

# AGENDA

## Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 15 July 2025

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

**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Date:** Tuesday 15 July 2025  
**Location:** City Hall, Watson Terrace  
Enter via Cave Garden/Thugi



Sarah Philpott  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
11 July 2025

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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 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**

That the apology from Cr Sonya Meziniec and Cr Frank Morello be received.

## **4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

## **5 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **5.1 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 June 2025, Special Council Meeting held on 17 June 2025 and Special Council Meeting held on 24 June 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

## **6 MAYORAL REPORT**

### **6.1 MAYORAL REPORT - JULY 2025**

- Introductory meeting with Jacinta Robinson – Womens Legal Service
- Presentation by the Local Government Grants Commission
- Development Management Plan engagement workshop (with General Manager People, Place and Liveability)
- Photo opportunity – Don McDonnell Reserve – regional public transport review submission
- Catch up with Colin Byles, Interim Executive Officer, LCLGA
- LGA Board Update (virtual)
- Dancers Deb Ball – presentation of Debutantes (The Barn)
- Presentation to EQUIP, Candidate Training Workshop attendees – journey into politics
- Lions Club of Blue Lake City Lioness Changeover Dinner (Blue Lake Bar & Bistro)



- Introductory meeting – CEO Recruitment Consultants (with General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services) (virtual)
- Connecting Settlement, Community and Industry Stakeholders Forum (Mount Gambier Migrant Resource Centre)
- Introductory meeting with Department of Home Affairs, Community Engagement Team
- Weekly meetings with CEO
- Elected Member Briefing – Cats By-Law
- Special Council Meeting – adoption of 2025/2026 Budget and Annual Business Plan
- Visit to Country Health Connect
- Catch up with Charlotte Edmunds, Executive Officer, LCLGA
- Catch up with LCLGA Mayors (virtual)
- Regular catchups with Media and Communications Coordinator
- Radio interview with Llew Jones, 5GTR-FM
- LGA Board Meeting (Adelaide)
- Farewell – LGA CEO, Clinton Jury (Adelaide)
- Meeting with Capital Investments & Development team
- State Waste Strategy Consultation (for SAROC) (virtual)
- Internal meeting – LCLGA website
- Elected Member Briefing – Partnership Priorities and Advocacy 2025/2026
- Confidential Elected Member Briefing – Lady Nelson EOI
- Confidential Elected Member Briefing – Tenancies EOI
- UniSA Mount Gambier Campus Scholarships, Awards and Grants Dinner
- Chambers Tour and Mayoral Presentation to Compton Primary School Year 2/3 Class
- Meeting with Executive Officer, LCLGA
- LGA Board Update (virtual)
- LCLGA Special Board Meeting and Workshop
- Farewell – Superintendent Cheryl Brown, SAPOL
- NAIDOC Week Flag Raising and Smoking Ceremony and Street March
- Lakes Rotary President Changeover Dinner
- Visit to Mount Gambier Salvation Army Thrift Shop
- Confidential Elected Member Briefing – Crater Lakes – Cultural Heritage Survey
- NAIDOC Week Community Breakfast
- Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee Meeting
- Catch up with LCLGA Mayors (virtual)
- Meeting with the Mount Gambier Residents and Ratepayers Association
- LGA Board Update (virtual)
- Drought response update webinar (virtual)
- Mount Gambier Eisteddfod Dance Division – presentations and welcome
- Introductory meeting with Thuyen Vi-Alternetti, SA Multicultural Commission
- District Council of Grant Citizenship Ceremony

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Mayoral Report be received.

## **7 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

### **7.1 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**



**RECOMMENDATION**

That the reports made by Councillors be received.

**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**

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings - 24/06/2025 - Cats By- Law [**13.1.1** - 1 page]
2. Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings - 01/07/2025 - Partnership Priorities and Advocacy 2025/2026 - Confidential Tenancies EOI - Confidential Lady Nelson EOI [**13.1.2** - 2 pages]
3. Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings - 08/07/2025 - Impromptu Urgent Questions from Members - Confidential Crater Lakes - Cultural Heritage Survey - Impromptu Urgent Question from Members [**13.1.3** - 2 pages]



**INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION  
5:00 PM, TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2025**

Ref: AF22/549

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
5:00 PM, TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2025  
City Hall , 1 Bay Road, 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 Item 1 was open to the public.*

**1. CATS BY-LAW**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:-**

**STAFF PRESENT:-**

Mayor Lynette Martin  
Cr Frank Morello  
Cr Max Bruins  
Cr Sonya Mezinac  
Cr Josh Lynagh  
Cr Jason Virgo  
Cr Paul Jenner  
Cr Mark Lovett

Chief Executive Officer  
General Manager City Infrastructure  
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services  
General Manager People Place and Liveability  
Manager Governance and Property  
Manager Performance and Capability

**MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-**

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-**

Nil

Nil

**DISCUSSION:**

Members were presented with the community consultation outcomes and implementation options for By Law No. 6 Cats.

Discussion closed at 5.50 p.m.

**INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION  
5:00 PM TUESDAY 1 JULY 2025**

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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
5:00 pm, Tuesday 1 July 2025  
Conference Room, Level 1, 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 Item 1 was open to the public.*

**1. PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES AND ADVOCACY 2025/2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:-**

Mayor Lynette Martin  
Cr Frank Morello  
Cr Max Bruins  
Cr Sonya Mezinac  
Cr Josh Lynagh  
Cr Jason Virgo  
Cr Mark Lovett

**STAFF PRESENT:-**

Chief Executive Officer  
General Manager City Infrastructure  
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services  
General Manager People Place and Liveability  
Manager Governance and Property  
Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement

**MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-**

Cr Paul Jenner

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-**

Nil

**DISCUSSION:**

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- Approach to next iteration of Advocacy document.
- Key priorities to be canvassed in document.

*The session described at Item 2. 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:*

- (a) *information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead);*
- (d) *commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which—*
  - (i) *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.*

**2. CONFIDENTIAL TENANCIES EOI**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:-**

Mayor Lynette Martin  
Cr Frank Morello  
Cr Max Bruins  
Cr Sonya Mezinac

**STAFF PRESENT:-**

Chief Executive Officer  
General Manager City Infrastructure  
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services  
General Manager People Place and Liveability

Cr Josh Lynagh	Manager Governance and Property
Cr Jason Virgo	Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
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Cr Paul Jenner	Nil
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DISCUSSION:

- Use of Old Town Hall and 2 proposed short term tenancies.

*The session 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:*

- (d) *commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which—*
- (i) *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.*

### 3. CONFIDENTIAL LADY NELSON EOI

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
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Mayor Lynette Martin	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Frank Morello	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Max Bruins	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Sonya Mezinac	General Manager People Place and Liveability
Cr Josh Lynagh	Manager Governance and Property
Cr Jason Virgo	Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
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Cr Paul Jenner	Nil
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DISCUSSION:

- Outline of EOI's received including initial proposals for Lady Nelson.
- Opportunities for EOI's to work together.
- Relationship to Hub and Spoke model and CBD Master Plan.
- Two "lanes" of work - progress initial discussion while continuing the other work.

Discussion closed at 6.40 p.m.

**INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION  
5:00 PM TUESDAY 8 JULY 2025**

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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
5:00 pm, Tuesday 8 July 2025  
Conference Room, Level 1, 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. IMPROMPTU - URGENT QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:-**

Mayor Lynette Martin  
Cr Max Bruins  
Cr Josh Lynagh  
Cr Paul Jenner  
Cr Frank Morello  
Cr Jason Virgo

**STAFF PRESENT:-**

Chief Executive Officer  
General Manager City Infrastructure  
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services  
General Manager People Place and Liveability  
Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement  
Strategic Development and Engagement Officer  
Manager Governance and Property

**MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-**

Cr Sonya Meziniec  
Cr Mark Lovett

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-**

Nil

**DISCUSSION:**

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Impromptu questions from Members regarding Bus Stops and Dog Parks.

*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:*

- (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. CONFIDENTIAL CRATER LAKES - CULTURAL HERITAGE SURVEY**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:-**

Mayor Lynette Martin  
Cr Max Bruins  
Cr Josh Lynagh  
Cr Paul Jenner  
Cr Frank Morello  
Cr Jason Virgo

**STAFF PRESENT:-**

Chief Executive Officer  
General Manager City Infrastructure  
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services  
General Manager People Place and Liveability  
Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement  
Strategic Development and Engagement Officer  
Manager Governance and Property

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-

Cr Sonya Meziniec  
Cr Mark Lovett

Nil

DISCUSSION:

Discussion regarding current situation and approach moving forward.

*The session described at Item 3. was open to the public.*

**3. IMPROMPTU - URGENT QUESTION FROM MEMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

STAFF PRESENT:-

Mayor Lynette Martin  
Cr Max Bruins  
Cr Josh Lynagh  
Cr Paul Jenner  
Cr Frank Morello  
Cr Jason Virgo

Chief Executive Officer  
General Manager City Infrastructure  
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services  
General Manager People Place and Liveability  
Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement  
Strategic Development and Engagement Officer  
Manager Governance and Property

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-

Cr Sonya Meziniec  
Cr Mark Lovett

Nil

DISCUSSION:

Impromptu questions from Members regarding Cast in Blue Installation.

Discussion closed at 7.11 p.m.

**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**

**17.1 JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 JULY 2025**

That having considered the recommendations of the Junior Sports Assistance Fund in regard to the agenda items:

**5.1 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

**5.2 STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES 01/07/2024 - 31/05/2025**

**5.3 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR JUNIOR AND PAYMENTS FROM THE FUN – 01/03/2025 - 31/05/2025**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Council receive and note the minutes of the Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee meeting held on 9 July 2025.

[Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee Minutes](#)

**18 BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Nil

**19 COUNCIL REPORTS**

**19.1 IMPOUND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT - ANNUAL UPDATE**

Author: Derek Ferguson, Team Leader General Inspectors

Authoriser: Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council report titled 'Impound Animal Management – Annual Update' as presented on 15/07/25 be noted.



## PURPOSE

This report outlines dog management activities undertaken by the City of Mount Gambier during the 2024–25 financial year, including the collection and return of dogs, impoundment outcomes, rehoming practices, and the role of General Inspectors in animal management. Comparisons to the previous financial year (2023–24) are provided where relevant.

## BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

### 1. Dog Collection and Return to Owner

During the 2024–25 financial year, Council's General Inspectors collected 333 dogs. Of those:

- 294 dogs (88%) were returned directly to their owners before requiring impoundment.
- 39 dogs (12%) were impounded, of which 16 were subsequently reclaimed by their owners.

This results in a total of 310 dogs returned to owners, representing a 93% overall return rate, up from 78% in 2023–24.

Outcome	1 July 23 to 30 June 24	%	1 July 24 to 30 June 25	%
<b>Number of dogs collected</b>				
Released to owner	111	78%	294	88%
Released following impoundment	11	8%	16	5%
Impounded and unclaimed	20	14%	23	7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>100%</b>

The increased return-to-owner rate reflects successful community engagement, effective dog identification practices (including microchipping), and the proactive response of Council staff.

### 2. Rehoming of Unclaimed Dogs

Of the 23 dogs not returned to owners all were surrendered to the South East Animal Welfare League (SEAWL).

Outcome	1 July 23 to 30 June 24	%	1 July 24 to 30 June 25	%
<b>Rehoming arrangements</b>				
Transferred to partner organisations	17	85%	23	100%
Fostered	2	10%		0%
Transferred to DC Grant	1	5%		0%
	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100%</b>

All unclaimed dogs were rehomed through partner organisations. No dogs were euthanised while under the care of Council's General Inspectors. This reflects Council's strong commitment to responsible and humane animal management practices.

### 3. Partner Organisations

Council has four rehoming partners who operate under a formal agreement with Council and includes the provision of payment for animals accepted into their care. For noting, this includes SEAWL—Council's primary rehoming partner—which receives financial payments in accordance with the agreement in place with them, in recognition of the services provided.

These arrangements ensure that the cost of care, veterinary attention, and rehoming efforts is shared appropriately and transparently. This formal structure supports sustainable partnerships and reinforces Council's investment in animal welfare outcomes.

Outcome	1 July 23 to 30 June 24	%	1 July 24 to 30 June 25	%
<b>Rehoming Partners</b>				
SEAWL	8	47%	20	87%
Southern Grampians	4	24%	1	4%
Dusty Paws	1	6%		0%
Wet noses	4	24%	2	9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4. After-Hours and Emergency Response

The City of Mount Gambier provides a 24/7 dog collection and emergency response service, with at least one General Inspector on-call at all times.

In 2024–25, Inspectors responded to:

- 70 after-hours weekday calls, and
- 88 weekend callouts.

Council's General Inspectors also provide support to other agencies, including:

- South Australia Police (SAPOL),
- SA Ambulance Service,
- Housing SA, and
- AC Care,

assisting with animal-related emergencies and welfare concerns as required.

#### IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

<b>Legal</b>	Council's responsibilities for dog management are governed by the <i>Dog and Cat Management Act 1995</i> and associated Regulations. All activities carried out by Council's General Inspectors are in accordance with this legislation, including dog collections, impoundment, and rehoming processes. No breaches or legal non-compliance were identified during the reporting period.
<b>Financial and Budget</b>	The dog management service, including after-hours response and rehoming arrangements, was delivered within the allocated operational budget for 2024–25. Costs were managed effectively through strong partnerships with rehoming organisations and a high return-to-owner rate, reducing reliance on extended impoundment or fostering services.
<b>Community Consultation and Engagement</b>	While no formal consultation was undertaken specific to this report, Council maintains ongoing communication with the community regarding responsible pet ownership through educational campaigns, social media, and direct engagement by General Inspectors. The high return-to-owner rate suggests strong community awareness and cooperation.
<b>Other Resources</b>	Two full-time General Inspectors deliver Council's animal management service, supported by on-call rosters to provide 24/7 coverage. The team collaborates with external agencies such as SAPOL, SA Ambulance, Housing SA, and AC Care, and maintains relationships with rehoming partners to support effective outcomes.



#### **RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICY**

[Animal Control - A520](#)

[Animal Control Dogs - A515](#)

#### **IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS**

Council remains committed to maintaining high standards in animal welfare, supported by around-the-clock response services and close partnerships with community agencies and rehoming organisations.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The 2024–25 year saw a significant increase in dog collections and a notable improvement in return-to-owner rates. The high success rate in reunifying pets with their owners, coupled with the 100% rehoming of unclaimed animals, underscores the effectiveness and compassion of Council's General Inspectors.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil



## 19.2 BY-LAW REVIEW

Author: Brittany Shelton, Manager Governance and Property  
Authoriser: Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'By-Law Review' as presented on Tuesday 15 July 2025 be noted.
2. That in exercise of the powers contained in section 246 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act), having satisfied the consultation requirements of the Act and having had regard to the submission received from the public, the National Competition Policy Report, the Certificates of Validity provided by the Council's legal practitioner, the comments from the Dog and Cat Management Board in relation to By-Law number 6, the majority of Council, in the presence of at least two thirds of its members, hereby makes and passes the following By-laws as attached and marked 'Attachment 1':
  - (a) By-Law No. 6 Cats.
3. That the Chief Executive officer be authorised to undertake all steps necessary to finalise the By-law review process and to give effect to the newly adopted By-laws, including making any minor editorial or grammatical changes that may be necessary prior to publication of the By-laws in the Gazette.

### PURPOSE

To present the proposed By-Laws No 6 Cats for adoption, having had regard to the submissions received from the public, the National Competition Policy Report, the Certificates of Validity provided by the Council's legal practitioner, and the comments from the Dog and Cat Management Board in relation to By-Law number 6, the majority of Council, in the presence of at least two thirds of its members in accordance with section 249 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act).

### BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

At its ordinary meeting of 17 June 2025, Council considered and adopted the reviewed By-Laws No 1 – 5 inclusive. For further detail of that report, Members are referred to the [Agenda Item 18.9 By-Law Review](#).

Council determined to hold the adoption of the newly proposed By-Law No. 6 Cats, in order to facilitate an information or briefing session on 24 June 2025, to more thoroughly consider the consultation outcomes, specifically in respect of the introduction of such By-Law.

At that briefing session Members were presented with an overview of:

- The recent review of Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to improve cat management,
- The proposal for a Statewide cat management strategy,
- Council's current role in cat management,
- South Australian Cat Management Sentiment Report,
- Consultation outcomes,



- Different phased roll-out models which may be appropriate, and
- By-Law process implications.

### Consultation Outcomes

As anticipated, this topic is quite emotive and polarising, and there were strong competing views expressed by the community. A summary of key themes is outlined below:

- Preference for limit per household to be 3 cats, in line with limits under By-Law No. 5 Dogs.
- General concerns around cat limits per household, including the impact on existing households with more than 2 cats.
- Concerns around resourcing implications (for Council, which will then flow on to ratepayers) of a Cats By-Law.
- Support of the introduction of the nuisance offence provision.
- Recommendation of a purpose-built impounding facility ahead of roll-out.
- Further suggestions around trapping, subsidised desexing and microchipping programs which are not contemplated by the proposed By-Law.
- Seeking concession rates for mandatory registration of cats.
- Strong views around strict containment provisions expressed both against and in-favour.

It is important to note there was feedback received which does not align with SA's legislative requirements, for example trap-neuter-release programs, or extending the By-Law to incorporate feral cat population – these have not been included, as they are not capable of being included in our By-Law.

### Legislative Requirements

Because the proposed By-Law No 6. Cats was able to be tabled at the July meeting of Council, following the information or briefing session, and no further amendments are proposed, the requisite legislative procedure will not prevent this By-Law from accompanying the By-Laws 1 – 5 via the relevant Parliamentary scrutiny process, and commencing operation from 1 January 2026.

The below timetable sets out the various legislated requirements and timeframes, in order to successfully review and adopt By-Laws to be published in the Government Gazette by the deadline of 28 August 2025, in order for the new By-Laws to be operational from 1 January 2026.

No.	Task	Timeframe
1.	<p>Undertake review of existing by-laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KJL to make any amendments necessary to existing by-laws to ensure their validity (i.e. having regard to legislative change) and as recommended to ensure the practical efficacy of the by-laws (changes will be tracked);</li> <li>• Council to review changes and to identify any further changes and/or new matters required to be regulated;</li> <li>• Workshop for Council Members to explain review process, limitations of by-law powers and seek feedback;</li> </ul> <p>KJL to finalise proposed by-laws taking into account feedback from Council officers and elected members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KJL provide by-laws incorporating recommended amendments by 2 December 2024;</li> <li>• Council instructions to finalise proposed by-laws by 27 January 2025;</li> <li>• Council Member Workshop February 2025;</li> </ul> <p>Proposed by-laws finalised by 5 March 2025 (including taking into account any feedback from Council Members).</p>



2.	<p>The Dogs by-law (and any Cats by-law if endorsed) must be referred to the Dog and Cat Management Board for comment in conjunction with the report required by section 90(5) of the <i>Dog and Cat Management Act 1995</i>.</p> <p><i>NB: referral to the DCM Board must occur as least 21 days before the by-laws are released for public consultation and 42 days prior to adoption by Council.</i></p>	Immediately (and within 48hours) after KJL receipt of notification from the Council regarding its decision to endorse the proposed by-laws.
3.	<p>Liaison with DIT regarding the Dogs and LG Land by-law (which operate in relation to inland waters).</p>	Immediately (and within 48hours) after KJL receipt of notification from the Council regarding its decision to endorse the proposed by-laws.
4.	<p>Proposed by-laws to be presented to the Council and endorsed for public consultation.</p>	18 March or 15 April 2025 meeting.
5.	<p>Public consultation (at least 21 days) – proposed by-laws to be made available on the Council's website and submissions invited in relation to them.</p> <p><i>NB: public consultation period to commence at least 21 days after referral to DCM Board.</i></p>	21 days following referral to DCM Board – from approx. 11 April 2025.
6.	<p>Determine any changes required in light of submissions received during public consultation and/or the outcomes of the referral processes. KJL to draft any necessary changes.</p> <p><i>NB: If substantial changes proposed it will be necessary to re-consult and (where relevant) undertake a second referral in respect of them.</i></p>	Within 14 days of close of consultation process – by 23 May 2025.
7.	<p>Preparation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificates of Validity;</li> <li>• National Competition Policy report;</li> <li>• Recommendations to adopt the by-laws; and</li> <li>• Advice relevant to the commencement and enforcement of the by-laws.</li> </ul>	By 6 June 2025 for presentation to 17 June or 15 July 2025 meeting.
8.	<p>By-laws made during a meeting of the Council where two thirds of the members of the Council are present and where an absolute majority supports the associated resolution.</p>	17 June or 15 July 2025 meeting.
9.	<p>Parliamentary Scrutiny - by-laws (accompanied by the Legislative Review Committee Report) delivered to the Legislative Review Committee within 6 Parliamentary sitting days after they are made.</p> <p>The Committee requires a summary report of the submissions received during the consultation period and Council's response to them.</p>	As soon as possible after the Council has adopted the by-laws.
10.	<p>By-laws published as soon as practicable in the Government Gazette.</p> <p><i>NB: by-laws will commence operation four months from the date they are gazetted.</i></p>	As soon as practicable after the Council has adopted the by-laws and no later than 28 August 2025.
11.	<p>Publish notice of the making of the by-laws in local newspaper.</p> <p><i>NB: notice must refer to the fact that the by-laws have been made, the date of their adoption and that they may be inspected at the Council's offices.</i></p>	As soon as practicable after the Council has adopted the by-laws.



## IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

<b>Legal</b>	<p>By-Laws are, in effect, legislation set by Local Government Agencies (Councils) which apply to their Council area.</p> <p>Chapter 12, Part 1 of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> (the Act) is extremely prescriptive as to the content, form and review process requirements for By-Laws, such to appropriately recognise the degree of power the ability to adopt By-Laws represents.</p> <p>In the event any of the legislative requirements are not robustly met, the Council may run the risk of adopting ultra vires By-Laws, which are ultimately unenforceable and expose Council to potential litigation.</p>
<b>Financial and Budget</b>	A budget allocation of \$10,000 has been made, informed by a comprehensive quote and scope of works process, which accounts for professional fees, publication requirements, consultation costs etc.
<b>Community Consultation and Engagement</b>	Council is required to undertake community consultation, as well as referral to specified agencies, in accordance with section 249 of the Act prior to adopting By-Laws. A robust, two-phase community consultation has been planned to address the requirements under both Council's Community Consultation and Engagement Policy, and the Act.
<b>Other Resources</b>	N/A

## RISK ANALYSIS

The risk identification and categorisation relies on the City of Mount Gambier [Risk Management Policy](#).

Risk	Consequence Rating	Risk Likelihood Rating	Risk Rating	Mitigation
<b>Finance</b> - Council is exposed to litigation as a result of ultra vires By-Law enforcement activities	Minor (2)	Rare (1)	Low	By-Law Review Project Plan to consider Council's By-Law activities holistically, budget allocation for this process to account for external consultants / engagement requirements.
<b>Reputation – Ultra vires enforcement activity, or failure to educate and consult the community, erodes trust in Council as a local government authority</b>	Moderate (3)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Robust and considered community engagement strategy, with key stakeholders, broader community and internally. Input from key subject-matter experts as required.
<b>Legal / Regulatory / Policy</b> - Council is exposed to litigation as a result of ultra vires By-Law	Major (4)	Rare (1)	Moderate	By-Law Review Project Plan with oversight from project team / lead, engagement of



enforcement activities				subject matter experts as required (e.g. legal, DCMB, DIT etc). Allocation of appropriate amount of internal resourcing to reflect complexity of project / interconnected workstreams.
<b>Service Delivery -</b> Business continuity is impacted as a result of inefficient or ineffective By-Law administration and enforcement	Minor (2)	Rare (1)	Low	Robust and considered community engagement strategy, with key stakeholders, broader community and internally. Allocation of appropriate amount of internal resourcing to reflect complexity of project / interconnected workstreams.
<b>People –</b> Burden on resourcing as a result of inefficient or ineffective By-Law administration and enforcement	Minor (2)	Unlikely (2)	Low	Allocation of appropriate amount of internal resourcing to reflect complexity of project / interconnected workstreams, engagement of subject matter experts as required (e.g. legal, DCMB, DIT etc). Cat bylaw will ultimately result in resourcing impacts to be determined.
<b>Infrastructure -</b> Damage or loss to infrastructure as a result of inefficient or ineffective By-Law administration and enforcement	Minor (2)	Rare (1)	Low	Allocation of appropriate amount of internal resourcing to reflect complexity of project / interconnected workstreams, engagement of subject matter experts as required (e.g. legal, DCMB, DIT etc), budget allocation for this process to account for external consultants / engagement requirements.



<b>Environmental -</b> Damage to natural environment as a result of inefficient or ineffective By-Law administration and enforcement	Moderate (3)	Rare (1)	Low	Engagement of subject matter experts as required (e.g. legal, DCMB, DIT etc), strategic planning to inform desired outcomes / enforcement activities for natural environments.
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## APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

This report aligns to the following strategic objectives(s):

Priority 6: Excellence in Leadership and Governance

- 6.1 Ensure Elected Council Members are meeting their civic obligations and making informed, strategic decisions in the best interests of the community.
- 6.2 Ensure compliance with legislative obligations and apply best-practice governance to strengthen risk management, accountability and transparency, fostering trust within the community.
- 6.3 Ensure decisions and activities of Council are communicated in a timely, clear and proactive manner.

This report contributes to delivery of the following key strategic project(s):

Priority 3: Infrastructure and Services

Review and implement renewed by-laws which respond to community needs by 2025.

## RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICY

[Community Consultation and Engagement - P195](#)

## IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

There are further prescriptive procedural requirements for adopting By-Laws (refer relevant extracts of the Act below).

### **249—Passing by-laws**

*(1) If it is proposed that a council make a by-law, the council must, at least 21 days before resolving to make the by-law, ensure that copies of the proposed by-law (and any code, standard or other document proposed to be applied or incorporated by the by-law) are made available to the public in accordance with section 132(1).*

*(2) A council must give reasonable consideration to a written or other acceptable submission made to the council on a proposed by-law.*

*(3) A by-law cannot be made unless—*

*(a) the by-law is made at a meeting of the council where at least two-thirds of the members of the council are present; and*

*(b) the relevant resolution is supported by an absolute majority of members of the council.*

*(4) A council must not make a by-law unless or until the council has obtained a certificate, in the prescribed form, signed by a legal practitioner certifying that, in the opinion of the legal practitioner—*

*(a) the council has power to make the by-law by virtue of a statutory power specified in the certificate; and*

*(b) the by-law is not in conflict with this Act.*

*(5) Subject to subsection (6), a by-law comes into operation four months after the day on which it is published in the Gazette or from a later day or days fixed in the by-law.*

- (6) A by-law may take effect from an earlier day specified in the by-law if—
- (a) it revokes a by-law without making provision in substitution for that by-law; or
  - (b) it corrects an error or inaccuracy in a by-law; or
  - (c) it is required for the purposes of an Act that will come into operation on assent or less than four months after assent; or
  - (d) it confers a benefit on a person (other than the council or an authority of the council) and does not operate so as—
    - (i) to affect, in a manner prejudicial to a person (other than the council or an authority of the council), the rights of that person existing before the date of commencement of the by-law; or
    - (ii) to impose a liability on a person (other than the council or an authority of the council) in respect of anything done or omitted to be done before the date of commencement of the by-law; or
  - (e) the council has been formed by the amalgamation of two or more councils and the by-law (or a by-law in substantially the same terms) was previously in force in the area of a council that has been amalgamated.
- (7) A council must publish a notice of the making of a by-law under this section in a newspaper circulating in the area of the council.
- (8) Section 10AA of the Subordinate Legislation Act 1978 does not apply to a by-law of a council.

### Procedural Requirements

Following endorsement by Council the proposed By-Laws were forwarded to the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport for consideration pursuant to the Act. Similarly, the proposed Dogs By-Law (By-Law No. 5) and Cats By-Law (By-Law No. 6) were forwarded to the Dog and Cat Management Board for consideration and approval pursuant to the Act. The Manager has confirmed they have no additional recommendations and endorses the By-law as proposed.

Council must have regard to the following in making the proposed By-Laws:

- the response from the Dog and Cat Management Board confirming approval of the Dog By-Law (**attached**);
- the Certificates of Validity prepared by Council's legal practitioner and attached to the By-Laws (**attached**);
- the National Competition Policy Report (**attached**); and
- the outcomes of the public consultation (refer below for detail).

### Consultation Outcomes

The By-Law review consultation will be (and has been) conducted in two (2) phases, aligned to how the By-Laws operate in practice:

1. Feedback on the By-Law documents themselves – during this phase we sought feedback on the **powers** contained in By-Law documents, and
2. Feedback on the **application** of the By-Law documents within Council's area.

The current consultation results are for phase one (1), where we sought feedback on the By-Laws themselves. Phase (2) of consultation will be conducted in the second half of 2025, and will include how Council will apply the powers within the By-Laws (e.g. to certain times, areas, conditions etc specific to our Council area).

A public consultation strategy, compliant with the requirements of section 249 of the Act and Council's Community Consultation and Engagement Policy P195, was undertaken, including the following elements.

*“Consult - Two-way communications designed to obtain public feedback about ideas on rationale, alternatives and proposals to inform decision making – Council will listen and acknowledge concerns and aspirations and provide feedback.”*

The community consultation strategy included the following elements:

- Information available and submissions received via the dedicated Your Say page,
- Media release which resulted in:
  - Mt Gambier Times article – 25 April 2025
  - SE Voice article – 22 April 2025
  - The Border Watch article – 2 May 2025
  - ABC South East interviews – 2 and 5 May 2025
- Social media posts / campaign – 23 April and 8 May 2025,
- Documents available for review at Principal Office,
- Consultation open for a minimum of 21 days,
- Submissions to be considered at a subsequent Council meeting and taken into account when making a determination as to final By-Laws.

Community consultation was open for the period 16 April – 12 May 2025, and during that time 35 online surveys were received, along with 11 further written submissions.

The community were asked a range of questions via survey to determine their support for the proposed By-Laws. Community participation included:

- 389 unique visitors to the Have Your Say Mount Gambier consultation page; of which
- 157 downloaded documents or visited the FAQ page; resulting in
- 35 completed surveys (and 11 separately received written submission).

The following **attachments** are presented for Council's consideration:

- Survey feedback (35),
- Written feedback (11), and
- Summary of feedback table (comprising of the above two elements, for ease of reference).

The above feedback was provided to Council's legal practitioner, who has recommended (and made) a few minor amendments to the Cats By-Law No. 6 to clarify some of the issues of concern, particular around the limit of cats per house and the impact that would have on existing cats.

#### Requirements to Pass By-Laws

It is a requirement that the Council meeting must be attended by at least two thirds of all elected members and the resolution supported by an absolute majority. This means that since Council currently comprises 8 members (including the Mayor), at least 6 members must be present and the resolution must be supported by at least 5 members. It is recommended that the minutes reflect the number of members who voted in favour of the resolution to evidence that the resolution was supported by an absolute majority of the members of Council.

Once adopted, the By-laws must be:

1. Delivered to the Legislative Review Committee for scrutiny within six (6) Parliamentary sitting days after the By-laws have been adopted by Council.

2. Published as soon as practicable in the Government Gazette, whereby they will commence four (4) months from the date of gazettal.
  - a. It is important to note this must be completed prior to 28 August 2025 to ensure the By-laws are operational by 1 January 2026 (i.e. when the existing by-laws expire).
3. A notice confirming the By-laws must be published in a local Newspaper advising of the date of adoption and their availability to the public.
  - a. Notice must refer to the fact that the by-laws have been made, the date of their adoption and that they may be inspected at the Council's offices.

## CONCLUSION

Following consideration of submissions, the consultation summary report, along with all feedback received has been referred to KJL to make any recommended changes. KJL have prepared the Certificates of Validity and National Competition Policy report accordingly.

The consultation outcomes, along with the amended By-Laws, Certificates of Validity and National Competition Policy report are now presented to Council for adoption by an absolute majority, not less than two thirds of Members being present in accordance with section 249(3) of the Act.

Immediately following adoption, the By-Laws shall be referred for Parliamentary Scrutiny, accompanied by the Legislative Review Committee Report. Once approved, the newly adopted By-Laws must be published in the Government Gazette, and no later than 28 August 2025.

Council will then be required to determine (by way of resolution) the application of certain clauses. The resolutions specify which clauses apply to certain areas or situations, for example dog on-leash or off-leash areas. A further report will be provided to Council taking into consideration the submissions received during the second phase of consultation with recommended resolutions to determine the application of such clauses at a future meeting.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. By- Law Review - Have Your Say Responses [**19.2.1** - 41 pages]
2. By- Law Review - Written Submissions [**19.2.2** - 38 pages]
3. Consultation Report - 2025 By- Law Review - Have Your Say [**19.2.3** - 5 pages]
4. Summary of Changes [**19.2.4** - 3 pages]
5. 2025 By- Law Review Feedback - Survey Responses - Table No.1 - No.6 [**19.2.5** - 6 pages]
6. DCMB By-laws letter - Mount Gambier [**19.2.6** - 1 page]
7. NCP Report [**19.2.7** - 9 pages]
8. MTG A 0001 240566 059 By-law No. 6 Cats 2025 [**19.2.8** - 7 pages]

Survey Responses

16 April 2025 - 12 May 2025


2025 By-Law Review Feedback

Have Your Say Mount Gambier

Project: 2025 By-Law Review

 GRANICUS

VISITORS					
208					
CONTRIBUTORS			RESPONSES		
33			35		
33	0	0	35	0	0
Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 1	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 21, 2025 10:56:48 am
	<b>Login:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Last Seen:</b> Apr 21, 2025 00:42:22 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Yes
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Partially

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

**Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats**

I have several concerns regarding this new by-law 1. Limit of cats - The limit of 2 is not enough, it should be 3 the same as dogs 2. Limit of cats - Is there a time period where this starts such as clause 9.2? I have six confined cats and simply will not be choosing which cats stay and which cats go 3. Limit of cats - How will this by law work with foster based rescues? There are times I have many more cats than will be allowed, but for short periods. A foster based rescue is not a typical business, it is facilitated from a central point with unwanted and street kittens/cats in the volunteer rescue foster home for a short period of time until they find permanent homes. These cats/kittens are all microchipped to the rescue organisation in accordance with the law. Unowned cats - this is not mentioned at all. By limiting numbers of cats that people may own, you are effectively cutting off avenues of adoption for a rescue organisation as cat lovers will usually be at the limit of cats. How will you deal with the large issues of unowned cats? It is dreadfully unfair if a local government organisation with a large rating collection base effectively pushes the issue of cats on small, volunteer run rescue organisations. We are at breaking point over kitten season and Council only partially addressing the issue of cat controls will make things worse for volunteers who rescue cats. I would love to see our Elected Members get on board with a desexing and micro chipping financial relief program for people who have difficulty paying full desexing fees. In my view everyone should be able to have a pet without the financial stress of getting them desexed and microchipped. One of the main things we see in colonies of unowned cats is they were owned at one point, but the owner couldn't desex them and then there is a massive problem of undesexed cats roaming. These cats are usually quite unwell which is distressing for those who see them and for us who try our hardest to fundraise but have to operate on a shoe string budget. I have had over 100 foster kittens/cats personally through my home over multiple years and as much as I, and our volunteer organisation tries, it seems like there are so many needy cats. Desexing as many cats in the community as we can is the key to this issue in my view. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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**Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?**

No

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	<b>Respondent No:</b> 2	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 21, 2025 13:39:57 pm
	<b>Login:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Last Seen:</b> Apr 21, 2025 03:59:35 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Yes
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) not answered

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties  
not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land  
not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads  
not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs  
not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs  
not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats  
not answered

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?  
not answered



Respondent No: 3

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 21, 2025 19:04:12 pm

Last Seen: Apr 21, 2025 09:29:15 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	No
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Needs to apply to all cats, not just ones born after January 1st 2026, it is not going to make a difference at all how it is, as there will be no impounding of cats happening anyway, this is just a token effort, ooh look we are doing something.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

Signs on footpaths are a hazard, the ones at the [REDACTED] shop should be binned.



Respondent No: 4

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 22, 2025 08:49:06 am

Last Seen: Apr 21, 2025 23:12:57 pm

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

I do not agree with placing a limit on the number of cats - yes if they are not desexed but as a responsible cat owner with 8 that are all desexed I feel it is unfair. Penalise the irresponsible people who allow their pets to breed out of control - not those of us already doing the right thing. I certainly do not agree with being forced to allow someone appointed by council to come into my house to assess if it is suitable for my 9 cats. I am a homeowner and pay a ridiculous amount in council taxes and I have a right to my privacy. All my cats are chipped and registered with council. I did not see a fee mentioned but I'm not in agreement with that unless the money raised specifically goes back to directly dealing with the out of control cat population. Focus on those doing the WRONG this and stop penalising those that aren't

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered



Respondent No: 5

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 22, 2025 13:56:10 pm

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2025 04:05:36 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	No
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	No
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

I believe that trying to put restrictions on cats would be a misdirection of resources, instead let's focus on where these cats are coming from that are 'disturbing' the public; these cats and kittens come from irresponsible owners not desexing or microchipping their cats (who then go off to breed more in an extremely short amount of time). We should be more focused on that rather than penalising cats that have done nothing wrong. I truly think there's a way to fix the cat problem we're having in Mount Gambier, but punishing all cats it's not the way.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered



Respondent No: 6

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 22, 2025 18:48:12 pm

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2025 09:00:16 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	No
No. 2 - Local Government Land	No
No. 3 - Roads	No
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Partially
No. 5 - Dogs	No
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) not answered

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

not answered

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered



Respondent No: 7

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 22, 2025 19:03:54 pm

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2025 09:26:07 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Partially
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

This is way overdue for our community, many people are at their wits end with the amount of cats wandering and using people gardens as toilets. There are so many residents that feel helpless and feel there is nothing they can do to prevent the constant cat activity on their property from either stray or cats owned by irresponsible owners. If we let our dogs wander they would be impounded. Cats are extremely destructive to our native flora and fauna. Please enact this to give residents some relief.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

No



Respondent No: 8

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 22, 2025 19:28:04 pm

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2025 09:56:57 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	No
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) not answered

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

not answered

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered



Respondent No: 9

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 22, 2025 19:29:59 pm

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2025 09:34:19 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Cats should be compulsorily desexed and not allowed to roam outside of the owner's property

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered



Respondent No: 10

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 22, 2025 19:49:13 pm

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2025 09:55:13 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	No
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	No
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	No
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 2 - Local Government Land  
No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

I do not support the other changes, but I do support the discouragement of vaping in public spaces, as vapes tend to be full of toxic chemicals, which are known endocrine disruptors. I'm tired of having to walk around people who smoke or vape. The fact that vapes are sometimes less noticeable, only increases the danger. In addition, due to so many people being coerced into covid vaccinations, and vaccine shedding being a very real phenomenon, smoking and vaping in public poses further non consensual risk to those of us who made healthier choices.

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

**Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats**

One should not have to register a cat. A cat is unlikely to be a danger to a human. This is clear over reach and a cash grab. I actually don't think any pet should have to be registered, for a few reasons.... For one thing, many people don't have a fixed address, and move between locations, so where exactly should we register our pets? And what happens if our pet happens to escape or get lost in your area?? I will never register my pets as I'm not a full time resident, I come and go. I still expect my pet to be accommodated for in your rules and have adequate protections from harms. The whole idea of being registered to a fixed location is based on flawed out dated concepts, I can only see an advantage when it comes to following up dangerous dogs. I do support leash signage for dogs, as dogs can be a danger to humans and other pets. I don't think the length of the leash really matters too much though. For all of the above I support appropriate signage. I do not support fines in any form, for anything really, except maybe vicious dogs. Information campaigns would be better for most things, than fines. Council's job is to maintain facilities and provide equitable access for all. Beyond that you don't actually have any legal authority to make any laws, just an fyi. Council is a third tier of government which never passed referendum. The people never consented to the idea of by laws, so technically you cannot make and enforce them.

