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**I hereby give notice that a Council Meeting will be held on:**

**Date: Tuesday, 15 February 2022**  
**Time: 6.00 p.m.**  
**Location: Council Chamber**  
**Civic Centre**  
**10 Watson Terrace**  
**Mount Gambier**

# **CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA**

**Council Meeting**  
**15 February 2022**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Philpott", is written over a light grey circular stamp.

**Sarah Philpott**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**10 February 2022**

**26.4 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS –  
REPORT NO. AR22/8463**

**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, discussion and consideration in confidence of Agenda Item 26.4 AR22/8463 Audit and Risk Committee Appointment of Independent Members.

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 of personal information contained in the report as part of the application process.

CONFIDENTIAL

**26.4 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS –  
REPORT NO. AR22/8463**

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>15 February 2022</b>
<b>Report No.:</b>	<b>AR22/8463</b>
<b>CM9 Reference:</b>	<b>AF13/64</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Julie Scoggins, Manager Finance</b>
<b>Authoriser:</b>	<b>Darren Barber, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services</b>
<b>Summary:</b>	<b>This report recommends the appointment of two independent members of Council’s Audit and Risk Committee following the completion of an Expression of Interest (EOI) process.</b>
<b>Strategic Plan Reference:</b>	<b>Goal 1: Our People</b> <b>Goal 2: Our Location</b> <b>Goal 3: Our Diverse Economy</b> <b>Goal 4: Our Climate, Natural Resources, Arts, Culture and Heritage</b> <b>Goal 5: Our Commitment</b>

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to Section 90(2) & (3) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item is:

- (a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

**REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council Report No. AR22/8463 titled ‘Audit and Risk Committee Appointment of Independent Members’ as presented on 15 February 2022 be noted.
2. That Council appoint the following two candidates as independent members of Council’s Audit and Risk Committee:
  - (a) Belinda Johnson; and
  - (b) Alexander Brown.



## TYPE OF REPORT

Legislative

## BACKGROUND

1. Council maintains an Audit and Risk Committee in accordance with the Local Government Act Local 1999 (the Act) Section 126 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 Part 5.
2. Council's Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference (available [www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au](http://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au)) states:
  - 4.1 **Membership** - *Members of the Audit & Risk Committee are appointed by Council. The size of the Committee shall be between three (3) and five (5) members (inclusive) consistent with any Regulations and shall consist of:*
    - At least one (1) Councillor;
    - At least two (2) Independent members.
  - 4.2 **Appointment to Committee** - *Appointments to the Committee shall be for a period of at least two years, reviewed at a common appointment date every two years. The common appointment date for existing appointees is 31 December. Appointees may be reappointed by Council.*
  - 5.1 **Required Skills & Experience** - *Independent Members shall have senior business or financial management/reporting knowledge and expertise, and be conversant with the financial, risk management and governance issues, and have extensive accounting, auditing or legal skills and other reporting requirements of Local Government.*
  - 5.2 **Appointment** - *The appointment of external independent members shall be made by Council resolution following public advertisement in the local newspaper and Council website.*

## PROPOSAL

1. Council advertised for independent members for its Audit and Risk Committee through a request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) process during December 2021 and January 2022. Advertisements were placed through the following media and referred to Council's website:
  - [Linkedin.com.au](https://www.linkedin.com);
  - The South Australian Local Government Finance Managers Group (SALGFMG); and
  - Lifestyle 1.
2. One expression of interest was received from Belinda Johnson during the advertised period (Attachment 1). A second expression of interest was received from Alexander Brown following direct contact after the close of the advertising period (Attachment 2).
3. Both candidates were interviewed by a panel including the following members of the Audit and Risk Committee and Council staff on 18 January 2022:
  - **Councillor Sonya Mezinec** - Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee;
  - **Paul Duka** - Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member;
  - **Darren Barber** - General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services; and
  - **Julie Scoggins** - Manager Financial Services.
4. The panel recommend that both candidates be appointed as independent members considering their extensive knowledge aligned with the required skills and experience as detailed in the terms of reference:



