an entrepreneurial mindset and are enabled and supported with opportunities to 'start-up'.
- Mount Gambier is seen as a place for young professionals.
- Our affordability is our strength as a place to invest or start a business.
- We enable our creative industry to contribute to employment opportunities and the social fabric of the city.

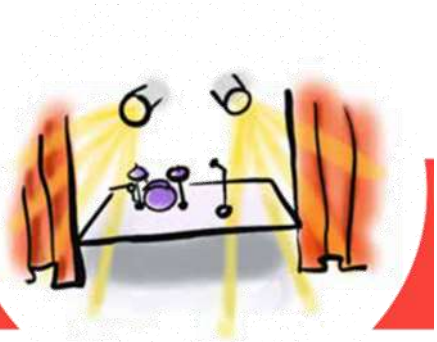


Idea submission: 'What do you value about our city?'

"We are becoming a region rich with cultures, and the more inclusive we become, the more open we are to change and growth."

9

A Vibrant Community



Events, activities, sport and recreation all contributing to a vibrant city during the day, at night and across all seasons.

Areas under this priority include:

- Creative Industry.
- Culture and heritage.
- Events.
- Multiculturalism.
- Sport and recreation.
- Tourism.
- Volunteering.

In 2035 success looks like...

- Our arts and cultural events are accessible across an annual calendar and through all seasons.
- Our public spaces and activities create opportunities to connect and engage, day and night.
- Our events, activities, sport and recreation provide opportunities for connecting and engaging within the community.
- We have energetic and enthusiastic volunteers engaging in initiatives that provide opportunities for people to connect and contribute to the community.
- We have a diversity of events and activities that celebrate our first nations' heritage and shared cultural diversity, people and places.
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre is activated (i.e. concerts, conferences, trade-shows) to contribute to the city's visitor economy and vibrancy.
- We have social networks and opportunities for all age groups.
- We have events, activities, sport and recreation opportunities that are inclusive and accessible to everyone.



Idea submission: 'How would you like Mount Gambier to be described in 2035?'

"A vibrant, exciting and liveable city on nature's doorstep."

10

Identity Statement

This identity statement summarises the stories, values and unique qualities of what it means to be from 'the Mount'.

These insights were gathered through community feedback, survey responses and reflections from the lived experiences of community panel members.

Not all the themes identified were positive, and some were mere perceptions, or potentially common to any regional city. The challenge was to dig deeper into the common statements about our city and identify the real cultural challenges that matter.

It became apparent that we might not be as welcoming or inclusive as we aspire to be. Community panel members contemplated how to shift this narrative while avoiding lofty statements that could lose their authenticity and meaning.

Ultimately, being from the Mount is about belonging, a connection to place.

This statement, or parts of it, may not speak to everyone, but it is the start of a conversation and future storytelling. With meaningful words that honestly convey who we are as a community and our potential for change, it captures the most powerful themes that emerged from the feedback of our people.

Dwelling amidst a place of contrasts – fire and water, hills and valleys, tradition and potential – we are friends, we are family, we are all custodians of our unique home on the slopes of Blue Lake/Warwar.

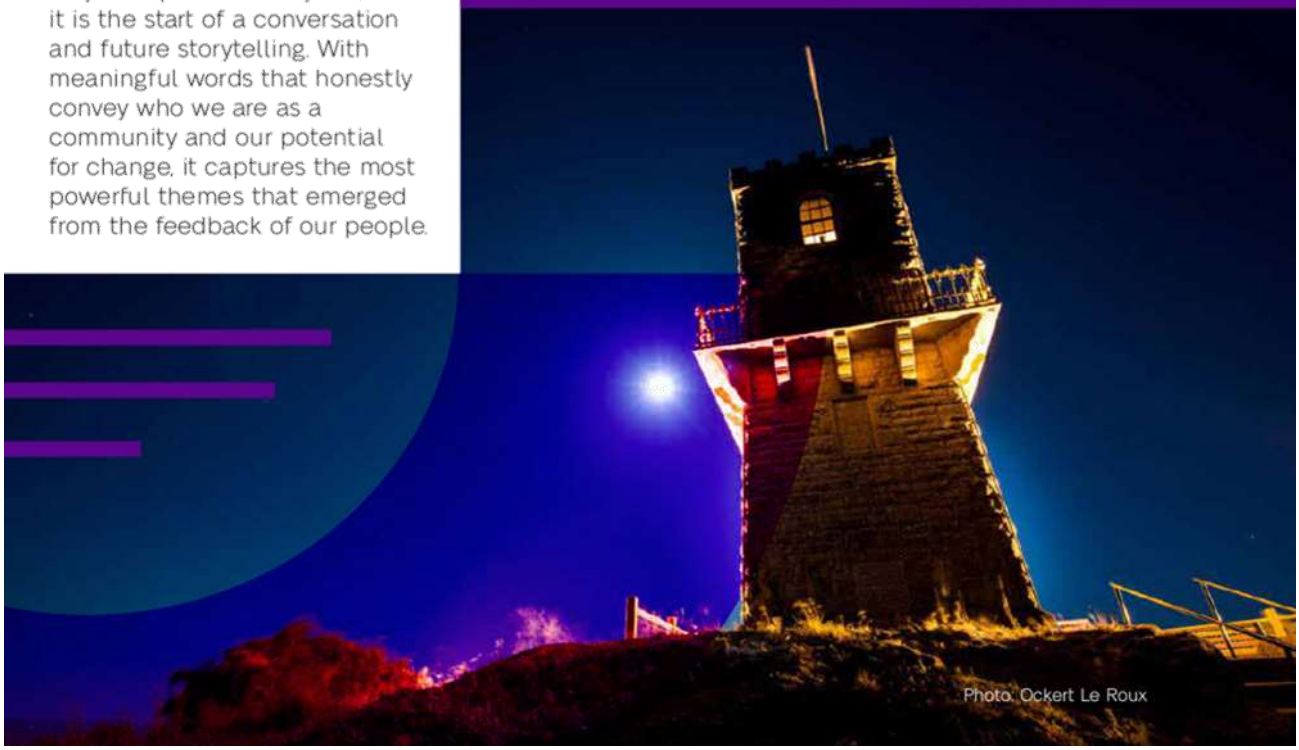
We've been here for millennia, for generations, for a long time, for a short time, and we want it to feel like home for all.

In this big little city where we're each other's neighbour, our independence and resilience has shaped our unique character. In the Mount, we do things our way.

Our rich natural, creative, and industrial resources allow us to thrive independently and in isolation, while embracing the developing technologies that connect us.

We're a regional hub where opportunities arise from our collective skills and experience. We prioritise the life of our community, looking beyond ourselves and our circles to work stronger together. We celebrate, support and champion each other.

Whenever we leave, the light on the hill calls us home.



What is a community vision and why do we need one?

A community vision is an agreement outlining what everyone wants the community to look like in the future. Mount Gambier 2035 is a community vision for our regional capital which articulates our community's collective values and aspirations for how Mount Gambier will look and feel in 11 years time.

There are many benefits for creating a community vision, including:

- To understand the long-term aspirations of our community.
- To provide a future lens to unite all planning and decision making for councils, government and the community.
- To build community pride and social cohesion, and
- Strengthen community identity.

Mount Gambier 2035 – A community vision for our regional capital includes:

- A vision statement describing the aspirational future state of Mount Gambier in 2035,
- Five strategic priorities, underpinned by three key principles, that represent the key aspirations of our community to 2035,
- A statement of identity which is a summary of the stories, values and special qualities of what it means to be from 'the Mount'.

MOUNT GAMBIER 2035

A community vision for our regional capital

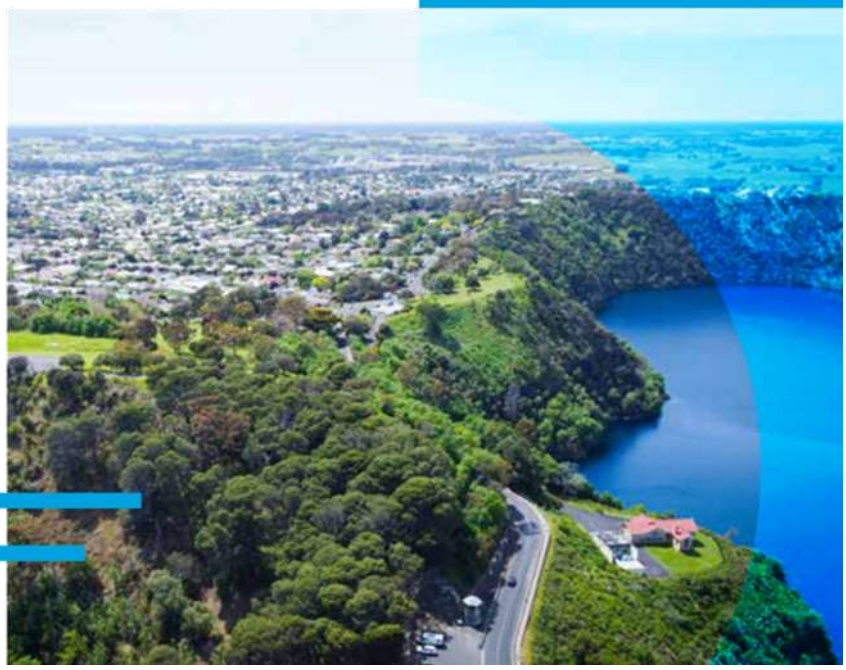
The three parts reflect what people value and aspire for Mount Gambier. They were developed through a visionary community engagement process and are designed to complement and reinforce each other. The three parts should be used together, with the vision as whole informing work on any single aspect of it.

How was the community vision developed?

From November 2023 to May 2024, an extensive program of community engagement was undertaken to inform Mount Gambier 2035. While City of Mount Gambier facilitated the process, many people beyond those living within Council's boundaries participate in, and have a stake, in the life of the city.

With this in mind, anyone who lives, works, studies, visits, owns a business in Mount Gambier, or has any connection to the city was invited to contribute towards the community vision for Mount Gambier, the regional capital for South Australia. Community members and key stakeholders contributed their stories, ideas and perspectives which were provided to a community panel to inform their thinking and discussion in creating the future vision for Mount Gambier.

The City of Mount Gambier acknowledges and thanks all members of our community panel for volunteering their time, and for their passion and commitment in working together to produce our vision.



Mount Gambier 2035 Community Panel

The vision was created by a community panel of 28 people who represent the diversity of our city.

Early in the engagement process, an expression of interest was open for members of the community to self-nominate to be part of the Mount Gambier 2035 community panel. From those expressions of interest, an independent selection process was undertaken to determine final panel membership. The community panel met across three separate sessions in May 2024 to shape and inform the final community vision by responding to the following three questions:

- What are the key elements that will inform the vision for Mount Gambier 2035?
- What should the strategic priorities be for our community as we approach 2035?
- How might we describe our cultural identity as a city?

The community panel included a broad cross section of the Mount Gambier community and brought diverse expertise, ideas, and life experiences to review and reflect on the feedback provided by our community.

The community panel worked hard to honour our community's feedback and was committed to ensuring that everyone could see themselves in the future vision for Mount Gambier.

"The passion that the community panel showed during this process demonstrates how invested they were in their role. The end result is absolutely fantastic, it is really powerful, and they should be very proud of themselves and what they have done for the future of Mount Gambier." - Mayor Lynette Martin OAM



How do we get there?

Everyone who lives, works, studies or visits Mount Gambier has a role to play in achieving our vision and priorities. Mount Gambier 2035 provides exciting opportunities for us all to engage with and help shape our future.

Its success depends on the engagement and response of all Mount Gambier stakeholders, including the federal and state governments, business and industry, and the community at large.

All community organisations, businesses and anyone wanting to contribute to the future of Mount Gambier are encouraged to use this document to inform their planning and decision making processes.

The City of Mount Gambier's commitment

The City of Mount Gambier is proud to support this community led vision, produced by people who live in Mount Gambier and based on the aspirations of our wider community.

The City of Mount Gambier considers it a privilege to be the custodians of this vision on behalf of our community. We see ourselves as having an important role in ensuring carriage of this vision to the broader community and future Councils. In demonstrating its long-term commitment to the community vision, City of Mount Gambier will:

- Show leadership and inspire others to come on board with the vision.
- Consider the vision to inform Council's strategic planning.
- Work in partnership, actively seeking to work toward vision outcomes in collaboration with other councils, the state government, the federal government, and other stakeholders.
- Work collaboratively ensuring our future is not left to chance, but we are proactive in the preferred future of our community.
- Celebrate our successes and those in our community, helping to bring our vision to life.
- Encourage a network of champions, people who are positive ambassadors for our place, who can share our stories, support others and build on our strengths.
- Continue to engage and reconnect with contributors to our vision, ensuring it remains dynamic and continues to evolve.
- Recognise that each decision, no matter how small, affects the future of our city.
- Ensure that the vision continues to reflect community values, needs and aspirations.
- Work with elected members, staff, and the community to ensure understanding of the vision, so that it remains central to Council thinking beyond election and planning cycles.



Idea submission: 'How would you like Mount Gambier to be described in 2035?'

"A welcoming and inclusive community that values everyone and has events and places for all to enjoy."

19.2 CRATER LAKES REHABILITATION REPORT FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – REPORT NO. AR24/46073

Committee:	**Council**
Meeting Date:	**16 July 2024**
Report No.:	**AR24/46073**
CM9 Reference:	**AF23/328**
Author:	**Sinaway Georgiou, Parks and Gardens Coordinator**
Authoriser:	**Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Infrastructure**
Summary:	**The Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan for the southwestern slopes of the Crater Lakes Complex Mount Gambier has been prepared by Oxigen Landscape Architects. The City of Mount Gambier is committed to effective, ongoing and timely community engagement as an integral part of local governance and its key decision making. It is recommended Council endorses the Rehabilitation Plan and a community consultation period is undertaken.**
Strategic Plan Reference:	**Goal 1: Our People** **Goal 2: Our Location** **Goal 4: Our Climate, Natural Resources, Arts, Culture and Heritage**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report No. AR24/46073 titled 'Crater Lakes Rehabilitation Report for Community Consultation as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.
2. That Council endorses key stakeholder and surrounding resident engagement for the Crater Lakes Rehabilitation Report, as attached to Report No. AR24/46073, be undertaken.
3. That a final report be presented to Council to consider feedback received from the key stakeholder engagement process.

TYPE OF REPORT

Other

BACKGROUND

Oxigen were engaged by Council to prepare a Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan to assist with the restoration of the fire affected area of *Pinus Radiata* on the southwestern slopes of the Mount Gambier Volcanic Complex State Heritage Area.

Approximately 11.3 ha of *Pinus Radiata* was destroyed during the fires in January 2022. The removal of the pine trees is required due to the significant public safety hazard posed to the public and environmental impact such as erosion and pest weed and plant management of the area. Rehabilitation is required to protect the state heritage area and reinstate public recreation and amenity.

The attached report has been developed by Oxigen in collaboration with a governance steering committee to investigate the background to the region, its cultural significance, the local ecology, revegetation plant selections, methodology on the removal of the trees and an overall implementation strategy.

PROPOSAL

Since the fire, most pine trees have died and are now unstable. As a result, there are falling limbs and tops as well as uprooting and falling trees. The pine trees are not able to be retained and require safe removal while ensuring the embankment can be stabilised in preparation for revegetation to restore and ensure the longevity of the area as part of the 'Mount Gambier Volcanic Complex State Heritage Area'.

This report does not include any detailed design of future trail networks which will be developed between Council and key stakeholders as part of the trails report. The attached report takes into consideration the long-term vision of the area and has been developed in collaboration with other relevant documents for the Mount Gambier Crater Lakes State Heritage Area.

Council staff will assess the possibility to extend works into the blue gum fire affected area and seek to obtain quotes to incorporate these works as part of stage 2 for this project. This will be presented to Elected Members separately for future consideration.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

At the time of implementation of this document, State Heritage legislation and the identification of indigenous Cultural Heritage Values attached to the site will be required to be considered.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan generally aligns with the following Goals and Actions as detailed in the *City of Mount Gambier Strategic Plan 2020-2024*.

Goal 1 - Our People

1.2 Community growth – We foster a sense of community by encouraging and supporting participation in community life. An option for rehabilitation of the area may include fostering community groups and encouraging and supporting them to carry out sections of revegetation and maintenance such as weeding of the fire affected area to help promote participation in community life and growing effective networks. Giving the community a sense of ownership may help prevent / reduce any vandalism of the area also.

Goal 2 - Our Location

2.1 Infrastructure development and managing our current assets - We will commence work on meeting the community's aspirations for future infrastructure development, whilst managing our existing infrastructure and assets in a manner that demonstrates the pride we take in our environment.

Goal 4 - Our Climate, Natural Resources, Arts, Culture and Heritage

4.1 Natural assets - We are effective at protecting and conserving the high-quality values of our natural environment.

4.2 Open Space - We will ensure that community members are provided with opportunities for cultural growth and development through provision of innovative services and programs.

COUNCIL POLICY

- Crater Lakes Trail Plan
- Crater Lakes Park – Trails Sign Plan
- Crater Lakes Activation Plan Vision
- Crater Lakes Conservation Management Plan (Hassell, 2004)
- Identification of Indigenous Cultural Heritage Values

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no economic implications attached to the community consultation process regarding the Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan. The plan will help provide Council with a strategic direction for the restoration of the fire affected areas of *Pinus Radiata* for the southwestern slopes of the Mount Gambier Volcanic Complex State Heritage Area. Indicative costings aligning to the plan will be explored once the community consultation period has been completed and the final methodology of clearing and replanting is proposed.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications for Council to undertake a community consultation regarding the Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan. However, the project itself will have environmental implications given the Rehabilitation Plan is regarding the restoration of the fire affected area of *Pinus Radiata* where the requirements of clearing and replanting of the area is required.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no social implications for Council to undertake a community consultation on the Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan.

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

The Traditional Custodians to Mount Gambier are the Boandik People. Their stories and connection to the land, in particular the Lakes area and the story of Craitbul hold strong significance. This connection to Country is still ongoing today.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The community consultation process associated with the Rehabilitation Plan will be a collaboration between Council resources and Oxigen Landscape Architects as part of their services agreement with Council.

VALUE FOR MONEY

This is not applicable in terms of Council undertaking community consultation.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Because of the fire, the removal of the pine trees is needed due to the significant public safety hazard and environmental impact of erosion and pest weed and plants emergence within the precinct.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The Rehabilitation Plan has been guided by a project steering committee which includes staff from Council, Heritage SA, Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation and Landscape SA.

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Subject to endorsement, the Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan will be released to landowners, surrounding residents and property owners, first nations community, key users and staff that are involved in management of the site for feedback. This process will align to Council's Community Engagement Policy. It is envisaged the stakeholder engagement period will exceed the prescribed twenty-one (21) days to allow sufficient time to meet, review and provide feedback.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Feedback on the Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan will be invited through several channels, as below:

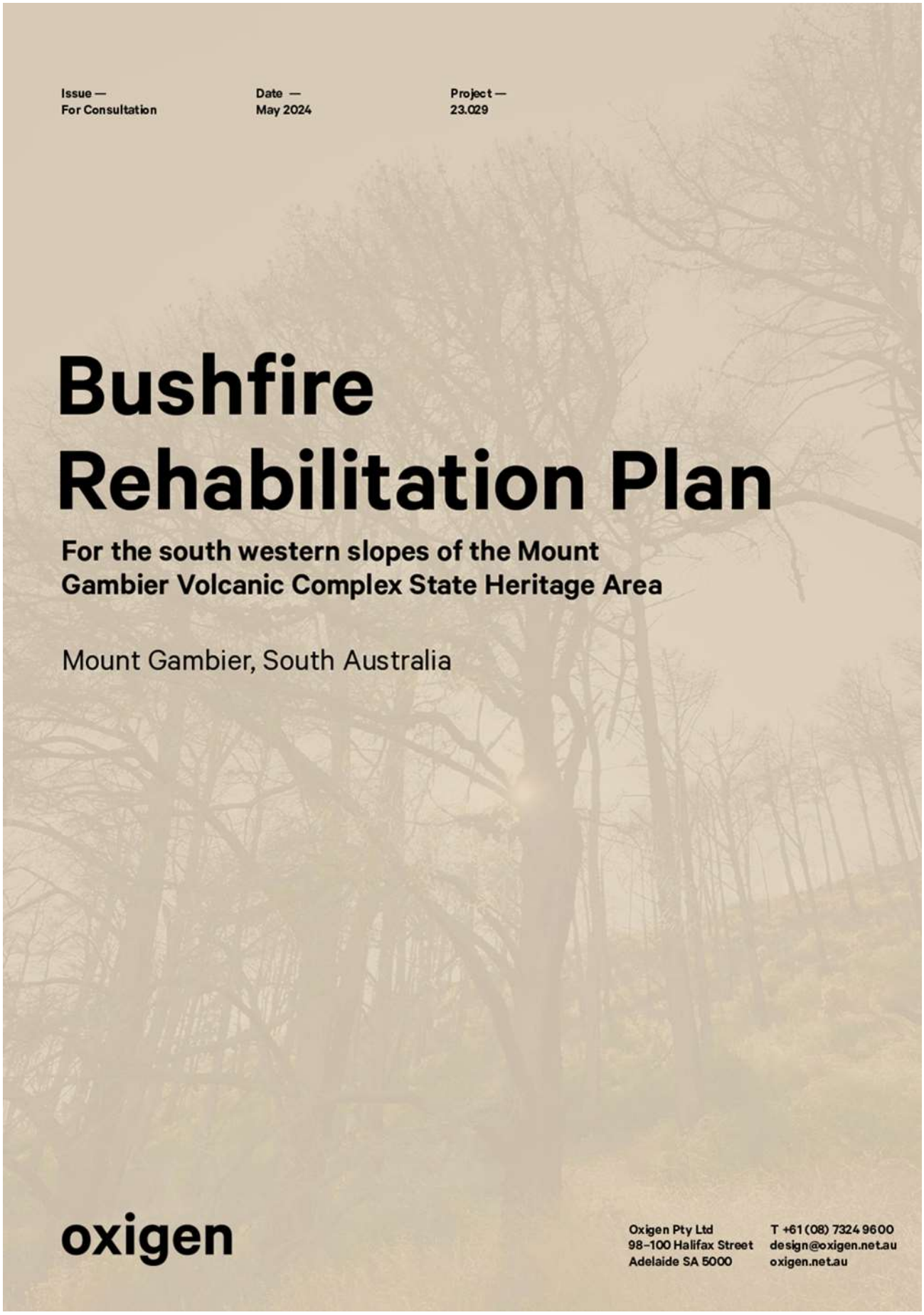
Stakeholder Group	Who	Activity	Timing	Responsibility
Surrounding residents and property owners	Existing stakeholder list (AR23/75529) - This includes surrounding stakeholders such as Tenison Woods College, Blue Lake Golf Links, Blue Lake Holiday Park, Lakes Apartments, Mountain Bike Association etc.	Have Your Say Mount Gambier.	Open for at least 21 days upon endorsement of draft.	Economy, Strategy and Engagement Team.
		Written advice referencing digital engagement channels, information session and feedback form.	Upon endorsement of draft.	GM City Infrastructure.
		Public information session(s).	Mid-consultation period.	Oxigen, Manager Operations Infrastructure, Parks and Gardens Coordinator.
First Nations Community**	Determined in consultation with Burrandies: Elders, cultural leaders, broader First Nations Community**.	Information workshop.	Mid-consultation period.	Oxigen Manager Operations Infrastructure, Parks and Gardens Coordinator.
Council Staff	Staff that have a vested professional interest in the management of the site	Information workshop.	Mid-consultation period.	Oxigen Manager Operations Infrastructure, Parks and Gardens Coordinator.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended Council endorses the 'Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan' for the purposes of key stakeholder and surrounding resident engagement.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan ⇩



Issue —
For Consultation

Date —
May 2024

Project —
23.029

Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan

For the south western slopes of the Mount Gambier Volcanic Complex State Heritage Area

Mount Gambier, South Australia

oxigen

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Adelaide SA 5000

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design@oxigen.net.au
oxigen.net.au

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land we work on and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of our cities and regions.

Issue —	Revision —	Author —	Approved —
For Consultation	E	Oxigen	JH

Prepared For —

City of Mount Gambier

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Appendix A - Siteworks

Executive Summary

Oxigen are engaged to prepare a bushfire rehabilitation plan to assist the City of Mount Gambier Council with the restoration of the fire affected area of *Pinus Radiata* in Mount Gambier / Berrin to the south-western slopes of the 'Mount Gambier Volcanic Complex State Heritage Area'.

Approximately 11.3 ha of *Pinus Radiata* were destroyed during fires in January 2022. The affected area is located on the western side of the ridge line that runs up to the Centenary Tower and heads south east on the upper ridge of the Blue Gums Precinct.

Removal of the pine trees is needed due to the significant public safety hazard and environmental impact of erosion and weed emergence. Rehabilitation is required to protect the state heritage area and reinstate public recreation and amenity.

A project governance steering committee for the project included:

- Council's Representatives, Sinaway Georgiou & Karl Manarangi, City of Mount Gambier
- State Heritage Advisor, Michael Queale, Heritage SA
- Tara Bonney, BAC
- Mike Stevens, Limestone Coast Landscape Board

Oxigen have developed this report to investigate the background to the region, cultural significance of the site and surrounds, the local ecology, a methodology on removal of the trees, revegetation plant selections and an overall implementation strategy.



Browne Lake / Kroweratwari - 1937


5

Site Context

Overview

Positioned on the south western face of the 'Mount Gambier Volcanic Complex State Heritage Area', the affected area makes up a significant portion (11ha) of the outer crater face. The lakes hold a significant natural, cultural and recreational value to Mount Gambier and the surrounding region.

The Traditional Custodians to Mount Gambier are the Boandik people. Their stories and connection to the land, in particular the lakes area and the story of Craitbul hold strong significance and was an integral piece in the development of the report.

For the local community, the area is located approximately 1km from the Town Centre and provides numerous recreational opportunities for locals and visitors from circuit tracks for walking and running through to mountain bike trails.