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**Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?**

not answered

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Respondent No: 11

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 22, 2025 22:34:52 pm

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2025 12:59:11 pm

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Partially
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	Partially

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs


not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Restricting how many cats you can own without council permission is unreasonable. There doesn't seem to be any provision for people who have existing pets (that I can see). Im happy to pay fee's for all 4 of my cats, but I think this has been taken too far with the limitations.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 12	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 23, 2025 11:29:47 am
	<b>Login:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Last Seen:</b> May 07, 2025 08:25:39 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Partially
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs


not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Build a pound for cats caught, and see if desexed and microchipped to return to owners, subsidise desexing- lowering stray population.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

No

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 13	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 23, 2025 15:15:43 pm
	<b>Login:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Last Seen:</b> Apr 23, 2025 05:41:04 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) not answered

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties  
not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land  
not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads  
not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs  
not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs  
not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats  
not answered

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?  
not answered



Respondent No: 14

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 23, 2025 15:31:32 pm

Last Seen: Apr 23, 2025 05:53:41 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Partially
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

I dont agree on 2 cats only. We have shelters overflowing with cats and having 2 cats only means that if i already own a cat, then i cant adopt a bonded pair. People who adopt are generally capable of providing good care to these cats and if they can afford to adopt more, why restrict them. Lets say they have 2 cats and they picked a stray up and cared for it, now they have 3 cats, what then? You will force them to not have the stray desexed or receive the medical attention needed due to fear of repercussions. I agree with a small fee for cat registrations, and i reiterate small, as its not like council will build a cat park for them to enjoy. These funds should go towards subsidising desexing and financially supporting the shelters. Council should invest in SEAWL and upgrade the premises and provide new fit for purpose buildings.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered



Respondent No: 15

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 23, 2025 17:07:20 pm

Last Seen: Apr 23, 2025 07:32:39 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	No
No. 2 - Local Government Land	No
No. 3 - Roads	No
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	No
No. 5 - Dogs	No
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Watch the backlash. Good luck have fun glhf

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered



Respondent No: 16

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 23, 2025 17:15:18 pm

Last Seen: Apr 23, 2025 07:43:31 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Yes
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Please enact this as soon as possible. We need less cats wandering and less cats being killed and injured on our roads. Also our native birds and other wildlife deserve to be protected.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

No but keep up the great work.



Respondent No: 17

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 23, 2025 19:43:46 pm

Last Seen: Apr 23, 2025 09:48:38 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	No
No. 5 - Dogs	No
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 4 - Moveable Signs
No. 5 - Dogs
No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

moveable signs are fine as long as they aare close to the building doing the advertising and not all over the footpath making walking on footpath difficult

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

Fines for people who do not pick up their doggy do's - leave their dogs in cars no matter the length of time.but should be allowed to have longer leashes than you suggest.

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

I do not have a cat but strongly believe desexing and microchipping should be carried out before they can be given away or sold with maybe a subsidy to do so. You cannot enforce a 2 cat limit on persons who have had more than 2 of them for a period of time or they are foster carers of them or a rehomer but perhaps a permit is a good idea for those who care for or rehome them

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

needs more consultation with the general public with an easier way to do so other than having to register here and have your name noted so often.



Respondent No: 18

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 24, 2025 06:30:13 am

Last Seen: Apr 23, 2025 20:51:46 pm

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	No
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

The current laws are sufficient and does not need additional laws

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered



Respondent No: 19

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 24, 2025 21:04:43 pm

Last Seen: Apr 24, 2025 11:25:34 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	No
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	No
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

If you want people to register their cats you must provide either cheap or free desexing and also help out the local animal shelters. You have displayed already by not supporting the SEAWL that you do not see this as a priority of your council. You are a council that continues to disappoint.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

No



Respondent No: 20

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 24, 2025 22:01:24 pm

Last Seen: May 07, 2025 08:25:39 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Partially
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Council need to take responsibility for stray cats!! We need a shelter for trapped cats and if you don't want to build one then allocate funds back to SEAWL to look after and re- home these cats. Also allow people to own more than two cats! In every other state it is 4 cats !!

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

Please make it easier for people by adding a poll to your website on specific issues. So you can get an accurate consensus from the community. Add a poll to your Facebook posts !



Respondent No: 21

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 25, 2025 10:24:46 am

Last Seen: Apr 25, 2025 00:49:37 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	No
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Partially
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Cats should be allowed to be outdoors. Some cats do not enjoy being trapped inside like a prisoner. I have 2 cats who are indoor/outdoor cats. They are well fed and cared for and do not hunt other wildlife. I have had several cats in my lifetime and they were all the same. I do agree with being desexed to reduce the excess of cats in the community.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered



Respondent No: 22

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 25, 2025 15:28:49 pm

Last Seen: Apr 25, 2025 05:20:25 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Yes
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Partially

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Clause 9.2 states "does not apply to any cat that was born before 1 Jan 2026 - this is ridiculous, it must apply to all cats, otherwise there will still be hundreds of pre-2026 cats roaming around at night, killing birds, fighting & defecating in peoples gardens! Clause 10.1 "Council may resolve to adopt a registration scheme for cats" - this must be a definite, as well as some sort of tagging/id - otherwise how do you identify a straying cat when you catch it?

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

Re new cat by-laws, this should have been done years ago, as I have experienced many stray cats in my yard over the years, defecating in my vege beds where I am trying to grow food! As a result, I have had to invest in netting & other structures (at my cost) to keep them out - just because other cat owners can't be responsible. The cats also kill the many birds & lizards that live in my garden. These new laws are long overdue!



Respondent No: 23

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 25, 2025 16:20:19 pm

Last Seen: Apr 25, 2025 06:44:21 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Partially
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	Partially

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs


not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

I don't believe limiting the number of cats a household can own will be a productive way of controlling the nuisance cats or abandoned or feral animals. I have 4 cats who are all desexed, vaccinated, and microchipped, they have a completely enclosed catio at home, and only have outside time on a harness. The only way this would be fair would be if there was only a limit on "unregistered" cats to prevent wandering strays but I believe that would even be incredibly hard to enforce. These limits are unfair on responsible owners who have done all the right things to stop our cats affecting the environment and community as well as protecting our cats from feral cats or being abducted.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

I believe the community needs to advertise propositions better so that community members can be aware of changes and have the opportunity to have a say

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 24	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 25, 2025 19:59:13 pm
	<b>Login:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Last Seen:</b> Apr 25, 2025 10:17:27 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	No
No. 3 - Roads	No
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	No
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Partially

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 5 - Dogs
No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs


We need an easier way to stop dogs from barking. Having logs of when dogs are barking is stupid. Council is too weak to go to the owners of barking dogs and explain. NIMBY is what Council believes in. Weak.

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

All the new laws should be retrospective. There are thousands of cats out at night (and during the day) causing havoc. It should apply to all cats now, not future cats and owners.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

Abysmal consultation. It's all secret, not transparent.

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 25	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 27, 2025 14:37:06 pm
	<b>Login:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Last Seen:</b> Apr 27, 2025 05:05:17 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Yes
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Absolutely brilliant that the Council will be proceeding with containment of cats - the Biodiversity Council (comprised of academics) has a great fact sheet that succinctly makes the case for why this is so important:  
<https://biodiversitycouncil.org.au/resources/the-impact-of-roaming-pet-cats-on-australian-wildlife>

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered



**Respondent No:** 26

**Login:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Responded At:** Apr 28, 2025 17:26:41 pm

**Last Seen:** Apr 28, 2025 07:49:27 am

**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

**Q1. What is your name?**

[REDACTED]

**Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:**

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Partially
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

**Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)**

No. 6 - Cats

**Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties**

not answered

**Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land**

not answered

**Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads**

not answered

**Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs**

not answered

**Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs**


not answered

**Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats**

There are too many cats and kittens in Mount Gambier. Cats should have the by-law as dogs.

**Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?**

not answered

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 27	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 30, 2025 21:23:46 pm
	<b>Login:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Last Seen:</b> Apr 30, 2025 11:46:55 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	No
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

I dont agree with the proposed by law. As a responsible cat owner if this law comes in i am having to end the lives of 2 of my cats. My cats are family and will cause alot of distress. I understand there are owners or non owners who have not done the right thing and i know of friends that will be put in a very distressing postion if it comes in..suel there is another way

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

No



Respondent No: 28

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: May 01, 2025 14:27:33 pm

Last Seen: May 01, 2025 04:15:25 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Partially
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 5 - Dogs  
No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

whilst the number of dogs is relevant, the SIZE of the dogs on individual property is important. What cannot be monitored is whether owners exercise or keep their dogs busy/ entertained appropriately and if in rentals, whether property owners provide appropriate fencing and gates do dogs can be off lead (IE dogs become distressed when they can see /hear strangers, other dogs etc so fencing needs to be solid). These factors need to be considered when determining numbers of dogs. (IE per property, or per owner and in built up areas, per neighbourhood particularly when council has determined remove some park areas in some neighbourhoods & off lead areas are limited). Is there any capacity to consider the requirement for owners to be compulsory obliged to train their dogs in order to keep them registered???

**Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats**

Happy to keep my cats contained at night. NOT appropriate to limit numbers of cats per owner given that every cat I have has been a rescued stray that has been speyed in order to help minimise the stray cat problem. Cats need to be compulsorily speyed in order to be registered. In relation to the monitoring of both dog and cat numbers and containment, there is limited likelihood that any legal action against owners would be successful given that 1/ people are struggling to meet regular costs of living & may struggle to pay registration costs or associated fines for breaches of by-laws 2/ the RSPCA rarely manages to have successful outcomes in instances of extreme cruelty, abandonment of animals etc. It would seem that there are even less clear links between animal containment and safety. A cost benefit analysis between fees paid for registration vs costs to council for salaries, following up breaches of by-laws & successful claims for costs needs to be provided to evidence the ongoing necessity of the bylaws

---

**Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?**

There has been insufficient notice and evidence of collaboration. People without internet access or who have limited technology skills are (as usual!) disadvantaged

---



**Respondent No:** 29

**Login:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Responded At:** May 01, 2025 15:14:23 pm

**Last Seen:** May 01, 2025 05:38:42 am

**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

**Q1. What is your name?**

[REDACTED]

**Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:**

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Partially
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	No

**Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)**

No. 6 - Cats

**Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties**

not answered

**Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land**

not answered

**Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads**

not answered

**Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs**

not answered

**Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs**

not answered

**Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats**

Paying registration fees for a cat is not acceptable, I understand limiting the amount of cats but households that already have more than 2 should be exempt until one or more cats die. Speaking to other residents they agreed that they would not be disposing of the cats they already have and none want to or can afford registration fees .

**Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?**

This needs to be advertised more as most of us only found it on the community chat groups



Respondent No: 30

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: May 05, 2025 10:38:32 am

Last Seen: May 05, 2025 01:05:25 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Yes
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Restricting cats in this manner will only apply to owned cats, where owners can be proven and will not solve or impact cat overpopulation of stray cats in the community.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

no



Respondent No: 31

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Responded At: May 05, 2025 12:39:38 pm

Last Seen: May 05, 2025 03:03:35 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Yes
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs


not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

I would like to see Mount Gambier do what the council the adelaide hills has done where no cats are to be outside unless on a leash. I have just had an emergency vet bill yesterday for a cat that tried to drag my pet under the fence by its leg and has mauled its leg, which we are still incurring vet visits and injections to help keep my pet alive. THis was 7am on Sunday morning when I was in my back yard watering plants, these cats jump my fence dig under my fence and are nuisances and cause harrassment to my family. The pain and suffering and stress this has caused myself and my pet is significant. Please consider strong guidelines for cat owners that can protect the families that dont want cats and have delicate animals in their own backyards, volunerable to these hunting creatures. They are a nuisance and very stressful.

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 32	<b>Responded At:</b> May 06, 2025 14:43:11 pm
	<b>Login:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Last Seen:</b> May 06, 2025 04:56:10 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	No
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Partially
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Partially
No. 5 - Dogs	Partially
No. 6 - Cats	Partially

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 5 - Dogs
No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered

**Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats**

Cat by laws have been long needed in Mount Gambier, while the draft has a plan from cats born from Jan 1, 2026, to keep them confined, I don't believe this is effective action to resolve the current issue of stray and unowned cats in town. Cats under 12 months old should also be included after date of approved by law. This would ensure cat owners are required to take immediate action. As a cat owner in Mount Gambier, I will happily pay registration fees to cover the cost of implementing these new by laws as long as they are applied swiftly and strictly. There will need to be a plan for stray cats and unowned cats and possibly a deal with RSPCA or SEAWL in which funding is providing to reduce stray cat population. The 2-cat rule per household, this will need to be strictly applied as with the 3-dog rule, I see many homes within Mount Gambier through work have 4-7 dogs, they have them registered to different people at the same address or claim they are service or emotional support dogs. In my line of work, we can only work to council by laws in regard to animals in properties. Lack of council by laws around cats and broad laws for dogs or limited ability to enforce said laws make it significantly hard to improve the community and advocate for safe and ethical treatment of pets. The council need to release more funding for cat and dog management and support the staff working on the ground to do their work efficiently. Senior leadership could also improve local relationships by being willing to negotiate when services and agencies approach them with a joint recommendation, this would also support council staff actively working within the community as often senior leadership make decisions that do not support their staff to complete their daily job safely and efficiently. The council need to review the allocated funding for this issue and put more behind it. Other services are willing to discuss and work together on the matter, if the council would prioritise it. This is a matter affecting the town currently and only getting worse. These laws need to come in but a major piece of work needs to be done to ensure they are abided by.

---

**Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?**

not answered

---



Respondent No: 33

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: May 08, 2025 12:03:16 pm

Last Seen: May 08, 2025 02:11:11 am

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name?

[REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Yes
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply)

No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs

not answered


Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

As a previous cat owner I fully encourage regulation on cat owners, on how owners manage their cat within their property and outdoors. Cat enclosures can be made to allow access to cat to the outside, and litter trays can be placed in these enclosures. Cats are adaptive to collars and leads, including harnesses. Cat transport crates can be obtained and used when transporting the cat in one's car - to the vets or when moving house. My two cats were desexed at 6 weeks and microchipped, lived inside or in an enclosure in the garden, from birth. When they roamed outside of the enclosure they were on a leads. It is responsible cat ownership to manage your cats' movements around and within your home. Though regulation need to be enforced to keep everyone doing the right thing by neighbours and the environment. They are natural hunters and will eat native wildlife even if they have food being given at their homes.

**Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?**

It's good to have reviews but there should be fewer exemptions - all animals can be trained to accept better control methods. Cats of any age if they are kept as a pet within a home should be place restrictions on their movements around outside. It is not pleasant to go to one own vegetable garden to find someone else's cat scats deposited in your own vegetable garden bed. It is also un-health to have someone else's cat scats in or near your food production space.

---

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 34	<b>Responded At:</b> May 08, 2025 12:38:28 pm
	<b>Login:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Last Seen:</b> May 08, 2025 02:11:11 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	Yes
No. 2 - Local Government Land	Yes
No. 3 - Roads	Yes
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	Yes
No. 5 - Dogs	Yes
No. 6 - Cats	Yes

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) No. 6 - Cats

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties

not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land

not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads

not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs

not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs


not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats

Fully agree with the proposed by-laws

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?

not answered

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 35	<b>Responded At:</b> May 09, 2025 21:24:45 pm
	<b>Login:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Last Seen:</b> May 09, 2025 11:53:08 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]

Q1. What is your name? [REDACTED]

Q2. After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:

No. 1 - Permits and Penalties	No
No. 2 - Local Government Land	No
No. 3 - Roads	No
No. 4 - Moveable Signs	No
No. 5 - Dogs	No
No. 6 - Cats	No

Q3. Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on? (select all that apply) not answered

Q4. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 1 - Permits and Penalties  
not answered

Q5. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 2 - Local Government Land  
not answered

Q6. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 3 - Roads  
not answered

Q7. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 4 - Moveable Signs  
not answered

Q8. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 5 - Dogs  
not answered

Q9. Please let us know your thoughts on No. 6 - Cats  
not answered

Q10. Is there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to the By-Laws consultation?  
No

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Emails](#)  
**Subject:** Cat Management bylaw  
**Date:** Wednesday, 23 April 2025 8:33:14 AM

---

**\*\*CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of this Organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe\*\*.

Good morning,

I find myself deeply concerned about your new cat management plan that has been created by the council.

I see nothing to support initiatives to manage community cats, no plan for TNR for strays and abandoned pets, but a huge money grab from loving owners of cats who are already in homes and cared for.

It stinks of poor planning and neglect of the actual animals and humans this plan will affect.

Council needs to take action and plan for the following:

- Support for rescues who are the ones currently handling the burden of unwanted pets in the region
- A council-run nonprofit shelter to help house animals until adoption
- Discount desexing
- A well designed program for trapping, desexing and returning strays and community cats
- Actual thought and care with regard to the limit on the number of pets that are allowed to be owned. Two cats per household is not a reasonable or achievable limit in any circumstances and only breeds resentment of the council and a refusal to seek veterinary care for animals in excess of the limit. Fear and distrust of the government do nothing but cause suffering for the pets and owners in the region.

I urge you to rethink your plan as the current situation and the plan you have outlined are at odds and do nothing to bring about a solution.

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Emails](#)  
**Subject:** Dog and Cat Management by law plans  
**Date:** Wednesday, 23 April 2025 8:38:55 PM

---

**\*\*CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of this Organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe\*\*.

Hello,

I have recently become aware of some of the plans being reviewed in the dogs and cats management plan that is to be implemented between 2024-2028.

I have seen one of the plans to be implemented is a limit on the number of cats a household can own.

I feel this is an unfair escalation from the current treatment of cat owners.

My partner and I have 4 cats and have done everything in our power to not only protect our cats but to prevent them affecting our neighbourhood.

Our cats are completely vaccinated, are desexed, are microchipped and registered with DACO and we have a completely enclosed catio which is our cats only outdoor time not on leash/harness.

While I completely agree that laws on cat microchipping and desexing should be enforced, and that a cat curfew or "nuisance fee" such as what has been proposed in the management plan could drastically reduce our population of feral cats and uncared for or abandoned animals, a law limiting cats in households that are doing the right thing is unjust.

I also want to bring up the argument "if someone is going to break the law by not desexing their cat, why would they be afraid of a law enforcing a limit on the number of cats?"

I am glad that the rising population of abandoned strays is being addressed in legislation, I wanted to write to express my opinion as a citizen doing all the right things.

I hope more information is released in the future that makes this proposal of a "cat limit" more fair.

I hope this is a misunderstanding of the plan on my part.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Emails](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed By law 6 Cats  
**Date:** Monday, 28 April 2025 9:25:09 AM

---

**\*\*CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of this Organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe\*\*.

I am writing to express my opinion on the new cat By law. I would like them to be stronger and strictly policed. I would like the law to actually stipulate that cats must either be kept indoors or outdoors in a purpose built enclosed cat run.

My neighbourhood cats continually defecate in my garden beds and i do not know which cat lives where.

I have an acre property and my dogs are confined to a smaller yard or else they eat cat poo. Even when i allow my dogs to play supervised in the larger yard, much to my disgust they manage to find and eat cat poo.

It is a scientific fact that eating cat poo can make dogs sick. I am having to worm my dogs monthly instead of 3 monthly due to the ingestion of cat poo which is no protection against other organisms. Cat poo contains:

**Parasites:**

Cats can carry parasites like roundworms and hookworms

**Bacteria:**

Cats can also carry bacteria like E. coli or Salmonella, which can cause illness in dogs.

**Toxoplasmosis:**

One of the most common bacterial infections carried by cats is toxoplasmosis, which can cause serious illness in dogs

In addition it frustrates me that laws for microchipping, desexing, sale of dogs and cats etc are not policed. What is the point of having laws if there are no staff to police it.

I have phoned the Dog and Cat Management Board on several occasions over various matters eg fraudulent puppy sale adds with fake microchip numbers and have been openly told no staff to investigate. Compliance of laws will only occur if there are actual penalties that are enacted.

Kind Regards  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Emails](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on 2025 By-Law Review – Cat and Dog By-Laws Feedback  
**Date:** Monday, 28 April 2025 11:15:19 AM  
**Attachments:** [2025-04-Submission in Response to the 2025 By-Law Review.pdf](#)

---

**\*\*CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of this Organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe\*\*.

Dear City of Mount Gambier Council,

I hope this message finds you well.

Please find attached my submission in response to the City of Mount Gambier's 2025 By-Law Review, specifically regarding the proposed Cat By-Law and Dog By-Law. As a homeowner and responsible cat owner, I have taken a keen interest in ensuring that the by-laws are practical, fair, and supportive of both responsible pet ownership and broader community wellbeing.

In my submission, I have outlined several concerns and recommendations based on personal experience, community observations, and a strong commitment to supporting animal welfare and public safety in Mount Gambier.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important matter. I appreciate the Council's work in reviewing and updating the by-laws and welcome any further opportunity to engage on these issues if needed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any clarification on the points raised in my submission.

Kind regards,

--

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

# **2025 By-Law Review**

City of Mount Gambier Council

*Submission prepared by* [REDACTED]

***Monday 28 April 2025***

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## Executive Summary

As a responsible homeowner and cat owner, I support the City of Mount Gambier's efforts to promote responsible pet ownership. However, I raise several concerns and recommendations to improve fairness, effectiveness, and clarity in the proposed 2025 By-Laws:

### **1. Discrepancy Between Cat and Dog Controls**

- The Cat By-Law introduces mandatory confinement; no equivalent exists for dogs.
- Given frequent community reports of roaming and aggressive dogs, similar "effective confinement to property" requirements should apply to dogs to ensure fairness and public safety.

### **2. Concerns About Cat Number Limits**

- Clearer, accessible pathways must be provided for responsible owners wishing to keep more than two cats, particularly community members rescuing stray kittens.
- Approval criteria should focus on health, safety, and space, not arbitrary limits alone.
- Parity should be established with the dog by-law, which allows three dogs on large properties.

### **3. Cat Confinement Carve-Out Issues**

- Exempting cats born before 1 January 2026 undermines wildlife protection and pet welfare objectives.
- All cats, regardless of age, should be subject to future containment rules.

### **4. Lack of Parity and Clarity in Nuisance Controls**

- A "dogs not to be a nuisance" clause should be added to mirror the cat rules.
- Clearer public guidance is needed to distinguish between normal animal behaviour and actionable nuisance.
- Council should update reporting procedures, requiring evidence like Nuisance Diaries and discouraging vexatious complaints, in line with the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016.
- Recent examples, such as the cruelty case involving six dogs on a Mount Gambier property, highlight the urgent need for better enforcement resourcing and proactive inspections.

### **5. Importance of Mandatory Cat Registration**

- Registration is critical to responsibly reunite lost cats with owners, track cat populations, and reduce the risk of impoundment or harm.
- Mandatory cat registration should be introduced immediately, not left at Council discretion.

### **6. Additional Recommendation: Support Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Programs**

- Council should support humane TNR programs to manage unowned and semi-owned cat populations, complementing other responsible ownership measures.

## Submission and Key Concerns

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed 2025 By-Laws.

As a homeowner and a responsible cat owner, I would like to raise a number of concerns and recommendations regarding both the [Cat By-Law 2025](#) and the [Dog By-Law 2025](#), particularly where there are inconsistencies between the treatment of cats and dogs and missed opportunities to strengthen community and environmental outcomes.

### 1. Discrepancy Between Cat and Dog By-Laws

The proposed Cat By-Law 2025 introduces mandatory confinement requirements (subject to Council setting a date), whereas the Dog By-Law 2025 has no similar clause requiring the effective confinement of dogs to private property.

This is concerning, particularly when considering local community experiences. As part of preparing this submission, I conducted a quick review of one local Facebook group, searching for the term "dog" in posts made during 2025.

- I found 28 posts relating to dogs wandering around the community.
- In comparison, searching the same group for "cat" found only 5 posts about missing or found cats.

While it is important to note that this is a small sample from a general community group (not a dedicated lost-and-found forum), it nonetheless highlights a visible disparity: Dogs roaming in the community appear to be a significantly more frequent concern than cats.

Given this real-world context:

- The absence of an effective confinement requirement for dogs' risks undermining community safety, increasing nuisance incidents, and creating enforcement inconsistencies.
- Without parity in confinement rules, responsible cat owners are being held to a higher standard while ongoing dog-related issues remain unaddressed.

#### **Recommendation:**

- Introduce a similar "effective confinement to property" requirement for dogs when not under immediate supervision.
- Ensure that dog owners are held to the same expectations of responsible pet containment as cat owners.

### 2. Concerns About Cat Number Limits

While I personally only own one cat and that is unlikely to change any time soon, I would like to raise a concern about how the two-cat limit is framed.

Many community members put a great deal of time, energy, and resources into rescuing stray kittens and domesticating them as pets. This work plays an important role in reducing stray populations and keeping cats off the streets, ultimately supporting both animal welfare and environmental goals.

While I fully agree that it is reasonable to place a limit on the number of cats per property, it is important that:

- The requirements for seeking Council permission to keep more than two cats are clearly communicated and accessible.
- Owners who have taken in stray or rescue cats understand what changes they may need to make (such as hygiene, secure spaces, veterinary care) in order to stay compliant and continue providing a safe and loving home.
- Potential new rescuers are encouraged to operate responsibly, not deterred by unclear rules.

In these circumstances, the focus should be on:

- The health and safety of both the animals and the humans living at the premises.
- Ensuring sufficient space for all occupants to live safely, healthily, and comfortably.

It is also important to maintain reasonable parity between cat and dog by-laws. For example:

- The Dog By-Law allows up to three dogs to be kept on larger properties without special permission.
- No similar provision exists for cats, even though a large property could easily accommodate a small cattery-style structure that allows for the safe and healthy containment of multiple cats without posing a risk to the community or the environment.

Without thoughtful flexibility, stricter controls on cat numbers risk driving owner's underground:

- People may choose not to register their cats.
- People may hide the fact they have more than two cats, creating risks to animal welfare, human health, and public health.

**Recommendation:**

- Ensure clear, publicly accessible guidelines on how to apply for permission to keep more than two cats.
- Focus the approval criteria on health, safety, cleanliness, and containment, rather than arbitrary numbers alone.

- Consider providing a similar allowance to the dog by-law, allowing larger properties to house more cats without complex application processes where appropriate.
- Encourage responsible ownership and rescue efforts rather than inadvertently penalizing them.

### 3. Issues With the Cat Confinement Carve-Out

The exemption for cats born before 1 January 2026 from confinement requirements is impractical and risks undermining the entire purpose of confinement rules.

Scientific evidence clearly shows that all cats, regardless of age, can have significant negative impacts on native wildlife.

For example:

- The Invasive Species Council (June 2023) reported that roaming pet cats kill an estimated 546 million animals per year in Australia.<sup>1</sup>
- A radio-tracking study in Adelaide found that 39% of cats believed by their owners to be indoors at night were actually roaming.
- Studies show that 85% of animals killed by pet cats are never brought home, meaning owners often remain unaware of the harm caused.

A cat's birthdate does not change its capacity to kill wildlife.

Responsible pet ownership — including full containment (indoors or cat runs) — protects both wildlife and the cats themselves from:

- Theft
- Road accidents
- Poisoning and baiting
- Injury through fights or misadventure

**Recommendation:** Remove the birthdate carve-out and require **all cats** to comply with confinement requirements, once enacted.

### 4. Lack of Parity in Nuisance Controls

There is a specific clause for cats not to cause a nuisance (Part 3.8) but **no** equivalent for dogs.

This is troubling, especially considering:

- Frequent reports of crying, barking, and howling dogs in the community.

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<sup>1</sup> The impact of roaming pet cats on Australian wildlife, accessed 28, April 2025  
<https://invasives.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Pet-cat-impacts-June-2023.pdf>

- The recent ABC news report (April 2025) on a Mount Gambier woman sentenced for cruelty to dogs found emaciated and neglected<sup>2</sup>.

The woman in question was found to have six dogs on her property, despite the proposed by-laws limiting dog ownership to:

- One dog for small dwellings
- Three dogs for larger properties

This raises serious questions:

- Given the existing or proposed limits, how was this situation allowed to happen without Council intervention sooner?
- How will similar failures be prevented in the future?

A hungry or neglected dog is not a quiet animal.

The fact that this case progressed so far without timely Council investigation highlights the critical need for:

- A well-funded and supported enforcement team.
- Staff who are empowered to investigate, intervene, and remove animals when home circumstances fall below acceptable welfare standards.

Simply having by-laws in place is not enough — active, consistent, and resourced enforcement is necessary to protect animals, residents, and public safety.

Additionally, it would be helpful for the Council to provide clearer guidance on what constitutes "nuisance" behaviour under the by-laws.

While an exhaustive list is neither practical nor desirable, it is important that both dog and cat owners have a reasonable understanding of when their pet's behaviour crosses the line from ordinary animal behaviour into actionable nuisance.

For example:

- A cat briefly traversing a neighbour's fence, while not ideal, is not necessarily a nuisance unless it disturbs other animals, damages property, or causes stress.
- Occasional dog barking is normal, but persistent, excessive barking that disturbs neighbouring properties would be a nuisance.

Further, the Council should update its public information — particularly its website — to clearly explain how residents can report nuisance issues and what evidence is required.

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<sup>2</sup> Mount Gambier woman gets suspended sentence after dogs found emaciated, accessed 28, April 2025 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-04-11/cruelty/105161604>

For example:

- In the case of alleged barking or howling, it would be reasonable to require the complainant to maintain a Nuisance Diary over a set period (e.g., 7–14 days), noting dates, times, and descriptions of the behaviour.
- The Council should make it clear that lodging false, misleading, or vexatious complaints is considered a serious matter, and should be treated similarly to offenses under the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*.

**Recommendation:**

- Introduce a "dogs not to be a nuisance" clause mirroring the cat by-law.
- Provide clearer public guidance (via Council website and fact sheets) about what constitutes nuisance behaviour.
- Update Council's website to explain how to report animal nuisance concerns, including the requirement for appropriate evidence such as a Nuisance Diary.
- Explicitly state that vexatious or false reporting is an offense and will not be tolerated.
- Ensure Council enforcement teams are adequately resourced and supported to investigate, intervene, and act where the welfare of animals or compliance with by-laws is compromised.

## 5. Importance of Cat Registration

While the Cat By-Law provides for the possibility of cat registration, registration should be mandatory from the outset.

While it may initially be unpopular with some residents, mandatory cat registration is a vital step towards encouraging responsible cat ownership.

Registration ensures that:

- Owned cats, whether indoor-only cats that have accidentally escaped or outdoor cats that have wandered, can be quickly and safely reunited with their owners.
- Council staff can identify owned cats without relying solely on microchip data, which is often outdated or incorrect unless owners are regularly reminded or incentivized to keep records updated.
- The risk of accidental destruction of a beloved family pet by the Council is significantly reduced.
- The risk of harm from disgruntled community members — fed up with unmanaged roaming cats — is also reduced.

Without registration, Council officers and members of the public are placed in a difficult position:

- Council may inadvertently impound or euthanize a family pet.
- Frustrated residents may take matters into their own hands, leading to potential harm to cats.

Mandatory cat registration would also enable the Council to:

- Track the number of cats per property and ensure compliance with the two-cat limit.
- Inspect premises with multiple cats where needed (per subclause 7.4).
- Investigate and enforce against nuisance or welfare concerns, particularly for properties reported for harbouring multiple uncontained cats.

**Recommendation:**

- Introduce immediate mandatory cat registration, not merely at Council discretion.
- Similarly, stronger inspection and enforcement powers should be considered for properties where multiple dogs are kept.

## 6. Additional Recommendation: Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Support and Stronger Management of Unowned, Semi-Owned, and Poorly Managed Cats

While not formally part of the current by-law review, I strongly encourage the Council to consider supporting or subsidizing trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs for unowned and semi-owned cats.

TNR programs are:

- A humane alternative to lethal control.
- Effective in reducing stray cat breeding and stabilizing community cat populations over time.

While TNR alone will not eliminate all environmental impacts, it is a vital parallel strategy to responsible pet ownership and cat containment.

Importantly, like many members of the community, I am also deeply concerned about unowned, semi-owned, and owned cats that are not properly managed. Despite containing our own cat 24/7 for her safety and to protect local wildlife, we have repeatedly experienced issues including:

- Our cat being harassed overnight by roaming cats, which causes her significant stress that often lasts well into the following day.

- Concern during the daytime when she is safely enclosed in a secure outdoor area, as unmanaged roaming cats approach and attempt to harass her through the netting.

This is not just a welfare issue for wildlife — it is a welfare issue for responsibly owned cats as well.

It seems profoundly unfair that despite taking all reasonable steps to provide safe, enriching, and contained environments for our pets, responsible owners are still likely to pay the price for other people's irresponsibility — including the risk of expensive veterinary treatment, injury, and even Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) transmission, which is commonly spread through cat fights.

**Recommendation:**

- Council should actively prioritize programs that manage unowned, semi-owned, and irresponsibly owned cats through registration, confinement enforcement, TNR programs, and public education.
- Council should also clearly communicate that the responsible containment of all cats — not just newly born ones — is essential to protect wildlife and safeguard the wellbeing of owned cats.

The City of Mount Gambier's proposed by-laws represent an important opportunity to strengthen responsible pet ownership and improve community outcomes. I fully support the intent behind these reforms but believe that thoughtful adjustments — particularly around enforcement parity between cats and dogs, clearer public guidance, fairer treatment of responsible multi-cat owners, and stronger support for enforcement teams — will ensure that the by-laws are practical, effective, and equitable.

By making these refinements, the Council can better protect the welfare of both animals and people, support community compliance, and avoid unintended consequences that could undermine the goals of the by-laws.

Thank you for considering my submission. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the development of fair, responsible, and effective animal management policies for our community.

Ref: Cat By laws Review

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to raise some concerns & points regarding these by law reviews. I am a cat owner. All my cats have needed a home & in fact are classed as rescue cats. They have been given a loving home. Are you going to kill my cats? There is a shortage of homes at present, so that's going to get worse with this ridiculous limit of two cats per household. For indoor cat owners, like me doing the right thing, how is it sustainable having the rule of only two cats? What happens with the other cats in my care? And how can I possibly choose between them? I thought we lived in a democratic society, not a dictatorship. That's barbaric behaviour, killing cats in a loving home. If you say to rehome them well there isn't enough homes at the moment, never mind taking extra cats into the system. All my cats have various mental health issues because of their past, even to the point involving being on medication. No one is going to want a cat with these issues. Do I have to put them down prematurely because the council says so? Why aren't cats picked up & fined like dog owners are?

How will all these laws be enforced? The laws brought in to have compulsory desexing & microchipping that brought about a lot of cats being abandoned as in the case of one of my cats. This has not been enforced by any fines etc so how will these new laws

be enforced? Will the council come to my door & kill my cats? I complied with the laws of neutering & microchipping my cats & the council has a record of who is in my care, due to this system. I'm on a disability pension & have never been offered any rebates or concessions for my boys.

Vets recommend if cats are kept inside fully (which mine are), they should have access to a catio or enclosed outside area. Will there be any concessions for people to be able to erect catios, similar to people being able to purchase compost bins cheaper.

What would the funds from cat registrations be used for? Will these funds be put back into the rescue shelters available? e.g. Cats & Kittens Rescue & Wet Noses as they don't get any government supports but are vital to rehoming & manage cats & kittens. Dog registration help with dog parks & poo bag dispensers. What will cat registration fund? Will a cheaper desexing program be on offer?

No reward has been offered to honest cat owners who have complied with cat laws. You've already stitched up cat owners who have microchipped their cats as the records are recorded with the council. So you already know who the honest people are & you are more than happy to now make it even harder for people to live in this cost of living crisis.

Council rates have risen so much that they are now the most expensive bill, & now you will be punishing honest pet owners & not the people who are letting their cats run wild. Nobody will be going around enforcing these laws like what has happened with the former laws of compulsory desexing & microchipping. What do you plan to do?

Again the honest person is being targeted by these by laws & being scammed to pay even more for our pets, while the dishonest owners are let off yet again. Looking forward to hearing a reply to these matters

Yours Sincerely



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Emails](#)  
**Subject:** Dog and cat  
**Date:** Wednesday, 30 April 2025 3:55:58 PM

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**\*\*CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of this Organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe\*\*.

Please also make law that cats must be kept in side. We are sick of finding that cats have crapped in our yard . How would you like to be putting up with this all the time. It is disgusting. People have to keep their dog in there own yard. Cats should be the same. Also registration and no more than to per house.

1/5/25

7

Council

Barking DOGS + Roaming CATS are a major problem.

It seems some owners are deaf/oblivious /simply don't care.

How about imposing heavy penalties. (instead of chasing parking fines) Dogs + Cats a much bigger & well being problem than parking.

Heavy fines imposed - increase revenue for council

Proposed ~~law~~ by laws should state - owners to keep cats & dogs secure in their properties, cage on in house.

(Dogs can then bark in their ear all night, instead of neighbour)

Re dogs - the idea that neighbours should record barking is bizarre.  
Take action instead of talking

the onus is on pet owners + Council not neighbours

then, if by-laws not complied - SEIZE PETS - PUT DOWN.

valid factor I believe, persons involved with creating by laws, maybe pet owners - this could be an issue.

Look forward to some peace & no cats at my front door + garden

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Emails](#)  
**Subject:** Submission for the proposed changes to By-Laws  
**Date:** Monday, 5 May 2025 9:59:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-c1z1qaac.png](#)  
[City of Mt Gambier By-Law Changes- Submission- Australian Pet Welfare Foundation.pdf](#)

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**\*\*CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of this Organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe\*\*.

Dear Animal Management,  
City of Mount Gambier,

Please find attached feedback on behalf of **Emeritus Professor [REDACTED]**,  
**Executive Director & Chief Scientist** of the **Australian Pet Welfare Foundation**,  
regarding the proposed changes to your local by-laws—specifically By-Law No. 6  
concerning cats.

We note the comments attributed to Ms Shelton in *The SE Voice* (April), indicating  
that “additional community consultation will occur before a proposed cats by-law is  
implemented,” and that a transitional grace period for community education is  
planned. However, her statement also suggests that the by-law changes are likely to  
proceed regardless of the outcomes of further consultation. This raises concerns  
about the purpose and genuine impact of the consultation process if key provisions  
have already been decided.

Should you require further information or clarification, please don’t hesitate to get in  
touch. We would be happy to provide additional support or evidence-based  
recommendations.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Policy Officer

**Australian Pet Welfare Foundation**

***Improving the health and wellbeing of pets, people and their environments***

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Website: [www.petwelfare.org.au](http://www.petwelfare.org.au)





5 May 2025

### **Submission for the City of Mount Gambier proposed by-law changes**

The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) is a peak research body and advocate for pet welfare in Australia. As a not-for-profit organisation, APWF uses science-based research to enhance community well-being and improve the health and welfare of animals and people. APWF specialises in evidence-based solutions to prevent euthanasia of healthy and treatable companion animals in shelters and pounds and the associated mental health damage to staff and community residents. We share research knowledge with the community, shelters and pounds, state and local governments and veterinarians to create change and save animal and human lives. APWF is led by Chief Scientist [REDACTED], Emeritus Professor of Companion Animal Health at The University of Queensland (UQ) and a registered specialist veterinarian in small animal internal medicine. She has worked extensively in shelter research over the last 17 years, including collaborative studies with the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and local governments. While at UQ [REDACTED] taught Urban Animal Management and since 2013 has co-authored over 30 peer-reviewed articles on urban animal management including management of semi-owned and unowned cats. [REDACTED] is an AVA member.

You can read more about us and our vision on our website: <https://petwelfare.org.au>.

### **Executive Summary**

The APWF opposes the proposed By-Law for cat management in the city of Mount Gambier. While well-intentioned, punitive measures such as new nuisance offences, cat limits, and confinement orders are unlikely to deliver improved community or animal welfare outcomes. Evidence shows these approaches often lead to increased abandonment, lower compliance, and strained relations with the community, undermining responsible cat ownership. Instead, proactive strategies focused on desexing, microchipping, identification, education, and support are far more effective.

Specific concerns include the introduction of a two-cat household limit and staged cat confinement requirements, which risk penalising responsible owners and carers without addressing the root causes of nuisance behaviours. Forced confinement, particularly without accessible support programs, may worsen animal welfare and impose financial hardship on vulnerable owners. Similarly, the proposed cat registration system risks low participation unless supported by substantial subsidies, education, and community outreach. Council is urged to prioritise incentive-



based, targeted community-driven strategies over regulatory controls to achieve better outcomes for cats, owners, and the wider community.

In relation to the proposed changes for dogs, the Foundation supports efforts to clarify definitions but cautions against restricting leash lengths to two metres, which may not meaningfully improve control or safety. Effective control depends more on training and handler capability than on leash length. We also support distinguishing working livestock dogs within the regulatory framework, provided that exemptions are clearly defined and consistently applied, the same for working cats (Crawford 2025). Practical support and assistance and guidance for owners and officers will be essential to successfully implementing any changes.

