

Reference: AF12/377

30<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

## MEMBERS

**NOTICE** is given that the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee will meet in the following Meeting Room on the day, date and time as follows:

**Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee**  
(Conference Room – Level 1):

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7:30 a.m.

An agenda for the meeting is enclosed.



**Mark McSHANE**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM

I \_\_\_\_\_,  
(insert name)

have received a copy of the agenda for the ☐ **ordinary** ☐ **special** meeting of the

\_\_\_\_\_  
(insert full name of Committee/Sub-Committee/Board) ☐ Council ☐ Committee ☐ Board

to be held on: \_\_\_\_\_  
(insert date of meeting)

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

I consider that I have a:

☐ **material** conflict of interest pursuant to section 73 (complete and sign below)

☐ **actual** or ☐ **perceived** conflict of interest pursuant to section 74 (complete and sign overleaf)

of the *Local Government Act 1999* ("the LG Act") in relation to the following agenda item:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(insert details - include Agenda Item No, Report Number, Item/Report Subject Title)

which is to be discussed at that meeting.

## MATERIAL

The nature of my **material** conflict of interest is as follows *[ensure sufficient detail is recorded, including the reasons why you (or a person prescribed in section 73(1) of the LG Act) stands to obtain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the consideration of the matter at the meeting of the Council in relation to the agenda item described above]*:

In accordance with section 74(1)(b) I will be leaving the meeting room while the matter is being discussed and voted on.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

In accordance with section 75A(2)(b) I propose ☐ to ☐ not to participate in the meeting in relation to the matter.

## ACTUAL

The nature of my **actual** conflict of interest is as follows *[ensure sufficient detail is recorded, including the reasons why the conflict between your interests and the public interests might lead to a decision that is contrary to the public interest in relation to the agenda item described above]:*

Where I have proposed to participate in the meeting I intend to deal with my **actual** conflict of interest in the following transparent and accountable way *[ensure sufficient detail is recorded as to the manner in which you intend to deal with the actual conflict of interest in a transparent and accountable way].*

OR

## PERCEIVED

The nature of the **perceived** conflict of interest is as follows *[ensure sufficient detail is recorded, including the reasons why you consider that an impartial fair-minded person could reasonably consider that you have a perceived conflict of interest in the matter].*

Where I have proposed to participate I intend to deal with the **perceived** conflict of interest in the following transparent and accountable way *[ensure sufficient detail is recorded as to the manner in which you intend to deal with the perceived conflict of interest in a transparent and accountable way].*

---

Signature

---

Date

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE  
Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7.30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. GOVERNANCE - Committees - Election of Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Presiding Member - Ref. AF11/858
2. GOVERNANCE - Committees - Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee - Call for Nominations - Ref. AF11/858
3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Environmental Waste Management and Education Program – Recycle Right Bin Tagging – Initial Round Follow Up - Ref. AF11/408
4. ENVIRONMENTAL Sustainability Report No. 1/2017 – Environmental Management – Council Carbon Emissions – City of Mount Gambier 2015-2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Ref. AF12/388
5. ENVIRONMENTAL Sustainability Report No. 2/2017 – Environmental Management – Environmental Sustainability Initiatives – Carbon Conscious Community Buildings Program – Ref. AF11/407
6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee - Reports for Information - Ref. AF12/377

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held in the Conference Room, Operational Services Area, Level One of Civic Centre,  
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier, on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7:30 a.m.

### AGENDA

PRESENT: Crs I Von Stanke, D Mutton, P Richardson and S Mezinac

COUNCIL OFFICERS: Daryl Sexton, Director - Operational Services  
Aaron Izzard, Environmental Sustainability Officer  
Carmel Ron, Environmental Sustainability Officer  
Sarah Moretti, Administration Officer - Operational Services

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

### AS OBSERVERS:

**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 Director – Operational Services took the chair for the following business:

#### **1. GOVERNANCE - Committees - Election of Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Presiding Member - Ref. AF11/858**

The Director - Operational Services reported:

- (a) At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 Council confirmed the 1 year appointment of Cr Von Stanke as Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Presiding Member from 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.
- (b) In preparation for the expiry of the 1 year appointment term the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee and Council may now consider the appointment of a Presiding Member for the period from 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

The election of Presiding Member is by the Committee from amongst its own number.

- (c) The following election process is summarised from Council's C410 Conduct of Meetings Policy:

*"If only one nomination is received then that Member is to be declared Presiding Member.*

*Where more than one nomination is received a secret ballot shall be conducted forthwith without debate. Resolutions will be passed to endorse the voting process and appoint the Chief Executive Officer (or any other Senior Officer present at the meeting) as Returning Officer to declare the result and draw lots (if/as necessary).*

- *Any Member present at the meeting may be nominated.*
- *A Member not in his or her seat at the meeting does not vote.*
- *The candidate with the highest number of votes (or where two or more candidates receive the equal highest number of votes to first name drawn in the lot) shall be declared the Presiding Member."*

There is no Conflict of Interest whereby a nominated candidate votes for themselves.

- (d) The Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee may now accept nominations (and conduct a ballot - if necessary) to determine the Presiding Member from 7<sup>th</sup> February

## Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Agenda for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Cont'd...

2017, for a period of 1 year, or otherwise seek nominations for presentation to a subsequent meeting.

- (e) Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee meetings from February 2017 will continue to be scheduled monthly on the same days/times as in 2016.

moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;
- (b) the above process to appoint the Presiding Member for the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee be adopted.

seconded

### **2. GOVERNANCE - Committees - Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee - Call for Nominations - Ref. AF11/858**

- (a) The Director - Operational Services called for nominations for the position of Presiding Member for the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee;
- (b) The following nominations were received:

Cr ... nominated Cr ... to be Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Presiding Member.

- (c) The Returning Officer declared Cr ... be elected to the position of Presiding Member for the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee on and from 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017, for a period of 1 year.