The bushfire impacts and subsequent reopening of visitor infrastructure has highlighted further work is needed to determine appropriate alignments and use of trails that consider shared use, environmental impacts such as erosion and protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

Adjacent land uses

The affected site is encased by various different land uses. These include:

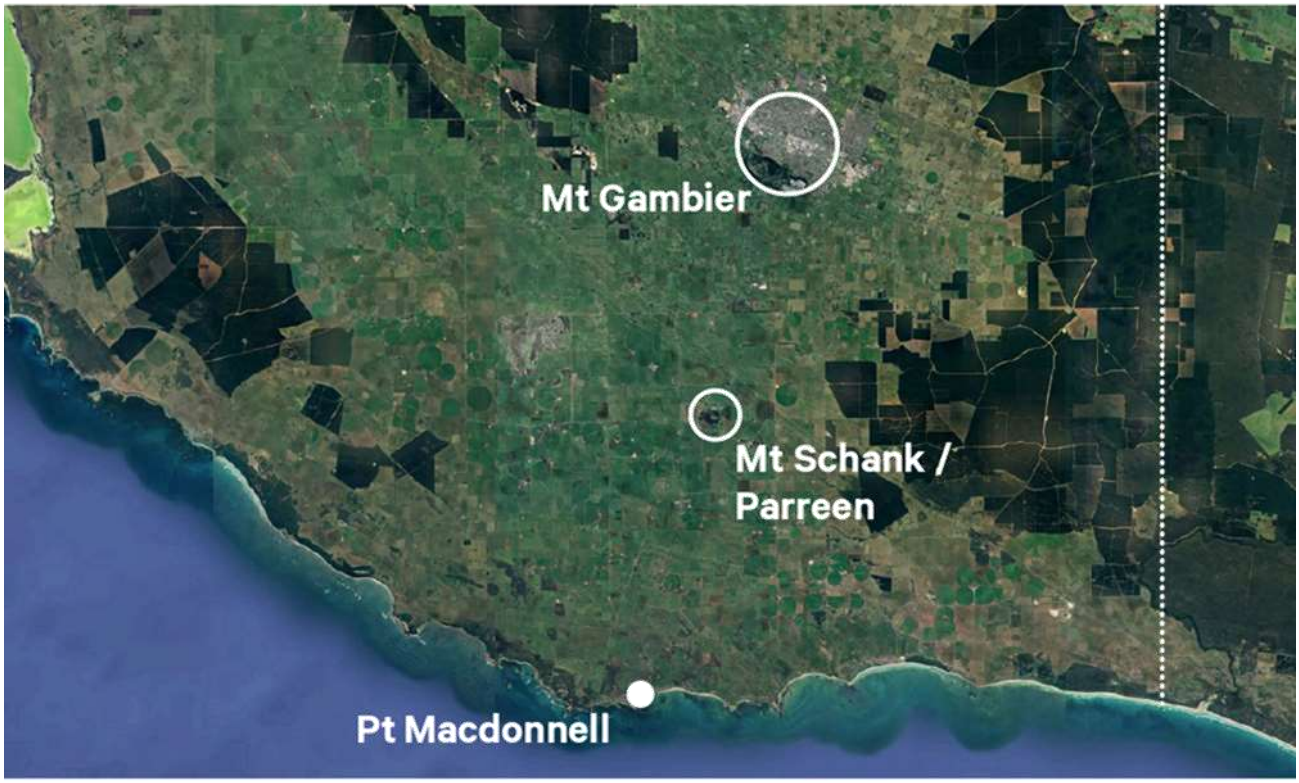
Carinya Gardens Cemetery
Abutting the south west of the site, the cemetery is directly exposed to the affected embankment forming a strong visual backdrop to the site.

Tenison Woods College
Sitting north of the site, the college has connecting trails to the site and has some view points that expose the site.

Tenison Heights subdivision
Located north-west of the site, some residents directly adjoin the fire affected area and residents will be impacted from initial mechanical works and noise.

Blue Lake Holiday Park
Located east of the site, the Holiday Park is not directly affected by the site. However due to the location and tourism use, many tourists take the Mountain Walk hike that traverses past the site.

Blue Lake Golf Links
Set back south of the affected site, the golf club is buffered by blue gum bushland, however is still exposed to higher views of the site to the north.




Town Centre
Site
Valley Lake /
Ketla Malpi
Blue Lake
/Warwar

Site Background

Overview

From Oxigen's assessment in February 2024 the site is still considered a high risk to the community from fire-affected tree-fall. Fire damaged pine trees positioned adjacent neighbouring properties and along the ridge line track have been removed to to reduce risk of tree fall impacting residents or the trail network.

All other dead pine trees on the south west slope have not been treated following the fires. Since the fires, the pine trees have gradually become more unstable, with falling limbs and uprooting occurring.

The pines are not able to be retained and require safe removal while ensuring the embankment can be stabilised in preparation for revegetation.

The site is very steep, approximately a 30 to 40 degrees slope, which is well beyond the capacity of existing logging machinery in the region. It also has poor access, so the plantation has had no history of thinning or forest management. Due to the steep grade and large size of the affected area, a methodology was needed that ensured the embankment could be safely restored and ensure its longevity as part of 'Mount Gambier Volcanic Complex State Heritage Area'.

There are multiple walking and mountain biking trails that traverse across and down the affected area. Council's recent trail management plan requires ongoing coordination as the restoration works are implemented.

This report does not include detailed design of future trail networks and will be further developed between Council and key stakeholders.



Extent of works
View point
Access track
Walking / riding trail
Road
Public parking


VIEW 06
VIEW 05
VIEW 03
VIEW 08
CARINYA GARDENS CEMETERY
VIEW 02
BROWNE LAKE / KROWERATWARI
GRANT AVENUE
CENTENARY TOWER
HAIG DRIVE
VIEW 07
VIEW 01
BLUE LAKE GOLF LINKS
N
9

Site Uses

Walking / Running Trails

As a key destination for both walking and running, the area offers a mixture of trail experiences. The two critical trails that interface with the affected site are:

Blue Gum Trail
This trail traverses the perimeter of the south western embankment. The trail has clear open views to the affected site and consists of a 200m portion that runs along the perimeter of the site.

Mountain Trail
This trail follows the ridge line of the affected site and continues along the high point of the crater perimeter. There are clear views along the trail of the affected site, particularly from the Centenary Tower.

Mountain Biking

Due to the unique terrain of the area, the Crater Lakes have become popular for mountain biking. Mountain bike trails have incrementally developed across the crater lakes precinct and become popular for downhill. Trails directly affected by the fire that have been closed include:

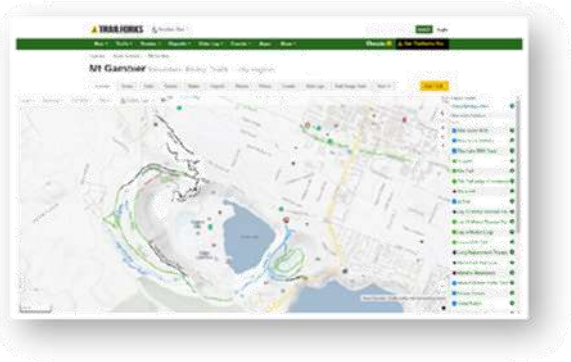
— Return to sender
— JJ Trail

These trails have been impacted by the fire and will be subject to further impact by felling and removal of burnt pine trees and following revegetation and stabilisation of the slope. Reinstatement of these trails can be investigated once the site has been rehabilitated and will require the appropriate development and planning approvals.



Local walking trail plan of the Crater Lakes

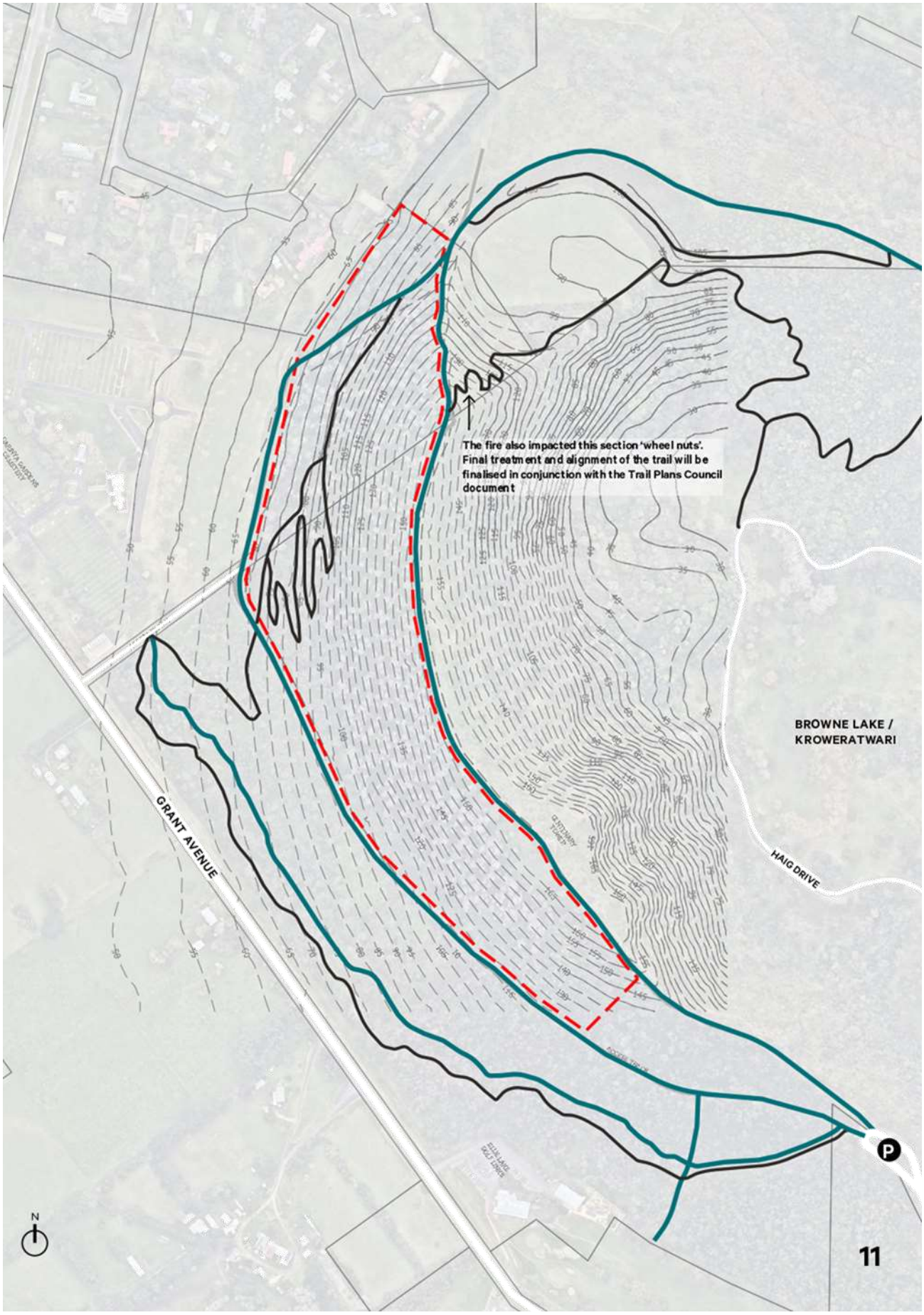
Mount Gambier Visitor Guide



Designated mountain bike trails to the Crate Lakes

Trailforks

Extent of works
Walking trail
Mountain bike trail
Road
Access track
Public parking


The fire also impacted this section 'wheel nuts'. Final treatment and alignment of the trail will be finalised in conjunction with the Trail Plans Council document
BROWNE LAKE / KROWERATWARI
GRANT AVENUE
HAIG DRIVE
P
N
11

Visual impact

As Centenary Tower is positioned at the tallest point of the crater, the affected area is highly visible from multiple viewpoints and visible from over 2km away.

Views of the affected site are only partially visible from within the lower areas of the craters with the upper pine tree tops visible. Traversing along the upper ridge line of the crater, the trees are visible, particularly when in close proximity to the Centenary Tower.



View 01 - Looking north east from Grant Avenue. The affected pines are slightly concealed by the unaffected bushland in the foreground that sits adjacent the road verge.



View 02 - Looking south east along the ridge line to Centenary Tower. The ridge line is now very exposed with the pine trees previously offering enclosure to the trail.



View 03 - Looking east from Carinya Garden Cemetery. This view point is largely exposed with clear views across the cemetery from Grant Avenue.



View 04 - Looking north west from the Centenary Tower. This viewpoint captures the full extent of the affected pine trees.



View 05 - Looking south from the northern stairway at the edge of the site.



View 06 - Looking south from Marist Park with the northern pine trees still clearly visible on the ridge line.



View 07 - Looking north east from the walking trail that follows the south western perimeter of the site.



View 08 - Looking east from the edge of Carinya Gardens at the base of the site.

First Nations Significance

The Traditional Custodians to Mount Gambier are the Boandik People. Their stories and connection to the land, in particular the lakes area and the story of Craitbul hold strong significance.

The Boandik People are part of the greater Bunganditj-speaking Nation which is recorded as being the language spoken in the triangular region from Lacapede Bay, north to Bordertown, south along the Glenelg River to the coastline (Blake, 2003:1). There were five different dialects groups within this Bunganditj-speaking Nation:- Boandik, Meintangk, Potarwutj, Pinechunga and Wichantunga (Smith, 1880:ix).

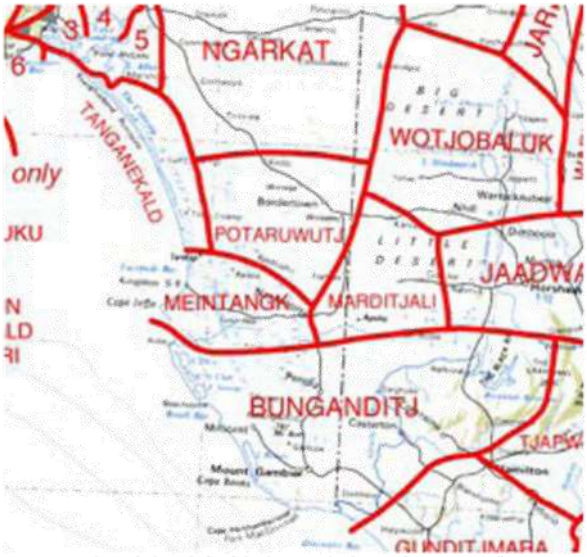
The Bunganditj Nation is bordered by Gundit Mirring to the East, Jarwardjali and Bindjali to the North and Tanganekald and Ngarrindjeri to the West.

The Craitbul story indicates that the Boandik/Bunganditj peoples have been observing Country and held a strong connection to this land for well over 10,000 years. The story tells of the creation of the volcanic craters across the region with a timeline that has been shown to be geologically correct. The creation of these craters and their putting out by the rising water levels shows connection to these spaces that spans numerous generations. The Boandik people Cared for Country to ensure that Country cared for them by managing and maintaining the plant, animal and aquatic species that would have been prevalent prior to colonisation.

This Connection to Country is still ongoing today. The Boandik/ Bunganditj people are strong and survived some of the most horrific crimes against humanity. Caring for Country and Bunganditj language revitalisation processes are intent on ensuring that Traditional knowledges are passed on to future generations.



< From the private collection of Geoffrey Aslin: Map of the Bunganditj and neighbouring languages from Barry Blake's The Bunganditj (Buwandik) language of the Mount Gambier Region 2003.



Pre-contact boundaries of Aboriginal groups in the southeast, according to Tindale (1974).

The Crater Lakes area of Mount Gambier is able to fulfil several criteria based on the evaluation of Aboriginal values. It is a place of demonstrable State significance. In its ability to demonstrate its natural importance, the site is significant for its geological volcanic process. It is important for its connection to the Legend of the Buandik people. It is an important place to the Aboriginal community for both its historic and contemporary values. It is a place of great social and aesthetic appeal. Its Aboriginal values are intrinsically connected to the natural and spiritual landscape – a landscape that also now has important educational qualities. Of equal importance to the Aboriginal community is that it is a place that provides a tangible link with the past.

Crater Lakes Conservation Management Plan, 2004.
6.5.2 Statement of Heritage Significance

Craitbul was the name of the great giant or ancestor of the tribe and his first camping ground was Beleter (Mount Muirhead). The great desire of Craitbul and his wife and two sons was to find some place on which to settle and live in peace, free from all fear of an evil spirit called 'Tennatenona' or 'Woor'. They came from Winka (the North).

They lived at Beleter for a considerable time in peace. They made their oven, gathered their roots, roasted and ate them and lived happy. At length, one day, they had made up their oven, put their roots on the stones, covered them with earth and went to rest; but during the night they were suddenly roused out of their sleep by a bird called 'Pulan'. In great fear they fled, for fear of the evil spirit. They say that if anyone disbelieves this story they may dig at the top of Beleter and there they will find evidence to prove its truth. Beleter was the oven.

They then set out travelling again in search of a new home and camped closer to the sea at Parreen (Mount Schank) where they thought Tennateona would not come near them. They put up their wurlas, built their oven and began to enjoy themselves; but one night, when the oven was empty, the voice of Pulan (mooning) came to them a second time and they quickly got up and left in great fear. They determined this time to strike further inland, away from water (the sea), for it appears that this evil spirit could not exist far away from the sea. They left their camping ground at Parreen, with its empty oven and travelled to Berrin (Mount Gambier) and there pitched their camp. They were now at rest from Tennateona and they lived here a long time.

They, as usual, made an oven here; but one day water came up from the bottom of it (Warwar – Blue Lake) and put out their fire. They then made another (Ketla Malpi – Valley Lake), with the same result, then another (Kroweratwari – Brown's Lake) and finally (Yatton Loo – Leg of Mutton Lake) till they had four ovens. Their last home was in the cave on the side of the peak of Berrin (Mount Gambier). There they had a view of all the land.

Craitbul and his wife were of immense size. They had to stoop and bend their heads to get under the tallest gum trees. The only implements they had for digging were a large stick, termed a 'kana' and their bare hands.

Craitbul - as told to Christina Smith in the 19th century by the Boandik



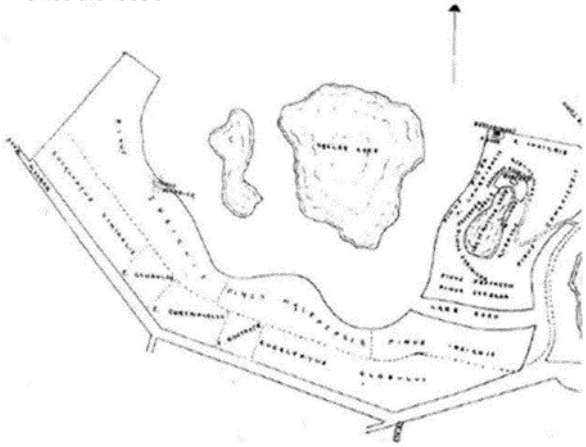


Mt Schank / Parreen, 2024

15

History - Establishment of the pine plantation

The Mount Gambier Volcanic Complex was declared a State Heritage Area as an example of recent geological and in particular volcanic activity in South Australia. The Mount Gambier Lakes area, and in particular the Blue Lake / Warwar, is also significant as an important tourist destination for South Australians and Victorians since the 1880's



The Mount Gambier Crater Lakes State Heritage Area demonstrates several important aspects of the evolution of the State's history:

- *Its volcanic and geological prehistory.*
- *Its role as the subject of Aboriginal dreamtime.*
- *Its representation of the initial pastoral settlement of the South East during the 1840s.*
- *Its significance as one of the first Forest Reserves established under the Forest Act of 1875.*
- *Its representation of the process of State Government provision of water supply for major rural communities during the 1880s.*
- *Its significance as a major site in the development of tourism in the South East district attracting visitors from within the state and nationally.*

Crater Lakes Conservation Management Plan, 2004 - Hassell

Site transformation

The recent landscape of the Crater Lakes area is as significant with man-made changes including the introduction of access roads and tracks, planting of non-indigenous species of trees, shrubs and ground covers, and other alterations which shows the transformation of European activity in the region.



1895

Early images show formal pine planting on the outer embankments of the crater.

1913

1920

During the early 1900's more established pine trees are visible in the background to the Centenary Tower.



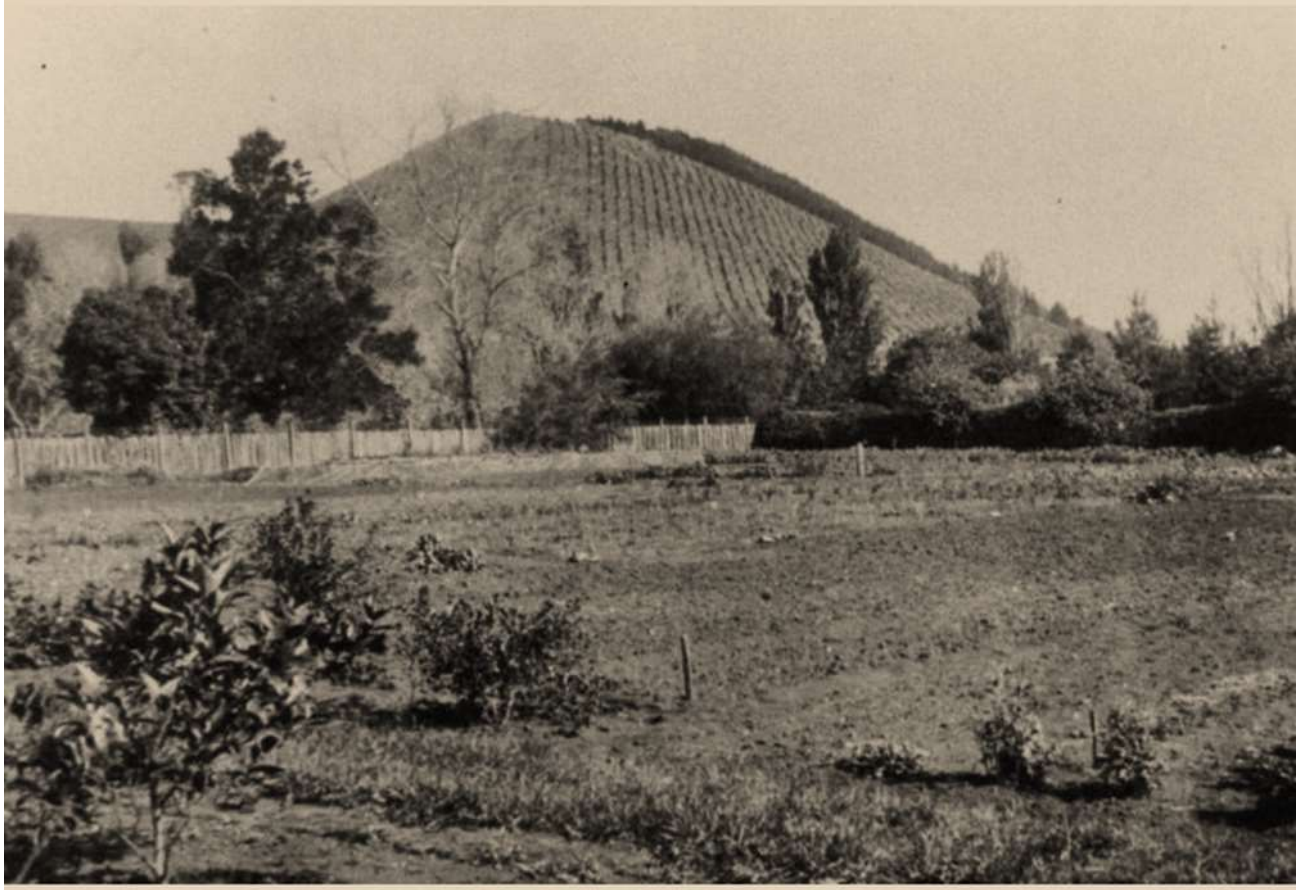


1939 **1944** **1971**

Around the late 1930's images show the outer embankments cleared and new plantings of pine trees visible.

Later aerial images show the same pines establishing to what are currently on site today. From this time line it is estimated the current pine trees are approximately 85 - 90 years old.

17

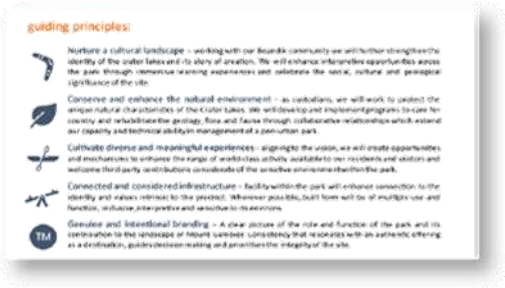


South west face of Browne Lake / Kroweratwari - 1895

Strategic documents

Through the development of this report, consideration was given to the relevant long-term vision and aspirations outlined by Council's strategic reports and other relevant documents for the Mount Gambier Crater Lakes State Heritage Area.

These works must align with the Council's long term vision and reflect an integrated outcome that supports the greater Mt Gambier region.



Our vision is to maintain the Mount Gambier Crater Lakes Park as a world-class peri-urban park, providing unique experiences in a well-managed natural environment on the fringe of our city.

We will promote cultural connection, improve liveability in our community and enhance the visitor experience within our region through the implementation of our Guiding Principles.

Crater Lakes Activation Plan Vision

City of Mount Gambier, 2024



Crater Lakes Conservation Management Plan

Hassell, 2004



Crater Lakes Trail Plan
Crater Lakes Park - Trails Sign Plan

Open Trails Australia, 2023



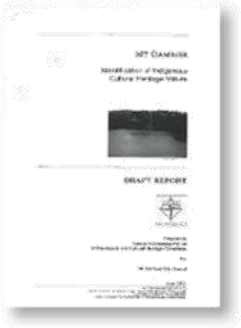
Management options for Fire Damaged Pine in Valley Lakes Precinct

Wokurna Forestry, 2022



Valley Lake Conservation Park - Revegetation and Rehabilitation Plan

Forestry SA, 2010



Identification of Indigenous Cultural Heritage Values

Austral Archaeology, 2003



Leg of Mutton Lake / Yatton Loo Landscape Management Plan

Fifth Creek Studio, 2006

Climate + Local Ecology

Climate

Located in the south east of South Australia, Mount Gambier, has a far cooler and wetter climate conditions to other areas in the State.

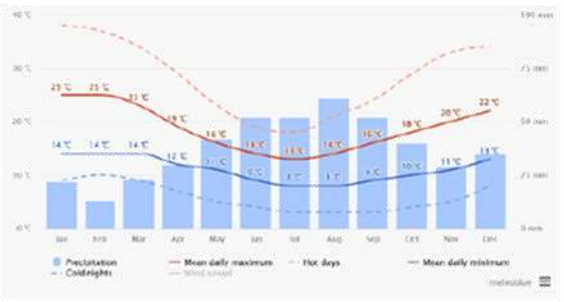
Rainfall
The area has reasonable amounts of rainfall through out the year, averaging between 30 - 50mm during cooler months. The high rain fall to the region greatly assists with restoration of the affected site and minimises the requirement for irrigation if planting occurs during cooler months.

Temperature
Positioned in the south east, the region is not exposed to the high heats experienced elsewhere in the state. This also benefits restoration of the site and increases success of plant stock.

Wind
Prevailing winds come from the south west which directly affects the exposed south western face of the embankment. These winds primarily affect the current safety of the site with the dead pines and do not pose a risk for future plant and tree stock.



Average Wind
Metroblue



Average temperature + rainfall
Metroblue

Vegetation

Due to its volcanic geology, The Mount Gambier Crater Lakes State Heritage Area has minimal local native vegetation. Following European settlement any native vegetation was cleared for grazing or replanted with exotic species.

Overtime the area has diversified, however there only remains a small portion of remnant vegetation to the region.

Mount Schank / Parreen was referenced in the development of the proposed plant selection as it demonstrates an endemic planting palette to the region and also confirms species that are successful growing on steep volcanic embankments.

Records indicate pre-settlement vegetations consisted of the following to the Crater Lakes area:

- Outside crater Lower slopes – Tussock Grassland dominated by *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass).
- Outside crater Mid slopes – *Eucalyptus arenacea* (Desert or Sand Stringybark) Open Forest over a sclerophyll shrub understorey on consolidated sandy inland dune ranges of the South East.
- Crater rim and inside the crater – *Allocasuarina verticillata* (drooping sheoak) low woodland over an open grassy and herbaceous understorey. Typical understorey plants include *Lomandra multiflora ssp. dura, L. effusa, Austrodanthonia spp., Austrostipa spp.*



Mount Schank / Parreen

Tree + plant selection





Crater Lakes by George French Angus - 1844

A mixture of tree and under storey plants have been selected based on surrounding areas and similar growing conditions.

The restoration focuses on using local native species to the region, avoiding use of any exotics.

All plant and tree stock will be planted as either seed or tube stock sourced from local nurseries. A trial planting area will be undertaken to determine the success rate of using seed compared to tube stock. All planting will be undertaken in cooler months during late Autumn and Winter to improve success rates.