Importantly, pet ownership is well-documented to provide substantial mental health benefits, including reducing loneliness, stress, and anxiety. Enforcement-based strategies that separate people from their pets or impose distressing conditions can erode these protective effects. Moreover, animal care workers, volunteers, veterinarians, and Animal Management Officers (AMOs) are increasingly experiencing moral distress and burnout associated with punitive or high-euthanasia systems (Scotney 2017, Rohlf 2018, Rogelberg 2007, Jacobs 2021, Paul 2023, AVA 2023). Council should carefully consider the human mental health impacts of enforcement-led approaches and instead invest in programs that foster compassion, connection, and wellbeing for both animals and people in line with the "One Welfare" framework (Pinillos 2018).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes to the City of Mount Gambier's Local By-Laws, specifically the newly introduced By-Law No. 6 (Cats). As an organisation committed to evidence-based, humane animal management that benefits pets and people, the APWF has significant concerns regarding several aspects of the proposed by-laws, particularly those prioritizing punitive measures over proactive, community-driven strategies.

### **By-Law No. 6- Cats**

A crucial element of effective cat management legislation is the accurate definitions for cats, ensuring alignment with current best practices.

#### **Definitions for Cats**

The APWF recognizes and supports the definitions of cats as delineated in the findings and recommendations from the RSPCA Australia's 2018 report, ["Identifying best practice domestic cat management in Australia."](#) These definitions categorize cats as Feral and Domestic (owned, semi-owned, unowned). In Australia, cats are classified as either feral or domestic. Feral cats are defined as those that live and reproduce in the wild, without any reliance on humans. The Royal Society for the Prevention of



Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) recommends that domestic cats be identified as those living in proximity to humans and relying wholly or partially on them for survival. According to this definition, free-roaming cats in urban, peri-urban, rural towns, and farm areas are considered domestic cats. These cats may be owned, semi-owned (fed by people who do not perceive ownership), or unowned (obtaining food unintentionally from humans). Cats without identification, such as a microchip or collar and tag, are considered stray.

### **Domestic cats**

Cat management by-laws should recognise three subcategories of domestic cats including:

- **Owned cats** – these cats are identified with and cared for by a specific person and are directly dependent on humans. They are usually sociable, although sociability varies. These cats are also called pet cats.
- **Semi-owned cats** – these cats are directly dependent on humans and are intentionally fed by people who do not consider they own them. These cats are of varying sociability and are sometimes called stray cats.
- **Unowned cats** – these cats are indirectly dependent on humans and receive food from people unintentionally, such as via food waste bins. These cats are of varying sociability and are sometimes called stray cats.

o **Feral cats**- Feral cats have no relationship with or dependence on humans (neither direct nor indirect), survive by hunting or scavenging for food, and live and reproduce in the wild (e.g., forests, woodlands, grasslands, deserts). Feral cats do not live in the vicinity of where people live, and they do not receive food from humans intentionally (direct feeding) or unintentionally (e.g. via food waste bins). Feral cats are completely unsocialised to humans and have none of their needs fulfilled by humans. Feral cats are not found or trapped in the vicinity of where people live, are not the subject of nuisance complaints and do not enter Australian council pounds or animal shelters.

Research demonstrates that pet cats can respond with more aggressive behaviours to humans when highly stressed than genuinely feral cats. It is critical that before a decision that a cat is euthanised on behaviour, it is given sufficient time to adapt to a stressful environment. Outcome decisions relating to euthanasia based on behavioural characteristics must be deferred to allow the cat sufficient time to habituate to the unfamiliar environment (e.g., shelter or pound), given the likelihood that these cats will experience high levels of fear in a trap cage or unfamiliar environment. By not allowing a stressed cat to settle into the environment, this may result in the cat exhibiting signs of being unsocial and ultimately lead to higher euthanasia (Rochlitz 1998, Kessler 1997, DiGangi 2022, Jacobsen 2022, Slater 2013 and Kerr 2018).

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#### **Recommendations-**

- **The recommendation that the term “feral” not be used to describe cats in shelters or pounds aligns with current practices at RSPCA Australia, which has ceased using 'feral' as a category for intake or euthanasia in its annual statistics, recognizing that feral cats do not engage with shelter or pound facilities. The previously used term “feral” as a reason for euthanasia is now recategorized as “behaviour” (RSPCA Australia Annual Statistics 2022).**
- **Use these definitions, recognising the vast difference between the classifications, as the base for any management programs or changes to by-laws.**

#### **Introduction of a nuisance offence**

The introduction of a nuisance offence aimed at cat owners fails to account for the reality that many nuisance complaints involve semi-owned or unowned cats, which do not have identifiable or legally responsible owners. In these cases, enforcement becomes impractical, as there is no person to hold accountable under the by-law. The only available tool under such a framework is trapping and impounding, which has been shown to be ineffective, costly, and inhumane when applied to free-roaming cat populations. Without accompanying investment in community desexing, assistance, and support programs, this measure risks increasing impounds and euthanasia rates without solving the underlying problem.

Furthermore, such provisions may strain council resources and public goodwill by encouraging residents to resort to trapping as the default solution. This approach often leads to unnecessary harm to cats and distress within communities, particularly in areas where cats provide companionship to vulnerable residents or where community carers are trying to help without formal ownership. A more effective alternative is to focus on preventative, non-punitive strategies, such as targeted desexing and assistance and support campaigns, that address the root source of cat population issues and reduce nuisance behaviour over time, without resorting to punitive enforcement that disproportionately impacts people with the least means to comply.

Education is often promoted as a key tool in cat management, but what does “education” involve? Too frequently, it takes the form of passive measures, pamphlets, signage, or website pages that inform the public about containment laws or desexing requirements. While well-intentioned, this one-way communication assumes that awareness alone leads to behaviour change. Yet, despite decades of education campaigns, the same issues persist with high shelter intake, euthanasia of healthy



cats, and community frustration. If the goal of education is to shift behaviour, then clearly something isn't working.

Rather than repeating strategies that have limited impact, it's time to rethink what effective education looks like. This means pairing information with practical, accessible support, free desexing programs, subsidised microchipping, cat bedtime feeding workshops, and direct community engagement that builds trust. Education should be part of a broader framework that removes barriers and empowers people to care for cats responsibly, keeping them out of pounds in the first place. Otherwise, we risk continuing the cycle of enforcement and impoundment, while claiming that "education" is being done.

**Introduces a limit of 2 cats per household, unless otherwise authorised / exempt. *Note: this provision will only be applicable to cats born after the adoption of the By-Law and will not impact existing cats.***

It is essential to recognize that a local law limiting the number of cats per property differs significantly from a cat hoarding situation. A study in Victoria, involving 22 cases, describes animal hoarding as the accumulation of a large number of animals beyond the owner's capacity to provide adequate care (Ockenden 2014). This extreme form of hoarding is challenging to resolve, often linked to underlying issues such as depression, anxiety, and mental illness, with traumatic life events like the loss of a family member triggering the behaviour. Resolving these cases requires substantial resources from various agencies and often results in the removal of cats, which then impacts council or welfare shelters' capacities. Without specific behavioural change interventions, there is a nearly 100 percent chance of reoffending. Addressing these situations necessitates more than just Animal Management Officers (AMOs) involvement; it requires the involvement of social services, including social workers and other support services.

Limiting the number of cats on a property is a further mandate that will not address the unowned and semi-owned cat population. It is assumed if an owner can be identified, the owner would be directed to rectify the noncompliance or receive an infringement, which may not result in compliance, but may result in further costs for the council to try and retrieve the financial total through a court process. This does not guarantee or may not result in compliance of a nuisance cat or excess cats at a property. While responsible cat owners comply with these requirements, the reality is that if every cat owner or carer adhered to them, we wouldn't be facing the current issues.

With only 7% of cats being reclaimed from pounds in Australia (Chua, 2023) and a growing overpopulation problem, existing programs are ineffective regardless of the mandates imposed. To address this, we must shift our approach from reactive complaint management to proactive cat programs in partnership with the community



and local cat welfare shelters. This strategy will help keep cats out of shelters and pounds, thereby increasing their capacity to care for cats in need and reducing costs, intake, and euthanasia totals for both councils and not-for-profit organizations.

**Recommendation-**

- **Shift from passive awareness campaigns to hands-on, community-based programs that combine education with free or low-cost services. For example, pairing information about desexing with onsite desexing clinics or mobile vet units makes it easier for people to act. This practical support addresses the root causes of non-compliance and builds goodwill, especially in communities where cost or access is a barrier.**
- **Invest in behaviour change strategies informed by social science, such as community ambassadors, peer-led education, and tailored messaging for different demographics (e.g., renters, older adults, cat feeders). Education should be ongoing, relational, and focused on enabling positive action, not just distributing information. This approach encourages lasting change and reduces reliance on enforcement.**

**Allows for Council to impose effective confinement of cats (e.g. a curfew for certain hours, or restricting cats to private property, similar to requirements for dogs). *Note: Council does not intend to implement such provisions immediately, and a staged introduction, concurrent with consultation and education of the community, will be utilised prior to implementing or enforcing.***

**Mandatory Containment and Enforcement of Local By-laws**

The APWF strongly recommends keeping cats contained indoors at night where possible, and during the day, if possible, on their owners' property in a comfortable environment that meets their physical and mental needs. However, **the APWF is against mandated cat containment (night curfews and 24/7)** because it results in increased cat-related complaints, impoundments, and euthanasia, as well as higher costs and enforcement difficulties for local governments. Additionally, mandated cat containment fails to reduce the overall number of wandering cats in the short and long term, both in Australia and internationally, and is a barrier to solving the free-roaming cat problem.

For cat containment to be successful, clear measurable goals need to be first identified such as reduced wandering and nuisance cats and/or reduced risk of wildlife predation. For successful implementation it is critical to recognize the source of the problem, geographic locations where the issues are greatest, and barriers in these



areas for residents to successfully contain their cats. For example, free-roaming domestic cats and cat-related complaints are greatest in disadvantaged areas. In these areas, many free-roaming cats are semi-owned cats or unidentified-owned cats with disadvantaged owners.

Mandated containment will not achieve the hoped for goals, because firstly, most free-roaming cats in these areas are unidentified. Secondly, many disadvantaged residents simply have no ability to comply, and therefore mandated containment becomes a social justice issue. In areas where free-roaming cats are most numerous and problematic, many residents live in low-cost rental properties that have inadequate fencing for cat containment, and may have no screens on windows and doors or air-conditioning. Containment fencing is often in the range of \$700 to \$2000 or more and is simply not affordable for community members to comply with cat containment mandates. Unfortunately, no subsidy is available to encourage their purchase, and cheaper options, such as PVC pipe installations, may require specific skills that some individuals do not possess. Additionally, many community members live in apartment blocks without access to a yard, leaving them with only communal spaces where they cannot put an enclosure. This is particularly common in social housing, where residents may not have flyscreens on windows and, therefore, cannot physically contain their cats, and fencing is inadequate to fit even inexpensive PVC tubing.

**Promoting simple low or minimum-cost solutions such as bedtime feeding** is likely to get more compliance, especially effective night-time compliance. Night-time containment is effective at protecting vulnerable wildlife, because it is a time when cats and threatened and endangered species most susceptible to cat predation (nocturnal mammals such as squirrel gliders and phascogales) are most likely to interact.

Bedtime feeding of cats is recommended as a highly effective way to assist cat owners at minimal to no additional cost to keep owned pet cats safely inside at night and prevent potential wildlife predation and nuisance behaviours such as fighting. This involves feeding cats inside at bedtime and ensuring all doors and windows are shut for the night, providing many owners with a way to safely confine their cat in the house/dwelling overnight. Bed-time feeding should be widely promoted to raise awareness among cat owners to increase cat containment at night, however, containment should not be made mandatory. This is because containment may not be achievable, for example for owners with no air-conditioning and inadequate screening on windows and doors, and no suitable secure area. In addition, mandating containment leads to increased costs and enforcement difficulties for local governments and other unintended negative consequences including severe mental health impacts on community residents and staff associated with euthanising healthy cats and kittens. Mandated cat containment also prevents the resolution of the problem of wandering cats by creating a significant obstacle for cat semi-owners to take full ownership of the stray cats they are feeding.



**Mandating cat confinement creates a false hope within the community that the problems will be fixed once implemented and enforced.** However, enforcement cannot occur when there is no owner for a cat, and effective enforcement requires an owner to be issued with the infringement or notice. In the relatively few cases where an owner or semi-owner is identified, they often have no ability to comply. Infringements issued by the council for noncompliance can further financially burden cat owners without achieving containment. It is interesting that it is mentioned cat management should be in line with the introduction of tougher rules, similar to those for dogs.” It is easy to prove ownership of a dog, as it is generally in a backyard or behind a fence or gate, proof of ownership for cats is very difficult when a cat could be on another property to where it resides, or even on a different street. Dogs and cats are in no way similar when it comes to proof of ownership, for enforcement purposes.

Mandating cat containment is seen as a popular potential solution to the free-roaming cat and nuisance problem. However, this is because the community does not understand the cause of the problem (low socioeconomic, semi-owned and unidentified owned cats), nor do they understand the adverse impacts of such a program on staff mental health and job satisfaction, nuisance complaints and costs to councils and welfare agencies. They also do not understand that evidence from Victoria demonstrates they are not effective, and there is no research to show effectiveness, while microtargeted desexing programs are successful at reducing the problem (Cotterell 2024, Rand 2024, RSPCA NSW 2023).

The expansion of local cat confinement laws will not solve the issue of semi-owned and stray domestic cats, as has been shown in previous instances such as Yarra Ranges Council and Casey Council (Victoria) (APWF 2022). Furthermore, some councils have produced reports stating that curfews are unenforceable (Hobsons Bay Council, Hume City Council, Geelong Council, Bayside Council). In the City of Yarra Ranges (Victoria), in the 3rd year after mandating 24/7 cat containment, cat-related complaints increased by 143%. Yarra Ranges Council acknowledged that the significant increase in cat complaints was likely the result of the introduction of a 24-hour cat curfew in 2014. In addition, impoundments increased by 68%, and euthanasia increased by 18% (human population only increased by 2%) (Yarra Ranges 2021).

In the City of Casey (Victoria), 20 years after introducing mandated 24/7 cat containment, the number of cats impounded was still 296% higher than baseline (from 264 cats in 1998 to 1,047 cats in 2019/20), more than double the rate of the human population increase. In 2000, Casey received 349 cat nuisance and related complaints which had increased to 376 complaints in 2020/2021 (Casey Council Domestic Animal Management Plans 2001 & 2021) (APWF 2022). Therefore, mandated containment is not effective over 3 years or 20 years in reducing complaints associated with free-roaming cats, cat impoundments and therefore costs to councils.



Recognising that some Victorian councils have chosen not to adopt cat curfews highlights a growing shift toward more community-focused and evidence-based approaches to cat management (Hobsons Bay Council 2014, Hume Council 2018, Van Oorschot 2024). These councils acknowledge that curfews, when implemented without adequate support programs, can lead to increased abandonment, further barriers for residents to comply (financially with cost of living, enforcement challenges, without significantly reducing nuisance behaviours or improving animal welfare.

This failure reflects the impracticality for owners of semi-owned or stray cats to contain cats, and the financial and logistical barriers faced by cat residents in disadvantaged urban environments including in social housing. Therefore, it is important to consider alternative solutions that are both effective and feasible for all community members.

**Recommendation-**

- **We recommend a more nuanced approach that includes supporting the construction of affordable and simple cat enclosures where practicable, and exploring subsidies for those in need, and promoting bedtime feeding where feasible.**
- **Implement proactive programs to assist bedtime feeding within the community, rather than implementing further laws that will fail.**

Best wishes,



Emeritus Professor [REDACTED], BVSc (Melb), DVSc (Guelph), MANZCVS  
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine

Executive Director & Chief Scientist  
Australian Pet Welfare Foundation



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Emails](#)  
**Subject:** Re proposed cat By-Laws review  
**Date:** Friday, 9 May 2025 2:41:52 PM

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**\*\*CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of this Organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe\*\*.

To the Mount Gambier City Council

We live in the Mount Gambier area and have one desexed vaccinated cat (approximately 7 years old) and one desexed dog. My cat does go outside for part of the day plus inside too, but I always make sure she is inside around 5.00pm for the night. When outside she is usually just near our back door or in her cat house or her spots in our garden. I know she does also go to our next-door neighbors at times, and they have told me they don't mind. If the council makes it that cats can only be on their own property, I can't see how it would be possible for caring owners to always know where their cats are during daylight hours, especially for those cats that have been used to being outside sometimes. Also, I have never seen our cat with a dead bird in our yard. We have gates for our dog when she is at home.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mount Gambier Residents and Ratepayers Assoc., SA](#)  
**To:** [City Emails](#)  
**Subject:** Submission of feedback for By-Law 6 Cats  
**Date:** Monday, 12 May 2025 9:03:34 AM  
**Attachments:** [MGDRRA Community recommendations for By Law 6 Cats.pdf](#)

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**\*\*CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of this Organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe\*\*.

Good morning,

Please find attached community feedback and possible recommendations collected at a community meeting held earlier this year to help with the improved actions for cat management within our local community.

Kind regards,



MGDRRA



Mount Gambier and District Residents and Ratepayers Association Incorporated  
PO Box 3591  
Mount Gambier SA 5290  
E: [mgrassoc@gmail.com](mailto:mgrassoc@gmail.com)  
W: [www.mgdrro.org.au](http://www.mgdrro.org.au)  
F: facebook.com/mgdrro

Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2025

City of Mount Gambier  
PO Box 56  
Mount Gambier SA 5290

E: [city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au](mailto:city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au)

#### **Re By-Law Review No 6 Cats**

A community meeting was facilitated by our Association earlier this year. We had 40 people in attendance including guest speakers from SEAWL, Cat & Kitten Rescue and Wet Noses.

Each of the guest speakers spoke frankly and provided the audience with factual information from their perspectives and concerns about the current need for more help to support residents to be responsible pet owners, specifically cats and kittens. Each of the speaker's spoke of the critical need to receive extra support from Council with help both financially and with other resources to help control the number of cats and kittens in our community.

The overwhelming majority of people in attendance at the Community meeting believed that Councils' actions did not meet community expectations.

Below is a list of possible solutions put forward by those in attendance to help all key stakeholders to improve the current practices of cat and kitten management.

- Improve the public education/notification to not feed stray cats, define what is responsible cat ownership
- Set a procedure to advise community what to do if they capture a stray cat
- Budget for subsidising the cost to microchip & desexing of cats
- Engage with more key stakeholders like community services to help achieve better outcomes for cats, kittens and residents
- From research presented to us at the meeting we were advised that in NSW & Vic if a household has more than 4 cats the resident is classed as a "breeder" Cats and kittens must remain inside overnight. A \$15 fee is paid to council to register cats and pensioners are charged a discounted fee of \$30 to desex their cats
- Arrange support agencies to cat & kitten owners to help with transport to local vets
- Cats and kittens to be kept inside over night or contained in a cat run on the residents property

- Council to give out vouchers to help reduce the cost of desexing. Currently the base cost for a local vet to provide desexing procedure is \$360 per cat. Could it be reduced to below \$200 with financial support from Council
- Any communication from Council regarding notification to use a variety of mediums and different languages to capture the variety of diverse languages used in our community
- All cats must be immediately registered
- Can an extra ranger(s) be recruited to help the capture of feral cats
- Payment options available to help responsible owners pay for desexing and help promote good pet ownership within our community
- What processes are in place with the follow up of any outstanding cat registrations/microchipping
- Can Council provide a “Cat Detention Facility” that can protect cats and kittens whilst rehoming services can be activated

All of the above points we made as a proactive step forward to help with providing support, resources, funds, expertise and resolve to improve the current number of cats and kittens that are being looked after by SEAWL, Cats and Kitten Rescue and Wet Noses.

As an Association we look forward to the discussion our elected members will have at the Ordinary Meeting in June. We will be encouraging members of the public to attend this meeting to witness this discussion on this critical topic.

Today I personally spoke with [REDACTED] from Cat and Kitten Rescue, and she is currently looking after 108 cats and kittens on her property. She needs help urgently.

This is a community problem that need a whole of community response led by City of Mount Gambier.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [City Emails](#)  
Subject: Cat Laws  
Date: Monday, 12 May 2025 3:22:06 PM

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**\*\*CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of this Organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe\*\*.

To whom it may concern,

I wish to make a submission regarding strengthening our laws on cat ownership within the community. I think that it should be mandatory for all cats to be desexed (unless breeders have a special license), registered, microchipped, and, most importantly **contained** within the home. The number of cats per owner should be restricted to no more than two. Hefty fines should be put in place for wrong doers.

Cats are an introduced killing machine. They roam far. I think the time is long gone when we can allow cats to have open slather in the environment, especially as more and more evidence is emerging regarding their ability to kill reptiles, birds, and small mammals, and the enormous havoc they are wreaking on our precious wildlife. (They can jump from standing position to a metre in the air, to snatch their prey, just one of the skills that makes them such successful predators.)

Veterinarians should also be supported by governments by having strong guidelines in place and funding for their services in their treatment of feral animals. Years ago I trapped a number of cats behind an industrial building and it was difficult to convince a vet that the animal was feral and should be euthanized. With mandatory microchipping in place a line would be drawn between owned and unowned cats.

Lastly, for humane reasons, the plight of female feral cats should be considered. They have a miserable life as they have pregnancy after pregnancy and have to support their kittens, while the male cat lives the life of Riley. Any true cat lover must see the benefit of regulating the cat population.

With regards

[REDACTED]

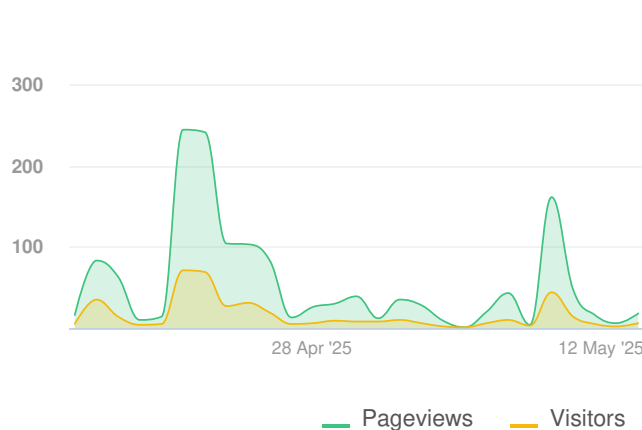
# Project Report

16 April 2025 - 12 May 2025

## Have Your Say Mount Gambier 2025 By-Law Review



### Visitors Summary



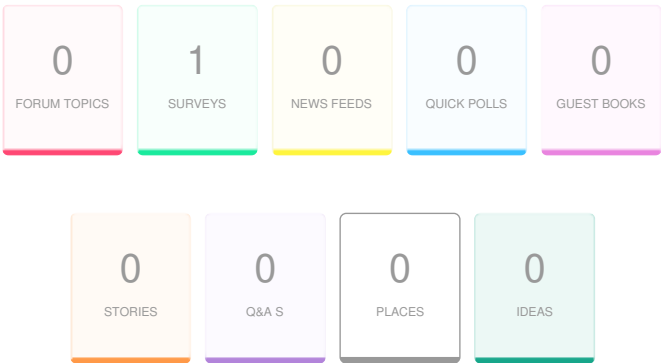
### Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	476	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	71
NEW REGISTRATIONS	19		
ENGAGED VISITORS	33	INFORMED VISITORS	220
		AWARE VISITORS	386

Aware Participants	386	Engaged Participants	33
Aware Actions Performed	Participants	Engaged Actions Performed	RegisteredUnverifiedAnonymous
Visited a Project or Tool Page	386		
Informed Participants	220	Contributed on Forums	000
Informed Actions Performed	Participants	Participated in Surveys	3300
Viewed a video	0	Contributed to Newsfeeds	000
Viewed a photo	0	Participated in Quick Polls	000
Downloaded a document	128	Posted on Guestbooks	000
Visited the Key Dates page	0	Contributed to Stories	000
Visited an FAQ list Page	28	Asked Questions	000
Visited Instagram Page	0	Placed Pins on Places	000
Visited Multiple Project Pages	172	Contributed to Ideas	000
Contributed to a tool (engaged)	33		

Have Your Say Mount Gambier : Summary Report for 16 April 2025 to 12 May 2025

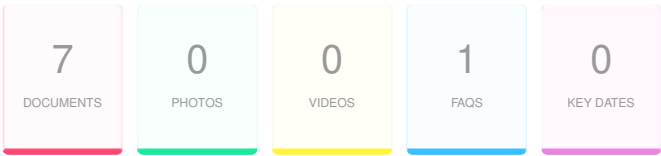
ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Tool Status	Visitors	Contributors		
				Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Survey Tool	2025 By-Law Review Feedback	Published	208	33	0	0

Have Your Say Mount Gambier : Summary Report for 16 April 2025 to 12 May 2025

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Document	By-law No. 6 Cats 2025.pdf	87	102
Document	Summary of Changes.pdf	36	38
Document	By-law No. 5 Dogs 2025.pdf	23	25
Document	By-law No. 1 Permits and Penalties 2025.pdf	20	21
Document	By-law No. 2 Local Government Land 2025.pdf	17	19
Document	By-law No. 4 Moveable Signs 2025.pdf	16	18
Document	By-law No. 3 Roads 2025.pdf	8	8
Faqs	faqs	28	33

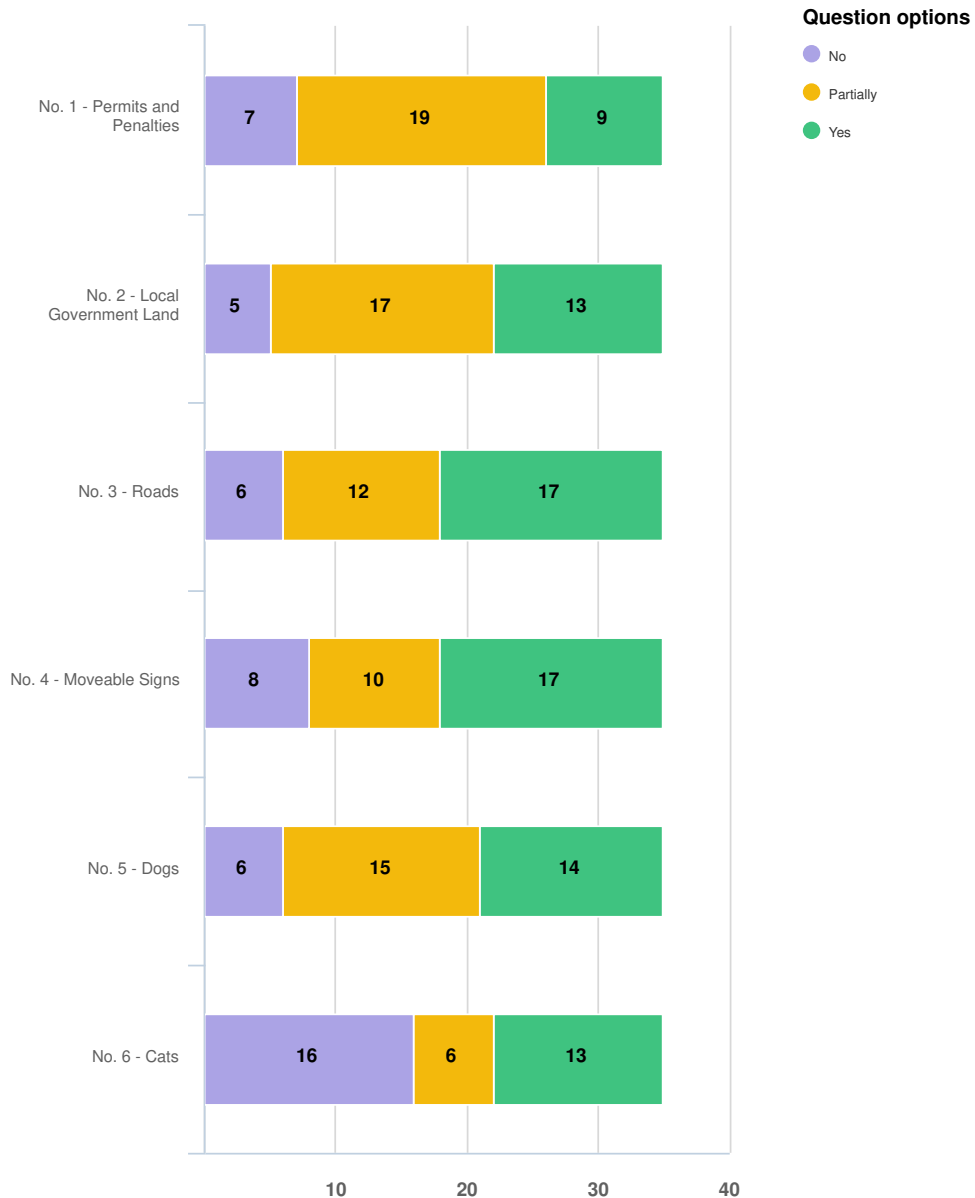
Have Your Say Mount Gambier : Summary Report for 16 April 2025 to 12 May 2025

## ENGAGEMENT TOOL: SURVEY TOOL

### 2025 By-Law Review Feedback

Visitors <b>208</b>	Contributors <b>33</b>	CONTRIBUTIONS <b>35</b>
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After reviewing the By-Law documents, please let identify your level of support for each By-Law:



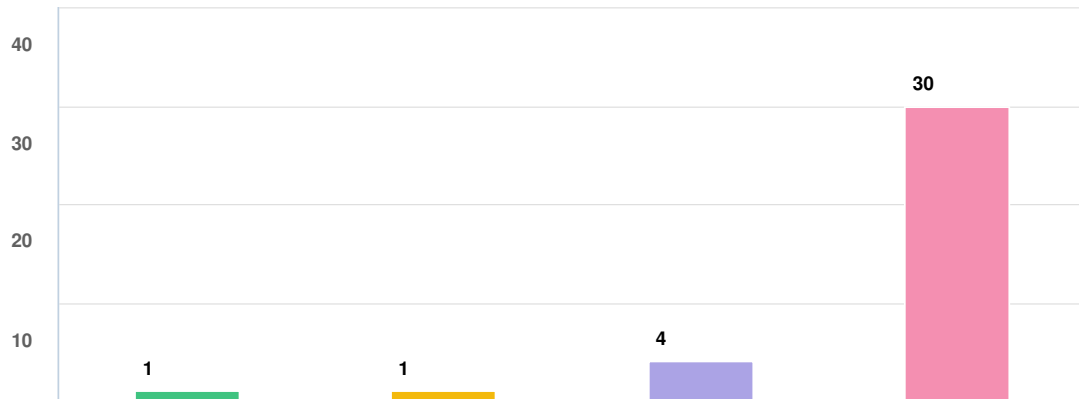
Mandatory Question (35 response(s))

Question type: Likert Question

Have Your Say Mount Gambier : Summary Report for 16 April 2025 to 12 May 2025

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**Are there any By-Law documents would you like to provide specific feedback on?  
(select all that apply)**



**Question options**

● No. 6 - Cats    ● No. 5 - Dogs    ● No. 4 - Moveable Signs    ● No. 2 - Local Government Land

*Optional question (30 response(s), 5 skipped)*

*Question type: Checkbox Question*



## **Summary of Changes**

### **By-Law No. 1 – Permits and Penalties**

- Change to the definition of ‘person’ to remove Incorporated Associations.
- Change to the scope of permission granted for a regulated activity, to include permission granted via Permit (to individuals) or via Policy (as a whole).
- Change to the maximum penalty (expiation) resulting from the *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021*, to increase the amount to \$312.50.

### **By-Law No. 2 – Local Government Land**

- Inclusion of definition for ‘aquatic life’.
- Relevant provisions cross applied to both Local Government Land and Roads By-Law (e.g. camping) to ensure consistency across both documents.
- Change in definition of ‘electoral matter’ taking into account recent legislative reform.
- Definition included for ‘special event’ which introduces a trigger of not less than 100 persons for the relevant provisions to apply.
- Changes to provisions for ‘closed land’ to include that signage is to have the same effect as a physical barrier (i.e. fence or gate).
- Changes to remove Councils power to regulate activity on water, noting the position of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (Marine Safety) that this area is already regulated by the State government under the *Harbours and Navigation Act 1993*. Councils will retain the power to permit or exclude entry to or from bodies of water, but not regulate activities occurring on bodies of water.
- Expansion of the camping provision to reflect the increase in ‘free camping’ outside of designated caravan parks or sites.
- Inclusion of a regulation to encroachments on Local Government Land (e.g. erections of fixtures etc).
- Additional provision to regulate the removal of wood or timber from Local Government Land.
- Removal of the provision regulating pontoons in line with the new restriction on authority to regulate activities on water (refer above).
- Inclusion of a new provision regulating rubbish bins and rubbish bin offences (e.g. stealing or damaging Council provided bins).
- Removal of the provision regulating swimming in line with the new restriction on authority to regulate activities on water (refer above).
- Inclusion of a provision to regulate shared transport device schemes within Council’s area (e.g. e-bikes or e-scooters).
- Inclusion of a provision to prevent public ‘annoyance’ (i.e. indecency or disturbance to the public’s quiet enjoyment of Local Government Land).
- Inclusion of a provision to prohibit ‘obstruction’ of Local Government Land.
- Inclusion of e-cigarettes to the provision regulating smoking.



- Expansion (increased flexibility) of the exclusion provisions to public amenities to more appropriately reflect permitted use of a different gender by 'vulnerable persons', rather than use by 'children' specifically.
- Strengthening of the waste provisions to reflect the different types of waste collection available (e.g. landfill, recycling etc).
- Greater flexibility for exemptions to provisions (e.g. to allow for groups of persons or date ranges etc).

#### **By-Law No. 3 – Roads**

- Relevant provisions cross applied to both Local Government Land and Roads By-Law (e.g. camping) to ensure consistency across both documents.
- Change in definition of 'electoral matter' taking into account recent legislative reform.
- Expansion of the definition of 'road' to include all relevant areas (e.g. bridges, laneways etc).
- Inclusion of 'waste container' definition (i.e. bins).
- Expansion of the Animals provision to include herding, droving or grazing activities.
- Inclusion of a provision to regulate shared transport device schemes within Council's area (e.g. e-bikes or e-scooters).
- Inclusion of a new provision regulating rubbish bins and rubbish bin offences (e.g. stealing or damaging Council provided bins).
- Inclusion of a provision for Waste Containers (kerbside bins) which limits the time a bin may remain on the kerb awaiting or following collection to minimise public litter or nuisance.
- Changes to provisions prohibiting 'election signs' (i.e. corflutes) being attached to infrastructure on Local Government Land and/or Roads.

#### **By-Law No. 4 – Movable Signs**

- Expansion of the definition of 'moveable sign' to provide clarity.
- Expansion of the definition of 'road' to include all relevant areas (e.g. bridges, laneways etc).
- Expansion of the definition of 'vehicle' for clarity (e.g. animal drawn, bicycle etc).
- Changes to the provisions relating to the construction of permissible moveable signs, to provide clarity.
- Exemptions expanded to include Incorporated Association run events.

#### **By-Law No. 5 – Dogs**

- Addition of the definition 'effective control by means of leash' to mean secured to a leash not exceeding 2 meters.
- Differentiating working livestock dogs.



### **By-Law No. 6 – Cats**

This document is a newly proposed By-Law, which has not been adopted by City of Mount Gambier previously. Some of the key provisions of this By-Law include:

- Introduction of a nuisance offence, which prohibits owners from allowing their cat/s to unreasonably interfere with the peace and comfort of others (e.g. aggressive behaviour, damaging property, wandering onto private property etc).
- Introduces a limit of 2 cats per household, unless otherwise authorised / exempt. *Note: this provision will only be applicable to cats born after the adoption of the By-Law and will not impact existing cats.*
- Allows for Council to impose effective confinement of cats (e.g. a curfew for certain hours, or restricting cats to private property, similar to requirements for dogs). *Note: Council does not intend to implement such provisions immediately, and a staged introduction, concurrent with consultation and education of the community, will be utilised prior to implementing or enforcing.*
- Introduces a registration system for cats, similar to the dog registration system.
- Allows for exemptions to any of the above provisions to be given where appropriate.