Cr ... took the Chair for the following business:

APOLOGIES: moved the apology received from be  
accepted.

seconded

MINUTES: moved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 be taken as read and confirmed.

seconded

QUESTIONS: (a) With Notice - nil submitted.  
(b) Without Notice -

### **3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Environmental Waste Management and Education Program – Recycle Right Bin Tagging – Initial Round Follow Up - Ref. AF11/408**

The Environmental Sustainability Officer reported:

- (a) The Recycle Right Bin Tagging program began as a trial in Mount Gambier in February 2015 with the support of Zero Waste SA and South East Local Government Association. Since this time the City of Mount Gambier Council has endorsed the continuation of this program and conducted an additional two rounds of the program.
- (b) This program has been supported as it demonstrates a reduction in the number of recycling and waste bins presented with contamination as well as reducing the levels of contamination for each bin. These results are achieved through examining bin contents

## Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Agenda for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Cont'd...

over an 8 week period, each fortnight, and providing direct feedback to each household. Whilst this is labour intensive the initiative has shown to improve recycling behaviours.

- (c) On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016 Environmental Sustainability Officers conducted an uninformed follow up examination on the properties which participated in the initial round of the Recycle Right Bin Tagging Program. The aim of this undertaking was to assess the behaviour change impacts on participants in the long term, as opposed to an 8 week period.
- (d) To assess the behaviour change impacts the results from the last week of the initial round conducted in April 2015 were compared with the results recorded in October 2016.

In the initial inspection the average number of contaminated recycling bins was 36%, which was maintained at 36% when inspected recently. This resulted in a 2% reduction in contamination over the year, due to the slight change in bins inspected.

- (e) The level of contamination presented in recycling bins was recorded at 1.1 initially and changed to 1.3 recently. This resulted in an 18% increase; meaning that recycling bins that still presented contamination, presented a slightly higher level of contamination. This can be due to the subjectivity of the contamination scale and that for the inspections different officers were involved.
- (f) On first inspection, the average number of contaminated waste bins, predominantly recyclables was 25%, which increased to 38% in the recent inspection. This resulted in a 54% increase in contamination across the two inspections. This increase may be due to the waste bins being fuller in the second inspection, and that households and businesses in the area have changed ownership since the initial round.
- (g) As the aim of the program has always been to reduce the contamination in recycling bins and reduce the number of recyclables going to landfill, these results suggest the program has been able to achieve continued reduction in contamination in recycling bins. In regards to reducing the number of recyclables going to landfill, there is some room for improvement, though the results are still lower than recorded at the beginning of the initial program.
- (h) The following table provides an overview of the results recorded during the initial inspection, at the end of the program and as part of the follow up inspection. These results further highlight the positive changes in recycling behaviour and the potential for the Recycling Right Bin Tagging program to achieve positive outcomes for the community:

	Initial Bin Tagging (February 2015)	After 3 rounds of Bin Tagging (April 2015)	Follow up Inspection after 18 Months (October 2016)
Average Number of Contaminated Recycling Bins	62%	36%	36%
Level of Contamination presented in Recycling Bins	1.4	1.1	1.3
Average Number of Contaminated Waste Bins	46%	25%	38%

- (i) It is recommended that based on these results the Recycle Right Bin Tagging program continue and that follow up inspections should be conducted where the second and third rounds were done. This would provide more information on the effectiveness of the program in the long term. Additionally, maintaining ongoing waste education for the community is important to complement the behaviour change impacts for recycling behaviours of the Mount Gambier community.

Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Agenda for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Cont'd...

moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;
- (b) Council continue the Bin Tagging Program.

seconded

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL Sustainability Report No. 1/2017 – Environmental Management – Council Carbon Emissions – City of Mount Gambier 2015-2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Ref. AF12/388**

moved it be recommended:

- (a) Environmental Sustainability Report No. 1/2017 be received;
- (b) Council allocate an amount of \$15,000 in the 2017-2018 budget to purchase foreign carbon offsets to cover the 11,156 GHG's emitted in 2015-2016
- (c) Council engage Dr Tim Moore to assist with the development of a long term carbon mitigation strategy and to review the measuring and reporting approach for the Carbon Report with relevant staff
- (d) Council undertake an ongoing educational campaign regarding organics and recycling in order to divert waste to landfill and improve point source segregation to assist with appropriate waste diversion at the Waste Transfer Centre
- (e) Council continue to investigate the feasibility of a 3 bin kerbside collection system (i.e. weekly organics collection, fortnightly recycling and general refuse collection)
- (f) Council continue to roll out energy efficiency and renewable energy measures within the organisation and the community within budget constraints
- (g) Council continue educational campaigns to assist residents and businesses with reducing carbon emissions across the City.

seconded

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL Sustainability Report No. 2/2017 – Environmental Management – Environmental Sustainability Initiatives – Carbon Conscious Community Buildings Program – Ref. AF11/407**

moved it be recommended:

- (a) Environmental Sustainability Report No. 2/2017 be received;
- (b) Council refer \$30,000 in the 2017/2018 budget, for the establishment of the Carbon Conscious Community Buildings Program.

seconded

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee - Reports for Information - Ref. AF12/377**

The Environmental Sustainability Officer reported:

- (a) Environmental Sustainability Program 2017 - Project Progress



Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Agenda for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Cont'd...

The current table outlining projects for 2017 is attached to the agenda for Members information.

moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;
- (b) item (a) as above be received and noted for information.

seconded

**MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

The meeting closed at      a.m.

30 January 2017  
AF12/377  
SM

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT NO. 1/2017

**SUBJECT:** ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Council Carbon Emissions – City of Mount Gambier 2015-2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Ref. AF12/388

The City of Mount Gambier has made a strong commitment to embrace environmental sustainability. We are continually working towards integrating the principles of environmental sustainability into our organisation, using the Natural Step Framework. Through Council's Community Plan – The Futures Paper 2016-2020, there is a clear understanding of the importance of the City's people, location, economy, climate and natural resources.