Plants

Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass
Microlanea stipoides	Weeping Grass
Dianella brevicaulis	Coast Flax Lily
Rytidosperma caespitosa	Wallaby Grass
Wahlenbergia stricta	Tall Bluebell
Rhagodia candolleana	Seaberry Saltbush
Lomandra longifolia	Spikey-headed Mat-rush
Clematis microphylla	Old Man's Beach

Trees

Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaira
Allocasuarina verticillata	Drooping Sheok
Eucalyptus viminalis	Manna Gum
Eucalyptus arenacea	Desert Stringybark
Acacia melanoxylon	Australian Blackwood

Planned Burning

Further consideration is also required for potential species that are resilient to planned burning. The natural ecosystem to the area is heavily reliant on fire to regenerate and suppress weeds. Within future management and maintenance of the broader lakes district, it is recommended planned burning be an integral technique for the long term longevity of the native landscape.

Methodology

Given the requirements of clearing and replanting which are specific to this site the following methodology for clearing and replanting is proposed.

01. Felling of trees
All *Pinus radiata* are required to be removed, both alive and dead. There are 960 trees to be felled. Due to the restrictive access, some trees will be manually felled by a qualified tree faller and other trees can be felled mechanically where safe access is achievable. These types of removal can be undertaken by a suitably qualified local contractor.

There is the option for all trees to be felled at one time or be incrementally in zones as Council is able to do so.

02. Removal of felled trees
The lower slopes of the site (zone 1 shown below), adjoining the Bluegum Trail, can be accessed by conventional logging machinery such as excavators, cable skidders, forwarders or small tracked loaders. If the trees in this zone were felled, de-limbed and docked into logs about 4.3 m long, then the logs could be extracted to the area adjacent the cemetery depot. From there the logs can be carted away to a local sawmill and the tops chipped for spreading onsite. If this extraction is successful it can be extended further up the slope but can only be determined with trials.

03. Removal of debris
One option to trial is using a small excavator to heap residue after the logs had been removed. This would open the site enough to enable manual planting for revegetation. These small heaps can be burnt in winter to reduce the fire hazard. The alternate option is to undertake planned burns to the slope either entirely, or in sections as revegetation progresses e.g. burn then revegetate and repeat as you move along.

The recommendation is to mulch zone 1 due to its close proximity to the adjacent cemetery and burn the remaining zone 2 area.

04. Removal of tree stumps
Once trees have been felled, the embankment will be visually exposed. Aesthetically this will be unappealing with only tree stumps visible. Due to the steep nature of the site, removal of the remaining tree stumps must be carefully undertaken to ensure the embankment is not undermined and becomes unstable.

With restricted access the stumps cannot be removed mechanically. As trees are felled it is recommended the remaining stumps be burned. This will require trialling to finalise the best method.

05. Revegetation
Following completion of the above 3 steps, the site requires preparation for revegetation and to minimise future erosion. Prior to planting, areas must have all weed growth eradicated. This could be completed through use of herbicide however, planned burning is recommended for the dual benefits of suppressing weeds whilst also removing woody debris following clear felling. Once prepared the following options are proposed:

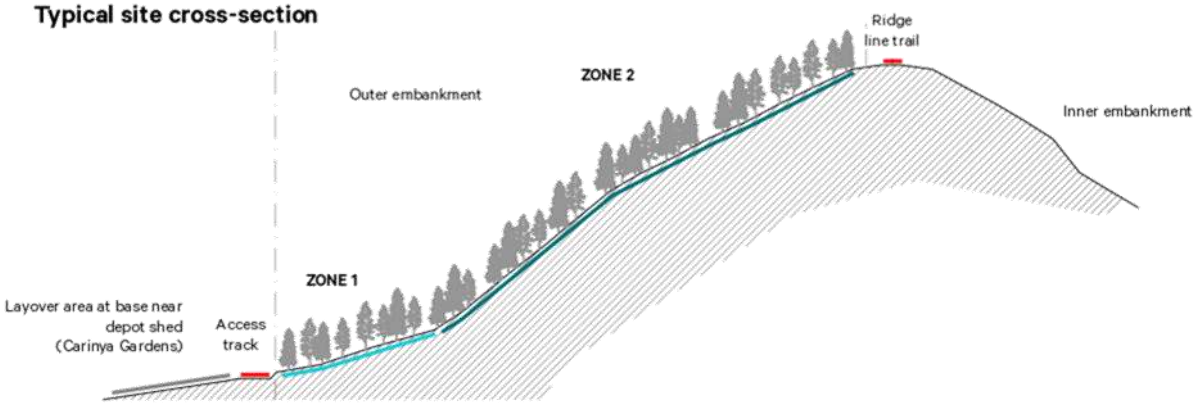
- Option 1 - rip lines and direct seeding into the rip lines followed by tube stock if unsuccessful.
- Option 2 - burn the site and direct seed (manually or aerially) into the ash bed.

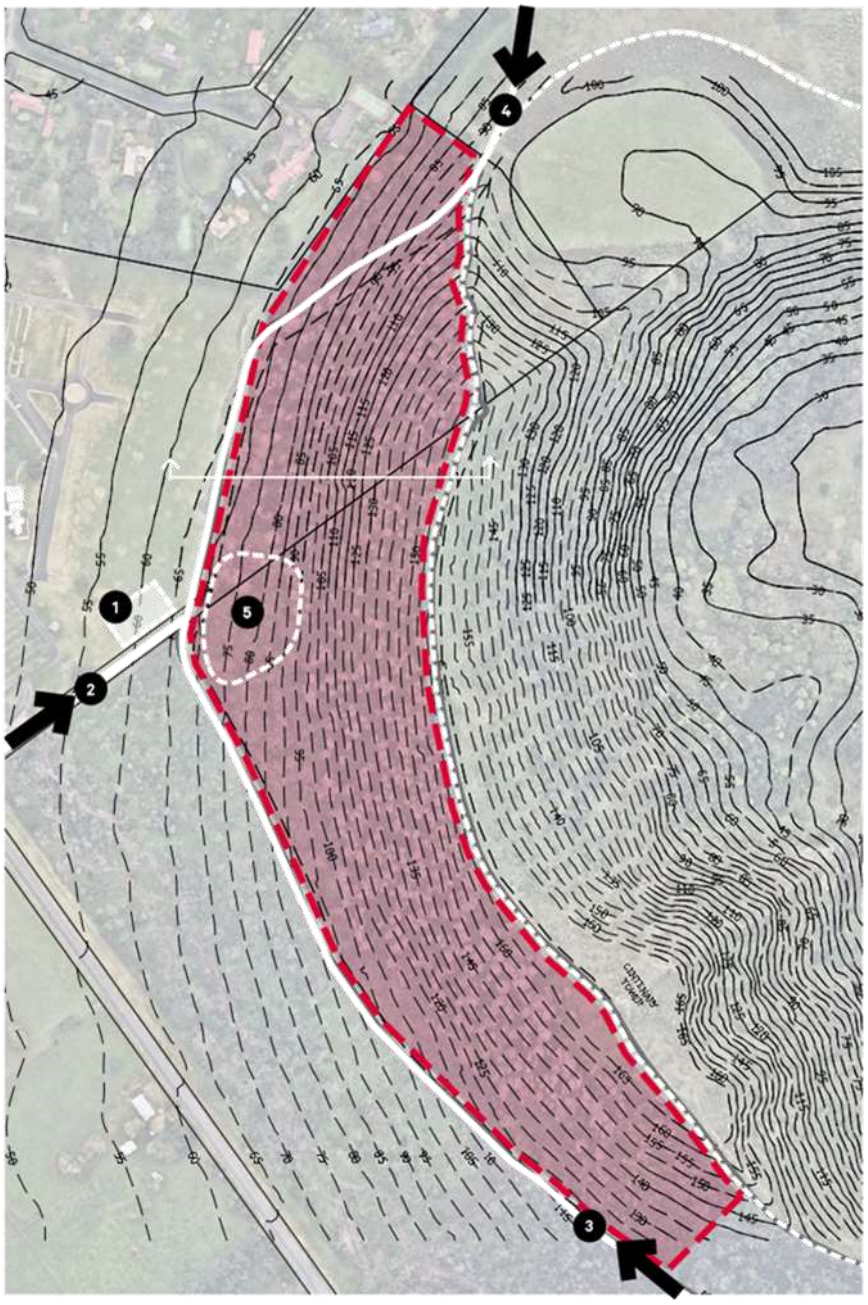
Dependent on the success rate during trials of seed stock, if unsuccessful tube stock will be used as an alternative.

06. Pest Control
Prior to revegetation, weed and rabbit control needs to be implemented and followed up whilst plants are establishing. Specific consideration will need to be given how to protect tube stock or emerging seedlings from the Swamp Wallabies that live locally in the crater precinct and are known to browse.

Testing Site
Due to various techniques proposed in the above methodology, it is recommended a trial be undertaken prior to commencing with works. Allocation of a small test site, preferrably in a low visibility area will enable all techniques from felling of trees, removal of debris to revegetation be trialled and assessed for a preferred methodology to proceed with. To prevent impact to the cemetery grounds, if a flat, safe and accessible area can be established, the trial site could be used instead as a compound for contractors and storage.

Typical site cross-section





1 Indicative layover area for contractor compound and storage.
2 Access track via Grant Avenue.
3 Access track along base of pine plantation.
4 Northern access point via Tenison Woods College.
5 Test site (final extent to be determined).

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Timing

All works are to occur between April and September, with any planting to occur during winter. No works should occur on days of extreme or catastrophic fire danger or days of Total Fire Danger. Likewise, consideration needs to be given when conducting works in seasonal conditions that may pose significant erosion risk (i.e. winter). It is suggested mechanical works occur in drier months and revegetation works occur in wetter months.

Implementation of works will be dependant on Council funding and resources. Two options are proposed:

Option A
It is recommended initial clearing work with cultural site monitors is completed in one phase to minimise safety risks to further work onsite. Once the site is deemed safe and accessible, cultural mapping of the full site extent can be undertaken. Once assessment is complete and any significant sites are identified, staged restoration works can be actioned annually during winter months.

Option B
If Option A is not feasible, clearing works can be undertaken in staged zones. However this option does pose a higher safety risk as any cultural mapping and restoration works will be undertaken within close proximity to unfelled areas. Longer term this option will also have a higher cost due to ongoing remobilisation for tree felling and ongoing cultural mapping to cleared zones.

Maintenance

Monitoring
Areas that are restored will require ongoing monitoring and maintenance. During the first 24 months, assessment is required on the success of plant stock and any species that are succeeding or failing. Ongoing monitoring will inform the long term success of the site and assist with improving a planting selection that is successful to the site.

Mulching
During establishment, mulch or ground cover protection (i.e. jute matting) will be critical to ensure success of new plant stock. If feasible for the existing pine trees to be chipped onsite, this will allow for spreading of pine mulch and prevent the need for costly infrastructure such as jute matting. If undertaken, consideration must be made for stabilising the embankment and ensuring mulch is not washed down the slope during high rainfall events.

Irrigation
Mount Gambier's climate consists of a high average rainfall during cooler months. If planting is timed correctly in these months the requirement for an irrigation system should not be required.

However, given the slope of the site and volcanic soil it may become very dry and become friable. Hand watering with a truck and hose lay next to the cemetery is recommended to maximise the success of plantings for the first 1 or 2 summers given the aesthetic values in this area.

If any restoration works are to occur outside of the cooler months, a temporary irrigation system will need to be incorporated to enable successful establishment of plant stock.

Planned Burning
Once plantings have reached maturity (seed set) the regular (every 3-5 years) planned use of fire will be critical to prevent further weed establishment across the slope. This provides a substantial opportunity for First Nations to engage in Caring for Country practices at a culturally significant site.

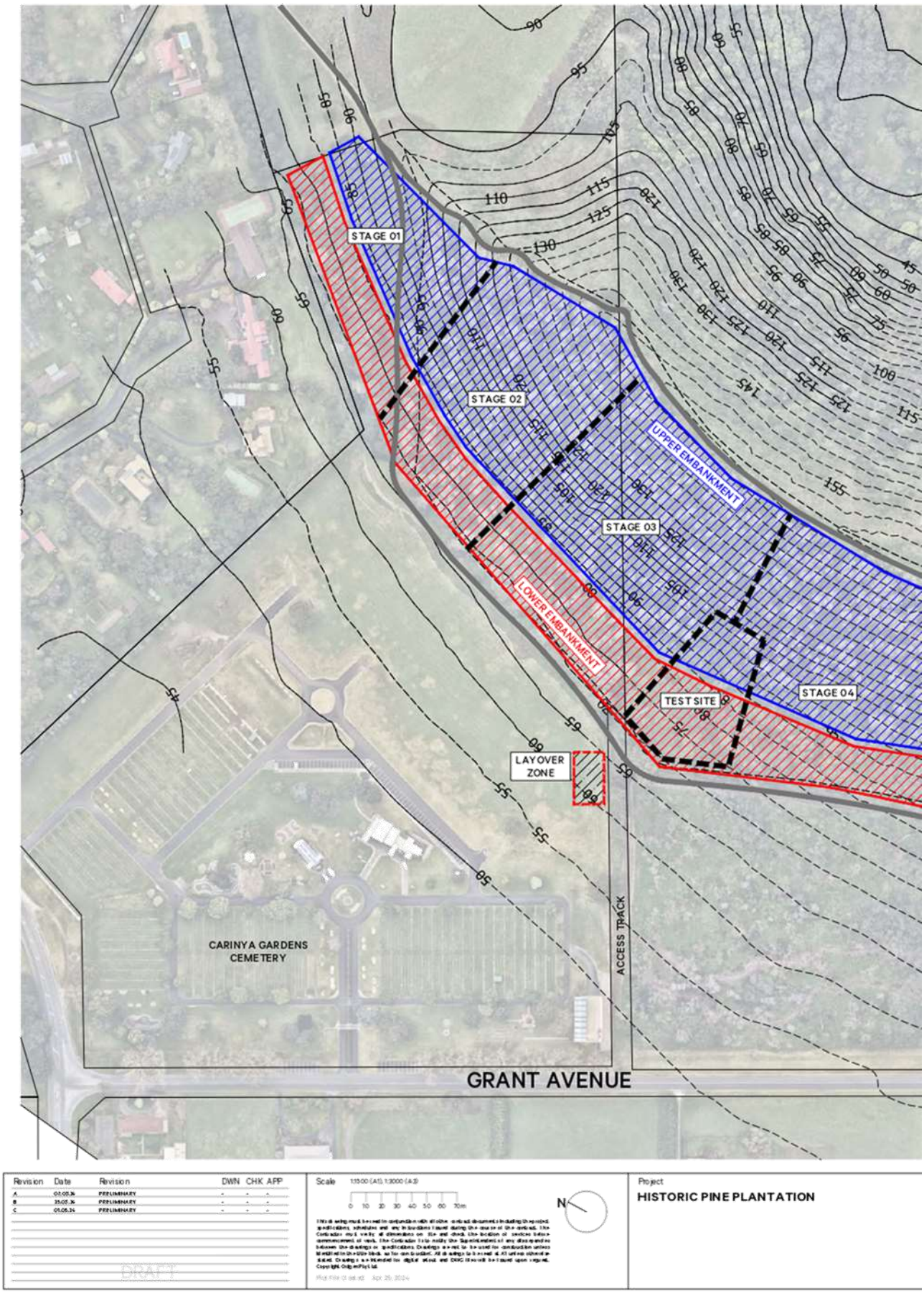
oxigen

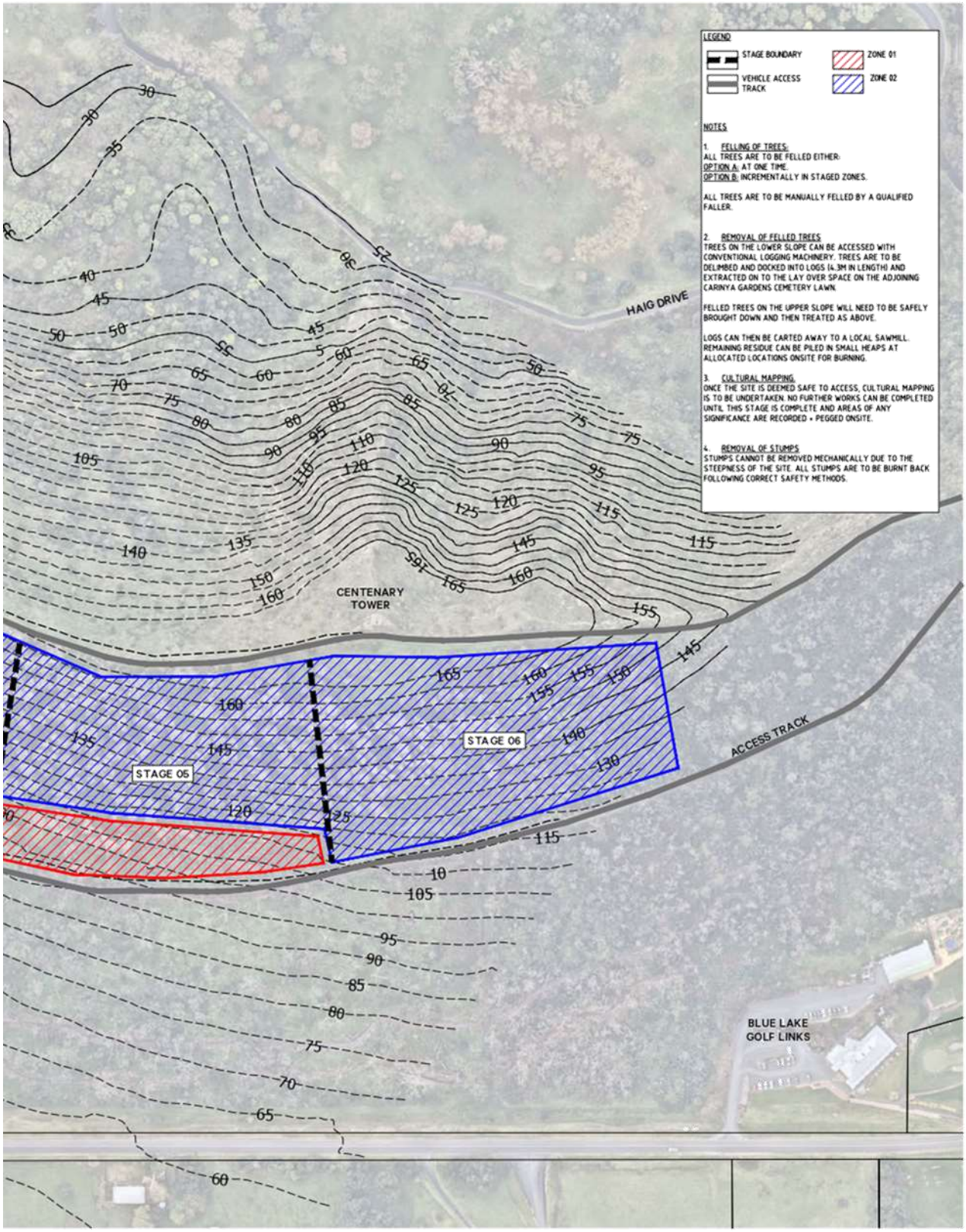
City of Mount Gambier

People, nature and space.

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STAGE 01
STAGE 02
STAGE 03
STAGE 04
UPPER EMBANKMENT
LOWER EMBANKMENT
TEST SITE
LAY OVER ZONE
ACCESS TRACK
CARINYA GARDENS CEMETERY
GRANT AVENUE
Revision Date Revision DWN CHK APP
A 07.05.24 PRELIMINARY - - -
B 15.05.24 PRELIMINARY - - -
C 01.06.24 PRELIMINARY - - -
DRAFT
Scale
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70m
N
Project
HISTORIC PINE PLANTATION



Client	Landscape Architecture		Drawing title		
CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER	Oxigen	oxigen	ZONING PLAN		
			Project number 23.029	Drawing number 000	Revision A

19.3 LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN – REPORT NO. AR24/48033

Committee:	**Council**
Meeting Date:	**16 July 2024**
Report No.:	**AR24/48033**
CM9 Reference:	**AF23/328**
Author:	**Biddie Shearing, Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement**
Authoriser:	**Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Infrastructure**
Summary:	**Following consultation and feedback, this report recommends the final endorsement of the Local Affordable Housing Plan.**
Strategic Plan Reference:	**Goal 1: Our People** **Goal 2: Our Location** **Goal 3: Our Diverse Economy** **Goal 4: Our Climate, Natural Resources, Arts, Culture and Heritage** **Goal 5: Our Commitment**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report No. AR24/48033 titled ‘Local Affordable Housing Plan’ as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.
2. That the Local Affordable Housing Plan, as attached to Council Report No. AR24/48033, be adopted.

TYPE OF REPORT

Other

BACKGROUND

Councils' commitment to developing an affordable housing plan has progressed with a draft plan presented to Council on 21 May 2024, with the below resolution endorsed.

"1. That Council Report No. AR24/29427 titled 'Draft Local Affordable Housing Plan' as presented on 21 May 2024 be noted.

2. That Council endorses the Draft Local Affordable Housing Plan as attached and the commencement of community consultation.

3. That a report be presented back to Council to consider the community feedback."

This consultation has now occurred, including an elected member briefing, and this report provides an overview of feedback and consequent updates to the draft plan for consideration.

As part of Council's ongoing advocacy for housing in Mount Gambier, a national pledge was made in September 2023 to the Regionalisation Ambition 2032. The final endorsement of the Local Affordable Housing Plan will allow Council to meet its pledge commitment and be featured on the Annual Card for the Regionalisation Ambition 2032, which will be released at the National Summit 13-15 August.

PROPOSAL

The purpose of this report is to present the final draft Local Affordable Housing Plan for endorsement following a consultation period from Friday 24 May 2024 which was extended through until Friday 21 June 2024.

The consultation was delivered through Council's Have Your Say website with a download link to the draft Local Affordable Housing Plan. In addition, the invitation to provide feedback was extended to key stakeholders across the housing eco-system locally and at a state government level.

Following an Elected Member workshop on Tuesday 2 July 2024, all feedback has been collated and the draft Local Affordable Housing Plan was updated to reflect the feedback and is attached to this report (Attachment 1).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The plan is aligned with Councils strategic plan, emphasising the importance of affordable housing for growth.

It is also identified as a priority on the Strategic Work Plan 2023 - 2026.

1.4.1 Developing and delivering community safety initiatives that respond to local issues and concerns.

1.4.5 Ensuring support services and recreational activities are accessible.

2.2.5 Advocating for key initiatives with State and Commonwealth Governments.

3.2.1 Preparing updates to the Planning and Design Code that prepare the city for growth and revitalisation over the next 15 years.

3.2.2 Preparing a new Regional Plan for the Limestone Coast that enables us to plan for the region we want to see.

3.2.4 Working with operators to deliver a public transport network that connects people to essential services, leisure activities and employment.

3.3.1 Planning for housing growth (including boundary adjustments) that retains the lifestyle charm of the regional city, whilst providing a range of housing options to suit students, workers and managers, along with people and cultures with special needs.

3.3.4 Working with community housing providers (including Housing SA, Anglicare, etc.) to improve the quality and appearance of their stock through investment and joint development opportunities.

COUNCIL POLICY

P195 Community Consultation and Engagement Policy

Partnership Priorities and Advocacy 2024 – 2025

CBD Guiding Principles 2022

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no perceived economic impacts in endorsing the affordable housing plan, however, the implementation of the plan will provide a coordinated approach to collectively achieve housing solutions for the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications in endorsing the affordable housing plan.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no perceived social implications in endorsing the affordable housing plan, however, the implementation of the plan will provide a coordinated approach that includes multiple stakeholders working together to achieve housing advocacy for the community.

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no perceived cultural implications in endorsing the affordable housing plan, however, the implementation of the plan will provide a coordinated approach that includes multiple stakeholders working together to achieve housing advocacy for the community.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the affordable housing plan will be delivered within current resourcing which includes facilitating internal and external stakeholders monitoring the implementation and staying abreast of parallel developments in housing programs and opportunities.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The implementation of the affordable housing plan will be delivered within current budget allocation. The plan itself encourages and outlines the need for a collaborative approach with all stakeholders to ensure successful housing outcomes

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The affordable housing plan provides a central point to capture activities and efforts from multiple stakeholders locally and across state and federal governments. It captures the breadth of influence affecting affordable housing and this plan will ensure depth of advocacy can occur to keep the City of Mount Gambier top of mind for policy-makers and programs to attract outcomes.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Through collaborative efforts with stakeholders, the plan aims to create a diverse and inclusive community where everyone can find suitable housing that meets their needs without experiencing an excessive financial burden.

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The community consultation exceeded the prescribed twenty-one (21) days to allow community and key stakeholders sufficient time to review and provide feedback.

The consultation extended beyond the traditional Have Your Say page by conducting targeted interviews with key stakeholders in state government agencies, community housing specialists and contributors to the plan development.

Summary of Consultation timeframes.

Friday 24 May 2024	Community Consultation commences, including targeted interviews.
21 June 2024	Community Consultation ends (was extended from 14 June 2024).
15 June to 30 June 2024	Community feedback considered.
2 July 2024	Elected Member Briefing to review Draft Affordable Housing Plan with Community Feedback considerations.
16 July 2024	Final draft Affordable Housing Plan presented to Council for endorsement.

Summary of Feedback and Themes.

Have Your Say	184 visits with 84 downloads of the draft affordable housing plan. One submission Key theme: Predominantly advocacy and suggested solutions.
Email	One email from resident of Mount Gambier Key Theme: Not local government responsibility and implementation One email from Housing SA, encompassing alignment to recently released Housing Roadmap and specific affordable housing updates for Mount Gambier across multiple initiatives.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The draft Local Affordable Housing Plan is posed as a unifying set of actions to assist in corralling collective efforts and avoid duplication. Given the complex and pace of progress across housing solutions, this plan also encourages a central point of information to assist with ongoing advocacy and action. In spirit of collaboration, it is proposed that the Mount Gambier Housing Alliance will play an import role in monitoring the implementation of this plan with an annual report card provided to council.

The development of the Local Affordable Housing Plan has aligned with the RAI National Summit, anticipating inclusion in the annual reporting for the Regionalisation Ambition 2032. Ongoing engagement and communication with RAI will occur throughout this process.