## 2025 BY-LAW REVIEW FEEDBACK

16 April 2025 – 12 May 2025

### SURVEY FEEDBACK RECEIVED VIA HAVEYOURSAY PLATFORM:

RESPONDENT	LEVEL OF SUPPORT <small>*(yes, partially or no)</small>						FEEDBACK SUMMARY	FEEDBACK MODE
	By-Law No.1	By-Law No.2	By-Law No.3	By-Law No.4	By-Law No.5	By-Law No.6		
1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partially	Respondent suggesting the limitation of cats under By-Law No.6 should be increased to 3, correspondent with the limitation of dogs under By-Law No. 5. Further suggested that exemptions be provided for rescues or other necessary circumstances.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No feedback provided.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
3	Partially	Partially	Partially	No	Partially	No	Respondent seeking cat limit per household under By-Law No. 6 Cats apply to all cats, and not just those born on or after 1 January 2026. In addition, respondent expressing concern about moveable signage on public footpaths.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
4	Partially	Partially	Yes	Yes	Partially	No	Respondent opposed to cat limits per household under By-Law No. 6 Cats.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
5	No	Partially	Partially	Yes	No	No	Respondent feels introducing the proposed By-Law No. 6 Cats would be a misdirection of resources, suggesting the focus should be on the reduction of unplanned breeding and responsible desexing of pets.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
6	No	No	No	Partially	No	No	No feedback provided.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
7	Partially	Partially	Yes	Partially	Partially	Yes	Respondent in favour of By-Law No. 6 Cats, feeling this aligns better with the current restrictions imposed on dogs. Particularly supportive of the nuisance offence provision.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
8	Partially	Yes	Yes	No	Partially	Yes	No feedback provided.	Have your Say Mount Gambier

## 2025 BY-LAW REVIEW FEEDBACK

16 April 2025 – 12 May 2025

9	Partially	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partially	Yes	Respondent supportive of mandated desexing and strict containment provisions, in regard to By-Law No. 6 Cats.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
10	No	Partially	No	No	Yes	No	Respondent opposed to changes to By-Law No.2 Local Government Land, with the exception of discouraging vaping in public places, of which they are supportive. In addition, respondent does not support mandatory cat registration per By-Law No. 6 Cats.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
11	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	Respondent believes cat limits per household under By-Law No. 6 Cats is unreasonable.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
12	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	Yes	Yes	Respondent suggesting a shelter (pound facility) specifically for cats, where those caught can be desexed and microchipped, considers would be beneficial for lowering the stray population, in regard to By-Law No. 6 Cats.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
13	Partially	Partially	Partially	Yes	Yes	Yes	No feedback provided.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
14	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	No	Respondent expressing concern in regard to the flow on effect for homeless cats, if each household was limited to two cats, per By-Law No. 6 Cats.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
15	No	No	No	No	No	No	Respondent concerned over community backlash in regard to By-Law No. 6 Cats.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
16	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Respondent seeking enactment of By-Law No. 6 Cats as soon as possible.	Have your Say Mount Gambier

## 2025 BY-LAW REVIEW FEEDBACK

16 April 2025 – 12 May 2025

17	Partially	Partially	Partially	No	No	No	Respondent in favour of By-Law No. 4 Moveable Signs, permitting they are close to the premises. Respondent proposing more strictly enforced penalties for dog owners per By-Law No. 5 Dogs and showing agreeance in regard to cat desexing and microchipping, per By-Law No.6 Cats. In addition, providing commentary around the logistics of limiting cats per household for foster carers.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
18	Partially	Partially	Yes	Yes	No	No	Respondent believes the current laws are sufficient, and further By-Laws specific to By-Law No. 6 Cats are not required.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
19	Partially	Partially	No	No	Yes	No	Respondent suggesting in light of mandated cat registration under By-Law No. 6 Cats, concession rates should first apply for desexing and Council should provide support to local shelters.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
20	Partially	Partially	Yes	Partially	Yes	Yes	Respondent seeking more action by Council in regard to managing stray cats, including building a cat impounding facility, or supporting local shelters. In addition, in regard to By-Law No. 6 Cats, an increase of the limit of cats per household is requested, to better align with other Australian states.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
21	Partially	No	Yes	Partially	Partially	No	Respondent believes cats should be allowed outdoors (opposed to containment provisions) but they do agree with mandated desexing, in regard to By-Law No.6 Cats.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
22	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partially	Respondent in favour of household limits under By-Law No. 6 Cats applying to all cats and not exclusively those born on or after 1 January 2026. Also in favour of mandatory registration.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
23	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	Respondent does not believe limiting the number of cats per household per By-Law No. 6 Cats is a productive way to control the stray cats.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
24	Partially	No	No	No	Yes	Partially	Respondent seeking more action to be taken against owners of dogs who bark excessively, per By-Law No. 5 Dogs. In addition, respondent is also seeking By-Law No. 6 Cats provisions to apply retrospectively, as to include all cats regardless of age.	Have your Say Mount Gambier

## 2025 BY-LAW REVIEW FEEDBACK

16 April 2025 – 12 May 2025

25	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Respondent in agreeance with containment provisions under By-Law No.6 Cats, referring to the significance in preserving native wildlife.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
26	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	Yes	Respondent in favour of like-for-like Cat and Dog By-Laws.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
27	No	Partially	Yes	Yes	Partially	No	Respondent against cat limits per household under By-Law No. 6 Cats, referring to the distress it will cause on current owners if retrospectively applied to all current domestic cats.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
28	Partially	Partially	Partially	Yes	Partially	No	Respondent discussing various factors to consider in regard to By-Law No. 6 Dogs, particularly relating to responsible pet ownership as a factor in determining the appropriate limit per household. In addition, respondent showing favour in containment and cost effective measures for registration of cats but not the limitation per household under By-Law No. 6 Cats. Concerns raised about resourcing of rigorous enforcement.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
29	Partially	Yes	Partially	Yes	Partially	No	Respondent not in support of paid registration for cats per By-Law No. 6 Cats, nor household limits.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partially	No	Respondent expressing concern over management of stray cats and the issue of controlling the overpopulation of such animals. Doubt expressed that the By-Law No. 6 Cats will achieve this.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
31	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Respondent referring to examples of another Council that currently has Cat By-Laws in place and is in favour of containment provisions.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
32	No	Yes	Partially	Partially	Partially	Partially	Respondent unsure whether By-Law No. 6 Cats will control stray cats, further suggesting cats under 12 months old should be considered under application the new By-Law provisions. In addition, discussing the enforcement of cat and dog limitations per household and allocation of appropriate resourcing to effectively enforce.	Have your Say Mount Gambier

## 2025 BY-LAW REVIEW FEEDBACK

16 April 2025 – 12 May 2025

33	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Respondent in favour of By-Law No. 6 Cats, in particular the management of cats inside and outside the home, including containment provisions.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
34	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Respondent in agreeance of all By-Laws, in particular By-Law No. 6 Cats.	Have your Say Mount Gambier
35	No	No	No	No	No	No	No feedback provided.	Have your Say Mount Gambier

### WRITTEN FEEDBACK RECEIVED VIA LETTER / EMAIL:

RESPONDENT	RELATED BY-LAW	FEEDBACK SUMMARY	FEEDBACK MODE
1 (AR25/26912)	No.6	Respondent concerned about lack of support initiatives for cats. Providing suggestions for future actions and planning, including support of existing rehoming organisations, trapping program, subsidised desexing. Respondent not in favour of a household limit of two cats under By-Law No. 6 Cats.	Email
2 (AR25/27179)	No.6	Respondent acknowledging By-Law No. 6 Cats will address rising population of stray cats, however, is unsure on how the limitation of cats per household will work for those already in excess of the proposed limit. Is in favour of the nuisance offence and containment provisions, but doesn't support a limit of two cats per household.	Email
3 (AR25/27680)	No.6	Respondent seeking stricter provisions for cat owners, and is in favour of containment provisions per By-Law No. 6 Cats.	Email
4 (AR25/27698)	No.5 & No.6	Respondent outlining several concerns and recommendations in regard to Cat and Dog By-Laws, referring to personal experience, community observations, and a strong commitment to supporting animal welfare and public safety in Mount Gambier. Seeks parity between dog and cat containment provisions, considers a limit of two cats per household is too strict, considers provisions should apply retrospectively to all cats, suggest inclusion of a dog nuisance provision (similar to cats), supports mandatory registration of cats, suggests implementing a trap-neuter-return program.	Email
5 (AR25/28313)	No.6	Respondent raising concerns regarding cat limits per household and what impact it will have on rescue cats. Also raising worries around any additional costs By-Law No. 6 Cats may have on cat owners, particularly mandatory registration.	PDF

## 2025 BY-LAW REVIEW FEEDBACK

16 April 2025 – 12 May 2025

6 (AR25/28711)	No.6	Respondent in favour of cats being constrained to indoors (containment provisions), mandatory registration and limited to two per household under By-Law No. 6 Cats.	Email
7 (AR25/29297)	No.5 & No.6	Respondent seeking more severe penalties for barking or wandering dogs and roaming cats under relevant By-Laws.	PDF
8 (AR25/29737)	No.5 & No.6	Respondent providing detailed report, opposing the proposed By-Law No. 6 Cats, in particular nuisance offence, cat limits per household and containment provisions, referring to downfalls of similar approaches. Further cautions against restricting leash limits to 2m for dogs under the By-Law No. 5 Dogs. Also considers that exemptions should be available for owners of working dogs / cats or similar.	Email
9 (AR25/30990)	No.6	Respondent unsure of how cat containment would work with existing outdoor cats under By-Law No. 6 Cats.	Email
10 (AR25/31341)	No.6	Respondent indicating as a collective group, they believe the By-Law No. 6 Cats do not meet community expectations, and rather providing a list of their own solutions to improve cat and kitten management. Recommendations included support of local welfare organisations, community education, clear trapping procedures, subsidised desexing and microchipping, engagement with relevant stakeholders, less rigid household limits, containment provisions (in particular a curfew), broader consultation, mandatory registration, extending enforcement to feral cats (not just domestic cats), payment / financial hardship options for owners, follow up on outstanding microchipping / desexing, a dedicated cat impounding facility for care of cats in the interim of rehoming.	Email
11 (AR25/31390)	No.6	Respondent seeking particular control measures in regard to By-Law No. 6 Cats, including mandatory desexing, registration, microchipping and containment within the home. Also suggest strict penalties should be applied for breaches.	Email



**Government of South Australia**  
Dog and Cat Management Board

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24 April 2025

Cimon Burke  
Kelledy Jones

E: [cburke@kelledyjones.com.au](mailto:cburke@kelledyjones.com.au)

Dear Cimon,

**MOUNT GAMBIER CITY COUNCIL – DOGS BY-LAW NO. 5 OF 2025 AND CATS BY-LAW NO.6 OF 2025**

Thank you for the email dated 19 March 2025 enclosing relevant information for Mount Gambier City Council's draft by-laws for dogs and cats.

The Dog and Cat Management Board has delegated its power under section 90(5) of the *Dog and Cat Management 1995 Act* to make recommendations on draft by-laws to the Manager, Dog and Cat Management.

Having reviewed the draft by-laws, I am satisfied they are broadly consistent with those of other councils with similar by-laws, and have no recommendations to make.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A Gee".

Ann Gee  
**Manager**  
**Dog and Cat Management**

**CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER**

**REPORT TO COUNCIL – NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY**

**BACKGROUND**

There are a number of statutory requirements that apply to the making of by-laws, including under section 247(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the **Act**), which provides:

*A by-law made by a council must –*

- c. avoid restricting competition to any significant degree unless the council is satisfied that there is evidence that the benefits of the restriction to the community outweigh the costs of the restriction, and that the objectives of the by-law can only be reasonably achieved by the restriction.*

Accordingly, any restriction on competition contained in a proposed by-law must be identified before the Council is in a position to make that by-law. A restriction on competition arises where any provision of the by-law has the potential to impact upon competitive conduct in any market. In general terms, restrictions on competition fall within the following categories:

- regulation of the entry or exit of business entities or individuals in to or out of markets;
- controls on prices or production levels;
- restrictions on the quality, level or location of goods and services;
- restrictions on advertising and promotional activities;
- restrictions on price entitled input used in the production process;
- legislation which is likely to confer significant costs on business; and
- legislation which provides advantages to some business entities or individuals over others.

The purpose of this report is to address the discharging its obligation under section 247(c) of the Act.

**REPORT**

**1. PERMITS AND PENALTIES BY-LAW 2025**

**Status**

This by-law has been reviewed in light of national competition policy and has been identified as one that will **not restrict** competition.

**Objectives of the By-Law**

The objectives of the by-law are to:

- a) create a permit system for Council by-laws;
- b) provide for the enforcement of breaches of Council by-laws and fixing penalties; and
- c) clarify the construction of such by-laws.

## 2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAND BY-LAW 2025

### Status

Certain provisions of this by-law have been identified as having the potential to restrict competition.

### Objectives of the By-law

The objectives of the by-law are to regulate the access to and use of Local Government land (other than roads), and certain public places:

- a) to prevent and mitigate nuisances;
- b) to prevent damage to Local Government land;
- c) to protect the convenience, comfort and safety of members of the public;
- d) to enhance the amenity of the Council area; and
- e) for the good rule and government of the Council area.

### Potential Restrictions on Competition

The following provisions of the by-law have the potential to restrict competition:

- Subclauses 5.3 and 5.4 provide that certain provisions of clauses 9 and 10 will only apply in respect of certain areas of the Council as determined by the Council;
- Clause 7 gives the Council a general power to close, regulate or restrict access to Local Government land for specified times and days and to fix fees or charges payable for entry onto Local Government land;
- Clause 9 provides that certain activities require the permission of the Council; "*permission*" means the permission of the Council given in a permit, the form of which is to be determined by the Council in accordance with the *Permits and Penalties By-law 2025*. The Council may attach conditions to a grant of permission as it thinks fit, and may vary or revoke such conditions or impose new conditions by notice in writing to the permit holder; permit holders are to comply with every such condition. The Council may revoke a permit at any time by notice in writing to the permit holder;
- Clause 10 provides that certain activities are prohibited on Local Government land in the Council's area; and
- Clause 11 requires a person's compliance with reasonable directions from an authorised person relating to that person's use of Local Government land, the person's conduct and behaviour on the land, that person's safety on the land and the safety and enjoyment of the land by other persons.

The provisions restricting access to Local Government land, prohibiting certain activities and requiring persons to obtain a permit for other activities, have the potential to restrict competition by limiting the number of providers of goods or service using Local Government land and/or by restricting the area a permit holder may occupy, or the manner in which they may conduct business.

The by-law contains an administrative discretion that can be exercised selectively to grant permission (with conditions) for certain activities to be carried out in certain circumstances. However, the Council can ensure that reasonable and objective criteria are used in the exercise of administrative discretion by way of appropriate policy implementation.

**Alternative Means of Achieving the Same Result**

There are no identified alternative means of regulating the use of and access to Local Government land as provided for in this by-law.

**Do the Benefits Outweigh the Costs to the Community?**

The costs to the community may include:

- a) administrative costs in applying for a permit, if necessary;
- b) any permit fees; and
- c) the cost of compliance with the by-law, for example, relocating the activity to a suitable location.

The costs to the Council will include:

- a) administrative costs in making the by-law;
- b) administrative costs in considering permit applications; and
- c) staffing costs in connection with the administration and enforcement of the by-law.

Benefits to the community will include:

- a) the proper management of Local Government land on behalf of the community;
- b) the protection of Council property, which is critical for its long-term sustainability; and
- c) a reduction in the level of inconvenience that could be caused to members of the public by unregulated conduct on Local Government land.

Based on a review of the by-law, the benefits of the proper management and regulation of the use of and access to Local Government land are considered to outweigh the potential restrictions on competition posed by this by-law.

### 3. **ROADS BY-LAW 2025**

#### **Status**

This by-law has been reviewed against the requirements of section 247(c) of the Act. Certain provisions of this by-law have been identified as having the potential to restrict competition.

#### **Objectives of the By-law**

The objectives of the by-law are to manage and regulate certain uses of roads in the Council's area:

- a) to protect the convenience, comfort and safety of road users and members of the public;
- b) to prevent damage to buildings and structures on roads;
- c) to prevent certain nuisances occurring on roads; and
- d) for the good rule and government of the Council's area.

#### **Potential Restrictions on Competition**

Clause 7 provides that certain activities on a road require the permission of the Council. The Council may attach conditions to any grant of permission. Further, the Council may vary the conditions attaching to a permit or revoke a permit at any time by notice in writing to the permit holder.

Where an activity that is subject to the requirement to obtain permission is an activity undertaken as an incidence of competition within a market, then the requirements to obtain the Council's permission is a restriction on competition. Restrictions on competition will arise where a person is seeking to utilise a road for a business activity.

The use of public roads for business purposes is prohibited by section 222 of the Act except where the Council permits the activity. Section 222 of the Act was considered during the legislation review of the *Local Government Bill 1999*, during which Parliament concluded that the benefits of the provision outweigh the costs.

The proposed by-law does not restrict competition to any greater degree than section 222 of the Act. On this basis, there is no need to further analyse the proposed by-law for the purposes of section 247(c) of the Act.

#### 4. **MOVEABLE SIGNS BY-LAW 2025**

##### **Status**

The proposed by-law has been reviewed against the requirements of section 247(c) of the Act. The review has concluded that:

- a) there are restrictions on competition contained in the by-law;
- b) some of these restrictions restrict competition to a significant degree;
- c) the objectives of the by-laws containing the restrictions can only be achieved by restricting competition; and
- d) the public benefits of the restrictions outweigh the costs of those restrictions.

##### **Objectives of the By-Law**

The objectives of the by-law are to set standards for moveable signs on roads and to provide conditions for the placement of such signs. These objectives include:

- a) the prevention of nuisances;
- b) protecting the convenience, comfort and safety of road users and members of the public;
- c) protecting or enhancing the amenity of the Council's area; and
- d) ensuring that moveable signs do not unreasonably restrict the use of a road.

##### **Potential Restrictions on Competition**

Section 226(1) of the Act enables a person to place a moveable sign on a road without an authorisation or permit under Chapter 11, Part 2 of the Act if:

- a) the design and structure of the sign complies with the requirements of the Council's by-laws;
- b) the sign is placed in a position that complies with the requirements of the Council's by-laws;
- c) any other relevant requirements of the Council's by-laws are complied with; and
- d) the sign does not unreasonably:
  - i. restrict the use of the road; or
  - ii. endanger the safety of members of the public.

- **Clause 7: Construction and Design**

Clause 7 places restrictions on the construction, design and appearance of moveable signs. This potentially restricts product innovation.

- **Clauses 8 and 10: Placement and restrictions**

Clauses 8 and 10 restrict the placement of a moveable sign. This may inadvertently restrict competitive behaviour and may preclude some businesses from being able to use moveable signs for advertising.

A restriction on competition will restrict competition to a significant degree where the impact on competition is more than nominal or trivial.

The restrictions contained in the proposed by-law are highly prescriptive and are likely to have a significant effect on competition in the market for moveable signs. There may also be significant impacts for other businesses required to comply with the by-law. However, the by-law does not prevent the advertising of businesses. It merely regulates the manner in which this occurs.

In the absence of the proposed by-law, a person would need to seek an authorisation or permit under section 221 or section 222 of the Act. An authorisation or permit under these provisions would also achieve the objective. However, rather than requirements being stated in a by-law any requirements would be conditions on the authorisation or permit. This could mean that there would be a less standardised approach to moveable signs than is achieved by the proposed by-law.

Parliament has expressly indicated that the regulation of moveable signs on a road can, within the terms of section 226 of the Act be regulated by Councils. The public policy preference, therefore, is for by-laws to govern the design, structure and placement of moveable signs on roads. In the context of section 226 of the Act, the optimal means of achieving the objective is through the proposed by-law.

In any event, the by-law contains an administrative discretion such that the Council may grant permission (with conditions) for the display of a moveable sign on a road which is otherwise contrary to the controls under the by-law relating to the construction and placement of moveable signs. The Council can ensure that reasonable and objective criteria are used in the exercise of the administrative discretion by way of appropriate policy implementation.

#### **Alternative Means of Achieving the Same Result**

There are no identified alternative means of regulating the placement of moveable signs within the Council's area.

#### **Do the Benefits of the By-Law Outweigh the Costs to the Community?**

The costs to the community may include:

- a) the costs of compliance with conditions specified in the by-law; and
- b) administrative costs in obtaining a permit, if necessary.

The costs to the Council will include:

- a) the administrative costs of making the by-law; and
- b) staffing costs in connection with the administration and enforcement of the by-law.

The benefits to the community will include:

- a) the proper management of moveable signs on roads on behalf of the community to ensure and maintain road safety;
- b) the protection of Council property and other property within the Council's area;
- c) the protection and enhancement of the amenity of the Council's area;
- d) a reduction in the level of inconvenience that could be caused to members of the public if the placement of moveable signs was not regulated.

The benefits to the community are significant. Accordingly, based on a review of the by-law, the benefits of the effective management of moveable signs on roads within the Council area are considered to outweigh the potential restrictions on competition posed by this by-law.

5. **DOGS BY-LAW 2025**

**Status**

The by-law has been reviewed in light of national competition policy and has been identified as one that will not restrict competition or otherwise unreasonably restrict or unduly burden business activities.

This is on the basis that the limitations on the number of dogs that may be kept on any premises as prescribed by the by-law (i.e. which has the potential to operate to restrict competition) do not apply to:

- approved kennel establishments operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents; and
- premises of a business that involves the keeping of dogs provided that the business is registered in accordance with the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

**Objectives of the By-law**

The objectives of this by-law are to control and manage dogs in the Council's area:

- a) to reduce the incidence of environmental nuisance caused by dogs; and
- b) to promote responsible dog ownership; and
- c) to protect the convenience, comfort and safety of members of the public; and
- d) for the good rule and government of the Council's area.

6. **CATS BY-LAW 2025**

**Status**

The by-law has been reviewed in light of national competition policy and has been identified as one that will not restrict competition or otherwise unreasonably restrict or unduly burden business activities.

This includes because the limitations on the number of cats that may be kept on any premises as prescribed by the by-law (i.e. which has the potential to operate to restrict competition) does not apply to approved catteries or other businesses involving keeping of cats that are operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents.

**Objectives of the By-law**

The objectives of this by-law are to control and manage cats in the Council's area:

- a) to reduce the incidence of environmental nuisance caused by cats; and
- b) to promote responsible cat ownership; and
- c) to protect the convenience, comfort and safety of members of the public; and
- d) for the good rule and government of the Council's area.

SECTION 249 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999

**CERTIFICATE OF VALIDITY**

I, CIMON ANGELA BURKE care of Level 6, 19 Gilles Street, Adelaide in the State of South Australia, being a legal practitioner within the meaning of the *Legal Practitioners Act 1981*, declare that I have examined the following By-law:

**CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER**

**By-law No 6 – Cats By-Law 2025**

*A By-law to limit the number of cats kept on premises and for the management and control of cats in the Council's area.*

and do certify that in my opinion:

**CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER**

has the power to make the By-law by virtue of the following statutory provisions:

*Local Government Act 1999: sections 238, 246(1), 246(2), 246(3)(a), 246(3)(c), and 246(3)(f); and  
Dog and Cat Management Act 1995: section 90;*

and the By-law is not in conflict with the *Local Government Act 1999*.

**DATED** the 9 day of June 2025



.....  
Cimon Burke, Legal Practitioner



**CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER**

**CATS BY-LAW 2025**

**By-law No. 6 of 2025**

*A By-law to limit the number of cats kept on premises and for the management and control of cats in the Council's area.*

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## PART 1 - PRELIMINARY

### 1. Title

This By-law may be cited as the *Cats By-law 2025* and is By-law No. 6 of the City of Mount Gambier.

### 2. Authorising Law

This By-law is made under section 90(5) of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and section 246 of the Act.

### 3. Purpose

The objectives of this By-law are to control and manage cats in the Council's area:

- 3.1 to promote responsible cat ownership;
- 3.2 to reduce the incidence of public and environmental nuisance caused by cats;
- 3.3 to protect the comfort and safety of members of the public; and
- 3.4 for the good rule and government of the Council's area.

### 4. Expiry

- 4.1 This By-law will commence in accordance with the Act<sup>1</sup> and will expire on 1 January 2033<sup>2</sup>.

#### Note-

- 1. Generally, a By-law comes into operation 4 months after the day on which it is gazetted: section 249(5) of the Act.
- 2. Pursuant to section 251 of the Act, a By-law will expire on 1 January following the seventh anniversary of the gazettal of the By-law.

### 5. Application

- 5.1 This By-law operates subject to the Council's *Permits and Penalties By-law 2025*.
- 5.2 This By-law applies throughout the Council's area.

### 6. Interpretation

In this By-law, unless the contrary intention appears:

- 6.1 **Act** means the *Local Government Act 1999*;
- 6.2 except for the purposes of clauses 8 and 9, **cat** means an animal of the species *felis catus* which is three months of age, or has lost its juvenile canine teeth;
- 6.3 **Council** means the City of Mount Gambier;
- 6.4 **effective control by means of physical restraint** means:
  - 6.4.1 a person is exercising effective control of a cat by means of a cord or leash that does not exceed 2 metres in length restraining the cat; or

- 6.4.2 a person has effectively secured the cat by placing it in a cage, vehicle or other object or structure; or
- 6.4.3 a person is holding the cat;
- 6.5 **keep** includes the provision of food or shelter;
- 6.6 for the purposes of clause 8, a cat (or cats) causes a **nuisance** if it:
  - 6.6.1 unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of a person, including but not limited to by displaying aggressive nature or creating unpleasant noise or odour;
  - 6.6.2 damages or otherwise has an adverse impact upon native flora or fauna;
  - 6.6.3 acts in a manner that is injurious or causes damage to a person's real or personal property;
  - 6.6.4 wanders onto premises without the consent of the owner or occupier of the premises; or
  - 6.6.5 defecates or urinates on premises without the consent of the owner or occupier of the premises;
- 6.7 **owner** of a cat has the same meaning as in section 5 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*;
- 6.8 the **person responsible for the control of a cat** has the same meaning as in section 6 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*; and
- 6.9 **premises** includes any land (whether used or occupied for domestic or non-domestic purposes) and any part thereof.

**Note-**

Section 12 of the *Legislation Interpretation Act 2021* provides that an expression used in this By-law has, unless the contrary intention appears, the same meaning as in the Acts under which the By-law is made.

## **PART 2 – LIMITS ON CAT NUMBERS**

### **7. Limits on Cat Numbers**

- 7.1 Subject to this clause 7, a person must not, without the Council's permission, keep, or cause suffer or permit to be kept, more than two (2) cats on any premises.
- 7.2 The limit prescribed by subclause 7.1 does not apply to:
  - 7.2.1 premises comprising a business involving the keeping of cats that is approved to operate as such under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and provided the business is operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents;
  - 7.2.2 a person who is keeping more than two cats on premises that the person occupies at the time this By-law comes into effect provided that:

- 7.2.2.1 details as required by the Council of the cats that are kept on the premises at that time are provided to the Council within six (6) months of the commencement of this By-law;
  - 7.2.2.2 all the cats being kept on the premises are desexed in accordance with the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*; and
  - 7.2.2.3 no additional cats over and above those cats notified to the Council in accordance with subclause 7.2.2.1 are acquired or kept on the premises without the permission of the Council after the By-law commences operation.
- 7.3 The Council may require that premises that are the subject of an application for permission to keep additional cats are inspected by an authorised person for the purpose of assessing the suitability of the premises for housing cats.
- 7.4 Permission under subclauses 7.1 and 7.2.2.3 may be given if the Council is satisfied that:
  - 7.4.1 no insanitary condition exists or is likely to arise on the premises as a result of the keeping of cats; and
  - 7.4.2 a nuisance is not or is not likely to be caused to any neighbour as a result of the keeping of cats on the premises.

### **PART 3 – CAT CONTROLS**

#### **8. Cats not to be a Nuisance**

- 8.1 An owner or occupier of premises is guilty of an offence if a cat (or cats) kept or allowed to remain on the premises causes a nuisance.
- 8.2 Without limiting liability under subclause 8.1, the owner of or person responsible for the control of a cat is guilty of an offence under this By-law if the cat causes a nuisance.
- 8.3 For the purposes of this clause 8, **cat** means an animal of the species *felis catus* (of any age).

#### **9. Effective Confinement of Cats**

- 9.1 As and from a date that is resolved by the Council (if any, and which date cannot be within the first twelve months of the commencement of this By-law), and subject to subclause 9.2, the owner of, or person responsible for the control of, a cat must take steps to ensure that the cat is confined at all times to the premises occupied by that person unless the cat is under effective control by means of physical restraint.
- 9.2 Subclause 9.1 does not apply to any cat that was born before 1 January 2026 provided that evidence of the cat's age that is satisfactory to an authorised person (acting reasonably) is provided to the Council.
- 9.3 For the purposes of this subclause 9, **cat** means an animal of the species *felis catus* (of any age).

**10. Registration of cats**

- 10.1 The Council may resolve to adopt a registration scheme for cats.
- 10.2 Where the Council has resolved to adopt a registration scheme for cats, a person must not keep a cat in the Council's area for more than 14 days unless the cat is registered in accordance with this By-law.
- 10.3 An application for registration of a cat must:
  - 10.3.1 be made to the Council in the manner and form prescribed by Council (if any); and
  - 10.3.2 be accompanied by the fee (if any) prescribed by the Council; and
  - 10.3.3 nominate a person of or over sixteen (16) years of age who consents to the cat being registered in his or her name; and
  - 10.3.4 identify with reference to an address the premises at which the cat is kept; and
  - 10.3.5 otherwise comply with any other requirements determined by the Council.
- 10.4 Registration under this By-law remains in force until 30 June next following the grant of registration and may be renewed from time to time for further periods of up to twelve (12) months.
- 10.5 Subclause 10.2 does not apply to premises comprising a cattery approved under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.
- 10.6 The Council may, by resolution, revoke a resolution to adopt a registration scheme under subclause 10.1 should it see fit to do so.

**PART 4 – EXEMPTIONS**

**11. Council May Grant Exemptions**

- 11.1 The Council may, by notice in writing, on application or on its own initiative, exempt a person (or a class of persons) from the operation of a specified provision of this By-law.
- 11.2 An exemption:
  - 11.2.1 may be granted or refused at the discretion of the Council;
  - 11.2.2 may operate indefinitely or for a period specified in the instrument of exemption; and
  - 11.2.3 is subject to any conditions specified in the instrument of exemption.
- 11.3 The Council may, by notice in writing, vary, revoke or add a condition of an exemption.
- 11.4 The Council may, in its discretion, revoke an exemption for a contravention of a condition of the exemption, or for any other reason it thinks fit.

## **PART 5 - ENFORCEMENT**

### **12. Orders**

12.1 If a person engages in conduct that is a contravention of this By-law, an authorised person may, pursuant to section 262 of the Act, order that person:

12.1.1 if the conduct is still continuing – to stop the conduct; and

12.1.2 whether or not the conduct is still continuing – to take specified action to remedy the contravention.

12.2 A person must comply with an order made by an authorised person pursuant to section 262 of the Act.

12.3 If a person does not comply with an order of an authorised person made pursuant to section 262 of the Act, the authorised person may take action reasonably required to have the order carried out, and the Council may seek to recover its costs of any action so taken from the person to whom the order was directed.

12.4 An authorised person may not use force against a person under this section.

#### **Note–**

For example, an authorised person may order a person to:

- cease keeping more than the permitted number of cats on that person's premises; or
- take the necessary steps to mitigate a nuisance caused by howling or wandering cats.

This By-law was duly made and passed at a meeting of the City of Mount Gambier held on **15 July 2025** by an absolute majority of the members for the time being constituting the Council, there being at least two thirds of the members present.

.....  
SARAH PHILPOTT  
Chief Executive Officer

### 19.3 REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICY - T120 TREE POLICY

Author: Karl Manarangi, Manager Operations Infrastructure

Authoriser: Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Infrastructure

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Review of Council Policy - T120 Tree Policy' as presented on Tuesday 15 July 2025 be noted.
2. That the revised draft Council Tree Policy - T120 be adopted.
3. That the Urban Landscape Strategy Principles be developed in 2025/2026 and the Urban Landscape Strategy be budgeted and completed in 2026/2027.

#### PURPOSE

To present the revised Council Tree Policy - T120 to Council and recommend it be adopted.

#### BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

Council periodically reviews its policies and procedures during each Council term, unless legislative provisions require otherwise, to ensure they remain up to date with legislative, administrative or civic requirements, current standards, Council and community expectation and emerging practices in the sector.

Given the history of trees in the City of Mount Gambier being quite a topic for discussion within the wider community and differing views on the expectation of how trees should be managed, an Elected Members Information / Briefing Session was held on 27 May 2025. This provided an opportunity to discuss the current policy and an opportunity for Elected Members to ask questions and provide feedback on the night.

Following feedback received a draft updated policy was provided to Elected Members for review and additional comment. Where relevant the additional feedback received has been included in the draft policy attached to this report.

The following documents are attached for Members review:

- Revised Tree Policy (including track changes).
- Clean edition of the revised Tree Policy (without the track changes).
- Council Tree Planting and Management Guidelines.

Council Officers have created Tree Planting and Management Guidelines as an addendum to the policy. This clarifies Council's position on the planting and management of trees within the City of Mount Gambier.

During the Elected Members Information / Briefing Session on 27 May 2025 it was also discussed that an overarching strategy be developed to look at specific zones for tree placement, canopy cover, open space planning and a uniformed approach to managing new developments. With this in mind Council Officers have begun works on an Urban Landscape Strategy which is currently being progressed with the likelihood of a draft being produced in 2026.



Proposed Policy Changes

**Council's Tree Policy - T120**

Section/Sub	Part	Section Title	Description
3		Tree Assessment Framework	Including Framework as requested by elected members at the workshop.
4(c)		Street Tree Planting	Reference to Tree Assessment Framework added.
4(g)	iii	Street Tree Planting	Clarifying Section and Part.
4(j)		Street Tree Planting	Added "where practicable and suitable".
5(b)	i,ii,iii,iv,v	Tree Removal	Multiple parts of this section have been reviewed and changed to align with feedback from the workshop and additional feedback provided by elected members after the creation of first draft.
6(d)	(ii)	Debris from Council Trees	Added "at the discretion of the Manager Operations Infrastructure".
7(c)		Pruning	Clearance height changed to 2m.
8		Heritage Tree Preservation	Changes made as reflected from additional feedback provided by Elected Members after the first draft.
13(a)		Boundary Roads	Highlight the sharing of costs on boundary roads.
15(e)		Disposal of Surplus Wood	clarifying Council's position on Disposal of surplus wood.
15		Reserves	Removal of Tree Memorials - This is to be included in the Memorials Policy.
		Related Documents	Addition of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.</li> <li>- Native Vegetation Act 1991.</li> <li>- City of Mount Gambier Tree Planting and Management Guidelines.</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION**

The following report be received by Council and the revised draft policy be adopted, with the Urban Landscape Strategy Principles to be developed in 2025/2026 and the Urban Landscape Strategy be budgeted and completed in 2026/2027.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. DRAFT Council Policy T 120 - Tree Policy (without tracked changes) [19.3.1 - 13 pages]
2. DRAFT Council Policy T 120 - Tree Policy (with tracked changes) [19.3.2 - 13 pages]
3. Tree Planting and Management Guidelines [19.3.3 - 10 pages]



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- (a) This document sets out the policy of the City of Mount Gambier ("Council") for the management of trees situated on Council property as set out below:

- (i) streets; and
- (ii) parks, gardens, reserves, and playgrounds.

- (b) It is the policy of Council that all streets be planted according to a defined street scaping plan and planting be aimed at beautifying the street, rather than individual properties.

Individual tree requests by residents shall be assessed on a case by case basis with consideration of a future Street Tree Program in streets that have no trees or trees that have passed their Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE).

## 2. PURPOSE

The benefits that trees provide throughout the City include environmental, social, health and wellbeing, economic and visual amenity. They also assist in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in an urban environment by providing habitat to bird life as well as improving our air quality.

Trees greatly benefit the people living around them by having a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing, reducing stress and encouraging outdoor exercise. This is in addition to the benefits they will receive from an improved environmental quality and improved amenity which comes with planted areas.

Trees can have a symbolic importance for identity and connection to a City.

## 3. TREE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

The City of Mount Gambier adopts a formal Tree Assessment Framework to provide a structured, transparent, and consistent approach to evaluating all trees on Council land. This framework is used when:

- Considering tree retention, removal, or replacement
- Responding to resident or authority requests
- Planning new street tree plantings or species changes
- Prioritising tree works or interventions

### Key Assessment Criteria:

Each tree is evaluated on the following aspects:

1. **Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE)** – Determines the expected remaining lifespan of the tree, considering health, species, location, and risk profile.
2. **Health** – Measured by leaf condition, crown structure, pest/pathogen presence, and growth performance.
3. **Structural Integrity** – Examines branch unions, trunk defects, root stability, and evidence of decay or damage.

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4. **Amenity Value** – Considers contribution to streetscape, shade provision, biodiversity, cultural/historical significance, and alignment with Council's urban forest goals.
5. **Risk Assessment** – Evaluates likelihood of failure and potential consequences using industry-standard risk matrices. In certain circumstances, Council may opt to use a consulting arborist to undertake the assessment (QTRA/TRAQ or equivalent).
6. **Environmental Impact** – Assesses ecosystem services, including carbon capture, habitat value, and urban heat mitigation.
7. **Infrastructure Impact** – Assesses proximity and effects on buildings, paths, utilities, and sight lines.
8. **Community Context** – Considers public sentiment, past vandalism, or conflict situations, especially in consultation or appeal stages.

Each tree is given an overall Risk & Value Score, which guides action:

- **Retain:** Tree is safe, healthy, and offers high public value
- **Remediate:** Tree has manageable health or structure issues; consider pruning, cabling, or soil improvement
- **Monitor:** Tree is borderline or declining; schedule for re-inspection
- **Remove & Replace:** Tree is unsafe, senescent, or negatively impacts infrastructure or amenity with no viable remediation.

This framework will be reviewed annually and updated in line with Australian Standards, industry best practices, community feedback, and evolving urban greening objectives.

#### 4. STREET TREE PLANTINGS

- (a) Council has resolved that, where applicable, to plant streets with the same species of tree, but the species may vary from one side of the street to the other.
- (b) In some streets, it may be necessary to remove a small number of existing trees to try and maintain uniformity within a street.
- (c) Should a resident wish to maintain an existing street tree adjacent to their property the Tree Assessment Framework will be used to assess the tree's health, structure, risk, and overall value. The aesthetics of the street and long-term streetscape plan will also be considered. This will be assessed on a case by case basis.
- (d) A list of tree species suitable for planting in the City has been adopted and is outlined in Section 17 of this Policy.
- (e) The list provided will be reviewed annually so that preferred species may be added or removed as trial trees are assessed and as set out by the SA Power Networks and SA Water guidelines.
- (f) In selecting the type of tree suitable for a particular street, the following criteria should be taken into consideration:
  - (i) The character and amenity of the individual street.
  - (ii) The actual width of the footpath, or if a footpath width is less than 1.5 metres between the back of the kerb and the boundary, a tree is not planted.

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- (iii) The location of species as set out by individual utilities outlined in the species list in Section 7.
- (g) On footways, Council permits the development of footpaths adjoining residential allotments through the planting of approved trees and or lawn by residents subject to:
- (i) A clear trafficable pedestrian way of 1.5 metres width by 2.5 metres height being retained at all times along the footpath.
  - (ii) No vegetation (except lawn) to be planted within 6.0 metres of the intersection of the junction of two or more streets.
  - (iii) Planting being in accordance with an approved Streetscape Plan in accordance with 3(d).
- (h) Notification to Residents:
- (i) Where Council undertakes street tree plantings, whether the street has been selected by Council, or letters received from residents of a particular street, all residents will be informed in writing prior to the commencement of the plantings.
  - (ii) Council invite comment on the proposed plantings of trees within each individual street with comments to be received up to four (4) weeks from the date of issue, in accordance with Council's Public Consultation policy.
  - (iii) Council to notify residents of Council's conditions and feedback of the consultation.
  - (iv) Should Council resolve not to adopt a particular street to be included in an annual street tree program due to popular demand from a majority of residents, those willing to have a tree planted will still be supplied with a tree.
- (i) Notification to Authorities:
- (i) Council invites comments on the proposed plantings of trees as outlined on the annual street tree program, with comments to be received up to four (4) weeks from the date of issue to the following authorities:
    - APA Group
    - SA Power Networks
    - SA Water
    - Telstra
    - NBN
- (j) Where practicable and suitable Council is to review previously planted streets and individual trees that have been vandalised and replaced with the species originally planted. If the specific cultivar is not available then replace with one that is of similar characteristics i.e. flower colour, size, shape etc.

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## 5. TREE REMOVAL

- (a) Where Council grants approval for the removal of a tree for the benefit of a resident, and the tree is in a healthy state, removal and where applicable replacement will be at the ratepayers expense. This may apply where a tree is located in an area where a resident wishes to remove a tree for a supplementary driveway.
- (b) Council is frequently requested to remove street trees. The reasons for seeking the removal can vary considerably and each case is to be assessed on its merits.
  - (i) **Removal Request**  
A resident may seek removal of a tree in writing to the Council Arborist, stating their name, address, location of the tree and the reasons for the request for the removal of the tree.
  - (ii) **Assessment and Recommendations**  
For each request for removal of a street tree, an assessment using the Tree Assessment Framework is to be undertaken. This framework ensures consistent, evidence-based decisions that consider SULE, health, risk, amenity, and community benefit. The resulting recommendation will be submitted to the General Manager City Infrastructure or, in their absence, the Chief Executive Officer.
  - (iii) **Criteria for Removal**  
Approval may be granted for removal under the following conditions, based on Tree Assessment Framework outcomes:
    - The tree has a low SULE and is in structural decline
    - The tree poses an unacceptable risk to public safety or infrastructure
    - The tree is contributing to irreversible infrastructure damage that cannot be mitigated
    - The tree is unsuitable for its location based on health, size, or environmental conflict

Under these circumstances the Council Arborist, or in their absence the General Manager City Infrastructure or the Chief Executive Officer, may grant approval to remove the tree.
  - (iv) **Aesthetic or Nuisance Requests**  
Removal requests based solely on aesthetics, nuisance (e.g., leaf drop), or shading are generally not supported. Such requests must undergo full assessment via the Tree Assessment Framework, and if found structurally sound and of high public value, the tree will typically be retained unless Council resolves otherwise.
  - (v) **Dead Trees**  
This Policy does not apply to dead trees, which may be removed on the authority of either the City Arborist General Manager City Infrastructure or Chief Executive Officer in their absence, without the full application of the Tree Assessment Framework.


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## 6. DEBRIS FROM COUNCIL TREES

- (a) Council recognises that trees may create some nuisance or inconvenience which will impact property owners in different ways and degrees as resident's views differ.
- (b) Common issues include but are not limited to.
  - (i) Autumn leaf fall from deciduous trees
  - (ii) Regular leaf fall or bark fall from Australian native trees
  - (iii) Fruit, Berries, and nuts falling from trees onto pedestrian footpaths, roads, and private gardens
  - (iv) Pollen
- (c) As stated in 3 (iv), Council does generally not support the removal of trees for such reasons. However, Council is mindful that certain residents do have a varying tolerance for such issues and endeavours to help implement solutions on a case by case basis. This will be conducted by considering the amenity value provided by the tree, the health and structure of the tree with any remedial action to be taken to be carried out consistently.
- (d) Action taken may include but is not limited to the following.
  - (i) Street sweeping programs may be developed in such a manner to have an increased presence in streets which are prone to seasonal leaf drop over streets whose vegetation is not determined by seasonal variations.
  - (ii) In areas of where properties adjoin a reserve, Council may provide a service whereby residents collect leaves or debris leaving them in a manageable pile for Council employees to collect in periods of seasonal variation, at the discretion of the Manager Operations Infrastructure.
  - (iii) Council may sweep footpath areas whereby the fall of seasonal fruit/berries are swept until the season has finished.

## 7. PRUNING

- (a) All trees are to be pruned in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4373/2007 and the Arboriculture Australia Handbook MIS308 Tree Pruning.
- (b) Trees are to be pruned along trafficable areas to provide safe and clear access and visibility to both pedestrians and vehicles.
- (c) Council's objective is to provide a minimum vegetation clearance of 2m along pedestrian paths.
- (d) If an adjoining resident or property owner has requested Council to carry out vegetation clearance from Council trees the minimum vegetation clearance above any boundary fence adjoining Council maintained land shall be 500mm and 1.0m in height clearance from any roof over private property. Should the property owner request a greater clearance the extent of the work will be assessed on a case by case basis considering

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any significant risk of damages to the property and the structural integrity, health or aesthetic value to the tree.

