

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 17 December 2024

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

Time: 6:00 pm
Date: Tuesday 17 December 2024
Location: Council Chamber - Civic Centre
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier



Sarah Philpott
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
13 December 2024

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 November 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

5 MAYORAL REPORT

5.1 MAYORAL REPORT - DECEMBER 2024

- Triple M radio interview – Beacon Art Project
- Elected Member Mandatory Training Catch-Up Session with Cr Amoroso – Team Building
- LGA Mayor’s Forum (Adelaide)
- Meeting with Minister Clare Scriven MLC – impact of drought on agricultural and rural communities (Adelaide)
- LGA AGM, including welcome reception / SAROC Meeting (Adelaide)
- Blue Lake Fun Run – Welcome
- Radio interview with Llew Jones – 5GTRFM
- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Presentations
- Photo with District Council of Grant Mayor, Kylie Boston, and Acting CEO, Gary Button, Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Director, Ashleigh Whatling and Curator, Chris Clements at Mount Gambier Regional Airport – *Flight Mode* exhibition launch
- Meeting with Fringe Committee Members, Louise Adams and Gavin Clarke, and Monica Hart and Maree Adams
- Elected Member Briefing – Presentation of Mount Gambier Regional Airport Masterplan
- Confidential Elected Member Briefing – Wulanda Update
- LGA Board / SAROC / GAROC Induction Workshop (Adelaide)
- Triple M radio interview – Mayor’s Christmas Appeal and Lighting of the Old Town Hall windows
- Meeting with Colin Byles – EO, LCLGA
- History Council of SA: Regional Lecture
- Unveiling Ceremony of Mount Gambier Prison Memorial



- ABC Regional Drive Program – Narelle Graham
- Mount Gambier Family Truck Show – judging
- Carols in Nine Languages
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Meeting with CEO, Sarah Philpott, and Chamber of Commerce President, Candice Fennell
- In-Home Hospice Care AGM
- Elected Member Briefing – Generations in Jazz
- Elected Member Briefing – CBD Activation and Masterplan
- SATC Regional Forum: 2030 Visitor Economy Sector Plan refresh
- SAROC Meeting and LGA Board Meeting (Adelaide)
- Volunteer Christmas Morning Tea
- Elected Member photo at Englebrecht Cave
- Tenison Woods College Middle School Awards Ceremony
- Radiotherapy Working Group Christmas Lunch
- Meeting with Allen Woodham, Mount Gambier City Band
- Meeting with Tony Pasin MP, with CEO, Sarah Philpott and Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement, Biddie Shearing – Housing Infrastructure Program
- Elected Member Briefing – Briefing with the Hon. Minister Clare Scriven MLC - Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries
- Elected Member Briefing – General Update from SAPOL
- Elected Member Briefing – Briefing with Mr Troy Bell MP, Member for Mount Gambier
- Elected Member Briefing – Sponsorship for Pioneers
- Elected Member Briefing – Rating Review
- Citizen of the Year Selection Panel Meeting
- Mayor's Christmas Appeal – donation photos
- LCLGA General Meeting (Kingston)
- Riddoch Exhibition Program 2025 Launch
- Blue Lake Carols
- Mayor's Christmas Appeal – photo with Sensitive Santa
- Afternoon Tea – Celebration of 15 Years of the Mount Gambier Library

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Report be received.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

6.1 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Cr Josh Lynagh | Limestone Coast Local Health Network Annual Public Meeting, Tenison Woods College Year 12 Graduation, Citizenship Ceremony, Boandik Lodge "Food Forum", Blue Lake Fun Run, "Lose and Hope" Karenni Fundraiser Film Screening, Yahl Primary School Spring Fair, Mount Gambier Family Truck Show, Thugi Summer Markets |
| Cr Jason Virgo | North Terrace Property to view tree concerns; Blue Lake Fun Run Sponsors Dinner |



Cr Sonya Meziniec Book Launch of 'John Riddoch - Founder of Coonawarra' by Peter Rymill, Book in Homes Presentation at Library, Mount Gambier High School Presentation Night, 2025 Program Launch - Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre, Post Christmas Parade Meeting, Afternoon Tea Celebration of 15 years of the Mount Gambier Library

Cr Frank Morello Christmas Parade Presentation

RECOMMENDATION

That the reports made by Councillors be received.

7 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Cr Paul Jenner gave notice of his intention to ask the following questions:

7.1 BLUE LAKE WELCOME CENTRE - OPENING HOURS

Can Council please be updated on what will be the staffing times for the Blue Lake Welcome Centre opening hours for spring, summer and autumn?

Answer:

To be provided at the meeting.

Cr Frank Morello gave notice of his intention to ask the following questions:

7.2 SPRING CLEAN WEEKEND

Can the administration please provide an update on the success of the Spring Clean Weekend sponsored by OneFortyOne last month? The initiative allowed residents to drop-off tyres, beds and sofas at the Waste Transfer Station for free in an effort to promote responsible waste management practices.

Answer:

To be provided at the meeting.

8 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

9 PETITIONS

9.1 PETITION - STOP THE BLUE BLOB

Author: Kate Gilmore, CEO and Mayoral Executive Support

Authoriser: Sarah Philpott, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Petition - Stop the Blue Blob' as presented on Tuesday 17 December 2024 be noted.
2. The petition be received and noted.



3. Council notes that the Administration has enacted Council's resolution to proceed with the Beacon Art project following Council's consideration of a rescission motion (which was lost), and that a commissioning agreement (contract) has been therefore been entered into.
4. That the Administration write to the Petition Administrator offering to facilitate a meeting with the CEO and Mayor to present the current status of the Beacon Art Project, including the background of the project, the commissioning process, budget implications, and contractual obligations.

PURPOSE

To receive the results of an online petition titled "Stop the Blue Blob".

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

On 3 December 2024 Council received a petition from Sekina Castignani, petition organiser. The petition reads as follows:

To The City of Mount Gambier

We, the people who elected you, do not agree with your decision choosing the 'blue blob' for the Beacon Art Project. We request that you pause the project until proper community consultation is undertaken.

The petition, which utilised the online platform "forms.app", appears to have garnered 1,066 signatures.

The *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* outlines Council's obligations in relation to petitions, as follows:

10—Petitions

- (1) *A petition to the council must—*
 - (a) *be legibly written or typed or printed; and*
 - (b) *clearly set out the request or submission of the petitioners; and*
 - (c) *include the name and address of each person who signed or endorsed the petition; and*
 - (d) *be addressed to the council and delivered to the principal office of the council.*
- (2) *If a petition is received under subregulation (1), the chief executive officer must ensure that the petition or, if the council has so determined as a policy of the council, a statement as to the nature of the request or submission and the number of signatures or the number of persons endorsing the petition, is placed on the agenda for the next ordinary meeting of the council or, if so provided by a policy of the council, a committee of the council.*
- (3) *Subregulation (2) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.*

Council has, within the Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures, varied subregulation (2) above as follows:

COMG 10.1 *Statement of Nature (Petitions)*



Petitions received by Council shall be included in the relevant Agenda as a 'statement of the nature' of the request and total number of signatures, rather than the Petition in its entirety.

Whilst it has not been possible to ascertain how many of the signatories are ratepayers, of the 1,066 signatures, 863 specifically list a City of Mount Gambier address. In addition, 17 of the signatories have listed either an incomplete name or no name, making them unidentifiable.

An acknowledgement of receipt of the petition, and advice that the details would be included in this agenda, has been sent.

CONCLUSION

Council receive and note the online petition titled "Stop the Blue Blob".

ATTACHMENTS

Nil



10 DEPUTATIONS

Nil

11 NOTICE OF MOTION TO REVOKE OR AMEND

11.1 NOTICE OF MOTION TO REVOKE OR AMEND - ADOPTION OF SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES 2024/2025

I, Councillor Paul Jenner, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 17 December 2024, I intend to move the following motion to revoke:

MOTION

1. That the motion from Cr Paul Jenner as presented on Tuesday 17 December 2024 be noted.
2. That having further considered Item 19.5 Adoption of Schedule of Fees and Charges 2024/2025 tabled at the ordinary meeting of 21 May 2024, the Council hereby revoke part 8 of the Resolution 2024/104 as follows:
 8. That a further workshop be held on the Schedule of Fees and Charges before the end of this Calendar Year.

RATIONALE

I give notice to revoke part 8 of resolution 2024/104, with parts 1-7 of the resolution remaining in force.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENT

The draft 2025/2026 fees and charges will be presented to Council via a Budget Workshop (dates to be confirmed).

A list current vs new fees will be supplied to Members a week prior to the workshop.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil



12 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 - 26/11/2024 - Presentation of Mount Gambier Regional Airport Masterplan - Confidential Wulanda Update [**12.1.1** - 2 pages]
2. Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings - 03/12/2024 - Generations in Jazz - CBD Activation and Masterplan [**12.1.2** - 2 pages]
3. Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings - 10/12/2024 - Briefing with Minister Clare Scriven MLC - General Update from SAPOL - Briefing with Mr Troy Bell MP - Sponsorship for Pioneers - Rating Review [**12.1.3** - 3 pages]



**INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION
5:00 PM, TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2024**

Ref: AF22/549

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
5:00 PM, TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2024**
Council Chamber, Civic Centre
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

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

The sessions described at Items 1 was open to the public.

1. Presentation of Mount Gambier Regional Airport Masterplan

GUESTS:

District Council of Grant representatives:

Mayor Kylie Boston
Mr Nick Serle, Airport Manager
Mr Gary Button, Director Corporate Services
Cr Brad Mann

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

STAFF PRESENT:-

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

Chief Executive Officer
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-

Cr Kate Amoroso

Nil

DISCUSSION:

Presentation on Mount Gambier Regional Airport Plan 2025 – 2035.

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:

(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*

2. Confidential – Wulanda Update

GUESTS:

Mr Mark Booth, BRM Advisory (virtual)

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

STAFF PRESENT:-

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

Chief Executive Officer
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Manager Financial Services
Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-

Cr Kate Amoroso

Nil

DISCUSSION:

Confidential Wulanda Update.

Discussion closed at 7.04 p.m.

**INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION
5:00 PM, TUESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2024**

Ref: AF22/549

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
5:00 PM, TUESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2024
Council Chamber, Civic Centre
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

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

The sessions described at Items 1, 2 and 3 were open to the public.

1. Generations in Jazz

GUESTS:-

Generations in Jazz representatives:

Christine Conlon
Fiona Unger
Marika Hart
John Pratt

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

STAFF PRESENT:-

Mayor Lynette Martin
Cr Sonya Meziniec
Cr Frank Morello
Cr Max Bruins
Cr Jason Virgo
Cr Paul Jenner
Cr Josh Lynagh
Cr Mark Lovett (arrived at 5.20 p.m.)

Chief Executive Officer
General Manager City Infrastructure
Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement
Team Leader Community Events
Strategic Development and Engagement Co-ordinator

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-

Cr Kate Amoroso

Nil

DISCUSSION:

- 3-5 year strategy (growth and funding)
- Community contribution

2. CBD Activation and Masterplan

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

STAFF PRESENT:-

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

Chief Executive Officer
General Manager City Infrastructure
Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement
Team Leader Community Events

Cr Jason Virgo	Strategic Development and Engagement Co-ordinator
Cr Paul Jenner	
Cr Josh Lynagh	
Cr Mark Lovett	

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
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Cr Kate Amoroso	Nil
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DISCUSSION:

- CBD Activation – data presentation

3. Impromptu General Manager City Infrastructure Update

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
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Mayor Lynette Martin	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Frank Morello	
Cr Jason Virgo	
Cr Paul Jenner	
Cr Josh Lynagh	
Cr Mark Lovett	

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
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Cr Kate Amoroso	Nil
Cr Max Bruins	

DISCUSSION:

- Update following recent flood event

Discussion closed at 7.20 p.m.

**INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION
5:00 PM, TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2024**

Ref: AF22/549

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

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

The sessions described at Items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were open to the public.

1. BRIEFING WITH MINISTER CLARE SCRIVEN MLC

GUEST(S):-

Minster Clare Scriven MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, Regional Development and Forestry

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

STAFF PRESENT:-

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

Chief Executive Officer
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Manager Strategy Economy and Engagement

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-

Cr Kate Amoroso

Nil

DISCUSSION:

Topics of discussion:

- Drought Support Package
- Key Worker Housing
- Upgrades to Fire Towers
- Forestry Masterplan
- Education Precinct

2. GENERAL UPDATE FROM SAPOL

GUEST(S):-

Superintendent Cheryl Brown APM, OC Limestone Coast LSA, State Operations Service, SAPOL
Inspector Will Humphries, Limestone Coast LSA, State Operations Service, SAPOL

MEMBERS PRESENT:- STAFF PRESENT:-

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

Chief Executive Officer
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement

DISCUSSION:

Topics of discussion:

- Station improvements and future works
- Station hours, services and patrols
- Staffing/Recruitment
- Road Safety
- Fire Danger Season
- Noora Yo Long engaging with Migrant Groups
- Upper South East Domestic Abuse Program
- Crime / Theft

3. BRIEFING WITH MR TROY BELL MP

GUEST(S):-

Mr Troy Bell MP, Member for Mount Gambier

MEMBERS PRESENT:- STAFF PRESENT:-

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

Chief Executive Officer
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement

DISCUSSION:

Update on Future Mount Gambier 2.0.

4. SPONSORSHIP FOR PIONEERS

MEMBERS PRESENT:- STAFF PRESENT:-

Mayor Lynette Martin
Cr Sonya Meziniec
Cr Max Bruins
Cr Frank Morello
Cr Josh Lynagh
Cr Jason Virgo

Chief Executive Officer
General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement
Manager Financial Services

Cr Paul Jenner

Cr Mark Lovett

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:- LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-

Cr Kate Amoroso

Nil

DISCUSSION:

Update on sponsorship proposal from Pioneers.

5. RATING REVIEW

GUEST(S):-

Rebecca McCarthy, LGIQ (teams)

Michelle Bennetts, LGIQ

John Comrie, JAC Comrie Pty Ltd (teams)

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

STAFF PRESENT:-

Mayor Lynette Martin

Cr Sonya Mezinac

Cr Max Bruins

Cr Frank Morello

Cr Josh Lynagh

Cr Jason Virgo

Cr Paul Jenner

Cr Mark Lovett

Chief Executive Officer

General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

Manager Financial Services

Team Leader Revenue

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-

Cr Kate Amoroso

Nil

DISCUSSION:

Overview of Rating Review and general discussion around rating principles and approaches.

Discussion closed at 9.07 p.m.

13 ELECTED MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Nil

14 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

14.1 MINUTES OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 25 November 2024 be noted.

[Audit and Risk Committee Minutes](#)

14.2 ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ARC 2024/13

Moved: Alexander Brown

Seconded: Belinda Johnson

1. That Council report titled 'Annual Work Plan and Meeting Schedule' as presented on Monday 25 November 2024 be noted.
2. That the Audit and Risk Committee recommends to Council it holds at minimum 6 meetings throughout 2025, noting that meeting dates are subject to change, including additional special meetings where required.

CARRIED

14.3 INTERNAL AUDIT: AMENDED PLAN, QUARTERLY UPDATE AND PROJECT SCOPE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ARC 2024/14

Moved: Paul Duka

Seconded: Belinda Johnson

1. That Council report titled 'Internal Audit: Amended Plan, Quarterly Update and Project Scope' as presented on Monday 25 November 2024 be noted.
2. That the Internal Audit Plan 2023/2024 - 2026/2027 (as amended), having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee be recommended to Council for adoption.



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.
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
 - reference to a minimum sample size
 - training
 - delegations
5. That the next iteration of the Internal Audit Plan:
 - Incorporates a risk based approach, informed by the strategic risk register and internal financial controls review
 - Removes Item 2, penetration testing
 - Shifts item 13, Council Policies to the 2027/2028 financial year.

CARRIED

14.4 ANNUAL REVIEW BORROWINGS AND INVESTMENTS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ARC 2024/15

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Alexander Brown

1. That Council report titled 'Annual Review Borrowings and Investments' as presented on Monday 25 November 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

14.5 POLICY UPDATE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ARC 2024/16

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Belinda Johnson

1. That Council report titled 'Policy Update' as presented on Monday 25 November 2024 be noted.

CARRIED



14.6 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ARC 2024/17

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Belinda Johnson

1. That Council report titled 'Policies for Review' as presented on Monday 25 November 2024 be noted.
2. That having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 25 November 2024, the following reviewed and amended policies be endorsed:
 - (a) Emergency Management Policy
 - (b) Treasury Management Policy - T150
3. That having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 25 November 2024, the content of the following reviewed and amended policies / procedures be endorsed:
 - (a) Request for Service and Complaint Procedure - C200
 - (b) Internal Review of Council's Decision - C290and that the administration determine prior to presentation to Council the relationship between the two (2) policies and whether they are more appropriately policies or procedures.
4. That the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) be authorised to make minor administrative changes to the policies / procedures as required.

CARRIED

14.7 LEASE AND LICENCE UPDATE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ARC 2024/18

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Belinda Johnson

1. That Council report titled 'Lease and Licence Update' as presented on Monday 25 November 2024 be noted.

CARRIED



14.8 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ARC 2024/19

Moved: Paul Duka

Seconded: Belinda Johnson

1. That Council report titled 'Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report' as presented on Monday 25 November 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

15 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Nil

16 JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE

16.1 JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE AGM HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee AGM held on 4 December 2024 be noted.

[Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee Minutes](#)

16.2 STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE - YEAR ENDED 30/06/2024

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION JSAF 2024/2

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh

Seconded: Jenny Burston

1. That Council report titled 'Statement of Revenue and Expenditure - Year Ended 30/06/2024' as presented on Wednesday 4 December 2024 be noted.
2. The Statement of Income and Expenditure for period ended 30 June 2024 detailing payments to and from the Fund, with a 30 June 2024 cash balance of \$135,187.76 be received.

CARRIED



16.3 MEMBER ORGANISATION CONTRIBUTIONS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION JSAF 2024/3

Moved: Jenny Burston

Seconded: Felicity Walker

1. That the Junior Sports Assistance Fund Report titled 'Member Organisation Contributions' as presented on Wednesday 4 December 2024 be noted.
2. Member Organisations be advised that the Junior Sports Assistance Fund has the financial capacity to assist its members for the 2024/2025 financial year noting the cost of living crisis and as such member contributions to the Junior Sports Assistance Fund for the 2024/2025 financial year be waived.

CARRIED

16.4 PAYMENTS TO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION JSAF 2024/4

Moved: Jenny Burston

Seconded: Felicity Walker

1. That the Junior Sports Assistance Fund report titled 'Payments to Member Organisations' as presented on Wednesday 4 December 2024 be noted.
2. Payments to Member Organisations be calculated based on 10% of the total cost of the principle event and capped at \$300 minimum and \$500 maximum.
3. That in the event of extenuating circumstances the determination will be at the discretion of the Committee.

CARRIED

16.5 GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS OF THE FUND FROM 01/07/2023 TO 30/06/2024

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION JSAF 2024/5

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh

Seconded: Jenny Burston

1. That the Junior Sports Assistance Fund report titled 'General Developments of the Fund from 01/07/2023 to 30/06/2024' as presented on Wednesday 4 December 2024 be noted.

CARRIED



16.6 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION JSAF 2024/6

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh

Seconded: Di Gould

1. That the Junior Sports Assistance Fund report titled 'Committee Appointments' as presented on Wednesday 4 December 2024 be noted.
2. The committee appointments to approve applications to the Junior Sports Fund Assistance Fund as referenced in Report titled 'Committee Appointments' be adopted.

CARRIED

16.7 REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION JSAF 2024/7

Moved: Cr Megan Dukalskis

Seconded: Jenny Burston

1. That Council report titled 'Review of Terms of Reference' as presented on Wednesday 4 December 2024 be noted.
2. That the proposed amended Junior Sports Assistance Fund Terms of Reference to be presented for adoption at the next meeting of Council be noted.

CARRIED

16.8 JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee meeting held on 4 December 2024 be noted.

[Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee Minutes](#)



**16.9 ROTARY CLUB OF MOUNT GAMBIER LAKES - YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
SPORTS PROGRAM - SECOND CALL**

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION JSAF 2024/10

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh

Seconded: Jenny Burston

1. That Council report titled 'Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes - Youth Empowerment Sports Program - Second Call' as presented on Wednesday 4 December 2024 be noted.
2. The funding be made available to the Member Organisations named below to assist the identified juniors to achieve their fullest participation with the specific purpose donation from the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes – Youth Empowerment Sports Program initiative, to be used in accordance with their respective confidential application:
 - (a) Mount Gambier and District Pony Club \$600
 - (b) Basketball Mount Gambier \$600
3. A social media post be prepared following the cheque handover presentation at the Blue Lake Fun Run with Mayor Lynette Martin, Cr Josh Lynagh and Members of the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes to show the Funds appreciation for their ongoing support to the Youth Empowerment Sports Program.

CARRIED

17 BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Nil



18 COUNCIL REPORTS

18.1 CBD ACTIVATION AND MASTER PLAN

Author: Benjamin Kilsby, Strategic Engagement & Development Coordinator
Authoriser: Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled ‘CBD Activation and Master Plan’ as presented on Tuesday 17 December 2024 be noted.
2. That administration utilises remaining 2024/2025 operational CBD Activation budget allocation for the pursuit of test and trial place-activation initiatives that directly align to the feedback and priorities highlighted through recent studies.
3. That Council endorse the allocation of funds for the delivery of a CBD Master Plan, as follows:
 - (i) An initial allocation of \$75,000 from 2024/2025 operating budget provision for “Strategic Work Plan Delivery” to be adjusted at budget review 2
 - (ii) The commitment of a further allocation of \$75,000 within the 2025/2026 annual budget from the operating budget capacity provision for “Strategic Work Plan Delivery”.
4. That administration progress with the development of a project scope for the engagement of suitably positioned industry experts to deliver the CBD Master Plan.

PURPOSE

This report provides an update on progress attached to the development of a CBD Master Plan and actions attached to the ongoing activation of the city centre.

This report responds to two resolutions of Council which directly align to our CBD including:

1. **Resolution 2024/164** - Initiating a CBD Master Plan with costs considered within Budget Review 2; and
2. **Resolution 2024/121** - Seeking review attached to two examples of commercial space activation in New Zealand, namely ‘Riverside Markets’ and ‘Elliot Stables’.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

Council has retained a long-term strategic commitment to fostering a vibrant and active CBD. This has incorporated the development of a strategic framework through the CBD Guiding Principles in 2022 and the test and trial of activation initiatives such as the Summer on Watson Program across the 2023/2024 summer period.

The CBD Guiding Principles have also directly influenced a range of ongoing Council priorities such as signage strategies, grants and sponsorship, cultural programming, public art initiatives and ‘hub and spoke’ visitor service modelling.

Within the context of the CBD Activation, Council also retains an ongoing commitment to realise the potential of the Mount Gambier Railway Station, with previous investments made to prepare the site for commercial fit out and tenancy. Due to its location, the site is acknowledged as a key connector between Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre, the Mount Gambier Railway Lands, and the broader Central Business District.

The examples of 'Riverside Markets' and 'Elliot Stables' as referenced in Council Resolution 2024/121, whilst delivered within the context of a larger Metropolitan environment, are both worthy examples of developer-led commercial place-activation, achieved in strong partnership with Local Government. They are the result of well-considered placemaking interventions which are the legacy of strategic actions which are not dissimilar to many of those which feature in Council's new 2024-2028 Strategic Plan.

In its meeting on 18 July 2024, Council resolved to pursue the development of a CBD Master Plan (2024/164) which would provide a long term, adaptable framework that will guide growth and change in the CBD over the next decade. The resolution highlighted that it would consider aspects such as housing, sustainability, heritage, art and culture, urban design infrastructure, street linkages, commercial opportunities and public spaces and places.

To initiate and inform the scope for the master plan work, administration has recently progressed a range of CBD focussed studies including:

- a series of City Centre Car Park surveys
- an audit of the CBD Built Form Use including retail segmentation
- CBD traffic count and speed assessments at various locations; and
- a Place Score place-based social research assessment.

These studies have provided both a foundation to guide further planning and decision making in the CBD and will act as a baseline to reference in future review and evaluation of activation initiatives.

The most intensive of the abovementioned reports, the *Place Score* assessment provided analysis of the performance of three key areas of our CBD, with a particular focus on sections of Commercial Street East, Commercial Street West and Gray Street. This study articulates the performance of these areas against a national average and highlighted a range of direct strengths and improvement opportunities.

Qualitative feedback from CBD users captured through this process also highlighted broad community aspiration for:

- Retention of a focus on cleanliness and the well-kept presentation of our public realm
- Improvement to the pedestrian experience within the inner city
- Rationalisation of traffic and parking
- Strengthening of our evening and nighttime economy
- A well-presented and diverse commercial trading presence
- Improvements to street infrastructure, meeting places and family-focused facilities and creativity within the public realm
- Improvements to public transport and accessibility
- Well-considered calendar of events and space activations

Collectively, the assessment reinforced that a vibrant and active CBD requires broad investment in a range of different attributes which collectively contribute to a sustainably vibrant and active city centre.

Informed by these studies, coupled with the examples of place activations such as those detailed in Resolution 2024/121, namely 'Riverside Markets' and 'Elliot Stables' – both of which are valid considerations within a holistic master plan, it is recommended that Council:

1. Continues to seek short term and nimble opportunity to contribute positively to CBD activation through a variety of nimble strategic initiatives aligning to the priorities identified; and
2. Provides a budget allocation across both 2024/2025 (Budget Review 2) and 2025/2026 (using the "Strategic Work Plan Delivery" allocation) for the pursuit of a

high-quality master plan for the CBD delivered with the support of suitably experienced consultants.

It is expected that the CBD master planning process will take up to 12 months and significantly benefit from the investments in external expertise in the areas of best practice urban design, landscape architecture, economic development, traffic engineering, heritage, and public art/creative planning.

IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

Legal	Strong precedent exists within Local Government for the type of initiatives proposed within this report and will be pursued following Council's standard systems and processes such as our Procurement Policy etc.
Financial and Budget	Initial market review has been undertaken to inform the requested budget allocation for the initiatives within this report. Further market feedback will be achieved in line with Council's procurement processes and feedback will be provided to Council should this determine the requirement for additional consideration.
Community Consultation and Engagement	Extensive community engagement has provided the foundation for this work and will directly influence the project scope for the development of a CBD Master Plan. Further engagement activities aimed at key stakeholders will be conducted throughout the delivery of activities identified within this report.
Other Resources	Placemaking initiatives will explore the utilisation of available internal skills and resources in the first instance, before external contractors are sought. For short-term placemaking activity, this may leverage capacities of our City Infrastructure Team.

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
Finance – Market response.	Insignificant (1)	Unlikely (2)	Low	Pre-procurement market assessment.
Reputation – community concern or outrage	Moderate (3)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Third-party led social research assessment undertaken.
Legal / Regulatory / Policy – Contractual considerations	Moderate (3)	Unlikely (2)	Moderate	Adherence to policies. Local Government best practice.
Service Delivery	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	Does not impact service delivery.
People – internal resource implications	Minor (2)	Unlikely (2)	Low	Predominantly within existing workplans
Infrastructure	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	Limited exposure to infrastructure related risk.
Environmental	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	Limited exposure to environment related risk.



APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Priority 5: A Vibrant Community

- 5.1 Define a clear vision and action plan for the CBD which guides decision making and supports its ongoing growth as a vital economic, social and cultural hub for our community.
- 5.3 Encourage innovation by actively supporting the test and trial of new ideas that enhance the vibrancy and appeal of our CBD.
- 5.4 Support the strategic growth of an inner-city population through focussed residential and overnight stay growth initiatives.
- 5.5 Foster a collaborative and 'open for business' environment amongst CBD traders, embracing times of peak visitation, improving our early evening economy and ensuring a destination experience throughout the calendar year.

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

Priority 5: A Vibrant Community

Delivery of a CBD activation and master plan that transforms our CBD into a vibrant hub, connecting locals and visitors, promoting inner-city living and boosting economic and social activity by creating a dynamic, culturally enriched environment for all ages.

RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICY

[Procurement](#)

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

Administration will progress with the following actions:

1. Evaluate the range of nimble placemaking interventions available to Council in providing short-term responses to the priorities identified within the studies completed to date. This includes the exploration of options and associated costings for concepts such as parklets, temporary street infrastructure, creative lighting options and traffic or parking related interventions.
2. Develop a draft project scope for the pursuit of a CBD Master Plan, including the preparation of materials to assist with the procurement of external project expertise.

Noting the strategic priority and focus attached to CBD Activation, administration will continue to work closely with Elected Members in progressing these actions.

CONCLUSION

Council continues to make well-considered steps in progressing its CBD Activation objectives through a range of test and trial activities, studies and assessments and ongoing community and stakeholder engagement.

This report seeks Council endorsement to implement nimble placemaking initiatives from the current CBD Activation budget allocation and provision of a budget allocation using Council's "Strategic Work Plan Delivery" allocation over two financial years to progress a CBD Master plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil



18.2 SUBMISSION - SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT STRATEGY - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Author: Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Infrastructure
Authoriser: Sarah Philpott, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Submission - South Australian Government Transport Strategy - Public Consultation' as presented on Tuesday 17 December 2024 be noted.
2. That that attached submission to the South Australian Government Transport Strategy be approved.

PURPOSE

The South Australian Government are seeking community feedback on the development of a Transport Strategy. This report provides a proposed submission for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

The Transport Strategy is being developed by the South Australian Government and is a long-term strategic approach to shape the future of transport for the next 30 years.

The strategy will set the overall direction for future transport planning, guide decisions on which projects to prioritise and invest in, help ensure that our transport network is ready for the future and ensure South Australia remains a great place to live and do business. This is to ensure we are well prepared for the future and can benefit many generations to come.

The key focus areas for the Strategy are:

- Connectivity and accessibility
- Safety
- Prosperity
- Liveability
- Sustainability and resilience

Feedback is now being sought from councils, community and stakeholders until 16 December 2024, to address the following:

- When you think about transport in our state, what is important to you?
- How do you think we should live 30 years from now?
- How should people and goods move around?

The City of Mount Gambier has received an extension until 19 December 2024 for a report to be presented to the December Council Meeting.

An overview of the Transport Strategy is attached, with further details available at <https://transportstrategy.sa.gov.au/about-the-transport-strategy>.

This is an opportune time for Council to continue advocating improvements to our bus services and long-term planning for roads. This is not only for the City of Mount Gambier and the Limestone Coast region but for all regional council areas.



Council has been advocating for State Government to prioritise the public transport systems in Mount Gambier, as we continue to operate on an inadequate and outdated service which has remained largely unchanged for 30 years.

In 2021 Council undertook a review of the existing model of our bus services to help inform ongoing advocacy. Despite the provision of a range of submissions, direct advocacy to Ministers of Parliament and detailed presentations to staff at the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, contracts for regional bus services were awarded across the state in late 2023, extending a new 8-year contract for Mount Gambier without change or improvement. Whilst our Council is working closely with the current provider (LinkSA) to explore opportunities for improvements, this is extremely limited without clear direction and available funding.

In addition, many roads in our community are in a state of disrepair and require renewal. Access to reliable and efficient regional transport services is critical for fostering economic growth and ensuring equitable access to essential services.

Council Officers meet with representatives from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) on a 6-monthly basis and have continued to raise these concerns. It was recently advised by DIT that state-maintained roads within the City of Mount Gambier are not listed under their current 2-year renewal program.

Attached is a proposed submission that has been prepared based on Council's ongoing advocacy in these key areas.

CONCLUSION

The feedback provided to State Government will contribute to the finalisation of a Transport Strategy, and ensure they are informed of the key areas to focus on for the City of Mount Gambier and our region.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Transport Strategy - Factsheet [**18.2.1** - 12 pages]
2. Proposed Submission - South Australian Government Transport Strategy [**18.2.2** - 4 pages]
3. Regional Public Transport Review - Submission by the City of Mount Gambier - March 2021 [**18.2.3** - 37 pages]





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Government of South Australia
Department for Infrastructure
and Transport

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Transport Strategy Overview

We're developing a Transport Strategy to shape the future of transport for the next 30 years.

Transport is essential to daily life for every South Australian. It plays a crucial role in enabling social, economic and environmental benefits and helps to drive growth and prosperity in our state.

As a South Australian, you have a chance to add your voice to the conversation by telling us what's important to you. Have your say and ensure we build a future that benefits many generations to come.

What is a Transport Strategy?

The Transport Strategy will outline the 30-year vision for the state's transport network, and will transform how people and goods move around the state.

It will set the overall direction for future transport planning and guide decisions on which projects to prioritise and invest in. It will help ensure that our transport network is ready for the future and that South Australia remains a great place to live and do business.

The strategy will cover all forms of transport, from cycling, driving and walking to public transport and freight.

It will also align to other key state priorities, like the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, so we can maximise the benefits of other changes happening in South Australia.

Why does South Australia need a Transport Strategy?

South Australia's economy, communities and environments are undergoing major changes due to global trends, state priorities and local preferences. The state's transport network faces several key challenges and opportunities, both now and in the future.

The Transport Strategy will provide a plan to ensure we are well prepared for the future and can make the most out of future opportunities.



This long-term strategic approach is driven by ten key drivers requiring action.



Our population is growing and changing

Our population is forecast to exceed two million people by 2041, alongside an increasing ageing population. To support this growth, greenfield housing development, particularly in the outer suburbs of Greater Adelaide, will continue to be a priority, alongside infill development.

Without action, the disparity between different segments of South Australia's population will continue to grow as the state's transport system will not support the diverse and changing needs of our communities and provide poor connectivity between residential and employment areas.

Our transport system needs to adapt to support this growth by providing reliable, accessible and equitable connections for all to maintain our liveability. Importantly, new growth areas will need to be adequately connected to ensure access to employment, services and leisure activities. A co-ordinated approach between transport infrastructure and land use planning is key.

Our population over 80 years of age is expected to double by 2041, especially in regional areas.



Our economy is transforming

Our economy is transforming, with emerging sectors like defence, space and renewable energy playing a critical role in diversifying the state's economy. Several major projects are set to reshape our economic landscape.

Without action, our transport system will be unable to effectively support the state's major projects and evolving economy. Under current operating conditions, our transport system will constrain the benefits of the anticipated economic transition for our state.

Our transport system needs to ensure efficient connections to new economic hubs, enabling the seamless movement of goods and workforce.

South Australia's Economic Statement sets a high ambition for the South Australian economy and aims to encourage growth that links our state's economy to global opportunities.