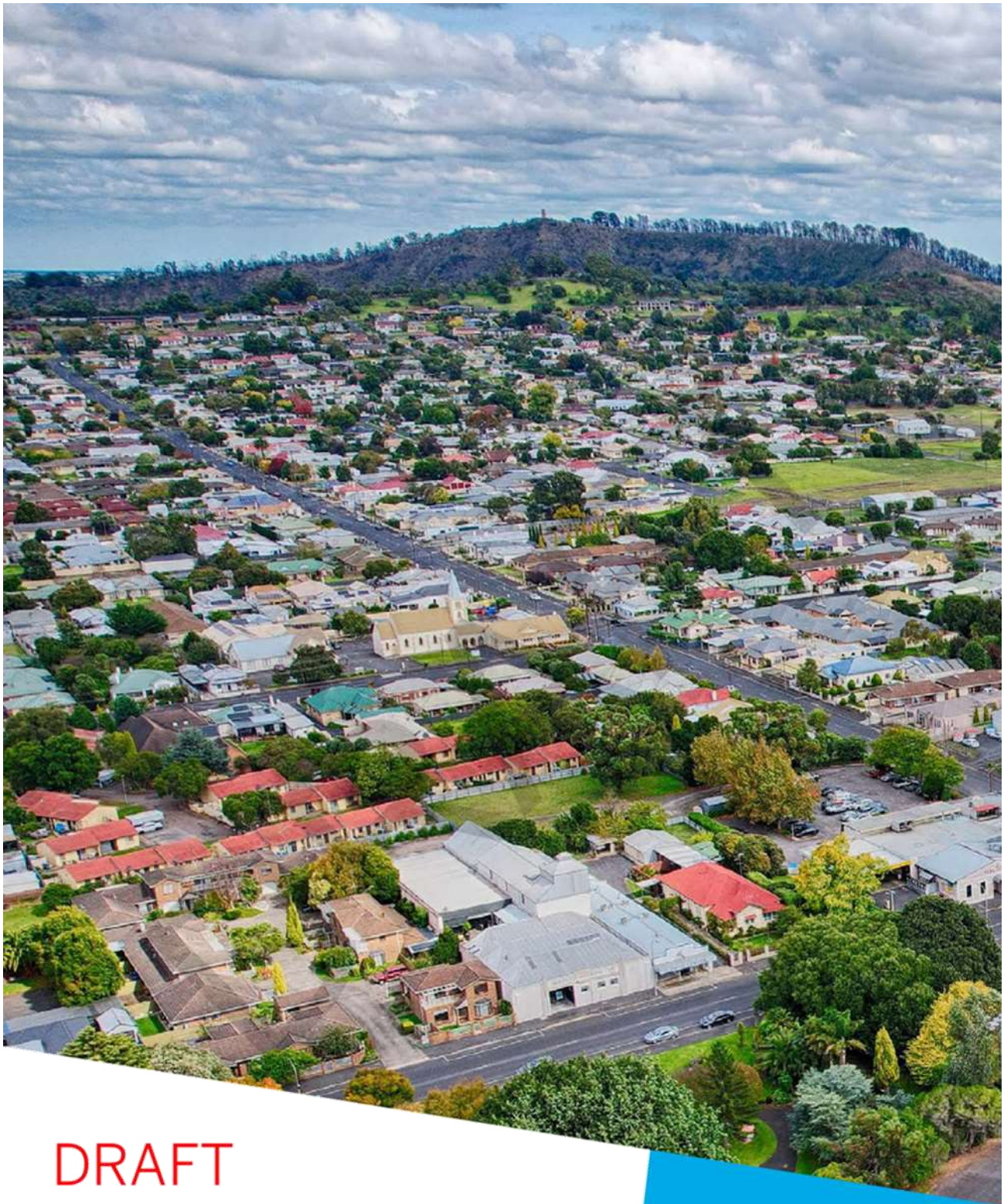
Following endorsement, a media release will be issued to acknowledge the extensive community effort that has led to this plan, emphasising the collaborative approach necessary to successfully deliver the plan.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended Council endorses the Local Affordable Housing Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Local Affordable Housing Plan ⇩



DRAFT
Local Affordable Housing Plan

July 2024

City of Mount Gambier

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DRAFT

City of Mount Gambier acknowledges the Boandik Peoples as the traditional custodians of the land Mount Gambier (Berrin) sits upon today.

We respect their spiritual relationship with the land and recognise the deep feelings of attachment our First Nations peoples have with the land.



INTRODUCTION

This plan represents a step forward in collective efforts to address the need for affordable housing for the Mount Gambier community.

Through collaborative partnerships, strategic land planning and community-driven initiatives, we aim to contribute to a sustainable housing landscape that meets the diverse needs of our community.

The plan is aligned with our strategic plan, emphasising the importance of appealing and affordable housing for growth. It closely adheres to Council's Partnership Priorities and Advocacy document by fostering collaborations with stakeholders to comprehensively address housing affordability challenges, while also aligning with the CBD Guiding Principles to ensure inclusive urban development with diverse housing options.

What is affordable housing?

Affordable housing refers to housing that is accessible and affordable to individuals or families with low to moderate incomes. It typically involves housing costs that are within the financial means of those in lower income brackets, without placing an excessive financial burden on them.

Affordable housing differs from social housing or community housing, which are owned or managed by government or non-profit community groups. While social and community housing cater to specific income brackets, affordable housing is available to a wider range of household incomes. It is determined by the percentage of gross income (currently 30%) that a household contributes to rent or mortgage.

Affordable housing is defined as accommodation where a low or moderate income household pays no more than 30% of their annual income to rent or buy (SA Housing Authority, 2024).

In 2021, the percentage of renter households in Mount Gambier paying more than 30% of their household income on rent increased to 34.4%, up from 10.8% in 2016. Similarly, 18.4% of households paid more than 30% of their household income on mortgage repayments, increasing from 4.2% in 2016.

Affordable housing is an important component of a healthy housing environment. It's not a standalone solution but rather a piece of the puzzle in addressing housing accessibility and ensuring everyone can access safe and affordable housing options.





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INSIGHT INTO MOUNT GAMBIER

Over the past decade, Mount Gambier has experienced notable changes in population dynamics, employment patterns, housing affordability and homelessness rates.

Employment sectors such as health care, education, construction and hospitality have experienced substantial growth, contributing to a positive shift in employment opportunities.

However, despite this progress a significant proportion of resident workers continue to earn low to moderate incomes, highlighting ongoing challenges in income distribution and economic inequity within the city.

In the last five years, housing prices have risen significantly, with the median house price soaring by 65.2% to $421,350 and the median unit price increasing by 51.8% to $296,000. This increase in housing costs has implications for housing affordability, especially considering the median rent for houses at $400 per week.

Over the past three years, the city has witnessed a concerning rise in homelessness, increasing by a staggering 115% per financial year.

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POPULATION

2022 — 27,771 residents

2012 — 26,147 residents

Steady population growth of 6.2% over the past decade.

33.88
SQUARE KILOMETRES
in City of Mount Gambier

819.7 PERSONS PER SQUARE KILOMETRE

13,449
employed residents

14,532
jobs in Mount Gambier

HOUSEHOLD INCOME QUARTILES

30.5%
lowest
($0 to $756)

26.6%
medium lowest
($755 to $1,452)

25.6%
medium highest
(1,453 to $2,494)

17.2%
highest
($2,494 and over)

12,785
TOTAL DWELLINGS

11,568 occupied private dwellings

1,182 unoccupied private dwellings

37 non-private dwellings

In the City of Mount Gambier, 61% of households were purchasing or fully owned their home, 22.8% were renting privately, and 7.7% were in social housing in 2021. Households in Mount Gambier living in social housing is significantly higher than the average percentage for SA (5.4%).

average household size of
2.24
people

Mount Gambier has an overall SEIFA disadvantage score of 925, compared to 979 for South Australia. Mount Gambier has the **highest level of disadvantage** when compared to the other Limestone Coast Council areas.

$421,350
median house price
65.2% increase over five years

$296,000
median unit price
51.8% increase over five years



WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

We need more appropriate, accessible and affordable housing in Mount Gambier.

The housing crisis is the result of a number of causes that will require a variety of solutions. These have been grouped into three key issues that people may experience individually or concurrently.

Availability: There aren't enough affordable housing options to meet the demand, leaving people with limited choices and long waits for suitable housing.

Suitability: Even when housing is affordable, it may not meet people's unique needs.

Affordability: People struggle to find housing that fits within their budget, often forcing difficult trade offs between housing costs and other basic needs.

The challenge for individuals and families to find housing that is suitable and affordable within their financial means disproportionately affects low and medium-low income households, which consists of 57.1% of Mount Gambier's population.

"An increasing number of individuals are making the move to Mount Gambier, with growing recognition of the city in different regions due to heightened interstate travel and limitations on overseas travel during the COVID pandemic. Conversely there has been a decrease in the number of people relocating away from the area. Additionally, there is a notable surge in interest from non-local investors looking to invest in our region."
Local Real Estate Agency Principal.

"Property types work well for families. Not enough single bedroom properties for single people. Some yards are way too large for people to maintain."
Community services representative.

Housing supply vs demand
A significant issue is the insufficient number of homes being built to match the growth in population and households. This shortage has accumulated due to restrictions on available land for housing, complex planning and approval processes, coordination between infrastructure planning and housing supply, and shortages of skilled workers in the housing construction industry.

The current vacancy rate in the city is lower than the state average, indicating a tight housing market.

In 2021, there were 12,785 total dwellings in Mount Gambier, increasing by 453 since 2016. Analysis of the types of dwellings shows that 74.7% were separate houses, 24.3% were medium density dwellings, and 0.2% were in high density dwellings.

The data collected through the surveys undertaken by local real estate agents, developers and community services indicates nuanced differences in preferences across requests to rent, buy and build.

The data reveals a consistent preference for three-bedroom houses in both renting and buying categories, indicating a growing demand for smaller housing units like one-bedroom houses or townhouses in the building sector. This suggests a potential shift in demand towards more compact and potentially more affordable housing options in the construction sector.

Additionally, global supply chain disruptions have led to shortages of building materials and increased prices, driving up construction costs. These supply chain issues and labour shortages are slowing down home construction in Mount Gambier.

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OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

Understanding the opportunities and constraints associated with the development of affordable housing, stakeholders and developers can better navigate the development process, optimise resource allocation, and ultimately contribute to the creation of more accessible and sustainable housing options for communities. These may include regulations, land availability, infrastructure, and environmental considerations.

City of Mount Gambier has the opportunity to serve as a connector between the needs of our community and development interests, providing essential information about opportunities through communications channels and collaborative approaches.

A Better Housing Future
The South Australian Government's $965 million plan for 'A Better Housing Future' is intended to deliver more social and affordable houses, greater protections for those who are renting, more affordable rental opportunities and more support for people to buy a home.

Changes to tenancy legislation and conditions, planning requirements and land releases to enable a dynamic and responsive housing sector have commenced, including amended regulations to allow existing ancillary accommodation to be leased or rented out, potentially bringing hundreds of new homes to the rental market.

Regional Plan
The State Planning Commission is commencing preparation of a new regional plan for the Limestone Coast region. The regional plan will map the South Australian Government's long-term vision for growth in the Limestone Coast region.

City of Mount Gambier will continue to be active participants in the development of this plan.

Housing, Infrastructure, Planning and Development Unit
The Housing, Infrastructure, Planning and Development Unit (HIPDU) has been established within the Department of Trade and Investment to facilitate infrastructure provision for housing developments across the state. The aim is to remove barriers to development by providing certainty and transparency to the development industry to fast track the delivery of housing and enable South Australia to achieve national housing targets.

The Unit will collaborate with industry, local government, state agencies and essential service providers to develop approaches that meet the needs of all stakeholders while protecting our natural resources and heritage.

Department of Housing and Urban Development
The State Government will establish a new Department of Housing and Urban Development that will cover all aspects of housing, housing infrastructure, urban development and planning. The coordination of these critical and connected portfolio areas under one minister will aim to ensure a focus on delivering good decisions that allow additional homes to be constructed as quickly as possible.

Supply of essential shared infrastructure
The supply of critical utilities such as water supply and wastewater, electric power and road networks act as significant constraints on the development of new houses in Mount Gambier.

The availability and adequacy of shared infrastructure is an essential consideration for housing development. Constraints in these areas limit the number and scope of new housing projects until appropriate infrastructure upgrades are made to support the increased demand.

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WHAT IS CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER CURRENTLY DOING?

Like many communities, we are challenged with the demand for affordable housing. Council is embarking on a series of initiatives to better understand the landscape and the nuances of Mount Gambier's needs in a broader ecosystem of housing.

Rate Rebate Policy
City of Mount Gambier's Rate Rebate Policy outlines that the rates on land predominantly used for service delivery or administration (or both) by a community service organisation will be rebated at 75 per cent, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999. This includes services such as emergency accommodation and supported accommodation.

Mount Gambier 2035
Council is facilitating development of a new community vision named Mount Gambier 2035.

According to population projections, Mount Gambier is expected to reach almost 31,000 by 2035. This rate of growth will be higher than we have seen historically, but still represents a steady increase in comparison to some other regional areas.

Through community engagement for Mount Gambier 2035, our community has expressed a desire for population growth, with the following objectives in mind:

- Growth will lead to a broader range of services and infrastructure.
- Growth will provide people with greater opportunity locally – particularly in retaining our young people.
- Desire for growth that is sustainable in order to maintain the 'lifestyle' that comes with living in Mount Gambier - safe, affordable, easy to get around, naturally beautiful and peaceful.

Regionalisation Ambition 2032 Pledge
Pledges are a way organisations can show support for the Regional Australia Institute's Regionalisation Ambition 2032. Organisations show support by making a pledge that aligns to a pillar and will contribute to one of the Ambition's targets.

City of Mount Gambier has pledged to enhance liveability by developing this Local Affordable Housing Plan that will seek to address the shortfall in affordable housing supply in our community.

Mount Gambier Housing Alliance
City of Mount Gambier acknowledges that affordable housing challenges cannot be solved by one entity and requires a collaborative approach to move forward. Council has pulled together a collective group of stakeholders from community services, real estate, developers, and practitioners, to engage in constructive dialogue and develop holistic approaches to improve affordable housing issues in our community.

Part of this work has included collating data to build a holistic picture of the housing needs in our city and a closer look at community needs to ensure we are future proofing housing for all across our city. The expertise of these stakeholders was sought via a short survey to help understand the demands, gaps and potential trends so we can shape this plan to build on Mount Gambier's liveability as a regional capital city.

In addition to the work undertaken with the Mount Gambier Housing Alliance, Council has engaged in a range of individual discussions with various stakeholders to explore strategies and approaches to enhancing affordable housing conditions within our community.

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EXISTING ROLES AND STRATEGIES

Various roles affect the affordable housing crisis and its solutions, from government regulations to community housing management and private sector development.

Roles and responsibilities in the housing ecosystem:

Australian Government	State Government	Local Government
Housing demand • Tax incentives (negative gearing capital gains tax reduction) • Migration policy **Home ownership** • Capital gains tax reduction • First home buyer super saver scheme • Home value exclusion from the Age Pension eligibility **Social housing investment** • National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) • National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC) **Welfare support** • Commonwealth rent assistance **Major infrastructure funding** • City Deals • National Housing Infrastructure Facility (NHIF)	**Taxes and duties** • Stamp duty • Land tax **Public and community housing** • Funding public housing • Transfer to community housing organisations **Planning Laws** • Inclusionary zoning • Planning permits and restrictions **Home ownership** • First Home Owner Grants • Stamp duty exemptions • Other exemptions **Social housing investment** • National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) • National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC) **Land release** • Release of public non-residential land **Housing, Infrastructure, Planning and Development Unit**	**Rates** **Minor Infrastructure** • Roads and minor infrastructure • Libraries and community spaces **Planning Administration** • Strategic Planning • Land use zoning • Development approval assessments **Advocacy and Networking**
Parrallel activites occuring from private and public sector		

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (2019)

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Affordable housing is a focal point for action across all levels of government, non-government providers, public housing authorities, government funding bodies, private financiers and property developers.

The landscape is intricate, demanding ongoing attention. Navigating the complexities of affordable housing requires continuous monitoring and collaboration to ensure effective allocation of resources and alignment with evolving policies and community needs.

Existing strategies, policies and projects:

National	State	Regional	Local
• $2billion Accelerated Social Housing Program • $3billion New Home Bonus • $10billion Housing Australia Future Fund • National Construction Code • 7 Star Energy Rating Criteria • Regionalisation Ambition 2032 • National Regional Housing Summit • Advocating for National Population Policy • 2023 Intergenerational Report • Homes for Australia Plan	• A Better Housing Future - Removal of Stamp Duty on new homes • Inquiry in South Australian Housing Affordability • SAROC – Regional Housing Advocacy • Formation of Office of Regional Housing • Social Housing Accelerator program • Local Affordable Housing Tool Kit • Regional Plans • Uni SA appointment of Chair for Regional Housing and Planning • 20-year State Infrastructure Strategy • Housing, Infrastructure, Planning and Development Unit • New Department of Housing and Urban Development • LGASA Regional Housing Toolkit • Housing Roadmap	• Limestone Coast Local Government Association Advocacy Agenda 2022/2023 – Housing for All • Regional Housing Forum led by UniSA • Limestone Coast Support Homeless People Luncheon	• "Housing for All" group established by Troy Bell MP • Mount Gambier Housing Alliance formed • City of Mount Gambier The Regionalisation Ambition pledge • Community Services Roundtable

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"It's important for us to keep meeting and maintain momentum as a collective to share information and develop comprehensive solutions to address affordable housing challenges in our community."

Local Building Company Manager



HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Vision: A city that offers safe, affordable and accessible housing to a diverse community.

Through collaborative efforts with stakeholders, our goal is to create a diverse and inclusive community where everyone can find suitable housing that meets their needs without experiencing an excessive financial burden.

Increasing the availability of affordable housing will have flow on benefits and help alleviate pressures on social housing and homelessness by providing housing options that are within reach of low-income earners, allowing social housing programs to prioritise individuals and families with the most acute needs. Stable housing enables individuals and families to maintain employment, access education, and utilise healthcare services more effectively.

Priorities and Action Plan
This affordable housing crisis will require all stakeholders within the housing market, all levels of government, community services, the development industry and the finance and investment industry, to collaborate to deliver solutions.

The City of Mount Gambier recognises its ability to influence this work through:

1. Community and commercial partnerships
2. Advocacy
3. Strategic land use planning
4. Incentives and opportunities

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Community and Commercial Partnerships

By fostering community and commercial partnerships, the City of Mount Gambier can combine resources, expertise and support to address housing affordability challenges and create more inclusive communities effectively.

Action	Timeframe
Bring together community services, real estate and property managers, developers, and relevant stakeholders to strengthen understanding of the important role that affordable housing plays in cohesive communities and leverage resources and expertise for collaborative affordable housing projects and leverage funding opportunities.	
Develop a digital housing hub to as a central point of valuable information, including data, fact sheets, current incentives and FAQs, that can support and advocate for affordable housing.	

Advocacy

City of Mount Gambier can effectively advocate for policies and initiatives that address the community's housing needs and promote housing affordability for all residents.

Action	Timeframe
Advocate to State and Federal Governments to secure additional funding for affordable housing and associated services in Mount Gambier.	
Advocate to the State Government to strengthen the Affordable Housing provisions in the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 to meet the needs of current and future communities.	
Strengthen references to affordable housing in Council's Partnership Priorities and Advocacy document.	
Support the development of a Regional Housing Strategy as identified in the Limestone Coast Local Government Association Advocacy Agenda 2022/2023.	
Advocate to State and Federal Governments to establish effective regulations for short-term rentals to promote long-term rental accommodation while providing choice for property owners.	
Continue to advocate for improved public transport services to enable people to access employment, education and service facilities.	
Advocate to the state and federal governments to expand public and social housing funding.	
Maintain strong connections through the Regional Activators Alliance to ensure visibility on the national policy agenda.	
Advocate to state government to improve tenancy pathways into and through social and affordable housing.	
Advocate to state government for enabling infrastructure to be prioritised in the region as a way of unlocking capacity to support new developments.	

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"Advocate to ensure bus services provide connections for people living outside of CBD so more affordable less central housing is accessible."
Community services representative.



"Housing Trust should be able to give a reference for their tenants to obtain a rental reference in the private sector. At the moment there is no reference given."
Local Real Estate Agency representative.

Strategic Land Use Planning

By improving and advocating for these land use planning actions, the City of Mount Gambier can help create a regulatory environment that encourages the development of affordable housing and promotes equitable access to housing opportunities for all residents.

Action	Timeframe
Encourage broad community consultation and involvement in the development of Regional Plan.	
Develop cheat sheets for changes to plans and policies explaining what this means for local development and how it may impact Mount Gambier.	
Implement inclusionary zoning policies that require a certain percentage of units in new developments to be affordable.	
Review current zoning and identify localities to encourage the development of alternative housing styles and types.	
Develop a centralised internal process for recording affordable housing outcomes.	

> ***"Require a mix of housing options within new estates."***
> *Community services representative.*

Incentives and Opportunities

By implementing a combination of incentives and partnerships, the City of Mount Gambier can create a supportive environment for developers and builders to invest in and construct more affordable housing options for residents.

Action	Timeframe
Support the work of the Housing, Infrastructure, Planning and Development Unit (HIPDU) to enable the supply of essential shared infrastructure improvements to unlock development opportunities.	
Encourage private developers to incorporate affordable housing components into larger mixed-use or market-rate developments.	
Partner with the state government to deliver a priority planning approval process for affordable housing developments.	
Investigate under-utilised Council owned sites to determine which sites would be suitable for test and trial Affordable Housing solutions, including options for leasing land for alternation dwellings, communal housing and tiny homes.	
Develop business cases to position Mount Gambier as an investment choice for affordable housing.	
Investigate incentive opportunities that encourage investment in affordable housing in Mount Gambier on a case-by-case basis.	

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MONITORING AND REVIEW

The City of Mount Gambier Local Affordable Housing Plan will remain fluid to be responsive to evolving local initiatives and broader opportunities. The plan will be continuously refined to best address the dynamic landscape of affordable housing needs. This requires a commitment to utilising evidence and processes that ensure the plan remains on course towards its objectives. Regular data collection, analysis, and feedback mechanisms should be established to inform decision-making and assess the effectiveness of implemented strategies.

A central point of monitoring and reviewing the Affordable Housing Plan involves the established Mount Gambier Housing Alliance for ongoing discussions and deliberations regarding affordable housing issues. This centralised group serves as a core for engaging stakeholders, sharing insights, and collectively addressing emerging challenges. Regular reviews conducted as part of the group, ideally scheduled three times a year, provide opportunities to assess progress, identify areas for improvement, and integrate current knowledge and observations into future iterations of the plan.

By empowering the community to lead the conversation surrounding housing needs, the plan can be more responsive and reflective of local priorities. This collaborative approach ensures that the Affordable Housing Plan remains dynamic, relevant, and effective in meeting the diverse housing needs of Mount Gambier's residents.

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City of Mount Gambier

www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au

19.4 BUS SERVICE UPDATE – REPORT NO. AR24/40014

Committee:	**Council**
Meeting Date:	**16 July 2024**
Report No.:	**AR24/40014**
CM9 Reference:	**AF23/328**
Author:	**Biddie Shearing, Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement**
Authoriser:	**Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Infrastructure**
Summary:	**Update for Elected Members on the results of ongoing advocacy for the improvements to the Mount Gambier City Bus service**
Strategic Plan Reference:	**Goal 1: Our People** **Goal 2: Our Location** **Goal 3: Our Diverse Economy** **Goal 4: Our Climate, Natural Resources, Arts, Culture and Heritage** **Goal 5: Our Commitment**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report No. AR24/40014 titled 'Bus Service Update' as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.
2. That Council:
   (a) pursues the installation of a new bus stop within proximity of Mount Gambier Foodbank Regional Hub by preparing associated parking resolutions and costings for further consideration in Budget Review 1 of 2024/2025; and
   (b) continues to prioritise advocacy for holistic improvements to the Mount Gambier City Bus Service, including the preparation of submissions to the upcoming regional transport review.

TYPE OF REPORT

Corporate

BACKGROUND

In late 2020, Council completed a review of the Mount Gambier City Bus Service which highlighted a range of significant inadequacies attached to the existing public transport model.

In Mount Gambier, the public bus transport service provides the only affordable mode of transport to socially disadvantaged sections of our community, particularly migrants, unemployed, seniors and those with accessibility considerations.

As a result, the shortfalls of the service were acknowledged to be impacting some of the most vulnerable sections of our community, resulting in social exclusion and significant degrees of disadvantage for those relying on the system as their primary means of transport.

Due to its limited operating hours and frequency, the service also falls short in providing a viable transport alternative for those accessing employment, or in accessing social or cultural activity during the evenings or on weekends, hence impacting on the liveability and affordability of our city more generally.

The report provided comparisons to services provided in other areas of Australia, highlighting the significant disparity in standard service provision and funding models between regional South Australia and the rest of the country.

The full report can be found at: https://www.haveyoursaymountgambier.com.au/public-bus-service-2020

In its meeting on 16 February 2021, Council resolved:

1. *That Council Report No. AR21/2815 titled 'Review of regional public transport services - Mount Gambier Public Bus Service' as presented on 16 February 2021 be noted.*
2. *That Council work collaboratively with local community groups, local public transport service providers and relevant state government departments to improve accessibility to public transport services within Mount Gambier.*
3. *That Council advocate to improve public bus services within Mount Gambier. This advocacy will occur through:*

   (a) Direct communication with relevant members of State Parliament.

   (b) The preparation of a formal written submission to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT).

   (c) Council staff present the findings of the Mount Gambier City Bus Service Review to representatives of DIT, as part of the DIT review of the provision of public transport services in regional South Australia.
4. *Through strategic and holistic planning processes and budgetary allocation, Council commits to the provision of accessible, high quality, fit for purpose, supporting infrastructure which demonstrates commitment to a prioritised and robust local public transport service.*

In response to this endorsed position of Council, the City of Mount Gambier then embarked on a range of advocacy and collaborative work with key stakeholders, which has included:

- A series of letters from our Mayor and senior Council staff to the Premier of South Australia and applicable Ministers and Members of Parliament.
- Coordination of a range of strategic messaging via local and state media channels

- Submissions to both the Department of Infrastructure/South Australian Public Transport Authority Regional Transport Contract Review and the Select Committee on Public and Active Transport in South Australia.
- Featuring Public Transport in Council's Partnership Priorities and Advocacy documents, regularly referenced in meetings with Government and other collaborative partners
- Support in advocacy efforts by local Member for Mount Gambier Troy Bell MP
- Regular meetings with previous and current service providers undertaking the contract for bus services locally

Extending on the above activity, Council has recently:

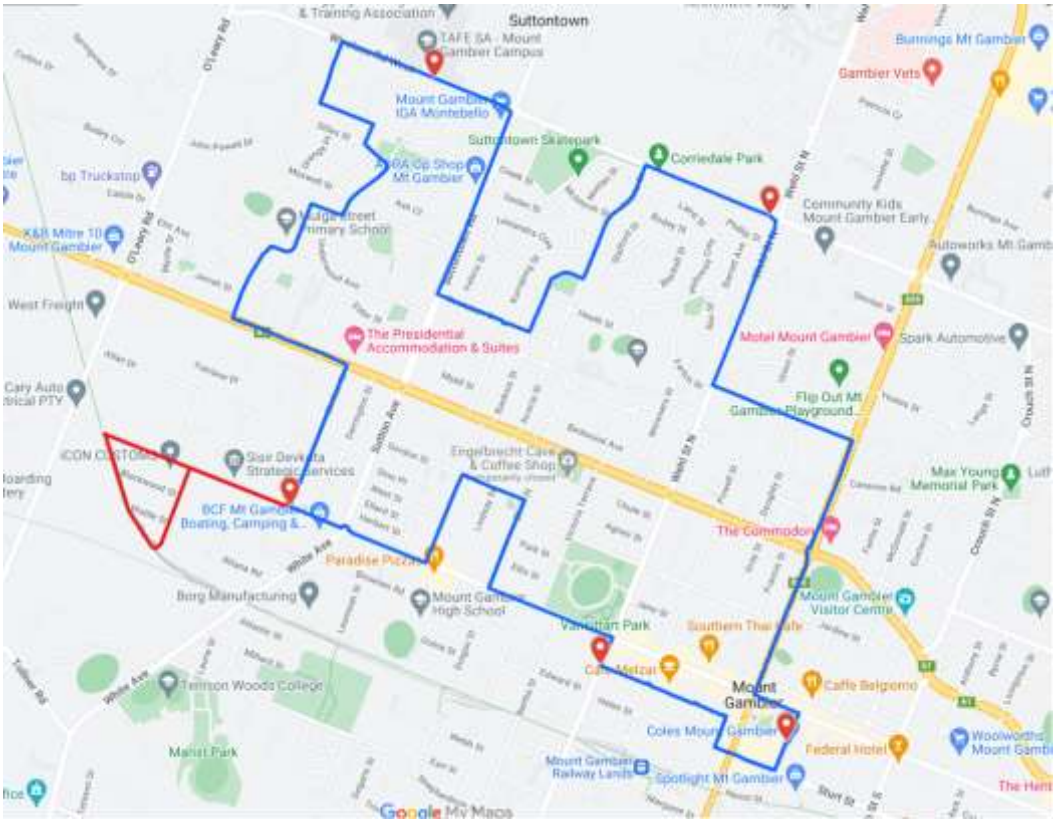
1. hosted the General Manager of Link SA for a public briefing on the status of the local contract, highlighting a range of potential improvement opportunities subject to funding improvements;
2. supported the Office of the Member for Mount Gambier, Troy Bell MP with the preparation attached to the delivery of a Grievance Debate (delivered in Parliament on Tuesday 6 February 2024), highlighting that the current bus contract is not fit for purpose; and
3. conducted a series of meetings with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP) to explore options for improvements to the service in the short, medium and long term.