- (e) Pruning will not be undertaken to accommodate scenic views or to clear for commercial advertising signage if it will cause significant damage to the tree or its aesthetic value.
- (f) In the case of vandalism tree pruning techniques for formative pruning to repair physical damage where possible shall be used to ensure healthy tree growth and recovery. Tree removal shall be the last resort if pruning techniques can not be used to remediate the integrity of the vandalised tree.

## 8. HERITAGE TREE PRESERVATION

Council does not have a regulated or significant tree register, however the objective of trees in heritage precincts is to conserve, protect and enhance these trees. All tree enquiries in heritage precincts shall be referred to the City arborist and or Council's planning department for consideration upon resident or developer requests.

## 9. PERMIT FOR FOOTWAY AND RESERVE PLANTING OF VEGETATION


Should residents wish to plant the footway with vegetation other than what is permitted in accordance with 2(g) a written request must be submitted and approved by Council prior to any planting being undertaken. Permit applications will be assessed on a case by case basis and if the application is approved Council may issue a permit under Section 221 of the Local Government Act to the applicant. The permit holder must always maintain the conditions of the approval or Council may revoke the permit should a breach occur.

## 10. TREE ROOTS GROWING FROM TREES ON COUNCIL LAND

- (a) Tree roots are frequently considered to be the cause of damage to nearby infrastructure such as driveways, crossovers, paved areas, boundary fences and underground pipes including water, sewerage, and drainage.
- (b) Council will not accept responsibility of affected infrastructure purely because a Council tree is nearby and could be the possible cause of any damage or loss. In these instances, the claimant will be required to provide Council with some form of evidence of the cause before it will take some form of action. Evidence may include a written letter from SA Water indicating they have camera evidence of tree roots obstructing underground pipes, or the claimant exposing roots under damaged infrastructure for Council to inspect.
- (c) The extent of Council's decision will be dependent on the findings upon request from an affected resident/party and each request will be assessed on a case to case basis which may lead to the pruning of roots in minor cases or tree removal in extreme cases.

## 11. TREE DAMAGE DURING STORM EVENTS

Council will respond to any private tree that is creating an immediate safety hazard to pedestrians or traffic and requires removal from a public area due to storm events. The extent of the work will be focussed on making the public area safe of debris for this purpose only.

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## 12. TREES AND POWERLINES

- (a) Council will maintain an agreement with SA Power Networks which sets out their obligations regarding line clearance responsibilities.
- (b) Any unauthorised planting/s on Council land that are in breach of SA Power Networks planting schedule becomes the responsibility of Council. Council may elect to maintain the unauthorised planting/s or alternatively remove any unauthorised plantings should the tree be in breach of SA Power Networks clearance standards as outlined within their schedule of approved trees for planting under powerlines.
- (c) Council will notify residents of unauthorised planting/s and make them aware of Council's decision and the reasons behind the decision.

## 13. BOUNDARY ROADS


- (a) Routine Maintenance on boundary roads is carried out by way of agreement between the City of Mount Gambier and District Council of Grant. Typically, such work includes tree maintenance, grass cutting and weed control along boundary roads these costs are to be shared equally between the City of Mount Gambier and the District Council of Grant.

## 14. DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT (DIT) ROADS

- (a) Council shall be responsible for the trimming of trees along DIT roads. Generally, on roads where the speed limit is less than or equal to 60 km/h vegetation will be maintained to a height of 5.0m starting from the edge of any dedicated parking lane and the travelling lanes.
- (b) Trees outside of trafficable road areas are also to be maintained by Council.

## 15. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS WOOD


- (a) Council, in the course of its normal maintenance function, quite often is involved in tree pruning and/or removal that results in a supply of surplus timber that is suitable for firewood.
- (b) Council will make surplus wood available to local service clubs/organisations on the provision that the club/organisation be a "not for profit" club/organisation and that the club/organisation be responsible for all activities associated with the surplus wood (e.g. cutting, splitting, loading and cartage).
- (c) The surplus wood will be stored at a location specified by Council.
- (d) Any wood accessed by a club/organisation in accordance with this policy must not be sold or used for private purposes. The intention of this policy is that such wood will be provided to needy families free of charge by the club/organisation, or the wood can be sold as a fund raising activity by the Club.
- (e) Service club access to the wood is to be on a "first in, first served" basis and applications to be made to Council, in writing, for access to surplus wood. Wood may be left onsite where practical for public consumption.

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- (f) The Chief Executive Officer and/or General Manager City Infrastructure to have the authority to allocate wood supplies in accordance with this policy.
- (g) Any organisation participating in this activity must indemnify the Council against any actions that may result as a consequence of this policy.
- (h) The Chief Executive Officer and/or General Manager City Infrastructure to have the authority to allocate any surplus wood supplies not utilised by local service clubs/organisations under this policy, to be made available for sale to the public at the Mount Gambier Reuse Market.

#### 16. TRANSPORTATION, HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF INFECTED OR DISEASED WOOD MATERIAL

- (a) When pruning/removing trees with fungi/disease:
  - (i) all infected or diseased prunings and felled trees should be destroyed by burning;
  - (ii) the material should not be mulched or carted to the greenwaste pile, but cut into manageable pieces and carted away to the designated burn site;
  - (iii) stumps should be ground out as soon as practicable after the tree is felled and the material carted away to the designated burning site;
  - (iv) establish the safest route to transport the material to the designated burning site to help minimize the spread of disease during transport.
- (b) Sterilise pruning equipment if the disease is present, or suspected to be present, on the tree being pruned/felled.
- (c) All remaining plant material such as chips and sawdust should be swept and removed from site and transported to the designated burning site.
- (d) Common symptoms of diseased trees include:
  - (i) leaf yellowing and death
  - (ii) fruit distortion
  - (iii) stem, root and flower rot
  - (iv) stem cankers
  - (v) dieback within a tree
  - (vi) leaf curl etc.
- (e) If in doubt about the health of a tree or the request to implement this policy, contact the Engineering Technical Officer.

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## 17. PROPERTY OWNER VEGETATION


- (a) Pursuant to Section 299(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council may issue notice to the owner or occupier of adjoining land to remove or cut back vegetation which has encroached onto any street, road or footpath.
- (b) Should there be no response to this request within seven (7) days from the issue date of the notice, Council may undertake the work and seek to recover the expenses incurred for the relevant works.

## 18. ADOPTED TREE SPECIES PLANTING SCHEDULE

	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SA POWER	SA WATER SCHEDULE	PLANT ORIGIN	PLANT TYPE	COMMENTS
1	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood		2	N	E	Grows Well, Good Structure
2	<i>Acer buergerianum</i>	Trident Maple			E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
3	<i>Acer Campestre</i>	Hedge Maple			E	D	Grows Slow
4	<i>Acer Campestre</i> <i>'Evelyn' Queen Elizabeth</i>	Hedge Maple			E	D	
5	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Maple		2	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
6	<i>Acer palmatum sp.</i>	Japanese Maple	2		E	D	Grows slow
7	<i>Acer rubrum sp.</i>	Canadian Maple			E	D	Grows Well, Slow
8	<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lillypilly			N	E	Grows Well, Moderate
9	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch		2	E	D	Grows Well
10	<i>Betula pendula</i> <i>'Dalecarlica'</i>	Cut Leaf Birch		2	E	D	Grows Well
11	<i>Betula platyphylla var. Japonica</i> <i>'Whitespire'</i>	Asian White Birch			E	D	Grows Well
12	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> <i>'Harkness'</i>	Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	2	1	N	E	Grows Well
13	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Weeping Bottlebrush	2	1	N	E	Grows Well
14	<i>Carpinus betulus</i> <i>'Frans Fontaine'</i>	Common Hornbeam			E	D	
15	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> <i>'Forest Pansy'</i>	Purple-leafed Eastern Redbud	2		E	D	Grows Well, But Slow
16	<i>Corymbia eximia</i> <i>'Nana'</i>	Dwarf Yellow Bloodwood			E	N	
	<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Lemon Scented Gum			N	E	Grows well and fast
17	<i>Eucalyptus platypus var heterophylla</i>	Round Leaved Moort	P	2	N	E	Grows Well
18	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. 'Euky Dwarf'</i>	Euky Dwarf	2	2	N	E	Moderate Growth tends to grow on a lean if not formative pruned
19	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon var. Megalocarpa</i> <i>'Rosea'</i>	Yellow Gum	2	2	N	E	Grows Well

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20	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i> 'Meczek'	Flowering ash	P	2	E	D	Grows Slow, But Outstanding Form & Structure
21	<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Australian Willow	2	1	N	E	Grows Vey Slow
22	<i>Geijera salicifolia</i>	Scrub Willow	P		N	E	Grows Very Slow
23	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var <i>inermis</i> 'Sunburst'	Honey Locust		2	E	D	Grows Slow
24	<i>Hakea Laurina</i>	Pincusion Hakea	2	1	N	D	Grows Well, Fast, Blows Over in Heavy Winds
25	<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native Frangipani		2	N	E	Grows Well In Some Areas, Slow
26	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree	2	2	E	D	Very Slow
27	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> sp	Crepe Myrtle	2	1	E	D	Vey Slow, Grows Well
28	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> x <i>Fauriei</i> "Biloxi"	Crepe Myrtle	2		E	D	Vey Slow, Grows Well
29	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> x <i>Fauriei</i> "Sioux"	Crepe Myrtle	2		E	D	Vey Slow, Grows Well
30	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree		2	E	D	Grows Well
31	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> 'Fastigiatum'	Upright Tulip Tree		2	E	D	Grows Well
32	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box			N	D	Grows Well
33	<i>Liquidamber styraciflua</i>	Liquidamber		2	E	D	Grows Slow
34	<i>Malus ioensis</i> 'Purpurea'	Crab Apple	2	1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
35	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistachio		2	E	D	
36	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Plane			E	D	Grows Slow
37	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Nigra'	Purple Leaf Cherryplum	2	1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
38	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Oakville Crimson Spire'	Purple Leaf Cherryplum					
39	<i>Prunus fruticosa</i> "Globasa"	Designer Cherry	P	1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
40	<i>Prunus persica</i> sp.	Flowering Peach	2	1	E	D	Attracts Leaf Curl, Very Slow
41	<i>Prunus</i> 'sekiyama' syn. 'Kanzan'	Flowering Cherry	2	1	E	D	
42	<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Japanese Flowering Cherry		1	E	D	
43	<i>Pyrus betulifolia</i> 'Southworth Dancer'	Southworth Dancer Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
44	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Aristocrat'	Aristocrat Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
45	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Capital'	Capital Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
46	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> x <i>betulaefolia</i> 'Edgedell'	Edgedell Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
47	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Glen's Form' Chanticleer	Callery Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
48	<i>Pyrus fauriei</i> 'Westwood'	Korean Sun	P		E	D	Grows Well, Slow

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49	<i>Pyrus salicifolia</i> <i>'Pendula'</i>	Willow Leaf Pear	2	2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
50	<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Manchurian Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast, Prone To Limb Failure
51	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pinoak			E	D	Grows Slow
52	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Pagoda Tree		2	E	E/D	
53	<i>Tilia Cordata</i> <i>'Greenspire'</i>	Linden		2	E	D	
54	<i>Tilia Cordata</i> <i>'Shamrock'</i>	Linden		2	E	D	
55	<i>Ulmus glabra</i> <i>'Lutescens'</i>	Golden Elm			E	D	Grows Moderate
56	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chines Elm			E	D	
57	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Todd'	Chines Elm			E	D	
58	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Green Vase'	Green Vase Japanese Zelkova			E	D	Grows Well, Slow



Trial Trees

These trees only to be planted in large road reserves or nature strips

(P) - Not listed but ok to plant under powerlines

**ETSA List 1** - Species with expected height between 2 and 3 metres

**ETSA List 2** - Species with expected height between 3 and 6 metres

In South Australia a great deal of research has been done to determine the suitability of various trees for planting near sewers. Some of the results of this research have been incorporated into Regulation 24 of the Sewerage Act.

This contains two schedules which list over 200 trees and shrubs, the planting of which in streets is controlled, but which may be planted on private property without the need to obtain prior approval from SA Water.

**Schedule 1** lists those which may be planted in streets but not closer than 2 metres to any sewer or connection without written approval from SA Water.

**Schedule 2** lists those which may be planted in streets but not closer than 3.5 metres to any sewer or connection without written approval from SA Water.

#### Provisionally Classified Schedule 2

Any tree which is not listed in these schedules may not be planted in any street in any declared drainage area without the prior approval in writing of the South Australian Water Corporation.

In addition to Schedule 1 and 2, approximately 400 trees and shrubs have been *provisionally* classified into the same two groups. The distinction between the trees listed in Schedule 1 and 2 and those which are only provisionally

classified is that the latter may not be planted in streets or roads without the prior written approval of the South Australian Water Corporation for home gardens.


The Schedules quoted are for guidance only as Regulations 24 does not apply to private property.

In addition under Regulation 37 of the Waterworks Act, trees and shrubs must not be planted in a public street or road closer than one metre to any water main or service connection. Approval may be obtained by submitting in writing details of proposed planting to the contact detailed above.

Electronic version on TRIM is the controlled version.

Printed copies are considered uncontrolled. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the current version.

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#### 19. REVIEW & EVALUATION

This Policy is scheduled for review by Council in <insert date>, however, will be reviewed as required by any legislative changes which may occur.

#### 20. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

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](http://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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File Reference:	AF11/1747
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999
Reference: Community Plan	Goal 2: Our Location
Related Policies:	
Related Procedures:	
Related Documents:	AF11/1259 <a href="http://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/">http://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/</a> AS4373-2007 (Pruning of amenity trees) AS 4970-2009 (Protection of trees on development sites) Local Government Act 1999 Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 Native Vegetation Act 1991 Electricity Act 1996 (SA) <a href="#">City of Mount Gambier Tree Planting and Management Guidelines</a>

#### DOCUMENT DETAILS

Responsibility:	General Manager City Infrastructure
Version:	6.0
Last revised date:	
Effective date:	
Minute reference:	
Next review date:	
<u>Document History</u> First Adopted By Council: Reviewed/Amended:	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2004 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2006; 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2009, 17 <sup>th</sup> July, 2014; 16 <sup>th</sup> May, 2017; 19 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017; 19 April, 2022

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- (a) This document sets out the policy of the City of Mount Gambier ("Council") for the management of trees situated on Council property as set out below:

- (i) streets; and
- (ii) parks, gardens, reserves, and playgrounds.

- (b) It is the policy of Council that all streets be planted according to a defined street scaping plan and planting be aimed at beautifying the street, rather than individual properties.

Individual tree requests by residents shall be assessed on a case by case basis with consideration of a future Street Tree Program in streets that have no trees or trees that have passed their Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE).

## 2. PURPOSE

The benefits that trees provide throughout the City include environmental, social, health and wellbeing, economic and visual amenity. They also assist in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in an urban environment by providing habitat to bird life as well as improving our air quality.

Trees greatly benefit the people living around them by having a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing, reducing stress and encouraging outdoor exercise. This is in addition to the benefits they will receive from an improved environmental quality and improved amenity which comes with planted areas.

Trees can have a symbolic importance for identity and connection to a City.

## 3. TREE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

The City of Mount Gambier adopts a formal Tree Assessment Framework to provide a structured, transparent, and consistent approach to evaluating all trees on Council land. This framework is used when:

- Considering tree retention, removal, or replacement
- Responding to resident or authority requests
- Planning new street tree plantings or species changes
- Prioritising tree works or interventions

### Key Assessment Criteria:

Each tree is evaluated on the following aspects:

1. Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) – Determines the expected remaining lifespan of the tree, considering health, species, location, and risk profile.
2. Health – Measured by leaf condition, crown structure, pest/pathogen presence, and growth performance.
3. Structural Integrity – Examines branch unions, trunk defects, root stability, and evidence of decay or damage.

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4. **Amenity Value** – Considers contribution to streetscape, shade provision, biodiversity, cultural/historical significance, and alignment with Council's urban forest goals.
5. **Risk Assessment** – Evaluates likelihood of failure and potential consequences using industry-standard risk matrices. In certain circumstances, Council may opt to use a consulting arborist to undertake the assessment (QTRA/TRAQ or equivalent).
6. **Environmental Impact** – Assesses ecosystem services, including carbon capture, habitat value, and urban heat mitigation.
7. **Infrastructure Impact** – Assesses proximity and effects on buildings, paths, utilities, and sight lines.
8. **Community Context** – Considers public sentiment, past vandalism, or conflict situations, especially in consultation or appeal stages.


Each tree is given an overall Risk & Value Score, which guides action:

- **Retain:** Tree is safe, healthy, and offers high public value
- **Remediate:** Tree has manageable health or structure issues; consider pruning, cabling, or soil improvement
- **Monitor:** Tree is borderline or declining; schedule for re-inspection
- **Remove & Replace:** Tree is unsafe, senescent, or negatively impacts infrastructure or amenity with no viable remediation.


This framework will be reviewed annually and updated in line with Australian Standards, industry best practices, community feedback, and evolving urban greening objectives.

### 3.4. STREET TREE PLANTINGS

- (a) Council has resolved that, where applicable, to plant streets with the same species of tree, but the species may vary from one side of the street to the other.
- (b) In some streets, it may be necessary to remove a small number of existing trees to try and maintain uniformity within a street.
- (c) Should a resident wish to maintain an existing street tree adjacent to their property the Tree Assessment Framework ~~tree~~ will be used to assess the tree's health, structure, risk, and overall value. The aesthetics of the street and long-term streetscape plan will also be considered. This will be required to be assessed on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the aesthetics of the street as well as an assessment of the tree to measure its health and structural integrity prior to its retainment being considered.
- (d) A list of tree species suitable for planting in the City has been adopted and is outlined in Section 17 of this Policy.
- (e) The list provided will be reviewed annually so that preferred species may be added or removed as trial trees are assessed and as set out by the SA Power Networks and SA Water guidelines.
- (f) In selecting the type of tree suitable for a particular street, the following criteria should be taken into consideration:
  - (i) The character and amenity of the individual street.

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- (ii) The actual width of the footpath, or if a footpath width is less than 1.5 metres between the back of the kerb and the boundary, a tree is not planted.
- (iii) The location of species as set out by individual utilities outlined in the species list in Section 7.
- (g) On footways, Council permits the development of footpaths adjoining residential allotments through the planting of approved trees and or lawn by residents subject to:
  - (i) A clear trafficable pedestrian way of 1.5 metres width by 2.5 metres height being retained at all times along the footpath.
  - (ii) No vegetation (except lawn) to be planted within 6.0 metres of the intersection of the junction of two or more streets.
  - (iii) Planting being in accordance with an approved Streetscape Plan in accordance with ~~33~~(d).
- (h) Notification to Residents:
  - (i) Where Council undertakes street tree plantings, whether the street has been selected by Council, or letters received from residents of a particular street, all residents will be informed in writing prior to the commencement of the plantings.
  - (ii) Council invite comment on the proposed plantings of trees within each individual street with comments to be received up to four (4) weeks from the date of issue, in accordance with Council's Public Consultation policy.
  - (iii) Council to notify residents of Council's conditions and feedback of the consultation.
  - (iv) Should Council resolve not to adopt a particular street to be included in an annual street tree program due to popular demand from a majority of residents, those willing to have a tree planted will still be supplied with a tree.
- (i) Notification to Authorities:
  - (i) Council invites comments on the proposed plantings of trees as outlined on the annual street tree program, with comments to be received up to four (4) weeks from the date of issue to the following authorities:
    - APA Group
    - SA Power Networks
    - SA Water
    - Telstra
    - NBN
- (j) [Where practicable and suitable](#) Council is to review previously planted streets and individual trees that have been vandalised and replaced with the species originally planted. If the specific cultivar is not available then replace with one that is of similar characteristics i.e. flower colour, size, shape etc.

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## 5. TREE REMOVAL

- (a) Where Council grants approval for the removal of a tree for the benefit of a resident, and the tree is in a healthy state, removal and where applicable replacement will be at the ratepayers expense. This may apply where a tree is located in an area where a resident wishes to remove a tree for a supplementary driveway.
- (b) Council is frequently requested to remove street trees. The reasons for seeking the removal can vary considerably and each case is to be assessed on its merits.

- (i) **Removal Request**

A resident may seek removal of a tree in writing to the Councility Arborist, stating their name, address, location of the tree and the reasons for the request for the removal of the tree.

- (ii) **Assessment and Recommendations**

For each request for removal of a street tree, an assessment using the Tree Assessment Framework is to be undertaken. This framework ensures consistent, evidence-based decisions that consider SULE, health, risk, amenity, and community benefit. The resulting recommendation will be submitted to the General Manager City Infrastructure or, in their absence, the Chief Executive Officer.  
~~For each request for removal of a street tree, an assessment of the tree is to be undertaken and a recommendation submitted to the General Manager City Infrastructure, or in their absence the Chief Executive Officer.~~

- (iii) **Criteria for Removal**


Approval may be granted for removal under the following conditions, based on Tree Assessment Framework outcomes:

- The tree has a low SULE and is in structural decline
- The tree poses an unacceptable risk to public safety or infrastructure
- The tree is contributing to irreversible infrastructure damage that cannot be mitigated
- The tree is unsuitable for its location based on health, size, or environmental conflict

~~If the tree is diseased to the point that it is unlikely to recover, is too big for its location (based on size of tree in relation to footpath width, vehicle sight distance or power lines) or is causing or is likely to cause damage to adjoining property infrastructure~~  
Under these circumstances the Councility Arborist, or in their absence the General Manager City Infrastructure or the Chief Executive Officer, may grant approval to remove the tree.

- (iv) **Aesthetic or Nuisance Requests**

Removal requests based solely on aesthetics, nuisance (e.g., leaf drop), or shading are generally not supported. Such requests must undergo full assessment via the Tree Assessment Framework, and if found structurally sound and of high public value, the tree will typically be retained unless Council resolves otherwise.  
~~Removal of a sound tree of appropriate size and location for reasons of appearance, overshadowing or dropping of foliage etc. is generally not supported and any recommendation to remove a tree on this basis is to be referred to Council for a final decision.~~

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(v) **Dead Trees**


This Policy does not apply to dead trees, which may be removed on the authority of either the City Arborist General Manager City Infrastructure or Chief Executive Officer in their absence, without the full application of the Tree Assessment Framework.

## 6. DEBRIS FROM COUNCIL TREES

- (a) Council recognises that trees may create some nuisance or inconvenience which will impact property owners in different ways and degrees as resident's views differ.
- (b) Common issues include but are not limited to.
  - (i) Autumn leaf fall from deciduous trees
  - (ii) Regular leaf fall or bark fall from Australian native trees
  - (iii) Fruit, Berries, and nuts falling from trees onto pedestrian footpaths, roads, and private gardens
  - (iv) Pollen
- (c) As stated in 3 (iv), Council does generally not support the removal of trees for such reasons. However, Council is mindful that certain residents do have a varying tolerance for such issues and endeavours to help implement solutions on a case by case basis. This will be conducted by considering the amenity value provided by the tree, the health and structure of the tree with any remedial action to be taken to be carried out consistently.
- (d) Action taken may include but is not limited to the following.
  - (i) Street sweeping programs may be developed in such a manner to have an increased presence in streets which are prone to seasonal leaf drop over streets whose vegetation is not determined by seasonal variations.
  - (ii) In areas of where properties adjoin a reserve, Council may provide a service whereby residents collect leaves or debris leaving them in a manageable pile for Council employees to collect in periods of seasonal variation, at the discretion of the Manager Operations Infrastructure.
  - (iii) Council may sweep footpath areas whereby the fall of seasonal fruit/berries are swept until the season has finished.

## 7. PRUNING

- (a) All trees are to be pruned in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4373/2007 and the Arboriculture Australia Handbook MIS308 Tree Pruning.
- (b) Trees are to be pruned along trafficable areas to provide safe and clear access and visibility to both pedestrians and vehicles.

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- (c) Council's objective is to provide a minimum vegetation clearance of ~~4.82~~4m along pedestrian paths.
- (d) If an adjoining resident or property owner has requested Council to carry out vegetation clearance from Council trees the minimum vegetation clearance above any boundary fence adjoining Council maintained land shall be 500mm and 1.0m in height clearance from any roof over private property. Should the property owner request a greater clearance the extent of the work will be assessed on a case by case basis considering any significant risk of damages to the property and the structural integrity, health or aesthetic value to the tree.
- (e) Pruning will not be undertaken to accommodate scenic views or to clear for commercial advertising signage if it will cause significant damage to the tree or its aesthetic value.
- (f) In the case of vandalism tree pruning techniques for formative pruning to repair physical damage where possible shall be used to ensure healthy tree growth and recovery. Tree removal shall be the last resort if pruning techniques can not be used to remediate the integrity of the vandalised tree.

## 8. HERITAGE TREE PRESERVATION


Council does not have a regulated or significant tree register, however the objective of trees in heritage precincts is to conserve, protect and enhance these trees. All tree enquiries in heritage precincts shall be referred to the City arborist and or Council's planning department for consideration upon resident or developer requests.

## 9. PERMIT FOR FOOTWAY AND RESERVE PLANTING OF VEGETATION

Should residents wish to plant the footway with vegetation other than what is permitted in accordance with 2(g) a written request must be submitted and approved by Council prior to any planting being undertaken. Permit applications will be assessed on a case by case basis and if the application is approved Council may issue a permit under Section 221 of the Local Government Act to the applicant. The permit holder must always maintain the conditions of the approval or Council may revoke the permit should a breach occur.

## 10. TREE ROOTS GROWING FROM TREES ON COUNCIL LAND

- (a) Tree roots are frequently considered to be the cause of damage to nearby infrastructure such as driveways, crossovers, paved areas, boundary fences and underground pipes including water, sewerage, and drainage.
- (b) Council will not accept responsibility of affected infrastructure purely because a Council tree is nearby and could be the possible cause of any damage or loss. In these instances, the claimant will be required to provide Council with some form of evidence of the cause before it will take some form of action. Evidence may include a written letter from SA Water indicating they have camera evidence of tree roots obstructing underground pipes, or the claimant exposing roots under damaged infrastructure for Council to inspect.
- (c) The extent of Council's decision will be dependent on the findings upon request from an affected resident/party and each request will be assessed on a case to case basis

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which may lead to the pruning of roots in minor cases or tree removal in extreme cases.

#### 11. TREE DAMAGE DURING STORM EVENTS

Council will respond to any private tree that is creating an immediate safety hazard to pedestrians or traffic and requires removal from a public area due to storm events. The extent of the work will be focussed on making the public area safe of debris for this purpose only.

#### 12. TREES AND POWERLINES

- (a) Council will maintain an agreement with SA Power Networks which sets out their obligations regarding line clearance responsibilities.
- (b) Any unauthorised planting/s on Council land that are in breach of SA Power Networks planting schedule becomes the responsibility of Council. Council may elect to maintain the unauthorised planting/s or alternatively remove any unauthorised plantings should the tree be in breach of SA Power Networks clearance standards as outlined within their schedule of approved trees for planting under powerlines.
- (c) Council will notify residents of unauthorised planting/s and make them aware of Council's decision and the reasons behind the decision.

#### 13. BOUNDARY ROADS


- (a) Routine Maintenance on boundary roads is carried out by way of agreement between the City of Mount Gambier and District Council of Grant. Typically, such work includes tree maintenance, grass cutting and weed control along boundary roads these costs are to be shared equally between the at full cost to the City of Mount Gambier and the District Council of Grant.

#### 14. DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT (DIT) ROADS

- (a) Council shall be responsible for the trimming of trees along DIT roads. Generally, on roads where the speed limit is less than or equal to 60 km/h vegetation will be maintained to a height of 5.0m starting from the edge of any dedicated parking lane and the travelling lanes.
- (b) Trees outside of trafficable road areas are also to be maintained by Council.

#### 15. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS WOOD

- (a) Council, in the course of its normal maintenance function, quite often is involved in tree pruning and/or removal that results in a supply of surplus timber that is suitable for firewood.
- (b) Council will make surplus wood available to local service clubs/organisations on the provision that the club/organisation be a "not for profit" club/organisation and that the club/organisation be responsible for all activities associated with the surplus wood (e.g. cutting, splitting, loading and cartage).
- (c) The surplus wood will be stored at a location specified by Council.

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- (d) Any wood accessed by a club/organisation in accordance with this policy must not be sold or used for private purposes. The intention of this policy is that such wood will be provided to needy families free of charge by the club/organisation, or the wood can be sold as a fund raising activity by the Club.
- (e) Service club Access to the wood is to be on a "first in, first served" basis and applications to be made to Council, in writing, for access to surplus wood. Wood may be left onsite where practical for public consumption.
- (f) The Chief Executive Officer and/or General Manager City Infrastructure to have the authority to allocate wood supplies in accordance with this policy.
- (g) Any organisation participating in this activity must indemnify the Council against any actions that may result as a consequence of this policy.
- (h) The Chief Executive Officer and/or General Manager City Infrastructure to have the authority to allocate any surplus wood supplies not utilised by local service clubs/organisations under this policy, to be made available for sale to the public at the Mount Gambier Reuse Market.

*Remove below section and include in Council's Memorial Policy.*

#### ~~15. RESERVES~~

##### ~~(a) Botanic Park Commemorative and Memorial Trees~~

~~(i) Approval is granted for service clubs to place plaques at the foot of each of the existing lemon scented gums at Botanic Park to commemorate deceased members of the Clubs from within Mount Gambier.~~

~~(ii) Clubs to provide (or bear the cost) of the plaques, plinths, installation thereof, future maintenance and replacement of plaques etc.~~


~~(iii) Council will provide, as and when required, further advanced growth lemon scented gums as a boulevard to Botanic Park and as a perimeter planting to this entire area to which further commemorative plaques may be placed in the future.~~

~~(iv) An area be set aside at Botanic Park for the placement of suitable tree species which may be planted by persons, including a special plaque, in remembrance of other persons or groups.~~

##### ~~(b) Hastings Cunningham Reserve Memorials~~

~~(i) An area be set aside at Hastings Cunningham Reserve for the placement of suitable tree species, which may be planted by persons, including a special plaque, in remembrance of other persons or groups.~~

##### ~~(c) Marist Park~~

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~~(i) An area of Marist Park, to the east side of the roadway from Shepherdson Road, be set aside to allow the planting of a tree and placement of a plaque by Rotary Exchange students to celebrate their time on Mount Gambier.~~

## 16. TRANSPORTATION, HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF INFECTED OR DISEASED WOOD MATERIAL

- (a) When pruning/removing trees with fungi/disease:
  - (i) all infected or diseased prunings and felled trees should be destroyed by burning;
  - (ii) the material should not be mulched or carted to the greenwaste pile, but cut into manageable pieces and carted away to the designated burn site;
  - (iii) stumps should be ground out as soon as practicable after the tree is felled and the material carted away to the designated burning site;
  - (iv) establish the safest route to transport the material to the designated burning site to help minimize the spread of disease during transport.
- (b) Sterilise pruning equipment if the disease is present, or suspected to be present, on the tree being pruned/felled.
- (c) All remaining plant material such as chips and sawdust should be swept and removed from site and transported to the designated burning site.
- (d) Common symptoms of diseased trees include:
  - (i) leaf yellowing and death
  - (ii) fruit distortion
  - (iii) stem, root and flower rot
  - (iv) stem cankers
  - (v) dieback within a tree
  - (vi) leaf curl etc.
- (e) If in doubt about the health of a tree or the request to implement this policy, contact the Engineering Technical Officer.

## 17. PROPERTY OWNER VEGETATION

- (a) Pursuant to Section 299(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council may issue notice to the owner or occupier of adjoining land to remove or cut back vegetation which has encroached onto any street, road or footpath.
- (b) Should there be no response to this request within seven (7) days from the issue date of the notice, Council may undertake the work and seek to recover the expenses incurred for the relevant works.

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## 18. ADOPTED TREE SPECIES PLANTING SCHEDULE

	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SA POWER	SA WATER SCHEDULE	PLANT ORIGIN	PLANT TYPE	COMMENTS
1	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood		2	N	E	Grows Well, Good Structure
2	<i>Acer buergerianum</i>	Trident Maple			E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
3	<i>Acer Campestre</i>	Hedge Maple			E	D	Grows Slow
4	<i>Acer Campestre 'Evelyn' Queen Elizabeth</i>	Hedge Maple			E	D	
5	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Maple		2	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
6	<i>Acer palmatum sp.</i>	Japanese Maple	2		E	D	Grows slow
7	<i>Acer rubrum sp.</i>	Canadian Maple			E	D	Grows Well, Slow
8	<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lillypilly			N	E	Grows Well, Moderate
9	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch		2	E	D	Grows Well
10	<i>Betula pendula 'Dalecarlica'</i>	Cut Leaf Birch		2	E	D	Grows Well
11	<i>Betula platyphylla var. Japonica 'Whitespire'</i>	Asian White Birch			E	D	Grows Well
12	<i>Callistemon viminalis 'Harkness'</i>	Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	2	1	N	E	Grows Well
13	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Weeping Bottlebrush	2	1	N	E	Grows Well
14	<i>Carpinus betulus 'Frans Fontaine'</i>	Common Hornbeam			E	D	
15	<i>Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy'</i>	Purple-leafed Eastern Redbud	2		E	D	Grows Well, But Slow
16	<i>Corymbia eximia 'Nana'</i>	Dwarf Yellow Bloodwood			E	N	
	<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Lemon Scented Gum			N	E	Grows well and fast
17	<i>Eucalyptus platypus var heterophylla</i>	Round Leaved Moort	P	2	N	E	Grows Well
18	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. 'Euky Dwarf'</i>	Euky Dwarf	2	2	N	E	Moderate Growth tends to grow on a lean if not formative pruned
19	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon var. Megalocarpa 'Rosea'</i>	Yellow Gum	2	2	N	E	Grows Well
20	<i>Fraxinus ornus 'Meczek'</i>	Flowering ash	P	2	E	D	Grows Slow, But Outstanding Form & Structure
21	<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Australian Willow	2	1	N	E	Grows Vey Slow
22	<i>Geijera salicifolia</i>	Scrub Willow	P		N	E	Grows Very Slow
23	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos var inermis 'Sunburst'</i>	Honey Locust		2	E	D	Grows Slow
24	<i>Hakea Laurina</i>	Pincusion Hakea	2	1	N	D	Grows Well, Fast, Blows Over in Heavy Winds
25	<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native Frangipani		2	N	E	Grows Well In Some Areas, Slow

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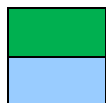
26	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree	2	2	E	D	Very Slow
27	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> sp	Crepe Myrtle	2	1	E	D	Vey Slow, Grows Well
28	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> x <i>Fauriei</i> "Biloxi"	Crepe Myrtle	2		E	D	Vey Slow, Grows Well
29	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> x <i>Fauriei</i> "Sioux"	Crepe Myrtle	2		E	D	Vey Slow, Grows Well
30	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree		2	E	D	Grows Well
31	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> 'Fastigiatum'	Upright Tulip Tree		2	E	D	Grows Well
32	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box			N	D	Grows Well
33	<i>Liquidamber styraciflua</i>	Liquidamber		2	E	D	Grows Slow
34	<i>Malus ioensis</i> 'Purpurea'	Crab Apple	2	1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
35	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistachio		2	E	D	
36	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Plane			E	D	Grows Slow
37	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Nigra'	Purple Leaf Cherryplum	2	1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
38	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Oakville Crimson Spire'	Purple Leaf Cherryplum					
39	<i>Prunus fruticosa</i> "Globasa"	Designer Cherry	P	1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
40	<i>Prunus persica</i> sp.	Flowering Peach	2	1	E	D	Attracts Leaf Curl, Very Slow
41	<i>Prunus 'sekiyama'</i> syn. 'Kanzan'	Flowering Cherry	2	1	E	D	
42	<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Japanese Flowering Cherry		1	E	D	
43	<i>Pyrus betulifolia</i> 'Southworth Dancer'	Southworth Dancer Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
44	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Aristocrat'	Aristocrat Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
45	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Capital'	Capital Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
46	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> x <i>betulaefolia</i> 'Edgedell'	Edgedell Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
47	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Glen's Form' Chanticleer	Callery Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
48	<i>Pyrus fauriei</i> 'Westwood'	Korean Sun	P		E	D	Grows Well, Slow
49	<i>Pyrus salicifolia</i> 'Pendula'	Willow Leaf Pear	2	2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
50	<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Manchurian Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast, Prone To Limb Failure
51	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pinoak			E	D	Grows Slow
52	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Pagoda Tree		2	E	E/D	
53	<i>Tilia Cordata</i> 'Greenspire'	Linden		2	E	D	
54	<i>Tilia Cordata</i> 'Shamrock'	Linden		2	E	D	
55	<i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'Lutescens'	Golden Elm			E	D	Grows Moderate

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5 6	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chines Elm			E	D	
5 7	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Todd'	Chines Elm			E	D	
5 8	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Green Vase'	Green Vase Japanese Zelkova			E	D	Grows Well, Slow



Trial Trees

These trees only to be planted in large road reserves or nature strips

(P) - Not listed but ok to plant under powerlines

**ETSA List 1** - Species with expected height between 2 and 3 metres

**ETSA List 2** - Species with expected height between 3 and 6 metres

In South Australia a great deal of research has been done to determine the suitability of various trees for planting near sewers. Some of the results of this research have been incorporated into Regulation 24 of the Sewerage Act.

This contains two schedules which list over 200 trees and shrubs, the planting of which in streets is controlled, but which may be planted on private property without the need to obtain prior approval from SA Water.

**Schedule 1** lists those which may be planted in streets but not closer than 2 metres to any sewer or connection without written approval from SA Water.

**Schedule 2** lists those which may be planted in streets but not closer than 3.5 metres to any sewer or connection without written approval from SA Water.

#### Provisionally Classified Schedule 2

Any tree which is not listed in these schedules may not be planted in any street in any declared drainage area without the prior approval in writing of the South Australian Water Corporation.

In addition to Schedule 1 and 2, approximately 400 trees and shrubs have been *provisionally* classified into the same two groups. The distinction between the trees listed in Schedule 1 and 2 and those which are only provisionally classified is that the latter may not be planted in streets or roads without the prior written approval of the South Australian Water Corporation for home gardens.

The Schedules quoted are for guidance only as Regulations 24 does not apply to private property.

In addition under Regulation 37 of the Waterworks Act, trees and shrubs must not be planted in a public street or road closer than one metre to any water main or service connection. Approval may be obtained by submitting in writing details of proposed planting to the contact detailed above.

## 19. REVIEW & EVALUATION

This Policy is scheduled for review by Council in <insert date>, however, will be reviewed as required by any legislative changes which may occur.

## 20. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

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](http://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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File Reference:	AF11/1747
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999
Reference: Community Plan	Goal 2: Our Location
Related Policies:	
Related Procedures:	
Related Documents:	AF11/1259 <a href="http://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/">http://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/</a> AS4373-2007 (Pruning of amenity trees) AS 4970-2009 (Protection of trees on development sites) Local Government Act 1999 <a href="#">Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</a> <a href="#">Native Vegetation Act 1991</a> Electricity Act 1996 (SA) <a href="#">City of Mount Gambier Tree Planting and Management Guidelines</a>

#### DOCUMENT DETAILS

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## TREE PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

To implement the City of Mount Gambier's Street Tree Policy by introducing a consistent, adopted approach to street tree planting and the ongoing management of street trees within the Municipality.

To provide information and directions to Council Officers and consultants in relation to Council owned street and reserve trees.

### Scope

The City of Mount Gambier views its trees as one of its greatest assets. The aim of this document is to provide appropriate planting and maintenance guidelines to manage Council's Street, roadside, park and reserve trees that will help provide and maintain the aesthetic, material, environmental and ecological benefits to the community.

The aim of the Guidelines is to provide a framework for making structured, consistent, and environmentally sound management decisions for all trees owned by Council or under Council's control.

### Vision

The aim is to plant, preserve and maintain, in a safe and healthy condition, those trees which are currently, or which will become visually, historically, horticulturally, or environmentally valuable to the Community of Mount Gambier. These guidelines are a way to ensure that all the benefits associated with trees are maintained as well as ensuring that any risks associated with them are managed in accordance with industry best practice.

The vision of the Guidelines is to provide the following:

- Guidance towards new street tree plantings and species selection.
- Ensure consistency in the management of Council's tree management processes across the whole of the organisation.
- To define Council's responsibilities and requirements with respect to the protection, retention and replacement of trees.

## 2. TREE PRUNING

### Purpose

Tree pruning is the process of removing branches (or roots) from a tree or other plants using approved practices.

The pruning of street trees may only be carried out by trained, competent Council staff or external service providers under Council supervision as per Council's Tree Maintenance Services Tender AF18/600.