Our roads are becoming congested

We rely heavily on private vehicles as our predominant form of transport, leading to congestion on the road network. This is largely driven by the need for more public or active transport alternatives and because that's "how it's always been".

Without action, population growth will make our road network more congested, impacting the lifestyle we are accustomed to. Increased congestion will negatively impact our ability to achieve net zero targets and impact the liveability of our state.

Our transport system should enable a mode shift towards more sustainable transport options such as active and public transport to alleviate congestion and reduce transport emissions. It should incorporate appropriate facilities at the start and end of our journeys to improve the attractiveness of public and active transport alternatives.

South Australia has the second highest number of cars per person in Australia.



Connectivity for our regions is essential

Both inter and intra-regional connectivity challenges between key centres impacts liveability and employment choice, particularly for those of us who live outside of metropolitan Adelaide. Constraints in the current transport system is contributing to inequity between regional and metro areas.

Without action, these communities and economies in South Australia's regions will experience decreased access to opportunities and services. Poor connectivity to other parts of South Australia and interstate will constrain economic and liveability outcomes and limit the future performance of the state.

Our transport system should be underpinned by improved co-ordination of land use and transport planning to improve connectivity between key regional centres and the Adelaide CBD.

South Australia has a vast land area and relatively low population density, making it complex to meet service needs in an efficient way.



Our public transport network can do more

Our public transport network is complex. Competing priorities and varied demand constrain the ability to create a user-friendly and attractive public transport solution. Additionally, infrastructure constraints are limiting the expansion of the public transport network, particularly the heavy rail network, due to the configuration of Adelaide Railway Station.

Without action, the effort and investment already made in our public transport fleet and infrastructure network will not connect people to where they need to go, preventing us from realising the full potential and benefits for our state.

Our transport system should better connect public transport modes through improved passenger information for timetabled connections and integration across the system to make public transport more convenient and attractive. Our transport system should be responsive to customer preference, including working towards 'turn up and go' service delivery. Infrastructure constraints should be addressed to unlock our public transport system, particularly at key interchanges, to provide opportunities to increase rail services. The continued decarbonisation of our transport system will also be critical to achieving state and national net zero targets.

Only a small percentage of residents in South Australia are currently living within walking distance (400m) of a railway station.



Community safety is critical

Our road network faces ongoing safety challenges driven by interactions between private vehicles, freight vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. Active transport users also feel these concerns. Near misses continue to also be reported across our railways.

Without action, safety incidents will likely increase and use of active and public transport use will decline. This will reduce the overall performance of our transport system and negatively impact our liveability and economic performance.

Our transport system should continue to be underpinned by holistic safety improvements to reduce the interface and interchange risks and improve user experience on our roads, active, public and other transport networks. We should continue to support working towards zero lives lost, as well as ensuring that people feel and are safe on public transport, footpaths and cycleways.

Most South Australians don't currently feel safe cycling along direct routes.



Our supply chains need to be efficient and effective

Our freight network faces a range of challenges, from the operation of large, efficient heavy vehicles within congested metropolitan systems to operation over long distances in remote areas while reducing environmental impacts. This constrains the ability to effectively capitalise on the opportunities presented by economic transformation and growth across all parts of the state. Our supply chains need to operate safely and efficiently around the clock to support economic and population growth.

Without action, conflict between passenger and freight movements and urban encroachment on supply chain hubs such as ports and distribution centres will constrain exports and broader economic activity and reduce our national and global competitiveness.

Our transport system should support improved freight efficiency through increases in interventions that effectively manage freight/place conflicts and safety as well as deliver efficient connections to key production centres and the state's supply chain hubs.

Adelaide's urban road network currently plays an important role in facilitating the transportation of freight to and from key intermodals such as the Flinders Adelaide Container Terminal at Outer Harbor, Adelaide Freight Terminal and Adelaide Airport.



Our assets need to be resilient and appropriately maintained

The cost of asset maintenance and ensuring our infrastructure is resilient is increasing. This is driven by changing climatic conditions and increasing numbers of climate-driven emergencies and disruptions, increased traffic volumes, changing vehicle types and industry challenges such as pricing and availability of labour.

Without action, our transport system will be increasingly unaffordable to maintain, and its performance will decline. Without a dedicated focus on proactively improving the resilience of our infrastructure networks, closures and disruptions will increase in frequency, negatively impacting liveability and overall economic performance.

Our transport system should be underpinned by robust asset resilience and maintenance planning to improve the longevity of infrastructure and contribute to the transport system's broader sustainability, safety and performance.

Roads exceeding their 'useful life' lead to higher vehicle operating costs and longer travel times.



New technologies to enhance how we travel

Rapid advancements in technology are reshaping the transport sector globally. These include electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure, smart traffic management systems, data-driven infrastructure planning, artificial intelligence and the rise of digitally-enabled everyday activities. The adoption of these technologies is not only an opportunity to modernise but also to improve efficiency, safety and sustainability.

Without action, we risk lagging behind other regions in transport innovation, missing out on the benefits of improved service delivery and economic opportunities tied to technology driven industries.

Our transport system needs to be ready support the transition and integration of new and emerging technologies over time.

Customer-focused technology may help enable more seamless and personalised journeys.



Transport is central to achieving our net zero targets

Our transport sector is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the state, meaning we need to undergo a significant transformation to achieve net-zero targets. This means decarbonising public transport fleets, supporting the uptake of electric and alternative fuel vehicles, transitioning to sustainable infrastructure and minimising environmental impact. This transition will also create new economic opportunities in areas such as electric vehicle manufacturing, renewable energy infrastructure, and green jobs.

Without continuing action and a strong transport focus on net zero, we risk not achieving our climate goals and losing out on economic growth in green industries.

Our transport system should support integrating different fleet assets and more sustainable private vehicles effectively. An ongoing commitment to ensuring sustainable infrastructure, materials and assets should underpin our future transport system.

South Australia has committed to an at least 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.



How we'll use the Transport Strategy going forward

The Transport Strategy will set the overall vision for South Australia's transport network. It will guide how we develop the transport network, what we invest in and how we use innovations in technology into the future.

It will be supported by other planning documents that focus on specific parts of the transport network or certain areas of the state. The strategy will also work alongside projects and plans already underway.

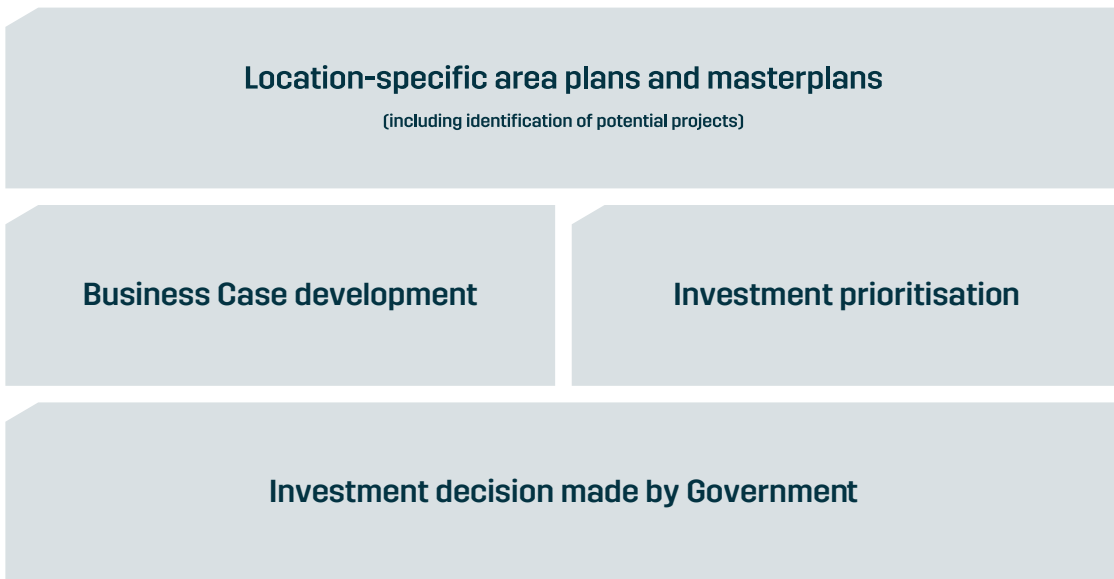
While the strategy won't list specific transport changes or upgrades, it will provide a clear roadmap for success, which will help us to better assess future projects and opportunities. We'll continue to identify key priority projects each year, and how they will be designed and built, as part of our regular planning. As always, we'll engage extensively with communities and stakeholders to inform this process.

The Transport Strategy will be supported by other strategies, plans and processes.

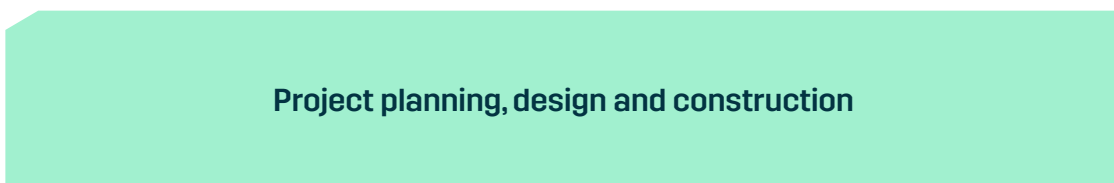
Engagement to inform strategies →



Engagement to inform location specific planning →



Engagement to inform project planning, design and construction →



Draft key elements of the Transport Strategy

We've learned a lot from South Australians in the past about our transport network, and we're using that knowledge, along with global trends and data, to shape a strategy for the future of our state.

Based on what we already know, we've drafted a vision statement, five draft key focus areas and 13 draft strategic responses to help shape the Transport Strategy.

Draft Vision Statement

The draft vision statement outlines how we see our transport future.

A transport system that transforms South Australia by enabling prosperity, sustainability and connectivity.

Draft Key Focus Areas

These focus areas outline what we want our transport system to be.

Connectivity and accessibility

How do we make it easier for people to get to their jobs, homes, schools, important services and leisure activities and for freight to get from its origin to destination?

Safety

How do we build a transport network which protects people's lives and keeps them safe while travelling?

Prosperity

How does our transport system improve productivity and help the economy grow?

Liveability

How do we make transport more inclusive and encourage healthier travel, to better support our wellbeing and quality of life?

Sustainability and resilience

How do we build an environmentally-friendly and financially sustainable transport network that future proofs our state?



Transport Strategy Overview • 9

Draft Strategic Responses

These strategic responses outline what we need to prioritise focusing on over the next 30 years.

Connectivity and accessibility

Enabling an integrated multimodal network:
Creating a transport system where various modes of transport are seamlessly connected, providing efficient and accessible transport options for all.

Enhancing regional connectivity:
Enhancing regional connectivity by improving the quality of services and providing greater choice in how people travel.

Delivering a connected and efficient freight network:
Developing a fit-for-purpose freight and supply chain network that provides efficient connectivity to serve an evolving transport task in South Australia.

Safety

Providing a safe transport system, working towards zero lives lost:
Enabling a safe transport system that focuses on the safe movement of people, reduces risk to users, and minimises harm from accidents.

Ensuring people are safe and confident when travelling:
Prioritising personal safety and security to foster an environment where all transport users feel safe, equally protected, and assured.

Prosperity

Improving links to economic opportunity:
Improving links to places of employment and economic opportunities including emerging industries such as technology, defence, and renewable energy.

Integrating transport with land use planning and growth trends:
Planning and developing transport infrastructure in line with urban growth planning to ensure a fit for purpose transport network.

Liveability

Enabling local living and placemaking:
Creating local environments that enhance community wellbeing and quality of life, through improved shared amenities and investment in healthy transport choices.

Supporting inclusive travel for all:
Delivering a transport system that is user-centric through easy-to-use and inclusive transport options aligned to diverse user needs.

Sustainability and resilience

Transitioning the transport system towards net zero:
Delivering a holistic approach to decarbonisation and environmental sustainability to meet South Australia's emission reduction targets and net zero pathway.

Providing a resilient network that is adaptable to change:
Delivering a resilient transport system that adapts to disruptions now and in the future.

Prioritising asset optimisation and value for money:
Making 'value for money' a primary focus, including how we build, manage and maintain the State's assets.

Have your say

We want your feedback to help us finalise the Transport Strategy.

- When you think about transport in our state, what is important to you?
- How do you think we should live 30 years from now?
- How should people and goods move around?

Understanding your transport priorities means we can design a better transport network.

Your opinion will be considered along with thousands of other South Australians to give us invaluable insight into what's right for our state.

You can provide feedback in two ways:

- Visit us at a live VR experience near you
- Have your say in our short survey.

Please provide your feedback by **Monday 16 December 2024.**

For further information visit transportstrategy.sa.gov.au

How your feedback will be used

To better understand how you move

By learning how you live, work and play, we can understand the strengths and challenges in our current system. We can plan for future travel patterns and options.

To shape the strategy

Your perspective will help us stay focused on making real, practical changes – changes which help our communities and businesses. You will be helping us decide what's most important.

To balance priorities

Your thoughts will help us find the middle ground between the desired outcomes for individuals, for our communities and for our state's economy. Your input will help us prioritise investment.

To tailor solutions

Whether you're a commuter, service provider or business, your point of view will be heard. That's how we will design an inclusive and practical system.

To help us finalise the strategy, we're asking everyone to contribute from everyday South Australians to local councils and business. Our aim is to make sure our transport network works for everyone.





Submission: South Australian Government Transport Strategy

City of Mount Gambier

The City of Mount Gambier welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the South Australian Government on the development of a Transport Strategy. We strongly support the implementation of a Transport Strategy to shape the future of transport for the next 30 years and beyond.

As the regional capital of South Australia, Mount Gambier has a resident population of 28,000 people and a regional population of over 130,000 from the Limestone Coast of South Australia and across the border in Southwestern Victoria. For this cross-border region, Mount Gambier serves as a critical access point for services, commercial trade and cultural activity.

Mount Gambier lies halfway between Adelaide and Melbourne and attracts many visitors each year who access our regional roads, as well as being utilised by our local community in their many travels between locations in our region.

Enhancing public transportation options and investing in infrastructure upgrades are top priorities for our Council. We wish to emphasise these important issues in our submission, as we continue to advocate for improvements in these services. However, a commitment from the South Australian Government is essential to realise these goals.

Public Transport Services - City Bus

In 2021, Council undertook a review of the existing model of the Mount Gambier City Bus service in response to a range of concerns raised by the community. The results were later used to inform a range of ongoing advocacy for much-needed improvements to the service.

The review found that the current public bus service:

- has operated in its current form for over 30 years, despite significant residential growth and expansion of the city during this period
- lacks service provision to key residential areas including entire pockets of residential development, some home to over 2000 households and 5000 residents
- provides limited service a number of supported accommodation facilities and retirement villages such as Hallmont Estate and Woodlands Grove with incorporate 452 residential properties alone
- does not allow adequate access employment and/or education facilities (e.g. TAFE SA and universities) given its restricted hours of operation (no services before 9am or evenings or weekends)
- does not adequately service key facilities such as the Mount Gambier Hospital or community services such as Foodbank, due to its restricted hours of operation and limited routes
- is inadequate as an attractive alternative for those who have other transport options due to infrequent schedules, one-way routes, poor connections across the city and limited operating times.

Furthermore, the service contributes to high levels of social exclusion experienced by those most vulnerable within the Mount Gambier due to:

- being the sole affordable transport option for a large representation of its users (surveys suggesting only one third of bus service passengers hold a valid driver's licence; and only 43% have regular access to a vehicle)
- being heavily relied upon by our refugee and migrant community (due to the challenges of obtaining an Australian drivers licence and/or the affordability of owning a vehicle), known to directly negatively influence retention within the region

- providing the sole affordable option for many people with mobility considerations including people living with a disability or utilising mobility aids as part of daily life
- restricting access to important social opportunities in the city, many of which occur in the evenings or on weekends
- failing to provide reasonable access to key community facilities such as the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre, the Crater Lakes precinct, Blue Lake Sports Park or Carinya Gardens Cemetery.

Council also notes the significant inequity in bus service funding between metropolitan and regional South Australia, with studies suggesting that Adelaide receives a \$273 per capita, compared with only \$40 per capita in regional areas. Council expects that the majority of this regional spend is absorbed within the conurbations of the Barossa Valley, inner Murray Mallee and the Fleurieu Peninsula.

With the rest of the country all spending over \$70 per head on regional public transport, this positions regional South Australia as significantly under-funded in comparison.

Regional South Australia currently lacks a population-based service commitment from the South Australian Government to guide the provision of equitable public transport services for all South Australians.

The current service model in Mount Gambier sits at less than the lowest benchmark outlined in the Bus Industry Confederation's (BIC) population benchmarks for regional town public transport service. As South Australia's most significant regional city with a population of around 28,000, the present service does not meet the service provision benchmark for a town of between 3000 to 6000 people.

Despite the provision of a range of submissions, our direct advocacy to Ministers of Parliament and detailed presentations to staff at the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, contracts for regional bus services were recently awarded across the state, extending a new 8-year contract for Mount Gambier without change or improvement.

Council continues to work collaboratively with Link SA to explore all opportunities to improve the service within the existing, and incredibly limited, funding footprint available. As no further funding has been forthcoming, a recent example of the challenges attached to this is the consideration to reduce services from a neighborhood which is rated at highest levels of disadvantage on the SEIFA index to extend a service to Mount Gambier Foodbank. This would not be acceptable in Metropolitan Adelaide and should not be deemed acceptable in South Australia's regional capital.

City of Mount Gambier acknowledges the leadership of the South Australian Government in the trial of alternative models of public transport such as the Future Mobility Lab and the ongoing provision of 'Keoride' in Mount Barker. Mount Gambier remains perfectly positioned, and a motivated collaborator, to trial models which are fit-for-purpose for our landscape and population.

Key Recommendations

Council calls on the South Australian Government through its Department of Infrastructure and Transport and the South Australian Public Transport Authority to:

1. Prioritise immediate improvements to the existing public transport model in Mount Gambier to build greater access throughout the city and reduce the existing levels of social disadvantage. At the very least, this includes:

- Extending services to key locations across the city currently underserved by the existing model.
 - Increasing services to include mornings, evenings and weekends to improve connections to employment and significantly reduce social exclusion.
2. Facilitate a review of public bus transport services in and around Mount Gambier to determine the provision of a fit-for-purpose and sustainable public transport model for our region, including the potential adoption of on-demand transport options.
 3. Prioritise Mount Gambier as a host location for any future transport related trials conducted in South Australia.
 4. Demonstrate a commitment to relieving transport poverty in regional South Australia through the provision of transparent, population based, service standards for areas of regional South Australia, benchmarked against national service levels.

Public Transport Services - Interstate, Intrastate and Regional Connectivity

Adding to the public transport challenges faced within Mount Gambier, connectivity for Mount Gambier residents within the broader state is also known to be slow, infrequent and comparatively expensive.

As a cross-border community, Mount Gambier is increasingly presented with transport systems that efficiently connect our residents with regional Victoria and Melbourne in a manner far superior than those offered within our own state.

At the time of writing this submission there were:

- 14 weekly buses departing Mount Gambier for Melbourne, via either Geelong or Ballarat at the maximum ticket price of \$10.60 per adult or \$5.30 for concession or child. Some fares are as low as \$7.20 per adult.
- 8 weekly buses departing Mount Gambier for Adelaide via Keith or Kington SE for the ticket price of \$88.20 per adult or \$44.10 for concession or child.

Within our own region, Mount Gambier serves as an important access point for key services, employment and social and cultural activity but lacks a regional public transport service that adequately connects our neighboring communities. Due to the significant limitations of services such as the Community Passenger Network within our region and the lack of any alternative public transport systems, in many townships, private transport remains the sole mode of accessing key services or social activities.

Council calls on the South Australian Government to consider:

1. the increasing gap in the frequency and cost of travel for regional South Australians compared to those in other states and territories across Australia; and
2. the non-existence of reliable public transport options to and from surrounding townships who rely on access to Mount Gambier for key services and social inclusion.

Rail Transport

The City of Mount Gambier also maintains an ongoing strategic commitment to the advocacy for rail-based infrastructure that builds better, more efficient, transport networks and connectivity for our region. The Council references studies undertaken by the RDALC in collaboration with the CSIRO which highlight the range of road maintenance cost savings, safety improvements and considerable economic and social benefits attached to the reinstatement of services that connect Mount Gambier to national rail networks.

Long-term planning for regional roads

An ongoing concern for the City of Mount Gambier is the continuous deterioration of State Government owned regional roads, not only in our city but the surrounding Limestone Coast

region. Many roads in our community are in a state of disrepair, which poses safety risks for all users. Access to reliable and efficient regional transport services is critical for fostering economic growth and ensuring equitable access to essential services.

Council has previously addressed these issues with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Council Officers also meet with representatives from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) on a regular 6 monthly basis and have raised these concerns.

Council formally wrote to DIT in August 2024 to continue advocating for improvements to the deteriorating condition of DIT owned regional roads. It was noted that Bay Road, White Avenue and Suttontown Road require priority upgrades. DIT have responded that state-maintained roads within the City of Mount Gambier are not listed under their current 2-year renewal program.

On 17 November 2023 DIT announced in a media release that *“world-first technology is being used to assess the condition of South Australia’s roads and ensure maintenance is carried out more efficiently across the state’s road network”*. An Intelligent Pavement Assessment Vehicle (iPAVE) was being deployed in South Australia to cover almost 400 roads, to provide data collection and guide long-term investment into regional roads. We have recently been advised by DIT that the iPAVE vehicle did not cover any regional roads within the City of Mount Gambier.

Stormwater management on regional roads also needs to be addressed. There are over 100 side entry pits on DIT roads within our city area that require ongoing maintenance and upgrades. At the intersection of Jubilee Highway and Crouch Street there is ongoing flooding issues. There are also drainage issues along White Avenue and although some work has been undertaken by DIT, this issue remains. An assessment of these two locations needs to be prioritised to determine if the bore capacity is not suitable and upgrades are required.

We are aware that DIT is currently preparing an Asset Management Plan and Council have requested a copy of this be made available to our Council upon its completion. Council would like to understand what the future investment is for road renewal in Mount Gambier, regardless of what funding is available.

We urge you to prioritise upgrades to existing assets in the Strategy to ensure safe and efficient travel within and beyond our region. Investing in our road structure will not only enhance safety but also support local businesses and improve overall quality of life.

Sarah PHILPOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



City of
Mount Gambier

Regional Public Transport Review

Submission by the City of Mount Gambier
March 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following submission is to be considered as part of the South Australian Public Transport Authority's (SAPTA) review of existing regional bus services, including the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service. Mount Gambier is the major centre for the Limestone Coast and services a regional population of over 100,000 people. With a population of over 27,000 the City of Mount Gambier is a thriving, community with residents enjoying a quality lifestyle with city facilities and services.

The City of Mount Gambier has not evaluated the Mount Gambier public Bus Service since 2005. Over the past five years, Council has undertaken a range of community consultation activities associated with the delivery of a Youth Engagement Strategy, Cultural and Heritage Plan and Modern Ageing in Mount Gambier Programming Review. Each of these initiatives incorporated a range of surveys, interviews, group presentations and roundtable workshops and involved the participation of 1,500 people who live in, or access, Mount Gambier.

In each of the consultations, participants identified public transport improvement as a key focus area for Council. Specifically, participants highlighted the need for:

- A review of City bus public transport systems (routes, timetables, etc);
- Greater consideration regarding accessibility of existing services;
- Improved capacity for the service to cater for those who need access to the city before 9am and after 5pm such as employees; and
- Greater access to and from major events, tourist and cultural attractions and local services such as education, health and accommodation providers.

As a result of the above, Council identified the need to review the current public transport service provided within Mount Gambier, with a particular focus on the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service. The Review investigated:

- levels of public satisfaction with existing services;
- strengths, weaknesses and gaps within existing transport models;
- opportunities for improvement;
- accessibility of existing services; and
- planning, infrastructure and sustainability considerations for Council.

The evidence collected through Council's review, strongly highlights the importance of the public bus service to the most vulnerable members of our community. The Mount Gambier Public Bus Service provides the only affordable mode of transport to socially disadvantaged sections of our community, particularly migrants, unemployed, seniors and those with accessibility considerations. The findings of the City of Mount Gambier's Public Bus Service review identified a significant disparity between the services offered to comparative communities elsewhere in Australia (and those in metropolitan Adelaide). Further, the current Mount Gambier Public Bus Service is inadequate and does not meet the needs or expectations of the community. The deficiencies within Mount Gambier's public transport system contributes to greater levels of inequality and social isolation within the community. This is supported by research undertaken by academic such as Stanley, Stanley and Hensher (see reference list for works)

Throughout the City of Mount Gambier's review, it was repeatedly demonstrated that public transport should not be considered solely for its immediate function, but more broadly as a significant contributor to the building of social capital within the community. A strong public transport system reduces social isolation, supports improved physical and mental health, assists in enabling employment, encourages

active citizenship and genuine connection within our community. Many respondents to the City of Mount Gambier review, expressed feelings of exclusion from community spaces and events, particularly on evenings and weekends or in accessing locations outside of the existing routes. Research shows that strong public transport systems provide benefits such as:

- Reducing disadvantage - connecting people with employment, education and health care;
- Supporting local economies; and
- Improving social inclusion (connecting friends, family and recreational activities).

Drawing on the Case Study of Regional Transport Models presented in a report prepared by the Bus Industry Confederation (BIC, 2017), it was noted that the current Mount Gambier Public Bus Services does not meet the service provision benchmark for a town that has a population size of 3,000 to 6,000 people. Given that Mount Gambier's population is in excess of 20,000, and that the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service has not been reviewed or modified for over 30 years, one of the key recommendations for the SAPTA Regional Public Transport Review is that the entire Mount Gambier Public Bus Service be evaluated and improved to meet the BIC benchmark, community needs and expectations.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this submission is to inform the South Australia Public Transport Authority (SAPTA) of the current status of the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service (existing SAPTA funded public transport service) from the perspectives of its users and other key stakeholders and the City of Mount Gambier. This submission forms part of the SAPTA Regional Public Transport Review and provides the findings of the City of Mount Gambier's own review of the current public bus transport service within Mount Gambier.

During 2020 both Troy Bell MP and the Hon Clare Scriven MLC lobbied for a review of all regional and township bus services, to identify how services to regional residents can best be provided, and potentially provide additional funding for regional bus services to extend their services where needed. It is acknowledged SAPTA is undertaking a review of existing regional bus services, which includes identifying opportunities to:

- Improve efficiency and sustainability of services;
- establish new contracting models; and
- develop an Integrated Transport Framework to guide future planning and delivery of regional bus services.

Given the economic and social importance of regional South Australia, it is vital that regional communities remain vibrant and sustainable, with access to efficient, affordable and sustainable transport connections. Regional public transport bus services are managed by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). Under this arrangement, the various bus services are provided by a range of contractors within the regional locations, including Mount Gambier. As highlighted in this report, public transport is integral to the achievement of social inclusion. A quality transport system increases equitable access to housing, education, employment, health care and social engagement, enhancing the wellbeing of Mount Gambier's community.

While the City of Mount Gambier does not directly provide transport services, it remains a key player as an advocator, provider of infrastructure and holistic strategic planning which considers the current and future needs of Mount Gambier. During 2020, the City of Mount Gambier undertook a review of the current Mount Gambier Public Bus Service. Prior to the 2020 review, the last assessment of Mount Gambier's public transport services occurred in 2005.

The City of Mount Gambier's review of the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service identified that currently, the service provides:

- General access to the Mount Gambier CBD across three looped routes.
- Services are only provided Monday to Friday from 9am to 5.15pm.
- The service consists of two buses, rotating between the three looped routes, generally on the hour. Services are paused or altered to allow for driver lunch breaks and the afternoon school service.
- School bus service consists of twice-daily transport, exclusively for students on 3-4 separate routes connecting all schools within Mount Gambier.
- We know that disadvantage in access to quality public transport impacts those who are already the most vulnerable within our community. With over 80% of passengers in 2019 being non-student concessions, the current service is heavily relied upon by those with no alternative transport options.
- The sentiment of the community in describing the service as inadequate, is backed up by the regional public transport services benchmark, developed by Bus Industry Confederation

(2017). The BIC benchmark indicates that the current Mount Gambier Public Bus Service is providing a service that is below the benchmark for a town that has a population of less than 3,000 people.

- While public transport services are funded and managed by the South Australian Government, the City of Mount Gambier remains the provider of associated infrastructure and retains an important role in advocating for the current and future needs of Mount Gambier.
- The current standard of Council's public bus service infrastructure may not demonstrate a commitment to a high-quality public transport services within Mount Gambier.

It is acknowledged that, despite Mount Gambier continuing to evolve and grow as a city, the structure and functionality of the service has remained largely unchanged for the past 30 years. As a result, increasingly, the service is falling short in its capacity to provide a suitable public transport option for the needs and interests of the Mount Gambier community.

The findings from Council's review has ensured the City of Mount Gambier can provide SAPTA with an informed representation about Mount Gambier Public Bus Service, as well as recommendations to improve the current basic service.

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER – PERFECTLY CENTRED

Mount Gambier is the major centre for the Limestone Coast and services a regional population of over 100,000 people. With a population of over 27,000 people the City of Mount Gambier is a thriving, community with residents enjoying a quality lifestyle with city facilities and services, many attractions, shopping and entertainment. Mount Gambier is surrounded by volcanic craters, lakes, limestone and underground aquifers and productive agricultural land.

Famous for the 'Blue Lake', Mount Gambier also boasts beautiful parks and gardens, caves and sinkholes. An interesting mix of café's and eateries, galleries, public art and outdoor events provide an insight into the culture and arts of the City. The broader Limestone Coast region hosts a diverse range of visitor experiences such as tuna fishing, wine tasting, adventure activities (cave diving, mountain biking, 4-wheel driving), hiking in volcanic areas and camping. The Limestone Coast region's economy is based on primary production, including horticulture/viticulture, dairy farming, forestry and associated processing and fishing.

The City of Mount Gambier is robust and aspirational in its endeavours. In the last 10 years, it's led several multi-million-dollar capital projects including the redevelopment of its Library, Gallery and Civic Precinct as well as a transformation of an unused rail corridor into award winning, high quality public amenity. The delivery of Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre – a \$57m multi-purpose, all weather, intergenerational facility for Mount Gambier is one of the largest infrastructure projects ever undertaken in the region and is due to open in Autumn 2022.

The population of Mount Gambier is growing. Over the past 6 years (2014-2019) Mount Gambier has experienced a growth rate of +4.24% (565 persons). Overall, this represents an average annual population change of +0.70% per year. The age structure of the City of Mount Gambier highlights the diversity we must achieve with service provision and resources. The 2016 Census shows the median age is 40 years with almost one-third of Mount Gambier's population being in the 0-24 year old age group (32.4%).

The number of recent arrivals in the area has continued to increase. The evolving groups for change in the reported ancestries and overseas place of birthplace include India and Myanmar. As the makeup of the local community changes it is recognised that public transport services need to also evolve.

Within the Mount Gambier local government area there is a large disparity in socioeconomic status. 28% of residents in Mount Gambier hold a Pensioner Concession Card or a HealthCare Card from Centrelink, this is lower than the Regional SA level. A summary measure of disadvantage is the Index of Relative Disadvantage (IRSD), this is one of four Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA's). Mount Gambier has an overall disadvantage score of 925, compared to 979 for South Australia. Mount Gambier has the highest level of disadvantage when compared to the other Limestone Coast Council areas. In the 2020 March quarter, Mount Gambier had an unemployment rate of 6.2%, 1% higher than the national average.

During the last Census, almost 12% of 15-24 year old age group were disengaged with either work or education in Mount Gambier. Approximately 14% of the 16 year old age group in Mount Gambier were not participating in full-time secondary education, notably lower than the regional South Australia level of 17%.

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER STRATEGIC APPROACH TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The City of Mount Gambier was last actively involved in the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service through shared funding arrangement between the Provincial Cities Association and the State Government until December 2004. Since this time, the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service has been fully funded by the State Government.

Through its Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the City of Mount Gambier aspires to be "*an inclusive city where people lead fulfilling lives*". Having an appropriate and accessible public transport service forms one essential element of achieving this vision.

In Mount Gambier, the public bus transport service provides the only affordable mode of transport to socially disadvantaged sections of the community, particularly migrants, unemployed, seniors and those with accessibility considerations. Whilst Council is not responsible for the financing or operation of the public bus service, Council has a role as service provider and owner/custodian (for example, through the provision of bus stop infrastructure), information provider/promoter, initiator/facilitator, advocate and partnerships. Strategic Plan goals specific to the public bus transport service include the following:

Goal 1- Our People

- 1.2 Community growth: We foster a sense of community by encouraging and supporting participation in community life.
- 1.3 Sense of community: The community grows in real terms at a rate that helps sustain and grow the services available within the City and for the region.
- 1.4 Care for the community : We will develop our service offering to the community to ensure all members have access to required levels of support .

Goal 2 - Our Location

- 2.1 Infrastructure development and managing our current assets: We will commence work on meeting the community's aspirations for future infrastructure development, whilst managing our existing infrastructure and assets in a manner that demonstrates the pride we take in our environment.
- 2.3 The Crater Lakes Precinct and other areas of tourism potential: We will work with the community to investigate options that enable the Council to capitalise on the Crater Lakes Precinct and other areas of tourism potential.
- 2.5 Focusing on activation, revitalisation and placemaking in our CBD: We will look to create opportunity in our CBD for all year-round activation through effective placemaking and place shaping, making it a vibrant, cohesive and safe place.

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

- 4.2 Open Space: We will ensure that future growth is planned in a manner that provides access to, and does not detract from, the community's environmental values.
- 4.4 Recreational and cultural pursuits: We will ensure that community members are provided with opportunities for cultural growth and development through provision of innovative services and programs.

Goal 5 - Our Commitment

Improvements to the Public Bus Service align with principles within the City of Mount Gambier's Disability Action and Inclusion Plan; Regional Public Health Plan; Reconciliation Action Plan; Public Art Strategy; Cultural and Heritage Plan; and Youth Engagement Plan.

MOUNT GAMBIER PUBLIC BUS SERVICE

Mount Gambier has maintained a fixed route public bus transport system for over 60 years. The current service has been in place for 30 years and is currently contracted to Mount Gambier Buslines (previously Buslink SA, McCormicks). The current contract for the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service expires on 30 April 2021. Mount Gambier Buslines utilises a fleet of five 42 seat buses; two of which are ex-Adelaide Metro buses (passenger use expires in March/April 2021) and three buses which were purchased new.