Fundamentally, there is an important link across all these areas and the natural environment, and the actions which Council takes in this area will inevitably have a long term impact on the City and the residents who live and work here.

Following the adoption of the Natural Step Framework and through previous investigations including the Limestone Coast (2015) Climate Projections Report prepared by URPS, Council has identified the need to reduce its carbon emissions and work on continued climate change mitigation strategies. In order to begin the process of reducing carbon emissions, measurement is vital. Since 2008 environmental sustainability officers have been measuring the Council's carbon emissions to better understand where effective mitigation strategies can be made.

As in each year, the City of Mount Gambier's corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the 2015-2016 financial year have been calculated, in equivalent units of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>-e). Total emissions have been calculated using information supplied by the Department of the Environment (the National Greenhouse Accounts Factors) and the solid waste calculator created by the Clean Energy Regulator. Only Scope 1 & 2 emissions\* are included in the totals, with Scope 3 being excluded, as per the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting guidelines.

\*Scope 1 & 2 are emissions that an organisation has control over e.g. on-site gas and electricity use. Scope 3 are emissions that an organisation has less control over e.g. street lights and manufacturing of products purchased.

### **Total Emissions**

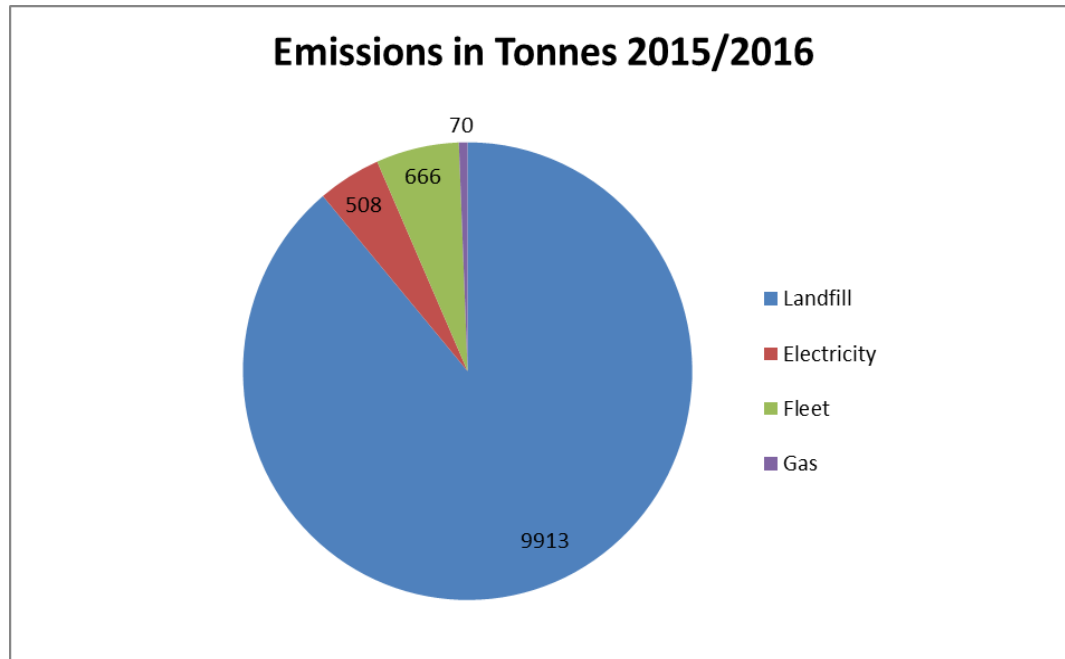
Total emissions for the financial year 2015-2016 were approximately 11,156 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e. That figure includes emissions from electricity, gas, fleet and waste deposited in Caroline Landfill. Details are in Table 1 and Figure 1 below:

*Table 1: City of Mount Gambier Corporate GHG Emissions 2015-2016.*

Source of GHG Emissions	Emissions Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e	% of Total Emissions
Landfill gas emissions	9913	88.9
Fleet (vehicles and plant use)	666	6.0
Electricity (excluding street lighting)	508	4.5
Gas	70	0.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,156</b>	<b>100</b>

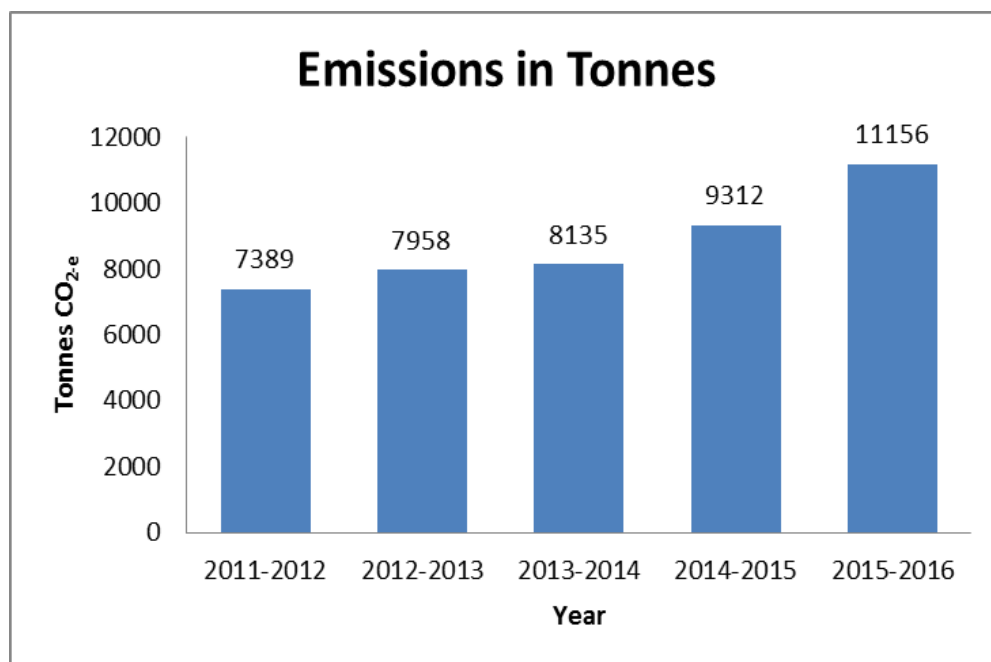
Environmental Sustainability Report No.1/2017 Cont'd...