PROPOSAL

As a result of the meetings with Minister Koutsantonis, both the Minister and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport have:

1. confirmed that Mount Gambier will feature as a focus area in a regional transport review which is expected to occur over the coming months; and
2. reviewed the capacity to make improvements to the existing service within the existing funding footprint and scheduling considerations in the meantime.

As an interim action, the Department of Transport and Infrastructure have identified the capacity to add Mount Gambier Foodbank Regional Hub (at 23 Cave Road) to the existing North West Loop route and schedule (as seen below in red).



This extension would respond to long-term advocacy from both Foodbank and Council acknowledging the significance of improved access to this service to our community.

The provision of a service to this site will require Council to provide a compliant bus stop and associated signage within the proximity of Foodbank. It is proposed that administration progresses with preparing a parking resolution and costing this work for its consideration in Budget Review 1.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No legal implications have been identified that will impact on Council's decisions or future operation.

STRATEGIC PLAN

3.2.4 Working with operators to deliver a public transport network that connects people to essential services, leisure activities and employment [Advocate, Initiator / Facilitator, Information Provider / Promoter].

COUNCIL POLICY

Nil

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Council acknowledges community sentiment attached to the potential contribution of improved public transport to the economic capacity of our city, particularly through the provision of greater access to retail precincts and places of employment. Advocacy to the Government of South Australia will continue with this in mind.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Council acknowledges the widely documented environmental benefits of effective mass passenger transport as an alternative to owning and operating private vehicles and seeks to continue to advocate for public transport as a viable alternative in Mount Gambier.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A strong public transport system reduces social isolation, supports improved physical and mental health, assists in enabling employment, encourages active citizenship and genuine connection within our community.

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

It's acknowledged that the current public bus service provisions have a particular impact on Mount Gambier's migrant population who are overrepresented within existing passenger numbers due to a lack of alternative transport options.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The 2021 Mount Gambier City Bus Review highlighted that Council provides and maintains associated infrastructure, including:

- 115 unique bus stops; and
- 39 shelters across the fixed routes.

The provision of a new bus stop on Cave Road to provide greater access to Foodbank will be costed and presented to Council for consideration in Budget Review 1.

Noting the above, Council staff are currently undertaking an audit of all bus stops and shelters, to ensure they meet Australian Standards and legislative requirements. Ongoing consultation with key partners (Link SA / Keolis Downer and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport) will be continued as part of this process.

VALUE FOR MONEY

Any procurement done by Council will be in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The ongoing limitations of the Mount Gambier City Bus and its direct implications to the social inclusion, liveability and growth objectives of our city is acknowledged through the prioritised and ongoing advocacy in this area.

The provision of new bus stop in proximity to Foodbank is critical to supporting food-security in our city, exacerbated as living costs are rising across the nation.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The evidence collected through the Mount Gambier City Bus review, strongly highlights the importance of the public bus service to the most vulnerable members of our community. Improving the bus service, and its service to key local agencies, remains a strategic priority.

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The extension of existing routes to better service Foodbank, and advocacy for improvements to the service more generally, aligns to the outcomes from extensive community consultation conducted in 2020. Any further community engagement attached to the provision of a new bus stop and associated parking resolutions will be explored in approaching this work.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Costings will be clarified for the addition of a bus stop within proximity to Foodbank and presented to Council for consideration in Budget Review 1.

Associated parking resolutions will also be presented to Council for endorsement as required.

Upon endorsement, installation of the new bus stop will be prioritised, and administration will work in collaboration with Link SA to support the introduction of the extended bus route as soon as practical.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It's recommended that Council:

1. pursues the installation of a new bus stop within proximity of Mount Gambier Foodbank Regional Hub by progressing with costings and associated parking resolutions; and
2. continues to prioritise advocacy for holistic improvements to the Mount Gambier City Bus Service, including the preparation of submissions to the upcoming regional transport review.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

19.5 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (SAROC) - MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS – REPORT NO. AR24/44606

Committee:	**Council**
Meeting Date:	**16 July 2024**
Report No.:	**AR24/44606**
CM9 Reference:	**AF23/328**
Author:	**Kate Gilmore, CEO and Mayoral Executive Support**
Authoriser:	**Sarah Philpott, Chief Executive Officer**
Summary:	**This report is presented for Council to consider and endorse its preferred candidate for a position to the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils.**
Strategic Plan Reference:	**Goal 5: Our Commitment**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report No. AR24/44606 titled 'South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) - Membership Nominations' as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.
2. That Council nominates Mayor Lynette Martin OAM for a position on the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC).
3. Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to complete the required nomination form and candidate information sheet for lodgement with the Local Government Association prior to the closing date of Friday 16 August 2024.

TYPE OF REPORT

Other

BACKGROUND

Nominations are sought every two years for members of the SA Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC), for a 2 year term appointment.

The role of the SA Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) is regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the SAROC Region.

Each Member Council of SAROC is invited to nominate one (1) nomination from their Council for a position on SAROC.

The nomination may only be made by resolution of Council.

To be eligible for a SAROC membership position a nominee must be a Council Member representative of the relevant Regional Grouping of members. For the City of Mount Gambier this grouping is the seven Councils comprising the Limestone Coast region.

PROPOSAL

Council seek the endorsement of the nomination of Mayor Lynette Martin OAM for a position on the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) to commence from the conclusion of the 2024 LGA Annual General Meeting, to remain in office until the conclusion of the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The nominations to the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils are in accordance with the LGA Constitution and the SAROC Terms of Reference.

STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

COUNCIL POLICY

N/A

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Participation in SAROC is supported by the Local Government Association including travel and similar expenses.

VALUE FOR MONEY

N/A

RISK IMPLICATIONS

N/A

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Upon determination of Councils preferred nomination, by resolution, the Chief Executive Officer to complete the nomination form and candidate information for lodgement with LGA prior to Friday 16 August 2024.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Having considered the proposed nomination of Mayor Martin, Council endorse Mayor Lynette Martin OAM for a position on the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC).

Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to complete the required nomination form and candidate information sheet for lodgement with the Local Government Association prior to the closing date of Friday 16 August 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Call for Nominations for SAROC Members - City of Mount Gambier ⇩
2. SAROC Nomination Form and Candidate Information Sheet 2024 ⇩

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In reply please quote our reference: ECM 816286 MW/LM

19 June 2024

Ms Sarah Philpott
Chief Executive Officer
City of Mount Gambier

Emailed: sphilpott@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

Dear Sarah

Call for Nominations for SAROC Members

The terms of the current members of the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) expire at the 2024 LGA Annual General Meeting (AGM). The LGA hereby calls for nominations to fill the two (2) positions allocated to each Regional Grouping of Councils on SAROC (twelve positions in total). These positions will commence office from the conclusion of the 2024 LGA Annual General Meeting and will remain in office until the conclusion of the 2026 AGM, unless otherwise extended following a change to the LGA's Constitution or SAROC Terms of Reference. A nomination form for the position of member of SAROC is attached and must be received by me, following a resolution of your council, by no later than **5pm Friday 16 August 2024**. Late nominations will not be accepted.

There are six (6) SAROC Regional Groupings. Membership of SAROC comprises two eligible members elected by a majority vote of the councils within each Regional Grouping, provided that each person elected for that Regional Grouping is from a different member.

I write to you in your capacity as the Chief Executive Officer of a Member Council in the SAROC Limestone Coast Regional Grouping to invite one (1) nomination from your council for a position on the SAROC Limestone Coast Regional Grouping of SAROC. A list of the SAROC Regional Groupings is attached to this letter.

A nomination may only be made by resolution of the council and using the attached nomination form. The form must be signed by both the candidate nominated by the council to indicate his/her willingness to stand for election, and by you as the Chief Executive Officer of the nominating council. The nomination form must be accompanied by the attached candidate information sheet.

Voting

The SAROC Terms of Reference (TOR) (extract attached) outlines the process as to how an election will occur. As the Returning Officer I am required to conduct a ballot if the number of nominations for each SAROC Regional Grouping exceeds the number of positions. If a ballot is required, the distribution of ballot papers to councils will include any information provided on the candidate information sheet.

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Timetable

Key (indicative) timings and SAROC TOR provisions are outlined in the following table.

Information about the timing and progress of the LGA Elections will be made available on the LGA website: www.lga.sa.gov.au/lga-elections

Indicative Timing	Headline	SAROC TOR Provision
	Returning Officer	Returning Officer for all LGA electoral matters is the Chief Executive Officer (Clause 4.4.1)
19 June 2024	Nominations Called	CEO to write to members of SAROC Regional Groupings calling for nomination for position of members of SAROC at least 3 months before AGM (Clause 4.3.2)
16 August 2022	Nominations Close	Nominations must be received by the CEO no later than 5pm on the day specified for the close of nominations (Clause 4.3.4).
	Nominations equal to vacancies	If the number of nominations received equals the number of vacant positions for the Regional Grouping, each candidate is elected and takes office at the conclusion of the AGM (Clause 4.4.3)
3 September 2024	Ballot papers prepared and posted	In the event of an election being required, an election will be conducted (Clause 4.4.5)
1 November 2024	Voting closes	The CEO shall nominate the date, time and place for the counting of votes and shall invite each candidate and a person nominated as the candidate's scrutineer to be present (Clause 4.4.5)
TBC - week commencing 4 November 2024	Counting of votes	The CEO shall nominate the date, time and place for the counting of votes (Clause 4.4.5)
22 November 2024	Final declaration of result	The CEO shall declare the candidate with the most votes elected at the AGM (Clause 4.4.6(b))
22 November 2024	Takes office	SAROC members take office at the conclusion of the AGM (Clause 4.5)
22 November 2024	Voting for Board Members	SAROC should meet at the conclusion of the AGM to elect 3 of its members (plus its Chair) to the Board of Directors (Clause 6.4.1 and 6.4.2) who's term of office commences after the AGM.

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Impacts of the LGA Constitution Review

The latest version of the LGA Constitution effective from 8 January 2020 is available via the following link: LGA Constitution.

The LGA Constitution provides for the election of LGA President, SAROC and GAROC Members, and the LGA Board of Directors to take effect from the LGA's AGM, every other year. This enables the outgoing President to deliver their annual report and financial statements for the preceding year, before handing over to the incoming President.

In 2023, the LGA initiated a review of its Constitution with the term length for LGA President, Board Directors, and GAROC and SAROC Members being considered.

Additional matters discussed include whether membership to GAROC or SAROC should be limited exclusively to mayors, and whether the current committee structures provide the best value.

Preferred outcomes are yet to be finalised. It is anticipated that any revisions to the LGA Constitution and GAROC/SAROC Terms of Reference will be presented to Members for consideration at the AGM on 22 November 2024. The LGA Constitution may be altered only by resolution passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by Members at a General Meeting[9] and with approval of the Minister for Local Government[10].

The 2024 LGA Election will proceed under the current provisions. Any changes arising that impact term length or committee structure will be managed through transitional provisions and will be communicated to member councils, Board Directors and Committee Members accordingly.

LGA Board Appointments

Under the LGA Constitution and the SAROC TOR, once members are elected to SAROC, these members will then elect a Chair and three SAROC members to form the LGA Board of Directors. These SAROC LGA Board Directors will be accompanied by their equivalent from GAROC, as well as the President and Immediate Past President, to form the ten (10) member LGA Board of Directors.

If you have any questions in relation to the election process, please contact me or LGA Manager Corporate Support, Melanie Williams via email to melanie.williams@lga.sa.gov.au or by phoning 8224 2097.

Yours sincerely



Clinton Jury
Chief Executive Officer / LGA Returning Officer
Telephone: (08) 8224 2039
Email: clinton.jury@lga.sa.gov.au
Copy to: city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au
Attachments:

1	List of SAROC Regional Groupings
2	Extract from LGA SAROC TOR – Clause 4
3	2024 Nomination Form – SAROC
4	Candidate Information Sheet

[9] Clause 2.2.1 b. of the LGA Constitution
[10] Subclause 1(4) of Schedule 1 of the *Local Government Act 1999*

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South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC)

Regional Groupings

SAROC Regional Grouping	Members
Southern & Hills Councils	Alexandrina Mount Barker Victor Harbor Yankalilla Kangaroo Island
Legatus Councils	Adelaide Plains Barossa Barunga West Clare & Gilbert Valleys Copper Coast Goyder Light Mount Remarkable Northern Areas Orroroo Carrieton Peterborough Wakefield Yorke Peninsula Flinders Ranges
Eyre Peninsula	Ceduna Cleve Elliston Franklin Harbor Kimba Streaky Bay Tumby Bay Wudinna Lower Eyre Peninsula Port Lincoln

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Limestone Coast	Grant Kingston Mount Gambier Naracoorte Lucindale Robe Tatiara Wattle Range
Murraylands & Riverland	Loxton Waikerie Mid Murray Karoonda East Murray Coorong District Southern Mallee Berri Barmera Renmark Paringa Murray Bridge
Spencer Gulf Cities	Port Augusta Port Pirie Whyalla

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Extract – SAROC Terms of Reference

Clause 4 – SAROC

4.1. Role

The role of SAROC is regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the SAROC Region.

4.2. Membership

Each Regional Grouping of Members listed in the schedule to these Terms of Reference will elect in accordance with clauses 4.3 and 4.4 from the Members of the Regional Grouping of Members, 2 Council Members as members of SAROC provided that each person elected is from a different Member.

4.3. Nominations for election to SAROC

4.3.1. The members of SAROC will be elected biennially.

4.3.2. In the year in which SAROC members will be elected, and at least 3 months before the Annual General Meeting, the Chief Executive shall write to all Members of the SAROC Regional Grouping, as listed in the schedule, calling for nominations for the membership of SAROC.

4.3.3. Each Member of the SAROC Regional Grouping may nominate a candidate for membership of SAROC, provided that:

4.3.3.1. a person nominated as a member of SAROC must be a representative of a Member on the relevant Regional Grouping of Members; and

4.3.3.2. only a Council Member can be nominated to SAROC.

4.3.4. A nomination of a person as a member of SAROC must be received by the Chief Executive Officer not later than 5 pm on the day specified for the closure of nominations (**Close of Nominations**). A nomination must be signed by the candidate indicating his or her willingness to stand for election and be in the form determined by the Chief Executive.

4.4. Election to SAROC

4.4.1. The Chief Executive shall be the returning officer for any election of members to SAROC.

4.4.2. After the Close of Nominations, the Chief Executive will notify Members of each Regional Grouping of Members of the candidates for membership of SAROC nominated by the Regional Grouping of Members.

4.4.3. If the only nominations received from a Regional Grouping of Members by the Close of Nominations match the membership positions described in clause 4.2 then the Chief Executive will declare those persons duly elected to those membership positions.

4.4.4. If the number of persons nominated by the Close of Nominations by a Regional Grouping of Members exceeds the number of membership positions described in clause 4.2, then an election for the purpose of clause 4.2 must be held in accordance with this clause.

4.4.5. In the event of an election being required, the SAROC Regional Grouping in consultation with the Chief Executive shall conduct an election.

4.4.6. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the SAROC Regional Grouping shall nominate the date, time and place for the counting of votes and shall invite each candidate and a person nominated as the candidate's scrutineer to be present:

(a) at the counting of the votes the Chief Executive shall produce unopened envelopes marked "Ballot Paper" and if satisfied that all votes are valid, count the number of votes received by each candidate;

(b) in respect of an election for the purposes of clause 4.2, the 2 candidates from a Regional Grouping of Members with the most votes shall be deemed elected and the Chief Executive shall declare the candidates elected at the Annual General Meeting; and

(c) in the case of candidates for membership positions described in clause 4.2 receiving the same number of votes, the Chief Executive shall draw lots at the counting of the votes to determine which candidate is elected.

4.4.7. The Chief Executive may, in his or her discretion, appoint a deputy returning officer and delegate any of his or her powers, functions or duties to that person who shall act accordingly.

4.4.8. The Chief Executive may, in his or her discretion, delegate any of his or her powers, functions or duties to an Executive Officer of a Regional Grouping of Members who shall act accordingly for the conduct of elections for the purpose of clause 4.2 in respect of the Regional Grouping of Members relevant to that Executive Officer.

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South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC)
2024 Nomination Form

Nominee's Full Name	*(insert title, first name and surname of nominee)*
Nominee's Council	*(insert name of nominee's council)*
Regional Grouping *(select one)*	☐ Southern & Hills Councils ☐ Legatus Councils ☐ Eyre Peninsula ☐ Limestone Coast ☐ Murraylands & Riverland ☐ Spencer Gulf Cities
Declaration and Signature of Nominee	I hereby accept such nomination. Signature: .....
Name of Council Submitting Nomination	*(insert name of nominating council)*
Council Resolution	*(insert date & resolution no.)* *(insert council resolution)*
Signature and Name of Nominating Council's CEO	Signature: ..... *(insert CEO name)*
Dated	*(insert date)*

This form is to be sent to the LGA Returning Officer.

Close of nominations is 5:00pm Friday 16 August 2024

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South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC)
2024 Candidate Information Sheet

(word limit is strictly 1,000 words)

Nominee's Full Name:	*(insert title, first name and surname of nominee)*
Nominee's Council:	*(insert name of nominee's council)*
Local Government Experience & Knowledge	• *(insert)*
Local Government Policy Views & Interests	• *(insert)*
Other information	• *(insert details of leadership, board, corporate governance experience etc)*

This form must accompany the Nomination Form

19.6 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE POLICY – REPORT NO. AR24/48266

Committee:	**Council**
Meeting Date:	**16 July 2024**
Report No.:	**AR24/48266**
CM9 Reference:	**AF23/328**
Author:	**Michael McCarthy, Manager Governance and Property**
Authoriser:	**Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services**
Summary:	**This report is presented to enable amendment of the Responsible Officer in Council's Public Interest Disclosure Policy.**
Strategic Plan Reference:	**Goal 1: Our People** **Goal 2: Our Location** **Goal 3: Our Diverse Economy** **Goal 4: Our Climate, Natural Resources, Arts, Culture and Heritage** **Goal 5: Our Commitment**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report No. AR24/48266 titled 'Public Interest Disclosure Policy' as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.
2. That the draft updated Public Interest Disclosure Policy as attached to Council Report AR24/48266 (Attachment 1) be endorsed.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate be authorised to make any necessary changes to policies arising from this meeting, together with any typographical corrections, amendments to position or organisation titles, and finalisation of the document's formatting that do not materially alter the integrity of the document.

TYPE OF REPORT

Legislative

BACKGROUND

The Principal Officer (Chief Executive Officer) of the Council has a duty under the provisions of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* ('PID Act') to ensure that a document setting out procedures for the appropriate disclosure of public interest information is prepared and maintained in accordance with Guidelines prepared by the Commission (Independent Commission Against Corruption) and made available on the internet and at the principal office of the Council.

It is also a duty under the PID Act to ensure that 1 or more officers are designated as a responsible person and to ensure the contact details of the responsible person are made available.

These requirements are met through Council's Public Interest Disclosure Policy.

The purpose of this report is to present Council's Public Interest Disclosure Policy to amend the responsible officer details.

PROPOSAL

Council's Public Interest Disclosure Policy ('Policy') was last reviewed in December 2023 and was allocated an annual review frequency for next scheduled for review in December 2024.

Due to a staff movement it has become necessary to update Council's designated responsible officer under the Policy.

Whilst it is the duty of the Principle Officer (Chief Executive Officer) to designate a responsible person (or persons), the purpose of this report is to update the responsible officer contact details as recorded in Council's Policy.

The PID Act provides that the regulations may prescribe qualifications for persons designated as responsible officers, with the regulations prescribing any training course approved by the Commissioner.

Council's CEO and Mayoral Support Officer, Kate Gilmore has previously undertaken the Commissioner approved training and has been duly designated by the Chief Executive Officer as a responsible person for the purpose of the PID Act.

Accordingly, this report presents Council's Public Interest Disclosure Policy with updated responsible person contact details, and some other minor amendments as shown in the marked-up version attached to this report **(Attachment1)**.

In addition, the Administration is investigating training options for Members on the PID Act, including Members roles as public officers under the PID Act as set out in the ICAC Guidelines.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The duties to have a designated responsible person under the PID Act that has met prescribed qualifications/training and to make the contact details available in a procedure under Section 12 of the Act are met through Council's Public Interest Disclosure Policy.

STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

COUNCIL POLICY

N/A

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

VALUE FOR MONEY

N/A

RISK IMPLICATIONS

N/A

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The updated Public Interest Disclosure Policy will ne published on the Council website following adoption by Council.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of this report is to enable Council to endorse its Public Interest Disclosure Policy with updated contact details for the designated responsible person for the purpose of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*.

ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT Council Policy P900 - Public Interest Disclosure (with mark-ups) ⇩

City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	32
		Issued:	162 July December 20243
		Next Review:	December July 20254

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The City of Mount Gambier is committed to upholding the principles of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices and, therefore, encourages the making of disclosures that reveal public interest information.

1.2. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that the City of Mount Gambier:

- properly fulfils its responsibilities under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018;
- encourages and facilitates Disclosures of Public Interest Information in accordance with the objects and requirements of the PID Act ;
- ensures there is appropriate oversight of public interest disclosures about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration;
- provides appropriate protection for those who make Disclosures in accordance with the Act; and
- acknowledges the need to appropriately support Informants, the Responsible Officer and, as appropriate, those Public Officers affected by any appropriate Disclosure.

1.3 The Council will review and update this Policy each year as part of its annual policy review.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This Policy applies to appropriate Disclosures of Public Interest Information that are made in accordance with the PID Act by public officers including Council Members, Officers and Employees of the Council, and by members of the public, and is intended to complement the reporting framework under the ICAC Act.

2.2. This Policy is also designed to complement the existing communication channels within Council, and operate in conjunction with other existing policies, including:

- Fraud & Corruption Prevention Policy;
- Code of Conduct for Council Employees;
- Code of Conduct for Council Members; and
- Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy under section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

2.3. The Council is committed to:

- referring, as necessary, appropriate Disclosures to another Relevant Authority;
- where the Disclosure relates to Corruption, or serious or systemic Misconduct or Maladministration in public administration, reporting the Disclosure directly to the OPI in accordance with the Guidelines and the requirements of the ICAC Act;
- otherwise facilitating the investigation of appropriate Disclosures in a manner which promotes fair and objective treatment of those involved; and
- rectifying any substantiated wrongdoing to the extent practicable in all the circumstances.

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy the following definitions apply.

3.1. ***Commissioner*** means the person holding or acting in the office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption.

3.2. ***Corruption in public administration*** is defined in section 5(1) of the ICAC Act and means:

3.2.1. an offence against Part 7 Division 4 (Offences relating to public officers) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*, which includes the following offences:
(i) bribery or corruption of public officers;
(ii) threats or reprisals against public officers;
(iii) abuse of public office;
(iv) demanding or requiring benefit on basis of public office;
(v) offences relating to appointment to public office; or

3.2.2. an offence against the *Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act 1995* or the *Public Corporations Act 1993*, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or

3.2.3. an offence against the *Lobbyists Act 2015*, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or

3.2.4. any other offence (including an offence against Part 5 (Offences of dishonesty) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*) committed by a public officer while acting in his or her capacity as a public officer or by a former public officer and related to his or her former capacity as a public officer, or by a person before becoming a public officer and related to his or her capacity as a public officer, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or

3.2.5. any of the following in relation to an offence referred to in a preceding paragraph:
(i) aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of the offence;
(ii) inducing, whether by threats or promises or otherwise, the commission of the offence;
(iii) being in any way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the commission of the offence;
(iv) conspiring with others to effect the commission of the offence

3.3. ***Council*** means the City of Mount Gambier.

3.4. ***Detriment*** includes:
- injury, harm (including psychological harm), damage (including damage to reputation) or loss;
- intimidation or harassment;
- discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to a person's employment; and/or
- threats of reprisal (which may be express or implied, and/or conditional or unconditional).

3.5. ***Directions and Guidelines*** is a reference to the Directions and Guidelines issued pursuant to section 20 of the ICAC Act and/or section 14 of the PID Act, which are available on the Commissioner's website (www.icac.sa.gov.au).

3.6. ***Disclosure*** means an appropriate disclosure of public interest information made by an Informant to a Relevant Authority.

A person makes an ***appropriate disclosure of environmental and health information*** if:
(a) the person:
i. believes on reasonable grounds that the information is true; or
ii. is not in a position to form a belief on reasonable grounds about the truth of the information, but believes on reasonable grounds that the information may be

true and is of sufficient significance to justify its disclosure so that its truth may be investigated; and

(b) the disclosure is made to a Relevant Authority.

A person makes an ***appropriate disclosure of public administration information*** if:

(a) the person:

i. is a public officer;

ii. reasonably suspects that the information raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration; and

(b) the disclosure is made to a Relevant Authority.

3.7. ***Employee*** refers to all the Council's employees, whether they are working in a full-time, part-time or casual capacity.

3.8. ***Environmental and health information*** means information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the health or safety of the public generally or a significant section of the public.

3.9. ***Fraud*** includes an intentional dishonest act or omission done with the purpose of deceiving.

3.10. **ICAC Act** is the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012*.

3.11. ***Independent Assessor*** means the person designated by the Responsible Officer as being responsible for investigating a disclosure made to City of Mount Gambier in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure.

3.12. **Informant** means a person who makes an appropriate disclosure of public interest information to a Relevant Authority.

3.13. ***Maladministration in public administration*** is defined in section 5(4) of the ICAC Act and

3.13.1. means:

(i) conduct of a public officer, or a practice, policy or procedure of a public authority, that results in an irregular and unauthorised use of public money or substantial mismanagement of public resources; or

(ii) conduct of a public officer involving substantial mismanagement in or in relation to the performance of official functions; and

3.13.2. includes conduct resulting from impropriety, incompetence or negligence; and

3.13.3. is to be assessed having regard to relevant statutory provisions and administrative instructions and directions.

3.14. ***Misconduct in public administration*** is defined in section 5(3) of the *ICAC Act* and means:

3.14.1. contravention of a code of conduct by a public officer while acting in his or her capacity as a public officer that constitutes a ground for disciplinary action against the officer; or

3.14.2. other misconduct of a public officer while acting in his or her capacity as a public officer.

3.15. ***Office for Public Integrity (OPI)*** is the office established under the *ICAC Act* that has the function to:

3.15.1. receive and assess complaints about public administration from members of the public;

3.15.2. receive and assess reports about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration from the Ombudsman, the Council and public officers;

3.15.3. refer complaints and reports to inquiry agencies, public authorities and public officers in circumstances approved by the Commissioner or make recommendations as to whether and by whom complaints and reports should be investigated;

3.15.4. give directions or guidance to public authorities in circumstances approved by the Commissioner;

3.15.5. perform other functions assigned to the Office by the Commissioner.