The Mount Gambier Bus Service provides a five day per week operation (Monday to Friday) offering three different loops, traversing various sectors of Mount Gambier from the North East, North West and South East. Each loop commences and terminates in Ferrers Street at the bus stop opposite the new Aldi/Coles shopping complex. Services run on the hour from 9:00am to approximately 5:15pm. The service does not operate on weekends or Public Holidays. The service consists of two buses, which rotate between three looped routes. Services are paused or altered to allow for driver lunch breaks and the afternoon school service. The school service consists of twice-daily transport exclusively for students on 3-4 separate routes connecting all schools within Mount Gambier. Maps identifying the current public bus service routes are shown in Appendix 1.

Ticket prices have largely remained unchanged and are shown in Image 1. It is noted that during COVID, the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service has not charged patrons to use the service.

Image 1: Current pricing schedule for the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service

	SINGLE	DAYTRIP	MULTI-TRIP
Adult	\$2.20	\$5.00	\$17.20
Adult Concession	\$1.10	\$2.50	\$8.60
Student	\$1.10	\$2.50	\$8.60
TPI/Blind	-	Free	-

*Contractor has advised that prices are due to rise in 2021.

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Table 1 highlights the type and number of patrons from 2013 until part way through 2020. Pensioners have remained the largest group accessing the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service. The number of pensioners utilising the service has remained steady through the time period. The second highest patrons’ group are the seniors group. Overall, patron numbers began to decline in 2014, however have increased since 2019.

Table 1: Mount Gambier Public Bus Service patron numbers 2013-2020*

Passenger Numbers – General Public

	Patronage	Patronage	Patronage	Patronage	Patronage	Patronage	Patronage	
	Child <15 years	Pensioner	Regular/ Adult	Seniors	Student >15yrs	Primary/	Unemployed	Total
2013	3125	26768	4336	5553	2905	0	1396	44083
2014	2544	29507	3695	3582	3237	0	458	43023
2015	2269	27897	2951	2243	2975	680	174	39189
2016	2061	26032	3778	2331	2661	520	23	37406
2017	2159	26038	4106	2670	2315	201	153	37642
2018	2465	22554	5335	2688	2022	120	196	35380
2019	1716	26080	4916	3513	1537	240	242	38244
2020	841	10803	1213	1388	438	0	62	

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(*note: 2020 numbers are skewed due to COVID and data only being provided for the first half of 2020)

Table 2 details the type and number of students who have utilised the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service from 2013, until part way through 2020. Students aged over 15 years are the dominant user group of the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service. This may reflect the large number of migrant students who access the Mount Gambier TAFESA campus.

Table 2: Mount Gambier Public Bus Service student patron numbers 2013-2020*

Passenger Numbers – Student Service

	Patronage	Patronage	Patronage	
	Child <15 years	Student >15yrs	Primary/ Secondary Student	TOTAL
2013	33,602	25,183	4,480	63265
2014	28,942	23,273	6,520	58735
2015	25,877	24,911	3,565	54353
2016	31,182	22,568	11,040	64790
2017	30,282	20,437	10,640	61359
2018	30,230	20,256	7,240	57726
2019	26,934	19,554	8,160	54648
2020	3,705	7,001	2,080	12786

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(*note: 2020 numbers are skewed due to COVID and data only being provided for the first half of 2020)

NEED FOR REVIEW

As highlighted, the City of Mount Gambier has not evaluated the Mount Gambier public Bus Service since 2005. Over the past five years, Council has undertaken a range of community consultation activities associated with the delivery of a Youth Engagement Strategy, Cultural and Heritage Plan and Modern Ageing in Mount Gambier Programming Review. Each of these initiatives incorporated a range of surveys, interviews, group presentations and roundtable workshops and involved the participation of 1,500 people who live in, or access, Mount Gambier.

In each of the consultations, participants identified public transport improvement as a key focus area for Council. Specifically, participants highlighted the need for:

- A review of City bus public transport systems (routes, timetables, etc);
- Greater consideration regarding accessibility of existing services;
- Improved capacity for the service to cater for those who need access to the city before 9am and after 5pm such as employees; and
- Greater access to and from major events, tourist and cultural attractions and local services such as education, health and accommodation providers.

As a result of the above, Council identified the need to review the current public transport service provided within Mount Gambier, with a particular focus on the City Bus service. The Review investigated:

- levels of public satisfaction with existing services;
- strengths, weaknesses and gaps within existing transport models;
- opportunities for improvement;
- accessibility of existing services; and
- planning, infrastructure and sustainability considerations for Council.

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER PUBLIC BUS SERVICE REVIEW

The review included an online engagement page on "Have Your Say Mount Gambier", with a survey for users and potential users; a submission form for businesses/organisations; and a mapping tool to capture information about specific sites throughout Mount Gambier.

Council's Community Engagement staff also provided hardcopy surveys; phone interviews; direct engagement with public bus users; and interviews with contractor and key stakeholder groups. The community engagement process ran from October to December 2020. Throughout the community engagement Council engaged with the following groups:

Mount Gambier Buslines

- Management
- Bus driver interviews

Health Care

- Mount Gambier Hospital
- Country Health Connect
- Hawkins Medical Clinic

Residential/Retirement Facilities

- Boandik Lodge
- Woodlands Grove
- Hallmont Estate

- Eureka Residential Village

Education

- TAFESA
- University of South Australia

Community Services sector

- Foodbank SA
- Migrant Resource Centre
- Red Cross Limestone Coast
- ac.care
- Pangula Mannamurna Aboriginal Corporation

Business/Tourism

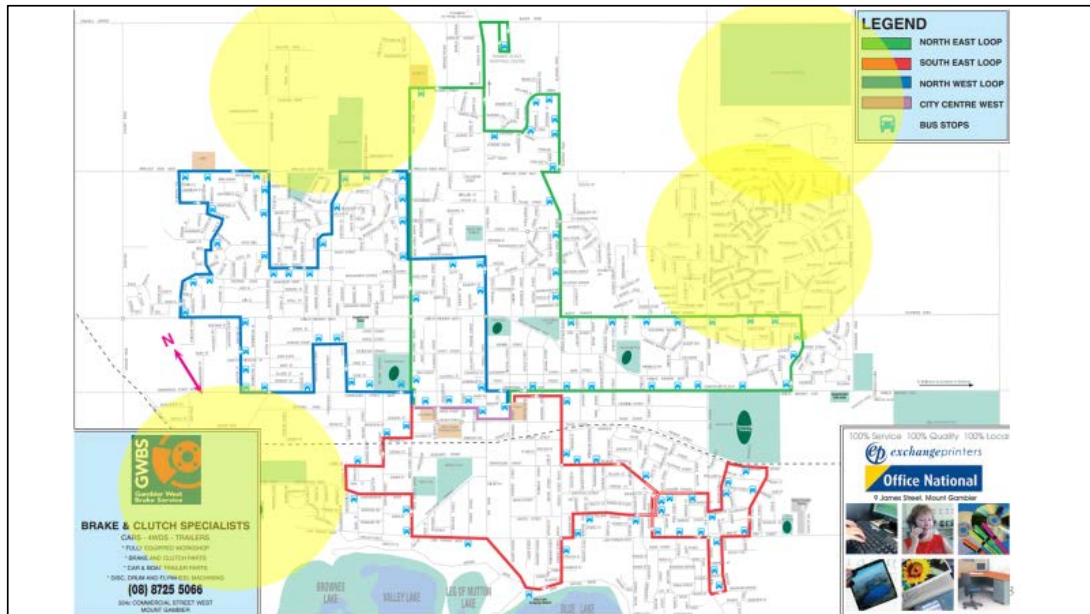
- Limestone Coast Tourist Park
- Mount Gambier Central Mount Gambier Marketplace

As a result of the engagement process:

- 89 digital and 7 handwritten survey responses were received;
- 18 separate interviews with individuals or key stakeholders were held;
- Written submissions were received;
- Participation of service providers and representatives across health care, residential facilities, education, community services sector, business and tourism;
- A workshop with the Limestone Coast Inclusion Reference Group; and
- Meetings and interviews with funding body (DIT) and contractor including bus drivers and management.
- Presentation to the City of Mount Gambier Executive Team.
- Presentation to the City of Mount Gambier elected members.
- Participation in the Limestone Coast Leadership Program 'Moving People around the Limestone Coast' Forum.

Mount Gambier has experience significant growth in its peri urban areas, these growth areas are identified in Map 1. Mount Gambier will continue to experience growth in these areas, particularly in the north east and north west areas.

Map 1: Key growth areas within Mount Gambier



A desktop review identified areas of interest, including recreation areas and facilities, tourism assets and other key locations with the City. As noted on Map 2, none of these facilities currently have access to the public bus service. There is currently one bus stop located at the Blue Lake, however the bus stop is not well sign posted or identified.

Map 2: location of key recreation facilities, tourism assets and other locations within Mount Gambier



Through the "Have Your Say" engagement, 47% of survey respondents currently use the public bus transport service. The survey results revealed:

- 63% of respondents held a valid driver's licence; whereas
- Only 33% of current bus users held a valid driver's licence.
- 70% of respondents owned or had regular access to a vehicle; however
- Only 43% of current bus users owned or had regular access to a vehicle.
- 58% of respondents were currently employed; whilst
- 40.5% of current bus users are employed.
- 33% of respondents travel with young children; similarly
- 31% of current bus users travel with young children.
- 23% of respondents identified as living with a disability; and
- 38% of current bus users identified as living with a disability.
- 16% of respondents regularly provide care for someone with a disability; whilst
- 19% of current bus users regularly provide care for someone with a disability.
- 15% of respondents travel with someone who uses a mobility aid; whereas
- 24% of current bus users travel with someone who uses a mobility aid.

Mount Gambier's Public Bus service, services the most vulnerable members of our community. For example in 2019, over 80% of bus users were non-student concessions. The survey results highlighted those respondents who were utilising the public bus service, did so to access medical and welfare services (71%), shopping (69%), attend education (26%), attend professional services (26%), entertainment and recreation (24%), visiting family and friends (21%), employment (16%) and to attend sporting activities (2%).

Whilst the environmental benefits of public transport are widely documented, there have been no specific environmental implications provided or defined in relation to the City of Mount Gambier Public Bus Transport Service review. However, the survey results revealed that 92% of respondents agreed that 'the City Bus Service provides an environmentally friendly alternative to driving a vehicle'.

The following images provide a graphic snapshot of the findings from the City of Mount Gambier Bus Service survey.

Image 2: Overview of survey results – of those who chose to respond

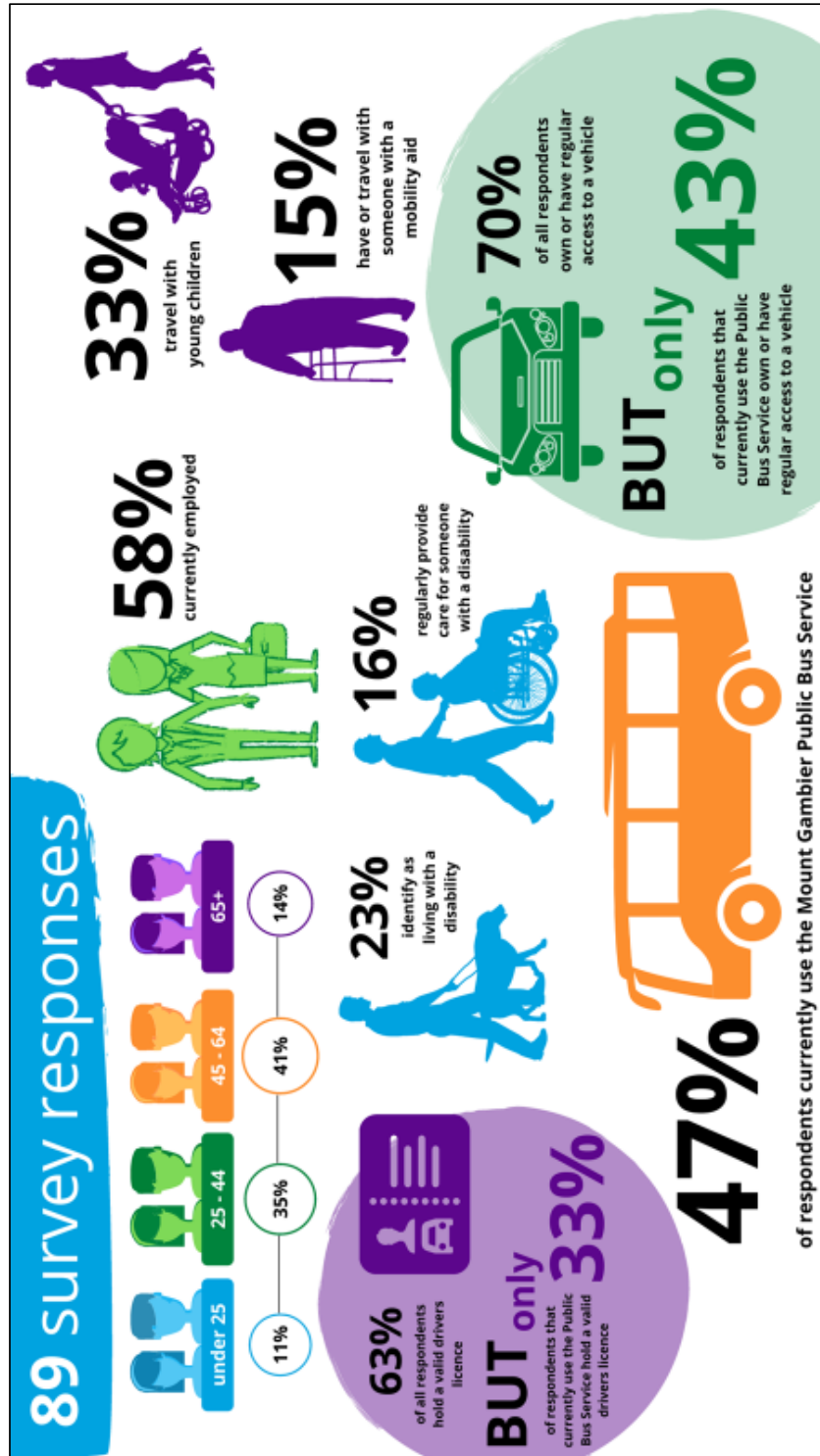


Image 3: Overview of Mount Gambier Public Bus Service usage – of those who chose to respond

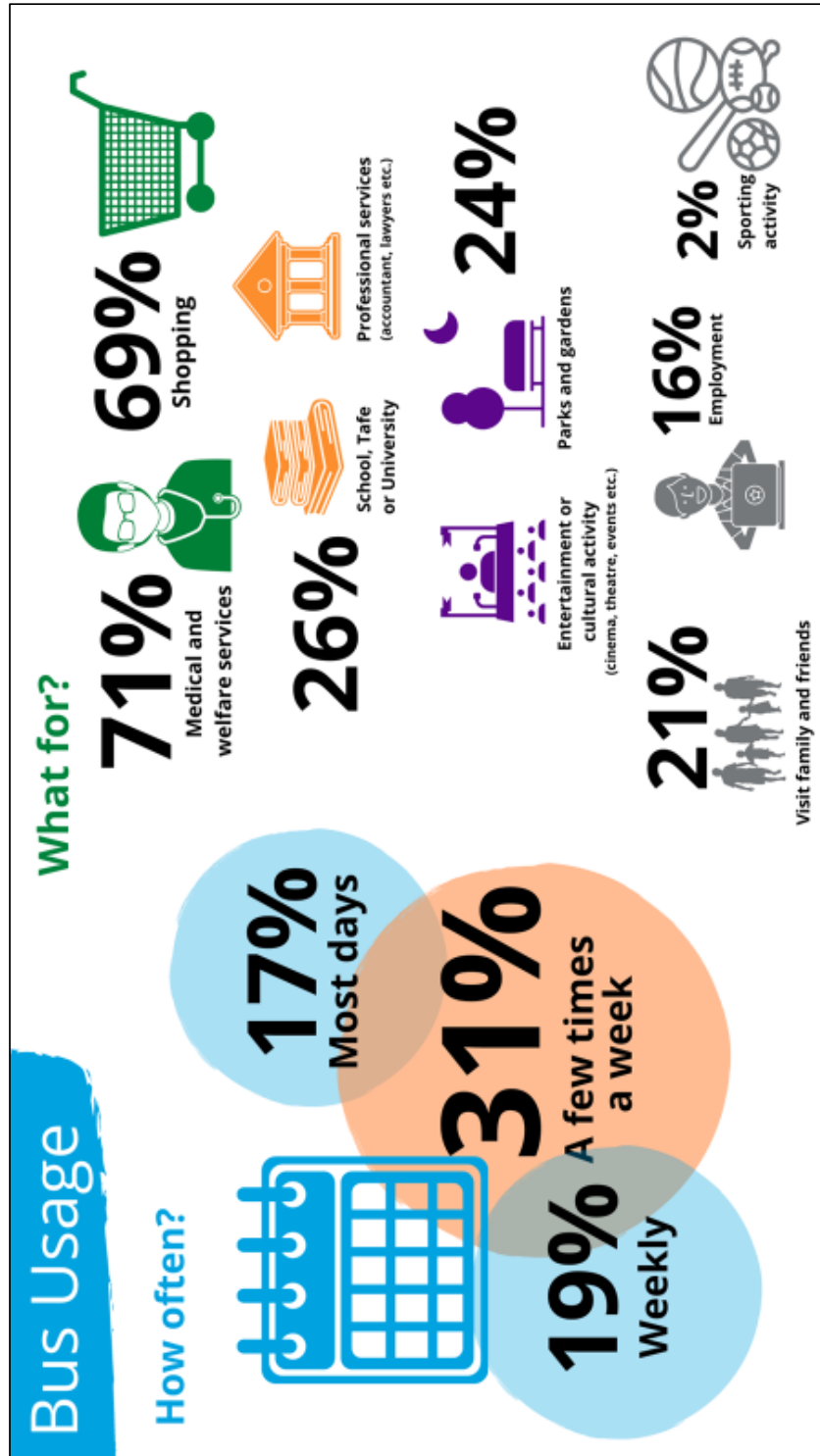


Image 4: Of those who answered the following question - Is a quality public bus service important to the Mount Gambier community?

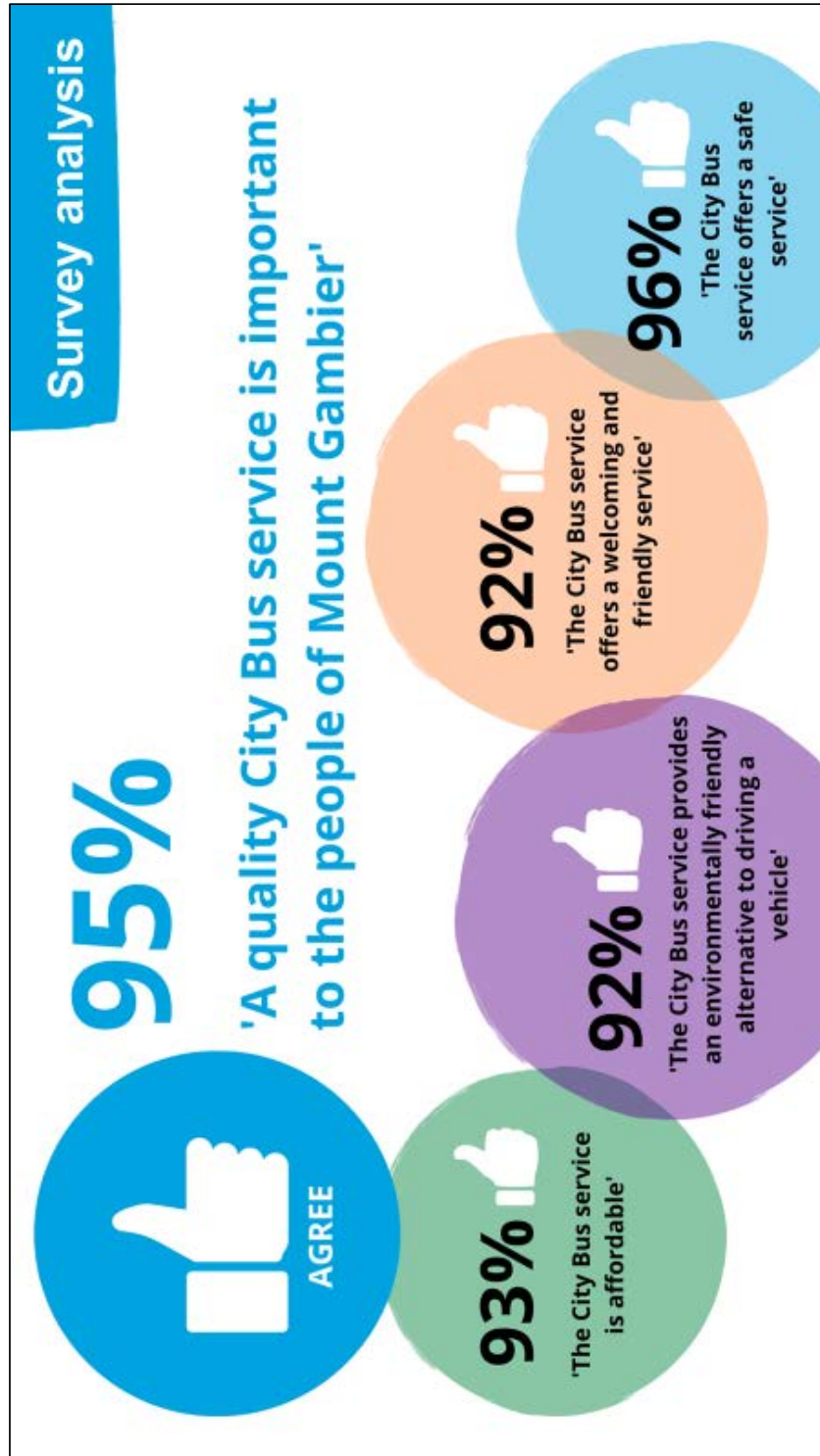


Image 5: Of those who answered the following question - Does the current public bus service fulfil Mount Gambier's public transport needs?

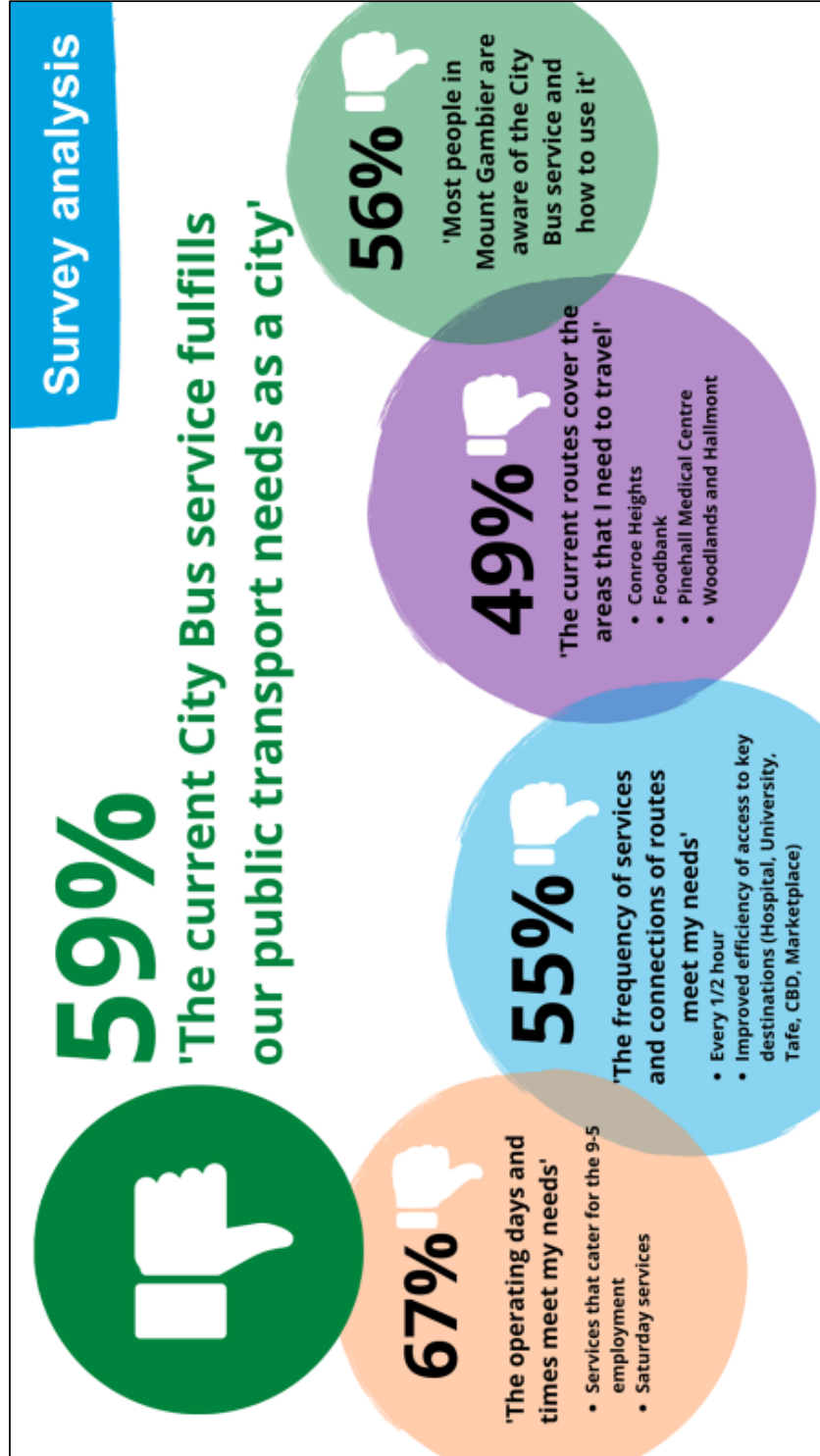
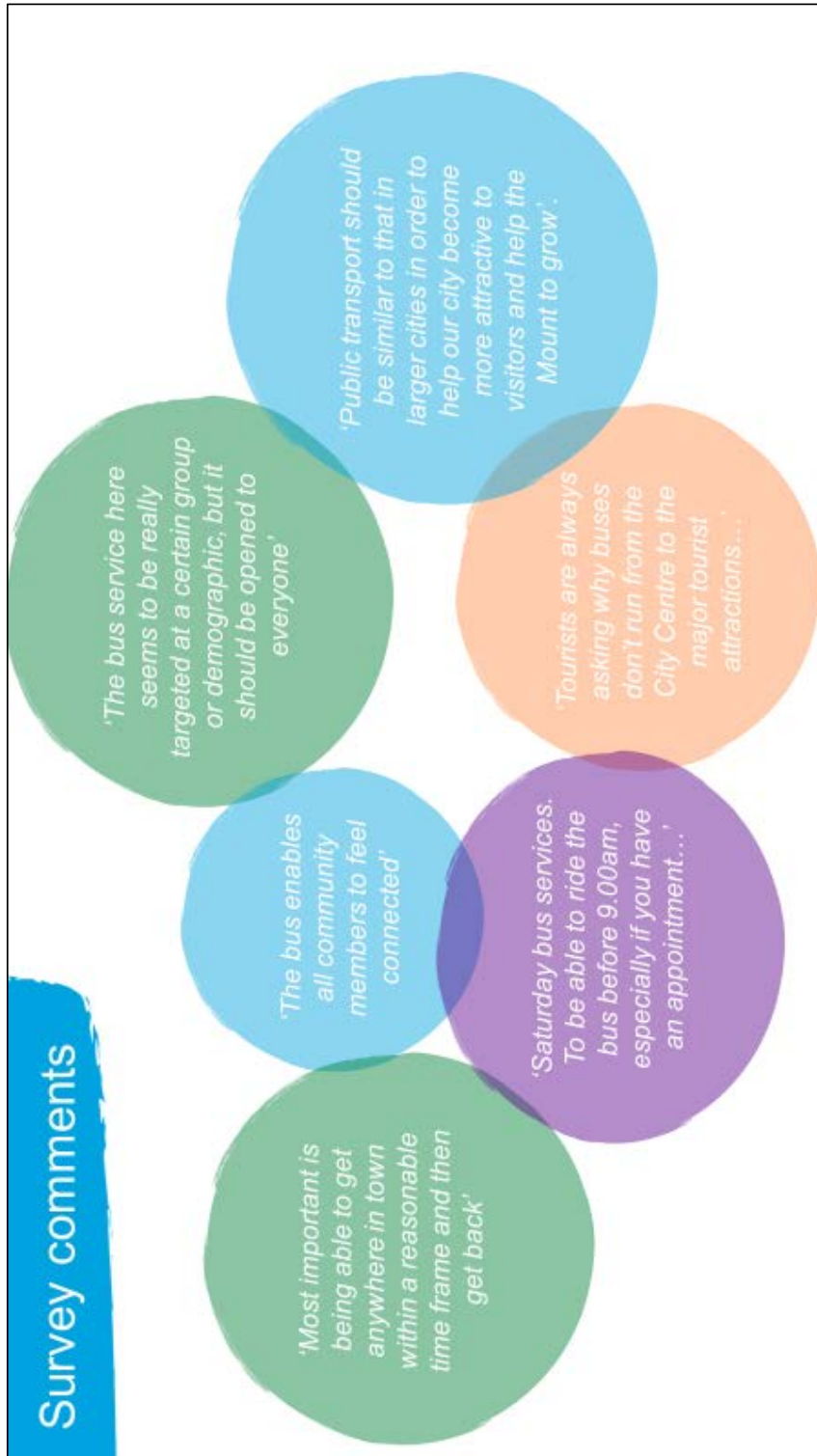


Image 6: Comments from survey respondents



Through a number of interviews with community members and public bus services users, it was found that many felt isolated as they were unable to access a range of services, events and spaces within Mount Gambier. For example,

- Closest bus stop to Foodbank is on Shelton Street, approximately 800m away from Foodbank.
- Recreational spaces which have significant social and cultural value (such as Valley Lakes and Umpherston Sinkhole) are not accessible via the current public bus service.
- Key domestic tourism infrastructure such as the Airport, and the Bus Terminal at the Lady Nelson Visitor and Tourist Information Centre are not serviced by the current public bus service.
- There is a demand from the community to provide special services to improve access to community events (e.g. Fringe, Christmas Parade, etc).

The following paragraphs present several case studies that were provided by a range of people who participated in Council's community engagement process. Participants provided valuable information regarding the suitability and accessibility of the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service.

Hallmont Estate Residents Committee Chair explained that the closest bus stop to the Woodlands and Hallmont Estates was approximately 950 metres away in Allison Street (south of the Mount Gambier hospital). Whilst the residents association bus runs a service from the Estates to the Mount Gambier CBD, there are particular challenges in accessing the Mount Gambier Marketplace, supported accommodation facilities (e.g. Boandik Lodge, Resthaven) and Carinya Gardens Cemetery.

"There's 175 houses in Hallmont and a further 248 houses in Woodlands, that's possibly up to 600 residents, all aged 55 or over, who are without accessible public transport. A stop adjacent to the roundabout on Woodlands Drive would provide access to both of these communities"

A member of Limestone Coast Inclusion Group who is visually impaired and is supported by a guide dog, resides in the south east corner of the City of Mount Gambier. The closest bus stop to this participant is 1Km away. The participant explained that appropriate space for their guide dog on the bus, is usually taken up by prams. Further, a 15 minute medical appointment took the participant 5 hours to complete the trip on the current public bus service.

"A recent visit to the Mount Gambier Hospital for a 15 minute appointment took me 5 hours to complete. I missed the return bus by 1 minute, resulting in needing to sit in the cold for an hour until the next bus...further...I have secured a job which requires me to attend UniSA for remote online induction and training. This training starts at 9:00am each day and the first bus that is available to me doesn't arrive until 10:15am – and is a journey that would take me an hour each way".

A second member of the Limestone Coast Inclusion Group has limited energy and often requires a wheelchair. This participant has found that many bus stops have inadequate infrastructure, therefore finds that they have to access the service and the buses by using private driveways, as some stops have no verge or stable ramp foundations. Further a lack of seating and shelters at bus stops creates spaces that are not user-friendly or accessible. This participant also noted that limited accessibility related details shown on the bus service website makes it difficult for them to confidently plan a journey on the service.

"A lack of services on the weekend and after hours means that people with mobility issues are often excluded from cultural or social activity in the city".

Based on the findings from Council's public bus service review, there are significant cultural implications associated with public transport service provision within Mount Gambier. One example being the impact that current public bus service provisions have on Mount Gambier's migrant population who are overrepresented within existing passenger numbers due to a lack of alternative transport options. A representative from the Mount Gambier Migrant Resource Centre explained that refugees have a heavy reliance on public transport in Mount Gambier. As a result, refugees within Mount Gambier are particularly at risk of transport disadvantage, which impacts upon their access to education (e.g. attending TAFE to undertake English classes; attend primary and high school) and health services.

"To simplify things we attempt to find housing for migrant on the loop which directly accesses TAFE. More recently this has not been positive due to housing shortages and many new arrivals are spending much of their day transiting or walking. Often they get fed up with this and it can contribute to some families leaving as soon as they can".

An unemployed youth participant highlighted,

"Definitely need busses for working people to get to work on weekends. My daughter lives in town, we don't drive and she is on her L's and needs to get to the Marketplace of weekends which can be very expensive by cab if raining or hot".

Reducing social isolation is known to have broader societal benefits such as lowering crime rates, reducing unemployment, reduced health costs etc. For public transport to have an impact on social inclusion benefits that are equal to service costs, services only need a boarding rate of 7 passengers per hour (Stanley and Hensher, 2011).

As part of the community engagement process, interviews were held with the current Mount Gambier Public Bus Services contractor and bus drivers. These interviews provided valuable information about the "on-the-ground" experiences of those working within the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service. The contractor acknowledged that service could be significantly improved, as the service continues to be a 'fill in' for drivers between the daily school services. The contractor also highlighted that engagement with Council had gradually reduced since withdrawal of the Provincial Cities funding. The contractor highlighted the following challenges currently experienced in relation to the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service:

- Language barriers often create challenges in providing service to migrants
- Route timings are tight. Therefore, this limits the opportunities for drivers to explain timetable or routes information or assist patrons.
- There is often confusion for patrons trying to navigate the service (e.g. materials, lack of bus stop numbers, online presentation, suspension of service for lunch and school service runs impacting on the timetable).
- Tree branches overhanging bus stops.
- Some bus shelters are in very poor condition.
- Accessibility for patrons (e.g. unsuitable bus stop infrastructure).
- Inconsistency in location of bus stops, signage, timetables.
- Lack of policing of existing bus zones to improve safety and access particularly around schools and busy areas.

