

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 16 September 2025



Minutes of the City of Mount Gambier Ordinary Council Meeting held at:

Time: 6:00 pm
Date: Tuesday 16 September 2025
Location: City Hall
Cave Gardens/Thugi, Mount Gambier

PRESENT: Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM)
Cr Max Bruins
Cr Paul Jenner
Cr Mark Lovett
Cr Josh Lynagh
Cr Sonya Meziniec
Cr Frank Morello
Cr Jason Virgo

OFFICERS IN	Interim Chief Executive Officer	- Mr A Aitken
ATTENDANCE:	General Manager City Infrastructure	- Ms B Cernovskis
	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services	- Mrs J Fetherstonhaugh
	General Manager People, Place and Liveability	- Mr C White
	Manager Governance and Property	- Ms B Shelton
	Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement	- Mrs B Shearing
	Media and Communications Coordinator	- Ms S McLean
	Manager Engineering, Design and Assets	- Mr A Mahmud
	Team Leader Community Events	- Mrs X Keding
	Community Events Officer	- Ms L Golubic
	Executive Administrator	- Ms S Wilson
	Executive Administrator	- Miss T Chant

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 CONDUCT OF THE GALLERY

MEMBERS OF THE GALLERY ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST NOT BEHAVE IN A DISORDERLY MANNER OR CAUSE AN INTERRUPTION TO THE MEETING. WHILST AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS IS PERMITTED, PHOTOGRAPHING, FILMING AND TELEVISIONING ARE PROHIBITED UNLESS EXPRESS PRIOR PERMISSION IS GRANTED BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER. WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE PLACE YOUR PHONES ON SILENT. SHOULD AN EMERGENCY OCCUR AT ANY STAGE, PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF COUNCIL STAFF TO VACATE THE BUILDING.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/204

Moved: Cr Sonya Mezinec

Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 August 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

CARRIED

6 MAYORAL REPORT

6.1 MAYORAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2025

- Meeting with Charlotte Edmunds, LCLGA
- Meeting with Charlotte Varcoe, The Border Watch
- Confidential Elected Member Briefing – CEO Selection Panel
- LCLGA Mayor's Catch-up (virtual)
- LCLGA Special Board Meeting (virtual)
- Fortnightly Meetings with Media and Communications Co-ordinator
- Internal Meeting – Draft Land Management – Tenancy and Occupation Policy
- The Advertiser Bush Summit (Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre)
- LGA Board of Directors Special Meeting and Workshop (virtual)
- Weekly Meetings with CEO
- ABC Adelaide Live Interview - Troy Bell resignation and decision not to call a by-election
- Elected Member Briefing - Introductory Meeting with RDALC CEO - Lauren Oxlade
- Confidential Elected Member Briefing – Update – Lambert Living
- Elected Member Briefing – Grants and Sponsorship Program
- Meeting with Michel Arman BRM Advisory - LGA COP 31 Business Case (virtual)
- Radio interview with ABC Regional Drive's Narelle Graham - decision not to call a by-election
- LCLGA Mayor's Catch-up (virtual)
- Elected Member Briefing – Rating Review
- Elected Member Briefing – Advocacy Plan
- Lifeline SE Out of the Shadows Event - World Suicide Prevention Day (Railway Lands)
- Mayors Christmas Appeal Committee Meeting
- Tony Pasin MP - Big Aussie BBQ
- LCLHN – Tour of Cancer Facility at Mount Gambier Hospital
- RUOK? Day Event
- Meeting with Kelly-Anne Saffin – Cross Border Commissioner
- Adelaide 36er's Game (Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre)
- LGR&DS Advisory Committee Meeting (virtual)
- Tenison Woods College – School Group chambers tours and Mayoral presentation (x4)
- LGA Preferential Voting Webinar



RESOLUTION OCM 2025/205

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

That the Mayoral Report be received.

CARRIED

7 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

7.1 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cr Josh Lynagh	BeArtiful Space and Place Exhibition opening, Mount Gambier Science Fair, Adelaide 36ers vs NBL1 South Select.
Cr Paul Jenner	The Advertiser Bush Summit - Wulanda.
Cr Sonya Meziniec	The Advertiser Bush Summit, Opening of Space and Place Exhibition, Exhibition opening Two Girls from Amoonguna and Thumbprints Memories, Meeting Christmas Parade Advisory Committee, Out of the Shadows Breakfast for World Suicide Prevention Day, RUOK Road Show, Limestone Coast Symphony Orchestra.
Cr Frank Morello	Briefing - Grants and Sponsorship Program, CEO Selection Panel.

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/206

Moved: Cr Frank Morello

Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

That the reports made by Councillors be received.

CARRIED

8 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

9 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

10 PETITIONS

Nil



11 DEPUTATIONS

Nil

12 NOTICE OF MOTION TO REVOKE OR AMEND

Nil

13 ELECTED MEMBERS INFORMATION BRIEFING SESSIONS

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/208

Moved: Cr Jason Virgo

Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

That Council Report titled Elected Member Information Briefing Sessions held since the previous Council Meeting be noted.