3.16. ***Public administration*** defined at section 4 of the ICAC Act and, without limiting the acts that may comprise public administration, an administrative act within the meaning of the *Ombudsman Act 1972* will be taken to be carried out in the course of public administration.

3.17. ***Public administration information*** means information that raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration.

3.18. ***Public interest information*** means environmental or health information, or public administration information.

3.19. ***PID Act*** means the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*.

3.20. ***Principal Officer*** for the purposes of the PID Act means the Chief Executive Officer of the Council.

3.21. ***Public Officer*** has the meaning given by section 4 and Schedule 1 of the ICAC Act, and includes:

- a Council member; and
- an employee or officer of the Council;

3.22. ***Relevant Authority*** means the person or entity that receives an appropriate disclosure of public interest information in accordance with the PID Act, as set out in Appendix A to this Policy.

3.23. ***Responsible Officer*** is a person who has completed any training courses approved by the Commissioner for the purposes of the *Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019* and has been designated by the Council as responsible officer under section 12 of the PID Act.

3.24. ***Victimisation*** occurs when a person causes detriment to another on the ground, or substantially on the ground, that the other person (or a third person) has made or intends to make an appropriate disclosure of public interest information.

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4. CONFIDENTIALITY

4.1. The identity of an Informant will be maintained as confidential in accordance with the PID Act.

4.2. A recipient of an appropriate Disclosure may only divulge the identity of an Informant where:

4.2.1. the recipient believes on reasonable grounds that it is necessary to divulge the identity of the Informant in order to prevent or minimise an imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person, **and** the identity of the Informant is then divulged to a person or authority that the recipient believes on reasonable grounds is the most appropriate authority or person to be able to take action to prevent or minimise the imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person;

4.2.2. the recipient has been issued with a notice from the OPI advising that the identity of the Informant is required by the OPI, in which case the recipient **must** disclose the identity of the Informant to the OPI;

4.2.3. doing so is necessary for the matter to be properly investigated (but only to the extent necessary to ensure proper investigation); or

4.2.4. the Informant consents to his/her identity being disclosed.

4.3. The PID Act does not expressly require any other information relating to a Disclosure (including, for example, the nature of the allegations) to be maintained as confidential, but in considering whether to further disclose other information provided as part of an appropriate Disclosure the Council should be mindful of the prohibition against Victimisation in the PID Act.

4.4. An Informant may wish to remain anonymous, but in that event must ensure that the allegation is sufficiently supported by the provision of necessary details and evidence to enable the matter to be properly investigated.

5. DISCLOSURE PROCESS

5.1. Disclosures are to be handled by the Council in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure.

5.2. Nothing in this Policy prevents a person from making a Disclosure to a Relevant Authority external to the Council (i.e. the Ombudsman or the OPI). This is a choice to be made by the Informant at his/her discretion. The Council recommends an Informant have regard to the factors at clause 6.4 of the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure when deciding where to direct a Disclosure.

5.3. A Disclosure may be made to the Council's designated Responsible Officer(s) in person, by telephone or in writing, including by email. The relevant contact details are:

Chief Executive Officer
Ms Sarah Philpott Phone: 8721 2576259803
Email: sphilpott@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

CEO & Mayoral Executive SupportManager Governance and Property
Ms r Michael McCarthyKate Gilmore Phone: 8721 2576259803
Email: kgilmore@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

Email: disclosure@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

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Address

Confidential
Responsible Officer, Public Interest Disclosure
PO Box 56
Mount Gambier SA 5290

6. ROLE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

6.1. A person designated as a Responsible Officer for the Council:
- 6.1.1. must:
  - 6.1.1.1. receive appropriate Disclosures relating to the Council and ensure compliance with the PID Act, and the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure, in relation to any such Disclosures;
  - 6.1.1.2. make appropriate recommendations to the principal officer of the Council in relation to dealing with Disclosures, including any suggested changes to this Policy or the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure; and
  - 6.1.1.3. provide advice to officer and employees of the Council in relation to the administration of the PID Act; and
  - 6.1.1.4. complete any training courses approved by the Commissioner for the purposes of the Public Interest Disclosure Regulations; and
- 6.1.2. may carry out any other functions relating to the PID Act.

6.2. Upon the receipt of a Disclosure, the Responsible Officer will deal with the disclosure in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure.

6.3. In making any determination or taking any action under this Policy or pursuant to the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure:
- 6.3.1. the Responsible Officer may seek legal advice from Council's lawyers and/or guidance from SAPOL or the Ombudsman in relation to the most appropriate course of action to pursue; and
- 6.3.2. is authorised to incur costs in accordance with the Council's Budget for that purpose.

6.4. The Responsible Officer will liaise as required with the Informant and any Independent Assessor in relation to any investigation process undertaken in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure, and will ensure that the Informant is provided with support and protection as necessary and appropriate in the circumstances of the Disclosure.

7. INFORMATION TO ELECTED BODY

7.1. As a matter of discretion, the Chief Executive Officer may inform the elected body, on a confidential basis, of the fact that an investigation of a Disclosure took place and the outcome of the investigation.

7.2. Factors the Chief Executive Officer will take into account in determining whether to inform the elected body under paragraph 7.1 above and the level of detail provided in doing so are to include:
- 7.2.1. if known, the identity of the Informant, and whether the Informant has consented to his/her identity being divulged;
- 7.2.2. if applicable, the identity of any person the subject of the Disclosure;
- 7.2.3. the impact (if any) of the investigation upon the Council's achievement of its objectives under its Strategic Plan and/or policies; and

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7.2.4. the impact of any action taken to finalise the matter upon the Council's operations and/or budget.

7.3 In the event the Disclosure and/or any subsequent investigation process is confined to issues that impact only upon Council staff and human resource processes, the Chief Executive Officer will not inform the elected body of the fact of the Disclosure and/or investigation (since these matters fall outside the roles and responsibilities of elected members under the *Local Government Act 1999*).

8. INFORMANT PROTECTION

8.1. An Informant who makes an appropriate Disclosure is protected by:

8.1.1. immunity from criminal or civil liability as provided for in section 5(1) of the PID Act;

8.1.2. a prohibition on disclosure of his/her identity as provided for in section 8 of the PID Act;

8.1.3. a prohibition against Victimisation as provided for in section 9 of the PID Act; and

8.1.4. a prohibition against hindering, obstructing or preventing an Informant from making an appropriate Disclosure as provided for in section 11 of the PID Act.

8.2. The PID Act does not provide any protection to people who knowingly make disclosures that are false or misleading in a material particular (whether by reason of the inclusion or omission of a particular).

8.3. A person who knowingly makes a Disclosure that is false or misleading in a material particular is guilty of an offence and may be prosecuted.

8.4. A person who personally commits an act of Victimisation against an Informant is guilty of an offence and may be prosecuted.

8.5. The Council will take action as appropriate in the circumstances of the relevant Disclosure/s to protect Informants from Victimisation. Such action may include acting in accordance with the risk minimisation steps set out in the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure and/or referring the matter to the SA Police.

8.6. Any Council Member or employee or officer of the Council who:

8.6.1. knowingly makes a disclosure that is false or misleading in a material particular; or

8.6.2. commits an act of Victimisation in relation to an Informant; or

8.6.3. acts otherwise than in accordance with this Policy or the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure (including with respect to divulging the identity of an Informant) in relation to a Disclosure

may also face disciplinary action by the Council or the Chief Executive Officer (as appropriate).

9. TRAINING / EDUCATION:

9.1. It is the responsibility of Council Administration to provide adequate training and support for staff.

9.2. Training will be provided to relevant staff as part of the induction process and be refreshed as and when required.

10. REVIEW & EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed:
- annually; or
- earlier in the event of changes to legislation or related policies and procedures; or
- if deemed necessary by the General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services.

11. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

11.1. This Policy will be available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and on the Council's website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au. Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

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Appendix A

Relevant Authorities

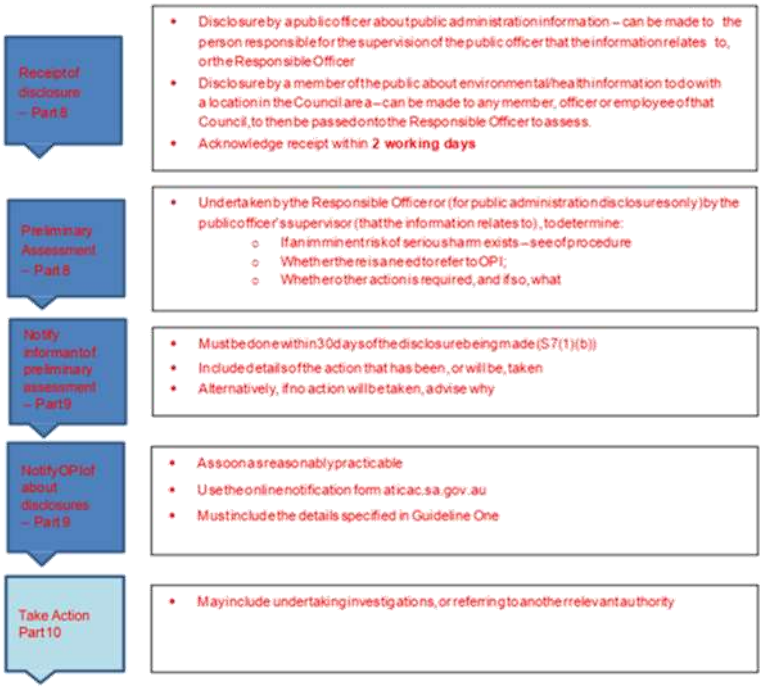
Where the information relates to...	the relevant authority is...
a public officer* *as defined and set out in Schedule 1 of the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012* - relevantly, this includes members, officers and employees of local government bodies	either: the person who is designated by the Guidelines as being taken to be responsible for management or supervision of the public officer; or the person who is in fact responsible for the management or supervision of the public officer; or the relevant responsible officer (as designated by the Council in accordance with section 12 of the PID Act)
a public sector agency or public sector employee	either: the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment; or the responsible officer for the relevant public sector agency
an agency to which the *Ombudsman Act 1972* applies	the Ombudsman
a location within the area of a particular council established under the *Local Government Act 1999*	a member, officer or employee of that Council
a risk to the environment	the Environment Protection Authority
an irregular and unauthorised use of public money or substantial	the Auditor-General
the commission, or suspected commission, of any offence	a member of the police force
a judicial officer	the Judicial Conduct Commissioner
a member of Parliament	the Presiding Officer of the House of Parliament to which the member belongs
a person or a matter of a prescribed class[1]	an authority declared by the regulations to be a relevant authority in relation to such information
public interest information - being: environmental and health information (information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the health or safety of the public generally or a significant section of the public); or public administration information (information that raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration)	the OPI; a Minister of the Crown; or any other prescribed person or person of a prescribed class

[1] at this stage, no prescribed persons or classes have been identified

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Appendix B
Notification Process Flowchart

The Responsible Officer is available to provide advice as to what constitutes an appropriate Disclosure (as per clause 3.6 of this Procedure) having regard to who can make a public interest information Disclosure, what is public interest information and who can receive a Disclosure – refer section 5(3) and 5(4) of the PDI Act 2018 In the event the Disclosure does not constitute an appropriate Disclosure as per clause 3.6 of this Procedure, the person making such a disclosure will be advised that this Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018 Council Procedure does not apply and no further action will be taken, and they will be referred to Council's Complaints Handling Policy



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Notify Informant outcome of action - Part 11	• Must be done within either 90 days of the disclosure being made, or such longer period as specified by written notice given within 90 day period (S7(3)(a)) • Include details of the outcome of the action taken
Notify OPI outcome of action - Part 11	• Use the online notification form at icac.sa.gov.au • Must include the details specified in Guideline Two
If applicable notify Minister re outcome of action – Part 11.6	• Only applicable if the initial disclosure came from/via a Minister (S7(5)(b)(ii))

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File Reference:	AF18/48
Applicable Legislation:	Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018 Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012 Ombudsman Act 1972 Local Government Act 1999
Reference: Community Plan – The Futures Paper	Goal 3, Our Diverse Economy
Related Policies:	Internal Controls Internal Audit Fraud & Corruption Prevention - F225 Privacy - P155 Records Management - R180 Request for Service & Complaints - C200 Risk Management Internal Review of Council's Decisions - C290 ~~W150 Whistleblowers Protection (revoked)~~
Related Procedures:	Public Interest Disclosure Procedure ICAC Public Interest Disclosure Guidelines
Related Documents:	

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DOCUMENT DETAILS

Responsibility:	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Version:	32.0
Last revised date:	162 July ~~December~~ 20243
Effective date:	16 July2 ~~December~~ 20243
Minute reference:	Council Meeting 162 July ~~December~~ 20243, Item ~~## #19.9 -~~ Resolution ~~####2023~~/~~$$$272~~
Next review date:	~~December~~ July 20254
Document History	
First Adopted By Council:	16 July 2019
Reviewed/Amended:	12 December 2023, 16 July 2024

19.7 PROPOSED ITEMS OF BUSINESS - 2024 LGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – REPORT NO. AR24/49253

Committee:	**Council**
Meeting Date:	**16 July 2024**
Report No.:	**AR24/49253**
CM9 Reference:	**AF23/328**
Author:	**Michael McCarthy, Manager Governance and Property**
Authoriser:	**Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services**
Summary:	**The LGA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled to be held on 22 November 2024. This report is presented to enable the consideration of proposed items of business for the LGA AGM.**
Strategic Plan Reference:	**Goal 1: Our People** **Goal 2: Our Location** **Goal 3: Our Diverse Economy** **Goal 4: Our Climate, Natural Resources, Arts, Culture and Heritage** **Goal 5: Our Commitment**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report No. AR24/49253 titled ‘Proposed Items of Business - 2024 LGA Annual General Meeting’ as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.
3. That, in addition to a proposed item on ‘Ability to raise pro-rata rates’ as resolved in February 2024, draft item/s of business for the November 2024 LGA Annual General Meeting be prepared and presented for consideration at the August Council meeting, on the following matters:

   XXXX
4. That preparations be commenced for draft item/s of business for the 2025 LGA Ordinary General Meeting and 2025 ALGA National General Assembly for consideration at a subsequent Council meeting, on the following matters:

   XXXX

TYPE OF REPORT

Corporate

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) schedules two General Meetings each year for Members to consider items of strategic importance to Local Government and the LGA as submitted to and recommended by SAROC (for regional councils), GAROC (for metropolitan councils) or the LGA Board of Directors (for LGA operational or commercial matters).

These meetings are an important chance for Members to influence the policy direction and priorities of the LGA.

The next LGA Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held on 22 November 2024, with proposed items of business to be received by 5:00pm Friday 30 August 2024 to be considered for the meeting.

Council may also note that its proposed item to the 2024 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) relating to the parental income test for regional students, whilst not formally notified by ALGA to Council, was included in its July 2024 NGA Agenda. At the time of writing this report Council had not received any formal notification from ALGA of the outcome or any action associated with this item of business, however, the item was moved on behalf of the City of Mount Gambier by Mayor Boston, District Council of Grant, and seconded by Mayor Jenkins, Victor Harbor. Mayor Boston advised informally that the resolution was passed at the ALGA meeting.

PROPOSAL

The next Local Government Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled to be held on Friday 22 November 2024.

Notice of the November meeting distributed in the LGA Latest News on 8 July 2024 indicates that proposals for items of business must be received by 5:00pm Friday 30 August 2024. Any item submitted after this date will be considered for the next LGA General Meeting.

At the February meeting Council considered Report No. AR24/9130 titled ‘‘Proposed Items of Business - 2024 ALGA National General Assembly - 2024 LGA Ordinary/Annual General Meetings’ and in relation to the LGA AGM resolved:

> *‘That draft items of business for the October/November 2024 LGA Annual General Meeting be prepared for consideration by Council at a subsequent meeting, on the following matters:*
>
> - *Ability to raise pro rata rates’*

The abovementioned proposed item of business will be the subject of a separate report for consideration.

The purpose of this report is to enable Council to consider whether any other proposed items of business, noting that preparations (including discussion with LGA staff and collation of supporting information to inform recommendations and decisions) are necessary for submission via SAROC.

It is also a timely opportunity to consider any proposed items of business for the 2025 LGA OGM/AGM and ALGA National General Assembly (NGA), for the Administration to make preparatory enquiries and prepare a draft item of business to a subsequent meeting of Council for consideration.It should be noted that Items of Business are to follow the 'Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines' and be submitted on the Proposed Item of Business Form.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

COUNCIL POLICY

N/A

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Members should note that the preparation of a successful Item of Business for an LGA General Meeting (and similarly for ALGA Annual General Assembly items of business) require the matter to be:

- of strategic importance to local government and the LGA
- supported by solid evidence that issues are well understood and the proposed course of action provides the most efficient and effective solution
- in alignment with LGA Policy
- within the resource capacity of the LGA without detracting from achievement of outcomes of greater priority for Members.

Accordingly, Council should consider the administrative resources required to adequately support the preparation of a draft item of business, including it's proposed motion/solution/outcome and (re)allocation (where appropriate) of resources to support preparation of an item of business.

VALUE FOR MONEY

N/A

RISK IMPLICATIONS

N/A

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

N/A

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Council may now determine if further preparations are to be made and presented to the August meeting for proposed items of business for the November 2024 LGA Annual General Meeting, or for subsequent LGA/ALGA meetings in 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

20 MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

20.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - CHILD PSYCHIATRIST AND CHILD DRUG AND ALCOHOL SUPPORT

Meeting: **Council**

CM9 Reference: **AF23/328**

Member: **Paul Jenner, Councillor**

I, Councillor Paul Jenner, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 16 July 2024, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

1. That Council Report No. AR24/48017 titled 'Notice of Motion - Child Psychiatrist and Child Drug and Alcohol Support' as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.
2. That Council write to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Chris Picton MP, Chief Psychiatrist, Dr John Brayley and the head of Mental Health at Mount Gambier Hospital advocating for a youth drug and alcohol service and specialist youth psychologist support for the region in Mount Gambier.
3. A copy of this Motion be sent to Troy Bell MP, Nick McBride MP and The Honourable Clare Scriven MLC.

RATIONALE

We recognise there is not a lot of child psychologists in SA however there is a huge need for help within schools and the community in the lower Limestone Coast. This being acknowledged a better plan for specialist help and ways to get resources somehow needs to be put in place to help social workers and mental health staff in the lower Limestone Coast.

It has become increasingly evident that there is a critical need for drug and alcohol services for children and youth within our community. Following the presentation from Substance Misuse Limestone Coast at a Council Workshop held on Tuesday 11 June 2024 regarding the Planet Youth data, it is clearly an issue that needs to be addressed within our region. Substance abuse among young people poses significant challenges to their well-being and future prospects, and in turn that of our community. Council's Regional Public Health Plan2021-2026 outlines Substance Abuse (tobacco, illicit drugs and alcohol) as a key focus area for Council.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

20.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - CBD MASTER PLAN

Meeting: **Council**

CM9 Reference: **AF23/328**

Member: **Frank Morello, Councillor**

I, Councillor Frank Morello, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 16 July 2024, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

1. That Council Report No. AR24/48173 titled 'Notice of Motion - CBD Master Plan ' as presented on 16 July 2024 be noted.
2. That Council convenes a workshop in August 2024 to progress the master-planning process.
3. That costs associated with the master-plan be considered at or before Budget Review 2.

RATIONALE

The development and activation of Mount Gambier's central business district has been a key council priority for several years. In response, council has developed a CBD Guiding Principles document and last year implemented an activation strategy over summer. A master-plan is now required to form a vision and consolidate ideas into a long term, adaptable framework that will guide growth and change over the next decade.

Considerations would include housing, sustainability, heritage, art and culture, urban design, infrastructure, street linkages, commercial opportunities, and public spaces and places.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

21 URGENT MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

22 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF COMMITTEES

22.1 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 JUNE 2024

22.2 Chief Executive Officer - 12 Month Performance Update

CONSIDERATION FOR EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except the Mayor, Councillors and (Council Officers) be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Agenda Item 22.2 AR24/33762 Chief Executive Officer - 12 Month Performance Update.

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to section 90(3) (a) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to the Agenda Item is:

- information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)

The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the information to be presented and discussed relates to the performance review of the Chief Executive Officer, the disclosure of which would be unreasonable disclosure of personal information relating to the employment of the Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Philpott.

CONSIDERATION FOR KEEPING ITEMS CONFIDENTIAL

1. In accordance with Sections 91(7) and 91(9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the report 22.2 AR24/33762 Chief Executive Officer - 12 Month Performance Update and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under Section 90(2) & (3) (a) be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until 2 years after the initial appointment term and any renewal term of the Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Philpott has elapsed.
2. Further that Council delegates the power to review, revoke, but not extend the confidential order to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of Section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999.*

23 NEW CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

23.1 UPDATE - MITCHELL STREET TREES – REPORT NO. AR24/39130

CONSIDERATION FOR EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except the Mayor, Councillors and (Council Officers) be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Agenda Item 23.1 AR24/39130 Update - Mitchell Street Trees.

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to section 90(3) (a), (g), (h) and (i) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to the Agenda Item is:

- information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)
- information concerning matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the Council does not:
  - breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law,
  - breach any duty of confidence, or
  - breach any other legal obligation or duty
- legal advice
- information relating to:
  - actual litigation, or
  - litigation that the Council or Council committee believes on reasonable grounds will take place,
  - involving the Council or an employee of the Council

The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the matter for consideration includes associated legal advice obtained in relation to the nuisance matters being associated with the subject matter of the report, and attachments which contain third party information for which Council has no express or implied licence to publish and disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to breach a law or duty of confidence in relation to that content.

CONSIDERATION FOR KEEPING ITEMS CONFIDENTIAL

1. In accordance with Sections 91(7) and 91(9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the report 23.1 AR24/39130 Update - Mitchell Street Trees and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under Section 90(2) & (3) (a), (g), (h) and (i) be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until the matter has been considered by Council, with Resolutions/Minutes to be released immediately following consideration by Council, the covering report AR24/39130 and attachments (1, 2, 3 and 4) be retained in confidence and reviewed annually in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999.
2. Further that Council delegates the power to review, revoke, but not extend the confidential order to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of Section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999.*

23.2 TENDER AF17/59 - PROCUREMENT - RECEIVAL OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS – REPORT NO. AR24/49283

CONSIDERATION FOR EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except the Mayor, Councillors and (Council Officers) be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Agenda Item 23.2 AR24/49283 Tender AF17/59 - Procurement - Receival of Recyclable Materials.

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to section 90(3) (k) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to the Agenda Item is:

- tenders for the:
  - supply of goods, or
  - the provision of services, or
  - the carrying out of works

The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because tenders for the supply of goods, or the provision of services, or the carrying out of works.

CONSIDERATION FOR KEEPING ITEMS CONFIDENTIAL

1. In accordance with Sections 91(7) and 91(9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the report 23.2 AR24/49283 Tender AF17/59 - Procurement - Receival of Recyclable Materials and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under Section 90(2) & (3) (k) be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until 12 months after the completion of the tender works, with the name of the successful tenderer and the tender contract value to be disclosed following execution of a contract.
2. Further that Council delegates the power to review, revoke, but not extend the confidential order to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of Section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999.*

24 MEETING CLOSE

COMMITTEE MINUTES

AND

REPORTS / ATTACHMENTS

MINUTES OF CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, 10 WATSON TERRACE, MOUNT GAMBIER
ON TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2024 AT 6.02 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM), Cr Frank Morello, Cr Josh Lynagh, Cr Kate Amoroso, Cr Mark Lovett, Cr Max Bruins, Cr Paul Jenner, Cr Sonya Mezinec, Cr Jason Virgo

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Chief Executive Officer	- Mrs S Philpott
	General Manager City Infrastructure	- Ms B Cernovskis
	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services	- Mrs J Fetherstonhaugh
	Manager Governance and Property	- Mr M McCarthy
	Manager Financial Services	- Mrs J Scoggins
	Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement	- Mrs B Shearing
	Strategic Development and Visitor Economy Coordinator	- Mrs A Stevens
	Media and Communications Coordinator	- Ms S McLean
	Manager Engineering, Design and Assets	- Mr A Mahmud
	Manager Operations Infrastructure	- Mr K Manarangi
	Manager Development Services	- Mrs T Tzioutziouklaris
	Para Planner	- Miss B Shaughnessy
	CEO and Mayoral Executive Support	- Mrs K Gilmore
	Councillor Support Officer	- Mrs M Telford
	Executive Administrator	- Ms S Wilson

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BOANDIK PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WHERE WE MEET TODAY. WE RESPECT THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND RECOGNISE THE DEEP FEELINGS OF ATTACHMENT OUR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES HAVE WITH THE LAND.

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2024/104

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 21 May 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

CARRIED

5 MAYORAL REPORT

5.1 MAYORAL REPORT - JUNE 2024

- Memorial Service for Kelvin Smibert
- LCLGA Mayors Catch-up (virtual)
- Overnight stay at Government House including afternoon tea and breakfast with Her Excellency Frances Adamson AC, the Governor of South Australia and Mr Rod Bunten
- LGA Ordinary General Meeting – Adelaide Town Hall
- Mount Gambier 2035 Budget discussions
- Mount Gambier 2035 final Community Panel Session
- Installation of Feast of Vesak Lanterns with Srilankan community
- Radio Interview with Llew Jones – 5GTR FM
- LCLGA Workshops – Destination Development Review and Budget Review
- South Australian Business Chamber dinner at The Barn
- Introductory meeting with Jonathan Navalta, elected member visiting from the Philippines
- Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy – Uniform Presentations
- Elected Member Briefing – Presentation from Mount Gambier 2035 Community Panel
- Meeting with Minister Champion (by phone)
- Catch-up with Adrian Maywald, LCLGA Executive Officer
- Catch up with Mayor Jeff Pope, Mayor of Kingston District Council
- Catch up with tourism staff
- Special LCLGA Board Meeting
- Meeting with David Walker (Flipout / Kaboom Entertainment) and General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
- Meeting with LCLGA Executive Officer, Adrian Maywald
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- Meeting with Mount Gambier Residents and Ratepayers Association
- Meet with LCLGA Destination Development Manager, Kate Napper
- Elected Member Briefing – Strategic Planning Session – Workshop Draft Plan
- Meeting with Michael Kelledy (Kelledy Jones Lawyers) – on behalf of LCLGA
- Radiotherapy Working Group Meeting with new Limestone Coast Local Health Network CEO
- LCLGA Mayors Catch-up (virtual)
- Drop In Sessions x2 – Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget
- LCLGA Special Board Meeting
- Elected Member Briefing – Planet Youth – Presentation by Sophie Boucher (Substance Misuse Limestone Coast)
- Elected Member Briefing – Summer on Watson and CBD Activation Debrief
- Elected Member Briefing – Railway Lands Play Space
- Morning tea with residents of Hallmont Estate

- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- City of Mount Gambier Meeting with Minister Bettison
- LCLGA Meeting with Minister Bettison
- Exhibition Launch at the Riddoch Art Gallery – Clarice Beckett, Natalya Hughes and Beth Kay
- Attend Changeover Lunch Lions Club of Blue Lake Lioness
- CEO Performance Review Committee Meeting
- Special Council Meeting – Budget

RESOLUTION 2024/105

Moved: Mayor Lynette Martin
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

That the Mayoral report made on 18 June 2024 be received.