"In an ideal world, my customers wouldn't need to stand in a rusty old bus shelter or in the rain or in the dark to catch a bus. We should have a user friendly, clean and modern service that we can be proud of".

COUNCIL AS AN ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY

At a local government level, the review of the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service has highlighted the areas in which Council can support the improvement of the service. This can be achieved through better coordinated works programs, regular upgrading and maintenance of public bus stop infrastructure and the upgrading, installation and management of bus zones on local roadways. Through its existing services and program delivery, Council can also assist in building greater awareness of the service.

Currently, the City of Mount Gambier provides and maintains associated infrastructure, including:

- 115 unique bus stops.
- 39 shelters across the fixed routes.
- Allocates an annual budget of \$30,000 for installation and maintenance of bus shelters.
- Delivers annual audits of bus shelter infrastructure, and a rolling program aimed at bringing bus stops and shelters up to code standards.

Council has the opportunity to consider future works programmes holistically, ensuring associated infrastructure is accessible, inclusive, fit for purpose and demonstrates a commitment to a high-quality public transport system. Appendix 2 provides illustrative examples of current public bus service infrastructure in Mount Gambier.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT REVIEW

The City of Mount Gambier review has identified significant gaps in the current Mount Gambier Public Bus Service. These gaps were identified through initial research and review by Council; and were reinforced by the information received from the community. A location map of current service gaps is attached to this report, see Appendix 3.

Research shows (for example see works by Stanley & Hensher; Stanly, Stanley & Henscher) that strong public transport systems provide benefits such as:

- Reducing disadvantage - connecting people with employment, education and health care;
- Supporting local economies; and
- Improving social inclusion (connecting friends, family and recreational activities).

Throughout the City of Mount Gambier's review, it was repeatedly demonstrated that public transport should not be considered solely for its immediate function, but more broadly as a significant contributor to the building of social capital within the community. A strong public transport system reduces social isolation, supports improved physical and mental health, assists in enabling employment, encourages active citizenship and genuine connection within our community.

In relation to spend per capita for regional bus services, Bus SA's 'Moving People 2025' (2018), stated that at the national level, state government spend per capita in regional areas is:

- Approximately \$200 per head in Vic/NSW;
- Approximately \$120 per head in Western Australia; and
- Estimated at under \$20 per head in South Australia.

At a South Australian level, a 2017 Bus Industry Confederation (BIC) study highlighted that there was a \$234 per capita spend in metropolitan Adelaide, compared to \$11 per capita spend in regional South Australia. Bus SA has recommended that the State Government should be working towards a spend of approximately \$70 per capita in regional South Australia just to meet basic community

21

needs.

Drawing on the BIC Report, the Case Study of Regional Transport Models, it was noted that the current Mount Gambier public Bus Services does not meet the service provision benchmark for a town that has a population size of 3,000 to 6,000 people. Given that Mount Gambier's population is in excess of 20,000, one of the key recommendations from the City of Mount Gambier Review is that the entire Mount Gambier Public Bus Service be review and updated to meet community needs and expectations.

Excerpt from BIC Report – Population benchmarks for regional town public transport service

Town population 3,000 - ~6,000: Hourly service Monday to Friday 9.30am to 2.30pm then 4.30pm to 5.30pm start of last run; Saturday morning 8am to 12pm. Use school buses or community buses at marginal cost, vehicle sizing depending on load expectations. The possibility of using volunteer drivers would help to contain costs. This may create issues with accessibility, so a vehicle with wheelchair access would be good.

Town population ~6,000 - ~10,000: Hourly service; Monday to Friday 7am to 6.30pm start of last run; 8am to 4pm Saturday; 9am to 2pm Sunday. Use low floor route buses complemented by school buses and/or community transport vehicles, including volunteer drivers, for some runs, if needed and feasible, with all vehicles accessible.

Town population ~20,000: Hourly service, except for 2 or so additional services in both the am and pm peaks; Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm start of last run; Saturday hourly headway 8am to 6pm; Sunday 9am to 4pm. All services operated by low floor route buses. The additional peak services could perhaps be provided by community transport or school buses in the pm peak.

In addition to the above, it is recommended that public bus service improvements occur over three stages. The first list of recommended improvements are needed to ensure the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service meets the *basic service needs* of the community. Further, it is recommended that improvements to the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service will *enable improved social inclusion* within Mount Gambier. Ultimately, improvements to the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service will result in a public transport service that is not dissimilar to services found in metropolitan areas. Appendix 4 provides a prioritised list of recommendations that will improve the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service.

At a regional level, the City of Mount Gambier acknowledges the absence of any inter-town public transport services within the region. Therefore, further compounding the inadequacy of existing public transport services and the inadequate funding of public transport services in Mount Gambier and the Limestone Coast over many decades. Therefore, it is recommended that SAPTA also consider an intra-regional public bus service for the Limestone Coast region.

It is noted that other regional areas within South Australia have trialed a “dial a ride” program. Most recently, the Demand Responsive Trials held in Mount Barker (AdelaideMetro area) and the Barossa Valley (regional area). It is noted that the Mount Barker trial was successful, and the service has been integrated with AdelaideMetro networks by linking passengers to transport nodes.

However, the Barossa trial (which replaced the existing “Dial a ride” program) had a slower uptake of the service. Of particular note was the use of Mercedes Sprinter 12 seat vehicles. These smaller buses are not low floor route buses, have limited accessibility and are not suitable for children requiring car seats. Based on what is now known about the patrons of the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service, many use the service for shopping, identify as living with a disability and use a mobility aid, travel with young children or are older residents.

Interview participants highlighted that they would be unlikely to utilise a “dial a ride” type service as

they feel as though they could not efficiently pre-plan their trips and this would become a barrier to them using such a service. For example, bus patrons know exactly when the bus will pick them up, where it will pick them up from, what the route is and what condition the stops are in – therefore allowing them to plan accordingly.

In addition to the above example, older bus patrons would be unlikely to utilise a “dial-a-ride” service as they would feel as though they are relying too much on others and would not want to ‘put anyone out’ in order to access transport. Therefore, it is unlikely that solely relying on this type of “dial a ride” service would be of benefit to the Mount Gambier Community. If a “dial a ride” program is to be trialed in Mount Gambier, it is strongly recommended that it be a support service to the more structured public bus service.

Noting that the existing service contract is due to expire in April 2021, the timing of Council's response to the DIT review is critical in ensuring that advocacy to State Government can occur prior to a further contract (reflecting the existing operating model) being offered.

The findings of Council's Public Bus Service review identified a significant disparity between the services offered to comparative communities elsewhere in Australia (and those in metropolitan Adelaide). The review suggests that the current service is inadequate to the needs of our community and potentially contributes to greater levels of inequality and social isolation than initially perceived.

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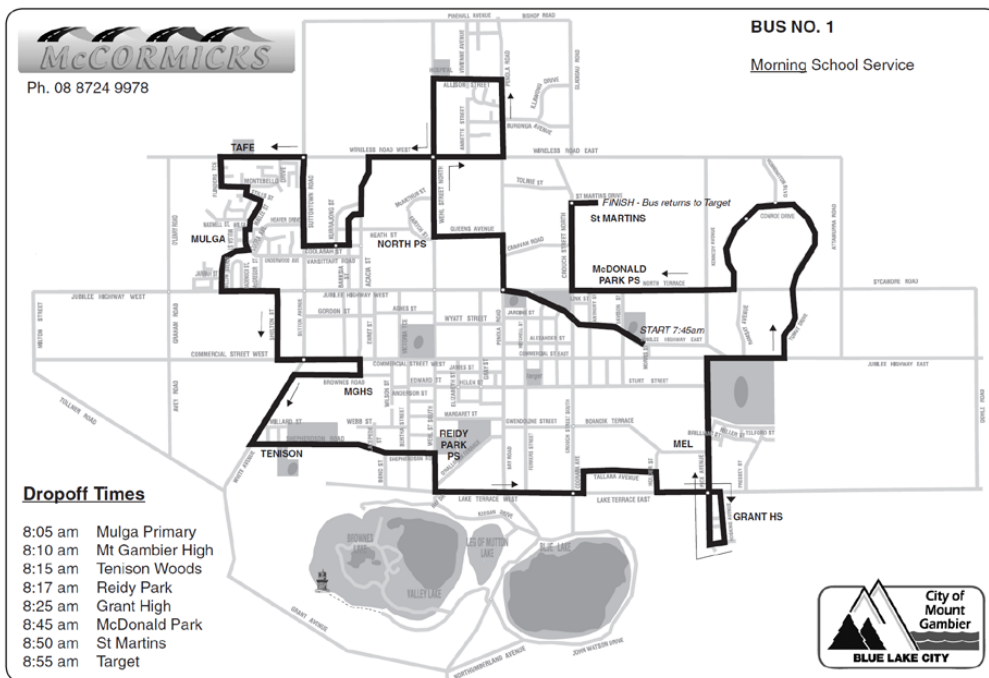
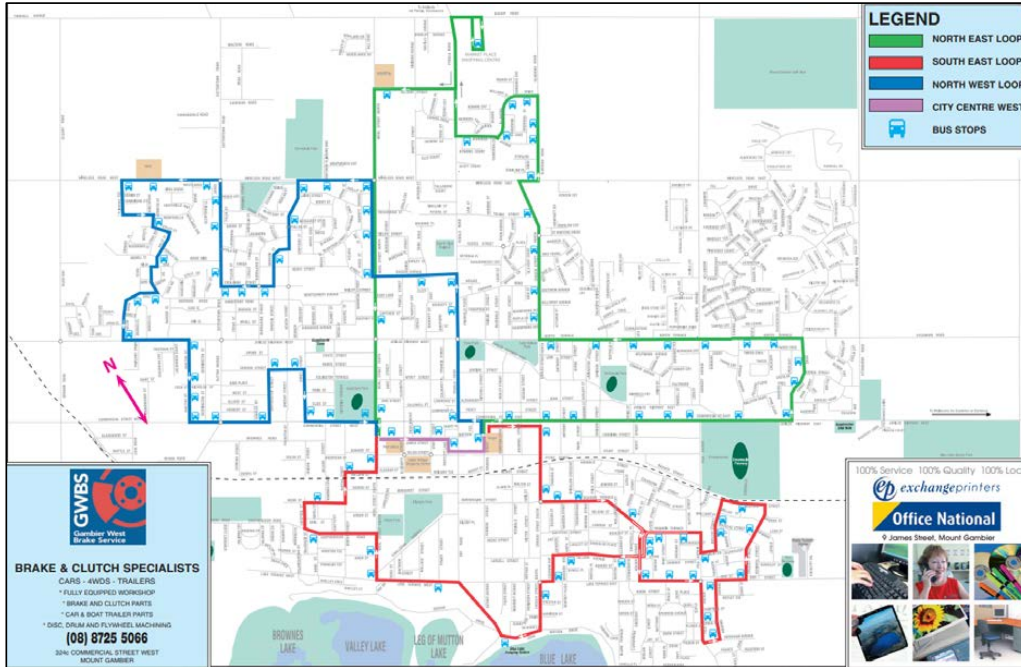
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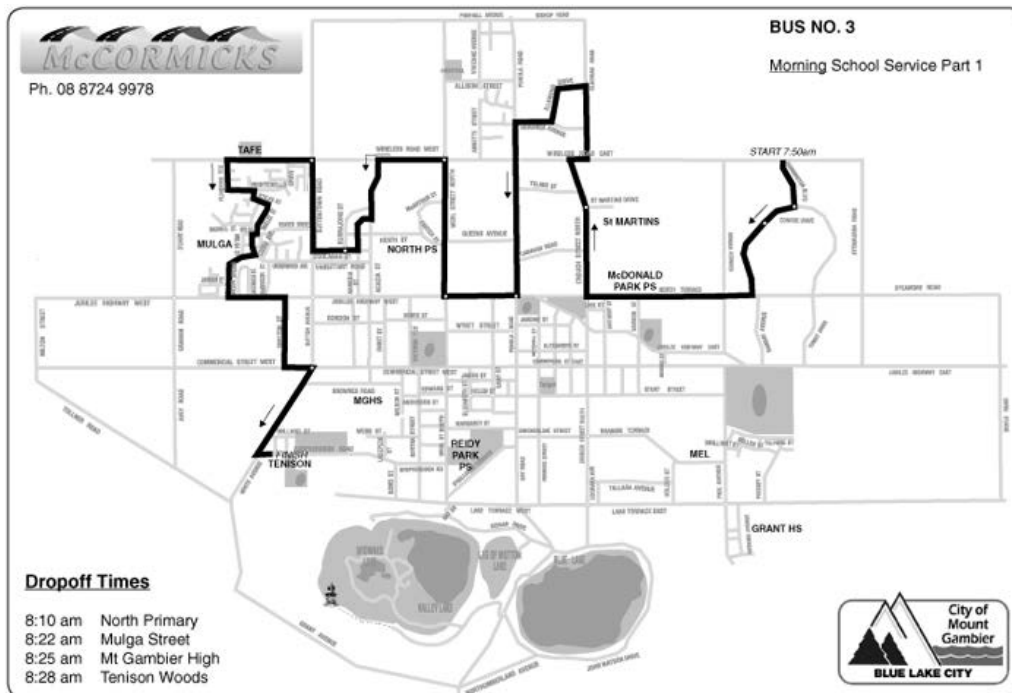
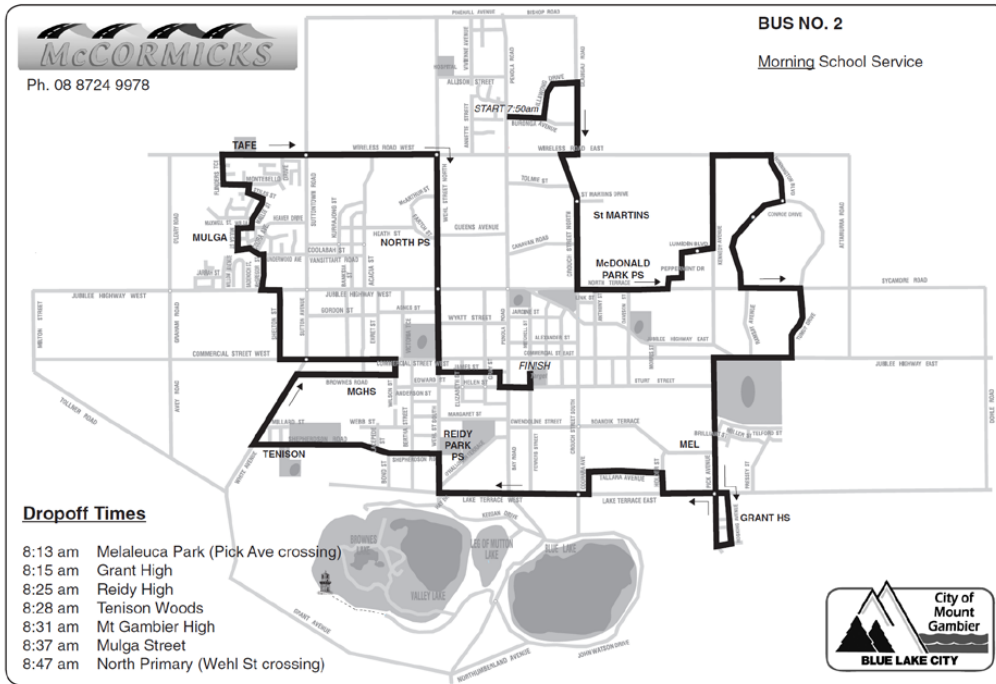
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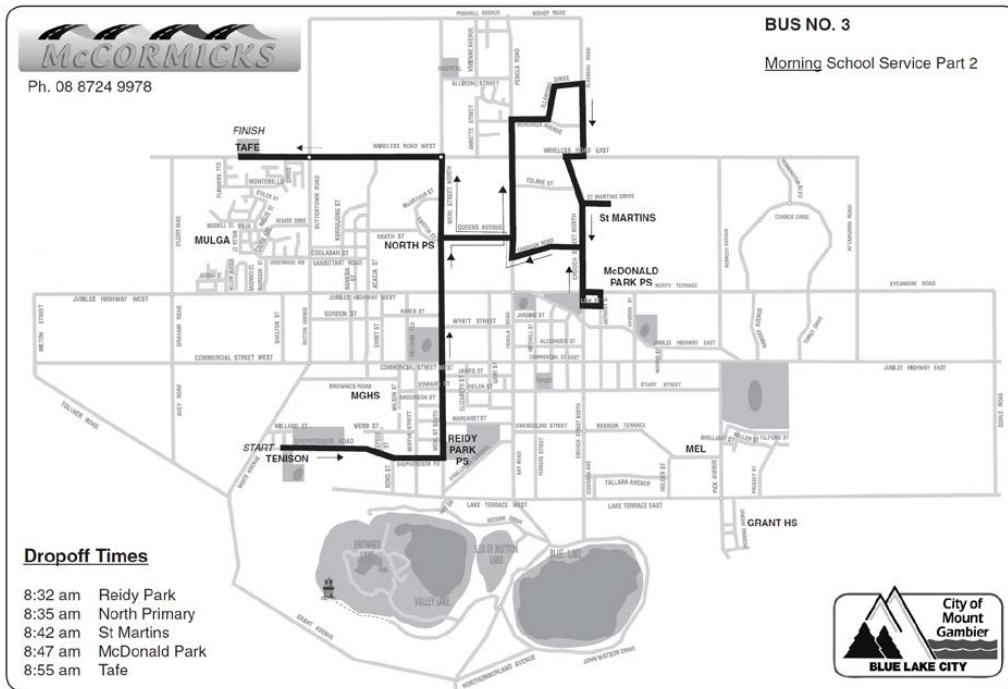
APPENDIX 1

Current Mount Gambier Public Bus Service routes

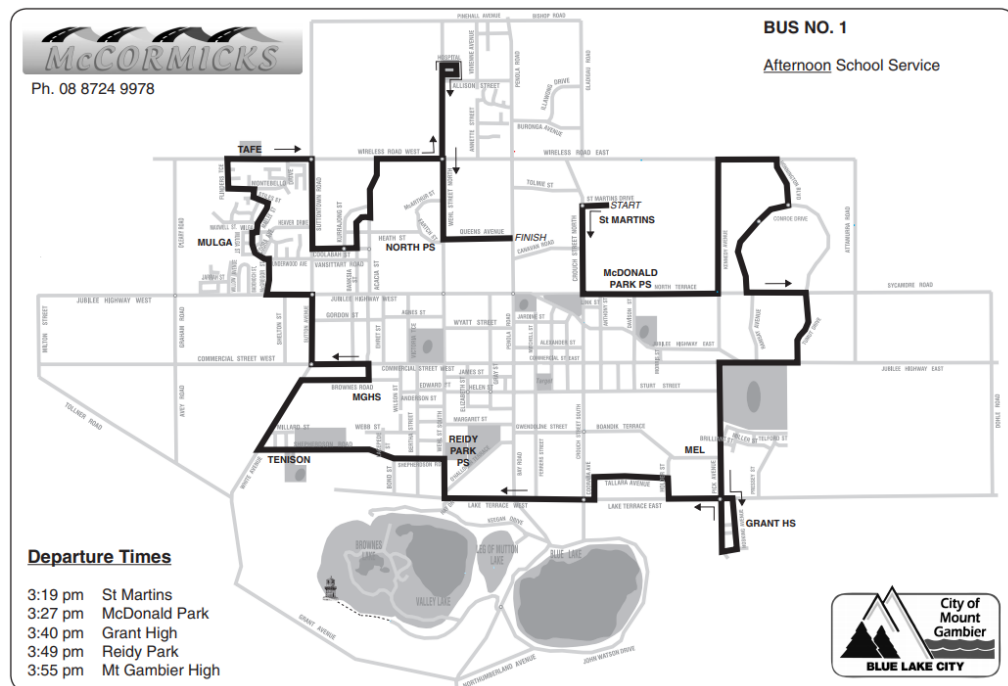


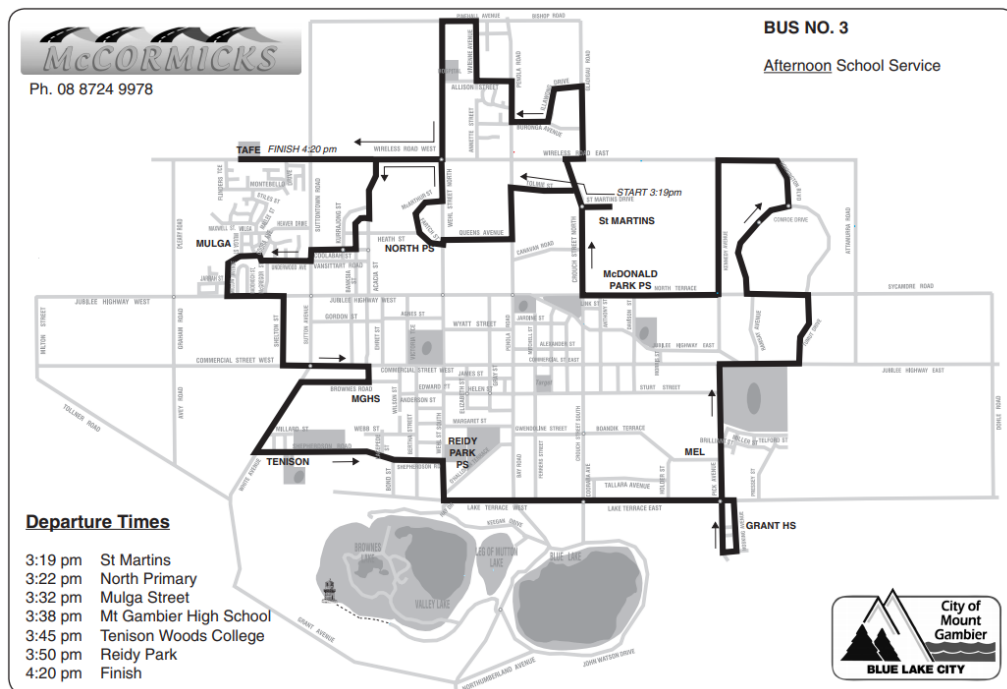
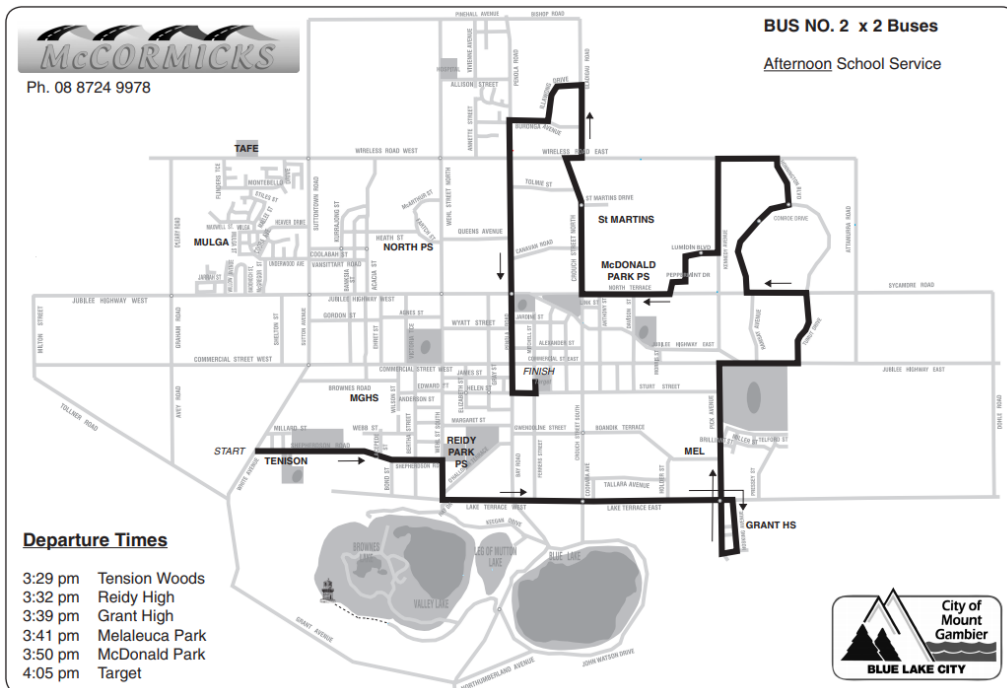
July 2012

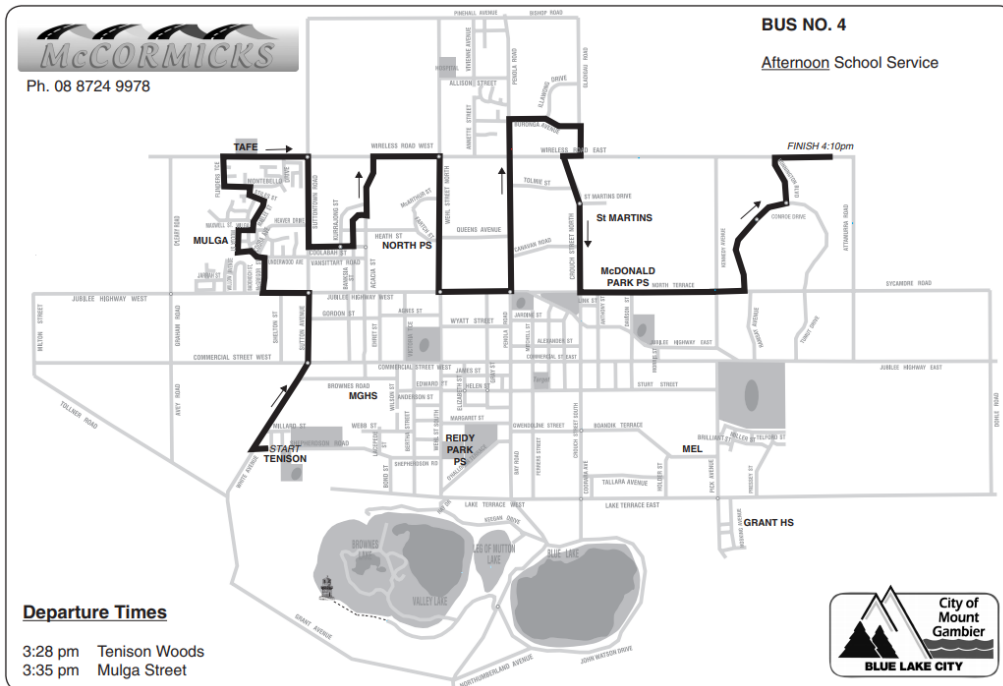




July 2012







APPENDIX 2

Examples of current public bus service infrastructure
throughout Mount Gambier

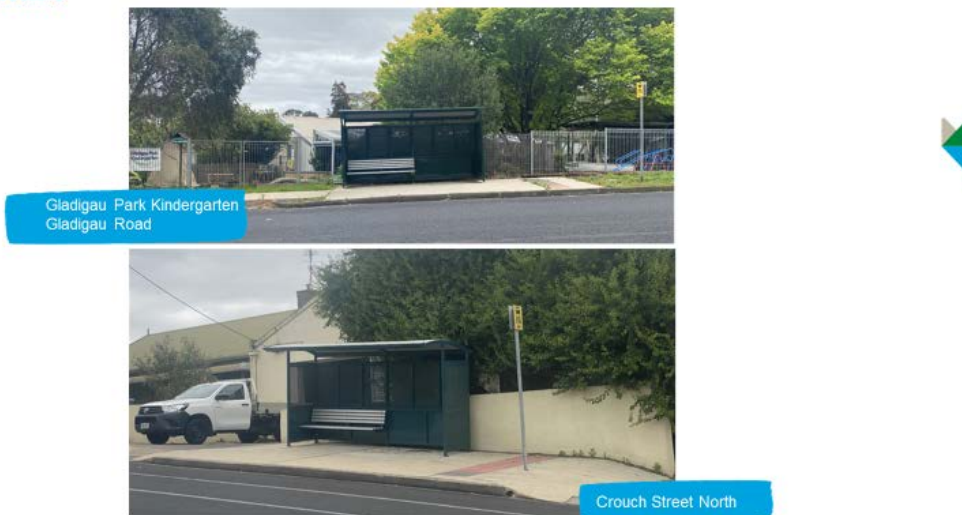
Infrastructure on commercial property



MOUNTGAMBIER.SA.GOV.AU

043

Infrastructure



MOUNTGAMBIER.SA.GOV.AU

044

Infrastructure



Ingleby Street

MOUNTGAMBIER.SA.GOV.AU

045

Infrastructure



Woolworths
Commercial Street East



Ilawong Drive

MOUNTGAMBIER.SA.GOV.AU

046

Infrastructure



Gladigau Road

MOUNTGAMBIER.SA.GOV.AU

047

Infrastructure



Tallara Avenue

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048

Infrastructure

Tallara Avenue



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049

Infrastructure

Cnr Bertha and William Street



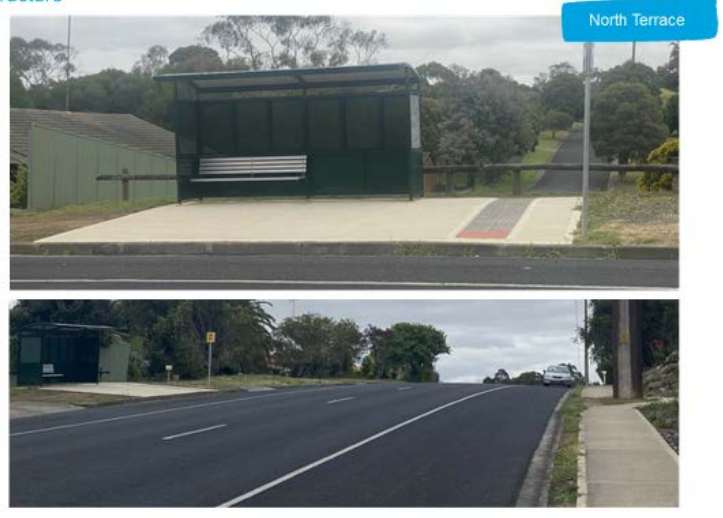
Cnr John Watson Drive and Bay Road



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Infrastructure



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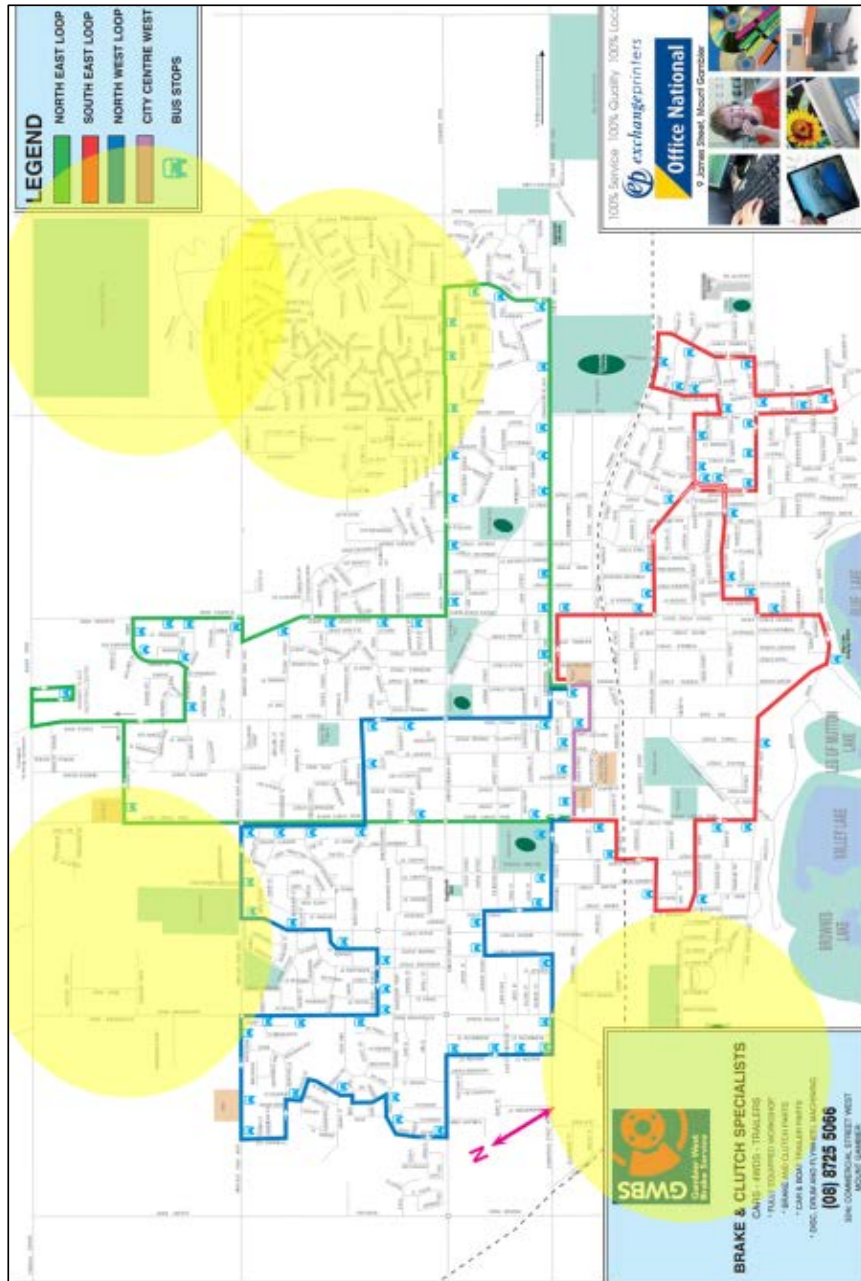
Newton Crescent



Wehl Street North

APPENDIX 3

Locations of current service gaps in the Mount Gambier Public Bus Service



APPENDIX 4

Recommended priorities for the improvement of the
Mount Gambier Public Bus Service

Meeting basic service needs	Improving social inclusion	Meeting SA metropolitan standards
<p>Prioritising improvements:</p> <p>Meeting basic service needs</p> <p>Extend existing routes to service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conroe Heights and surrounds • Foodbank • Woodlands and Hallmont Residential Villages • Pinehill Medical Clinic • Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre <p>Combine school and public service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends service hours to allow for 9-5 employment and improved access during morning hours. <p>Collaboration with contractor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstate systems for improved collaboration between contractor and Council to expediate our response to safety concerns, infrastructure allocation and maintenance. <p>Overhaul of communication systems surrounding service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to information and build awareness • Improve bus stop signage (incorporate numbering system) • Audit and respond to accessibility related issues (colour, language, detail etc) • Improve accuracy of collateral <p>Services to civic and community events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Lake Carols, G.I.J, Christmas Parade, Mount Gambier Show etc 	<p>Improve and simplify connection to key assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved regular access to facilities such as TAFE, Uhi SA, Hospital, Wulanda and CBD • Improved transit and connection across city <p>Increase frequency of services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every 30 minutes <p>Extend services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7am – 7pm weekdays • Saturday services <p>Improve infrastructure and accessibility standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit of accessibility considerations • In consultation with key stakeholders, develop a city-wide vision and agreed standards for the provision of accessible, high quality supporting infrastructure. • Ensure transport access is considered holistically in all capital works programs and appropriately budgeted. <p>Advocate for on-demand bus service trial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore provision of stand alone or hybrid model for public transport service 	<p>Provide 'whole of city' services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carniya Gardens Cemetary • Crater Lakes community recreational spaces • Sporting facilities (Blue Lake Sports Park, Maliseed Park etc) <p>Connecting our tourism sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services to/from all key tourist parks • Access to all key tourism assets i.e. Visitor Information Centre, Umpherston Sinkhole, Engelbrecht Cave, Centenary Tower etc <p>Interstate and intrastate connection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic bus terminal • Mount Gambier Airport <p>Seven-day services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to employment for 7-day sectors such as retail, hospitality and health care staff <p>Evening services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe, sustainable access to cultural and social activity and evening employment.