All tree pruning works on Council trees shall be conducted in accordance with the following procedures and practices.

- Australian Standards AS4373-2007 (Pruning of Amenity Trees)
- Australian Standards AS4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites
- Arboriculture Australia Tree Pruning Guidelines (MIS308)

Council will undertake the pruning of both streets and reserve trees to achieve the following:

- To provide safe access to both pedestrians and vehicles.
- To ensure safe visibility to both pedestrians and vehicles.

- To ensure healthy tree growth using tree principles and techniques to formative prune, repair physical damage and maintain shape.
- To avoid topping, topping or pollarding trees at all costs. It should only be conducted to achieve certain aims when the potential hazards cannot be mitigated through other suitable pruning practices.
- To try and avoid intrusion of roots and branches onto private property.
- Pruning will not be undertaken to accommodate scenic views or to clear for commercial advertising signage:

The following clearances are required to be generally maintained over Council footpaths and roads:

Over footpaths	2.0m
Encroachments over front gardens (optional)	2.0m
Over driveways	3.0m
Over roadways	4.0m
Over nature strips	2.0m
Over fencelines	0.5m
Traffic lights and street signs	Maintain visibility

### **Pruning Considerations**

Trees shall be pruned in a manner that is as aesthetically pleasing and as reasonably practicable to maintain the shape and character of the tree and the streetscape in general. Due to the various potential impacts of pruning trees, the following needs to be considered whenever planning or performing tree pruning. Failing to consider the following may result in tree stress, tree decline and potentially the death of the tree.

### **Tree Health**

Any pruning cut into live tissue causes damage to the tree. Prior to cutting into live tissue, you are required to be confident that the tree will recover from the cuts or the need for pruning justifies the damage that is caused. Trees rely on a network of conductive tissue to move water and nutrients from the ground and around the tree. When pruning you are required to avoid unnecessary damage to the bark and sapwood. If too much sapwood is damaged in a particular area the tree may be impacted causing die back.

- Ensure the correct cutting tool is used for the piece being cut. i.e., do not use a chainsaw or pole saw on stems less than 60mm in diameter. A hand saw shall be used instead to prevent accidental cuts or overcuts.
- Follow a good cutting sequence to avoid tearing and splitting of bark. Bark tearing is to be avoided by using the undercut, top cut and final cut method when removing or pruning branches.
- All pruning shall occur as close as possible to branch collars, ensuring not to cut into trunk tissue.
- Stubs are not to be left on the tree.
- Avoid dropping logs or branches onto other parts of the tree.
- Take care that mechanical damage during set-up and clean-up of vehicles or plant is avoided.

### **Tree Structure**

The impact of the pruning will have an adverse effect on its structure. The removal of any part of a tree may impact on the static and dynamic loads that are applied by the weight of the trees wood and foliage and could lead to structural failure by wind loading.

### **Tree Species**

Accurate identification of tree species prior to pruning is essential as different tree species adapt to their environments and respond to pruning in varying ways.

### **Pruning Objectives by Age Class**

Trees change over the course of their lifespan. Juvenile trees are generally fast growing and vigorous, quickly occlude wounds and recover from heavy pruning. Older Trees are generally less able to tolerate heavy pruning, can struggle to occlude large wounds and less able to recover from foliage loss.

#### **Prune Juvenile Trees**

- to enhance the form and improve the structure, or to directionally shape the young tree.
- To reduce the development of structural weakness (multiple stems, included bark etc.).
- To accommodate any site constraints and reduce encroachment on assets such as buildings as the tree grows.

#### **Prune Mature Trees**

- To reduce or remove hazards
- To address structural issues by removing or limiting further development of structural weakness.
- To accommodate site constraints and reduce encroachment on assets such as buildings or over footpaths.
- To retain the amenity value of the tree

#### **Prune Veteran Trees**

- As little as possible and generally only to remove or reduce a hazard.
- To address any structural issues
- To retain amenity and environmental or heritage value.

### **Pruning Cuts**

The standard approach for pruning most trees shall be conducted using the natural target pruning method as referenced in Australian Standards AS4373-2007 (Pruning of Amenity Trees). The technique specifies that cuts should be made from just outside the branch-bark ridge at the top of the cut, through to just outside the branch collar below.

Refer to Appendix A for examples of the most common pruning cuts taken from the Arboriculture Australia Tree Pruning Guidelines (MIS308).

### **Root Pruning**

Root pruning in general is to be discouraged as the long-term effects may be detrimental to the longevity and stability of the tree.

In cases where tree roots have entered a sewer service line or storm water drain, claims for the removal of a tree will be assessed on an individual basis by Council's Arborist.

Council will take all reasonable action with what is currently available to help prevent roots from street trees causing damage to Council assets and private property.

### 3. TREE PLANTING

#### Planning

Street, reserve and roadside planting shall be undertaken in a programmed way as determined by Council's Arborist. This approach will help planting occur in an environmentally and economically viable manner.

A landscape plan that has been approved by Council will be used for the planting of street trees to ensure that tree stock can be pre-ordered. This will help ensure Council's Arborist as being able to obtain the proposed species, size, numbers and quality for its planting season.

When selecting tree species for planting in streets, reserves or roadsides the following decision-making framework is required to be considered:

- The landscape character of the area
- Nature strip width and road reserve requirements
- Existing services and surrounding infrastructure such as powerlines, sewer and water
- Adopted master plans and strategies
- Tree planting history to see what has and has not worked in the past
- Tree longevity
- Growth habit, size and structure
- Soil type
- Pest and disease susceptibility
- Net community benefit
- Plantings within a reserve to have a 20m offset from the boundary

A "sustained amenity" approach shall be followed to allow a diversity of tree ages and sizes and varying species of trees to ensure long term stability of the tree population and character of the Municipalities landscape character. This will ensure tree survival should an outbreak of disease occur for one species of tree. Varying ages of trees will help reduce the aesthetic impact of the urban forest as trees pass their Safe useful life expectancy and are required to be removed.

#### Tree Stock

Only high-quality tree stock will be used for plantings, as substandard tree stock can increase maintenance costs in the future management of the tree. Low quality tree stock can have an adverse effect on the establishment rates of trees once they have been planted. Communities appreciation of trees is increased with aesthetic trees that are less problematic which in turn can increase participation rates from the public.

Prior to the planting, the stock must be inspected and approved by Council's Arborist or a trained team leader to ensure the tree is sound for planting. Trees that do not meet Council's requirements as per the quotation specifications will not be accepted and returned.

#### Excavation

Prior to the commencement of plantings works, Dial Before You Dig service location plans for each site or street will be obtained and used by the team leader to set out the position of the excavation of individual holes. The hole to be excavated can be done manually or mechanically as decided by the team leader taking into consideration the proximity of underground services to ensure that no damage is incurred.

The hole shall be of a diameter/width no less than 2 times the diameter of the root ball width and a depth equal to the root ball.

#### Planting

Council's arborist or team leader will determine whether there is a need to use water absorbent crystals to ensure hydration of the root ball taking the soil type into consideration. Street trees

will require as an absolute minimum installation of a 450mm depth root barrier membrane on the kerb and channel side of the planting. In areas where there is other infrastructure such as walls, footpaths etc. in the vicinity the use of a 450mm depth root barrier membrane will also be required. This is so that roots have a minimal impact on infrastructure.

If the root ball is contained, it shall be removed from the pot, spring ring or hessian wrap, ensuring all ties, strings and any other bindings are removed. Any girdling roots are to be teased out or pruned to interrupt the pattern prior to the planting of the tree. If determined that the roots cannot be freed of girdling do not plant the tree and seek a replacement tree. It should be noted that this process is not required for bare root stock.

When the tree is placed in the excavated hole, the top of the root ball should be level with the natural ground level. Allow 100mm from the ground level down to create a watering bowl for the retention of water during watering periods.

The tree shall be able to stand upright in a vertical position without support signifying a sound tree. If the tree cannot support itself, it shall not be planted, and a replacement tree shall be used.

Ensure all nursery tags are removed after the tree has been planted.

#### **Backfilling**

The local soil that was excavated to form the tree planting hole shall be used to backfill the hole. Should the local soil not be sufficient for backfilling, the soil texture used shall be consistent with that of the local soil or a high-quality topsoil shall be used in its place.

#### **Staking and Tying**

All trees planted shall be staked with two hardwood tree stakes of dimensions 38mm x 38mm x 1500mm. Advanced trees may require larger stakes to be determined by the Arborist or team leader. In the case of street trees, the stakes are to be positioned on either side of the tree so that they are parallel with the side of the road. Care should be taken to ensure the stakes are not driven into the root ball mass of the newly planted tree. A hessian tie no less than 50mm in width is required to be wrapped around the trunk of the tree and stapled to the stakes ensuring sufficient movement after staking.

#### **Mulching**

Mulch shall be spread around the area of the planting hole to a minimum depth of 75mm and maximum depth of 100mm.

#### **Watering**

The newly planted tree shall be watered within one hour of it being planted.

#### **Formative Pruning**

Where required the tree shall be pruned immediately after planting where required to remove any broken or damaged branches, unwanted lateral growth or co-dominant stems with the trunk or crown of the tree.

#### **Site Cleanup**

The site shall be left in a clean, tidy manner that is safe for pedestrians. Any unused materials are to be removed of site immediately and hardstand areas are to be swept clean.

#### **4. TREE MAINTANANCE FOR NEWLY PLANTED TREES**

##### **Watering**

Watering is to be conducted adequately due to the seasonal needs of the tree to allow adequate soil moisture levels to enable the continued health of the tree.

Care needs to be taken when watering to prevent any runoff from the area being watered creating a nuisance or hazard to pedestrians or affected property owners.

Watering of newly planted trees is required to be added to Council's watering program for a period of three years following planting or until the tree planting is established well enough that it no longer requires watering.

##### **Pruning**

Pruning is to be conducted to manage the appearance and health of the juvenile tree. Formative pruning shall include the removal of broken, dead or unsafe limbs, crossing branches, multi-stemmed branches and the uplifting of the tree to a level allowing suitable clearances over the footpath and roadside as per the tolerances under Section 2.

Pruning of newly planted trees is required to be added to Council's pruning program for a period of three years following planting or until the tree planting is established well enough that it no longer requires formative pruning.

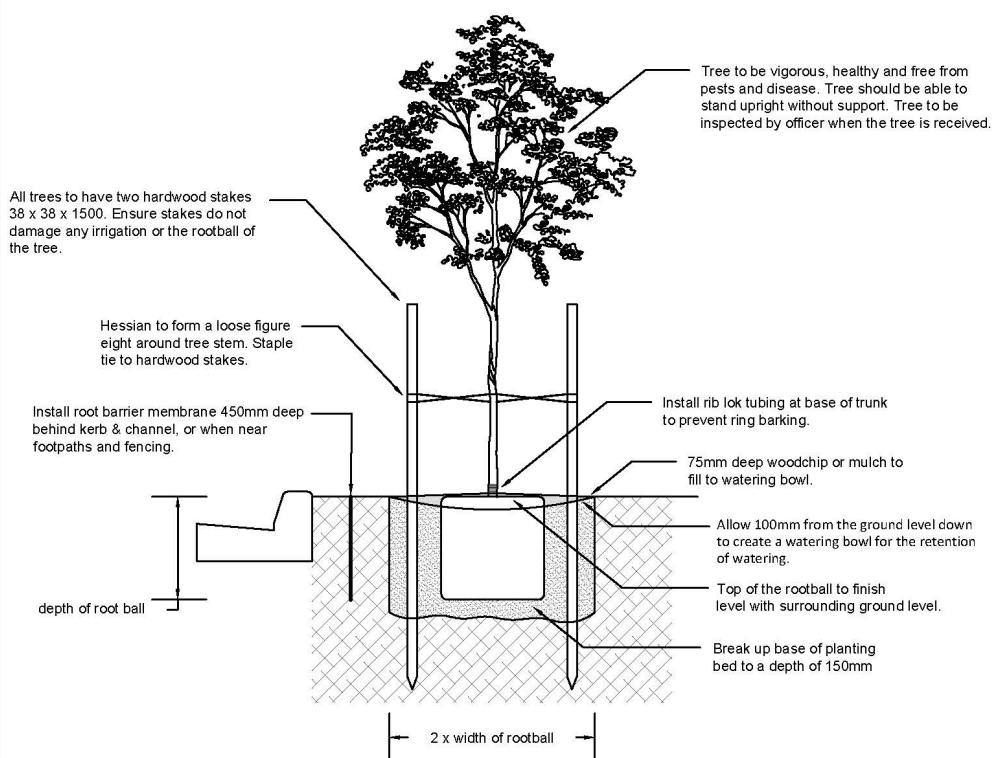
##### **Staking And Mulching**


Over time tree stakes may become dislodged and due to weather conditions or vandalism. Mulch may be blown away or subside over a period. An annual routine inspection shall be conducted for a period of three years or until the tree planting is established, ensuring stakes, ties and mulch are still in adequate condition.

## APPENDIX A

### General Notes

1. Ensure nursery labels are removed at the time of planting the tree.
2. Any girdling roots are to be teased out or pruned to interrupt the pattern prior to the planting of the tree. DO NOT PLANT the tree if the pattern cannot be interrupted.
3. The newly planted tree shall be watered within one hour of it being planted.
4. Prune tree once planted to remove any dead branches and co-dominant stems.
5. The local soil that was excavated to form the tree planting hole shall be used to backfill the hole. Should the local soil not be suffice for backfilling, use a high quality top soil in its place.



	Approved by
	Co-ordinates
	Height Datum
	Level book
	CAD ref
Drawn by SG JAN 2022	Survey ref
Designed by SG JAN 2022	

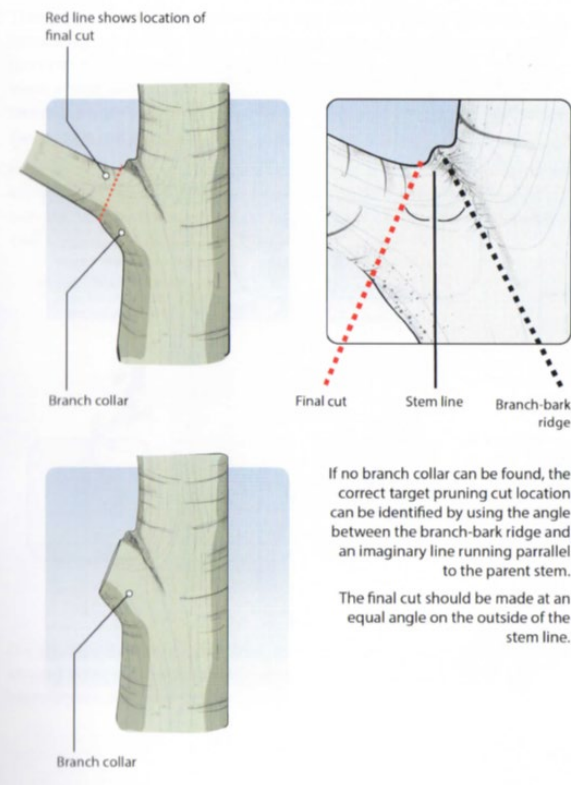
CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER	
TREE PLANTING	
STANDARD PROFILE	

Scale	Sheet No
nts	1 OF 1
Plan No	

## APPENDIX B

### Branch removal cuts (living branches)

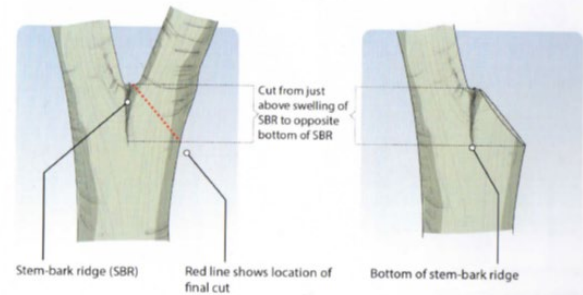
Cuts should be made as close as possible to the branch collar without cutting in to the collar tissue.



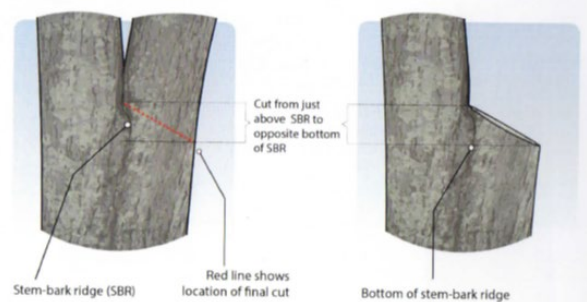
### Stem reduction cuts

Stem reduction cuts are used when a stem or branch is pruned back to a union with a similar-sized stem or branch.

#### With extruded bark (U-shaped union)



#### With included bark (V-shaped union)



#### **19.4 OUTSTANDING COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS - JUNE 2025**

Author: Samantha Spears, Executive Administrator Corporate and Regulatory Services

Authoriser: Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council report titled 'Outstanding Council Action Items - June 2025' as presented on Tuesday 15 July 2025 be noted.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Quarterly Report Outstanding Actions Ordinary Council Meeting 15 July 2025 [**19.4.1** - 10 pages]



### Outstanding Actions - Ordinary Council Meeting

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Status	Assignee/s	Latest Action
Ordinary Council Meeting - Carried Over Actions (Old Resolutions Register)	1.2	Co-Dedication of the Blue Lake	<p>RESOLUTION 2021/213</p> <p>Moved: Cr Sonya Meziniec</p> <p>Seconded: Cr Max Bruins</p> <p>1. That Council Report No. AR21/27432 titled 'Co-Dedication of Blue Lake' as presented on 20 July 2021 be noted.</p> <p>2. That the administration progress and report back to Council on:</p> <p>(a) liaison with SA Water to draft an agreement to guide each organisations use, activities and stakeholder communication protocols associated with the Blue Lake land parcel.</p> <p>(b) preparation of a draft Community Land Management Plan for the Blue Lake land parcel (noting the Blue Lake is part of the State Heritage Crater Lakes precinct)</p> <p>(c) consideration of the most appropriate mechanisms for coordination and community engagement.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	In progress	Brittany Shelton	02/07/2025 Brittany Shelton Included in scope of the Strategic Property Management Project, which will include a comprehensive review of land holdings, community land and updating the suite of Community Land Management Plans.
Ordinary Council Meeting - Carried Over Actions (Old Resolutions Register)	1.3	Blue Lake Golf Club - Car Park Extension	<p>RESOLUTION 2023/118</p> <p>Moved: Cr Paul Jenner</p> <p>Seconded: Cr Max Bruins</p> <p>1. That Council Report No. AR23/28939 titled 'Blue Lake Golf Club - Car Park Extension' as presented on 20 June 2023 be noted.</p> <p>2. The Blue Lake Golf Club car park proposal be considered as part of the Crater Lakes Activation Plan preparation and review/amendment of the Crater Lakes Community Land Management Plan and</p>	Awaiting further information	Biddie Shearing	12/06/2025 Biddie Shearing Awaiting further information from proponent

### Outstanding Actions - Ordinary Council Meeting

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Status	Assignee/s	Latest Action
			<p>associated stakeholder (including landowner and native title holder) engagement and community consultation, to determine whether there is broader support for the proposal on community land.</p> <p>3. That Council Staff work in partnership with the Blue Lake Golf Club to mutually assess the extent, methodology, and expenses involved in the advancement of their proposed project.</p> <p>4. The Blue Lake Golf Club be responsible for covering any costs related to obtaining legal or professional advice on their behalf subject to their agreement and acknowledgement of the costs associated with the advice before proceeding.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>			
Ordinary Council Meeting - Carried Over Actions (Old Resolutions Register)	1.5	Crown Land Dedication - Portion of Lake Terrace Cemetery	<p>RESOLUTION 2023/209</p> <p>Moved: Cr Paul Jenner</p> <p>Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh</p> <p>1. That Council Report No. AR23/49678 titled 'Crown Land Dedication - Portion of Lake Terrace Cemetery' as presented on 19 September 2023 be noted.</p> <p>2. That the historical anomaly associated with the non-dedication of a portion of the Lake Terrace Cemetery (Section 412 – Hundred of Blanche) to the City of Mount Gambier be noted.</p> <p>3. That the proposed conditions of dedication of Section 412, Hundred of Blanche to the City of Mount Gambier for cemetery purposes be accepted.</p> <p>4. That the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor be authorised to execute any</p>	Awaiting further information	Brittany Shelton	07/07/2025 Brittany Shelton Request for dedication submitted to DEW (Crown Lands), awaiting determination by the Minister. Followed up several times, most recently on 7/07/2025.

### Outstanding Actions - Ordinary Council Meeting

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Status	Assignee/s	Latest Action
			documentation necessary documentation to accept and give effect to a dedication of Section 412 – Hundred of Blanche to the City of Mount Gambier for cemetery purposes.  CARRIED			
Ordinary Council Meeting - 17 December 2024	14.3	Internal Audit: Amended Plan, Quarterly Update and Project Scope	<p>RESOLUTION OCM 2024/230 Moved: Cr Paul Jenner Seconded: Cr Max Bruins</p> <p>1. That Council report titled 'Internal Audit: Amended Plan, Quarterly Update and Project Scope' as presented on Monday 25 November 2024 be noted.</p> <p>2. That the Internal Audit Plan 2023/2024 - 2026/2027 (as amended), having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee be adopted.</p> <p>3. That it be noted that progress achieved on the actions resulting from the internal audit already completed will be reported in future quarterly updates.</p> <p>4. That having reviewed the scope of works for the internal audit project for procurement and contract management, the Audit and Risk Committee are satisfied it is sufficient, and is amended to include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reference to a minimum sample size</li> <li>• training</li> <li>• delegations</li> </ul> <p>5. That the next iteration of the Internal Audit Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporates a risk based approach, informed by the strategic risk register and internal financial controls review</li> <li>• Removes Item 2, penetration testing</li> </ul>	In progress	Kahli Rolton	05/06/2025 Samantha Spears To be completed in November 2025

### Outstanding Actions - Ordinary Council Meeting

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Status	Assignee/s	Latest Action
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shifts item 13, Council Policies to the 2027/2028 financial year.</li> </ul> <p>CARRIED</p>			
Ordinary Council Meeting - 21/01/2025	18.2	Mount Gambier and District Tennis Association	<p>RESOLUTION OCM 2024/276 Moved: Cr Paul Jenner Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh</p> <p>1. That Council report titled 'Mount Gambier and District Tennis Association' as presented on Tuesday 21 January 2025 be noted.</p> <p>2. That Council endorse the preference for Tennis to remain at Olympic Park in accordance with the Mount Gambier Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>3. That Council note that the Olympic Park Master Plan which is to be completed 2026/2027 will guide the long term future of the site.</p> <p>4. That Council and the Mount Gambier and District Tennis Association in the interim assess the current condition of the Olympic Park Tennis Courts to determine and cost any remedial work required to ensure safe play.</p> <p>5. That, if required, a further report be presented to Council seeking a budget allocation for 2025/2026 to contribute to any necessary work on the Olympic Park Tennis Courts.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	In progress	Biddie Shearing, Hayley Rowe	01/07/2025 Biddie Shearing In progress, awaiting report from third party auditor.
Ordinary Council Meeting - 18/02/2025	20.1	Urgent Motions without Notice	<p>RESOLUTION OCM 2025/23 Moved: Cr Paul Jenner Seconded: Cr Frank Morello</p>	Awaiting external response	Kate Gilmore	02/07/2025 Kate Gilmore Still awaiting response from Jeff Swann's office - continuing to follow up periodically. Seeking dates of local visits by Jeff

### Outstanding Actions - Ordinary Council Meeting

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Status	Assignee/s	Latest Action
			<p>1. That the motion from Cr Paul Jenner as presented on Tuesday 18 February 2025 be noted.</p> <p>2. That Council write to Emily Bourke MLC, Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, and Mr Jeff Swan, MFS Chief Officer, seeking confirmation that the new appliances for the MFS recently announced, will include at least one new vehicle for the Mount Gambier MFS, rather than a reconditioned Appliance, in addition to the anticipated new rural fire fighting appliance.</p> <p>3. That in that correspondence, we also seek a copy of the Asset Management Plan for Rural/Regional appliances in order to understand the MFS's intentions regarding the provision of adequate equipment for the Mount Gambier Station, given the acknowledged issues which have occurred in the past with reconditioned vehicles.</p> <p>4. Mayor Lynette Martin OAM, CEO Sarah Philpott and Cr. Paul Jenner have an urgent meeting either face to face or virtual with Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services Emily Bourke MLC, CEO of SAFECOM Julia Waddington-Powell RN MIPH MHM GAICD, MFS Chief Officer Jeff Swan, Secretary of the United Firefighters Union of SA Max Adlam and Local full time representative.</p> <p>5. A copy of the correspondence is sent to Julia Waddington-Powell RN MIPH MHM GAICD the CEO of SAFECOM, Clare Scriven MLC Minister of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Member for Mount Gambier Troy Bell MP and Member for McKillop Nick McBride MP.</p>			Swann in order to arrange meeting with all Elected Members and Mr Swann.

### Outstanding Actions - Ordinary Council Meeting

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Status	Assignee/s	Latest Action
			CARRIED			
Ordinary Council Meeting - 20/05/2025	18.4	Bus Parking Zones - Sturt Street - Ferrers Street	<p>RESOLUTION OCM 2025/114 Moved: Cr Jason Virgo Seconded: Cr Max Bruins</p> <p>1. That Council report titled 'Bus Parking Zones - Sturt Street - Ferrers Street' as presented on Tuesday 20 May 2025 be noted.</p> <p>2. That the Traffic Impact Statements as attached to this report be endorsed.</p> <p>3. That Council, in accordance with the power delegated by the minister under Section 17(1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Act (Instrument of Delegation dated 22 August 2013), resolves the following.</p> <p><b>Prohibited Area</b> <b>BUS ZONE</b> Ref No. 2.1.090 STURT STREET (northern side) - From 20 metres to 57 metres west of the intersection with Ferrers Street. To apply at all times</p> <p><b>Amend Prohibited Area</b> <b>BUS ZONE</b> Ref No. 2.1.086 FERRERS STREET (western Side) - From 185 metres to 207 metres south of the intersection with Commercial Street East. To apply at all times</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	In progress	Derek Ferguson	<p>12/06/2025 Samantha Spears Pending works on shelter - Manager Operations Infrastructure and Outdoor staff. Once the bus shelter is ready for installation, implementation of the Bus Zone will proceed.</p>

### Outstanding Actions - Ordinary Council Meeting

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Status	Assignee/s	Latest Action
Ordinary Council Meeting - 17/06/2025	18.5	Grants and Sponsorship Program - Brass Band Festival	<p>RESOLUTION OCM 2025/151 Moved: Cr Sonya Meziniec Seconded: Cr Frank Morello</p> <p>1. That Council report titled 'Grants and Sponsorship Program - Brass Band Festival' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.</p> <p>2. That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a multi-year partnership agreement (with funding from the existing Grants and Sponsorship Program) with Lions Club of Mount Gambier Inc. as the auspicing body for the Blue Lake Brass Band Festival as follows:</p> <p>1. 2025/2026, \$15,000 cash 2. 2026/2027, \$15,000 cash + CPI 2027/2028, \$15,000 cash + CPI</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	In progress	Biddie Shearing	26/06/2025 Biddie Shearing Proponent verbally advised, Funding Agreement in progress.
Special Council Meeting - 24/06/2025	4.1	Adoption of 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan, Budget and Rating Policies	<p>RESOLUTION SCM 2025/3 Moved: Cr Paul Jenner Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo</p> <p>1. That Council report titled 'Adoption of 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan, Budget and Rating Policies' as presented on Tuesday 24 June 2025 be noted.</p> <p>2. That Council, having considered the public submissions at the Special Council meeting on 17 June 2025 and the feedback provided at the Audit and Risk Committee on 4 June 2025, adopts the 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan and Budget which includes R105 Rating Policy and R155 Rate Rebate Policy as attached to this report.</p>	In progress	Kahli Rolton	07/07/2025 Kahli Rolton The Annual Business Plan and Budget is complete and available on Council's website. This item to be held in progress until Budget Review 1 FY2025/2026 is endorsed, per Council recommendation point 6.

### Outstanding Actions - Ordinary Council Meeting

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Status	Assignee/s	Latest Action
			<p>3. Pursuant to section 123(7) of the Local Government Act 1999 and regulation 7 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, that having considered the Budget in conjunction with Annual Business Plan, determine the Budget to be consistent with, the Council's adopted Annual Business Plan per recommendation 2 above.</p> <p>4. That Council adopts the Budget for the year ending 30 June 2026, as detailed in the attachments to this report which comprise:</p> <p>(a) the budgeted financial statements including budgeted Uniform Presentation of Finances.</p> <p>(b) statement within the Annual Business Plan and Budget that the projected operating income is sufficient to meet projected operating expenses as a result of a forecast balanced budget for 2025/2026.</p> <p>(c) estimates with respect to the council's operating surplus ratio, net financial liabilities ratio and asset renewal funding ratio as presented in the Annual Business Plan and Budget.</p> <p>5. That Council notes the advice received from the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) and confirms that it has fulfilled all legislative and regulatory obligations under the Local Government Act 1999 and the ESCOSA advisory scheme, and confirms that:</p> <p>(a) The advice has been published in both the draft and adopted versions of the 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan in</p>			

### Outstanding Actions - Ordinary Council Meeting

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Status	Assignee/s	Latest Action
			<p>accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1999;</p> <p>(b) Council's response to the advice, where applicable, has also been published as required; and</p> <p>(c) These documents will continue to be published annually until the commencement of the next advice cycle, in compliance with the requirements of the ESCOSA advisory scheme.</p> <p>6. That Council, having acknowledged the verbal submissions received at the Special Council Meeting held on 17 June 2025, and in relation to the 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan and Budget, resolves to:</p> <p>(a) Commit to and allocate an amount of \$20,000 from the Grants and Sponsorships Program to Substance Misuse Limestone Coast as a contribution towards funding support for the Limestone Coast Alcohol and Other Drugs Regional Summit 2025 and associated training.</p> <p>(b) Commit to and allocate an amount of \$25,000 from the Strategic Capacity Fund to support initiatives aimed at improving the safety and amenity of Frew Park, with the objective of reducing antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>(c) That the budgetary alterations arising from these matters be actioned as part of Budget Review 1 for the 2025/2026 financial year.</p> <p>(d) Council notes that these budgetary commitments do not alter the overall budget position but utilises funding already contained with the budget in the named program funds.</p>			

**Outstanding Actions - Ordinary Council Meeting**

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Status	Assignee/s	Latest Action
			7. That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate to make any necessary changes to the 2025/2026 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. CARRIED			

## 20 MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

### 20.1 PROMOTING RESPECTFUL COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS WITH COUNCIL STAFF AND COUNCILLORS

I, Councillor Jason Virgo, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 15 July 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

#### MOTION

1. That the motion from Cr Jason Virgo as presented on 15 July 2025 be noted;
2. That Council:
  - (a) Notes an increasing trend across the local government sector of aggression, intimidation, and verbal abuse directed toward Councils staff and Councillors during the course of their duties;
  - (b) Acknowledges the proactive steps taken by other South Australian Councils, including the City of West Torrens through its *"It Reflects on You"* campaign to promote respectful community interactions and protect staff wellbeing;
  - (c) Requests the Chief Executive Officer prepare a report for Council's consideration, which explores:
    - Potential communication and engagement strategies to promote respectful community interactions towards Council staff and elected members;
    - The feasibility and implications of developing a localised awareness campaign, with reference to West Torrens' *"It Reflects on You"* initiative;
    - Resource and budget considerations;
    - Any legislative or policy implications under the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) and the Council and CEO's Work Health and Safety obligations;
    - The application of Council's Unreasonable Conduct Policy to these matters
  - (d) Requests that the report be presented to Council no later than the October 2025 Council meeting.

#### RATIONALE

There is a growing and concerning trend across local government of aggression, intimidation, and verbal abuse directed at Council staff and elected members. These behaviours pose a serious risk to the health, safety, and wellbeing of those serving the community and undermine respectful civic engagement.

The City of West Torrens has taken proactive steps through its *"It Reflects on You"* campaign, which encourages the community to pause and reflect on how they interact with Council staff and makes clear that abuse and threats will not be tolerated.

While frustration with Council decisions is understandable, there is no excuse for hostility towards staff who are simply doing their jobs. Harmful behaviour occurs both face-to-face and online – particularly on social media – taking a toll on mental health and morale across the sector.

A balanced and reciprocal approach is needed. This includes clearly communicating what the community can expect from Council, and what standards of behaviour are expected in return, alongside providing staff with appropriate training and support to manage conflict.

I note that frontline staff, in particular, may be exposed to such behaviours, and although they are often not the decision-makers, they may bear the brunt of these interactions. The nature of their roles also means they are often less able to step away from potential psychological hazards.

While the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for staffing matters, Council has the responsibility to support the workforce and the role of Councillors, and promote respectful engagement. Exploring a localised awareness campaign demonstrates leadership and our commitment to staff wellbeing and a safe civic environment.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil



**21 URGENT MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**22 NEW CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**22.1 RECEIVAL AND DISPOSAL OF ORGANIC WASTE**

**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 Receival and Disposal of Organic Waste.

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:

- (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
  - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

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 discussed in this item relates to the award of a contract for services and negotiation of the subject contract between Council and the proponent, the disclosure of which may prejudice Council's ability to achieve best value for money on behalf of the community.

**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 Receival and Disposal of Organic Waste and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under:

- (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
  - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until 12 months after the execution of a contract, or abandonment of the proposal, with the name of the successful proponent and value of the contract to be disclosed upon execution.

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.



## **22.2 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CEO**

### **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 Appointment of Interim CEO.

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:

- (a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).
- (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 because the information to be considered relates to the appointment of the interim Chief Executive Officer, the disclosure of which would be unreasonable disclosure of personal information relating to the employment of the interim Chief Executive Officer, to which Council owes a duty of confidence.

### **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 Appointment of Interim CEO and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under:

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

be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until 12 months after the initial appointment term and any renewal term of the respective interim Chief Executive Officers has elapsed, with the appointee name and term of each appointment to be release as soon as practicable after consideration by Council.

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.



## **22.3 OUTSTANDING COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS - JUNE 2025**

### **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 Outstanding Council Action Items - June 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.

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

matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the council

- (g) 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.

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.

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 MEETING CLOSE**

**24 ATTACHMENT - PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES**





# MINUTES

## Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday 17 June 2025



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

**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Date:** Tuesday 17 June 2025  
**Location:** City Hall  
Cave Gardens/Thugi, Mount Gambier

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

<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Chief Executive Officer	- Mrs S Philpott
	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 Financial Services	- Ms K Rolton
	Manager Engineering Assets and Design	- Mr A Mahmud
	Manager Development Services	- Mrs T Tzioutziouklaris
	Strategic Development and Engagement Coordinator	- Mr B Kilsby
	Media and Communications Coordinator	- Ms S McLean
	Executive Administrator	- Mrs S Spears
	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 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/138**

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

That the apology from Cr Mark Lovett be received.

**CARRIED**

**3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**4 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

**4.1 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES**



**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/139**

Moved: Cr Jason Virgo  
Seconded: Cr Sonya Mezinec

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 May 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

**CARRIED**

**5 MAYORAL REPORT**

**5.1 MAYORAL REPORT - JUNE 2025**

- LGA OGM and Conference, including South Australian Mayor's networking dinner (Adelaide)
- Radio interview with Llew Jones, 5GTR-FM
- LGA Board training webinar (virtual)
- Weekly meetings with CEO
- Meeting with community member, Mr Graham Walkom
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee Meeting
- Elected Member Briefing – Tree Management and Policy
- Limestone Coast Jobs, Skills & Careers Showcase
- Community Renewables Program – photo / video shoot with ShineHub
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Limestone Coast Careers Tour - Dinner Networking Event
- Fortnightly LCLGA Mayors Catch Ups (virtual)
- Fortnightly meetings with media and communications coordinator
- Year 4/5 Melaleuca Park Primary School students – Council Chamber tour and Mayoral presentation
- Meeting with Colin Byles – LCLGA Interim Executive Officer and Charlotte Edmunds, new LCLGA Executive Officer
- Photo opportunity with North Gambier Football Club (Vansittart Park)
- St Paul's 140th Anniversary Mass (followed by lunch)
- The Big Project Presentation – PurpleOrange (City Hall)
- Radiotherapy Working Group Meeting
- Elected Member Briefing – AI Policy
- Elected Member Briefing – Council Meeting Procedures
- Briefing with Tony Elletson – LCLGA – Switch the Play Program Outline – FeelBetter Limestone Coast
- Catch up with Kelly-Anne Saffin (SA Cross Border Commissioner)
- Catch up with Colin Byles, LCLGA
- Meeting with Telstra representatives, with General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
- Audit and Risk Committee Pre-Meeting Workshop
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- LCLGA General Meeting (District Council of Grant)
- SA Affiliate State 8 Ball Carnival
- Ordination of Rev. David Sigley
- Community Drop In Sessions – Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget 2025-2026 and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035
- Regional Public Transport consultation session

- Elected Member Briefing – Waste Masterplan
- Elected Member Briefing – Unlocking Projects
- Confidential Elected Member Briefing – Strategic Property – Strategic Relationships Matter – Legal and Other Advice
- Filming of promotional video for Headspace – the Push Up Challenge
- CEO Selection Panel Committee Meeting
- Community Drop In Session – Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget 2025-2026 and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035
- The Australian Ballet – Opening Night The Nutcracker Act II and other works in XYZ
- 150 Years of Plantation Forestry in SA Gala Dinner, with General Manager City Infrastructure
- Portraits of our Elders exhibition opening
- Lions Club of Mount Gambier Inc 62<sup>nd</sup> Changeover Dinner
- Refugee Week Community Morning Tea & Finding Freedom Exhibition Stories and Canvas Paintings
- Meeting with Mount Gambier Residents and Ratepayers Association committee members
- Monthly catch up with General Manager City Infrastructure
- Special Council Meeting – Budget

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/140**

Moved: Mayor Lynette Martin

Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

That the Mayoral Report be received.

**CARRIED**

**6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

**6.1 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Cr Josh Lynagh	Mount Gambier History Group 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, SES Wear It Orange Event, “In Conversation” with The Bennies and Montaigne
Cr Jason Virgo	National Volunteer Week Celebration
Cr Sonya Mezinac	Meeting of Christmas Parade Advisory Committee, Community Drop In Session – Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget 2025-2026 and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035, Portraits of our Elders Launch, Refugee Week Event
Cr Frank Morello	Community Drop In Session – Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035



**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/141**

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

That the reports made by Councillors be received.

**CARRIED**

**7 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Cr Sonya Meziniec gave notice of her intention to ask the following question:

**7.1 QUESTION – SA DRAFT WASTE STRATEGY 2025-2030**

Consultation on SA's Draft Waste Strategy 2025-2030 has opened and Green Industries SA is seeking feedback by 5.00 p.m. Wednesday 23 July. The draft strategy has seven target areas and nine focus areas each with specific actions with assigned Leads and Partners including Local Government.

Will Council administration be examining and providing feedback on this strategy?

**Answer:**

It is understood that the LGA will be making a submission on behalf of the sector.

In addition, the draft is currently being reviewed by Council Officers. A submission will be made consistent with the Waste and Resource Recovery Master Plan and a copy provided to Elected Members by the Friday Edition.

**8 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

The following question without notice was received from Cr Paul Jenner:

**8.1 QUESTION - PLANNED ROADWORKS FOR RAMSAY AVENUE**

Can Council be brought up to speed on what is happening and by when with the roadworks planned this current financial year 2024/2025 for the works on Ramsay Avenue by Jubilee Highway East? Where do DIT sit with it? Is there now a probability of a cost over run?

**Answer - General Manager City Infrastructure, Barbara Cernovskis**

Council Officers, along with our contractor and the OTR business representative, are negotiating the program to minimise the impact to business operations and deliver the maximum design benefit as a return. This also requires negotiation with DIT for their contribution to the intersection design and standard to complete the job. I am unable to confirm any cost adjustments at this point in time.

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/142**

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner  
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

That Cr Paul Jenner's Question without Notice be recorded in the Ordinary Council Meeting minutes.

**CARRIED**

**9 PETITIONS**

Nil

**10 DEPUTATIONS**

Nil

**11 NOTICE OF MOTION TO REVOKE OR AMEND**

Nil

**12 ELECTED MEMBERS INFORMATION BRIEFING SESSIONS**

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/143**

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh  
Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

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

**CARRIED**

**13 ELECTED MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Nil

**14 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

**14.1 MINUTES OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 JUNE 2025**

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/144**

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner  
Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

City of Mount Gambier  
Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

17 June 2025

Council receive and note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 4 June 2025.