CARRIED

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cr Josh Lynagh	Meeting with Cr Jonathan Navalta from Umingan, Philippines, along with Mayor Lynette Martin and Shaun Mulick.
Cr Paul Jenner	Riddoch Art Gallery Exhibition Launch - Clarice Beckett, Natalya Hughes and Beth Kay, LGA Freight Forum - Transport Strategy and SA High Productivity Vehicle forum with Department of Infrastructure and Transport.
Cr Sonya Mezinec	Community Panel, Exhibition Opening - Clarice Beckett, Natalya Hughes and Beth Kay - Riddoch Art Gallery.
Cr Frank Morello	Beacon Arts Selection Panel, Community Panel meeting.

RESOLUTION 2024/106

Moved: Cr Frank Morello
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

That the reports made by Councillors on 18 June 2024 be received.

CARRIED

7 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

7.1 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - UMPHERSTON SINKHOLE/BALAMBUL - MASTER PLAN

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Josh Lynagh.

Question

While acknowledging there is still work to be done with Umpherston Sinkhole/Balambul through the master plan, has Council historically or in recent years given consideration to the other Sinkhole just 120m south east of Umpherston/Balambul on private land?

Response

Historically, approximately 25 years ago an approach was made with the previous owners of the site however due to operational requirements access was not possible. There has been no further consideration given to seeking access in recent times.

7.2 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - 2025/2026 LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - TOP WASTE PRIORITIES

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Paul Jenner.

Question

What are the top seven things that are being considered in the 2025/2026 Long Term Financial Plan for the further approximation of the 20% increase in the City of Mount Gambier waste management charge?

Response

In October 2023 Council endorsed a 2023-2030 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.

This strategy identifies 3 key objectives:

- Objective 1: Increase landfill diversion
  - Divert 65% of kerbside materials from landfill by 2030.
  - Minimum of 60% of residences utilise the FOGO service.
  - Sorting of commercial loads prior to arrival at the landfill.
- Objective 2: Provide high quality waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure that support the local economy
  - Develop an infrastructure plan that will encourage efficient and effective resource recovery and waste management through its implementation.
  - Undertaking educational activities to reduce contamination in all three waste streams.
- Objective 3: Financially sustainable waste services
  - Costs do not exceed revenue from the landfill gate fee and waste service charge.

This strategy underpins the Waste and Resource Recovery Masterplan that is currently being developed that will reshape our current waste and resource recovery system and will include:

- Federal and State Government policy changes.
- Site management, service management and improvement strategies.

- Improved Cell design and management.
- Research and Development for:
  - Advanced Leachate Management (including PFAS).
  - LMS Energy - Landfill gas management (flaring and energy generation).
  - Hard waste collection/management.
- Fleet Management.
- Contaminated Waste reduction strategies.
- Community and contractor education.

7.3 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - AIRBNB'S AND LONG TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Kate Amoroso.

Question

Given the apparent number of Airbnb's and other short-term rental approvals in our community, has there been a noticeable uptick in the number of approvals for these types of rentals over the past 24 months and if so how many? How is the Council monitoring and managing the impact of these rentals on our local housing market, including concerns like housing availability, affordability, and neighbourhood stability?

Response

The table below identifies the number of applications for short-term tourist accommodations and detached dwellings within the city of Mount Gambier for the last three financial years.

Financial year	No. of Tourist accommodation	No. of dwellings
23/24	4	84
22/23	3	104
21/22	4	70

As the table above shows council receives a limited number of applications for short-term tourist accommodation in comparison to the number of applications for new dwellings.

- Short-term tourist accommodation if operated on a commercial basis such as from an investment property, development approval is required.
- Short-term tourist accommodation if operated from a private residence such as when someone is away on holidays, development approval is not required.
- The policies within the Planning and Design Code envisage a range of developments within residential type zones with short-term tourist accommodation able to occur.
- Council officers do follow up on enquiries about properties being used for short-term tourist accommodation. This is included in the number of applications identified in the table.
- A lot of work is being undertaken in respect to housing as an issue within Australia by all levels of government and other organisations.
- It is anticipated that change will occur within the housing space over the next few years, of which Council will have a part to play from a number of perspectives.

8 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil resolved.

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 DEPUTATIONS

Nil

11 NOTICE OF MOTION TO RESCIND OR AMEND

Nil

12 ELECTED MEMBERS INFORMATION BRIEFING SESSIONS

12.1 ELECTED MEMBER INFORMATION/BRIEFING SESSIONS FROM 20/05/2024 TO 14/06/2024

RESOLUTION 2024/107

Moved: Cr Mark Lovett
Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

1. That Council Report No. AR23/81514 titled 'Elected Member Information/Briefing Sessions from 20/05/2024 to 14/06/2024' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

13 ELECTED MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Nil

14 COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

14.1 COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS - 21/05/2024

RESOLUTION 2024/108

Moved: Cr Sonya Mezinec
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council Report No. AR23/81541 titled 'Council Action Items - 21/05/2024' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

15 JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE (SECTION 41) COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 MINUTES OF THE JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND HELD ON 12 JUNE 2024

RESOLUTION 2024/109

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Kate Amoroso

That the Minutes of the Junior Sports Assistance Fund meeting held on 12 June 2024 as attached be noted.

CARRIED

15.2 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – REPORT NO. AR24/35733

RESOLUTION 2024/110

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

1. That Junior Sports Assistance Fund Report No. AR24/35733 titled 'Correspondence Received ' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

Cr Frank Morello left the meeting at 6:20 pm

15.3 STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES - AS AT 31 MAY 2024 – REPORT NO. AR24/35735

RESOLUTION 2024/111

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Junior Sports Assistance Fund Report No. AR24/35735 titled 'Statement of Revenue and Expenses - as at 31 May 2024 ' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. The financial statement of the Fund as at 31 May 2024 be received, noting a cash balance of $126,593.90

CARRIED

15.4 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR JUNIOR AND PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND - 01/11/2023 - 31/05/2024 – REPORT NO. AR24/35736

RESOLUTION 2024/112

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Paul Jenner

1. That Junior Sports Assistance Fund Report No. AR24/35736 titled 'Applications for Financial Assistance for Junior and Payments from the Fund - 01/11/2023 - 31/05/2024' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

15.5 ROTARY CLUB OF MOUNT GAMBIER LAKES - YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SPORTS PROGRAM (FORMERLY THE DISADVANTAGED JUNIOR SPORTS PROGRAM) – REPORT NO. AR24/35742

RESOLUTION 2024/113

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Kate Amoroso

1. That Junior Sports Assistance Fund Report No. AR24/35742 titled 'Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes - Youth Empowerment Sports Program (formerly the Disadvantaged Junior Sports Program)' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. The funding be made available to the Member Organisations named below to assist the identified juniors to achieve their fullest participation with the specific purpose donation from the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes – Youth Empowerment Sports Program initiative, to be used in accordance with their respective confidential application:
   (a) Basketball Mount Gambier $600
   (b) Limestone Coast Football Association $300
   (c) Mount Gambier Netball Association $600
   (d) Mount Gambier Swimming Club $300

CARRIED

16 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

16.1 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 JUNE 2024

Cr Frank Morello returned to the meeting at 6:23 pm

RESOLUTION 2024/114

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

That the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024 as attached be noted.

CARRIED

16.2 2024/2025 DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET – REPORT NO. AR24/29751

RESOLUTION 2024/115

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/29751 titled '2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget' as presented on 03 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the Audit and Risk Committee feedback on Council's Draft 2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget and/or the associated processes and risks, as follows:
   - The Audit and Risk Committee acknowledge the significant work Council's administration have undertaken to prepare the Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/2025.
   - The Audit and Risk Committee acknowledge the importance of maintaining financial sustainability and recognises the proposed rate increase is required to support financial sustainability.
   - The Audit and Risk Committee encourage Council to closely monitor the financial performance throughout the year in the context of the financial ratio targets.
   - The use of the average residential rate and the waste service charge by comparison to other Council's should be considered as a guide only.

   be incorporated with the public consultation feedback to be presented to the Special Council meeting to be held on the 18 June 2024 for consideration of the adoption of the Draft 2024/2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

CARRIED

16.3 DRAFT LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025-2034 – REPORT NO. AR24/36612

RESOLUTION 2024/116

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36612 titled 'Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034' as presented on 03 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the Audit and Risk Committee feedback on Council's Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034 and/or the associated processes and risks, as follows:
   - The Audit and Risk Committee recommends that Council considers the future impact of new and upgraded assets on the financial sustainability.
   - The level of financial and operational risk that is posed by waste and the Audit and Risk Committee seeks a further update on waste financial modelling.
   - The Audit and Risk Committee notes that the Long Term Financial Plan financial sustainability ratios are trending in the right direction of the plan.
   - The Audit and Risk Committee notes the importance of the rating review in informing the future rating forecasts in the Long Term Financial Plan.
   - That the outer years of the Long Term Financial Plan be considered in the next version of the Long Term Financial Plan in terms of the application of the 2% sustainability index.

   be incorporated with the public consultation feedback to be presented to the Special Council meeting to be held on 25 June 2024 for consideration of the adoption of the Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034.

CARRIED

16.4 DRAFT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS (AMPS) 2025-2034 – REPORT NO. AR24/37154

RESOLUTION 2024/117

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/37154 titled 'Draft Asset Management Plans (AMPs) 2025-2034' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the Audit and Risk Committee feedback on Council's Draft Asset Management Plans (AMPs) 2025-2034 and/or the associated processes and risks, as follows:

   - Acknowledges the work undertaken to date on asset planning and the increasing maturity of the assets data.
   - Notes the allocation of new planning and delivery of assets in the building and structures asset management plan, and suggests Council consider the proportion of new versus renewal in future iterations of the plan as the asset planning and master planning progresses.
   - Recommends that Council continues to consider any underutilised buildings and structures and notes the strategic work plan projects will inform this consideration.
   - Notes the plant asset management plan and that the plan allows for some redundancy in plant due to difficulty in supply of new equipment and parts.
   - Recommends that future iterations of the infrastructure asset management plans provide a breakdown of proposed recommended expenditure for key asset classes.
   - Notes the variance between depreciation and proposed asset renewal expenditure and recommend that further context to the variation between depreciation and proposed asset renewal expenditure be provided to Council.
   - The Administration provide an update to the Audit and Risk Committee on a half yearly basis on the further refinement of the asset management planning process.

   be incorporated with the public consultation feedback to be presented to the Special Council meeting on 25 June 2024, for consideration of the adoption of the Draft Asset Management Plans (AMPs) 2025-2034.

CARRIED

16.5 UNAUDITED INFRASTRUCTURE VALUATION AS AT 1 JULY 2023 – REPORT NO. AR24/10208

RESOLUTION 2024/118

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/10208 titled 'Unaudited Infrastructure Valuation as at 1 July 2023' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

16.6 POLICY REVIEW - ASSET ACCOUNTING – REPORT NO. AR24/36754

RESOLUTION 2024/119

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36754 titled 'Policy Review - Asset Accounting' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the Asset Accounting Policy as attached to Report No. AR24/36754 having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 12 June 2024 be adopted.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate be authorised to make any necessary changes to the policies arising from this meeting, together with any typographical corrections, amendments to position or organisation titles, and finalisation of the document's formatting that do not materially alter the integrity of the document.

CARRIED

16.7 POLICY REVIEW - RISK MANAGEMENT – REPORT NO. AR24/38120

RESOLUTION 2024/120

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/38120 titled 'Policy Review - Risk Management' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the Risk Management Policy as attached to Report No. AR24/38120 having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 12 June 2024 be adopted.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate be authorised to make any necessary changes to the policies arising from this meeting, together with any typographical corrections, amendments to position or organisation titles, and finalisation of the document's formatting that do not materially alter the integrity of the document.

CARRIED

16.8 RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT JANUARY - MARCH 2024 – REPORT NO. AR24/36616

RESOLUTION 2024/121

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36616 titled 'Risk Management Report January - March 2024' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. That an update on the Leases and Licences and Policy Reviews be presented to the July Audit and Risk Committee meeting.
3. That the environmental compliance inherent risk be increased from high to extreme.

CARRIED

16.9 WORK HEALTH SAFETY (WHS) AND WELLBEING QUARTERLY REPORT - JANUARY - MARCH 2024 – REPORT NO. AR24/36617

RESOLUTION 2024/122

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36617 titled 'Work Health Safety (WHS) and Wellbeing Quarterly Report - January - March 2024' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

16.10 QUARTERLY INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT – REPORT NO. AR24/36613

RESOLUTION 2024/123

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36613 titled 'Quarterly Internal Audit Update Report' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

16.11 DRAFT REVISED INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAM – REPORT NO. AR24/36992

RESOLUTION 2024/124

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36992 titled 'Draft Revised Internal Audit Program' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the Revised Internal Audit Plan as attached to Report No. AR24/36992, having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 12 June 2024, be adopted.
3. That plant and fleet be subject to a future internal audit in a later iteration of the Internal Audit program.
4. That the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate be authorised to make any necessary changes to the Draft Revised Internal Audit Plan arising from this meeting, together with any typographical corrections, amendments to position or organisation titles, and finalisation of the document's formatting that do not materially alter the integrity of the document.

CARRIED

16.12 EXTERNAL AUDIT MANAGEMENT REPORT – REPORT NO. AR24/36615

RESOLUTION 2024/125

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36615 titled 'External Audit Management Report' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

16.13 REVIEW OF 2024 AUDIT AND RISK PROGRAM – REPORT NO. AR24/36971

RESOLUTION 2024/126

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/36971 titled 'Review of 2024 Audit and Risk Program' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.
2. That the revised work program as reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee for the calendar year 2024 (attached) be adopted, with the addition of the presentation of the quarterly budget review to the Audit and Risk Committee following its presentation to the Council meeting.

CARRIED

16.14 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – REPORT NO. AR24/29748

RESOLUTION 2024/127

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Audit and Risk Committee Report No. AR24/29748 titled 'Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report' as presented on 12 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

16.15 Motion - Thank You to Manager Financial Services

RESOLUTION 2024/128

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That the Audit and Risk Committee thank Julie Scoggins, Manager Financial Services for her support and professional expertise provided to the Audit and Risk Committee during her tenure.

CARRIED

17 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

18 BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Nil

19 COUNCIL REPORTS

19.1 DRAFT VISION DOCUMENT - MOUNT GAMBIER 2035: A COMMUNITY VISION FOR OUR REGIONAL CAPITAL

RESOLUTION 2024/129

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That Council Report No. AR24/39050 titled 'Draft Vision Document - Mount Gambier 2035: A Community Vision for our Regional Capital' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.
2. That Council endorse the draft vision document – Mount Gambier 2035: A Community Vision for our Regional Capital for broad community engagement as attached to Report No. AR24/39050.

CARRIED

19.2 RAILWAY LANDS - LEARN TO RIDE, NATURE PLAY AND YOUTH SPACE - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

RESOLUTION 2024/130

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Paul Jenner

1. That Council Report No. AR24/32732 titled 'Railway Lands - Learn to Ride, Nature Play and Youth Space - Community Consultation' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.
2. That Council endorses the final concept plan of the Learn to Ride space as attached to this report AR24/30771 for delivery on the western railway platform at the Railway Lands.
3. That Council appropriately commemorates the contribution made by Mount Gambier Out of School Hours Care to the Learn to Ride project.
5. That community consultation commence on the draft concept plans for the Railway Lands - Nature Play and Youth Space, with community feedback being presented to a future Council meeting for final endorsement.

CARRIED

Pursuant to Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Mark Lovett disclosed a material conflict of interest in Item 19.3.

In accordance with Section 75C Cr Lovett informed the meeting:

Nature of Interest:

My wife is a dog breeder.

Intention to Participate:

I will be leaving the meeting room such that I cannot view or hear any discussion (including questions) or voting at the meeting.

In accordance with Section 75C(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999 Cr Mark Lovett left the meeting at 6:58 pm.

19.3 SUBMISSION - DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT (BREEDER REFORMS) AMENDMENT BILL 2024 CONSULTATION

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm due to a fire alarm causing evacuation of the building.

The meeting resumed at 7:22 pm.

RESOLUTION 2024/131

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

1. That Council Report No. AR24/39003 titled 'Submission - Dog and Cat Management (Breeder Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024 Consultation' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.

2. That the submission Dog and Cat Management (Breeder Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024 as attached to Report No. AR24/39003 be approved, with the addition of a request for a review of the legislation as it pertains to greyhounds on leash in public areas and fenced dog parks.

3. That the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate be authorised to make any necessary changes to the document arising from feedback given at the meeting, and to make minor typographical or formatting corrections that do not materially impact the intention of the submission.

CARRIED

Cr Mark Lovett returned to the meeting at 7:23 pm.

19.4 THIRD QUARTER REPORT ON ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2023/2024 ANNUAL OBJECTIVES

RESOLUTION 2024/132

Moved: Cr Frank Morello
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council Report No. AR24/33473 titled 'Third Quarter Report on Annual Business Plan 2023/2024 Annual Objectives' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

19.5 ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW - PREFERRED STRUCTURE

RESOLUTION 2024/133

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council Report No. AR24/40295 titled 'Elector Representation Review - Preferred Structure' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.

2. That the Discussion Paper pertaining to the Representation Review (Attachment 1 - dated May 2024) be received and noted.

3. That Council determine, in principle for the purpose of the preparation of a draft "Representation Report", the future composition and structure which it believes should come into effect at the next Local Government elections in 2026, be comprised of:

   (a) The Council area be named The City of Mount Gambier.

   (b) No Ward Structure.

   (Note: If a ward structure is preferred, must include proposed structure inc. names/titles of each ward, level of ward representation, and whether area councillors are required in addition to ward councillors)

   (c) A Mayor as Principal Member elected as a representative of the area as a whole.

   (Note: The alternative appointment of a Mayor may only occur by proclamation of the Governor under section 10 or by council in the case of a failed supplementary election

   (d) 8 or 9 Area Councillors.

   (Note: In considering whether to retain, increase or decrease the number of area Councillors consideration should be given to the representation quota relative to other comparable Council's)

4. That a draft “Representation Report” be prepared presenting Council’s proposed/preferred future elector representation arrangement for consideration and endorsement by Council prior to the initiation of the public consultation process.

CARRIED

19.6 NO PARKING BLACKWOOD STREET (NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SIDES) FROM 7:30AM TO 9:30AM AND 2:00PM TO 5:00PM

RESOLUTION 2024/134

Moved: Cr Jason Virgo
Seconded: Cr Kate Amoroso

1. That Council Report No. AR24/39904 titled ‘No Parking Blackwood Street (Northern and Southern Sides) from 7:30am to 9:30am and 2:00pm to 5:00pm’ as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.

2. That further consultation be undertaken with neighbouring businesses.

3. That a further report be provided to Council.

CARRIED

20 MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

20.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - CIVIC CENTRE

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Frank Morello disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 20.1.

In accordance with Section 75B Cr Frank Morello informed the meeting:

Nature of Interest:

I am employed by Country Arts SA, co-owner of the Civic Centre with the City of Mount Gambier.

Intention to Participate:

I propose not to participate in the meeting in relation to the matter.

In accordance with Section 75B(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999 Cr Frank Morello left the meeting at 7:38 pm.

RESOLUTION 2024/135

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council Report No. AR24/40625 titled ‘Notice of Motion - Civic Centre’ as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.

2. That Council schedule an Information Briefing Session with the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Country Arts to discuss the Civic Centre.

CARRIED

Cr Frank Morello returned to the meeting at 7:40 pm.

21 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

22 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

23 NEW CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

23.1 AF24/171 TENDER - PROCUREMENT - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PREMIXED CONCRETE – REPORT NO. AR24/40482

RESOLUTION 2024/136

Moved: Cr Mark Lovett
Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

CONSIDERATION FOR EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except the Mayor, Councillors and S Philpott, B Cernovskis, J Fetherstonhaugh, M McCarthy, J Scoggins, B Shearing, A Stevens, S McLean, K Gilmore, M Telford and S Wilson be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Agenda Item 23.1 AR24/40482 AF24/171 Tender - Procurement - Supply and Delivery of Premixed Concrete.

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to section 90(3) (k) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to the Agenda Item is:

- tenders for the:
  - supply of goods, or
  - the provision of services, or
  - the carrying out of works

The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because tenders for the supply of goods, or the provision of services, or the carrying out of works.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2024/137

Moved: Cr Max Bruins
Seconded: Cr Paul Jenner

CONSIDERATION FOR KEEPING ITEMS CONFIDENTIAL

1. In accordance with Sections 91(7) and 91(9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the report 23.1 AR24/40482 AF24/171 Tender - Procurement - Supply and Delivery of Premixed Concrete and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under Section 90(2) & (3) (k) be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until 12 months after the completion of the tender works, with the name of the successful tenderer and the tender contract value to be disclosed following execution of a contract.
2. Further that Council delegates the power to review, revoke, but not extend the confidential order to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of Section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999.*

CARRIED

23.2 VISITOR SERVICING MODEL - UPDATE – REPORT NO. AR24/31997

RESOLUTION 2024/138

Moved: Cr Mark Lovett
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

CONSIDERATION FOR EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except the Mayor, Councillors and S Philpott, B Cernovskis, J Fetherstonhaugh, M McCarthy, J Scoggins, B Shearing, A Stevens, S McLean, K Gilmore, M Telford and S Wilson be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Agenda Item 23.2 AR24/31997 Visitor Servicing Model - Update.

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to section 90(3) (b) and (d) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to the Agenda Item is:

- information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is
  - conducting business; or
  - proposing to conduct business; or
  - to prejudice the commercial position of the Council
- commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected:
  - to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or
  - to confer a commercial advantage on a third party

The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the information to be considered includes information relating to the personal affairs of persons with whom Council is conducting business including information which is of a confidential commercial nature which, if disclosed, would prejudice the commercial position of the Council and other persons and could potentially

confer advantage on a third party with whom Council is or is proposing to conduct business. The public interest in this matter being considered in open is considered to be outweighed by the public interest in protecting the commercial interests of Council and third parties and not conferring unfair advantage on third parties which could affect Council's capacity to achieve best value for the community.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2024/139

Moved: Cr Max Bruins
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

CONSIDERATION FOR KEEPING ITEMS CONFIDENTIAL

1. In accordance with Sections 91(7) and 91(9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the report 23.2 AR24/31997 Visitor Servicing Model - Update and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under Section 90(2) & (3) (b) and (d) be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until such time that the Umpherston Kiosk and Souvenirs lease has expired including any subsequent actions that might arise in association with these activities, with relevant resolutions to be released to affected parties as considered necessary by the Chief Executive Officer in order to give effect to the proposals contained in the report, and other resolutions to be released publicly as determined appropriate by the Chief Executive Officer as the activities in the report are implemented.
2. Further that Council delegates the power to review, revoke, but not extend the confidential order to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of Section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999.*

CARRIED

23.3 LATE ITEM - UPDATE ON LEGAL MATTER – REPORT NO. AR24/42920

RESOLUTION 2024/140

Moved: Cr Mark Lovett
Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

CONSIDERATION FOR EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except the Mayor, Councillors and S Philpott, B Cernovskis, J Fetherstonhaugh, M McCarthy, J Scoggins, B Shearing, A Stevens, S McLean, K Gilmore, M Telford and S Wilson be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Agenda Item 23.3 AR24/42920 Update on Legal Matter.

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to section 90(3) (f), (g), (h) and (i) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to the Agenda Item is:

- information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the maintenance of law, including by affecting (or potentially affecting) the:
  - prevention, detection, or investigation of a criminal offence, or
  - the right to a fair trial

- information concerning matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the Council does not:
  - breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law,
  - breach any duty of confidence, or
  - breach any other legal obligation or duty
- legal advice
- information relating to:
  - actual litigation, or
  - litigation that the Council or Council committee believes on reasonable grounds will take place,
  - involving the Council or an employee of the Council

The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the information to be considered relates to litigation that has commenced and has been provided to Council on a strictly confidential basis.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2024/141

Moved: Cr Mark Lovett
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

CONSIDERATION FOR KEEPING ITEMS CONFIDENTIAL

1. In accordance with Sections 91(7) and 91(9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the report 23.3 AR24/42920 Update on Legal Matter and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under Section 90(2) & (3) (f), (g), (h) and (i) be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until further ordered by Council or released in part or full by the Chief Executive Officer under delegation, to be reviewed annually.
2. Further that Council delegates the power to review, revoke, but not extend the confidential order to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of Section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999.*

CARRIED

24 MEETING CLOSE

The Meeting closed at 7:55 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 July 2024.

.....

PRESIDING MEMBER

MINUTES OF CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE MAYORAL RECEPTION AREA, CIVIC CENTRE, 10 WATSON TERRACE, MOUNT GAMBIER
ON TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2024 AT 5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM), Cr Frank Morello, Cr Josh Lynagh, Cr Kate Amoroso, Cr Mark Lovett, Cr Max Bruins, Cr Paul Jenner, Cr Sonya Mezinec, Cr Jason Virgo

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Chief Executive Officer	- Mrs S Philpott
	General Manager City Infrastructure	- Ms B Cernovskis
	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services	- Mrs J Fetherstonhaugh
	Manager Governance and Property	- Mr M McCarthy
	Manager Financial Services	- Mrs J Scoggins
	Media and Communications Coordinator	- Ms S McLean
	Communications Officer	- Ms M Brookes
	CEO and Mayoral Executive Support	- Mrs K Gilmore
	Councillor Support Officer	- Mrs M Telford
	Manager Engineering, Design and Assets	- Mr A Mahmud
	Manager Operations Infrastructure	- Mr K Manarangi
	Manager Waste, ReUse and Environment	- Mr J Martin
	Manager Development Services	- Mrs T Tzioutziouklaris
	Para Planner	- Miss B Shaughnessy
	Strategic Engagement & Development Coordinator	- Mr B Kilsby
	Executive Administrator	- Mrs A Pasquazzi

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BOANDIK PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WHERE WE MEET TODAY. WE RESPECT THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND RECOGNISE THE DEEP FEELINGS OF ATTACHMENT OUR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES HAVE WITH THE LAND.

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 COUNCIL REPORTS

The Mayor sought the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting to suspend meeting procedures until 5:55 pm:

Purpose of the Suspension: to discuss the public submissions and allow verbal submissions.

Carried by more than two-thirds of the members present at the meeting.

Meeting Procedures were suspended at 5:06 pm.

Council received a verbal submission from Graham Walkom at 5:09 pm.

Council received a verbal submission from Vivian Hooper on behalf of Shayne Haggis at 5:15 pm.

Council received a verbal submission from Di Ind, President of the Mount Gambier and District Residents and Ratepayers Association at 5:20 pm.

Questions from the public were asked and answered.

Council received a further verbal submission from Graham Walkom at 5:37 pm.

The Mayor determined that the period of suspension should be brought to an end;

Carried by more than two-thirds of the members present at the meeting.

The Period of Suspension came to an end and Meeting Procedures resumed at 5:40 pm.

4.1 2024/2025 DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

RESOLUTION 2024/104

Moved: Cr Mark Lovett
Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

1. That Council Report No. AR24/38805 titled '2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget - Community Consultation Feedback' as presented on 18 June 2024 be noted.
2. That Council notes the written submissions and questions received on the 2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget.
3. That an additional submission was late, received on 17 June, and has been circulated to members via email for their consideration.
4. That Council thanks the organisations and individuals for their written and verbal submissions as presented at the Special Council meeting on 18 June 2024 and notes:
    - The community interest in Wulanda's borrowings, operating costs and performance, and in addition to the information already provided, will provide a first full financial year report within the first quarter of 24/25 with financial and key performance outcomes.
    - Council further notes, that Wulanda attendances and memberships continue to exceed the targets set, with latest attendance figures of YTD 143,531 (annual target 120,000) and memberships of 1,188 (target 600).
    - The community feedback on rating affordability, hardship and capacity to pay, noting that Council's hardship approach is included within the Rating Policy.
    - Interest in further information on the breakdown of expenditure and notes that an additional functional breakdown will be included in the final version of the Annual Business Plan and Budget.
    - The community interest in Council's general operations, communication and transparency and notes that while much of the information requested is in the public arena, it can be difficult to navigate.
    - The importance of waste management in the context both of Council's future master planning, waste service planning but also sound environmental management in line with State Government requirements.