18.3 SUBMISSION - LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY 2024-2029 - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Author: Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Infrastructure
Authoriser: Sarah Philpott, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Submission - Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy 2024-2029 - Public Consultation' as presented on Tuesday 17 December 2024 be noted.
2. That that attached submission to the draft Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy be approved.

PURPOSE

The report provides the draft Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy for Council's consideration and feedback.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

In 2018, the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA), Regional Development Limestone Coast (RDALC) and the seven Limestone Coast councils supported by the Regional Australia Institute developed the region's first Regional Growth Strategy.

The Regional Growth Strategy, supporting Action Plan and Technical Report built on the directions, strategies and leadership within the region to prioritise key strategic projects to drive growth. The documents can be found here: <https://www.lclga.sa.gov.au/~lclga/strategic-activities/limestone-coast-regional-growth-strategy>.

While many of the actions identified in the Action Plan have been addressed, the sheer number of them - 39, some of which did not have resources committed to them by lead organisations, made it difficult to achieve the Plan in its entirety. Additionally, the environment has changed significantly following the COVID-19 pandemic with new challenges and opportunities emerging. In short, it is time to revisit the region's priorities and refocus regional effort.

In early 2024, consultants URPS were engaged to review the 2018 documents and develop a new Regional Growth Strategy. A working group of the CEOs of LCLGA, RDALC and Limestone Coast councils (Tatiara, Grant and Naracoorte Lucindale) supported and provided direction to URPS in the development of the new Strategy.

Following review and economic analysis, in March 2024 a series of workshops were held in Bordertown, Naracoorte, Mount Gambier and online to seek community and stakeholder input. A survey was also issued to inform the Strategy.

The draft Regional Growth Strategy aims to support the Limestone Coast region's growth and prosperity and outlines how the RDALC, LCLGA and councils will work together towards the goals of being:

- A region people love to live in
- A productive region that people love to work in
- A region people love to visit



- A region enabled by quality infrastructure

The LCLGA, RDALC and councils will work towards these goals over the next five years through key regional initiatives, collaborative advocacy and priority Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA projects.

The draft Strategy outlines initiatives and collaborative advocacy in areas including housing, services, training, tourism, value-add industry, the circular economy, roads and utilities. In a change from the previous Strategy, it separates key regional initiatives, collaborative advocacy and local key projects.

Members have been provided a copy of the draft Strategy for review and feedback requested to assist in forming our response. The draft Strategy is also attached to this report along with the proposed submission from City of Mount Gambier.

Feedback is now being sought from councils, community and stakeholders until 15 December 2024. The City of Mount Gambier has received an extension until 20 December 2024 for a report to be presented to the December Council Meeting.

The opportunity to provide feedback has been distributed through our industry networks via the Tourism e-newsletter (with 200 business subscribers), Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce and other key stakeholders.

Council feedback will be provided directly to consultants URPS.

There are no immediate financial implications from the Strategy, though key regional initiatives proposed will have varying budget requirements. Local key projects will have budgetary implications for the councils proposing them and would be expected to already be contained in each Councils' strategic management plans.

CONCLUSION

Feedback will be collated by URPS and the draft Strategy amended as required, prior to being adopted by LCLGA and RDALC. The ultimate decision will be made by the RDALC Board and LCLGA Board.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy [18.3.1 - 30 pages]
2. Proposed Submission - Draft Regional Growth Strategy [18.3.2 - 4 pages]



RDALC & LCLGA
23ADL-1104
25 November 2024

Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy 2024 - 2029

Regional Development Australia Limestone
Coast and Limestone Coast Local
Government Association

Limestone Coast Councils of Grant, Kingston,
Mount Gambier, Naracoorte Lucindale, Robe,
Tatiara and Wattle Range

SHAPING
GREAT
COMMUNITIES



Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy 2024 - 2029

25 November 2024

Lead consultant	URPS 27 Halifax Street Enter via Symonds Pl Adelaide SA 5000 (08) 8333 7999 urps.com.au
In association with	TSA Advisory
Prepared for	Regional Development Australia – Limestone Coast & Limestone Coast Local Government Association
Consultant Project Manager	Zoe Hambour, Principal Consultant zhambour@urps.com.au
URPS Ref	241125_V3_Regional Growth Strategy

Document history and status

Revision	Date	Author	Reviewed	Details
V1	7/08/24	Z. Hambour	D. Petruzzella	Initiation of Strategy
V2	28/10/24	Z. Hambour		Post Board Review
V3	25/11/24	Z. Hambour		Version for public consultation

We acknowledge the Kurna People as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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https://urpsau.sharepoint.com/sites/Synergy/Shared Documents/Projects/23ADL/23ADL-1104 - Regional Growth Strategy - Limestone Coast/Reports/Growth Strategy/241125_V3_Regional Growth Strategy.docx



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Acknowledgment of Country

Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast and the Limestone Coast Local Government Association acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Limestone Coast and their connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

Foreword

Message from Chair Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast

As someone who has spent a lifetime owning and working on a family farm, I have seen how much our region has changed and grown over the years. One thing that hasn't changed though, is the hard work and resilience of the people who live here. This Regional Growth Strategy is about making sure that the Limestone Coast continues to thrive, not just today, but for future generations.

We've got a lot going for us—highly productive land, strong communities, and a history of innovation and endeavour. Circumstances continue to change and we need to be ready to adapt. This strategy is about finding the right balance between looking after what we have and making room for new opportunities in industries like primary production, tourism and renewable energy.

It's important that we all work together to build a future that supports everyone in our community. Whether you are in primary production, business, or a local resident, we each have a part to play in helping our region grow in a way that is fair and sustainable.

I am proud of what we have achieved so far, and excited about the future we can build together. Let's keep working towards this common goal, stay connected, and make the Limestone Coast an even better place for our children and grandchildren.

Evan Flint

Chair, Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast

Message from President Limestone Coast Local Government Association

The Limestone Coast is a very vibrant region contributing significantly to the South Australian economy.

To ensure the future of the Limestone Coast a new Regional Growth Strategy has been produced to acknowledge the changes that have occurred in the last six years and what is needed in the future to provide enhanced facilities and services for the community.

This new Regional Growth Strategy addresses issues of Housing and Growth, Transport, Health, Tourism, Utilities Infrastructure, Education and Community.

The Regional Growth Strategy has four long term goals for the region which we will work towards over the next five years through key initiatives and collaborative advocacy, these are; Live, Work, Visit and Build.

- Live is – a region to love to live in,
- Work is- a productive region that people love to work in,
- Visit is – a region people love to visit,
- Build is - a region enabled by quality infrastructure.

The Limestone Coast is a wonderful region to live and work in and we need to work together to build a future for the next generation.

The Regional Growth Strategy outlines these future considerations and I commend it to our community.

Mayor Lynette Martin OAM

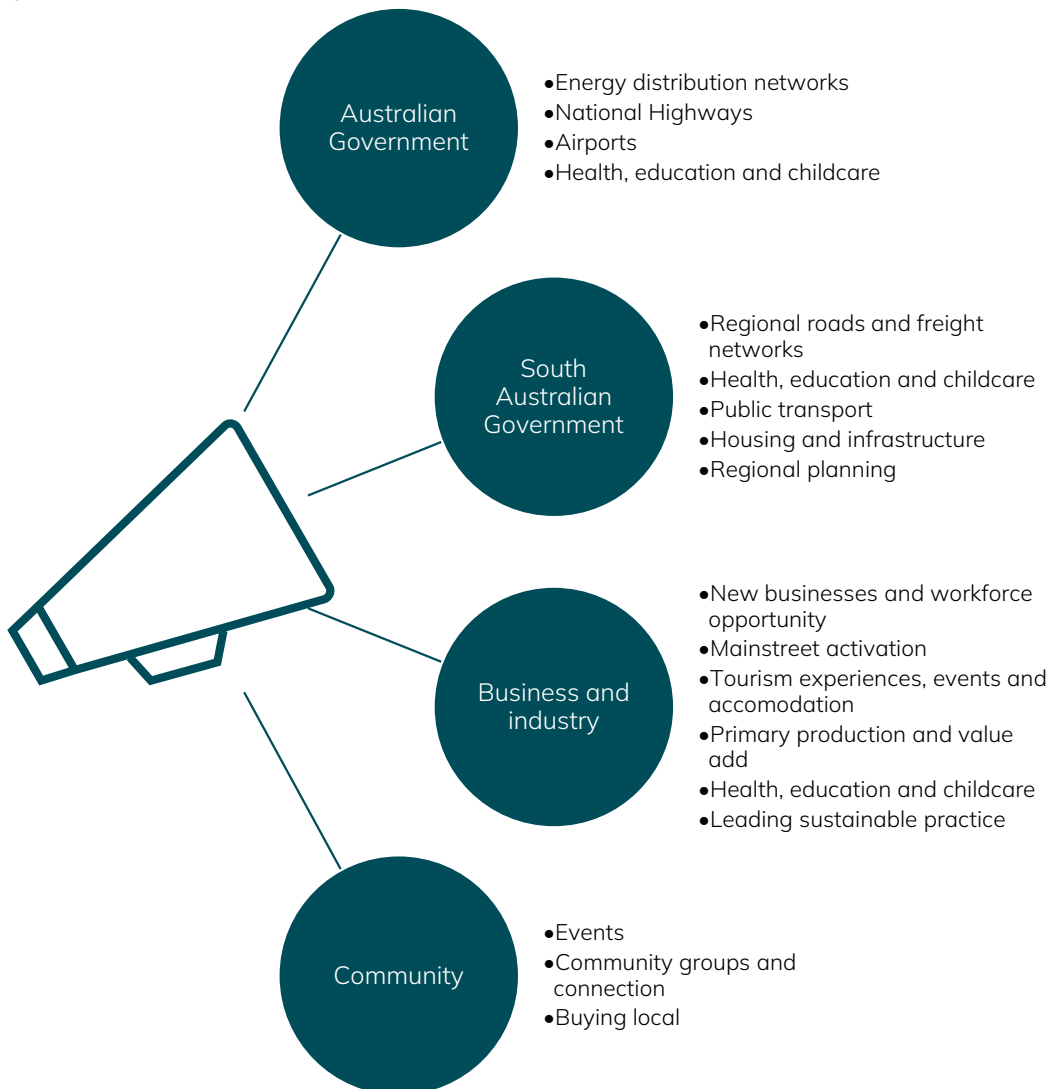
President, Limestone Coast Local Government Association

1. Call to action

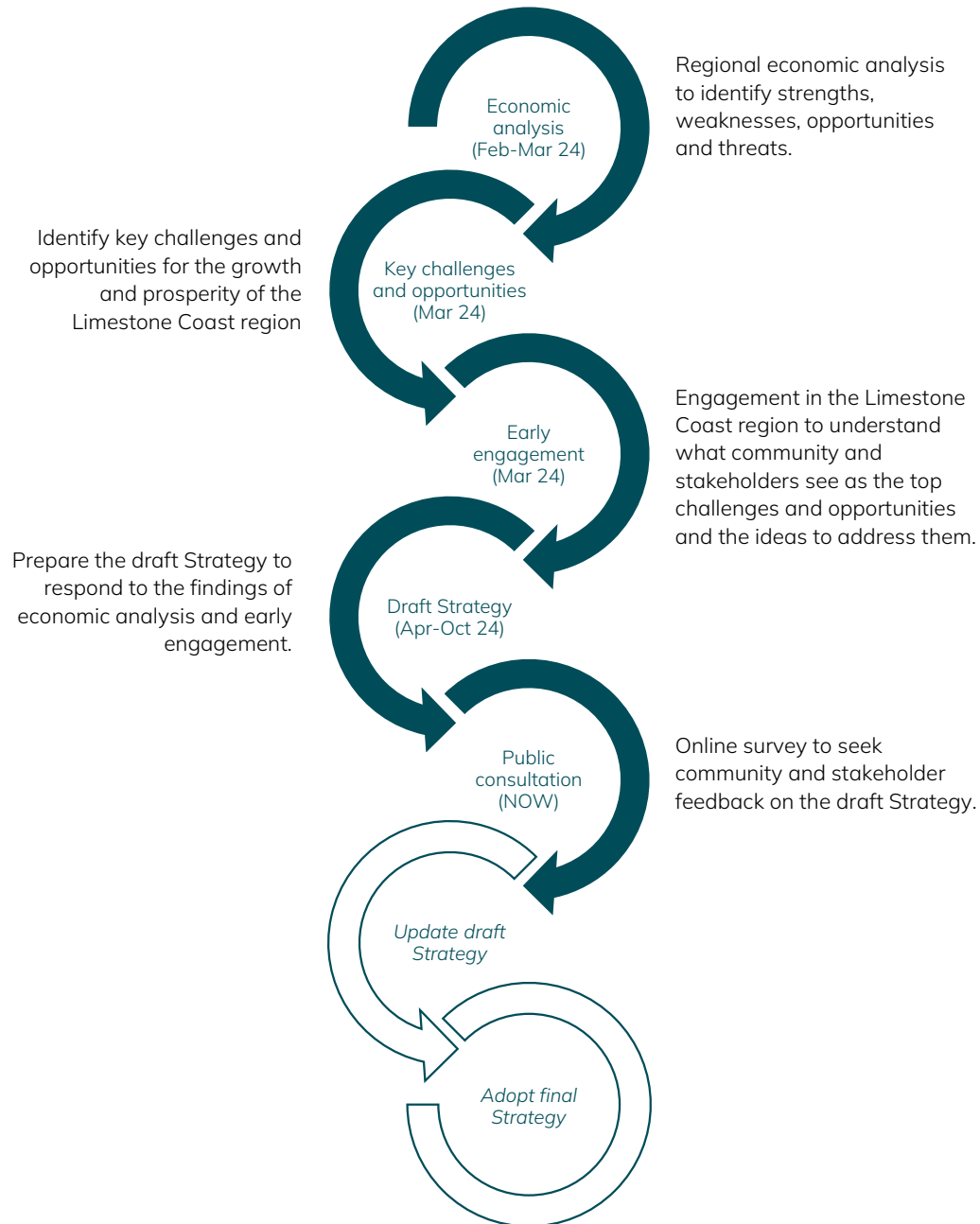
The Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy 2024-2029 is calling on the State Government, Federal Government, community, industry and business to invest in the growth of the Limestone Coast region.

This strategy has ambitious goals that will only be achieved if all levels of government, industry, business and community work together.

The authors of this plan – the Limestone Coast’s Councils, Regional Development Australia and Local Government Association (LCLGA) – can only do so much on their own. They are committed to delivering the key initiatives and projects of this Strategy but call on others to enable full realisation of the Strategy’s goals.



2. Developing this strategy



3. Our region

Victoria to the east, the Southern Ocean to the south, and the Coorong to the west. The Limestone Coast is renowned for its expansive crops and plantations, world renowned wine, plentiful seafood, beautiful coast, caves and national parks. The region includes the following seven Council areas:

- City of Mount Gambier
- District Council of Grant
- Kingston District Council
- Naracoorte Lucindale Council
- District Council of Robe
- Tatiara District Council and
- Wattle Range Council

The region benefits from a productive climate which generally experiences cool, wet winters and mild to hot, dry summers, with annual rainfall ranging from approximately 850mm in the south to 450mm in the north. Combined with fertile soils, and concentrated underground water supplies, the Limestone Coast has a rich history of being a highly productive area supporting diverse and profitable industries¹.

Contributing approximately \$4.6 billion to the South Australian economy in the 2022 financial year, the Limestone Coast generates over 30% of the state's GDP through its agricultural sector. Key economic activities in the region, supported by natural resources, include plantation forestry, wine and viticulture, agriculture, dairy, potatoes, fishing, aquaculture, and their associated industries.

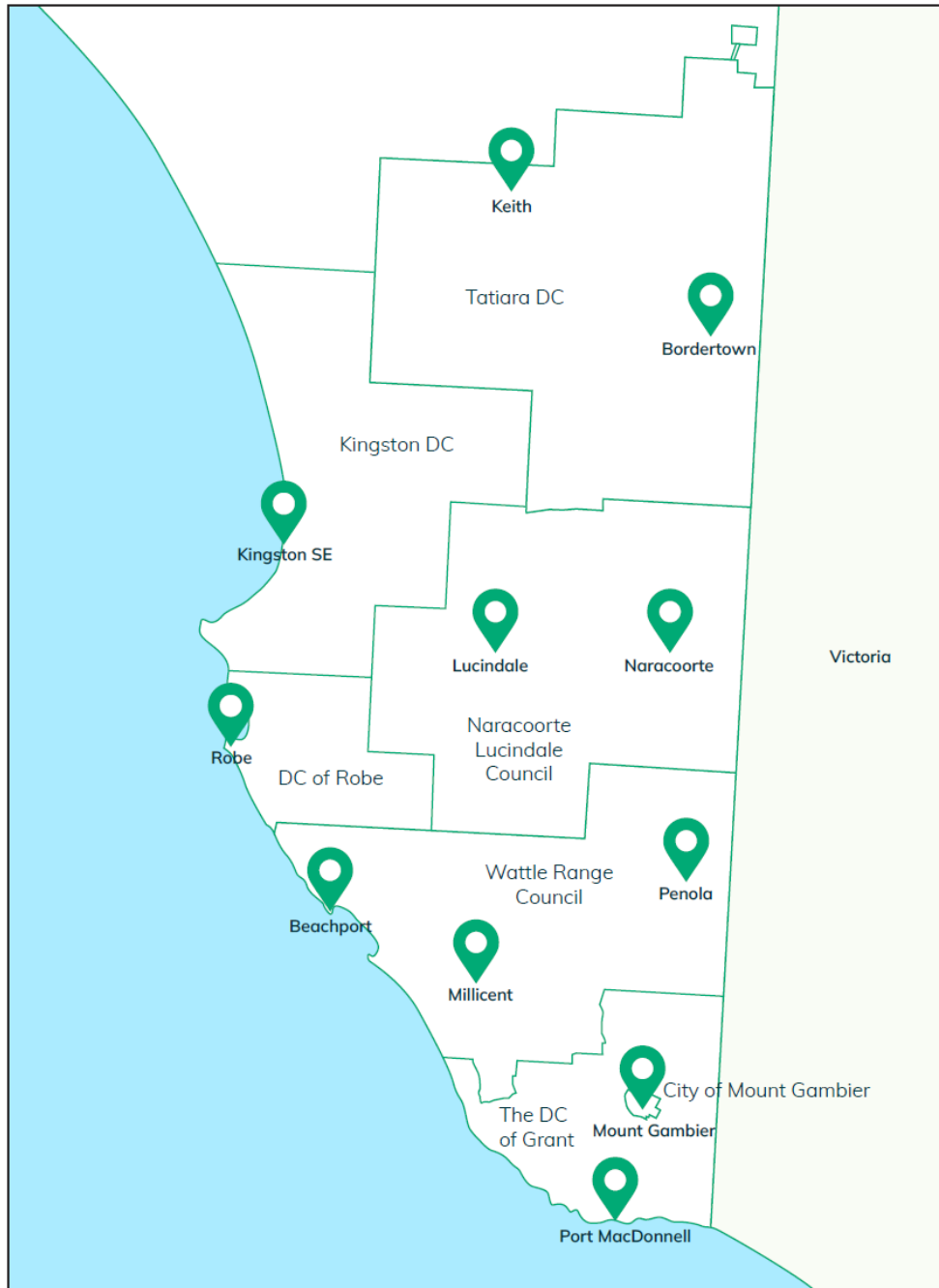
Beautiful natural landscapes of caves and coasts, vast vineyards and quiet spaces attract tourists from across the State and further abroad who want to experience the region's unique offering. Outside of Adelaide, the region had the second highest numbers of visitors in the South Australia in 2023 with both visitor numbers and spend steadily increasing over the last decade.

The region also includes Mount Gambier, the largest regional city in South Australia. Providing a hub of services and entertainment in the region and for those in nearby border Victorian communities.

The Limestone Coast is a place to live, work, visit and invest.

¹ <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/lc/about-us/our-region>

Limestone Coast Region (South Australia)



4. Economic Analysis

A broad economic analysis of the Limestone Coast was undertaken by TSA Advisory to inform this strategy's development. The analysis identified the following strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the region from an economic perspective.

4.1 Strengths

Mount Gambier is the largest regional city in South Australia

The status of Mount Gambier as the largest city in the state outside of Adelaide is important to the Limestone Coast region for several reasons, including:

Relatively large population centres are typically in a better position to attract public and private investment.

The city is of a scale that allows it to support many of the higher order goods and services that foster liveability, allowing the city to retain and attract more residents.

The city is 'first in line' as the beneficiary of any state government attempts at decentralisation.

A diverse agricultural sector

The Limestone Coast has a highly diverse primary production sector, with grains, cattle, sheep, forestry, winemaking, aquaculture, fishing, and dairy all contributing to the local economy. This diversity in output helps to buffer the region from exposure to global trade risks.

A strong manufacturing sector

There is a strong manufacturing presence in the region, much of which is linked to the adding of value to local primary produce. By refining locally grown produce into higher value products, employment opportunities are created, and a greater share of wealth is retained within the region, benefitting businesses across all sectors.

High tourism visits

In 2023, the Limestone Coast Region had the third largest number of visitors of the tourism regions in South Australia, after Adelaide and the Fleurieu Peninsula. Over the last decade (with the exception of the COVID-19 pandemic impacts) the region has been showing an upward trend in visitation and expenditure levels.

4.2 Weaknesses

Uneven population growth

Between 2001 and 2021 the population of the region grew by 9.1% or 6098 people (ABS usual resident population). A large proportion of this growth occurred in the Mount Gambier Council area (4014 people) which had consistent growth reported in every census over this timeframe. Other Council areas experienced slight fluctuations in population over the period. However, all have seen net growth from 2001 levels to 2021 apart from Wattle Range (however the population of Wattle Range has been

increasing since 2016). Profile ID estimates for 2023 show that population in all Council areas has increased since the census in 2021.

Lower socio-economic status

SEIFA is a measure of Socio Economic Status (SES). The ABS produces SEIFA data for Local Government Areas (LGAs). The mean score for Australian LGAs is 1000, with any score less than that representing relative disadvantage, while scores higher than that represent the opposite. In the Limestone Coast the Councils of Grant and Robe are considered "advantaged" (scored above 1000). All other Councils scored below 1000 with Mount Gambier and Wattle Range scoring the lowest. Low SEIFA status is often associated with adverse economic conditions (low worker productivity and workforce participation), and social and community health problems (poverty, long-term disability, and more)..

Relatively weak services sector

All service sectors are underrepresented across the Limestone Coast with the exception of retail. Whilst this is fairly typical for regional Australia, it reflects workforce constraints, and ultimately has a detrimental impact on regional liveability. However, Mount Gambier as the State's biggest regional city has a strong base of local services.

Low-skilled workforce

The regional workforce is relatively unskilled, with only 12% of the population aged 15+ having a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 23% across South Australia. This generates the potential for an emerging skills mismatch, with the qualifications of existing residents increasingly misaligned with the needs of the modern economy.

Tight regional labour markets

Unemployment is currently at historically low rates across the Limestone Coast, and well below the full employment rate. Whilst this is good news for those seeking work, for local businesses it means many roles are difficult to fill. Lack of suitably skilled staff often equates to a constraint to the growth of individual businesses, and the broader economy.

4.3 Opportunities

Growth of exports

The value of Australian exports has grown steadily in recent years, and this looks set to continue. With a diverse mix of produce exported, the Limestone Coast is well placed to benefit from increasing global demand.

Value adding to agriculture

There is potential for the region to continue to expand how it adds value to agricultural outputs by establishing local processing, packaging, and other manufacturing activities in the region. Further, leveraging the region's primary production by supporting enhanced food tourism opportunities (wine and seafood in particular) has the potential to support expenditures across a range of sectors and local businesses.

Proximity to eastern seaboard

Of South Australia's regions, the Limestone Coast attracts the greatest share of visitors from interstate. With parts of the Limestone Coast only 2 hours to Warrnambool (the western end of the globally significant and heavily visited Great Ocean Road), there is potential to retain and increase the share of visitors from outside of South Australia.

Ageing population

The ageing population presents an opportunity to devise innovative responses to the challenges of service delivery in centres like Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Bordertown and Robe. Growth in demand for health services is likely to be an important source of new employment opportunities into the future.

Renewable energy

As with many Australian regions, there is impetus to establish the Limestone Coast as a renewable energy (in this case, green hydrogen) hub through the Millicent Mill proposal or other opportunities.

Increasing tourism spend

The region has an average spend per night of \$182 which is on par with the average regional South Australian spend of \$181 per night. However, this is lower compared to some other regions which have overnight expenditures of \$200 or more. Any increase to overnight expenditure will inject further wealth into the region's economy.

Targeted upskilling and training

A large share of the region's residents are currently sitting outside of the workforce, despite historically low unemployment rates. Facilitating the re-entry of these individuals back into the workforce has the potential to alleviate skills gaps, induce new investment, and grow the regional economy.

4.4 Threats

Climate change

With the region's economy highly dependent on agriculture, climate change represents a significant threat to the future of the region. Long term changes to regional temperature or precipitation have the potential to result in decreased yields, with some forms of primary production potentially threatened across the region.

Online retailing

The share of retail expenditures directed online is growing year on year. As online delivery becomes more efficient, as sales platforms become more sophisticated, and as the population becomes more accustomed to the idea of online retailing, the share of expenditures occurring online is likely to rise. For physical centres, this translates to reduced store expenditures, reduced foot traffic, and lowered centre viability.

Ageing population

The ageing population means an increasing share of the local population will comprise elderly residents. This presents a range of challenges. Firstly, these residents will increase demand for certain types of services in the region, particularly in the health care and social assistance sector. Government will also need to adapt by providing a greater quantity of community services tailored to an older, less mobile population.

Lack of housing

A lack of investment in housing has translated into insufficient accommodation at all levels within the Limestone Coast region, including worker housing, short-term accommodation and aged care facilities.

Workforce attraction











A growing share of elderly residents (see above) is associated with a reduction in the share of local population of working age. With fewer of these residents, ensuring an adequate supply of local services will present a challenge to regional economic growth and liveability. With an increasing share of new jobs likely to be knowledge intensive, the attraction of skilled workers to the region will become increasingly important.

5. Key challenges and opportunities

The findings of the economic analysis (Section 4) were summarised into the following key challenges and opportunities for the growth and prosperity of the Limestone Coast Region.

As part of preparing this plan, we asked the region's community, business and industry, which they see as the top challenges and opportunities from this list. All were seen as important, however the three most often identified as of top importance were:

- Housing availability and affordability
- Workforce availability and skills
- Transport and utilities infrastructure.

	Housing availability and affordability
	Workforce availability and skills
	Transport and utilities infrastructure
	Ageing population
	Export opportunities
	Value adding to agriculture
	Boosting tourism
	Renewable energy
	Sustainable resource and land management
	Climate change
	Online retail impacts on local centres

6. Engagement with the region

To inform the development of the Strategy, early engagement was undertaken in March 2024 with community, business, industry and state agencies in the Limestone Coast Region. The engagement included three workshops and an online survey. It sought to understand what participants see as the biggest challenges and opportunities for the region and what their ideas are to address these.

Key themes and ideas of what we heard

Housing and growth	A shortage of housing was identified as the key issue affecting workforce availability. There were calls for more affordable housing, a higher standard of accommodation, increased diversity in housing options, worker accommodation and higher density development (in the right places). People suggested grants and incentives, and that infrastructure must already be in place to encourage development. People would like to plan for housing growth to be located in appropriate areas to protect rural living.
Transport	Improving connection to and from the region, with a focus on accessibility and safety within and between towns is important. People want to increase the availability of rail, air and public transport services. They would like safer and more efficient state roads (e.g. dual highways) as well as improved walking and cycling connections. People suggested establishing a local community bus service from Naracoorte and a heavy vehicle bypass for Mount Gambier.
Health	People would like increased access to health services and professionals to reduce travel and wait times for appointments.
Tourism	Opportunities to strengthen the region's brand and promote experiences that leverage the natural environment (coast and caves), and local food and beverage industries were identified. People suggested the need for additional accommodation, signage and facilities at destinations (e.g. toilets) as well as cross border collaboration.
Utilities infrastructure	The current energy grid is not sufficient to support the transition to renewable energy. People want to also ensure there is adequate water supply and quality (e.g. in Bordertown) to support community and industry into the future. Digital and phone connectivity needs to be vastly improved.
Education	People want an improved local education offering that meets local industry needs for tertiary and VET qualifications, and workplace skills training. Travelling to Adelaide is inefficient for local businesses and takes young people away from the region. People suggested establishing a regional training hub in Bordertown or advocating for improved course offerings in Mount Gambier.

Community People suggested events, festivals, art, busking and activities that promote the region, provide activities for young people, provide opportunities for local businesses and promote vibrancy in towns. They want a regional recreation facility (like the Summit in Mount Barker), spaces for community, and grants and volunteering opportunities. A community that is disability and LGBTQi+ inclusive is important.

Childcare and aged care The lack of childcare is a key factor preventing people from taking up work in the region. People would like to see more childcare centres or places made available. Some suggested the need to plan for an ageing population and to offer more local retirement and care services.

Sustainability Ensuring the protection of the coast and natural areas is seen as essential. As is sustainability and innovation in the agriculture industries which underpin the region's economy. People identified renewable energy and responding to climate change as opportunities for the region.

7. Our strategy

Our strategy has been developed to respond to synergies between the findings of the economic analysis and early engagement as well as the roles of the Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA.

Our strategy includes four long term goals for the region which we will work towards over the next 5 years through key regional initiatives, collaborative advocacy and priority Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA projects.

Our 4 goals for the region (10-20 years)



Over the next 5 years each goal we will deliver:

Key Regional Initiatives	Initiatives that the Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA will collaborate to deliver together across the region.
Collaborative Advocacy	Key issues and opportunities that the Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA will collectively lobby for to improve and grow the region.
Priority Council, RDA and LGA Projects	Top projects each organisation will deliver that contribute to regional goals.

We will measure progress for each goal by:

- Tracking a key regional trend using available data
- Reporting on the delivery of key regional initiatives

8. Goal: LIVE

A region people love to live in with:

- Diverse and affordable housing that supports our way of life in rural areas and regional centres
- Quality township streets and public spaces that enable business, art or community activation
- Accessible health care, childcare and aged care services and facilities
- Sport, recreation, activities and entertainment that enable a positive lifestyle
- Strong community leadership, volunteerism and participation
- Places and programs that are welcoming and accessible to people of all abilities, backgrounds, genders, ages and means.

8.1 Key regional initiatives

The Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA will work together to deliver these initiatives.

Initiative	Description
Regional community transport	Investigate options for improved regional transport to support education and healthcare accessibility, and community connectivity.
Housing project	Identify council and/or private sector led housing projects or pilots across the region to be delivered in partnership with the Office for Regional Housing.
Childcare business case	Create a comprehensive business case to support advocacy for investment in early childhood education and care (childcare) in the region including exploration of Australian Early Development Census data.

8.2 Collaborative advocacy

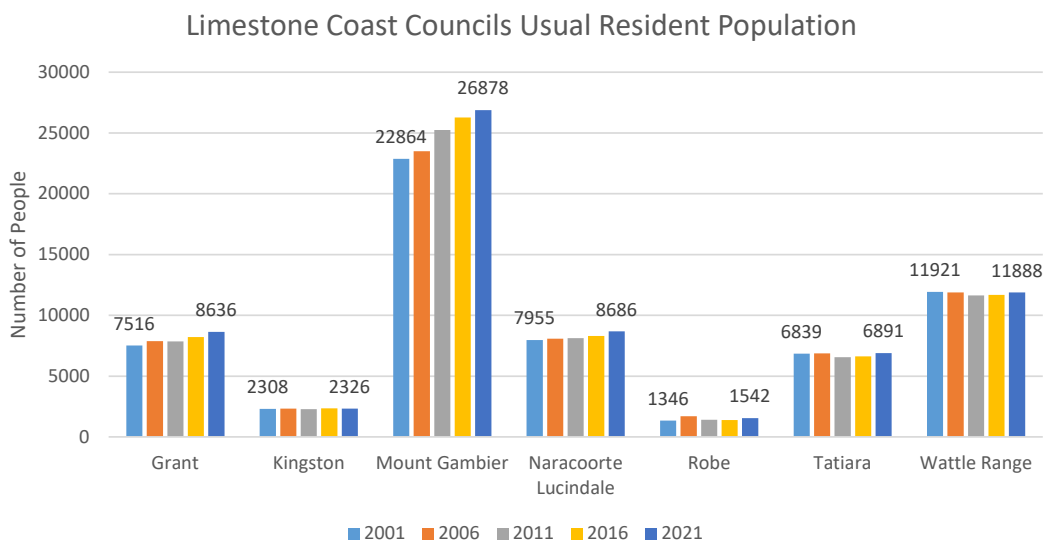
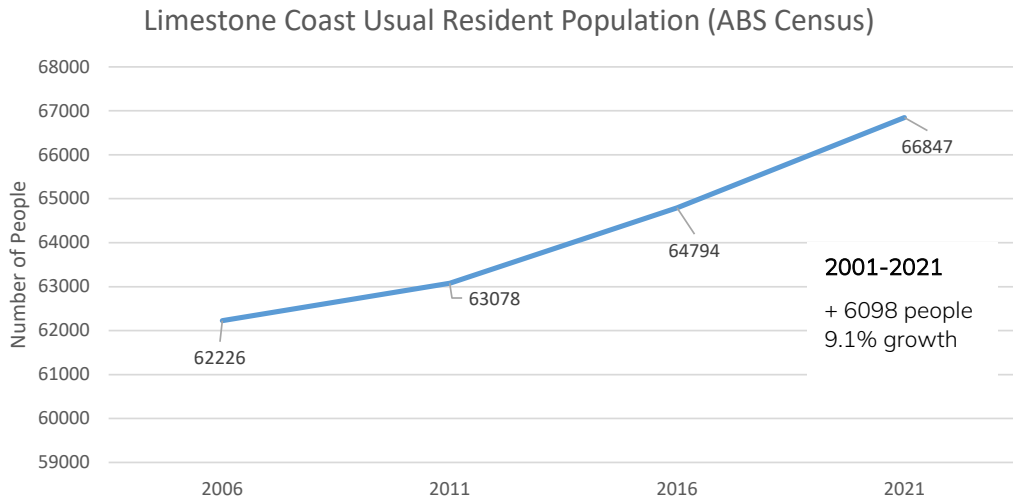
The Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA will collectively advocate for:

- Land use planning that meets the needs of the Limestone Coast community as part of the State Government Regional Planning Process.
- Provision of adequate childcare, aged care and health care in the region including treatment for mental health and substance misuse
- High quality education for school-aged children
- Planning, incentives and investment in appropriate housing and enabling infrastructure
- Regional and Mount Gambier public transport
- Investment in community infrastructure.