- **Belinda Johnson** – Is a Certified Public Accountant who has worked in local government in Victoria for more than 35 years with a broad range of roles including her current role as the Manager Finance and recently acting as the Director of Infrastructure at Southern Grampians Shire Council. Belinda is also the Vice President of the Victorian Local Government Finance Professionals.
- **Alexander Brown** - Is a Chartered Accountant with 20 years professional experience across local government, disability, aged care and public practice. He has worked within local government since 2012 and currently leads the finance, procurement and risk functions for the City of Unley as the Manager Finance and Procurement. Prior to joining the City of Unley he worked at the City of Adelaide for eight years, including three years as the Manager Financial Planning and Analysis. Alexander is also a member of the SALGFMG Executive Committee.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Council maintains an Audit and Risk Committee in accordance with the Local Government Act Local 1999 (the Act) Section 126 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 Part 5.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

Nil

## COUNCIL POLICY

[T150 Treasury Management Policy](#)

[B300 Budget Framework Policy](#)

[F225 Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy](#)

[P415 Prudential Management](#)

[R105 Rating](#)

[T150 Treasury Management Policy](#)

[B300 Budget Framework Policy](#)

[F225 Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy](#)

[P415 Prudential Management](#)

[R105 Rating](#)

## ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

## SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

## CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Committee is created with the express objective of providing considered advice to Council within the scope of its purpose and reasons for establishment. The two recommended candidates have the required skills and experience to provide that advice.



## VALUE FOR MONEY

Adequate funding is included in the 2021/22 budget for two independent Audit and Risk Committee members.

## RISK IMPLICATIONS

A high functioning Audit and Risk Committee is a valuable resource in Council's overall risk strategy and management.

It should be noted that the two candidates were previously known by members of the panel:

- **Belinda Johnson** - has previously worked with Darren Barber at Southern Grampians Council.
- **Alexander Brown** - has previously reported to Julie Scoggin's at City of Adelaide Council and is a member of the SALGFMG Executive Committee alongside Julie. Alexander was contacted directly regarding the position.

## EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

## ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Nil



## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

New independent members will be provided with initial support via an induction program.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Considering the experience of both candidates and the capacity to appoint two independent Audit and Risk Committee members, it is recommended that Belinda Johnson and Alexander Brown are appointed by Council.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Belinda Johnson - Expression of Interest [↓](#) 
2. Alexander Brown - Expression of Interest [↓](#) 



**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 26.4 AR22/8463 Audit and Risk Committee Appointment of Independent Members, the discussion and the 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 appointments of the audit committee members have been confirmed.

The attachments to the report be kept confidential and that confidentiality 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*.

CONFIDENTIAL

**MINUTES OF CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, 10 WATSON TERRACE, MOUNT  
GAMBIER  
ON TUESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 6.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM), Cr Sonya Mezinec, Cr Kate Amoroso, Cr Max Bruins, Cr Christian Greco, Cr Paul Jenner, Cr Frank Morello, Cr Steven Perryman

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:** General Manager City Infrastructure - Ms B Cernovskis  
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services - Mr D Barber  
General Manager City and Community Growth - Mr T Coote  
Manager Governance and Property - Mr M McCarthy  
Manager Finance - Mrs J Scoggins  
Manager Libraries and Community Development - Mrs G Davison  
Executive Administrator - Ms S Wilson

**OFFICERS AS OBSERVERS:** Chief Executive Officer (*virtual*) - Mrs S Philpott



**26.4 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS –  
REPORT NO. AR22/8463**

**RESOLUTION 2022/39**

Moved: Cr Christian Greco  
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

**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 B Cernovskis, D Barber, T Coote, M McCarthy, J Scoggins, G Davison, S Philpott (*virtual - observer*) and S Wilson be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt, discussion and consideration in confidence of Agenda Item 26.4 AR22/8463 Audit and Risk Committee Appointment of Independent Members.

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 of personal information contained in the report as part of the application process.

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 2022/40**

Moved: Cr Sonya Mezinec  
Seconded: Cr Christian Greco

1. That Council Report No. AR22/8463 titled 'Audit and Risk Committee Appointment of Independent Members' as presented on 15 February 2022 be noted.
2. That Council appoint the following two candidates as independent members of Council's Audit and Risk Committee:
  - (a) Belinda Johnson; and
  - (b) Alexander Brown.

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 2022/41**

Moved: Cr Sonya Mezinec  
Seconded: Cr Steven Perryman

**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 26.4 AR22/8463 Audit and Risk Committee Appointment of



Independent Members, the discussion and the 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 appointments of the audit committee members have been confirmed.

The attachments to the report be kept confidential and that confidentiality 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**

CONFIDENTIAL