*Figure 1: City of Mount Gambier Corporate GHG Emissions 2015-2016.*



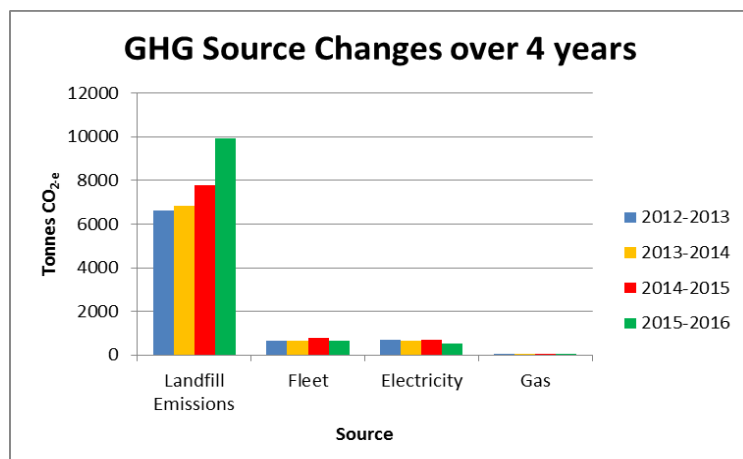
By far the largest amount of emissions came from Caroline Landfill (9913 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e or 88.9% of total emissions), followed by Fleet (666 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e or 6.0%), Electricity (508 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e or 4.5%), and Gas (70 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e or 0.6%). Total emissions were more (19.80%) in 2015-2016 than they were for 2014-2015. GHG emissions in 2014-2015 were 9312 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e. This is due to significant increases in the GHG emissions associated with the Caroline Landfill. Despite this increase, fleet and electricity emissions were reduced compared to 2014-2015.

*Figure 2: City of Mount Gambier Corporate GHG Emissions (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e) for the past five financial years.*



## Environmental Sustainability Report No.1/2017 Cont'd...

Figure 3: Change in greenhouse gas sources over the past four financial years (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e).

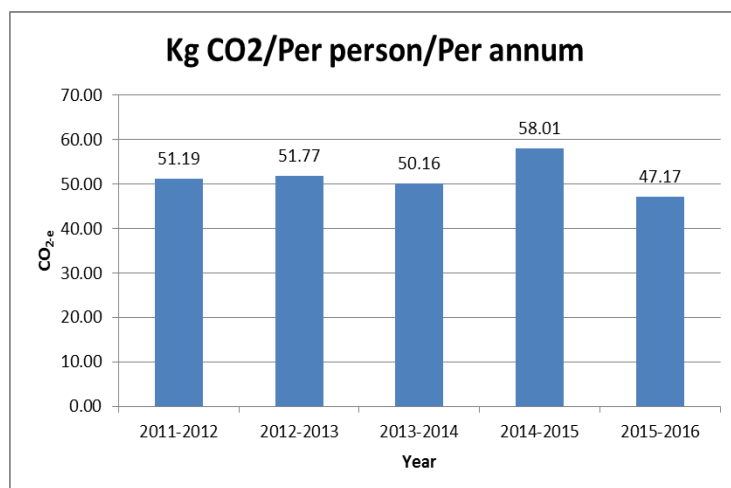


The volume of waste to landfill from the City of Mount Gambier's kerbside collection has remained fairly consistent over the past eight years, so the increase in volume to landfill is mostly coming from waste deposited by external organisations. In 2015-2016, the City of Mount Gambier was directly responsible for sending a total of 8,024 tonnes of waste to landfill (36.8% of all waste sent to landfill) from all sources- kerbside collection, waste transfer centre bins, recycling contamination, council bitumen and street sweepings. Whilst businesses and contractors do service residents and businesses within the City, a portion of the overall amount of waste sent to landfill is contributed by organisations from surrounding areas (Refer to note). With landfill emissions included in the overall total, there is a 19.80% increase in total emissions compared to the previous year.

Emissions from the other sources (Fleet, Electricity and Gas) have collectively decreased by 18.36% compared to 2014-2015 values. This decrease could be a result of the various initiatives which Council has delivered including installation of solar panels, having a higher number of diesel operated plant equipment and refining of our measurement processes over time.

As a relative comparative measure, if emissions are averaged per head of Mount Gambier's population (excluding landfill emissions), that equates to 47.17 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>-e per person for 2015-2016. That is less than the previous three financial years and is a positive trend.

Figure 4: Amount of emissions per head of population for 2014-2015 (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e) (excluding landfill emissions).