8.3 Priority Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA projects

Organisation	Priority projects
District Council of Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inner Township Plans implementation
Kingston District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gall Park Precinct upgrades • Advocate for Kingston Early Learning Centre
City of Mount Gambier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing Plan implementation • Public transport review and advocacy • Blue Lake Sports Plan Masterplan implementation
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naracoorte Town Centre Rejuvenation Plan implementation • Naracoorte Swimming Lake Masterplan implementation
District Council of Robe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robe Street Upgrade including tree planting strategy • Main Street Upgrade including Lanam Park and the re-development of the institute, war memorial, foreshore and public toilets one precinct
Tatiara District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsay Terrace, Bordertown and Bennett Street, Keith residential developments • Padthaway Streetscape Plan implementation
Wattle Range Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew and upgrade the Millicent Swimming Lake • Pursue funding and implementation of Millicent and Penola Main Street Masterplans • Develop a public/private partnership model for the development of a multigenerational child/aged care facility in Millicent
RDA Limestone Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for community groups to access funding • Regional Leadership Program
Limestone Coast LGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for new housing initiatives

8.4 Key measure



(Source: Profile id)

9. Goal: WORK

A productive region that people love to work in with:

- An available and consistent workforce
- Local training or education options that align to industry need
- Optimised primary production - land and sea
- Business leadership and collaboration that enables industry innovation, sustainability, value add and diversification
- Support for decarbonisation and the transition to a net zero economy.

9.1 Key regional initiatives

The Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA will work together to deliver these initiatives.

Initiative	Description
Regional training and education hub	Establish a regional training and education hub to service the northern half of the region. Explore partnerships with the federal government Regional University Study Hubs program, education and training providers.
Migrant attraction	Deliver a migrant attraction project that benchmarks other successful regions and advocates to change the region's classification for skilled migration visas.
Value-add study	Engage with industry and business to undertake a study to identify opportunities for specific added-value industries in the region.
Circular economy project	Work with industry and state government to select value-add circular economy project(s) to implement from the Circular Economy Opportunities Limestone Coast Report (RDALC and Green Industries SA).

9.2 Collaborative advocacy

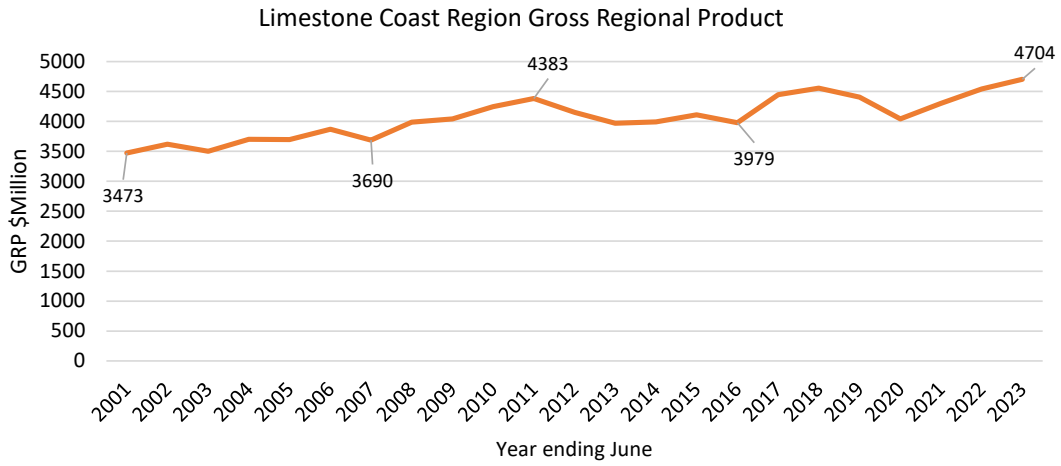
The Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA will collectively advocate for:

- Local education and training options aligned to industry need
- Changing regional classifications for skilled migration visas
- Protection and optimisation of primary production in land use planning
- A workforce strategy that identifies the future skills and needs of the region with actions to fill the gaps
- Support for industries to adapt to operating in a net zero economy.

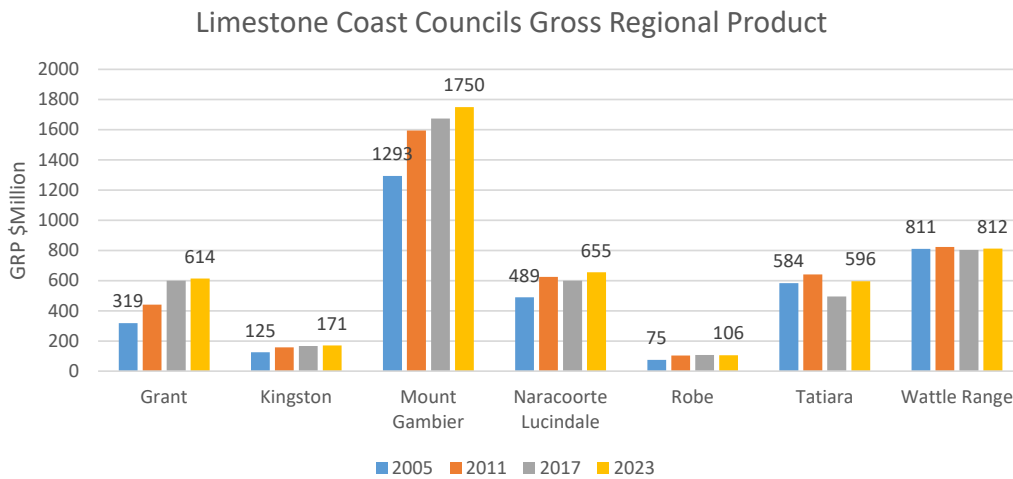
9.3 Priority Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA projects

Organisation	Priority projects
District Council of Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saleyards Transformation Project • Local Government Association Net Zero Accelerate Program
Kingston District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate sustainable and economical long term sand management solution for Cape Jaffa Anchorage
City of Mount Gambier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for community interests in the new Mount Gambier Education Precinct
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naracoorte Regional Livestock Exchange – infrastructure and value add service offerings
District Council of Robe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Main Street Upgrade including Driving Robe: Easier & Greener
Tatiara District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bordertown Training and Education Hub • Migrant Community Action Plan implementation
Wattle Range Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue and implement Planning Code Amendments in accordance with Wattle Range Strategic Land Use Plan
RDA Limestone Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small business support program • Investigate options for decarbonisation for industries in the region
Limestone Coast LGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for enhanced education and training options

9.4 Key measure



(Source: Economy id, RDA Limestone Coast)



(Source: Economy id, RDA Limestone Coast)

10. Goal: VISIT

A region people love to visit with:

- High and sustainable tourist visitation and spend per visit
- Easy access by air, road or rail
- Immersive high-quality experiences that celebrate our region's pristine coasts, caves, food and beverage offerings and First Nation's heritage
- Diverse quality and experiential accommodation offerings
- Responsible care and custodianship of our natural attractions
- Connected, safe, accessible, and easy to follow tourist routes and trails.

10.1 Key regional initiatives

The Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA will work together to deliver these initiatives.

Initiative	Description
Destination tourism and marketing	Deliver a vibrant marketing plan that will increase visitation to the region.
Natural destination management	Establish a regional initiative with the Landscape Board and Department for Environment and Water to encourage visitor stewardship and manage the impact of visitation on natural destinations. This could include the provision of camp site infrastructure, booking processes and information. Eyes on Eyre is a similar initiation in the Eyre Peninsula Region.
Regional tourist trails	Build on the Regional Trails Strategy to identify and seek funding to construct priority regional tourist trail linkages to key tourist destinations.

10.2 Collaborative advocacy

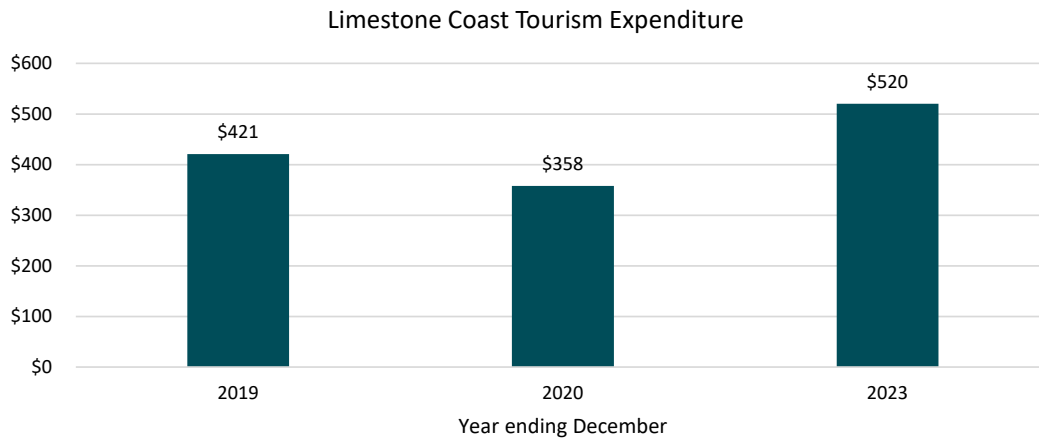
The Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA will collectively advocate for:

- Promotion of our region's tourism offering
- Funding for wayfinding and end of trip facilities
- Cross border collaboration for tourism outcomes
- State Government investment in natural destinations and regionally held major events (e.g. Gather Round)

10.3 Priority Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA projects

Organisation	Priority projects
District Council of Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Gambier Airport Master Plan • Walking and Cycling Plan
Kingston District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingston Jetty and precinct upgrade
City of Mount Gambier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment and Attraction website and approach • Visitor Servicing Model implementation • Gather Round Before the Bounce events and activation • Crater Lakes activation
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with Naracoorte Caves (National Parks and Wildlife Service) for public private partnership (PPP) funding opportunity and facility development • Naracoorte Trail Hub (Naracoorte Caves to Coonawarra Trail, Naracoorte to Lucindale Trail and Lucindale to Kingston Trail)
District Council of Robe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Township Masterplan including Robe Obelisk, EV station, Long Beach boardwalk and playground
Tatiara District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tatiara Strategic Pathway Plan implementation
Wattle Range Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and connect regional trails network • Expand regional EV Charging network
RDA Limestone Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support tourism businesses to thrive • Regional trails planning
Limestone Coast LGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional trails planning

10.4 Key measure



(Source: South Australian Tourism Commission, Limestone Coast Regional Profile, December 2023)

11. Goal: BUILD

A region enabled by quality infrastructure with:

- An efficient and safe road and bridge network
- Internet and phone services that support business productivity and community connection
- Potable water, wastewater and drainage networks that enable growth
- Energy generation, storage and distribution that supports sustainable growth and leverages the energy transition
- A circular economy enabled by waste processing and reuse infrastructure
- Jetties, ramps and coastal structures that support aquatic industries and recreational use.

11.1 Key regional initiatives

The Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA will work together to deliver these initiatives.

Initiative	Description
Road Transport Strategy	Implement the regional 2030 Road Transport Strategy to deliver and advocate for improvements to the Council and State road network for community, tourism and industry
Mobile blackspots	Implement Stage 2 of the Regional Connectivity Project to address mobile blackspots in partnership with State and Federal Government and Telstra.
Utility infrastructure	Explore and benchmark Public Private Partnership (PPP) models to attract utility infrastructure investment.
Circular economy	Seek public private partnership investment and regional options for waste reduction and resource recovery for Council managed waste streams

11.2 Collaborative advocacy

The Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA will collectively advocate for:

- Investment in state government roads
- Investment in water and electricity networks
- Improved digital connectivity
- Coastal infrastructure to support industry and community use.

11.3 Priority Limestone Coast Councils, RDA and LGA projects

Organisation	Priority projects
District Council of Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Wastewater Management System Review and Expansion Strategic Road Review
Kingston District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Wastewater Management System expansion Coastal protection and infrastructure
City of Mount Gambier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste master planning and implementation
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of local road projects from the Regional Road Transport Strategy
District Council of Robe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Township Masterplan including West Beach access, footpath development and connection strategy, coastal trails and Davenport Street extension
Tatiara District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bordertown water supply security Bordertown electricity network augmentation Ongoing road asset renewals
Wattle Range Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for State Government renewal of Princes Highway, Southern Ports Highway and other significant regional tourism and freight routes
RDA Limestone Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual review and 3 year update regional input to Statewide Infrastructure prioritisation
Limestone Coast LGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for improved road infrastructure

11.4 Key measure

A suitable measure is being identified, which has a reliable and consistent data source.



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Reference: AR24/90532
Enquiries to: Barbara Cernovskis

(insert date)

Zoe Hambour
Principal Consultant
URPS

Email: zhambour@urps.com.au

Dear Zoe

RE: SUBMISSION: LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY 2024-2029

The City of Mount Gambier welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the draft Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy 2024-2029.

Please find our feedback detailed below under each relevant section:

1. CALL TO ACTION

On page 6 under South Australian Government include Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

4. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Under section 4.1, it is recommended that 'High Tourism Visits' be re-positioned as 'Destination Demand.' It is noted that the Limestone Coast has the 3rd highest visitation. We believe it would be beneficial to also highlight expenditure as a key strength, as this aligns with the goal of attracting higher-yield travellers. This focus on expenditure is more sustainable and desirable than solely prioritising volume of visitation, which could risk over-tourism.

Under section 4.3, it may be beneficial to add the proximity to the Victorian border as an opportunity for a new visitor economy.

Under section 4.4, it is recommended to add water security/availability as a potential threat, which could impact both the region's brand and the visitor experience in the Limestone Coast.

Also, under section 4.4, the change in the retail sector and consumer behaviour could be moved from a threat to an opportunity. This shift presents an opportunity for the retail sector to explore diversity in offerings and create multi-functional, inclusive spaces that cater to the changing needs of local communities. This could include taking fresh ideas and risk with innovation at the heart of physical retail to build on civic pride.

5. KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

We strongly agree with the 3 top priorities or challenges identified, however as previously stated, we are uncomfortable with the language of 'Boosting Tourism' as this is not consistent with Tourism Australia, South Australia Tourism Commission language or City of Mount Gambier. More importantly with our community as we face the balance between sustainable land management practices and good custodianship with over-tourism.

6. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE REGION

The commentary on the results is valuable, but there could be greater depth. The following notes outline specific areas for consideration.

Housing and Growth: The state government has set aside funding for housing stock in regional areas specifically for police, nurses, doctors, and teachers. If this is the case, the document should explicitly mention that the Limestone Coast wants to see more of this funding allocated to these key sectors.

Health: The inclusion of Palliative Care in the health section needs to align with the provided definition, as these individuals typically do not experience travel or wait times. Instead, we are advocating for the provision of appropriate palliative care beds in the Mount Gambier Hospital, and in home hospice care, enabling residents to end their lives with dignity and in their community, similar to the services available in Adelaide.

Tourism: the text should be revised to 'Opportunities to strengthen the region's brand and develop experiences that tell the story of and preserve our natural environment, with an understanding of the positive impact this will have on our traveller's experiences and our communities' lives.' There is a need for a more connected traveller journey throughout the region and better policies and compliance on environmental damage caused by visitation.

Education: The merger between UniSA and The University of Adelaide presents a significant opportunity for the Limestone Coast, particularly in offering a wider range of courses. The term 'tertiary' in the document refers to both university and TAFE qualifications, but it is used alongside 'VET qualifications', which could be confusing. Mount Gambier is positioned to become an education hub, and this should be clearly stated.

Community: The Mount Barker Summit is mentioned, but it seems more aligned with health and wellbeing. Additionally, Mount Gambier's largest regional art gallery The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre and Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre should be acknowledged as significant cultural assets for the region.

Sustainability: Prioritising long term sustainable water security including, but not limited to, Blue Lake/Warwar.

8. LIVE: A region people love to live in

In sections 8 and 8.2, include disability care alongside health care, childcare and aged care.

In section 8.3, for City of Mount Gambier, include a stronger focus on advocating for improved health services and skilled workers, given the city's role as the regional centre.



9. WORK: A productive region that people love to work in

This section acknowledges the workforce challenges and skills attraction issues faced by Mount Gambier.

In section 9.3, for City of Mount Gambier, include the Retention, Attraction, and Investment framework and approach.

10. VISIT: A region people love to visit

It is recommended that 'A region people love to visit' be revised as 'A region people love to visit and want to return and contribute to'.

There is inconsistent language between this document and other key strategic documents from different levels of government, specifically Tourism Australia and the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC).

- The term 'Tourist' should be revised to 'Visitor'.
- The term 'Tourism' should be revised to 'Visitor Economy'.

Under the 'Initiative' description, the phrase "Deliver a vibrant marketing plan that will increase visitation" raises some points for consideration, as it suggests a tactical campaign with visitation as the primary measure. This will be difficult in light of Regional Review and the changes to marketing at state level and without an updated Destination Management Plan for our region. Based on our understanding of the SATC Regional Review, marketing will be centralised at the state level through SATC. We question whether this aligns with the priorities of the Regional Growth Strategy and recommend revisiting this section to ensure it aligns with the overall intent of the Regional Review.

In section 10.2, include another dot point:

- To elevate the standard of accommodation offering to include 5 star rating.

In section 10.3, for City of Mount Gambier:

- Include product development of Engelbrecht Cave.
- Revise to the 'Retention, Attraction, and Investment framework and approach'.
- Transfer DIT land adjacent to Hastings Cunningham Reserve to Council or private industry for development, noting the land be decontaminated first.

11. BUILD: A region enabled by quality infrastructure.

We acknowledge that our previous feedback has been incorporated overall. However, we have noted that timeframes are not outlined, and references to key state government initiatives, such as the State Housing Road Map, are missing.

We would like to again emphasise the importance of underlying infrastructure to support development across the region, along with transport and utilities infrastructure.

We have noted that there is no measure specified in section 11.4.

We suggest including a strategic document hierarchy to provide context and highlight the connections between this important regional work and other levels of government.



Our Mount Gambier 2035 Community Vision together with our Strategic Plan and this Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy will be important tools for our community as we enhance our regional position in a national field and seek additional funding from governments to build on the livability of our Regional Capital. To that end, thank you again for approving an extension to 20 December 2024. This has allowed our Council to consider this document at the December Council Meeting for an informed response.

We look forward to the outcomes of the public consultation process and adoption of the Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy 2024-2029.

Yours faithfully

Sarah PHILPOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



18.4 SUBMISSION - SELECT COMMITTEE ON LIVE AND CREATIVE VENUES

Author: Benjamin Kilsby, Strategic Engagement & Development Coordinator
Authoriser: Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Submission - Select Committee on Live and Creative Venues' as presented on Tuesday 17 December 2024 be noted.
2. That Council authorise administration to provide the submission for the consideration of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council for local and live creative venues.

PURPOSE

Seek Council endorsement for the attached submission on behalf of the City of Mount Gambier to the Select Committee to the Legislative Council's inquiry into local and live creative venues.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

A Select Committee of the Legislative Council has been established to inquire into and report on local and live creative venues, with particular reference to:

- (a) The impacts of, and reasons for, recent loss of live music and local creative venues in South Australia;
- (b) Understanding the cultural, social, economic and other contributions made by local and live creative venues;
- (c) Supporting South Australian artists and creatives with venues and spaces where they can develop their craft, audiences and communities;
- (d) Understanding the types of cultural infrastructure needed for a healthy art, culture and creative sector in South Australia;
- (e) Protecting local and live creative venues and performance spaces; and
- (f) Any other related matters.

Informed by the range of strategic initiatives that Council has undertaken aimed at strengthening the local live music sector and building a vibrant and sustainable cultural economy, administration has taken the opportunity to compile some of the recurring themes that have risen from stakeholder and industry engagement over recent years.

The draft submission also highlights Councils support for the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre Master Plan and key infrastructure and service considerations attached to realising the large-scale performance capacities of Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre.

CONCLUSION

Council has maintained a long-term commitment to fostering a vibrant and culturally enriched city. The submission to the Select Committee on Local and Live Creative Venues outlines our strategic objectives and highlights a range of opportunities for collaboration that could further enhance our capacity as both a regional capital and a strategically important contributor to regional touring in South Australia.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Select Committee Submission on Local and Live Creative Venues [18.4.1 - 7 pages]



Submission: Select Committee on Local and Live Creative Venues in South Australia

City of Mount Gambier

The City of Mount Gambier welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Select Committee on Local and Live Creative Venues in South Australia.

As the regional capital of South Australia, Mount Gambier has a resident population of 28,000 people and a regional population of over 130,000 from the Limestone Coast of South Australia and across the border in Southwestern Victoria. For this cross-broader region, Mount Gambier serves as a critical access point for services, commercial trade and cultural activity.

The city is centrally located between Adelaide and Melbourne, providing ease of access between both capital cities, a basecamp to our region and positioning Mount Gambier as a strategically important gateway for regional touring artists entering South Australia.

Commercially, the live music sector in Mount Gambier demonstrates a strong foundation for growth, hosting a variety of venues who regularly feature live music, music infrastructure and equipment hire providers and numerous highly skilled technicians who regularly support live music performance throughout the region.

Mount Gambier is home to Generations in Jazz, annually attracting close to 5000 people to the renowned festival on the outskirts of our city, with a strategic intent to grow these numbers to 6000 by 2028.

The city continues to attract a variety of large-scale touring live music events with the proven capacity of generating audiences of between 3000 and 5000 people. These include the Red Hot Summer Tour, the Limestone Coast Beer and Barbecue Festival and the recently announced Summer Salt Tour. These events are reported to have the capacity to stimulate the local economy, with reports detailing value of up to approximately \$3 million each.

Critical to the fostering of creative performance in our region, the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre is located in the heart of Mount Gambier, boasting a 524-seat proscenium arch auditorium. The multi-purpose venue supports a diverse range of performance, film screenings, conferences and seminars. The venue plays a significant role in ensuring our community has access to a professional creative environment, both as a versatile performance outlet and a consistent and quality venue for audiences.

Live Music Industry and community participation

A live music census conducted in November 2021 highlighted the extent of live music performance occurring in Mount Gambier with 48 promoted performances for the month across 11 unique venues. This was a 30% increase in performance numbers from the previous census in 2019.

In 2022, APRA AMCOS reported 109 One Music Licenses within the post codes of 5290 and 5291, which incorporates Mount Gambier and direct surrounds.

Databases held by the City of Mount Gambier detail at least 60 acts who promote their performance availability in Mount Gambier.

A range of local businesses offer equipment hire and technical services capable of supporting a range of events at high standards. This includes three music-focused equipment hire operators and at least three companies providing event-related infrastructure.

Music is offered within the local curriculum at all secondary schools, with a number offering annual musical performance programs. A range of commercial outlets also provide group and private tuition.

The city also supports the Mount Gambier City Band, Brass Band and regular performances of the Limestone Coast Symphony Orchestra.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Mount Gambier was not immune from the significant challenges that COVID-19 presented to the live music industry generally, but this impact was exacerbated by our function as a cross-border community. During COVID, this directly impacted on the capacity to access touring acts, share cross-border infrastructure and attract our normal interstate audiences who would otherwise support commercial live music activity within our community.

Those venues who had developed momentum as regular hosts of live music performance pre-COVID-19 have reported a struggle to regain commercial traction in the years following. Recent feedback from these operators references inconsistent audience participation due to cost-of-living pressures, reduced presence of touring acts approaching venues and the potential need for a collective rebuild of Mount Gambier's brand as a rewarding touring destination.

The public health safeguards introduced during the pandemic, such as the prohibition of dancing and consuming alcohol whilst standing, were highlighted as the direct cause of demise of Mount Gambier's only late-night licenced venue 'Shadows Entertainment Complex' in 2020. It was reported that, unlike other venues that were able to pivot their operation to continue to allow cashflow, it was seemingly difficult for this to occur in a nightclub environment¹.

Shadows Entertainment Complex served an important role for Mount Gambier as a fit-for-purpose, medium sized, commercial live music venue with a licenced capacity of approximately 720 people. The venue design provided a suitable layout to accommodate a range of performance. Acts that were hosted by Shadows include Seth Sentry, Frenzal Rhomb, Parkway Drive, Hilltop Hoods, Bliss N Eso, British India, The Angels, Screaming Jets and the Hoodo Gurus, amongst others².

The venue has remained closed since March 2020 and the building has since changed ownership. Although the new owners remain motivated to see the venue return to commercial trade as a nightclub or live music venue³, despite strong local media attention and commercial agent representation, a suitable lessee is yet to be identified.

Due to its size and purpose, the loss of this venue to Mount Gambier has severely limited the capacity for Mount Gambier to feature on the schedules of similar calibre touring acts, due primarily to the lack of an alternative suitably sized and equipped commercial venue.

Interim performance opportunity for audiences of this size or above in Mount Gambier has been largely limited to outdoor festivals or events, utilising temporary infrastructure. This has recently been witnessed through a performance of well-known artist *Tones and I*, who

¹ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-10-19/south-australias-regional-nightclubs-in-dark-over-covid/12769974>

² <https://www.setlist.fm/venue/shadows-entertainment-complex-mount-gambier-australia-4bd31f66.html>

³ <https://sevoice.com.au/new-lease-of-life-sought-for-iconic-city-building/>

performed on a temporary stage in the car park of a local hotel and the upcoming tour of Brisbane-based rock band *The Butterfly Effect* who have scheduled their regional tour to visit Mount Gambier as part of the Limestone Coast Beer and Barbecue Festival. Both acts potentially lacked a suitable bricks and mortar venue offering in Mount Gambier and performances would not have been feasible without the provision of temporary outdoor infrastructure.

The implications of the loss of such a significant venue, and the only medium-sized venue of its nature in the city, are being felt by our community. A recent social research assessment attached to the further development of the CBD of Mount Gambier, highlighted the strengthening of our evening and nighttime economy as a key priority. This demonstrates the value that our community places on this offering as part of the liveability of our city.

City of Mount Gambier Initiatives

The City of Mount Gambier remains committed to supporting the ongoing growth and development of a robust live music community and this is underpinned by a range of strategic commitments including our Youth Engagement Strategy, Cultural and Heritage Plan, Public Art Plan, CBD Guidelines and Mount Gambier 2035 Community Plan, each of which acknowledges the value of a strong cultural economy.

Council's newly endorsed Strategic Plan 2024-2028 highlights a range of initiatives which align with live music development including:

- Supporting the ongoing growth of our CBD as a vital economic, social and cultural hub for our community
- Improving our early evening economy and creating destination experiences throughout the calendar year.
- Positioning Mount Gambier as a regional centre for live performance
- Recognising, encouraging and supporting artists, emerging artists, writers and performers through promotion of the arts and supporting opportunities to exhibit and perform.

Our commitments also extend to the provision of well-considered public infrastructure and a range of programming and economic development activity which is aimed at fostering the growth of our sector. This includes:

Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre

A significant multi-generational infrastructure project, Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre provides a high-quality indoor aquatic and sporting facility close to the CBD of Mount Gambier.

Acknowledging community and sector feedback highlighting the lack of fit-for-purpose inner-city performance space for large scale cultural event programming, opportunity was taken to ensure that the design of the centre incorporated consideration of the space being utilised for performances and conventions. This resulted in numerous customised and multi-purpose design elements being built into the centre including acoustic treatments, fit-for-purpose flooring, rigging for basic lighting and curtains, large digital backdrop screen, floor trap power, water and data outlets for portable hospitality provision and dedicated spaces for green rooms and performers change and dressing rooms. The space also features retractable tiered seating for over 1000 people, a further provision for 1000 people in general admission and a mezzanine viewing area for VIP and/or wheelchair accessible viewing.

The inclusion of these design elements provides a foundation for the capacity to provide a suitable venue for an audience of over 2000 people – this is equal to the Thebarton Theatre and represents the largest indoor performance space outside of metropolitan Adelaide.

Despite the design considerations, there are a number of hurdles attached to the realisation of this objective, largely attached to the availability of key large-scale and fit-for-purpose event infrastructure in the region such as suitable staging and the availability of licenced crowd control security personnel to support the numbers that the venue can hold. These are challenges each require degrees of strategic intervention over the coming years to overcome before the venue can realise its potential.

Live and Local Project – ‘Homemade Jam’ – 2020/2021

In collaboration with the Live Music Office, Music Development Office, Music SA and APRA AMCOS, the City of Mount Gambier delivered a 6-month industry strengthening project in 2021 and 2022.

The project, which was the first of its kind in South Australia, provided a particular focus on the professional development of local artists through a range of practical activities attached to self-promotion, rate negotiation, insurance provision, stage presence and performance. The program incorporated a series of micro-festivals, training sessions and an industry engagement.

Mount Gambier Live Music Roundtable

As a conclusion to the Live and Local Project, in March 2022, the City of Mount Gambier hosted a live music roundtable which gathered a range of local musicians, venue operators and industry representatives to explore the strengths and improvement opportunities for live music in Mount Gambier and the surrounding district.

This industry consultation identified a range of key themes which have since informed funding submissions and program delivery and contributed to a number of strategic planning activities including the Mount Gambier 2035 Community Plan and the City of Mount Gambier 2024-2028 Strategic Plan.

Mount Gambier Industry Development Project – Music SA and City of Mount Gambier – 2024/2025 (current)

Delivered with the support of Live Music Australia funding, the project builds on the work of the Live and Local project, providing a particular focus on capacity building of local live music venues and associated industry professionals. The project provides a focus on up to 7 local venues to:

- Improve professional technical and production standards
- Support local and touring artists with performance opportunities
- Drive stronger audience development outcomes to grow attendance
- Develop a sustainable business model for Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre that improves its readiness and positioning as a venue able to host large scale performance activity
- Work with local and interstate promoters to rebuild viability into regional touring networks.

The project has already demonstrated results in building the live music capacity of a range of venues and supporting local individuals to build a commercial presence in live music promotion.

Ongoing Economic Development Activity – relationship building and positioning

Council continues to invest in the building of networks within the state and national live music sector to support the long-term growth and sustainability of live music in the city and surrounds. This includes acting as a concierge for commercial event operators, assisting in potential investment discussions and promoting the opportunities available within our region to commercial leads.

Public Space Master Planning and Public Infrastructure

City of Mount Gambier has made a range of deliberate attempts to improve the capacity of our public spaces to host live performance. This has included the considered positioning of 3-phase power outlets, bump in infrastructure access points and considerations made for fencing etc for ticketed events.

This lens will also be applied through the upcoming master planning of Vansittart Park, a sporting facility with direct connection to our CBD with community aspiration to become Mount Gambier's scale version of Adelaide Oval – a central multi-purpose outdoor venue with multipurpose capacity for high quality spectator sporting activity and other large scale outdoor events.

A critical infrastructure component missing from the Mount Gambier open space offering is permanent staging infrastructure an enabler of increased public performance. This has been a long-term master plan feature and community aspiration for the Mount Gambier Railway Lands (a central community events space opened in 2015) as part of a professional sound shell design to improve sound management within the site and manage the impacts of wind. This considerable investment could not be achieved without funding investment from the South Australian Government.

Opportunities

Despite the strong foundation for live music industry growth in Mount Gambier, there remains a range of opportunities that can only be realised with the strong collaboration of all levels of government and associated industry partners. These opportunities include:

Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre Master Plan

The City of Mount Gambier encourages the prioritisation of funding towards the rejuvenation of the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre as Mount Gambier's premier performance venue. The complex, built in the early 1980's, has been the focus of a master planning process led by Country Arts South Australia which will provide timely enhancements to make it fit for purpose for our evolving needs as a community for the next 40 years.

The master plan incorporates a range of performance spaces and complementary facilities such as a music recording studio⁴.

Addressing the infrastructure gap for Mount Gambier

⁴ <https://countryarts.lbcdn.io/uploads/2021/10/MasterplanSRHT-Oct-18.pdf>

Currently, large events occurring in Mount Gambier are required to source a variety of critical event infrastructure, such as professional staging, from as far away as Adelaide and Melbourne. The transport and accompanying technician travel and accommodation fees, create a significant upfront overhead which is often deemed prohibitive for many event or venue operators to proceed with events of this size and nature.

Similarly, activating Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre to its potential as an indoor performance space for up to 2000 people, relies on the sourcing of fit-for-purpose staging from outside the region at significant cost, which would be passed on to event promoters and, in turn, audiences.

Intervention from the Government of South Australia to assist in achieving infrastructure of this calibre in the region would undoubtedly unlock a range of live music performance and support the associated economic capacity in Mount Gambier to grow and build greater access to affordable cultural activity.

Reducing cross-border service barriers

Similar to critical infrastructure such as staging, the lack of late-night venues in Mount Gambier results in a service gap in licensed security professionals to support medium to large scale performance. These events, which are known to require up to 20-30 security staff to ensure audience safety and fulfill licencing requirements, have had little option but to source staff from Adelaide, chartering busses and providing accommodation in Mount Gambier to successfully deliver an event. This comes at significant cost.

Disappointingly, due to annual events such as the Port Fairy Folk Festival and other activities occurring in Western Victoria, across the border, numerous security providers are adequately staffed to service Mount Gambier but are restricted due to their licences not being recognised in South Australia. Crossover is possible, but feedback suggests that the fees to achieve this are commercially prohibitive.

The City of Mount Gambier calls on the South Australian Government to consider the cross-border function of our community and reduce the barriers to service provision of this nature.