CARRIED

14 ELECTED MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Nil

15 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Nil

16 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Nil

17 JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE

Nil

18 BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Nil



19 COUNCIL REPORTS

19.1 2025/2026 GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM - ROUND ONE

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Jason Virgo disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 19.1.

In accordance with Section 75B Cr Virgo informed the meeting:

Nature of Interest:

A work colleague is an applicant on behalf of the RSL Club for the Anzac Day Memorial Services and Parade.

Intention to Participate:

Noting the general conflict of interest publicly.

Reason for Participating:

The action that I am taking is sufficient to address and deal with my conflict adequately by noting this.

I intend to vote and represent the community with my vote as I feel that is important.

In accordance with Section 75B of the Local Government Act 1999 Cr Virgo remained in the meeting for Item 19.1.

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Mark Lovett disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 19.1.

In accordance with Section 75B Cr Lovett informed the meeting:

Nature of Interest:

My son plays basketball in that association.

Intention to Participate:

Declare a general conflict and will participate and vote.

Reason for Participating:

I will participate on this item as well as vote. Although there is a general conflict of interest I have no personal benefit from these grants.

In accordance with Section 75B of the Local Government Act 1999 Cr Lovett remained in the meeting for Item 19.1.

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/209

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

1. That Council report titled '2025/2026 Grants and Sponsorship Program – Round One' as presented on Tuesday 16 September 2025 be noted.
2. That Council acknowledges the endorsed process undertaken by the assessment panel, including the evaluation criteria and methodology and endorses \$135,650 cash plus \$37,546.80 in kind be distributed for Round One of the 2025/2026 Grants and Sponsorship Program.
3. That, in addition to the above-noted awards, Council further allocates the following from remaining Grants and Sponsorship Program funds:
 - i. South East Automobile Club: Legends of the Lake Hill Climb - \$5,000 (cash)
 - ii. Australian International Pedal Prix Inc – Pedal Prix - \$3,000 (cash)
 - iii. Lakes Rotary Club of Mount Gambier - Blue Lake Fun Run - \$2,000 (cash)
 - iv. Limestone Coast Festivals & Events Inc – Fantasy Medieval Fair - \$5,000 (cash)
4. That Council allocates \$90,000 from the 2025/2026 Capacity Building Fund to be wholly available and expendable for Round Two of the 2025/2026 Grants and Sponsorship Program and quick response grants. This will enhance the funding that remains available following the above-noted Round One allocations and the award of quick response grants to date in this financial year.
5. That an Elected Member Briefing be held to discuss the Grants and Sponsorship Program, and that any revisions to Council's currently-adopted policy and procedure for administering the Program be referred to an Ordinary Meeting of Council prior to 2026/2027 financial year.
6. All applicants be notified accordingly, advising that the provision and acquittal of these grant funds will be subject to:
 - (a) all necessary land holder and development approvals being obtained; and
 - (b) all works being completed in accordance with all relevant legislative and compliance standards.
7. That Council commend the work of the assessment panel in formulating recommendations that will support a broad range of important community activities under Round One of the 2025/2026 Grants and Sponsorship Program.

CARRIED

Having participated in the meeting for Item 19.1 Cr Virgo voted in favour the motion.

Having participated in the meeting for Item 19.1 Cr Lovett voted in favour of the motion.

19.2 FOOTPATH ALTERATION FOR ACCESSIBLE ENTRY AT 13 JAMES STREET

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/210

Moved: Cr Jason Virgo

Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

1. That Council report titled 'Footpath Alteration for Accessible Entry at 13 James Street' as presented on Tuesday 16 September 2025 be noted.
2. That Council endorses the proposed alteration of a public footpath at 13 James Street, Mount Gambier for the purpose of providing accessible entry to a private building.
3. That the property owner bear all associated costs for the proposed alteration works.

CARRIED

19.3 REQUEST FOR INTERNAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL DECISION

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/211

Moved: Cr Jason Virgo

Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council report titled 'Request for Internal Review of Council Decision' as presented on Tuesday 16 September 2025 be noted.
2. That Council, having considered the within requests for internal review of council decisions in accordance with section 270 of the Local Government Act 1999 and Council's Internal Review of Council's Decisions Policy C290 determines that, having considered the merits of both Requests #2 and #3, no further action shall be taken.
3. That the Applicant be advised in writing of the outcome, including the reasons for the determination, with reference to the relevant provisions of section 270 of the Local Government Act 1999 and Council's Internal Review of Council's Decisions Policy - C290.

CARRIED

19.4 INTERNAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL DECISIONS, REQUESTS FOR SERVICE AND COMPLAINTS

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/212

Moved: Cr Sonya Meziniec

Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

1. That Council report titled 'Internal Review of Council Decisions, Requests for Service and Complaints' as presented on Tuesday 16 September 2025 be noted.
2. That the Chief Executive Officer or delegate be authorised to include the contents of this report in the Annual Report for 2024/2025, including the prescribed information in accordance with section 270(8) of the Local Government Act 1999.