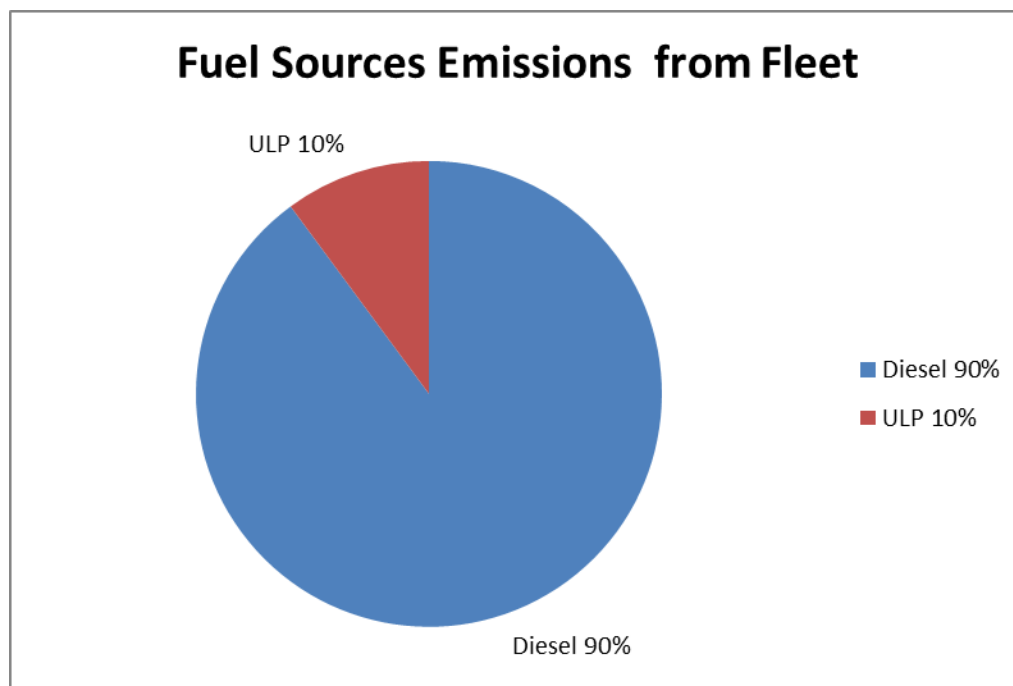
### Emissions from Fleet

Emissions from fleet were the second largest source of Council's emissions at 666 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e, or 6.0% of total emissions. Diesel was the largest component of fuel used (219,892L), followed by

## Environmental Sustainability Report No.1/2017 Cont'd...

unleaded petrol (29,139L). Figure 5 below expresses these figures as a percentage of total fleet emissions. Fleet emissions are lower than in 2014-2015 as a result of less diesel and unleaded fuel being used. Additionally, the higher number of diesel operated vehicles and plant equipment result in lower GHG emissions.

*Figure 5: GHG Emissions percentage from fleet.*



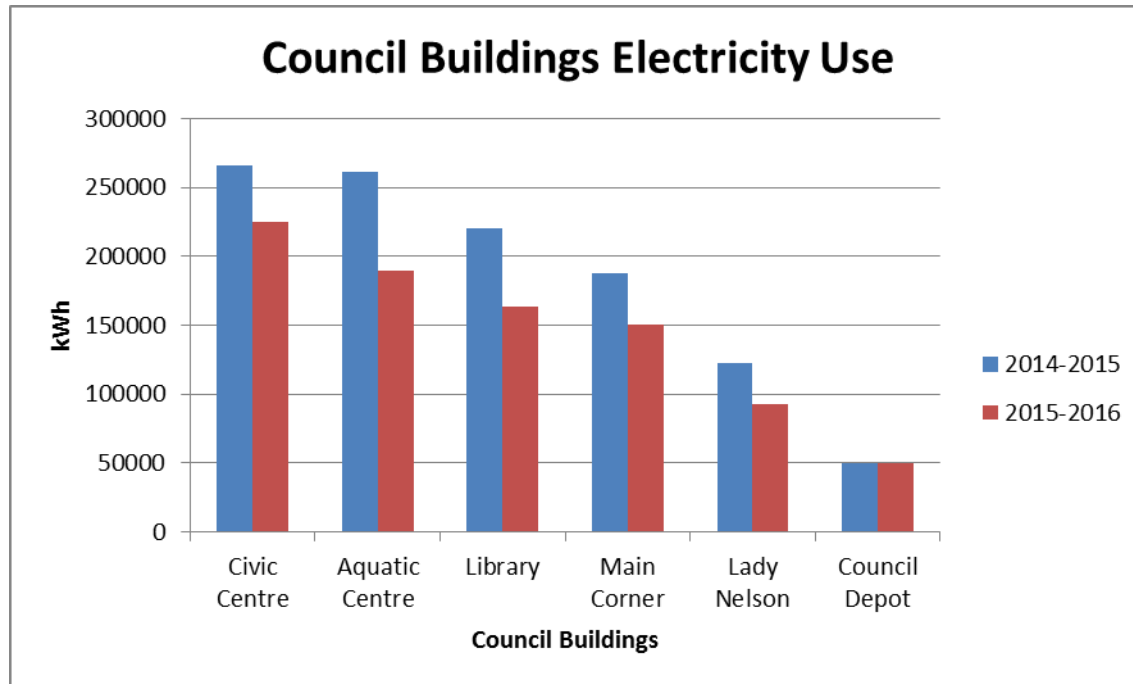
## **Emissions from Electricity**

Emissions from electricity were the third largest source of Council's emissions. This is electricity which is used in Council buildings, as well as public lighting, though excludes street lighting as this is a Scope 3 emission. Council's electricity accounts are 20% green power, resulting in 20% less GHG emissions from Council's electricity use. Electricity emissions were lower than for 2014-2015, which could be a result of more accurate measurement, the installation of a number of solar panel systems and more efficient use of electricity by staff members.

Figure 6 below highlights the six Council buildings which use the most amount of electricity and compares 2014-2015 figures with the 2015-2016 figures. The reduction in the Library's electricity emissions can be explained by the installation of the 57kW solar system which began operating in May 2015. The installation of a number of smaller solar systems on the Council Depot, Waste Transfer Station and Carinya Gardens Cemetery as well as on the Aquatic Centre during 2015-2016 have begun to show promising reductions in electricity use and this should continue and become more clear in coming financial years. It should be noted that the Aquatic Centre is classified as Scope 3, as Council does not pay the electricity bill for this facility – hence this facility does not contribute to Council's GHG emissions total, but is included for comparison purposes.