- The importance of effective asset maintenance and careful management of depreciation, and further notes that there has been a significant effort on the conduct of independent valuations, useful lives and condition assessment for Council's major asset classes.
- The interest in how the various strategic documents fit together, and how Council reports against performance, noting that a more comprehensive explanation will be provided in the final version of the Annual Business Plan and Budget.
- Further consideration to all feedback will be given at a workshop prior to the adoption of the final budget.

5. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make minor textual changes to the 2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget to correct typos and errors of fact and to update the Mayoral Message if required in consultation with the Mayor.

CARRIED

Cr Mark Lovett left the meeting at 5:48 pm

Cr Mark Lovett returned to the meeting at 5:55 pm

Cr Mark Lovett left the meeting at 5:55 pm

Cr Mark Lovett returned to the meeting at 5:56 pm

5 MEETING CLOSE

The Meeting closed at 6:00 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Mount Gambier held on 18 June 2024.

.....

PRESIDING MEMBER

Verbal Submission from Graham Walkom

WALKOM - deposition to S.C,M. 18 June 2024

Mayor Martin, councillors and staff,

Executive Summary of my ABP and LTFP submission, May/June 2024

I absolutely appreciate the time you are putting into this council over these very difficult few years.

I do not soft soap my points and I will not start with these comments.

I have put to you a very detailed draft audit submission which you may or may not have considered. It is a very special councillor or manager who can constructively and objectively receive such input from those outside the organisation when substantial internal decisions have already been developed, The usual response is to "Shoot the Messenger" by whatever means can be mustered.

I hope you are reasoning what adjustments can be made to reduce rates back to the 6.2% you unequivocally promised. If you ask if I can see any minor changes for further efficiencies, I must answer no…not minor. but very significant ones.

Rivers of Gold in fact.

Missing from both the projects and services lists of the draft ABP is any justification - no R.O.I no payback period no assessed value to city, environment or people. All items lack a mini E.I.S. assessment if you like…

There are…
54 OpEx Projects for $12.175m from total outgo of $49.8m
60 Services uncosted and undefined, unjustified in any way. Just rolled-up headings.
70 CapEx Projects for $11.275m - from $49.8m

Justification is fundamental to ratepayer understanding and your own decision making. Your own staff are working in the dark without it - they are guessing, 151 staff costing $16.3m without good guidance?

Other fundamentals needed to make decisions but also missing are

Q&A #5 not answered A value for money measure to confirm value to council and ratepayers across all three E.I.S. categories.(Social Environment and Economic)

Q&A #24, 25, 26, 27 no relevant response Periodic independent Services Reviews, both High End and Detailed. Indications are that we (C.o.M.G.) have Never had a total products and services review to check if we should keep doing the same; or if a service is provided well; and who benefits today - all ratepayers, some, few or none? Such reviews should not be done piecemeal as proposed in the ABP.

Most unfortunately your consultation program does not allow time for full and objective ratepayer input, council consideration and adjustment to the ABP.. I am disappointed in that and hope you are too.

If I look at this ABP from another angle…assess the Goals, Objectives and KPI's against the universally used S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time bound requirements) to ensure product and services targets are objective and not subjective (emotion based) there are 61 Subjective and 4 Objective tasks in the draft Annual Business Plan 2024/25

Such a dreadful ratio combined with a lack of a current strategic plan guarantees poor project, product and service outcomes…ratepayers do not believe you when you say we are getting good value. Where is the "lessons learnt" Report on Wulanda

Last year's promise to cap rate increase at 6.2%p.a. for three years was a serious lift in rates that many in this low socio-economic area could not afford without significant life changes to family outgo. They made those adjustments and paid their rates. And now you demand much more. Ratepayer's took your promise seriously, you did not. The Sheriff of Nottingham would be proud.

Q&A #41 Further, and very seriously, council made those promises knowing full well the need to meet the L.G.F.A. loan conditions of early payback and favourable financial ratios by 2027 but disregarded them last year. Again in this current 2024/25 ABP, there is no mention of these draconian finance conditions which effectively mean the L.G.F.A. is telling council what it can and cannot do.

If council really believes that it has to gain extra income via rates, why not impose a Wulanda levy for 2-3 years? Please do not lock in your proposed 18% base rate lift 24/25 + 25/26 permanently.

N.B. The references to the Financial Ratios targets are, throughout the ABP and answers to questions about it, always qualifying that they are targets and NOT mandatory, and this seems to be repeatedly disregarded by council.

I have drafted a motion that directs the CEO to stick to your 6.2% x 3years promise. I hope you as an oath bound councillor can see council has not got it right this time and make that very achievable adjustment.

The ABP omitted the reason why council is pursuing the quick loan repayments that are causing the cashflow and financial ratios issues: this is a very serious omission in the context of the ABP.
The L.G.F.A. seems to now have significant control of council - the tail wagging the dog.

"The C.E.O. is directed to adjust the draft 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget to limit the rise in rates to the promised 6.2% cap made in the 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget and similarly to year 2025/26 in the Draft 2025 -2034 Long Term Financial Plan"

The current situation is yours to correct. Now. Not after ESCOSA whacks us with an adverse report and we forever are seen as bad credit risks. We have already ventured solidly into the areas ESCOSA is concerned about. According to their most recent report viz.

ESCOSA current focus (from their website report of the most recent 17 councils reviewed)

Fourth, future rate expectations need to take account of ratepayer affordability and minimise the impact on the community where possible, particularly where the current economic climate is putting more pressure on many communities' capacity to pay for further rate increases. It is prudent for councils to constantly review their internal costs with a view to finding efficiencies and savings to keep rates as low and affordable as possible over the long term, while demonstrating a commitment and ability to meet community needs and value. Again, while some councils have demonstrated good practices in this regard, it may be of value for the sector as a whole to focus on this area going forward.

Finally, the Commission further observed emerging risks across the sector that require further consideration. These include ***(and reinforce many of my audit items)***

- Poorly drafted long-term financial plans, with little detail around the assumptions underlying the figures presented therein.
- Asset management plans either out of date or not regularly reviewed, causing uncertainty in the condition and useful lives of assets.
- Assets not revalued regularly or within the Commission's recommended timeframe (no later than every four years).
- Underspending on asset renewals leading to increased costs for future renewals, repairs and maintenance of assets (as they deteriorate more rapidly if not properly upkept).
- Over-estimated inflation forecasts which are not in line with the RBA-Based inflation figures, potentially leading to greater rate rise forecasts in the council's long-term financial plan.
- Unrealistic, under-estimated (based on historical experience), unjustified or optimistic forecast of expense growth, which may be difficult to realise in the current macro-economic environment.

Wow, does that look like The City of Mount Gambier or does it look like, well, The City of Mount Gambier?

Cllr Obligations to ratepayers.

59 – Roles of members of councils
Members of council—Chapter 5 Role of members—Part 3

(a) to serve the overall public interest; and
(b) as a person elected to the council—to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers of the council, to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and the council.

Value for Money Measure Explained

value for money is not simply about minimising cost. To use the UK National Audit Office's definition: "Good value for money is the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcomes" where 'optimal' means "the most desirable possible given expressed or implied restrictions or constraints".

VfM challenges in public sector

Defining and measuring value for money is fraught with various challenges in the public sector such as.

- *The public good problem - not always easy to value a public good, because money (cost) is not the only measure.*
- *Cost accounting - how do you do cost accounting in the public sector?*
- *Multiple stakeholders with different and unclear expectations complicate the measurement of value for money.*

Essential: Start with a simple Strategic Plan

Social	*C value*	*Rate and weight a task or project*	
Economic - $ value		*Rate and weight a task or project*	*e.g. energy study*
Environmental	*G value*	*Rate and weight a task or plan*	

S.M.A.R.T. explained

Without concrete goals, you are essentially shooting in the dark trying to improve. S.M.A.R.T. goals are useful because they contain five aspects that help you focus and reevaluate goals as needed. This framework can be helpful for any team trying to practice effective project management. The five aspects of S.M.A.R.T. goals are that they are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. We explore what S.M.A.R.T. goals are and how they can help your team.

S.M.A.R.T. Goals Defined

A S.M.A.R.T. goal is defined by its five key aspects or elements. Without all aspects, you might be goal setting but not effectively creating a plan for success. Let's look at the five elements of S.M.A.R.T. goals.

Specific

Specific goals have a desired outcome that is clearly understood. This might be a sales number or a product rollout goal. No matter what it is, the goal should be clearly articulated so that everyone is on the same page with the objective. Define what will be accomplished and the actions to be taken to accomplish the goal.

Measurable

These are the numbers used with the goal. You need to have a quantifiable objective so that you can track progress. Define what data will be used to measure the goal and set a method for collection.

Achievable

Goals need to be realistic to maintain the enthusiasm to try to achieve them. Setting lofty goals is good, but you may want to break them down into smaller, bite-sized chunks. If the goal is not doable, you may need to first ramp up resources to give yourself a shot at success. Ramping up resources would likely be its own S.M.A.R.T. goal.

Relevant

Goals should be aligned with the mission of the company. Don't set goals just as an exercise for something to do. One way to determine if the goal is relevant is to define the key benefit to the organization.

Time-Bound

Goals should have a deadline. A goal without a deadline doesn't do much. How can you identify success or failure? This is why S.M.A.R.T. goals set a final date. This doesn't mean that all the work is done, but it means that you can evaluate the success of the endeavor and set new goals.

Verbal Submission from Vivian Hooper on behalf of Shayne Haggis

UNOFFICIAL

Dear Council Members,

I am making this submission to express my opposition to the substantial rate rise proposed by the council. My concern lies in the deviation from the core responsibilities of council and instead towards what seems to be an expansion into welfare type services, reminiscent of a third tier of government. This trend, worsening over the decades, is now exacerbated by economic uncertainties and the erosion of the middle class, leading to an unsustainable reliance on government services.

Working-class families attempting to chase the ever-increasing dream of home ownership are being pressured by high interest rates, increasing inflation and taxation, including council rates. The proportion of household incomes dedicated to homeownership maintenance has surpassed wage growth, reflecting both governmental fiscal carelessness and overspending. This ongoing cycle of funding populist projects and services, coupled with an inefficient and costly bureaucracy, unfairly burdens ratepayers.

I advocate that the responsible thing to do is live within our means and work to align community expectations with the finite resources of ratepayers. Rather than resorting to significant rate hikes to finance expansive infrastructure projects and welfare programs, the council should prioritize efficiency and cost reduction especially during these times of economic uncertainty.

Regarding the rationale put forward of aligning our rates with other councils', it is important to consider the unique character of our town and how our vision is to be an affordable place to live. Our affordability, including housing costs, has traditionally been a distinguishing feature that has attracted people to our region. It would be detrimental to relinquish this advantage by substantially increasing rates, potentially signalling a lack of distinctiveness in our council's leadership.

While acknowledging the impact of COVID-19 on expenses, it's essential that the council commits to dissecting the underlying causes. It has been soundly argued that the financial burden stems not from the virus itself but from governmental responses. I urge the council to reflect on lessons learned from these responses to ensure prudent financial management in the future.

The ballooning bureaucracy, consuming over half of ratepayers' charges, demands scrutiny. What value for money do ratepayers receive from this sizable workforce? Are efficiency and user experience actively measured and improved?

Moreover, questions arise from the Annual Business Plan and Budget, indicating potential oversights and inefficiencies in project allocations. Transparency and accountability are paramount, especially concerning project costs and grant assumptions. I would be interested in understanding what measures are being implemented out of the budget to improve these areas? Does the $80,000 for AV systems for council chambers provide the capacity for the livestreaming of council meetings? Does the allocation of $60,000 for IT allow for the collection of customer feedback when accessing a service?

In summary, proposing a substantial rate rise amidst financial hardships necessitates a reassessment of priorities. Fiscal restraint and a focus on core responsibilities are imperative. Streamlining bureaucracy and fostering a conducive environment for community initiatives can achieve desired outcomes without overburdening ratepayers.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours Sincerely

UNOFFICIAL

Verbal Submission from the Mount Gambier Residents and Ratepayers Association

BRIEF FOR PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL ON 17 06 24 5.25pm

On behalf of the MGDRRA I would like to publicly thank the Council for this forum today and thank everyone who is present. We have already acknowledged and recognised the complexity of the issues and commend the staff in attempting to balance competing issues of the budget versus community expectations from their perspectives.

We also note and acknowledge the incredible amount of time & effort that Graham Walkolm has spent in putting in his submission. He has raised many complex issues in relation to the Budget and process. He is obviously far more experienced than myself in these matters. Thank you Graham.

I would like to set the stage for a more global response on behalf of the Association (reflecting the widespread community concern that has been communicated to us over many months)

Our Facebook stats that indicated approx 10,000 reach and engagements in 48 hours when we posted about the proposed draft business plan and budget for 2024/25. There were 3 core issues which were repeated themes which indicated to us about this document felt by members of the community.

1. TRUST
2. COMMUNICATION
3. OPEN AND TRANSPERANT GOVERNMENT

1. TRUST

Wulanda.

The community has expressed grave concerns about the impact of Wulanda on the financial stability of COMG for many years. Council has repeatedly stated that the building of Wulanda would not impact on rates. This would appear to be untrue in the communities eyes. Council has made many promises about maintaining rate increases, yet has broken them with abandon.

a. Mandate

Although the Council has repeated on many occasions that it had a mandate from the community to build Wulanda, the fact of the matter is that the initial advertised cost to the community was approx 9 million. The actual cost to the community was over 40 million.

It is a widely held belief in the community that the impact of this massive loan was hidden by confidentiality provisions applied by Council, and would not have garnered support from the community if the ever escalating cost were disclosed prior to the "breaking of soil".

This has formed a basis of mistrust.

It is inconceivable that the Council plan to pay down over 30 million dollars in loans over 2 years would not have an impact on rates and services. This does not take into account the operating losses, the interest payments or the depreciation on the facility which will further strain the operating budget.

It is our belief that the Wulanda debt and the upcoming ECOSA review is a significant contributory factor in the rate rises and construction of this budget.

Wulanda is built! There is no going back! Many financial decisions were done in secret. The massive debt must be shouldered by the community. The community has a right to know and understand the exact implications of this, the build, the cost shifting, the ongoing running expenses etc. Unfortunately a large part of the community has misgivings about the timeliness and information released by Council to date, and we would encourage the Council to engage an independent auditor to review the figures so that the community can understand the problem and how we need to deal with it. This will go a long way to restoring the trust in Council by the community.

We are also of the opinion that we must live within our means and all discretionary spending should be deferred until we are in a better financial position, rather that just impose a massive rate increase. One example would be the Beacon Art Project.

2. COMMUNICATION

We have stated that in our submission that communication with the community was an issue in this public consultation.

This concern was only partially addressed in the written answers.

We indeed did raise the issue of lack of clarity in the Have your Say page and this was addressed, but it was only a part of our concerns about the process that was undertaken by Council.

The process is flawed in that by Council only responding in writing as part of the agenda for this meeting it does not allow for clarification of issues/questions/responses by the author of the questions until this meeting, and then only for a very limited time and restricted to those who requested to make a submission. The mere timing of the meeting at 5 pm severely limits the members of the community who can attend.

We do not wish to labour the point but we find the process undertaken wanting and flawed. Our recommendation to Council is that this process needs to be reviewed and changes made. It is important that the community is "taken on the journey" so that there is broad understanding of the financial situation that the Council finds itself in and why they need to undertake measures to correct it. This would be a major step forward in eliminating community angst.

3. OPEN AND TRANSPERANT COUNCIL

The Association notes that we have raised this issue on multiple occasions.

We note that Council has conducted multiple information and briefing sessions in developing their plan.

In general we have raised the issue of lack of documents associated with these sessions being available to the public who attend these sessions so they can follow the discussions and arguments in the chamber.

This idea has been rebuffed on many occasions. This along, with lack of minutes with any detail, contributes to the community disquiet about the Council and its obligations for open and transparent local government.

We submit that it is totally within legislation (Council directed meeting procedures) to make the provision of these documents and to increase the detail of the minutes. To use the excuse that "we don't have to by Law" is arrogant and bullish. Just because you don't HAVE to is no justification as to why you shouldn't!

Once again, we wish to reiterate that the community needs to be taken along the journey with ready access to information and understanding of the issues which inform the decisions made. The community need to be part of the journey, not the victims of the journey

We also note previous motions at Council where there were attempts to increase the openness and transparency of Council which were defeated. We find this disturbing to say the least.

MINUTES OF CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, 10 WATSON TERRACE, MOUNT GAMBIER
ON TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM), Cr Frank Morello, Cr Josh Lynagh, Cr Kate Amoroso, Cr Max Bruins, Cr Paul Jenner, Cr Sonya Mezinec, Cr Jason Virgo

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Chief Executive Officer	- Mrs S Philpott
	General Manager City Infrastructure	- Ms B Cernovskis
	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services	- Mrs J Fetherstonhaugh
	Manager Financial Services	- Mrs J Scoggins
	Revenue Coordinator	- Mrs J Scheidl
	Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement	- Mrs B Shearing
	Director Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre and Cultural Development	- Ms A Whatling
	Manager Operations and Infrastructure	- Mr K Manarangi
	Manager Waste, ReUse and Environment	- Mr J Martin
	Media and Communications Coordinator	- Ms S McLean
	Executive Administrator	- Mrs A Pasquazzi

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BOANDIK PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WHERE WE MEET TODAY. WE RESPECT THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND RECOGNISE THE DEEP FEELINGS OF ATTACHMENT OUR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES HAVE WITH THE LAND.

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION 2024/143

Moved: Cr Kate Amoroso
Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

That the apology from Cr Mark Lovett be received.

CARRIED

3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 COUNCIL REPORTS

4.1 ADOPTION OF 2024/2025 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN, BUDGET AND RATING POLICIES

RESOLUTION 2024/144

Moved: Cr Max Bruins
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

1. That Council Report No. AR24/25851 titled 'Adoption of 2024/2025 Annual Business Plan, Budget and Rating policies' as presented on 25 June 2024 be noted.
2. That Council, having considered the public submissions at the Special Council meeting on 18 June 2024 and the feedback provided at the Audit and Risk Committee on 3 June 2024, adopts the 2024/2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget and Rating Policies as attached to Report No. AR24/25851.
3. That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate to make any necessary changes to the 2024/2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget document arising from this meeting, together with any editorial amendments and finalisation of the document's formatting and graphic design that do not materially alter the integrity of the document.
4. That Council revoke the R130 Rates General Matters Policy as the contents have been included in the R105 Draft Rating Policy 2024/2025.

CARRIED

Cr Kate Amoroso called a division.

The declaration was set aside.
Voting by division being:

In Favour: Crs Frank Morello, Josh Lynagh, Max Bruins, Paul Jenner, Sonya Mezinec and Jason Virgo

Against: Cr Kate Amoroso

The Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED 6/1**

4.2 ADOPTION OF VALUATIONS AND RATES DECLARATION YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2025

RESOLUTION 2024/145

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council Report No. AR24/34801 titled 'Adoption of Valuations and Rates Declaration year ending 30 June 2025' as presented on 25 June 2024 be noted.
2. That, pursuant to Section 167(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 1999 Council adopts, for rating purposes for the 2024/2025 financial year, the Valuer General's most recent valuations of the capital values applicable to land within the area of the Council, totalling $6,633,882,400 and that the date of adoption of the valuations is 25th June, 2024.

3. That in exercise of the powers contained in Chapter 10 of the Local Government Act 1999, the attribution of the land uses in the Assessment Record for the 2024/2025 financial year will be in accordance with the categories of land use prescribed by Regulation 14 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2013.

4. That pursuant to Sections 152 (1)(c), 153 (1)(b) and 156 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999 and in order to raise rates in the amount of $24,660,455 the Council hereby declares that differential general rates will apply and will vary according to the use of the land and declares the differential general rates for rateable land within the Council area for the 2024/2025 financial year will be as follows:

   (a) 0.187051 of a cent per dollar of assessed capital value on rateable land of land use category (a) 'Residential', category (g) 'Primary Production' and category (i) 'Other'; and

   (b) 0.5050380 of a cent per dollar of assessed capital value on rateable land of land use category (b) 'Commercial-Shop', category (c) 'Commercial Office', category (d) 'Commercial-Other', category (e) 'Industry-Light', category (f) 'Industry Other' and category (h) 'Vacant Land' use.

5. That pursuant to Section 152 (1)(c)(ii) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council declares in respect of the 2024/2025 financial year a fixed charge on rateable land within the Council area in the sum of $634.65

6. That pursuant to Section 155(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council imposes a Waste Service Charge of $311.00 for the 2024/2025 financial year on all land to which it provides or makes available the prescribed service in order to raise the amount of $4,456,941.

7. That in exercise of the powers contained in Section 69 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 and Section 154 of the Local Government Act 1999, in order to reimburse to the Council the amount contributed to the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, being $1,406,869 differential separate rates based on a fixed charge of an amount that depends upon the use of the land on all rateable land in the Council's area and in the area of the said Board for the 2024/2025 financial year as follows:

   1) $90.55 per assessment on rateable land of category (a) 'Residential', category (h) 'Vacant Land' and category (i) 'Other';

   2) $136.10 per assessment on rateable land of category (b) 'Commercial-Shop', category (c) 'Commercial-Office' and category (d) 'Commercial-Other';

   3) $217.00 per assessment on rateable land of category (e) 'Industry-Light' and category (f) 'Industry-Other';

   4) $398.00 per assessment on rateable land of category (g) 'Primary Production'.

8. That pursuant to section 153 (3) of the Local Government Act 1999 and for the financial year ending 30 June 2025 but subject to the criteria set out in the Annual Business Plan 2024/2025 being met, the Council fixes a maximum increase to the general rate of 15% over the amount of the general rate liability for the 2023/2024 financial year in respect of any rateable land that constitutes the principal place of residence of a principal ratepayer and determines that any amount in excess of the 15% be remitted.

9. That pursuant to Section 181(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council declares that quarterly payment of rates and charges in respect of the 2024/2025 financial year be payable on or before:

   - Friday, 6 September 2024
   - Friday, 6 December 2024
   - Friday, 7 March 2025

- Friday, 6 June 2025

CARRIED

Cr Kate Amoroso called a division.

The declaration was set aside.
Voting by division being:

In Favour: Crs Frank Morello, Josh Lynagh, Max Bruins, Paul Jenner, Sonya Mezinec and Jason Virgo

Against: Cr Kate Amoroso

The Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED 6/1**

4.3 ADOPTION OF LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (LTFP) 2025-2034

RESOLUTION 2024/146

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

1. That Council Report No. AR24/25865 titled 'Adoption of Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2025-2034' as presented on 25 June 2024 be noted.
2. That Council note the Audit and Risk Committee feedback included in this report, and verbal and written submissions received from members of the public considered at the Special Council meeting held on 18 June 2024.
3. That Council adopt the Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034 as attached to Report No. AR24/25865.
4. Council notes that the Long Term Financial Plan includes a list of significant influences and challenges in setting the Long Term Financial Plan on pages 4 - 8 of the Plan, and exclusions from the Plan on page 9, which includes (but is not limited to) inflationary pressures, waste management, asset management (including depreciation), growth, and capacity creation.
5. That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate to make any necessary changes to the Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034 document arising from this meeting, together with any editorial amendments and finalisation of the document's formatting and graphic design that do not materially alter the integrity of the document.

CARRIED

Cr Kate Amoroso called a division.

The declaration was set aside.
Voting by division being:

In Favour: Crs Frank Morello, Josh Lynagh, Max Bruins, Paul Jenner, Sonya Mezinec and Jason Virgo

Against: Cr Kate Amoroso

The Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED 6/1**

4.4 ADOPTION OF ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS 2025-2034

RESOLUTION 2024/147

Moved: Cr Frank Morello
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council Report No. AR24/25866 titled 'Adoption of Asset Management Plans 2025-2034' as presented on 25 June 2024 be noted.
2. That Council note the Audit and Risk Committee feedback included in the report, and feedback received from members of the public from the community consultation as previously provided at the Special Council meeting held on 18 June 2024.
3. That Council adopt the below Asset Management Plans 2025-2034 as attached to Report No. AR24/25866.
   - Asset Management Summary 2025-2034
   - Infrastructure Asset Management Plan 2025-2034
   - Plant and Equipment Asset Management Plan 2025-2034
   - Buildings and Structures Asset Management Plan 2025-2034
4. That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate to make any necessary changes to the draft Asset Management Plans 2025-2034 documents arising from this meeting, together with any editorial amendments and finalisation of the document's formatting and graphic design that do not materially alter the integrity of the document.

CARRIED

5 MEETING CLOSE

The Meeting closed at 6:39 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Mount Gambier held on 16 July 2024.

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PRESIDING MEMBER

MINUTES OF CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, 10 WATSON TERRACE, MOUNT GAMBIER
ON TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2024 AT 4.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM), Cr Max Bruins, Cr Frank Morello, Cr Sonya Mezinec, Cr Josh Lynagh

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Jason Virgo, Cr Paul Jenner, Cr Mark Lovett, Rebecca Hunt (McArthur)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Chief Executive Officer	- Mrs S Philpott
	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services	- Mrs J Fetherstonhaugh
	Executive Administrator	- Mrs A Pasquazzi

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BOANDIK PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WHERE WE MEET TODAY. WE RESPECT THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND RECOGNISE THE DEEP FEELINGS OF ATTACHMENT OUR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES HAVE WITH THE LAND.

2 APOLOGY(IES)

Nil

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Frank Morello
Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

That the minutes of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting held on 16 April 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

CARRIED

4 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

5 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

5.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - 12 MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE – REPORT NO. AR24/33762

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sonya Mezinec
Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

CONSIDERATION FOR EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee orders that all members of the public, except the Mayor, Councillors and S Philpott, J Fetherstonhaugh and A Pasquazzi be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Agenda Item 5.1 AR24/33762 Chief Executive Officer - 12 Month Performance Update.

The Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee is satisfied that, pursuant to section 90(3) (a) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to the Agenda Item is:

- information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)

The Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the information to be presented and discussed relates to the performance review of the Chief Executive Officer, the disclosure of which would be unreasonable disclosure of personal information relating to the employment of the Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Philpott.

CARRIED

The Mayor sought the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting to suspend meeting procedures for 30 minutes:

Purpose of the Suspension: To discuss the Chief Executive Officer 12 month performance update.

Carried by more than two-thirds of the members present at the meeting.

Meeting Procedures were suspended at 4:04 pm.

Cr Josh Lynagh left the meeting at 4:38 pm.

Cr Josh Lynagh returned to the meeting at 4:40 pm.

The Mayor determined that the period of suspension should be brought to an end;

Carried by more than two-thirds of the members present at the meeting.

The Period of Suspension came to an end and Meeting Procedures resumed at 4:46 pm.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Max Bruins
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

CONSIDERATION FOR KEEPING ITEMS CONFIDENTIAL

1. In accordance with Sections 91(7) and 91(9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the report 5.1 AR24/33762 Chief Executive Officer - 12 Month Performance Update and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under Section 90(2) & (3) (a) be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until 2 years after the initial appointment term and any renewal term of the Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Philpott has elapsed.
2. Further that Council delegates the power to review, revoke, but not extend the confidential order to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of Section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999.*

CARRIED

6 MEETING CLOSE

The Meeting closed at 4:46 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee held on

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PRESIDING MEMBER