Consistent funding for state-wide live music ecosystems

South Australia lacks a consistent funding model for live music industry development that reaches effectively into the regions. Local Government, particularly in regional South Australia, is limited in its capacity to prioritise the targeted support required to regenerate the ecosystems attached to what was once a healthy contributor to cultural economies across our state.

Feedback from the local sector highlights the limited support available within South Australia often feels 'Adelaide centric' and lacks resonance with the unique challenges and interests of regional communities.

The shortfall in consistent funding often results in short-term projects of 6-12 months, which take time to build engagement and result in a 'funding cliff face' upon completion. The stop/start nature of short-term funding dilutes continuity and inadvertently reduces the intended impact of these programs.

The ongoing funding of Regional Live Music Coordinators across South Australia would greatly assist in the gradual rebuilding of live music performance in regional areas with the consistency required to deliver long-term and sustainable economic growth in this space.

State Government leadership in rebuilding regional touring routes

As South Australia's regional capital, Mount Gambier is centrally located between Adelaide and Melbourne is well-positioned to play a significant role in rebuilding and enhancing touring within our state. Our city is located only 180km from Warrnambool which, in contrast, reports a steady flow of visiting acts undertaking tours or regional Victoria. Sadly, this is where many acts then turn back towards Melbourne.

With the holistic support of the South Australian Government, Mount Gambier could act as a rewarding and magnetic destination for these touring acts as the gateway to our state.

Achieving this requires state-wide collaboration and a range of ongoing industry and audience development activities within Mount Gambier and the broader Limestone Coast. It also requires strategic interventions on a State Government level to generate and embed connections across borders.

This role is outside of the scope and capacity of Local Government and is deserved of state government influence and attention.

Support for the rebuilding of fit-for-purpose commercial live music venues in Mount Gambier post COVID-19

As detailed in this submission, the loss of Mount Gambier's only late night, medium sized and fit-for-purpose live music venue during COVID-19 has left a considerable gap in the local venue offering and significantly inhibits Mount Gambier's capacity to host high calibre regional touring acts.

State Government interventions which could strategically promote the tenancy and incentivise or lower the barriers attached to the reactivation of these venues would greatly assist in the reestablishment of our regional live music economy.

The City of Mount Gambier remains a committed collaborator in the pursuit of a strong and sustainable live music industry. Further information about any of the content of this submission can be provided at the request of the Committee.

18.5 VALLEY LAKES TOILET BLOCK ACCESSIBLE PARKING

Author: Abdullah Mahmud, Manager Engineering, Design & Assets

Authoriser: Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Valley Lakes Toilet Block Accessible Parking' as presented on Tuesday 17 December 2024 be noted.
2. Type recommendation here.
 - (a) That Council endorse Traffic Impact Assessment and proposed area shown on the aerial map as attached to this report.
 - (b) 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:

Prohibited Area Disabled Permit Parking Only

Ref No. 2.3.108

Valley Lakes Toilet Block Accessible Parking adjacent to the Northern Accessible Ramp.

To apply at all times.”

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek council's endorsement for installation of two (2) disability Access permit only parking spaces near the Valley Lakes Toilet block.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

The Council has received a request for accessible parking spaces near the playground area to accommodate people with disabilities. The Valley Lake Toilet Block, constructed and opened in 2023, includes fully accessible facilities and a ramp for easy access. However, the small parking area adjacent to the ramp currently lacks designated parking spaces.

IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

Legal	N/A
Financial and Budget	Internal labour & Material from outdoor Crew
Community Consultation and Engagement	N/A
Other Resources	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
Reputation – Council has committed to ensure all community members have equitable access to public service.	Moderate (3)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Installation of these accessible parking spaces will eliminate this risk.
Legal / Regulatory / Policy – Failing to adhere to council policies (DAIP) mandating inclusion of accessible features in public infrastructure projects.	Moderate (3)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Installation of these accessible parking spaces will eliminate this risk.
Service Delivery - Without a designated accessible parking to the toilet block may lead to Difficulty for individuals with mobility impairments to access restroom facilities safely and conveniently.	Moderate (3)	Unlikely (2)	Moderate	Installation of these accessible parking spaces will eliminate this risk.

APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Priority 3: Infrastructure and Services

3.7 Ensure that all community members have equitable access to the resources, services, programs, information and social infrastructure, enabling meaningful participation in the community.

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

Priority 3: Infrastructure and Services

Delivery of a refreshed Disability Access and Inclusion Plan underpinning our approach to disability access and inclusion.

RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICY

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

Once a resolution has been adopted, council officers will organise for the installation of the accessible parking spaces including signage, line markings and media publication.



CONCLUSION

It is recommended to install two disability permit parking spaces, allowing individuals with disability access permits to drive up to the toilet block and independently use the facilities via the ramp.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Traffic Impact Statement 2 Disabled Permit Parking Zones Valley Lakes t (1) [18.5.1 - 2 pages]



TRAFFIC IMPACT STATEMENT

2 Disabled Permit Parking Zones
Adjacent to Valley Lakes Toilet Block

Part A - Traffic Management

It is the view of the undersigned that the installation of 2 Disabled Permit Parking Zones in the parking space near the Valley Lakes Toilet Block will not be detrimental to traffic management in the area.

Part B - Road Safety Effects

It is anticipated that the proposal will not have any negative impacts on road safety.

Conclusion

In the opinion of the undersigned, that the installation of 2 Disabled Permit Parking Zones in the parking space near the Valley Lakes Toilet Block will not be detrimental to traffic management in the area.




Abdullah MAHMUD
MANAGER ENGINEERING, DESIGN AND ASSETS

09 December 2024

Ref. AR24/27366



	Approved by		
	Coordinates	MGA200-54	
	Project Details	GDA2020-7P	
	Revision No.	01	
Designed by	AHM DEC 2024	Revision Date	09/12/2024
Checked by	BC DEC 2024	<small>Issued for Review</small>	

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER
Proposed Accessible Parking
VALLEY LAKES TOILET BLOCK

Sheet Label	Draw No
C-01	1 of 1
Figure No.	..

18.6 COMMUNITY LAND REVOCATION PROPOSAL - JUBILEE HIGHWAY WEST, SUTTONTOWN

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

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Community Land Revocation Proposal - Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown' as presented on Tuesday 17 December 2024 be noted.
2. That Council hereby endorses community consultation on the Community Land Revocation Proposal Report for the parcel of land identified as Allotment 212 in Deposited Plan 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown in accordance with section 194 of the Local Government Act 1999.

PURPOSE

To seek Council's endorsement to proceed with the Community Land revocation proposal outlined in the attached report, following relevant public consultation and requirements in accordance with section 194 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the LG Act).

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

Council has received the **attached** request from Frank Brennan Consulting Services on behalf of Steeline Mount Gambier to revoke the community land classification over a parcel located at Allotment 212, Deposited Plan 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown in accordance with section 194 of the LG Act.

Steeline are the owners of the adjoining parcels located at Lots 209-211 Fraser Court, Suttontown. The community land (screening reserve) was originally put in place to prevent access to these parcels directly onto Jubilee Highway West, on the recommendation of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT).

Since that time, Steeline has sought approval from DIT for an exit-only driveway, requiring a right of access over the subject land, as part of a Development Application (DA 24020843). DIT have provided the **attached** 'in-principle' support for the proposal. In order to facilitate such development, the community land classification over the adjoining screening reserve would need to be revoked.

Due to the nature of the block (unusual shape and location) it is not a site which is utilised by the community (as is typically the case for community land) and therefore the impact to the community of revoking such classification is considered to be negligible. The **attached** Community Land Revocation Proposal Report detailing the proposal, along with a recommendation to proceed to the requisite community consultation in accordance with section 194 of the Act, is presented for Council's consideration. It is noted that this report deals with the community land revocation proposal only, and does not deal with matters relating to planning, business operations of Steeline at the site, or traffic impact of the development.

Community Land

Community Land as a concept was introduced with the LG Act "to create a system which protects the interests of the community in the land, for which the Councils are custodians, for



current and future generations and builds community consensus about the future management and use of such land". Community land is land to be "retained and managed for the benefit of the community".

Council Land & Crown Land

Councils own land and are also the custodians of land. Councils as the owners and custodians of land may use that land consistently with the rights that attach to owning or being a custodian of land. The LG Act and the Crown Land Management Act 2009 (CLM Act) then place parameters or restrictions on those rights. Pursuant to section 193 of the LG Act any land which is owned by a Council or under a Council's care, control and management is taken to be classified as Community Land unless the Council resolved to exclude it within three (3) years after the commencement date of the Act.

The Community Land Revocation Proposal Report outlines the relevant considerations, process and any impediments to revoking the Community Land status of the identified parcel. The process is highly prescriptive and set out under section 194 of the LG Act, refer extract below.

194—Revocation of classification of land as community land

2. Before a council revokes the classification of land as community land—

- a. the council must prepare and make publicly available a report on the proposal containing—*
 - i. a summary of the reasons for the proposal; and*
 - ii. a statement of any dedication, reservation or trust to which the land is subject;*

and

- iii. a statement of whether revocation of the classification is proposed with a view to sale or disposal of the land and, if so, details of any Government assistance given to acquire the land and a statement of how the council proposes to use the proceeds;*

and

- iv. an assessment of how implementation of the proposal would affect the area and the local community; and*
- v. if the council is not the owner of the land—a statement of any requirements made by the owner of the land as a condition of approving the proposed revocation of the classification; and*

- b. the council must follow the relevant steps set out in its public consultation policy.*

3. After complying with the requirements of subsection (2), the council—

- a. must submit the proposal with a report on all submissions made on it as part of the public consultation process to the Minister; and*
- b. if the Minister approves the proposal—may make a resolution revoking the classification of the land as community land.*

Expression of Interest (EOI) to Purchase

Council has previously considered this item at the ordinary meeting of 19 November 2024 and determined to seek whether the Applicant was interested in submitting an EOI to purchase the parcel as part of the within process, given its unusual shape, size and nature, in an effort to minimise administrative and maintenance burden of retaining the parcel, and in circumstances where the parcel is of no strategic benefit to Council.

The administration put this to the Applicant, and received the **attached** expression of interest to purchase the parcel, for the consideration amount of \$1,235.40 with the Applicant to bear all ancillary costs of transfer.

Council's [Disposal of Land and Assets Policy](#) sets out the requirements and process for disposal of property in accordance with section 49 of the LG Act. Council may dispose of land by negotiation with owners of land adjoining the land or others with a pre-existing interest



in the land, or where the land is to be used by a purchaser whose purpose for the land is consistent with the Council's strategic objectives for the land, which may include:

- land that because of its small size, dimensions or irregular shape would not readily support a self contained development outcome;
- land that has no legal access; or
- land to be developed by another sphere of government.

There are several factors which must be considered when disposing of Council owned / controlled land (where applicable):

- the usefulness of the land or asset;
- the current market value of the land or asset;
- the annual cost of maintenance;
- any alternative future use of the land or asset;
- any duplication of the land or asset or the service provided by the land or asset;
- any impact the disposal of the land or asset may have on the community;
- any cultural or historical significance of the land or asset;
- the positive and negative impacts the disposal of the land or asset may have on the operations of the Council;
- the long term plans and strategic direction of the Council;
- the remaining useful life, particularly of an asset;
- a benefit and risk analysis of the proposed disposal;
- the results of any community consultation process;
- any restrictions on the proposed disposal;
- the content of any community land management plan; and
- any other relevant policies of the Council.

In this instance, the following disposal conditions apply:

An independent valuation will not be required for a disposal where the current valuation as per Council's asset register is less than \$25,000. Due to the unique size and shape of the parcel, the value falls under the \$25,000 threshold required to obtain an independent valuation.

If the disposal is not to be on the open market, the disposal amount should have due regard to the value of the land (independent or estimation) and the recovery of associated costs necessary to achieve the transaction. Based on the area of the parcel (12 square meters), and the Valuer-General capital value of the two adjoining parcels owned by the Applicant, the below calculation provides some indication as to estimated value.

13-17 Fraser Court = CV \$650,000 / 5,877 sqm = \$110.60 per sqm
19-23 Fraser Court = CV \$590,000 / 6,186 sqm = \$95.30 per sqm
Community Land parcel (blended value) = \$102.95 x 12 sqm = \$1,235.40

The purchaser would be required to bear the costs of transfer, and given the unique shape of the parcel, it may be appropriate to consider having the parcel amalgamated into the existing titles.

The Council will seek to dispose of land by whichever method is likely to provide the Council with a maximum return at or near current market valuation, unless there are reasons for the Council to accept a lesser return which is consistent with the Council's overall strategic direction. These reasons must be documented in writing. In this instance, due to the unique



nature of the block and negligible strategic value, it is unlikely there would be a potential purchasers interested outside of the Applicant (adjoining landowner), and taking into account the cost of an open market sale, direct negotiation is considered the most appropriate disposal approach. The valuation method utilised is based on an independent valuation process (Valuer-General) and is a reasonable approximation of market value.

Where land is classified as community land, the Council must:

- undertake public consultation in accordance with the Act and the Council’s public consultation policy; and
- ensure that the process for the revocation of the classification of land as community land has been concluded prior to its disposal; and
- comply with all other requirements under the Act in respect of the disposal of community land.

These steps / requirements are already contemplated as part of the within process.

IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

Legal	ss 193 – 207 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) deal with the establishment, management and revocation of Community Land. Due to the nature of the interest Councils held in community land (somewhat fiduciary in nature, being held specifically for the benefit of the community) there are stringent requirements around how councils must manage such interests. The process to revoke a community land classification is prescriptive and robust, reflecting the nature of Council’s responsibility.
Financial and Budget	N/A
Community Consultation and Engagement	<p>The Community Land Revocation Proposal Report will form the basis for the community consultation. The below consultation strategy is recommended, which meets both legislated and policy requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information & receipt of submissions on website – public notice and feedback via YourSay • Notice in local paper – Media Release • Social media campaign • Letters to identified stakeholders • Notice in the Government Gazette • Documents available at Principal Office (Civic Centre) • Minimum 21 days’ notice to receive submissions – consultation will be open from 18 December 2024 - 8 January 2025. <p>Following consideration of submissions, the Council can either discontinue the revocation process or proceed to make an application to the Minister for Local Government for approval to revoke the community land classification applying to the land. If the Council elects to proceed with the revocation, all public submissions received by Council will be forwarded to the Minister for consideration as part of the formal application.</p>
Other Resources	The ad-hoc revocation of community land to facilitate / accommodate unsolicited proposal from the community does have a minor impact to regular resourcing, including the need for additional staff time and community consultation, however such ‘peaks’ in resource demand are unavoidable to deal with such issues in a timely manner.



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
Finance – Council experiences financial loss as a result of inappropriate disposal of community land	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	Strategic Property Management Project will consider Council's land holdings wholistically, to maximise resource efficiency / deal with surplus land, budget allocation for this process to account for external consultants / engagement requirements.
Reputation - Council experience negative news profile, public agitation and loss of trust as a result of inadequate community consultation	Moderate (3)	Unlikely (2)	Moderate	Robust and considered community engagement strategy, with key stakeholders, broader community and internally. Input from key subject-matter experts as required.
Legal / Regulatory / Policy - Council is subject to legal intervention as a result of statutory non-compliance	Major (4)	Unlikely (2)	Moderate	Strategic Property Management Project Plan with oversight from project team / lead, engagement of subject matter experts as right (e.g. legal, Crown land, SANTS etc). Allocation of appropriate amount of internal resourcing to reflect complexity of project / interconnected workstreams.
Service Delivery - Council experiences delay or interruption	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	Robust and considered community



in service delivery as a result of resourcing demands of community land review project				engagement strategy, with key stakeholders, broader community and internally. Allocation of appropriate amount of internal resourcing to reflect complexity of project / interconnected workstreams.
People - Negative impact to staff morale, engagement and satisfaction as a result of overloading of major projects cumulative impact with business as usual functions	Insignificant (1)	Unlikely (2)	Low	Allocation of appropriate amount of internal resourcing to reflect complexity of project / interconnected workstreams, engagement of subject matter experts as right (e.g. legal, Crown land, SANTS etc).
Infrastructure – Financial loss caused by dilapidated assets as a result of inadequate asset planning / oversupply of community land	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	Allocation of appropriate amount of internal resourcing to reflect complexity of project / interconnected workstreams, engagement of subject matter experts as right (e.g. legal, Crown land, SANTS etc), budget allocation for this process to account for external consultants / engagement requirements.
Environmental - Environmental damage to key sites caused by inconsistent or inadequate management of community land	Minor (2)	Rare (1)	Low	Engagement of subject matter experts as right (e.g. legal, Crown land, SANTS etc), strategic / master planning to inform desired objectives / targets for community land.



APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Priority 6: Excellence in Leadership and Governance

6.2 Ensure compliance with legislative obligations and apply best-practice governance to strengthen risk management, accountability and transparency, fostering trust within the community.

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

Priority 1: Environment and Liveability

Review and update Community Land Management Plans.

RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICY

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

Following the conclusion of the community consultation and revocation process, if approved, the sale of land process will be undertaken in accordance with the Disposal of Land and Assets Policy and section 49 of the LG Act. Further reports will be presented to Council setting out the process / requirements accordingly.

CONCLUSION

Council is now presented with a Community Land Revocation Proposal Report which shall form the basis of the requisite community consultation. The Council will then be required to consider any feedback received and determine whether to proceed with making application to the Minister for Local Government, or abandon the revocation process.

ATTACHMENTS

1. FBCS Steeline Community Land Revocation Proposal 231024 [**18.6.1** - 2 pages]
2. FBCS DIT in-principle support for Jubilee Highway egress [**18.6.2** - 1 page]
3. Community Land Revocation Proposal Report - Jubilee Hwy W, Suttontown [**18.6.3** - 13 pages]
4. FBCS Steeline EOI to purchase [**18.6.4** - 1 page]





ABN 91 376 720 132

PO Box 96
BEACHPORT SA 5280

M: 0418 838 152
E: frank@fbcs.com.au
W: www.fbcs.com.au

23 October 2024

Ms Sarah Philpott
Chief Executive Officer
City of Mount Gambier
PO Box 56
MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290

Dear Sarah

**Buffer Reserve Access
Allotment 212 in DP 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown**

I am acting for Steeline Mount Gambier in relation to their proposed development at allotments 209-211, Fraser Court, Suttontown of a shed for Steeline to be used for the fabrication of metal products, storage & sales and associated product display area, advertising signage, carparking, landscaping & mesh security fencing.

A formal Development Application (ID 24020843) has been lodged for Steeline's proposed development and is currently under assessment and public notification and referral to the Commissioner of Highways.

A copy of the site plan & elevations of the proposed development are attached.

In developing the project, extensive negotiations were held with the Department for Infrastructure & Transport (DIT) with the assistance of our traffic engineers, MFY regarding the design of an exit only driveway from the site onto Jubilee Highway West.

As a result of these negotiations, DIT have confirmed they are supportive of facilitating an exit only driveway from the Steeline site onto Jubilee Highway West – please refer to the attached email trail between MFY & DIT.

On behalf of Steeline I formally request Council approval for the granting of a formal right of way over the buffer reserve (allotment 212) in favour of Steeline's property, being allotment 211 in Deposited Plan 128081 as contained in certificate of title volume 6261 folio 879 for the purpose of facilitating the construction of an exit only driveway onto Jubilee Highway West.

We are aware Council holds the buffer reserve at Allotment 212 in DP 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown (as contained in certificate of title volume 6250, folio 283) as community land and that there is no Community Land Management Plan in place for the property.

Accordingly, if Council are supportive of granting the right of way we have requested, then Council would need to undertake the Community Land Revocation process required under section 194 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

A copy of section 194 is attached for your reference.

In this regard, Steeline would be responsible to reimburse Council for its reasonable costs incurred with the revocation of the Community Land Classification and the cost of the formal registration of the right of way over the buffer reserve (allotment 212).

... /2



Ms Sarah Philpott
Chief Executive Officer
City of Mount Gambier
23 October 2024
Page | 2

We look forward to Council's favourable consideration of our request / that will assist in facilitating the investment of \$5 million for the Steeline project and the creation of further employment opportunities in the Mount Gambier community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information in support of our application or wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Brennan', written over a white background.

F.N. (Frank) Brennan PSM MPIA
Accredited Planning Professional APP20190029
Principal Consultant

FRANK BRENNAN CONSULTING SERVICES



Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

Att: Steeline Site Plan & Elevations
Email Trail DIT & MFY
Section 194 *Local Government Act 1999*

Cc: Mrs Tracy Tzioutziouklaris (Manager Development Services)
Ms Brittany Shelton (City of Mount Gambier)

Frank Brennan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 October 2024 3:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Frank Brennan
Subject: RE: 13-27 Fraser Court, Suttontown - Jubilee Highway access

Categories: FBCS

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

I can confirm that the Department provides in-principle support for an egress onto Jubilee Highway to cater for the heavy vehicle movements of the proposed development. The Department will provide further advice/conditions to Council on this matter as part its referral response.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Manager
Transport Assessment
Transport Strategy and Planning
Department for Infrastructure and Transport
T [REDACTED] • E [REDACTED] – Please note new number
PO Box 1533 Adelaide SA 5001 • DX 171 • www.dit.sa.gov.au



collaboration . honesty . excellence . enjoyment . respect
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 24 October 2024 1:34 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Frank Brennan <frank@fbcs.com.au>
Subject: 13-27 Fraser Court, Suttontown - Jubilee Highway access

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, the attached plans and report have been referred to you for assessment, but a concurrent process is underway to permit the construction of the proposed egress to Jubilee Highway over the reserve.

To assist in progressing this, could you please confirm your in-principle support for an egress from the site to the arterial road?

Thanks

[REDACTED] | Senior Associate | MFY Pty Ltd



Unit 6/224 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton SA 5063

t: 08 [REDACTED] | m: [REDACTED] | e: [REDACTED]

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PROPOSAL FOR THE REVOCATION OF COMMUNITY LAND CLASSIFICATION

**Community Land – Screening Reserve
(Allotment 212 in Deposited Plan 125742, Jubilee Highway West,
Suttontown)**

CONSULTATION REPORT

1. Introduction

This consultation report has been prepared to provide information to the public in relation to the City of Mount Gambier's (**Council**) proposal to revoke the community land classification that presently applies to the Council land described as Allotment 212 in Deposited Plan 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown (the **subject land**). The subject land is located immediately adjacent to Allotment 211 in Deposited Plan 128081 which is owned freehold by Steeline Mount Gambier (the Applicant), please refer to plan delineating the location of the subject land on page 4 of this report.

The *Local Government Act 1999* (SA)(**LG Act**) came into effect on 1 January 2000 and at that time all land, other than roads, owned or held under the care, control and management of the Council was classified as community land. This classification affects the way in which the Council can manage, use and deal with the land. The classification does not affect the ownership, tenure, development or zoning of the land. However, as long as the land is classified as community land, it cannot be sold or disposed of without meeting certain requirements, and following the process prescribed in the LG Act.

Should the Council resolve to dispose of a parcel of community land, ordinarily it must first revoke the community land classification applying to the land. Section 194 of the LG Act outlines the process that the Council must undertake to revoke the community land classification, including community consultation requirements. It is this report which forms the basis of the Council's consultation with the community and ensures that the community has an opportunity to consider and comment on the proposed revocation.

Council has identified the subject land to be surplus to its requirements and seeks to dispose of the land accordingly. The Council is seeking to facilitate a private sale of the subject land. To enable Council to progress this proposal, it has been determined to commence the community land revocation process and to seek community feedback on the within proposal.

2. Section 194(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*

In accordance with Section 194(2) of the LG Act (extract below), Council must prepare and make publicly available a report on any proposal to revoke a community land classification applying to land, which must include:

- i. a summary of the reasons for the proposal;
- ii. a statement of any dedication, reservation or trust to which the land is subject;
- iii. a statement of whether revocation of the classification is proposed with a view to sale or disposal of the land;
- iv. an assessment of how implementation of the proposal would affect the area and the local community; and
- v. if the council is not the owner of the land—a statement of any requirements made by the owner of the land as a condition of approving the proposed revocation of the classification.

The Council must then follow the relevant steps set out in its public consultation policy in relation to the proposal.

After complying with the requirements of the LG Act, Council:

- (a) must submit the proposal with a report on all submissions made on it as part of the public consultation process to the Minister responsible for the administration of the LG Act; and
- (b) if the Minister approves the proposal, Council may make a resolution revoking the classification of the land as community land.

Following the public consultation process, all written submissions received during the consultation timeframe will form part of a report to the Council and subsequently the Minister for Local Government (**Minister**), applying for ministerial approval to revoke the classification of community land, as part of the legislative requirement.

In the event approval is granted by the Minister, Council may then resolve to revoke the classification of community land over the subject land.

Local Government Act 1999

194—Revocation of classification of land as community land

2. Before a council revokes the classification of land as community land—
 - a. the council must prepare and make publicly available a report on the proposal containing—
 - i. a summary of the reasons for the proposal; and
 - ii. a statement of any dedication, reservation or trust to which the land is subject; and
 - iii. a statement of whether revocation of the classification is proposed with a view to sale or disposal of the land and, if so, details of any Government assistance given to acquire the land and a statement of how the council proposes to use the proceeds; and
 - iv. an assessment of how implementation of the proposal would affect the area and the local community; and
 - v. if the council is not the owner of the land—a statement of any requirements made by the owner of the land as a condition of approving the proposed revocation of the classification; and
 - b. the council must follow the relevant steps set out in its public consultation policy.
3. After complying with the requirements of subsection (2), the council—
 - a. must submit the proposal with a report on all submissions made on it as part of the public consultation process to the Minister; and
 - b. if the Minister approves the proposal—may make a resolution revoking the classification of the land as community land.

3. Subject Land

The subject land incorporates one parcel of screening reserve and is described as Allotment 212 in Deposited Plan 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown, contained in Certificate of Title Volume 6250 Folio 283.

Council is the owner of the land, freehold. There are no known trusts, dedications or restrictions over the land. The subject land has a total area of approximately 12 square meters.

The following maps delineate the location of the subject land (area outlined in orange) and following the map is a copy of the Certificate of Title and Deposited Plan.


Maps showing the location of the Subject Land

The subject land is delineated in orange on the below map, with the Applicant's adjoining land parcels indicated in green.




Certificates of Title

Certificate of Title Volume 6250 Folio 283




REAL PROPERTY ACT, 1986



Perth, Australia

The Registrar-General certifies that this Title Register Search displays the records maintained in the Register Book and other notations at the time of searching.



Product Register Search (CT 6250283)
Date/Time 05/11/2024 03:06PM
Customer Reference
Order ID 20241105007514

Certificate of Title - Volume 6250 Folio 283

Parent Title(s) CT 6020/758
Creating Dealing(s) RTC 13434522
Title issued 05/02/2021 Edition 1 Edition issued 05/02/2021

Estate Type
FEE SIMPLE (RESERVE)

Registered Proprietor
CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER
OF PO BOX 56 MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290

Description of Land
ALLOTMENT (RESERVE) 212 DEPOSITED PLAN 125742
IN THE AREA NAMED SUTTONTOWN
HUNDRED OF BLANCHE

Easements
SUBJECT TO SERVICE EASEMENT(S) OVER THE LAND MARKED A ON D125742 FOR SEWERAGE PURPOSES TO
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WATER CORPORATION (223LG RPA)

Schedule of Dealings
NIL

Notations

Dealings Affecting Title	NIL
Priority Notices	NIL
Registrar-General's Notes	NIL
Administrative Interests	NIL

Land Services SA Page 1 of 1
Copyright: www.landservices.com.au/copyright | Privacy: www.landservices.com.au/privacy | Terms of Use: www.landservices.com.au/website-terms-of-use



Product
Date/Time
Customer Reference
Order ID

Historical Search
05/11/2024 03:08PM
20241105007514


Certificate of Title

Title Reference: CT 6250/283
Status: CURRENT
Parent Title(s): CT 6020/758
Dealing(s) Creating Title: RTC 13434522
Title Issued: 05/02/2021
Edition: 1

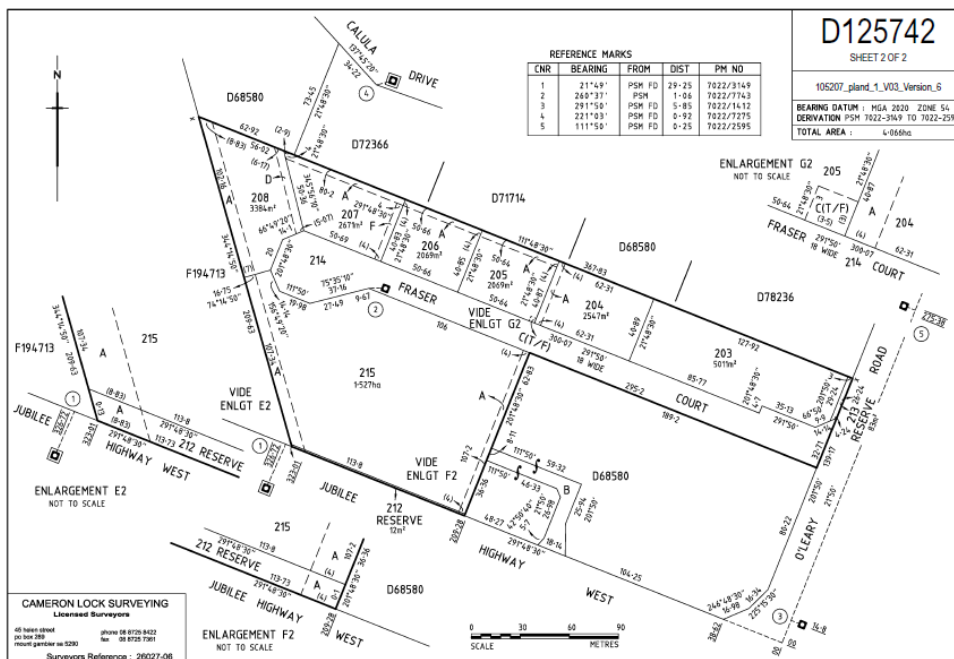
Dealings

No lodged Dealings found.

Allotment 212, Deposited Plan 125742

PURPOSE:	DIVISION	AREA NAME:	SUTTONTOWN	RE-APPROVED:	06/01/2021				
MAP REF:	7022/33F, 7022/33G, 7022/33B, 7022/33C	COUNCIL:	CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER	DEPOSITED:	27/01/2021				
LAST PLAN:	D68580	DEVELOPMENT NO:	361D006/1700181081	 D125742 SHEET 1 OF 2 <small>105207_bnd_01_v06_Version_6</small>					
AGENT DETAILS:	CAMERON LOCK UNIT TRUST 45 HELEN ST MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290 PH: 87258422 FAX: 87257361		SURVEYORS CERTIFICATION: I CRAIG JAMES LOCK, a licensed surveyor do hereby certify - 1) That this plan has been made from surveys carried out by another licensed surveyor under my personal supervision and correctly prepared in accordance with the Survey Act 1992. 2) That the field work was completed on the 10th day of October 2020 (excepting for the final placement of survey marks on the day of January 2021 Craig James Lock Licensed Surveyor						
AGENT CODE:	CLUT	AGENT REFERENCE:							
AGENT REFERENCE:	26027-06								
SUBJECT TITLE DETAILS:									
PREFIX	VOLUME	FOLIO	OTHER	PARCEL	NUMBER	PLAN	NUMBER HUNDRED / IA / DIVISION	TOWN	REFERENCE NUMBER
CT	6020	758		ALLOTMENT(S)	3	D	6850	BLANCHE	SECTION 309
OTHER TITLES AFFECTED: CT 6020/757									
EASEMENT DETAILS:									
STATUS	LAND BURDENED	FORM	CATEGORY	IDENTIFIER	PURPOSE	IN FAVOUR OF		CREATION	
EXTINGUISH	CT 6020/758	LONG	EASEMENT(S)	E IN F50264		CT 6020/757		TG 10923407	
EXTINGUISH	CT 6122/678	LONG	RIGHT(S) OF WAY	B		203-206			
EXTINGUISH	214(FRASER COURT)	SERVICE	EASEMENT(S)	A	FOR SEWERAGE PURPOSES	SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WATER CORPORATION		223LG RPA	
EXISTING	204-206, 212(RESERVE), 215	SERVICE	EASEMENT(S)	A	FOR SEWERAGE PURPOSES	SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WATER CORPORATION		223LG RPA	
EXISTING		LONG	RIGHT(S) OF WAY	B		215		TG 10910944	
NEW	205	SERVICE	EASEMENT(S)	CT(F)	FOR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY PURPOSES	DISTRIBUTION LESSOR CORPORATION (SUBJECT TO LEASE 8890000)		223LG RPA	
NEW	206	SERVICE	EASEMENT(S)	D	FOR DRAINAGE PURPOSES	THE COUNCIL FOR THE AREA		223LG RPA	
NEW	207	SERVICE	EASEMENT(S)	F	FOR SEWERAGE PURPOSES	SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WATER CORPORATION		223LG RPA	
ANNOTATIONS:									

1 of 2



2 of 2

4. The Proposal

The Council proposes to revoke the community land classification applicable to the subject land which consists of screening reserve. In summary, the Council's reasons for this proposal are:

- The subject land is surplus to the Council's requirements.
- The subject land is currently used as screening reserve, to prevent access or egress to the adjoining parcels via Jubilee Highway West, in accordance with Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) traffic management requirements. The Applicant has sought the approval of DIT to allow access or egress from the adjoining parcels onto Jubilee Highway (exit only) as part a development application (DA 24020843). Extensive assessment and negotiations were undertaken between the Applicant, DIT and traffic engineers regarding the design proposal for an exit only driveway from the site onto Jubilee Highway West. The Applicant intends to utilise the adjoining site for business enterprise and specifically the fabrication of metal products, storage, sales and associated product display area, advertising signage, carparking, landscaping and mesh security fencing. The intended use requires one-way access or egress for large vehicles, which could not be supported by the current access arrangements for the site. The Development Application is a separate matter, which is current under assessment and will require separate and distinct stages, including public notification and referral to the Commissioner of Highways*. Council are supportive of granting the right of way requested, which requires the within revocation process to be formalised.
- The nature of the subject land, being a narrow strip of land bordered by private land and Jubilee Highway West, is such that it is difficult for use by the community. It appears as though the classification of Community Land has been used a toll by which to prevent access or egress to the adjoining private land parcels, which is not a use which is envisaged by the LG Act, and also no longer relevant given the 'in-principle' support of DIT to establish an exit-only driveway over the subject land. For this reason Council consider the impact to the community of disposing of the subject land would be negligible, from a Community Land perspective.
- The current access or egress to the Applicant's land parcels is unsustainable for the proposed use under the DA, potentially causing a risk for staff, users of the site and other road-users broadly in the area. This proposal would improve visibility, access or egress to the site and safety of staff and other road users by establishing a properly developed traffic flow for heavy vehicles. If the Relevant Authority imposes any condition relating to improved access or egress on any development approval, it would be non-sensical for Council to effectively prevent compliance with such a condition.
- Council has received an Expression of Interest (EOI) from Steeline Mount Gambier to purchase the subject land for a right of access, in order to facilitate the exit only driveway, to support their intended business operation development. Council considers there is strategic value in supporting the expansion of key industry in our area.