## Environmental Sustainability Report No.1/2017 Cont'd...

*Figure 6: Building electricity consumption in kWh for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 – six highest users.*



## **Offsets**

Council plants numerous trees in streets and reserves each year. The current tree planting program aims for a net gain of 300 trees per year. That is, 300 extra trees in addition to those trees which are planted to replace an existing tree. The total carbon offsets from these 300 trees equates to approximately 6.6 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e per annum – a minor amount when compared to Council's total emissions of 11,156 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e.

Additionally, Council does not currently participate in an official carbon offsets scheme. In the "Potential for Carbon Neutrality" report presented to Council in 2016; purchase of carbon offsets were considered to offset the GHG emissions produced by Council each year. At the time of the report, it was found that the purchase of foreign offsets, for solar or wind projects, could be as little as \$1.10 per tonne. For the 2015-2016 emissions it could potentially cost \$12,272 to offset the Council's entire emissions for the year. This would be a great step towards taking responsibility for the organisation's contribution to environmental impacts and can be seen as a significant and admirable initiative from the community's perspective.

As described above, the figures in the report are derived from various bills, and using information supplied by the Department of the Environment and the Clean Energy Regulator. Each year the approach can change and depending on the accuracy of the information gathered and guidelines used, the outcome can vary. It is important to re-evaluate and review the method of measurement to ensure the correct figures are being collected and used to calculate the overall carbon emissions. This could be done by an external auditor, with expertise in the area, who could provide guidance on improving the measuring and reporting approach.

## **Conclusion**

According to the Natural Step Framework, which was formally adopted by Council on 20 May 2008, Council should be trending its emissions downwards. The overall trend in emissions is up over the last three years, due to increasing landfill emissions (from an increased amount in waste from contractors and the ongoing decomposition of waste deposited in the past). Fleet, electricity

Environmental Sustainability Report No.1/2017 Cont'd...

and gas emissions are generally trending slightly downwards, which is a positive result, but ideally the trend downwards would be more significant.

Council strives to be a leader in the environmental sustainability field and demonstrate to the community the important role it plays in improving social, environmental and economic outcomes. To this end, there are numerous options Council could implement to reduce its corporate emissions in the coming years.

The action that would have the biggest impact on reducing Council's emissions is ceasing or reducing the amount of major organic wastes sent to Caroline Landfill, and/or reducing the amount of overall waste that is deposited in landfill, including from contractors and surrounding councils. Landfill gas accounts for over 80% of Council's emissions. It is imperative that Council work towards technical and educational solutions which lead to improved point source segregation; diversion of organics and waste from landfill and investigate alternative waste collection methods. If organic waste continues to be deposited into Caroline Landfill, especially if waste volumes continue to increase, emissions will continue to rise. This will ultimately increase the risk of leachate and/or landfill gas contamination, reduce the life of the landfill more quickly, and waste a resource that can be reused (organics can be composted for reuse). Highlighting the role which other councils and contractors play in contributing to the Caroline Landfill emissions and working towards improving this could have a big impact on reducing Council's emissions in the future. Additionally, it could be worth considering alternative waste costing structures to create financial incentives for our community and the region to reduce the amount of waste being sent to Caroline Landfill.

Emissions from electricity should continue to be reduced using the energy efficiency and renewable energy projects yearly budget allocation of \$50,000. This ongoing funding has enabled Council to make some Council buildings more energy efficient through installation of solar panels and retrofitting LED lights. Similar and further actions on a wider range of Council buildings could be developed. These actions deliver financial savings for the City of Mount Gambier and therefore the community which we serve. Additionally, it is vital to consider the importance of reducing our organisations' and our community's energy dependency from non-renewable sources and therefore should aim to maintain and expand the measures which we take to reduce our electricity consumption across our existing infrastructure, through efficiency and behavioural measures.

Emissions from fuel use could be further reduced in a number of ways. Understanding the breakdown of works equipment and office vehicles, as well as the fuel types each unit runs on, can inform better management of the fleet which leads to efficiencies. When fleet vehicles are replaced significant importance should be placed on fuel type and efficiency when selecting new vehicles. Staff could be provided with greater encouragement to walk or cycle to meetings and inspections within a reasonable distance. Council staff who use either the works equipment or the office vehicles should be well educated and informed of the most fuel efficient driving techniques. Additionally, a combination of hybrid and electric vehicles could be purchased on a trial basis. If the trial is successful then this could be rolled out on a broader scale.

Overall a combination of technical solutions should be considered to assist Council in reducing its carbon emissions across its operations. As important, greater education and programs leading to behaviour change are paramount to delivering lasting improvements. As an organisation we should continually be striving to achieve greater results and outcomes for the community, and understanding the influential role we play in acting as a leader in the region will ensure this occurs. As individuals and a community we must work towards reducing our reliance on non-renewable energy and resources and living within our means. Council has a vital role to play in building this resilience within our community.

Council has shown strong support for environmental sustainability initiatives in the past, and with the Community Plan – The Futures Paper 2016-2020, there is continued emphasis on maintaining and building upon existing projects and developing new initiatives to tackle future challenges and seize opportunities which will arise. Delivering these projects and initiatives will

Environmental Sustainability Report No.1/2017 Cont'd...

lead to improved livelihoods of residents, and allow the City of Mount Gambier to be an inclusive city where people live fulfilling lives now and into the future.