CARRIED

19.5 OUTSTANDING COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS - SEPTEMBER 2025

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/213

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

1. That Council report titled 'Outstanding Council Action Items - September 2025' as presented on Tuesday 16 September 2025 be noted.

CARRIED

20 MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

20.1 MOTION WITH NOTICE - AMBULANCES, THE MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL AND HEALTHCARE

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Josh Lynagh disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 20.1.

In accordance with Section 75B Cr Lynagh informed the meeting:

Nature of Interest:

I am the Presiding Member of the Mount Gambier and Districts Health Advisory Council which relates to health and the hospital.

Intention to Participate:

I intend to stay in the meeting and vote on the matter. I will not move or second the motion, nor will I be engaging in discussion or debate on the matter.

Reason for Participating:

The action I am taking is sufficient to address my conflict of interest adequately by not moving or seconding the motion.

I intend to vote and represent the community with my vote as I feel that is important.

In accordance with Section 75B of the Local Government Act 1999 Cr Lynagh remained in the meeting for Item 20.1.

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Paul Jenner disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 20.1.

In accordance with Section 75B Cr Jenner informed the meeting:

Nature of Interest:

My wife Caroline Jenner works for Country Health Connect.

Intention to Participate:

I will participate in the debate.

Reason for Participating:

My common interest in GPs, Ambulances and Healthcare in the hospital is the same as the community as a whole.

In accordance with Section 75B of the Local Government Act 1999 Cr Jenner remained in the meeting for Item 20.1.

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/214

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

1. That the motion from Cr Paul Jenner as presented on Tuesday 16 September 2025 be noted.
2. That Council collaborate with the State government in advocating to the Federal government that investment in urgent care and primary health services in Mount Gambier is required to ensure equitable and timely access to healthcare for the community.
3. That, pursuant to the above, Council identify its community healthcare priorities for inclusion in its forthcoming Advocacy Plan.
4. That Council write to the Limestone Coast Local Health Network to establish the numbers of 'Delayed Transfers' at the Mount Gambier hospital, with numbers over the past 3 years.

CARRIED

Having participated in the meeting for Item 20.1 Cr Lynagh voted in favour the motion.

Having participated in the meeting for Item 20.1 Cr Jenner voted in favour of the motion.

21 URGENT MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

21.1 APPOINTMENT TO THE GROUP TRAINING EMPLOYMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pursuant to Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Paul Jenner disclosed a material conflict of interest in Item 21.1.

In accordance with Section 75B Cr Jenner informed the meeting:

Nature of Interest:

I am a City Councillor and wish to nominate for the directors role and receive some gifts and a dinner at Christmas time for the role.

In accordance with Section 75C of the Local Government Act 1999 Cr Jenner left the meeting at 6:41pm.

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/215

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

1. That Council report titled 'Appointment to the Group Training Employment Board of Directors' as presented on 16 September 2025 be noted.
2. That Council elects to nominate a representative to the Group Training Employment Board of Directors at the October 2025 Annual General Meeting.
3. That Council nominates Cr Paul Jenner to the Group Training Employment Board of Directors position.

CARRIED

Cr Jenner returned to the meeting at 6:43pm.



22 NEW CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

22.1 UPDATE ON LEGAL MATTER

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/216

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

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 A Aitken, B Cernovskis, J Fetherstonhaugh, C White, B Shelton, S McLean, B Shearing, A Mahmud, S Wilson and T Chant be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Update on Legal Matter.

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to section 90(3) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to the Agenda Item is:

(f)	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.
(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.
(h)	legal advice.
(i)	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 OCM 2025/218

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

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 Update on Legal Matter and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under:



(f)	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.
(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.
(h)	legal advice.
(i)	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.

2. 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.

3. 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

22.2 OUTSTANDING CONFIDENTIAL COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS - SEPTEMBER 2025

RESOLUTION OCM 2025/219

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh

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 A Aitken, B Cernovskis, J Fetherstonhaugh, C White, B Shelton, S McLean, B Shearing, A Mahmud, S Wilson and T Chant be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Outstanding Confidential Council Action Items - September 2025.

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to section 90(3) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to the Agenda Item is:

- (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.

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 where all outstanding actions included in the within report are confidential in their own right, being subject to their own respective confidential orders, and Council has a duty to maintain that confidentiality.

CARRIED



RESOLUTION OCM 2025/221

Moved: Cr Mark Lovett

Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

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 Outstanding Confidential Council Action Items - September 2025 and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under:

(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.

2. be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until such time as each outstanding action detailed in the report has been released from confidence respectively, and that the order be reviewed every 12 months.
3. 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 MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 6:46pm.

The minutes of this meeting confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 October 2025.

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MAYOR