**CARRIED**

**15 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**15.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 MAY 2025**

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/145**

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

Council receive and note the minutes of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting held on 27 May 2025.

**CARRIED**

**15.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JUNE 2025**

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/146**

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

Council receive and note the minutes of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting held on 11 June 2025.

**CARRIED**

**16 JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE**

Nil

**17 BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Nil

**18 COUNCIL REPORTS**

**18.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**



**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/147**

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

1. That Council report titled 'Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That the Council notes the report provided by the Audit and Risk Committee, summarises the work of the Committee
  - (a) in the lead up to its meeting, held on 4 June 2025 and
  - (b) the observations of the Committee and discussions from the workshop held immediately prior to the meeting and during the meeting.

**CARRIED**

**18.2 REQUEST FOR INTERNAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL DECISION**

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/148**

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

1. That Council report titled 'Request for Internal Review of Council Decision' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That Council, having considered the within request for internal review of council decisions, and with the provision of additional options and information, in accordance with section 270 of the Local Government Act 1999 and Council's Internal Review of Council's Decisions Policy C290 determines that:
  - (a) the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) be authorised to engage an external legal professional from Kellady Jones Lawyers to conduct the relevant investigation and assessment in relation to Council resolutions (decisions) OCM 2025/96 - OCM 2025/104 (inclusive) made at the ordinary meeting of 15 April 2025, and the appointed external legal professional, having undertaken the requisite natural justice processes, produce and present a recommendation report to Council for consideration.

**CARRIED**

**18.3 BUDGET REVIEW 3 2024/2025**



**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/149**

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council report titled 'Budget Review 3 2024/2025' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That Council adopts the Budget Review 3, being prepared as at 31 March 2025 for the financial year ending 30 June 2025.

**CARRIED**

**18.4 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN**

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/150**

Moved: Cr Frank Morello

Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

1. That Council report titled 'Reconciliation Action Plan' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.

**CARRIED**

**18.5 GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM - BRASS BAND FESTIVAL**

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/151**

Moved: Cr Sonya Meziniec

Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

1. That Council report titled 'Grants and Sponsorship Program - Brass Band Festival' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a multi-year partnership agreement (with funding from the existing Grants and Sponsorship Program) with Lions Club of Mount Gambier Inc. as the auspicing body for the Blue Lake Brass Band Festival as follows:
  1. 2025/2026, \$15,000 cash
  2. 2026/2027, \$15,000 cash + CPI
  3. 2027/2028, \$15,000 cash + CPI

**CARRIED**

#### 18.6 PRIVATE SALE OF VEHICLES - JUBILEE HIGHWAY EAST

##### RESOLUTION OCM 2025/152

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

1. That Council report titled 'Private Sale of Vehicles - Jubilee Highway East' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That Council authorise the CEO or delegate to seek approval from the Minister in such form required to install, maintain, alter or operate a traffic control device on the portion of Jubilee Highway East, Mount Gambier, between the intersections with Penola Road and Hedley Street (on both sides of the highway), in accordance with section 17 of the Road Traffic Act 1961.

**CARRIED**

The motion was put and the voting was 3 for : 3 against.

The Mayor exercising her right of a casting vote the motion was declared

**CARRIED**

#### 18.7 RISK APPETITE STATEMENT

##### RESOLUTION OCM 2025/153

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

1. That the Council report titled 'Risk Appetite Statement' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That the Risk Appetite Statement for City of Mount Gambier and amended Risk Management Policy be endorsed and adopted.
3. The Chief Executive Officer or delegate to be authorised to make minor typographical corrections that do not change the intent of the Risk Appetite Statement.

**CARRIED**

#### 18.8 REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT REVIEW SUBMISSION

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Jason Virgo disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 18.8.

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



Nature of Interest:

I work at the Mount Gambier Prison. Cr Jenner referenced the prison when arguing for a better public transport system.

Intention to Participate:

Not moving or seconding the motion.

Reason for Participating:

The action that I am taking is sufficient to address and deal with my conflict 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 Jason Virgo remained in the meeting for Item 18.8.

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/154**

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh

Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

1. That Council report titled 'Regional Public Transport Review Submission' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That Council authorise administration to provide the submission to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport as part of their Regional Public Transport Review.
3. That should any amendments to the submission be requested by Council, the CEO is delegated to amend the document as required prior to submitting.

**CARRIED**

Having participated in the meeting for 18.8 Cr Jason Virgo voted in favour of the motion.

**18.9 BY-LAW REVIEW**

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/155**

Moved: Cr Frank Morello

Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

1. That Council report titled 'By-Law Review' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That in exercise of the powers contained in section 246 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act), having satisfied the consultation requirements of the Act and

having had regard to the submission received from the public, the National Competition Policy Report, the Certificates of Validity provided by the Council's legal practitioner, the comments from the Dog and Cat Management Board in relation to By-Law numbers 5 and 6, the majority of Council, in the presence of at least two thirds of its members, hereby makes and passes the following By-laws as attached and marked 'Attachment 1':

- (a) By-Law No. 1 Permits and Penalties;
  - (b) By-Law No. 2 Local Government Land;
  - (c) By-Law No. 3 Roads;
  - (d) By-Law No. 4 Moveable Signs;
  - (e) By-Law No. 5 Dogs.
3. That the Chief Executive officer be authorised to undertake all steps necessary to finalise the By-law review process and to give effect to the newly adopted By-laws, including making any minor editorial or grammatical changes that may be necessary prior to publication of the By-laws in the Gazette.
4. That Council further consider the By-Law No.6 Cats at the scheduled briefing session on the 24th June 2025.

**CARRIED**

Carried unanimously, with more than two-thirds of members being present at the meeting.

#### 18.10 REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS - JUNE 2025

##### RESOLUTION OCM 2025/156

Moved: Cr Jason Virgo

Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

1. That Council report titled 'Review of Confidential Items - June 2025' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That the following Confidential Order as specified in Attachment 1, having been reviewed by Council, be released as soon as practicable following the Council meeting on 17 June 2025:

Date	Item	Current
15/04/2025	Strategic Projects Update	"until further order of Council to release"

**CARRIED**

#### 18.11 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MEETING PROCEDURES

##### RESOLUTION OCM 2025/157

Moved: Cr Sonya Meziniec

Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council report titled 'Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That Council hereby adopts the amended Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures as presented by two thirds majority vote in accordance with section 89 of the Local Government Act 1999 and Regulation 6 of the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013.

**CARRIED**

Carried unanimously, with more than two-thirds of members being present at the meeting.

#### **18.12 RESPONSIBLE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY**

##### **RESOLUTION OCM 2025/158**

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Paul Jenner

1. That Council report titled 'Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence Policy' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That Council hereby adopts the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy.
3. The Chief Executive Officer or delegate be authorised to make minor typographical corrections that do not change the intent of the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence Policy and include additional reference documents as discussed at the meeting.

**CARRIED**

#### **19 MOTIONS WITH NOTICE**

##### **19.1 DIT - Flooding Issue - Jubilee Highway and Crouch Street**

##### **RESOLUTION OCM 2025/159**

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

1. That the motion from Cr Jenner as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.



2. That Council write to Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) requesting that the persistent flooding issues at the intersection of Jubilee Highway East and Crouch Street be thoroughly investigated, plan a strategy and budgeting and take necessary action to resolve the issue.

**CARRIED**

**20 URGENT MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

Nil

**21 NEW CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**21.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECRUITMENT - APPOINTMENT OF RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT**

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/160**

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

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, C White, B Shelton, S McLean, T Chant and S Spears be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Chief Executive Officer Recruitment - Appointment of Recruitment Consultant.

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:

- (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
  - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
- (k) tenders for the supply of goods, 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 the information to be presented and discussed is regarding the recruitment of the Chief Executive Officer, and relates to consideration of submissions for the provision of consultancy services which includes commercial information the disclosure of which would confer benefit on third parties and prejudice the commercial position of Council in obtaining best value on behalf of the community.

**CARRIED**

Sarah Philpott, Chief Executive Officer, declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 7:14pm.

Sarah Philpott, Chief Executive Officer, returned to the meeting at 7:16pm.

**RESOLUTION OCM 2025/162**

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

**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 Chief Executive Officer Recruitment - Appointment of Recruitment Consultant and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under:
  - (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
    - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
  - (k) tenders for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of works

be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until 2 years after execution of a contract, with the name and value of the selected supplier to be released immediately upon 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**

**22 MEETING CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 7:18pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 July 2025.

.....  
**MAYOR**





# MINUTES

## Special Council Meeting Tuesday 17 June 2025



**Minutes of the City of Mount Gambier Special Council Meeting held at:**

**Time:** 5:00 pm

**Date:** Tuesday 17 June 2025

**Location:** City Hall

Cave Gardens/Thugi, Mount Gambier

205 of 236

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

<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Chief Executive Officer	- Mrs S Philpott
	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 Financial Services	- Ms K Rolton
	Manager Development Services	- Mrs T Tzioutziouklaris
	Manager Engineering, Design and Assets	- Mr A Mahmud
	Media and Communications Coordinator	- Ms S McLean
	Strategic Development and Engagement Coordinator	- Mr B Kilsby
	Executive Administrator	- Miss T Chant
	Executive Administrator	- Mrs S Spears

**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 SCM 2025/1**

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner  
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

That the apology from Cr Mark Lovett be received.

**CARRIED**

**3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**4 COUNCIL REPORTS**

**4.1 2025/2026 DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

The Mayor sought the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting to suspend meeting procedures:

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 5:04 pm.

Council received a verbal submission from Sophie Bouchier, representing Substance Misuse Limestone Coast at 5:06 pm.

Council received a verbal submission from Peter Braithwaite at 5:16pm.

Council received a further verbal submission from Di Ind, President of the Mount Gambier and District Resident and Ratepayers Association at 5:26 pm.

Questions from the public were asked and answered.

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 5:43 pm.

Pursuant to Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Max Bruins disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 4.1 2025/2026 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget - Community Consultation Feedback

In accordance with Section 75B Cr Max Bruins informed the meeting:

Nature of Interest:

My partner is a board member on the volunteer board of Substance Misuse Limestone Coast.

Intention to Participate:

No specific action required, there is no personal benefit and item is part of the greater budget that benefits entire community.

Reason for Participating:

No personal gain - item part of greater budget which benefits entire community.

In accordance with Section 75B of the Local Government Act 1999 Cr Max Bruins remained in the meeting for Item 4.1.

Having participated in the meeting for item 4.1 Cr Max Bruins voted in favour of the motion.

**RESOLUTION SCM 2025/2**

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council report titled '2025/2026 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget - Community Consultation Feedback' as presented on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.
2. That Council notes the written submissions and questions received on the 2025/2026 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget and Draft Long Term Financial Plan as attached to this report.
3. That Council thanks the organisations and individuals for their verbal submissions as presented at the Special Council Meeting on 17 June 2025.
4. That any significant changes to the 2025/2026 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget arising from the community consultation process be reported at the special meeting 24 June 2025 as part of considering the adoption of the final 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan and Budget.
5. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make minor textual changes to the 2025/2026 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**

The Mayor sought the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting to suspend meeting procedures:

Purpose of the suspension: noting that discussion and public submissions has concluded, however the session must be held for a period of at least 1 hour in accordance with section 123(4)(a)(i)(B) of the Local Government Act 1999.

Carried by more than two-thirds of the members present at the meeting.

Meeting Procedures were suspended at 5:52 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 5:59 pm.

## **5 MEETING CLOSE**

**The meeting closed at 6:00 pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 July 2025.**

.....  
**MAYOR**

**TABLED DOCUMENT**



## Tabled Document 6.1

### Summary Public Consultation Feedback

#### Annual Plan and Budget and LTFP 2025/2026



City of Mount Gambier  
Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

17 June 2025

Member of Public	Public Comments/Feedback/Questions	Administration comments/responses
D McPherson	<p>Please forward to all concerned.</p> <p>I have never nominated for council so feel maybe I'm not the one to criticise council spending. However as a rate payer I maybe qualified to have my say. Please be aware that an increase of 19% in rates is unacceptable. I understand there may be outside influence to cost increases but internal influences are unacceptable.</p> <p>The current poor services delivered by council do not permit a cause for rate increases. Of course when Wulanda was perceived it was guaranteed this would not cause rate increases.</p> <p>This has proven to be a falsehood. Apart from budget blowouts I note that it already requires infrastructure upgrade. Refer Councils current budget.</p> <p>Once rates have been increased will my footpath and kerb be repaired.</p> <p>There are numerous other issue that I haven't time to list.</p> <p>Please rethink your decision</p>	<p>The proposed rates increase is 8.18% plus 0.5% growth.</p> <p>Separately to this the proposed waste service charge increase is 10.61%.</p> <p>These are both below estimated increases in the long term financial plan (LTFF).</p> <p>The nature and underlying baseline amount of rates versus the waste service charge are very different and therefore the increases cannot be added together to state a 19% increase. Further, there are other influences on rates such as capital value and number of properties which affect the rate in the dollar and ultimately what each individual ratepayer pays per assessment. The 8.18% refers to the increase in total revenue and is not always a reflection of the increase to individual ratepayers pending some of the influences mentioned prior.</p> <p>Wulanda is a significant civic asset that has already seen excellent outcomes in terms of attendance and significant events improving community outcomes across social, tourism and economic benefits. The infrastructure upgrade included in the budget refers to increases audio visual capacity and the ability to provide even greater benefits to the community through the facilitation of live music events. The amount budgeted for FY25/26 is \$150k.</p> <p>If you are experiencing issues with your footpath and kerb, please email or call your concerns in so that they can be formally logged and we have a channel to assess your concerns.</p>
P Halleday	<p>I am very concerned about the proposed rate rise.</p> <p>People are struggling to make ends meet now, this is going to make it Harder than ever to make ends meet.</p> <p>This would put more strain on families, potential to cause marriage Breakdowns or even SUICIDES, do you want this on your shoulders??</p> <p>Rate rises should be in line with CPI, not to service a BAD DEPT.</p> <p>Please have a BIG LOOK at this before it is implemented.</p>	<p>Taken as feedback</p> <p>Any ratepayer experiencing difficulties in meeting rates payments or experiencing hardship will be able to access payment plans tailored to meet their particular circumstances. All arrangements will be strictly confidential.</p>
M Esam	<p>Rate increase was not meant to happen. GIVE households a green waste bin!. 2 years to fix the lift in the gallery, why so bloody hard???. Stop making unnecessary Gallery jobs and spend money on fixing it. Oh but didn't the gallery head want a new purpose built gallery?? Is that the plan?.</p> <p>When doing the lights around the "Blue Lake" Get the footpaths assessed on the western side of the lake as they are getting a lean to them with separation happening away from the gutter, or just wait until it gives way which is what will happen. Label the trees in the so called arboretum, it's a fricken disgrace, dead trees look awesome!. I emailed re footpath trees being watered, the reply was we still water them...no one has watered our tree for months. Spend some money on training in honesty...in all departments. I'm sure this is a pointless feedback session. Council doesn't give a shit.</p>	<p>Taken as feedback</p> <p>Any ratepayer experiencing difficulties in meeting rates payments or experiencing hardship will be able to access payment plans tailored to meet their particular circumstances. All arrangements will be strictly confidential.</p>
G Walkom	<p>I am attempting to put comment on the "have your say" website/submissions but cannot as your records appear incomplete.</p> <p>Whilst your FINANCIAL information includes the last 12 years or so for Budgets, Business Plans, there is only the current draft plans for Assets and LTFF.</p> <p>I need LTFFs and AMPs for the past 6 years please.</p> <p>Either add them to the website or post them email to me please.</p>	<p>06/06/2025 - AR25/38821 Documents emailed to Mr Walkom and made available on the public website</p>
B Agpasa	<p>The better future of regional economy to have more local tourism, the service industries, and it's key areas of local business, as well as NDIS support for Travel to south-east South Australia and Mount Gambier, including the South East Field Days (held annually in Lucindale from March each year), overnight stay at accommodation and more, alongside radio stations (ABC Radio stations, RadioTAB, Faith FM, Vision Christian Radio, Triple M, Hit FM, 5GTR FM, Lime FM, 5THE FM, 5TCB FM Bordertown), newspaper (The Border Watch with 1861 to 2020 issues digitised to Trove), national TV stations (ABC TV, SBS TV), commercial TV stations (Channel 7, Channel 10, Channel 9, Sky News Regional), digital radio services (DAB+, DRM) and new local community TV service.</p> <p>The local council, State Government of South Australia, and Australian Federal Government will co-fund the better future of regional economy to see more local tourism, the service industries, and it's key areas of local business, the funding allocated was \$32,000.</p>	<p>Council invests in tourism through both the visitor information centre and has recently taken over operation of a number of key sites for visitor experience. Council has also recently invested in a tourism website and attraction and investment website to showcase Mount Gambier to visitors and investors. The State is also underway with a regional tourism review.</p>
T Warren	<p>I was just informed that you intend to raise the rates this year by 8.18%</p> <p>Last year you increased rates by over 10%.</p> <p>Currently inflation is running below 3%.</p> <p>How can this expenditure be justified?</p> <p>How long can you continue to raise rates, by this amount?</p> <p>You need to look after your rate payers, become budget savvy and start spending within your means.</p>	<p>Councils Long Term Financial Plan takes a balanced approach to rate increases, with a focus on long-term stability. While initial increases are necessary to return to sustainability, the additional 2% margin for sustainability reduces progressively over the life of the plan. By the end of the 10-year period, rate increases are limited to CPI, reflecting improved financial health and community affordability considerations.</p>
F McGregor	<p>I could not see anything regarding a car park at Don McDonnell Reserve. I feel it is unsafe at the moment with families having to cross a busy road or park on a road that has bike lanes. I don't necessarily think it's safe for cyclists either, there is a risk of someone opening their car door on a cyclist as there is no where else to park but the road. Families should be able to park safely in a designated car park on the reserve. The reserves mentioned as part of a master plan project already have car parking which I believe is essential at Don McDonnell reserve.</p>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. It is not included as part of the 2025/2026 budget. We will consider it as part of our Asset Management Planning for future years.</p>
E Boisvert	<p>Despite what the budget documents say, extending the rail trail to O'Leary Road is not included in the Shared Paths Master Plan. The money should go instead to a useful part of the plan like building a bike path along Suttontown Road and Sutton Avenue.</p>	<p>The Shared Path Masterplan refers to connecting the primary paths routes from east to west across the city. The Plan specifically refers to Wireless Road connections, however due to constraint of the land proposed at this location to complete the primary route loop "P2" the rail trail extension to O'Leary Road is the next viable option to achieve the same outcome. This has also been identified in the plan for the Springview Estate Connection "F3". Please refer to page 42 of the Shared Path Masterplan.</p>

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G Walkom	<p>The CEO, Mount Gambier Council,</p> <p>Council has a clear legislated requirement to consult its community on the proposed ABP and associated plans for this next year.</p> <p>It is more than 2 clear days since I requested access to council documents to facilitate my submission, and making it clear I was intending on lodging a submission. I did note the required information request as URGENT.</p> <p>Does council intend extending the community consultation time with this delay?</p> <p>I expect that facilitating relevant community questions by providing information would be a part of the mandated community consultation.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>	<p>CEO responded to this noting that access to documents would be provided (documents subsequently made available on website and provided). The response also noted that the consultation would not be extended as it relates to the current annual business plan and budget and long term financial plan, and that an opportunity to address council was also available.</p>
G Walkom	<p>Last year council gave a very similar assurance in requesting submissions on the 2024/25 ABP and financial documents... "The City of Mount Gambier is committed to listening and responding to the concerns and ideas of the community and encourages all individuals to share their views." I submitted 47 questions about a very poorly prepared set of documents and did not receive a single response to any of those questions. This year the documents are much more professional and I congratulate council for that. They are still excessive and could be cut back from a BP and Budget of circa 50 pages to circa 30 but never-the-less are far more reader friendly for any ratepayer interested in understanding them...e.g. the Strategic Plan could be linked rather than re-interpreted and duplicated. This question is specifically about how the Strategic Plan items have been included in the estimates for the LTFP. The SP contains 69 actions for its 4 year life: what preliminary (or other) estimated costs has council determined and allocated to the 10 year LTFP individual years for these actions in terms of \$CapEx and/or \$OpEx for each ? I note the 25/26 B.P. and budget includes 22 of the 69 of which 16 of those 22 are costed. I seek to establish that council has determined and developed the projected rate increases objectively.</p> <p>I question the qualification and quantification in developing the projected annual rate increases: they seem far to smooth and optimistic to be realistic and valid. My question above in the Business Plan and budget questions the linking/connection to the accurate development of the LTFP I similarly question the justification used for council's discretionary services apparently funded without variation or amendment over 11 years, including the lack of justification for the referenced "community requirements" for those services whether that is increasing or decreasing the services. It is far too glib and unconvincing to keep saying the community demand them when they are then not justified and user numbers of those services never stated. Council has an obligation to manage those services and when financial restrictions are needed, services could contribute with small to moderate budget cuts to help balance the books. It is far too easy for council to take the easy action to put rates up rather than responsibly managing the freebies.</p>	<p>Taken as feedback.</p> <p>All 47 answers to questions from Mr Walkom were tabled in the Special Council Agenda of 18th June 2024. Thank you for your feedback on this years documents</p> <p>The Strategic Plan directly correlates to the Community vision, Mount Gambier 2035. These strategic documents were considered as part of the budget and long term planning process. As part of this process it was identified that a number of strategic projects listed did not require additional financial resource as they could be achieved within existing resources, for example, advocacy items. Strategic objectives that do not require additional resourcing have not been separately tabled in the Annual Business Plan and Budget.</p>
O Le Roux	<p>Please see the separate written submission for the specific questions I required answers to. A copy was emailed to the City of Mount Gambier on 9 June 2025.</p>	<p>Noted and email received containing 19 questions.</p>
O Le Roux	<p><b>Questions for the City of Mount Gambier Budget and Plan:</b></p> <p><b>Strategic Alignment and Community Vision</b></p> <p><b>1. Strategic Consistency:</b> How effectively do the planned expenditures align with the community vision outlined in "Mount Gambier 2035"? Are there any notable discrepancies or areas lacking sufficient investment?</p> <p><b>2. Community Input and Impact:</b> How has community consultation informed specific project priorities, and can the feedback loops be more clearly communicated to residents to enhance transparency?</p> <p><b>Financial Sustainability and Efficiency</b></p> <p><b>3. Operating Surplus Ratio:</b> The plan indicates achieving a balanced budget ahead of schedule (2025/2026). What structural efficiencies or revenue changes made this early achievement possible, and are these sustainable over the long term?</p> <p><b>4. Cost-Saving Measures:</b> Given ESCOSA's recommendations for cost control, can specific examples of successful cost-saving measures from previous years be detailed further? How robust is the accountability mechanism for achieving these savings?</p> <p><b>Capital Works and Asset Management</b></p> <p><b>5. Asset Management Plans:</b> How will Council ensure the accuracy and reliability of asset depreciation and renewal schedules, given ESCOSA's concerns about asset valuation and depreciation methods?</p> <p><b>6. Infrastructure Renewal vs. New Capital:</b> Considering a large portion (82%) of the capital budget is allocated to renewals, how does Council balance necessary infrastructure upgrades against expanding service demands from community growth?</p> <p><b>Economic Development and Growth Risks</b></p> <p><b>7. Infrastructure Constraints:</b> Given significant infrastructure concerns (water, sewer) potentially impacting city growth, what specific strategies and advocacy measures is the Council deploying to mitigate these risks?</p> <p><b>8. Economic Risks and Development Slowdown:</b> How robust is the Council's contingency planning if regional infrastructure issues significantly impede planned development and related revenue streams?</p>	<p>1. The draft Budget and Annual Business Plan are underpinned by the strategic priorities in Mount Gambier 2035. Our investment focus this year reflects the key themes of sustainable growth, community wellbeing, environmental leadership, and smart infrastructure. Key alignment can be seen in initiatives such as the CBD Masterplan, Wulanda activation, and Unlocking Projects that directly enable service delivery aligned with strategic goals.</p> <p>2. Community consultation has influenced priority setting across the Plan. Feedback from last year's consultation, including the call for improved service visibility and capital investment transparency, directly shaped areas such as shared path upgrades, public toilet renewals, building maintenance and renewal, improved roads and planning for upgrades to open space and recreation facilities.</p> <p>3. Council has returned to a balanced budget ahead of schedule without cutting essential services or deferring critical infrastructure. This outcome is the result of a deliberate, staged program of financial reform that includes improved planning, tighter controls on spending, better procurement, and a shift in focus toward long-term sustainability. Our Long Term Financial Plan forecasts these improvements to be sustainable over the long term. The LTFP also applies prudent revenue forecasting and prioritises renewal over expansion. These strategies are designed for long-term sustainability, not just short-term surplus.</p> <p>4. A range of initiatives have already been implemented or are underway to contain costs and improve service value. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Revised visitor servicing models</li><li>•Improved procurement and contract management</li><li>•Digital transformation and automation</li><li>•Workforce planning and restructure</li><li>•More robust asset management systems</li></ul> <p>These actions are embedded in the Long-Term Financial Plan and Annual Business Plan and will be reviewed and reported on annually.</p> <p>5. Council is progressively improving the accuracy of its asset forecasts and long-term renewal needs. Key steps already taken include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Updated revaluation and depreciation assumptions</li><li>•Increased focus on condition assessments</li><li>•Realignment of capital works with renewal priorities</li><li>•Better integration of asset planning with financial modelling</li></ul> <p>These changes ensure that our investments are targeted, sustainable, and deliver the best outcomes for the community.</p>

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O Le Roux	<p><b>9. Waste Service Charges:</b> With a notable 10.61% increase in the Waste Service Charge, how is the Council transparently communicating this necessity and managing community expectations regarding waste management costs?</p> <p><b>10. Differential Rating Justification:</b> Can the Council clearly justify the differential rates in the dollar applied to different land-use categories, demonstrating fairness, economic rationale, and transparency?</p> <p><b>Risk and Contingency Management</b></p> <p><b>11. Risks Noted Without Budgeting:</b> Several identified risks, such as superannuation liabilities and Caroline Landfill remediation, are acknowledged but not quantified in the budget. What plans or thresholds have been set to address these potential financial impacts?</p> <p><b>12. Enterprise Bargaining Agreements</b></p> <p>Given the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement negotiations set to commence mid-year, how robustly has the budget prepared for potential wage increases or staffing cost adjustments?</p> <p><b>Technology and Operational Efficiency</b></p> <p><b>13. Technology Investments</b></p> <p>With the significant budget allocation toward the Civica Authority Altitude system and other technology upgrades, what are the expected efficiency gains, and how will these be measured and reported?</p> <p><b>Sustainability and Environmental Goals</b></p> <p><b>14. Environmental Commitments</b></p> <p>What specific metrics or benchmarks is Council using to track the effectiveness of its sustainability and waste reduction initiatives? Are targets ambitious enough given regional environmental challenges?</p> <p><b>15. Electricity Contract and Renewable Energy</b></p> <p>How will the newly negotiated electricity contracts, which integrate green energy, specifically contribute to Council's sustainability objectives, and are there clear, measurable targets established?</p>	<p>6. Council has made a deliberate choice to prioritise renewals to ensure long-term asset sustainability. The revised Making Better Places program now spans three years and limits annual new capital spend, ensuring that maintenance of existing assets takes precedence. Growth infrastructure, while desirable, is being paced realistically in line with our capacity. Our approach reflects both community feedback and ESCOSA's direction on responsible investment.</p> <p>7. Council has raised serious concerns about the capacity of Mount Gambier's water and sewer infrastructure and its impact on current and future development</p> <p>Key advocacy actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Formal letters to SA Water's CEO and key State Government Ministers, questioning their poor infrastructure planning, and seeking urgent clarification on how this will be addressed.</li><li>•Comprehensive correspondence to the Premier and nine State Ministers highlighting:</li><li>oConcerns that current water and sewer infrastructure cannot support existing or future development.</li><li>oThe need for SA Water to be actively involved in regional planning.</li><li>oRequests for transparency around network capacity, infrastructure asset planning, and alternative service schemes.</li></ul> <p>Council is advocating strongly for solutions, improved planning coordination, and clear information to ensure growth is not stalled by infrastructure limitations.</p> <p>8. Council can adjust capital delivery or operating programs in response to unexpected slowdowns or revenue changes, with regular budget reviews providing flexibility and oversight.</p> <p>9. The waste service charge increase reflects genuine cost pressures, including management of the Caroline landfill, collection, and disposal fees and is significantly lower than forecast last.</p> <p>10. Council's current differential rating structure has been in place for a significant amount of time and in prior years was identified as an area requiring strategic review. Differential rating structures are based on land use, equity/capacity to pay (limited measures available for local government) and services used. Council has begun work on a strategic Rating Review with a number of workshops held with Elected Members already. This review will be consulted on in 2025/2026 and will further examine whether councils differentials remain appropriate, fair, and transparent.</p>
O Le Roux	<p><b>Community Facilities and Projects</b></p> <p><b>16. Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre</b></p> <p>Given substantial ongoing operational deficits and high depreciation costs associated with Wulanda, how is Council planning to increase revenue streams or optimise operational costs long-term?</p> <p><b>17. Visitor Servicing Model</b></p> <p>What are the initial performance metrics from the recently transitioned visitor servicing model, and how will these inform the future master planning for visitor-focused infrastructure and services?</p> <p><b>Transparency, Governance, and Reporting</b></p> <p><b>18. Governance and Accountability</b></p> <p>How does Council plan to increase the transparency of its decision-making processes, particularly regarding significant financial decisions or rate increases?</p> <p><b>19. ESCOSA Recommendations</b></p> <p>What specific actions or timeframes has Council committed to publicly responding to each ESCOSA recommendation, ensuring community accountability?</p>	<p>11. Emerging financial risks such as landfill remediation and potential changes to superannuation have been identified but are not yet budgeted as they remain uncertain. We do however have provisions for both the Caroline Landfill future restoration and cell capping. An accrual has been brought in 2024/2025 for the anticipated superannuation payments for independent members of council committees, however actual payments will not be made pending release of an income tax ruling from the Australian Taxation Office.</p> <p>12. The 2025/2026 budget includes contingency for Enterprise Bargaining outcomes, based on benchmarking against recent LG sector agreements CPI and the Wage Price Index.</p> <p>13. Council is investing in smarter systems to streamline service delivery, automate manual processes, and increase efficiency. The Civica cloud system rollout, records upgrades, and IT governance reforms will reduce duplication and improve data quality. A register of savings – both in dollar terms and efficiency gains is being developed to capture these improvements and will be included in future performance reporting as savings are recognised.</p> <p>14. The upcoming Waste and Resource Recovery Master Plan will set targets for landfill diversion, contamination, and community participation. LED lighting upgrades and renewable energy initiatives are also progressing, in line with our Mount Gambier 2035 environmental goals.</p> <p>15. The new electricity contracts (zero indexation and 100% green energy inclusion) are expected to reduce costs and greenhouse emissions. While Council does not have a formal sustainability target, Strategic Priority 1 in Council's 2024–2028 Strategic Plan commits to demonstrating leadership in sustainability through resource efficiency and climate adaptation.</p>
O Le Roux		<p>16. Operational costs at Wulanda are being closely monitored. A targeted review of energy usage has been undertaken and continues to be monitored. We continue to work with Belgravia to pursue revenue growth through expanded programming, partnerships, and regional event attraction. Additionally, the AV upgrades planned for 2025/2026 are intended to increase hireability. The facility's long-term value to health and economic outcomes remains a priority.</p> <p>17. Council's revised approach to visitor servicing is being trialled through new site models and event integration. A review of the Hub and Spoke model will be undertaken in September 2025 with a focus on reach, cost-efficiency, and tourism outcomes.</p> <p>18. Council has strengthened its public reporting through clearer LTFP and ABP documentation. Financial assumptions, service reviews, and project outcomes are increasingly visible to the community, and improvements will continue.</p> <p>19. Council has carefully considered all of ESCOSA's recommendations and is committed to implementing them in a meaningful and transparent way. While the scheme is advisory and not mandatory, Council has already commenced multiple actions aligned with the advice. These are embedded across the LTFP and ABP, and progress will be reviewed and reported publicly each year. This is a four-year process and Council will continue to assess, implement, and communicate improvements over time.</p>

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G Walkom	<p><b>Q3 from WALKOM on LTFP consultation</b></p> <p><b>SUBJECT: ESCOSA report on City of Mt Gambier</b></p> <p>1. Does council accept the ESCOSA report as it was received?</p> <p>2. If so, What is council's timeline for implementation all 6 key recommendations?</p> <p>3. Does council acknowledge ESCOSA identifies risks to council's sustainability as either LOW, MEDIUM or HIGH with council scoring 4 x LOW, 8 x MEDIUM, and 3 x HIGH risk flags?</p> <p>4. Is council concerned that it received such a detrimental report indicating poor financial management and the burden on ratepayers that results.?</p> <p>5. Does council propose to follow all the recommendations of ESCOSA at the earliest opportunity starting with inclusion where possible of the recommendations within the current financial documents we are considering?</p> <p>6. If council intends not to implement some aspects what are they?</p> <p>7. Under Item 5 of the LTFP council fails to state or agree it will "Develop a Plan to achieve cost saving measures and targets..." but lists possible minor cost saving measures likely from earlier decisions. Does council realise that adopting the plan required by ESCOSA will result in ongoing reviews that will result in ongoing savings and cost reductions for ratepayers, or does council not care about saving costs for ratepayers?</p> <p>8. When referring to council's ongoing adherence to strong procurement practices that emphasise competitive processes and value for money, would that include addressing maladministration issues such as the auditor's concerns (4 June 2025) regarding council's purchase order practices? viz <u>PurchaseOrders</u></p> <p>9.Key audit issues as outlined below:</p> <p>Outside of the list of goods and services categories listed in section 4.5 of Council's Overarching Administrative Framework (linked to Councils Procurement Policy), Purchase Orders are required to be raised for all purchases.</p> <p>Sample testing of supplier invoices identified a high number of instances where a Purchase Order was raised after the supplier invoice was received. From our observations, it appears that the use of the Purchase Orders were for the purposes of complying with the Policy requirements rather than acting as an actual procurement control mechanism given the procurement activity</p>	<p>1. Council has received and noted the independent ESCOSA Advice as written.</p> <p>2. Council will progressively work toward addressing the recommendations as advised by ESCOSA. A completion date has not yet been determined.</p> <p>3. As per question 1, Council has received and noted the independent ESCOSA Advice as written.</p> <p>4. The ESCOSA Advice found Council's historical, current and projected financial performance mostly sustainable. There was no reference to poor financial management within the advice provided. The ESCOSA Advice recommended for Council to "Review its approach to addressing financial sustainability risks, in consultation with its community, with a view to limited future increases in rates and improving affordability for ratepayers".</p> <p>5. Council has carefully considered all of ESCOSA's recommendations and is committed to implementing them in a meaningful and transparent way. While the scheme is advisory and not mandatory, Council has already commenced multiple actions aligned with the advice. These are embedded across the LTFP and ABP, and progress will be reviewed and reported publicly each year.</p> <p>6. Council has reviewed the ESCOSA recommendations and already commenced multiple actions aligned with the advice. Due to the structure of Council's fixed loans, recommendation 3 to "review planned pace of repayment of debt, balancing rate increases, financial costs and intergenerational equity" requires careful strategy and negotiation with the Local Government Financing Authority. It is the only recommendation that Council has not been able to immediately address, but will continue to work towards.</p> <p>7. Council has chosen to engage constructively with ESCOSA's advice and has already commenced a number of cost-saving and efficiency-focused initiatives. These include revised visitor servicing models, improved procurement practices, renegotiated contracts, workforce planning, and the implementation of our Business Systems improvements and asset management transformation work. These initiatives are embedded across our planning framework and align with the broader intent of the ESCOSA recommendations.</p> <p>While the LTFP may not include a standalone document titled "cost saving plan," it clearly reflects the direction Council is taking to deliver efficiencies, contain cost growth, and improve long-term financial sustainability.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that Council received ESCOSA's report in late February, by which point the 2024/25 draft Budget and Annual Business Plan were already well advanced. Even so, we have acted quickly to align our forward planning with ESCOSA's recommendations. Importantly, this is an ongoing process. Council will review, measure, and publicly report on progress annually through both the Long-Term Financial Plan and the Annual Business Plan, as part of our commitment to transparency and continuous improvement.</p>
G Walkom	<p><b>Q 10 -13- from WAKOM on LTFP community consultation</b></p> <p><b>SUBJECT: ESCOSA report on City of Mt Gambier</b></p> <p>Q10. At today's community budget information session councillors and administration were adamant that council did not need to action the ESCOSA report - that it is voluntary. True. But the point I was making was that ESCOSA states at section 2.1 that:</p> <p>"The council is obliged under the Local Government Act1989 (LG Act) to publish this advice and its response, if applicable, in its 2025-26 Annual Business Plan (including any draft ABP) and in subsequent plans until the next cycle of the scheme. The Council is not compelled under the LG Act to follow the advice."</p> <p>That is perfectly clear to me but council has not included the advice in either the Draft Business Plan or Draft LTFP.</p> <p>Will council be adjusting these plans to include the full ESCOSA advice as required?</p> <p>Q11. As a casual observer of this council it is apparent that council does not accept there are serious opportunities to stop spending like a drunken sailor and reduce the historical and current rates growth trend which is well above CPI and to better manage finances.</p> <p>Does council agree with ESCOSA and this ratepayer that its "Financial sustainability is dependent upon rates growth well above CPI? and that "Constraint in the level of operating expertise is needed to ensure affordability risks are minimised"?</p> <p>Q12. Does council appreciate that the last 8 Business Plans and Budgets have exceeded CPI over the same period by 77%?</p> <p>Q13. Does council accept that this excess (77%) above CPI to this indicates poor fiscal management and the opportunity to keep rates lower?</p>	<p>8. Discussions with the auditors in relation to the raising of purchase orders were agreeable of the practice currently undertaken as they related to items that were already under contractual agreement. The Policy will be updated to reflect the actual process undertaken. To be clear, there was no suggestion in the auditors findings of maladministration.</p> <p>9. refer to answer to Q8.</p> <p>10. Council will include reference to a link to the ESCOSA report which is available on their website. Noting that the advice has been published already by council and considered and referenced in a public agenda for the audit and risk committee.</p> <p>11.Refer answers to Q's 4,5,6,7 above. Council is required to meet LGFA covenants by 2026/2027 which require financial sustainability ratio's to be met at certain levels. Council is aware that stepped increases across 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 are ensuring these covenants can be met and increasing the future sustainability of Council.</p> <p>12. We take this as comment on past budgets – each year the budget will be determined based on the expenses and income required to provide the services for the community. Each budget has been formed with appropriate consideration by Council and consultation with the community. Over the years referenced rates have been at times above CPI and at others below, and the basis of rating has also changed over time with the introduction of the waste service charge offsetting against rates.</p> <p>13. Council takes it's financial responsibilities seriously and balances the needs of the community with long term financial sustainable.</p>
G Walkom	<p><b>SUBJECT: Community Consultation BP and LTFMP</b></p> <p>As a casual observer of council's financial plans I note three persistent themes throughout the documents.</p> <p>Theme A. Council's efforts and achievements to be financially sustainable and how they meet (or will soon meet) those targets.</p> <p>-Council added to this myth in formal meeting by waxing lyrical about their own audit committee's "self assessment" giving themselves a maximum score. Did council's auditor agree? Apparently not, advising that same audit and risk committee on 2 April 2025 "The Operating Surplus Ratio has trended adversely in the 3 year period..." Now auditors are very conservative, want the well paid gig to keep rolling and seldom criticise like that so we can assume the issue is serious.</p> <p>-last year in my questions to council I advised the financial ratios were often going the wrong way. Having asked for community comments on the Business Plan council's response in formal meeting was to retaliate with nasty and intemperate comment about those who responded. I expect the same this year!</p> <p>-But were the disregarded ratepayer's messages validated? Yes. refer to the ESCOSA report -100% so. Council has been given a significant wake up call to address its drunken sailor spending.</p> <p>-In summary, council maintains it is a great manager of its finances whereas its auditor, ESCOSA and ratepayers do not agree.</p> <p>Q14 Is it agreed that councillors appear to need training in practical financial management, it being a major part of their role?</p> <p>Theme B Council repeatedly contends that this community demands a "hidden" suite of discretionary services and how you will continue to provide them again - at our expense...But you refuse to list them, refuse to provide costs for them or advise how many residents avail themselves of those services or their value added to the community.</p>	<p>14. Financial Training is a mandatory requirement for Elected Members and is regularly maintained. To clarify the statements made in relation to the external audit finding, the auditors noted the operating surplus ratio has trended adversely in prior 3 year period but also noted this had been addressed in the LTFP. Costs for individual service areas can be located within the budget document. Council is also underway with a service review and workforce planning project which will continue to refine services in accordance with community expectations and outcome measures.</p>