**NOTE**

Waste to Caroline Landfill 2015-2016 (Tonnes)

City of Mount Gambier	8024.02
District Council of Grant	1164.75
Wattle Range Council	2666.33
Businesses	155.30
Waste Management Contractors*	9630.12
Special	160.78
Total	21801.3

\*Locations vary from Allendale; Beachport; Bordertown; Coonawarra; Glencoe; Kalangadoo; Millicent; Mount Gambier; Naracoorte; Penola; Port MacDonnell; Portland; Tantanoola; and Wattle Range.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) Environmental Sustainability Report No. 1/2017 be received;
- (b) Council allocate an amount of \$15,000 in the 2017-2018 budget to purchase foreign carbon offsets to cover the 11,156 GHG's emitted in 2015-2016
- (c) Council engage Dr Tim Moore to assist with the development of a long term carbon mitigation strategy and to review the measuring and reporting approach for the Carbon Report with relevant staff
- (d) Council undertake an ongoing educational campaign regarding organics and recycling in order to divert waste to landfill and improve point source segregation to assist with appropriate waste diversion at the Waste Transfer Centre
- (e) Council continue to investigate the feasibility of a 3 bin kerbside collection system (i.e. weekly organics collection, fortnightly recycling and general refuse collection)
- (f) Council continue to roll out energy efficiency and renewable energy measures within the organisation and the community within budget constraints
- (g) Council continue educational campaigns to assist residents and businesses with reducing carbon emissions across the City.

Sighted:



**Carmel RON**  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER



**Daryl SEXTON**  
DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL SERVICES

AF16/24  
19<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
SM

(Refer Item of Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Minutes)



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT NO. 2/2017

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Environmental Sustainability Initiatives – Carbon Conscious Community Buildings Program - Ref. AF11/407

The City of Mount Gambier has a history of strong support for environmental sustainability. Since the establishment of the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee, formerly known as the Environmental Sustainability Working Party, Council has investigated and delivered a large range of initiatives. These initiatives have been to the benefit of the organisation, businesses and the wider community, through individual residents, neighbourhoods and community groups alike.

Following the adoption of the Natural Step Framework (NSF) in 2008, Council has built on its commitment to improving its impacts, taking responsibility and acting as a leader in the area of environmental sustainability. With the four conditions outlined within the NSF, the City has drawn on these to guide future actions which can lead to greater social, environmental and economic outcomes.

The Natural Step Framework conditions are:

*To become a sustainable society we must...*

1. Eliminate our contribution to the progressive build-up of substances extracted from the Earth's crust (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, toxic metals etc.).
2. Eliminate our contribution to the progressive build-up of chemicals and compounds produced by society (e.g. plastics, synthetic chemicals etc.).
3. Eliminate our contribution to the progressive physical degradation and destruction of nature and natural processes.
4. Eliminate our contribution to conditions that undermine people's capacity to meet their basic human needs.

Acknowledging the current and future state of the natural environment and changing climate, it is increasingly important to take steps towards mitigating and adapting to potential impacts. Whilst there is a natural variation in the climate of the Limestone Coast region, the impacts of human influenced global warming will continue to create warmer and drier conditions in the future. This can have direct consequences on the Council and residents, making organisations and the community vulnerable. It is clear that in order to maintain and improve the City's vibrancy, strength of community and clean natural environment, Council must take greater steps to reduce the level of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by the organisation and the community.

The Community Plan – The Futures Paper 2016-2020 further highlights Council's clear commitment to environmental sustainability. It identifies that preserving the environment is an important measure of the quality of life in Mount Gambier. This links in with "Our Climate, Natural Resources, Art, Culture and Heritage" being part of the four key themes. Additionally, Council's aspiration to "educate and support the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption and waste" and to "strive to make Mount

Environmental Sustainability Report No. 2/2017 Cont'd...

Gambier a sustainable place where all citizens are proud to call home” builds upon the foundations put in place over the past decade.

In accordance with the strategy “educate and support the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption and waste”, establishment of the Carbon Conscious Community Buildings Program is being proposed.

The Carbon Conscious Community Buildings Program will aim to investigate and implement energy reduction strategies within Council owned community buildings. Whilst the eligible buildings would be Council owned, the responsibilities of the management of operations within these buildings would be community led. This specification would allow Council to invest in the infrastructure as well as maintain ownership of the added assets. These buildings would be a starting point to provide a direct benefit to community groups who link in with many residents and provide varying services. As part of the investigation the buildings will be assessed to determine the extent of their use, the services the community organisations provide and the holistic positive outcomes which would be achieved for the level of investment required. The mechanism of the project would be similar to the energy efficiency and renewable energy projects fund, which focuses on energy reduction actions rolled out for Council owned Council operated buildings.

As written in the Community Plan, the Council has stated its desire to find innovative solutions to promote and implement sustainable environmental practices and this desire does not end at the Council's doors. It extends across the entire community and encompasses the City as a whole. Council should recognise that it acts as a leader for the community and its role to assist in facilitating the changes it wants within the organisation, but also for the community which it has been created to serve. Whilst educating the community is one form of engagement that leads to behaviour change, it is vital to tackle the challenge of greenhouse gas reductions in various ways.

The Carbon Conscious Community Buildings Program provides an innovative and parallel approach to reducing the City's greenhouse gas emissions, meanwhile encouraging and supporting community led organisations to take responsibility, receive benefits and build resilience. This project would add value to the community through short and long term economic, social and environmental outcomes. Similarly, this project would allow Council to work directly with a wide range of community groups to build rapport and enhance the image and reputation of the organisation locally and regionally. It can be seen as pioneering the concept of Local Government and community group joint renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, and leading the support for bottom-up approaches within Australia. This pathway holds the potential to enable wider community engagement in the area of sustainable living and could be a powerful catalyst for change.

As discussed within the Community Plan – The Futures paper 2016-2020 the City will face challenges in the future and “through considered planning, innovative thinking and a willingness to work together towards a common goal, our future is bright.” To become environmentally sustainable and ensure our future is truly bright Council needs to take its role as an influencer and facilitator of change seriously. Expanding our energy reduction principles to Council owned community buildings is an important step in supporting our community to become more environmentally sustainable and develop stronger connections with residents across our City.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) Environmental Sustainability Report No. 2/2017 be received;

Environmental Sustainability Report No. 2/2017 Cont'd...