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G Walkom	<p>Q15 Will you include this missing information in the Business Plan and LTFF? If not why not? I note and commend council's planning and detail on AMP's and would rate them a 9 in usability, but council's management and planning around discretionary services would struggle to score a 2 on the same rating chart. To get some balance here, The definition endorsed at the National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra, November 2006. "A Council's long-term financial performance and position is sustainable where planned long-term service and infrastructure levels and standards are met without unplanned increases in rates or disruptive cuts to services." It is services, services services that council must get a handle on. Theme C How council is providing and ratepayers are receiving value for our i.g. tax \$ with never any evidence to support this claim. Quite the contrary - the evidence says the opposite. \$5m for Wulanda OpEx? - a service with only 2000 members of 28,000 community. *(Refer latest audit report on your misadventures with purchase orders. - hardly value for money. Much near to the OPI's Maladministration guidelines.) *(And the average rate increases being 77% more than average CPI over last 8 years indicate poor financial management.) *(And your own auditors advice that the OSR is trending adversely over 3 years) Q16 To get a handle on costs: has council considered a sunset clause on all discretionary services to be reviewed every 3 years?</p>	<p>15. Council's Strategic Plan includes 3 unlocking projects, one of which relates to workforce planning. As part of this unlocking project Council is reviewing its services. This is currently underway and has recently been workshopped with Council. The ABP includes an increased level of detail this financial year and will continue to be updated in line with progress made on the workforce planning unlocking project. To further clarify on commentary made, members are not the only indicator of use and visitation to Wulanda. Attendances YTD April 2025 exceeded 141k people, members refer only to those paying a membership fee via contracted operators Belgravia. Note that the \$5m quoted is a combination of depreciation, interest and operating costs. Regarding purchase orders, to be clear there no suggestion of maladministration. Please see response above to Q8. 16. Refer feedback to the Unlocking project and future community consultation regarding services.</p>
G Walkom	<p><b>Community Consultations on Business Plan and LTFF</b> Strategic Plan appears to be uncoded (yes there are some of the SP's items that have been coded for this year's BP but essentially it is not coded.) Under the 6 category groups included in the S.P. there are a total of 69 actions... Q17 What estimates have been effected for each of these actions and what years will they will be actioned in the LTFF? (I note that 22 SP actions are included in the 25/26 BP and that 16 have indicative costings - that leaves 47) I also note that the Strategic Plan is very optimistic and high cost for some very low value objectives and was completed before council was reviewed by ESCOSA. - back (hopefully back when council spent like a drunken sailor) Q18 In view of the established need for better financial control, it appears essential the SP should be reviewed? Can council see the wisdom in this for the updated financial situation? Q19 The Strategic Plan is billed as a 4 year plan but all other plans AMP's, LTMP, and presumably 2035 are 10 year plans, has council considered extending the SP from 4 years to 10 - the reduction in annual costs would be significant and would provide CapEx and OpEx flexibility?</p>	<p>17. Estimated operating and capital costs for the Strategic Plan have been included across the LTFF. 18. The Strategic Plan is a guiding document lead by the community vision, Mount Gambier 2035. Progress towards the plan is reviewed and reported on quarterly. 19. The overarching community vision, Mount Gambier 2035, is a 10 year document. The more pointed Strategic Plan outlines the overarching goals for the next four years, guiding resource allocation and provides a mechanism to measure and report against.</p>
G Walkom	<p><b>Community Consultations - Business Plan and LTFF</b> <b>Kerbside waste -61%</b> The LTFF states council intends reducing Kerbside waste by 61%! Q20 Will there be a commensurate rate reduction? Q21 What will ratepayers be expected to do with their rubbish? Q22 Will this have a material effect on climate issues or is it a token gesture for the planet and a significant inconvenience for ratepayers? I note the existing waste services are efficient and effective. Amazing is it not, that some fool wants to stuff the service up. Q23 How many people will put in de facto incinerators and what costs will council incur controlling that misadventure? <b>Service Review Framework</b> Q24 What is this exactly? Does it include the 19 Discretionary Services that council might be currently undertaking? Q24 What can we expect in cost savings from this review if the expected outcomes are recommended and adopted - a budget for expected savings Q25 On p27 of the Business Plan there are 14 "essential services" undertaken and staffed with c78 staff for an administrative cost to ratepayers of \$23million. The state essential services lists the services designated as "essential" and they do not include but two of these. I understand that people like to feel important but in this situation it would be best not to confuse things. Can these services be renamed to avoid confusion with the state classifications? Q26 On p28 under "People, Place and Liveability" there are service functions designated as "key". Some 39 staff consume \$15.2million. of ratepayers funds. What is the difference between a "key" service function and a non key service function? and what are the listings for each group and their budgets?</p>	<p>20. The achievement of the target and outcomes of achieving this target are not yet known. The waste service charge is reflective of actual costs of kerbside collection not the cost of waste reduction. 21. Ratepayers are already encouraged to utilise the Recycling and FOGO bins available. Previously Council has further supported ratepayers with compost bin subsidised offers and green waste caddy bins to assist reduce green, food and recycling materials from taking up space in general waste bins and ultimately landfill. 22. Reducing waste to landfill is important to our community, particularly the redirection of FOGO which has highest detrimental impact to the environment by the production of methane and contribution to PFAS and leach. Sustainability was a key principle evident throughout consultation for the Mount Gambier 2035 community vision. "We demonstrate leadership and consider infrastructure that supports a circular economy and reduces waste to landfill". 23. This question refers to an unknown state which may not eventuate and is unable to be answered reliably. 24. The Service Review Framework will define, catalogue and apply metrics to each service identified. It will include both mandatory and value added services. 25. Thank you. The State definition of essential services may relate to state based services however we will consider changing the wording in the final document. 26. In this context the term key has been used to identify the main services provided in this portfolio.</p>
G Walkom	<p><b>Total rates trend - Community consultation on Finance documents</b> Total rates percentage increases since separation of waste services into a separate council business. I note that Property Rates and Kerbside Waste collection rates are listed separately since they were separated a few years back. Q27. In what year were they separated? Q28. Over the past eight (8) years what is the yearly combined rates increase (property and waste) ? (I am wanting to clearly determine the % increase in Mt Gambier City council rates year on year up to the current draft business plan.) I note the current waste and reuse budget is \$8.27million. Q29. Has council sought expressions of interest to contract this out?</p>	<p>27. The Waste Service Charge was implemented in FY 2022. 28. In response to your previous question Council has made documents available via email and on the website for the prior years. The general rates increase for the 2025/2026 year is 8.18% plus 0.5% growth. The Waste Service Charge increase is 10.61% for 2025/2026 year. Both these increases are less than what was predicted for the LTFF and form part of this consultation. 29. Council contracts out part of its waste services including recycling of materials collected from kerbside recycling collection and similarly with material collected from FOGO kerbside collection. Council has not sought expression of interest to contract out all of its waste and reuse service(s).</p>

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Member of Public	Public Comments/Feedback/Questions	Administration comments/responses
G Walkom	<p>Total rates trend - Risks and ratepayer surprises - Community consultation on Finance documents</p> <p>Budget and BP risks - undisclosed material costs.</p> <p>In community discussions, rumours indicate that ratepayers could be whacked with significant extra OpEx and/or CapEx costs from a number of items not fully disclosed in the Draft Business Plan: some also indicated in very recent auditor reports to council.</p> <p>Q31. What potential currently unbudgeted costs (not in the draft business plan estimates) may eventuate for Wulanda additional to the current \$62.5 million total to date. Ongoing contract legal and litigation fees, roofing issues, floor issues etc? If you advise none that is reassuring.</p> <p>Q32. What potential currently unbudgeted costs (not in the draft business plan estimates) may eventuate for Caroline Landfill such as design fees and contract fees or CapEx or OpEx generally additional to the Draft Business Plan stated OpEx and CapEx? If you advise none that is reassuring.</p> <p>Q33. What variations (up or down) has council allowed for revised AMP valuations that could result in revised OpEx or CapEx costings/depreciation for near-term (2years) and mid-term 3-7 years) Infrastructure and assets variation changes not included/costed in the draft Business Plan or LTFP?</p> <p>Q34. What are the total costs for all works - design, professional and administration costs, infrastructure and reserves modifications, temporary and permanent safety barriers, signage, supply and delivery, installation, parking modifications - indeed a fully inclusive tender stage estimate for the Blue Blob on a ZBB basis?</p> <p>Please include any works or suspected works for any deferred (stage 2 and stage 3 costs) but relevant future associated works.</p> <p>Q35. Does council consider its community consultations on the Blue Blob and its decisions from those consultations with an overwhelming number of residents opposed strongly to have met council's procedures and practices for community consultation?</p> <p>Q36. Was the community accurately and honestly informed by the mayor when they were told council could not repurpose the basic grant funds used for the Blue Blob to another purpose?</p>	<p>31. Council is currently finalising (to close) contracts for the construction of Wulanda. There will be ongoing maintenance as required with all Council buildings.</p> <p>32. Subjectivity still exists around the costs of finalising the capping on Cell 3C. A provision has been created for this of \$1.2m and will need review once the EPA approved designs have gone through a tender process. Due to this cell being overfilled in the current and prior financial year(s), and not all the overfilled capacity requiring shifting to the newly built cell there is actually a gain for Council in reduced depreciation and potential for increased conceptual height across the landfill site, which may result in increased capacity per cell moving forward. However, this does mean that actual depreciation is under budget in FY 2024/2025 and an increase in depreciation will be experienced, but not to the full extent, in FY2025/2026 due to timing.</p> <p>33. The LTFP uses the AMPs as a baseline and further includes estimates for indexation of assets and operating expenditure every 4 years for the revaluation of asset classes. This version of the LTFP appropriately includes amounts identified in the AMP for building maintenance starting from FY 2027.</p> <p>34. Cast in Blue, Beacon Art Project has a budget of \$136,250. This project is not part of the community consultation FY2025/2026.</p> <p>35. This is not part of the community consultation for the FY2025/2026 budget. However, council has considered community feedback on the beacon art project and made a determination to continue with the project.</p> <p>36. This is not part of the community consultation for the FY2025/2026 budget, however, Council resolved to allocate funding for a Beacon Art Project.</p>
G Walkom	<p>Q37. Is council aware and supportive of a groundswell of community opinion that this Blue Blob included in the Draft Business Plan should be seen as a monument representing and dedicated to council's performance over the last 5 years; giving us the Wulanda White Elephant, and council's disregard and indifference to liaising with individuals and groups such as The Ratepayers Association?</p> <p>Q38. Council has encouraged input to the draft finance plans by assuring residents each question will be answered... objectively. Last year this was honoured by disclosing those answers only at and to a special council meeting. Participants received no other 'response'.</p> <p>The analogy I think of here is a discussion between two people where one asks a question and the other goes into a sound proof room alone and answers it, then claiming to have provided an answer.</p> <p>Could those lodging questions this year be given the courtesy of an email response to their questions and advice of the special council meeting prior to that meeting?</p>	<p>37. This is not part of the community consultation for the FY2025/2026 budget. However, council has considered community feedback on the beacon art project and made a determination to continue with the project.</p> <p>38. Council will provide answers to questions submitted through the public consultation process at the special meeting 17 June 2025. Given the volume of feedback, staff prepare responses as quickly as possible under the short time frame.</p>
G Walkom	<p>Form and presentation of Business Plan - Community consultation on Finance documents</p> <p>I would like to close out these comments with my suggestion on the form and presentation of the Business Plan itself.</p> <p>But first as I may have already said, it is in written style vastly improved on last year. Congratulations.</p> <p>However it is a technical financial document and the excess of irrelevant pictures both distracts from the report itself and increases printing time and costs. For a good example of this type of document please refer to the recent ESCOSA report. The reproduction of the Strat Plan graphics - ugh!</p> <p>For a moment there I thought of suggesting that the hierarchy of documents bit in the BP could be impressively and meaningfully graphiced by using mini photos of all the relevant documents in a pyramid formation.. this may help with identifying the other docs. But then there is scant value in the SP or 2035 docs to council's current mission to better efficiency and effectiveness - they are more like kids wishlish in their letters to santa.</p> <p>I apologise for the typos and misnumbered questions, my PC is like me old and grumpy and its keyboard "u" and "i" are problematic.</p> <p>Q39 Could the document be reviewed to edit out redundant photos and graphics and make it into a more serious looking "Business Plan"?</p>	<p>39. Thank you for your feedback on the document. Council has received other positive feedback on the document and at this stage has no intention of removing the photos and graphics. These photos and graphics are included to create a more engaging document for our ratepayers.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that Mount Gambier 2035 reflects the vision of the community and was formed by extensive consultation and written by a panel of community members. It is important to respect and value the input of community members through these processes. It provides a long term 10 year community led vision and reflects what community value about the city, and their aspirations for the future. Council's strategic plan takes those aspirations and reflects them as council's contribution by providing assets and services to create a liveable city.</p>
G Walkom	<p>Q40.</p> <p>p8 Draft LTFP 26-35</p> <p>General Rates – Council's rating strategy has been reviewed, where Council Staff and Elected Members worked together to determine a balance between community expectations, the achievement of financial targets and the capacity required to deliver this LTFP (refer to rating section).</p> <p>specifically how have the "community expectations" been qualified and quantified? and what specifically are those qualifications and quantifications as a measure of our 27,888 population.</p> <p>In other words are there more than 28 persons (0.1% of community) voting for any given discretionary service or project that have resulted in a service or project being determined?</p> <p>Q41.</p> <p>p10 Draft BP&amp;Budget 25/26</p> <p>Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre</p> <p>Continued operation and activation of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre. This will increase the ability for Mount Gambier to host major sporting competitions, conferences, events and performances providing significant social and recreational benefits and broader economic opportunities for local business. Council has resolved to include capital improvements to audio visual technologies to enable increased activation.</p> <p>Specifically what "increased activation" will result and what specific financial Return on Investment will result?</p> <p>Q42.</p> <p>p7 Draft BP&amp;Budget 25/26</p> <p>Council has not increased its budget to reflect community growth and the rising cost of existing services in prior years. The step-increase included in the 2024/2025 budget and additional proposed step-increase for 2025/2026 addresses this.</p> <p>How can this be a valid statement? Community growth generates its own increase in rates by nature of the additional rated properties.</p>	<p>40. Council has started working with an external consultant in regard to a rating review. This work has been postponed at the request of Elected Members to 2025/2026. Public consultation will occur on the rating review, however its focus is not on the provision of services as there is another unlocking project which encompasses this. The focus of the rating review is on the structure and composition of the types of rates levied and considers the impact on all ratepayers.</p> <p>41. Council is working alongside Belgravia to enhance user experience for live music and other large scale events at Wulanda. One large scale event alone will deliver multiple direct and indirect benefits to the community which will offset the investment of \$156k included in the 2025/2026 budget.</p> <p>42. Council, alongside its Audit and Risk Committee has recently started to review its application of growth in rateable properties. The following extract is available in the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report as part of the Council Agenda for June 2025.</p> <p>"The Committee raised questions around rating growth and best practice treatment. At present Council has built in 0.5% growth (on average 0.76% over last 7 years) with anything outside of the 0.5% being absorbed/discounting other ratepayers. Key discussion points arising from this question included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disservice if growth is absorbed as it is future money that should be banked for the provision of service growth. Would strongly support banking additional growth.</li><li>• Growth can be used to go into an open space fund, to help fund increase services in the future.</li><li>• Rating Review would be the optimum place in the context of broader policy position to make a change to the treatment of growth."</li></ul> <p>Community growth only generates its own form of revenue if it is not fully absorbed. The portion of growth in rateable properties that has previously been absorbed effectively reduces the rate in the dollar and does not increase the overall quantum of rates raised.</p>

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Member of Public	Public Comments/Feedback/Questions	Administration comments/responses
Substance Misuse Limestone Coast (SMLC)	the following is an extract from the letter received from SMLC. "consider our request for funding to address a budget shortfall of \$20,000 for the upcoming financial year 2025 to 2026 to assist in covering the wages for SMLC's Admin Support Officer".	The full letter will be tabled at the Special Meeting and has been sent to Elected Members in advance of the Meeting. The SMLC is a valuable service organisation. It is worth noting that under Councils Grant and Sponsorship guidelines operating costs such as wages would not be eligible for funding.
Local Government Financing Authority (LGFA)	LGFA have provided verbal feedback that they are comfortable where the City of Mount Gambier are heading and ratio's in the updated Long Term Financial Plan.	Taken as comments.
G Walkom	With a 1 hour meeting (required I believe) if there are 6 speakers would there not be circa 9-10 minutes per speaker?  I understand last year council did not comply with legislated requirements when it shut off the meeting discussion to runout the meeting time to "comply" with requirements.  SURELY council has more respect for its community than to do this again.	For the information of the Community, here is the relevant section of the legislation. <b>Local Government Act 1999 123—Annual business plans and budgets</b> (3) Before a council adopts an annual business plan, the council must— (a) prepare a draft annual business plan; and (b) follow the relevant steps set out in its public consultation policy, taking into account the requirements of subsection (4). (4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(b), a public consultation policy must at least provide for the following: (a) the publication in a newspaper circulating within the area of the council and on a website determined by the chief executive officer of a notice informing the public of the preparation of the draft annual business plan and inviting interested persons— (i) to attend— (A) a public meeting in relation to the matter to be held on a date (which must be at least 21 days after the publication of the notice) stated in the notice; or (B) a meeting of the council to be held on a date stated in the notice at which members of the public may ask questions, and make submissions, in relation to the matter for a period of at least 1 hour,(on the basis that the council determines which kind of meeting is to be held under this subparagraph); or (ii) to make written submissions in relation to the matter within a period (which must be at least 21 days) stated in the notice; and (b) the council to make arrangements for a meeting contemplated by paragraph (a)(i) and the consideration by the council of any submissions made at that meeting or in response to the invitation under paragraph (a)(ii). (5) The council must ensure that copies of the draft annual business plan are available at the meeting under subsection (4)(a)(i), and for inspection (without charge) and purchase (on payment of a fee fixed by the council) at the principal office of the council and on the website at least 21 days before the date of that meeting. (5a) The council must ensure that provision is made for— (a) a facility for asking and answering questions; and (b) the receipt of submissions, on its website during the public consultation period. (6) A council may then, after considering— (a) any submission made to the council during the public consultation period; and (b) any new or revised information in the possession of the council that is relevant to the material contained in the draft annual business plan; and (c) such other materials or information as the council thinks fit, adopt its annual business plan (with or without amendment). Last year Council complied with legislative requirements. Five minute allocations per speaker ensure that all who wish to, have time to speak, and that there is also time for anyone in attendance to ask questions. The Presiding Member may give latitude for longer or for a further verbal submission, if time permits during that one hour meeting. The Presiding Member also has the capacity to adjourn the Special meeting, open and then adjourn the Ordinary meeting, and provide more time for the Special Meeting.
various	General commentary from members of the public at the information briefing sessions held at the Library 10 and 11th June 2025. - transparency about response to ESCOSA and setting a plan that includes cost savings targets - Does Council have a Carbon net zero plan? - concerns raised regarding Caroline Landfill and the costs of shifting waste from an overfilled cell - Wayfinding signage at the Lakes precinct for tourists - dangerous embankment at the valley lakes boat ramp and grass area - concerns about SA Water and nitrate levels and viability of drinking water in to the future - Animal welfare and the handling of deceased or injured animals policy/procedure - Disability Access and Inclusion Plan - concerns raised about the Council's excess allocation of water and if we are nearing limits - has Council considered turning off street lights for a period of time - State Government road funding, concerns about pot-holes and condition of State roads - traffic congestion and flow at certain times at the main corner intersection including consideration of pedestrian only crossing - return on investment of AV at Wulanda - Flooding on Crouch Street and near Commodore, what are Council doing with Department of Infrastructure and Transport - Sign review master plan - non-porous flooring in public toilets for health regulation standards - check the levelling of footpaths, specifically Ibis Street has a 5 inch fall - advocacy with state highways and the grading of the road edge to prevent water damage - improvement to Carinya Gardens Cemetery TV and Audio - Frew Park directional arrows at entry - "Have your Say" website is a nightmare to use, would like more opportunities for Elected Members to engage with community, for eg "coffee with a cop" - improved communication around the "Blue Blob" - cost of living concerns - reduce grants and funding allocations, everyone needs to tighten their belts	

Tabled Document 6.2

Verbal Submission

Substance Misuse  
Limestone Coast



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Substance  
Misuse  
Limestone  
Coast Inc.

Global Problems, Local Solutions

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11<sup>th</sup> June 2025

The Mayor  
Lynette Martin OAM  
City of Mount Gambier  
Watson Terrace  
Mount Gambier SA 5290

[city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au](mailto:city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au)

Re: Submission for Funding Substance Misuse Limestone Coast 2025/2026

Dear Madam Mayor,

Substance Misuse Limestone Coast (SMLC) is writing a submission to you and your elected representatives to consider our request for funding to address a budget shortfall of \$20,000 for the upcoming financial year 2025 to 2026 to assist in covering the wages for SMLC's Admin Support Officer.

SMLC has operated as a not-for-profit organisation since 2017, evolving from a working party with project-based funding to an incorporated entity in 2020 with funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health. This ongoing funding demonstrates the importance of continuity in operations and the necessity of a strategic view of regional needs. SMLC receives \$185,000 annually, including GST. This current funding agreement concludes on September 30, 2026, and SMLC's Board is optimistic that funding from the Federal Government will continue following this agreement.

SMLC provides leadership, education, training, and advocacy in the alcohol and other drugs (AOD) landscape for Mount Gambier and the wider region, acting as a focal point for initiatives that work across agencies. SMLC collaborates with the community to understand and promote place-based solutions using the best national and international practice resources.

SMLC Strategic Objectives

- Facilitate the establishment of a community-based collaborative AOD treatment model to address the needs of AOD issues in Mount Gambier and the Limestone Coast region.
- Use harm reduction and evidence-based best practices to inform action.
- Secure continuing funding for SMLC.
- Maintain and build partnerships with key stakeholders across the region, State, and Australia.
- Reduce the impact and harm of alcohol and other drug use in Mount Gambier and the wider region.
- Reduce stigma related to the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- Build awareness of emerging trends in the alcohol and other drug sector.

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SMLC's Recent Project Work

Since 2020, SMLC has

- Facilitated 500+ training opportunities for local AOD and allied health professionals in Mount Gambier. Local Agencies, on their own, cannot bring best practice training for their workforce; their funding does not allow for locally presented professional development. These training days also allow for networking opportunities that would not normally occur.
- Supported Mount Gambier families who are supporting someone with a substance use disorder in accessing therapeutic education by bringing Family Drug Support to Mount Gambier. Family Drug Support is Australia's peak organisation delivering evidence-informed interventions for families. Family Drug Support now comes to Mount Gambier every month and is committed to continuing its support for local families.
- Delivered evidence-based AOD secondary school education to Mount Gambier and Limestone Coast schools, and up to now, approximately 1,200 secondary students have undertaken OurFutures [www.ourfutures.org.au](http://www.ourfutures.org.au)
- Designed and delivered the biennial Limestone Coast AOD Regional Summit, bringing Government and non-Government agencies together to interrogate the gaps in AOD services in the region. The 2021 Summit resulted in the State funding of detox beds in the Mount Gambier Hospital.
- Facilitated community education on the harms of alcohol, supported by corporate business.
- Forged cross-border partnerships with interstate Health agencies.
- Developed SMLC's website that details AOD services for Mount Gambier and South Australia and has educational tools for parents and caregivers on teenage AOD issues. The SMLC website has over 200 visits per month.

Aims for the Coming Financial Year

SMLC's Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2026 is to continue our work in delivering evidence-based services to reduce harm and improve individual and community well-being. This includes undertaking strong advocacy for the establishment of a stand-alone community-based collaborative AOD treatment model to address the needs of AOD issues in Mount Gambier, which already has the support of the City of Mount Gambier.

Other objectives for SMLC are summarized in the below table. Project funding from other funding sources will be sought for these projects to be undertaken;

Project	What	Budget
Facilitate best-practice training for the local AOD sector twice a year.	Bring evidence-informed training to Mount Gambier for local AOD and Allied Health Sectors	\$15,000 + Project Manager and Admin Support wages
Health Promotion, Website, and Communications Plan.	Contract Communications specialist and website	\$16,000 + Project Manager & Admin Support wages.

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**Substance  
Misuse**  
Limestone  
Coast Inc.

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	designer to implement and assist SMLC Project Manager.	
Limestone Coast AOD Regional Summit	Attract high profile presenters and attendees to attend. Research topics relevant to Mount Gambier	\$30,000 + Project Manager and Admin support wages.
School Education	Deliver and support schools in the delivery of evidence-informed AOD education.	Incorporated in the Project Manager's wage.
Health Promotion to Families of Teenage Children	Deliver evidence-informed educational tools regarding AOD to support parents in transitioning their children from Primary to Secondary School.	\$20,000 + Project Manager & Admin Support Wages.

SMLC's Budget 2025 – 2026

<b>Income</b>	
Commonwealth Dept Health	\$185,000
Contract work Sporting Clubs	\$4,029
<b>Total</b>	\$189,029
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Wages Project Manager & Admin Support	\$148,240
Communications & Website	\$16,000
Rent & Utilities	\$17,353
Insurance	\$3,599
Fees & subscriptions	\$7,628
Travel	\$3,345
Projects	\$81,000
Office & Admin	16,692
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	\$293,857

As shown SMLC's operating expenses do not align with SMLC's total income. SMLC actively sources funding for the evidence-based projects we undertake in supporting the Mount Gambier community and has plans to charge fees for people to attend future community events and training to cover the rising costs of delivering projects.

SMLC seeks \$20,000 in funding from the City of Mount Gambier to assist in covering our shortfall in operating expenses.

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SMLC's objectives align with the City of Mount Gambier's objectives

SMLC's objectives are interconnected with the City of Mount Gambier's objectives by focusing on the key areas of need for our community and reducing harm that can arise from AOD use. SMLC's strategic objectives are outlined in our Strategic Plan 2025 – 2026 and are underpinned by our values of respect, compassion, progress, and integrity.

SMLC's strategic objectives are to facilitate a high-quality, community-based collaborative model health service in Mount Gambier, as an accessible hub for people to feel connected and outline a path for treatment and recovery.

As the leader of AOD advocacy and health promotion in Mount Gambier and the wider region, SMLC already has a strong relationship with the City of Mount Gambier, built on trust, partnership, and collaboration, delivering evidence-based primary prevention work by establishing Planet Youth in our community.

SMLC thanks the City of Mount Gambier for considering this submission to assist with our future activities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Thomson'.

Sue Thomson  
SMLC Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Bouchier'.

Sophie Bouchier  
SMLC Project Manager

## Tabled Document 6.3

### Verbal Submission

Mount Gambier and District  
Resident and Ratepayers Association



**PRESENTATION FOR COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO  
PROPOSED 2025/6 BUDGET**

at  
Special Council Meeting  
City Hall  
17 June 2025

By way of introduction to the Associations concerns with this Budget I would like to briefly recap our concerns that we outlined at last years Budget consultation.

Due to the time allocated to presentations we deferred to other presenters, with infinitely more accounting and financial experience, to talk about the fine detail with regards to the 2024/5 Budget.

What we focused on was the community's widespread concerns about meaningful communication from Council. Our concerns remain the same today.

In fact, if anything the concerns of the community have grown louder over the last year, and, rightly or wrongly, there is a significant general lack of faith, trust and support for the Council in the community.

At last year's meeting many people spent time and effort to engage in the consultation process that Council required.

It was disturbing to say the least that following these submissions and presentations it was reported to us that when the Councillors retired to the Chamber they referred to people as "whingers" and "uneducated".

These comments are not "robust debate". Such comments are highly derogatory and offensive to members of the community, and we call on the Mayor as the Presiding Member to control these inappropriate comments in the chamber in the future.

In regard to this years proposed budget we will again leave discussion of fine detail to those with more experience however we do have 3 specific concerns which we would like to address;

### **1. Rates an increase of 8.18%**

We appreciate that costs go up every year and that increases are a fact of life.

The community disquiet that we receive is a perceived lack of Council's financial restraint around discretionary spending.

Never before have we seen such community anger as was demonstrated with the sculpture "Cast in Blue". We believe that this was flash-point for the community reflecting the slowly simmering and growing anxiety about Council spending and lack of meaningful consultation.

We believe the genesis for this was the secrecy around the building costs of Wulanda and the ongoing yearly financial burden on ratepayers (>\$5million including depreciation) for the current management and operation of the facility. This secrecy appears to be ongoing.

There are many other examples such as the purchase of a fleet(7) of high end 4WD's for staff personal use at ratepayers expense.

We could go on with many other examples but as time is limited we can summarize our concerns thus - "it is easy to produce a balanced budget by simply asking for more money for the budget".

We do not accept vague justifications about increases based on other unnamed Councils.

Each Council has its own specific needs which dictate their financial requirements. Comparison of apples and oranges is not valid justification for rate increases. However it is apparently useful "spin" in Council documents.

### **2. Waste Service Charge an increase of 10.61%**

We acknowledge that management and disposal of waste is an ever-increasing financial burden on Council.

The problem is compounded by ever increasing regulation and associated costs.

What we do not accept is the statements put forward at the community meeting on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June.

It was stated that as charges were going up only 10% this was a saving of 10%.

This is patently absurd as any 1<sup>st</sup> year student of Economics or Accounting would easily refute.

The current charge is actual cost recovery for the service. Although the LTFP last year “guessed” that it would go up 20%, just because it only went up 10% does not represent an actual saving. To imply that it does, and is an example of savings by Council, is meaningless spin and factually incorrect based on a hypothetical assumption that has subsequently proven to be wrong.

This type of statement further compounds the community's concern about the accuracy of Councils information. The charge has gone up 10%. There is no saving.

### **3. ESCOSA**

As a final point, we would again like to draw attention to the ESCOSA report and comments made at the meeting of Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June.

We are deeply concerned about the dismissive attitude that was displayed by some members of Council to this report.

The statements that “they are advisory”, “we don't have to act on what they say” and “We don't have to do anything for 4 years” is truly alarming.

ESCOSA is an independent body which has statewide perspective across all Councils. To dismiss their advice out of hand is unprofessional, dangerous and unacceptable to the community.

We ask for complete formal implementation of Recommendation 2 by Council to help restore community faith and support of Councils financial decisions.

In our opinion this is the minimum the community deserves.

### **4. Conclusion**

We acknowledge complex and hard work by Council Officers to prepare this Budget for consideration

We acknowledge that it is unlikely that the Budget will be changed at this late stage.

However, we request that;

a. Council review its discretionary spending and;

b: A formal plan is developed in line with Recommendation 2 of the independent ESCOSA report, which is available to the community, to sit alongside the Budget and to be reported on quarterly to Council, with the target of reduction of Council expenditure of 2% in this financial year.

Thank you for allowing us to present to you this evening.



# MINUTES

## Special Council Meeting Tuesday 24 June 2025



**Minutes of the City of Mount Gambier Special Council Meeting held at:**

**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Date:** Tuesday 24 June 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

<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Chief Executive Officer	- Mrs S Philpott
	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 Financial Services	- Ms K Rolton
	Manager Development Services	- T Tzioutziouklaris
	Manager Operation Infrastructure	- K Manarangi
	Manager of Performance and Capability	- T McPherson
	Revenue Co-ordinator	- J Scheidl
	Media and Communications Coordinator	- Ms S McLean
	Executive Administrator	- Miss T Chant
	Executive Administrator	- Mrs S Spears

**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**

**4.1 ADOPTION OF 2025/2026 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN, BUDGET AND RATING POLICIES**

Pursuant to Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Max Bruins disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 4.1 Adoption of 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan, Budget and Rating Policy.

In accordance with Section 75B Cr Max Bruins informed the meeting:



Nature of Interest:

My partner is a volunteer board member of Substance Misuse Limestone Coast, a NGO who has requested funds as part of the budget public consultation process.

Intention to Participate:

My conflict is general only, represents such a small portion of overall budget and there is no personal gain. I will participate in debate and vote but will not move or second the item.

Reason for Participating:

No personal gain and my interests are aligned with that of the broader community.

In accordance with Section 75B of the Local Government Act 1999 Cr Max Bruins remained in the meeting for Item 4.1.

Having participated in the meeting for item 4.1 Cr Max Bruins voted in favour of the motion.

**RESOLUTION SCM 2025/3**

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

1. That Council report titled 'Adoption of 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan, Budget and Rating Policies' as presented on Tuesday 24 June 2025 be noted.
2. That Council, having considered the public submissions at the Special Council meeting on 17 June 2025 and the feedback provided at the Audit and Risk Committee on 4 June 2025, adopts the 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan and Budget which includes R105 Rating Policy and R155 Rate Rebate Policy as attached to this report.
3. Pursuant to section 123(7) of the Local Government Act 1999 and regulation 7 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, that having considered the Budget in conjunction with Annual Business Plan, determine the Budget to be consistent with, the Council's adopted Annual Business Plan per recommendation 2 above.
4. That Council adopts the Budget for the year ending 30 June 2026, as detailed in the attachments to this report which comprise:
  - a) The budgeted financial statements including budgeted Uniform Presentation of Finances.
  - b) Statement within the Annual Business Plan and Budget that the projected operating income is sufficient to meet projected operating expenses as a result of a forecast balanced budget for 2025/2026.
  - c) Estimates with respect to the council's operating surplus ratio, net financial liabilities ratio and asset renewal funding ratio as presented in the Annual Business Plan and Budget.



5. That Council notes the advice received from the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) and confirms that it has fulfilled all legislative and regulatory obligations under the Local Government Act 1999 and the ESCOSA advisory scheme, and confirms that:
  - a) The advice has been published in both the draft and adopted versions of the 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan in accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1999;
  - b) Council's response to the advice, where applicable, has also been published as required; and
  - c) These documents will continue to be published annually until the commencement of the next advice cycle, in compliance with the requirements of the ESCOSA advisory scheme.
6. That Council, having acknowledged the verbal submissions received at the Special Council Meeting held on 17 June 2025, and in relation to the 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan and Budget, resolves to:
  - a) Commit to and allocate an amount of \$20,000 from the Grants and Sponsorships Program to Substance Misuse Limestone Coast as a contribution towards funding support for the Limestone Coast Alcohol and Other Drugs Regional Summit 2025 and associated training.
  - b) Commit to and allocate an amount of \$25,000 from the Strategic Capacity Fund to support initiatives aimed at improving the safety and amenity of Frew Park, with the objective of reducing antisocial behaviour.
  - c) That the budgetary alterations arising from these matters be actioned as part of Budget Review 1 for the 2025/2026 financial year.
  - d) Council notes that these budgetary commitments do not alter the overall budget position but utilises funding already contained within the budget in the named program funds.
7. That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate to make any necessary changes to the 2025/2026 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.

**CARRIED**

#### **4.2 ADOPTION OF VALUATIONS AND RATES DECLARATION YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2026**

##### **RESOLUTION SCM 2025/4**

Moved: Cr Frank Morello

Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council report titled 'Adoption of Valuations and Rates Declaration year ending 30 June 2026' as presented on Tuesday 24 June 2025 be noted.
2. That, pursuant to section 167(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 1999 Council adopts, for rating purposes for the 2025/2026 financial year, the Valuer General's valuations of the



capital values applicable to land within the area of the Council, totalling \$7,358,665,200 and that the date of adoption of the valuations is 24 June 2025.

3. 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 \$26,801,034 the Council 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 2025/2026 financial year as follows:
  - a) 0.182106 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) 0.491686 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.
4. That pursuant to section 152 (1)(c)(ii) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council imposes in respect of the 2025/2026 financial year a fixed charge on rateable land within the Council area in the sum of \$683.90.
5. That pursuant to section 155(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council imposes a Waste Service Charge of \$344.00 for the 2025/2026 financial year on all land to which it provides or makes available the prescribed waste service of bin collection, treatment and disposal in order to raise the amount of \$4,973,208.
6. 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 \$1,497,501, 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 2025/2026 financial year are declared as follows:
  - a) \$95.70 per assessment on rateable land of category (a) 'Residential', category (h) 'Vacant Land' and category (i) 'Other';
  - b) \$142.20 per assessment on rateable land of category (b) 'Commercial-Shop', category (c) 'Commercial-Office' and category (d) 'Commercial-Other';
  - c) \$228.00 per assessment on rateable land of category (e) 'Industry-Light' and category (f) 'Industry-Other';
  - d) \$419.00 per assessment on rateable land of category (g) 'Primary Production'.
7. That pursuant to section 153 (3) of the Local Government Act 1999 and for the financial year ending 30 June 2026 but subject to the criteria set out in the Annual Business Plan 2025/2026 being met, the Council fixes a maximum increase to the general rate of 15% over the amount of the general rate liability for the 2024/2025 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.



8. 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 2025/2026 financial year be payable on or before:

- Friday 5 September 2025
- Friday 5 December 2025
- Friday 6 March 2026
- Friday 5 June 2026

**CARRIED**

#### **4.3 ADOPTION OF LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (LTFP) 2026-2035**

##### **RESOLUTION SCM 2025/5**

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

1. That Council report titled 'Adoption of Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2026-2035' as presented on Tuesday 24 June 2025 be noted.
2. That Council note the Audit and Risk Committee feedback, verbal and written submissions received from members of the public considered at the Special Council meeting held on 17 June 2025 as part of the broader Draft 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan and Budget and Draft Long Term Financial Plan Consultation.
3. That Council adopt the Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035 as attached to this Report.
4. That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate to make any necessary changes to the Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035 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**

#### **5 MEETING CLOSE**

**The meeting closed at 6:24 pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 July 2025.**

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**MAYOR**

**TABLED DOCUMENT**



Tabled Document 6.1

Substance Misuse  
Limestone Coast

Budget for Activities



City of Mount Gambier  
Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

24 June 2025



Substance  
Misuse  
Limestone  
Coast Inc.

Global Problems, Local Solutions

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20<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Budget - Limestone Coast AOD Regional Summit November 2025

Items			In Kind	Notes
Keynote Speakers – Consultant Fees Times 3	Consultant fees for 2 days each. Rex flights play a part in this.	\$12,000		Flights in and out of Mt Gambier are inconsistent & often cancelled. Plan for speakers to stay for 2 nights – reduce risks.
Accommodation & Travel for 3 Speakers	Flights ex Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne  Accommodation & Meals (offering 2 nights due to fog, flights cancelled etc)	\$4,836  \$1,200 \$450		
Promotion materials		\$3,000		
MC for the day		\$400		
Catering	Expecting approx. 95 people	\$2,850		
Venue Hire		\$300		
Administrative Supplies & Slido for data collection		\$650		
SMLC, Project Manager, Admin Support & Volunteer Board – design, planning, deliver Summit.			\$16,192	
Communications 20 hours		\$3,200		
Total		\$27,886	\$19,392	

City of Mount Gambier  
Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

24 June 2025



Substance  
Misuse  
Limestone  
Coast Inc.

Global Problems, Local Solutions

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Budgets – Evidence-Based Training for AOD Professionals

Items	Notes	Cost	In Kind	Notes
Borderline Personality Disorder SA – 1 Day training	2 x Trainers 1 X Lived Experience			
Trainer Fees	For 3	\$2,800		
Travel	Flights ex ADL – have been up to \$690 rtn REX	\$2,070		
Accommodation Meals		\$600 \$225		
Catering	40 participants & 25 p/h	\$1,000		
Try Booking & Admin		\$100		
SMLC Project Manager & Admin – 30 hours			\$2,670	Includes evaluation process.
SMLC Comms 4 hours			\$640	
Total		\$6,795	\$3,310	

City of Mount Gambier  
Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

24 June 2025



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Website [www.smlc.org.au](http://www.smlc.org.au)

Items	Notes	Cost	In Kind	Notes
Motivational Interviewing	2 X Trainers			
Trainer Fees	Specialists cost >	\$4,000		
Travel ex ADL or MELB		\$1,380		
Accommodation & Meals		\$825		
Catering	40 Participants	\$1,000		
Try Booking & Admin		\$100		
SMLC PM & Admin – 30 hours			\$2,670	Includes evaluation process
SMLC Comms – 4 hours			\$640	
Total		\$7,305	\$3,310	