- (b) Council refer \$30,000 in the 2017/2018 budget, for the establishment of the Carbon Conscious Community Buildings Program.

Sighted:



**Carmel RON**  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER



**Daryl SEXTON**  
DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL SERVICES

AF16/24  
19<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
SM

(Refer Item        of Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Minutes)

## Environmental Sustainability Program 2017 – Project Progress

**Updated: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Project	Summary	Progress Notes
Salvage Yard	Investigate opportunities for re-establishing a salvage yard in Eucalypt Drive.	On 17 November 2015 Council resolved to abandon the EOI process, and authorise selected staff to liaise directly with potential operators. These discussions are now taking place. A Council run option is also being considered.
Organics Next Steps	Investigate opportunities for reducing the amount of organic waste being put in Council's kerbside rubbish bins.	At the March 2015 Council meeting Council approved the release of 2,000 kitchen caddies with bio-bags to organics bin subscribers in the 2015-2016 financial year. The caddies have all been given out. Bulk buy opportunities for compost bins and worm farms are also being investigated.
Bin Tagging	This involves checking the contents of waste and recycling bins from 150 properties, and give specific feedback about what goes in which bins.	A third round of bin tagging is now complete. Follow up assessment occurred in October 2016.
2017 KESAB Awards	Nominate City of Mount Gambier for numerous categories within the KESAB awards.	The 2017 Sustainable Communities awards will occur later in the year. Any ideas for the 2017 nomination should be forwarded to the ESOs.
Carbon Neutrality	Council endeavours to operate in a carbon neutral environment.	On 19 April 2016 Council resolved that as from 1st July 2017, the City of Mount Gambier endeavour to operate in a carbon neutral environment, including a possible levy and on landfill customers to offset carbon emissions from the landfill. Background work on this matter is being conducted.
Solar Systems – Depot, Transfer Station & Carinya	Install solar systems at these three facilities.	All three systems are now fully operational.
Park & Stride Mount Gambier	The aim of this 12 month project is to encourage community members who come to central Mount Gambier to shop, to park in an off-street car park and walk to shop, rather than drive from shop to shop.	The program has been launched. So far there have been over 770 Facebook page likes, 150 Surveys completed, over 150 people make the public commitment, and thousands of Facebook 'Post Reach'. A variety of prizes have been given including shop vouchers and P&S eftpos cards.
Caroline Landfill Audit	Audit the trucks depositing waste to the landfill to identify opportunities to reduce the amount of recyclables and organics that are being deposited.	Contractors have been contacted to let them know the results of the audit and to find a way forward to reduce contamination.
Efficient Homes Project	This project involves installing temperature loggers in houses constructed of a variety of materials – rammed earth, modern eclectic, modern brick veneer and limestone – and leaving them in situ for 12 months.	All loggers from the 2015-2016 have been collected. Data is being analysed. Also, MEFL are conducting an in-depth analysis of data from previous rounds.
Aquatic Centre Energy Audit	An audit of the electricity use of the Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre. It is anticipated that the auditors will make recommendations for improving the efficiency of the facility, leading to long term reductions in electricity costs.	Follow up investigations are currently being undertaken.
Mount Gambier: Edible City	Run a series of workshops on home food production, from beginner to more advanced topics.	ESO staff gave talks and a workshop as part of the Endless Pleasure program.
Resource Efficiency Review	Review of Council operations to identify what level of	Some initial data received from Finance and suppliers. Analysis of data will

	resources are currently being used, and identify opportunities for increased efficiency.	commence in the near future as the ESO work program allows.
Fruit Tree EOI	Involved working with residents to put a small number of fruit trees in their local reserve.	Fruit trees have been planted in 3 locations.
Smaller Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Smart Living profiles.</li> <li>- Talks at schools and community groups on environment and sustainability topics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Five Smart Living profiles have been completed.</li> <li>- Talks undertaken on an ongoing basis upon request. Numerous radio interviews have been undertaken.</li> </ul>
Environmental Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clean Up Australia Day</li> <li>- Earth Hour</li> <li>- Walk to Work Day</li> <li>- Ride to Work Day</li> <li>- Water Week</li> <li>- Recycling Week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sunday 5 March 2017.</li> <li>- Saturday 25 March 2017.</li> <li>- Friday 6 October 2017.</li> <li>- October 2017.</li> <li>- 15-21 October 2017.</li> <li>- 13-19 November 2017.</li> </ul>
Library Solar Power System	Installation of a 57kW solar system on the roof of the Library, to supply 25-30% of the Library's electricity needs.	The system is now switched on and fully functional. The display inside the library will be switched on in the near future.
Blue Lake Solar Lighting	Involves the installation of solar lights around the footpath around the Blue Lake.	Installation of the lights is now complete. All lights are now operating as designed. Timing issues has been resolved.
Carbon Reporting	Measure and report on Council's carbon emissions for the 2014-2015 financial year. Assess if Council triggers any carbon and/or climate change legislation.	The 2015-2016 report has been completed, and is included with this agenda.
Aquatic Centre Solar System	Installation of a 67kW system on the roof of the Aquatic Centre.	Final SAPN approval has now been received. Installation is currently taking place.
Sustainability Innovation Fund	Fund to encourage local innovation in environmental sustainability.	<p>First round has seen three projects selected for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grant High School, Glenelg Spiny Freshwater Crayfish, \$5,000.</li> <li>- Tension Woods College, Community Fruit &amp; Veg Swap, \$2,500.</li> <li>- Uniting Communities Headspace Mount Gambier, Nature In Mind, \$2,500.</li> </ul> <p>A second round will be held in early 2017.</p>