The proposal as outlined above, if successful, would provide allow the opportunity for Steeline Mount Gambier to purchase and utilise the land for access or egress, and remove the need for Council to expend resources on its maintenance.

**NB: the Development Application, planning implications, traffic impact, assessment, consultation / public notice and other such considerations are not contemplated in this report.*

5. Dedications, reservations or trusts affecting the Subject Land

Council is the owner of the subject land, free hold. There are no known trusts, dedications or restrictions over the land.

The subject land is classified as Community Land under the provisions of the *Local Government Act, 1999* and in particular Section 193(4a).

6. Is the revocation of the community land classification proposed with a view to sale or disposal of the Subject Land?

If the community land classification applying to the subject land is revoked, the Council proposes to:

- Sell the parcel of land to the adjoining landowner Steeline in accordance with the requirements under Council's Disposal of Land and Assets Policy;
- Advise the Minister that the revocation was undertaken to support and facilitate the subject land being utilised by Steeline Mount Gambier create a right of access to facilitate an exit-only driveway onto Jubilee Highway West from the adjoining parcels, to support their business operation development, subject to any necessary development approval.

The Council would receive proceeds equivalent to the capital value per square meter of the adjoining land parcels. Steeline would be required to bear any costs incidental to the transaction. A more comprehensive outline of the Expression of Interest (EOI) received from Steeline and the requirements to affect a sale of Council land, members of the community can review the full report that was put to the ordinary meeting of 17 December 2024, which is available on Council's website at: [Council | City of Mount Gambier](#)

No Government assistance was given to the Council to acquire the subject land.

7. What impact would the proposal have on the local community?

The subject land is currently used as a screening reserve to prevent access or egress onto Jubilee Highway West by privately held adjoining parcels. Generally, whilst not prevented from doing so, the subject land is not used by the public, given its size and location (narrow strip bordered by the adjoining private land parcels and Jubilee Highway West). This would not be impacted by the proposal.

In developing Mount Gambier 2035 and City of Mount Gambier's Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Council identified the following strategic priorities.

PRIORITY 4 - ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS GROWTH

We have diversity in our local industry creating employment opportunities and contributing to our local economy and resilience.

Mount Gambier 2035:

- A creative, entrepreneurial mindset that creates a thriving, resilient community.
- Our local businesses and industries are supported by modern and efficient freight networks that enhance our connectivity to regional and international markets.

City of Mount Gambier's Strategic Plan 2024-2028:

- Implement process efficiencies that support small, medium and large-scale businesses to open and thrive in our city.
- Advocate for and support the development of modern, efficient intermodal freight networks and transport systems to enhance supply chain connectivity in and out of Mount Gambier, ensuring streamlined movement of goods and services.
- Collaborate with partners to enhance the maturity of local businesses, supporting innovation and product development while effectively promoting new offerings to drive sustainable economic growth and market competitiveness.

It is considered the proposal is in line with this strategy. It is also considered given the particular size, shape and location of the land, and historic use (or non-use), that there would be relatively low impact on community which would eventuate from revoking the status and/or disposing of the subject land.

Further, when considering Council's current Community Land parcels (including Crown Land under its care and control) it is noted that there is currently land surplus to Council's needs. This is because:

- Council are required to maintain all land under its care and control; and
- There are currently several parcels of land which Council maintains, without deriving return, and which would not impact the community's use (and possibly would be managed to a degree more aligned to the community's expectations) if managed by third parties, such as the Crown, via Lease or Licence arrangements, developed or sold to adjoining landowners.

Council's suite of strategic documents can be accessed via the website at: [Strategic Documents | City of Mount Gambier](#)

8. Requirements of the owner of the Subject Land

Pursuant to section 194(1)(d)(ii) of the LG Act, the owner of the land must approve the revocation of the classification. As Council is the legal owner of the subject land, there is no requirement for the Crown (in the right of the State of South Australia), in this case the delegate of the Minister for Environment and Water, to approve the revocation.

If endorsed, Council will write to the Minister for Local Government requesting approval to revoke the classification of the subject land as community land, providing this report and the results of community consultation accordingly.

The holder of Native Title rights is also the owner of land for the purposes of the LG Act. The Council has undertaken investigations into whether any Native Title Rights continue to exist over the Subject Land and is of the view that all Native Title Rights in the Subject Land have been extinguished. As such, the Council does not consider that any person currently holds Native Title Rights in the Subject Land.

9. Public Consultation

The revocation of community land requires a public consultation process that complies with the *Local Government Act 1999* requirements and Council's Community Consultation and Engagement Policy P195.

Council recognises that public consultation enables the Council to best meet the needs of the community by ensuring that planning and decision making is based upon an understanding of the needs, aspirations and expectations of the community. Council's community consultation process includes the following elements:

- Information & receipt of submissions on website – public notice and feedback via Your Say
- Notice in local paper – Media Release
- Social media campaign
- Letters to identified stakeholders
- Notice in the Government Gazette
- Documents available at Principal Office (Civic Centre)
- Minimum 21 days notice to receive submissions – consultation will be open from 18 December 2024 until 8 January 2025

Throughout the consultation period Council will receive written submissions from the public on the land proposal via the dedicated Your Say page or in writing up until **5.00pm on 8 January 2025**. Written submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer (Community Land Consultation) and sent via the following methods.

E-mail: city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

Post: City of Mount Gambier, PO Box 56, Mount Gambier SA 5290

In Person:

Principal Office – Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier SA 5290

For further information contact:

Ms Brittany Shelton

Manager Governance and Property

Phone: (08) 8721 2555

Each person making a submission should indicate the reasons why they support the revocation proposal or why Council should retain the land as Community Land or for Community purposes. Please note that all comments, including the names of those responding will be tabled at a public meeting of Council. If you wish your details not to be tabled, you must inform Council at the time of making your submission providing reasons why your details should be excluded.

The Council is keen to understand the issues of its local community and will consider all submissions at the next available Ordinary Meeting following closing of the consultation. After consideration of submissions, the Council shall either discontinue the revocation process or proceed to make an application to the Minister for Local Government for approval to revoke the community land classification applying to the subject land. If the Council elects to proceed with the revocation, all public submissions received by Council will be forwarded to the Minister for consideration as part of the formal application.



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W: www.fbcs.com.au

23 November 2024

Ms Brittany Shelton
Manager Governance and Property
City of Mount Gambier
PO Box 56
MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290

Dear Brittany

Allotment 212 in DP 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown

I am acting for Anthony & Debra Steen (Steeline Mount Gambier) in relation to their Development Application for the development of an industrial shed for the fabrication of metal products & associated facilities at 13-27 Fraser Court, Suttontown.

As part of this development, we have sought to install a heavy vehicle 'exit only' driveway from the site onto Jubilee Highway West. This 'exit only' driveway has been supported by the Department for Infrastructure & Transport (DIT) as part of the formal referral of the development application to them.

The development application was granted Planning Consent approval by the Limestone Coast Southern Regional Assessment Panel at their meeting held on Thursday 21 November 2024 with the following Reserved Matter – *“Obtain the relevant approvals from the City of Mount Gambier and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport to be able to exit the subject site onto Jubilee Highway West, Mount Gambier.”*

The proposed 'exit only' driveway onto Jubilee Highway West requires access over a Council owned 100 mm wide buffer reserve (12 m²) and is currently held by Council as community land. We have made a formal approach to Council to gain a 'right of way' over the buffer reserve, subject to the community land classification being formally revoked.

In considering our request, Council has requested us to consider purchasing the buffer reserve should the community land classification be revoked.

On behalf of the Steen's, I hereby confirm our interest in purchasing the subject land from Council in accordance with Council's *Disposal of Land & Assets Policy* on the basis of the community land classification over the property being revoked, the purchase price being \$1,235.40 and the Steen's bearing the costs of transfer.

We look forward to Council's favourable consideration of our expression of interest in purchasing this property. If you require any further information or wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Brennan', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

F.N. (Frank) Brennan PSM MPIA
Accredited Planning Professional APP20190029
Principal Consultant
FRANK BRENNAN CONSULTING SERVICES



ACCREDITED
PROFESSIONAL

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

18.7 CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND - REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Author: Melissa Telford, Councillor Support Officer
Authoriser: Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund - Review of Terms of Reference' as presented on Tuesday 17 December 2024 be noted.
2. That the amended Junior Sports Assistance Fund Terms of Reference be adopted.

PURPOSE

This report is presented to review the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the adoption of Council.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

It will be lawful for the Council by resolution of the Council to revoke, vary or add to any of the provisions of these Terms of Reference and Rules at its own discretion.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

N/A

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

The Junior Sports Assistance Fund Terms of Reference proposed minor amendments have been made to enable the Fund to fulfill its objectives in their entirety and are presented for noting.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends that the Junior Sports Assistance Fund Terms of Reference attached be adopted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Terms of Reference - City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund [18.7.1 - 13 pages]



CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER

JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND

A Committee of Council established
pursuant to the provisions of Section 41
of the Local Government Act, 1999

Terms of Reference and the Rules for the conduct of the business of the Committee were approved and adopted by the City of Mount Gambier at its meeting held on ~~19 March 2019~~.

**CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER
JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND**

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TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND

1.0 Name

The name of the Committee be the CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND (in these rules referred to as “the Committee”).

2.0 Interpretation

For the purposes of these rules, unless inconsistent with the subject matter or context:

2.1 Definition

- 2.1.1 “Act” means the Local Government Act, 1999 and includes all Regulations and Schedules.
- 2.1.2 “Affiliated Sporting Organisation” means any sporting group which has agreed to financially contribute to the Fund in accordance with the rules and any terms and conditions of the Committee.
- 2.1.3 “Committee” means the City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund.
- 2.1.4 “Auditor” means the Auditor as prescribed in the Local Government Act, 1999 and being the Auditor for the Council.
- 2.1.5 “Committee” means the Committee established pursuant to Rule 6.0.
- 2.1.6 “Committee Member” means the person appointed by Council to the Committee.
- 2.1.7 “Commencement Date” means the date on which the Committee is established and becomes operative pursuant to Rule 3.2.
- 2.1.8 “Core Contributions” means those financial contributions made by affiliated sporting organisation in accordance with Rule 15.0 and the City of Mount Gambier.
- 2.1.9 “Council” means the City of Mount Gambier.
- 2.1.10 “Presiding Member of the Committee” means the person appointed to that position by Council pursuant to Rule 6.0.
- 2.1.11 “Financial Year” means a twelve month period between and including 1st July and 30th June.
- 2.1.12 “Fund” mean the City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund established by Council.
- 2.1.13 “Junior Sports Person” means a person who has not yet reached eighteen (18) years of age as at the 1st January in the year of the event date in respect of an application for assistance by an Affiliated Sporting Organisation under these Rules.

City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund

- 2.1.14 “Member Organisation” has the same meaning as “Affiliated Sporting Organisation”.
- 2.1.15 “Observers” means those persons attending any meeting of the Committee, but do not have a vote on any matter to be determined by the Committee.
- 2.1.16 “Secretary” means the person appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of Council to carry out those duties in accordance with the Rules of the Committee and any other discretion and direction associated with the administration of the Committee. The Secretary has no voting rights.
- 2.1.17 “Selected Junior Sports Person” means a person who has been selected on individual merits, to represent the State of South Australia or the Country of Australia or equivalent sporting achievement in an officially accredited/recognised national or international event.
- 2.1.18 “Singular” includes a reference to the “plural”.
- 2.1.19 “Special Coaching Clinics” means any coaching clinics whatsoever organised by an Affiliated Sporting Organisation which has received funds from the Committee for a clinic with such funds expended in accordance with Rule 18.
- 2.1.20 “Sponsorship Donation” means other monies contributed to the Fund from sources other than specific contributions from the affiliated sporting organisations and the Council(s) and for a specific purpose, initiative or program which the Fund agrees to implement for the benefit of its Member Organisations.
- 2.1.21 “State event”, “National event” and “International event”, means events that have been officially accredited or recognised as being “national or international events” and a statement to that effect is provided by that Sport’s State Administrator where applicable or available.

2.2 Defined Terms

Any words, phrases or terms used in these Rules which are defined in the Act shall have the same meaning as are given to them in the Act.

2.3 Local Government Act

These Rules shall be interpreted in every respect to be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act then enforce.

2.4 Notices

All notices to be given to the Committee shall be addressed to:

The Secretary
City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund
P O Box 56
MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290

and addressed to the usual and current business office or address of the Council, and the notice may, unless specified otherwise, and without prejudice to any other means of service, be deemed by ordinary post in which case the same shall be said to have been given two (2) clear business days after the same was posted.

3.0 Establishment

- 3.1 "The Committee" is established under Section 41 of the Local Government Act, 1999.
- 3.2 "The Committee" will be established and become operative from the time a resolution of Council is passed and is established to co-ordinate and administer the City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund.

4.0 Delegation

~~The Council has delegated to the Committee the power to receive and expend revenue reasonably required to enable it to carry out the Objectives for which it is established.~~

The Council has delegated to the Committee the power to carry out the Objectives for which the Fund was established including the power to receive, expend and grant monies.

5.0 Objectives

- 5.1 The Committee is created for the express purpose of providing financial assistance to local junior sportspersons of Mount Gambier and District who have achieved as a minimum, selection in a formal State team and who compete at National sporting events (or equivalent) and who are a member of an Affiliated Sporting Organisation.
- 5.2 The Council will join with local sporting organisations to establish an ongoing pool of money for distribution to those juniors selected to represent the State or to represent Australia or equivalent.
- 5.3 The Fund will assist those who already have ability and have shown natural skills, commitment and advancement to where at least State selection has been achieved.
- 5.4 To establish an income stream to the Fund that is reasonable, understandable and acceptable to the majority of Member Organisations.
- 5.5 To establish an expenditure strategy of the Fund which is reasonable, fair and accountable.
- 5.6 To develop an organisational and operational framework which is creative, effective and accountable.
- 5.7 To develop a strategy to attract extra income to the Fund from sources other than Member Organisations and Council contributions and for the purposes of expanding the range of support benefits that the Fund can provide to its Member Organisations.
- 5.8 To consider a strategy of funding the engagement of the best sporting coaches in Australia to undertake specialised coaching clinics for selected junior sportspersons, and other sportspersons of Member Organisations e.g. umpires of juniors, coaches of juniors etc.
- 5.9 To consider other strategies that seek external sponsorship of a general nature to the Fund, and/or for a specific purpose or a general initiative, all for the benefit of Member Organisations.

- 5.10 To develop and establish administrative procedures to receive, consider and process funding applications and then distribute any agreed funds to the relevant Member Organisations within a timeframe of 10 working days.

6.0 Membership of the Committee

- 6.1 Membership of the Committee shall be:
- 6.1.1 an Elected Member for the time being of Council and appointed by Council who shall be the Presiding Member of the Committee
 - 6.1.2 a person nominated by the Council of the District Council of Grant, and
 - 6.1.3 up to four community persons appointed by Council.
- 6.2 The Council reserves the right from time to time to remove any appointee to the Committee and appoint another appointee in their stead. All appointees hold office at the pleasure of Council.
- 6.3 The Mayor of the City of Mount Gambier shall be ex officio a member of the Committee with voting rights.

7.0 Casual Vacancies and Replacement of Representatives

The Council may replace any appointee on the Committee or fill any casual vacancy, by notifying the Committee the identity of the persons proposed to replace the former appointee or fill the casual vacancy.

8.0 No Proxy

The appointment of a person as a proxy for any appointee on the Committee is not permissible.

9.0 Resignation of Representatives

Any Committee appointee may resign from the Committee, but such resignation shall not be effective until the Secretary has received written notice to that effect.

10.0 Deputy Presiding Member

- 10.1 The Committee shall elect a Deputy Presiding Member from among their number by a show of hands or by secret ballot at the first meeting of the Committee to be held after the commencement date for a term determined by the Committee.
- 10.2 In the absence of the Presiding Member, the Deputy Presiding Member shall preside at any meeting of the Committee.
- 10.3 If any meeting of the Committee duly convened under these Rules, the Presiding Member or the Deputy Presiding Member shall not be present, the Committee shall elect an Acting Presiding Member (for that meeting only) from their number present at the meeting and for the purposes of that meeting only, that Acting Presiding Member shall have all of the normal powers of the Presiding Member.

11.0 Quorum

At all meetings of the Committee, three appointees present shall constitute a quorum.

12.0 Meetings of the Committee

- 12.1 The Committee shall meet as and when determined by the Presiding Member, but must meet at least three times every financial year, plus the Annual Meeting of Member Organisations.
- 12.2 The Secretary shall give notice to each Committee Member at least five clear days prior to any meeting and notice to each Affiliated Sporting Organisation at least five clear days prior to any meeting.
- 12.3 The Secretary shall send a copy of the notice of a meeting of the Committee to each Affiliated Sporting Organisation.
- 12.4 The Secretary must, at the request of the Presiding Member or three other Committee Members, call a special meeting of the Committee.
- 12.5 All notices of meetings shall be issued under the hand of the Secretary of the Committee.
- 12.6 No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Committee unless a quorum is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business.
- 12.7 Each Committee Members including the Presiding Member present at any meeting of the Committee must vote on any matter requiring determination and all decisions shall be decided on a simple majority of votes cast.
- 12.8 Each appointee including the Presiding Member present at any meeting of the Committee shall have one deliberate vote only.

13.0 Procedure at Meetings

The procedure to be observed in relation to the conduct of meetings of the Committee will be as determined by the Local Government (Proceedings at Meetings) Regulations.

14.0 Sub-Committees of the Committee

- 14.1 The Committee has the discretion to appoint sub committees of its committee membership to receive any program applications for funding, evaluate and determine those applications for funding.
- 14.2 The Secretary shall advise the affiliated sporting organisation of the status of its applications on behalf of the juniors sportspersons immediately on the receipt of the sub-committees determination.
- 14.3 No conflict of interest shall arise if a Committee member of an affiliated sporting organisation is also a member of the Committee or the sub-committee considering an application for funds from that affiliated sporting organisation.

15.0 Establishment and Contributions to the Fund

15.1 Establishment

- 15.1.1 City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund is hereby established.

City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund

- 15.1.2 The Fund shall consist of two separate accounting components, that is, “core contributions” and “sponsorship donations”.
- 15.1.3 The “core” component will receive monies from the affiliated sporting organisations, the City of Mount Gambier and any other funds by agreement between the Committee and the donor e.g. District Council of Grant.
- 15.1.4 The “Sponsorship Donations” components will receive monies from any interested source and will be expended in accordance with any specific agreement between the Committee and the Sponsor organisation.
- 15.1.5 The Secretary shall report to each meeting of the Committee the current status of each component of the Fund.

15.2 Council

- 15.2.1 Council shall provide a sum of money on an annual basis of an amount being at least equal to the annual contributions made to the Fund by all affiliated sporting organisations for that particular financial year (but excluding contributions made or achieved by way of sponsorship or donation).
- 15.2.2 The Contributions shall be paid by the Council(s) to the Fund no later than the 31st August in each year.

15.3 Affiliated Sporting Organisations

- 15.3.1 All participating and affiliated sporting organisations shall contribute annually to the Fund based on a formula determined by the Committee annually and adopted by the affiliated sporting organisations at the Annual Meeting to apply for the ensuing financial year.
- 15.3.2 The formula determined by the Committee shall be based on the principles of fairness, equity, accountability and be transparent.
- 15.3.4 Contributions from affiliated organisations will be paid to the Fund no later than the ~~31st December in each year~~ 60 days following the Annual General Meeting in each year.

15.4 Other Sporting Groups

Other sporting organisation wishing to join the Fund after the commencement date shall agree to the Rules in writing and shall pay a contribution or contributions that is solely determined by the Committee in respect of any “back payments” to ensure that the new sporting organisation contributes financially at a level or incurs a penalty that ensures equality with existing affiliated sporting organisations who are already members, and have paid contributions to the Fund over a longer period of time.

15.5 Sponsorship of Donations

- 15.5.1 The Committee shall be entitled to seek out and receive sponsorship, donations and/or assistance from any other sporting organisation, group, company or individual who may wish to contribute to the Fund on such terms and conditions agreed to by the Committee and the other party.

15.5.2 Any agreement of terms and conditions between the Committee and sporting organisation, groups, companies or individuals in relation to sponsorship, donations and/or assistance, shall not involve any expenditure whatsoever from the “core component” of the Fund.

15.5.3 Proceeds from sponsorships, donations, and/or assistance shall be paid directly into the Fund.

16.0 Application for Financial Assistance from Affiliated Sporting Organisations

16.1 The Committee may consider any application for assistance for a past event.

16.2 An application will not be received by the Committee unless it is in the form approved by the Committee.

16.3 The Committee will consider all applications received on the approved form(s) and each application will be considered independently on its merits.

16.4 An application approved by the Committee in one instance may not necessarily be approved in another. A junior sportsperson who has received assistance from the Fund will be eligible for further assistance.

16.5 No application for financial assistance from an affiliated sporting organisation, on behalf of a junior sportspersons, shall be submitted for an event that is to be held three months in advance of the date of the application.

16.6 An application for financial assistance can only be made by an affiliated sporting organisation on behalf of a junior sportsperson who is a member of the said affiliated sporting organisation.

17.0 Distributions from the Fund

17.1 Subject to Rule 15.4, a Member Organisation may join the Fund at any time on the understanding that the organisation, can not draw on the core component of the Fund for a period of time or under terms and conditions determined by the Committee.

17.2 Financial assistance approved by the Committee will be paid to the member organisation and not direct to the junior sportsperson, on the understanding the member organisation will distribute the approved funding to the junior sportsperson (or family) prior to them leaving for the approved event.

17.3 The Committee will have the discretion to distribute funds from the sponsorship/donations component of the Fund, for special coaching clinics at any time after the commencement date of the Committee.

18.0 Amount of Money Available for Distribution

18.1 The distribution policy from the core component of the Fund will be as determined by the Committee and reviewed annually.

18.2 The Committee will also have the discretion to allocate expenditure from the core component of the Fund for special coaching clinics.

18.3 The amount of funds allocated by the Committee for special coaching clinics from the sponsorship/donation component of the Fund will be at the complete discretion of the Committee.

18.4 The interest or surpluses arising from the transactions of the Fund shall be applied in accordance with the Funds objectives and shall not be distributed amongst the affiliated sporting organisations other than for the purpose for which the Fund was established.

19.0 Return of Money Should Fund Dissolve

19.1 In the event that the Fund is unable to operate or the Council decides to dissolve the Fund, then the Council shall determine the method and amount by which the money then remaining in the Fund shall be distributed or retained by Council.

19.2 The Council in making such a determination shall have regard to (but not bound by) the following:

- payments back to each of the affiliated sporting organisations in proportion to their total contributions to the Fund, together with the total interest amount accrued to the Fund irrespective of any payments that may have been made from the Fund;
- a payment to the Council (or Councils) in proportion to their total contribution to the Fund, less any charges or payments that may have been made from the Fund, or charged to the Fund, such payments shall be deducted from the Fund itself;
- a discretion in relation to any payment from the sponsorship/donation portion of the Fund.

19.3 In the event that the Fund is unable to operate or the Council decides to dissolve the Fund, then the Council is responsible for the liabilities of the Fund.

20.0 Liability of Authority

20.1 A liability incurred by the Fund or the Committee may be enforced against the Council.

20.2 No liability attaches to a Member of the Committee for an honest act or omission by that Member of the Committee in the performance or discharge, or purported performance or discharge, of the Member's or the Fund's functions or duties.

21.0 Records of the Authority

21.1 Accounting

21.1.1 The Council shall ensure that adequate and proper accounting records are maintained in respect of the Fund and which shall be audited on an annual basis by the Auditor for the time being of the Council.

21.1.2 A separate Fund reconciliation shall be prepared by Council as soon as practicable (but before the Annual General Meeting of the Authority) after the conclusion of any financial year a copy of the said reconciliation shall be forwarded to all affiliated sporting organisations which had made a contribution to the Fund during that particular financial year.

21.2 Administration

- 21.2.1 The Secretary shall present a reconciliation of the Fund to each meeting of the Committee.
- 21.2.1 The Secretary must cause minutes to be kept of the proceedings of the Committee.
- 21.2.3 The minutes of every meeting shall include:
- the names of all the representatives present and the time at which they entered or left the meeting;
 - the names of observers or visitors to any meeting;
 - every motion or amendment and the names of the mover and seconder; and
 - whether the motion or amendment is carried, lost or lapsed.
- 21.2.4 Minutes of the Committee shall be distributed to all Committee Members and Members of the Fund.
- ~~21.2.5 Copies of the minutes of the Committee may be distributed to all affiliated sporting organisations.~~
- 21.2.5 The Secretary shall maintain a record in which is detailed the following:
- name of an affiliated sporting organisation and contact details;
 - the amount or amounts of the financial contributions by the affiliated organisations;
 - the date on which the contributions were made; and
 - the names of sponsors or persons donating to the Fund and the date such monies were received.
- 21.2.6 A record of applications received for financial assistance, any reports associated with such applications and the determinations, associated with the applications, must be maintained by the Secretary.
- 21.2.7 The Fund must after the Annual General Meeting submit an annual report on the Fund's activities to the Council (which may be the minutes of that Annual General Meeting).

22.0 Penalties

- 22.1 Any affiliated sporting organisation failing to pay their annual contribution on or before ~~the 31st December~~ 60 days following the Annual General Meeting in any financial year, will cease to be an affiliated member, provided that the Committee may at any time at its discretion and on payment of the contribution in arrears and such re-entrance fee (if any) as it may decide to imposed, re-admit any such affiliated sporting organisation member to the Fund.

22.2 The Committee may remove any affiliated sporting organisation from the membership of the Fund, if that sporting organisation is in breach of these Rules, and that sporting organisation will surrender any benefits of the Fund whatsoever.

22.3 Before removing any affiliated sporting organisation for a breach of the Rules, the Committee must provide a reasonable opportunity to the said organisation, to put its case as to why it should not be removed from the Fund.

23.0 Amendments to these Terms of Reference

It will be lawful for the Council by resolution of the Council to revoke, vary or add to any of the provisions of these Terms or Reference and Rules at its own discretion.

24.0 Interpretation of these Rules

24.1 Should there be any dispute as to the definition and/or interpretation of these Terms of Reference and Rules, or any part thereof or any irregularities whatsoever, then the dispute shall be determined summarily by the Council and the decision of the Council shall be final and binding.

24.2 Any affiliated sporting organisation having any grievances as to the management, operation, interpretation or definition of the Terms of Reference and Rules, or the Fund, or wishing to make recommendations as to the general operation of the Fund, shall communicate in writing any such grievance to the Committee and to Council.

24.3 The Council shall determine the grievance or recommendation and advise the author and the Committee of its decision.

Ref. AF11/725
MJT

18.8 POLICY REVIEWS

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

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Policy Reviews' as presented on Tuesday 17 December 2024 be noted.
2. That having been endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 25 November 2024, the following reviewed and amended policies be adopted:
 - (a) Request for Service and Complaint Policy and Procedure - C200
 - (b) Internal Review of Council's Decision - C290

PURPOSE

To present policies and procedures which are recommended for adoption, amendment or revocation for the Audit and Risk Committee's endorsement and information prior to presenting to Council for adoption.

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, Council and community expectation and emerging practices in the sector.

Some policies are reviewed and endorsed by the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) prior to be presented to Council for adoption. The following policies / procedures were recently reviewed by the ARC:

- Request for Service and Complaints Policy and Procedure - C200
- Internal Review of Council's Decision - C290
- Emergency Management Policy
- Treasury Management Policy - T150

Policy / Procedure Proposed Changes:

Request for Service and Complaints Policy and Procedure - C200:

The procedure has been reviewed in line with the LGA model templates for request for service policy / procedure and complaint handling policy / procedure, as well as the provisions under s270 of the Act. The document has been re-classified 'policy and procedure' to more accurately reflect the nature of the document. References to legislation have been updated in accordance with reform and some practical elements have been strengthened to provide clarity to users.

Internal Review of Council's Decision - C290:

The policy has been reviewed and amended in line with the Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021 reform.

Emergency Management Policy:



The policy has been reviewed and amended in line with the State Emergency Management Plan and Local Government Emergency Management Framework to ensure the best practice model is utilised and update the current delegations in place for City of Mount Gambier staff.

Treasury Management Policy - T150:

A review of the T150 Treasury Management Policy has been undertaken with only minor changes proposed. The Policy was robustly reviewed when Council embarked on the significant Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre project. The principles underpinned in the Policy remain pertinent today and the Policy was prepared with foresight to allow changes to debt structuring as required from time to time. Minor changes are reflected in red text in Attachment 1 to this report and include:

- Grammatical corrections
- Clarity around:
 - Council roles and responsibilities consolidated at one item, rather than spread throughout the Policy.
 - Affordability - ensuring consideration of whole of life cost of capital impacts
 - Delivery and maintenance of assets - calling out particular attention to ensuring existing assets are renewed in line with service standards set out in management plans.
 - The Policy is set for review at minimum review every 3 years.

The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the amended Emergency Management Policy and Treasury Management Policy - T150 on 25 November 2024 and recommended their endorsement. In accordance with the committee's recommendation, these policies are presented for endorsement earlier in this agenda.

ARC Discussion / Recommendation:

There was discussion around whether C200 and C290 are most appropriately classified as policies or procedures. Both documents set out Council's commitment to the community with respect service delivery standards and mechanism for submitting complaints / requests for service (under C200) and requesting an internal review of decision (under C290).

The recommendation from ARC following the discussion is outlined below.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ARC 2024/17

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Belinda Johnson

1. *That Council report titled 'Policies for Review' as presented on Monday 25 November 2024 be noted.*
2. *That having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 25 November 2024, the following reviewed and amended policies be endorsed:*
 - a. *Emergency Management Policy*
 - b. *Treasury Management Policy - T150*
3. *That having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 25 November 2024, the content of the following reviewed and amended policies / procedures be endorsed:*
 - a. *Request for Service and Complaint Procedure - C200*
 - b. *Internal Review of Council's Decision - C290*
4. *and that the administration determine prior to presentation to Council the relationship between the two (2) policies and whether they are more appropriately policies or procedures.*



5. *That the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) be authorised to make minor administrative changes to the policies / procedures as required.*

Carried

The relationship between these two documents is effectively the escalation level. There are three steps (or tiers) available to the community, as follows:

1. Request for service to address issue (dealt with under C200),
2. Complaint escalated if/when unsatisfactorily resolved (dealt with under C200), and
3. Request for internal review of a decision in accordance with section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (dealt with under C290).

Council has a document framework which sets out the features and objectives / purpose of various kinds of document. In general, the subtle distinction between a policy and a procedure is as follows.

A **Council Policy** is a set of guiding principles used to set direction within the organisation.

Policies outline Council's position on a particular issue and governs the activities of Council in its relationship with the public. The objective for developing a policy is to provide a consistent approach to a matter or issue that forms the basis of a standard response or decision making. Policies generally do not contain instructions, processes or directives. Policies typically have an external focus and are endorsed by Council resolution.

An **Administrative Procedure** is a series of steps to be followed as a consistent approach to accomplish an end result. It is how to ensure the policy objectives are achieved and provides additional information specific to a section of Council that supports the direction set by the Policy and Procedure.

Procedures provide a platform for implementing the consistency needed to decrease process variation, which increases procedural control. Decreasing process variation is how we eliminate inefficiency and increase performance. A single policy may have a number of related procedures.

The nature of the two documents above appears to be procedural in nature, as they outline the requisite process to resolving complaints. However, they are unique in that they are also a policy position which is binding, and an outward commitment to the community as to how we will deal with and manage complaints. For this reason, it is recommended that C200 be named Request for Service and Complaints Policy and Procedure. However, it is recommended no change to name or content be made with respect to C290. It is important that these two documents remain categorised as policies due to their binding and outwardly facing nature, despite being prescriptive as to procedural matters.

CONCLUSION


That having been endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 25 November 2024, the following reviewed and amended policies be adopted:

- (a) Request for Service and Complaint Policy and Procedure - C200
- (b) Internal Review of Council's Decision - C290

ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT - Council Policy and Procedure C200 - Request for Service and Complaint Procedure [**18.8.1** - 10 pages]
2. DRAFT - Council Policy C290 - Internal Review of Council's Decision [**18.8.2** - 10 pages]



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		Issued:	16 July 2019
		Next Review:	March 2024/October 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

Local Government provides an extensive range of services and infrastructure to communities and discharges obligations under many pieces of legislation.

Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999* requires Council to develop and maintain policies, practices and procedures for dealing with:

- 'any reasonable request for the provision of a service by the Council or for the improvement of a service provided by the Council' [and](#)
- 'complaints about the actions of the Council, employees of the Council, or other persons acting on behalf of the Council.'

Council is committed to the provision of quality service to customers and regards complaints as an opportunity to improve practices and procedures and to resolve matters [of concern](#).

[The aim of this procedure is to provide a fair, consistent and structured process for submitting requests for service, or complaints regarding Council's action, decision or service. Lessons learnt from complaint investigations will be used to directly inform service improvements.](#)

[This procedure will be made widely accessible to ensure that customers are fully aware of their right to complain. Information about how to lodge a complaint will be published on Council's website.](#)


~~This policy aims to:~~

- ~~• Provide guidance on what may constitute a reasonable request for a service or an improvement to a service~~
- ~~• Distinguish between requests, complaints and feedback to Council and give direction on management of requests~~
- ~~• Establish a standardised process for assessing and processing requests including the collation of information which can be used to directly inform service improvements~~
- ~~• Provide a fair, consistent and structured process for Council's customers if they are dissatisfied with a Council action, decision or service.~~

2. PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THIS POLICY

This policy is based on five principles which are fundamental to the way Council approaches complaint handling. They are:

- Fairness: treating complainants fairly requires impartiality, confidentiality and transparency at all stages of the process
- Accessibility: to be accessible there must be broad public awareness about Council's policy and a range of contact options
- Responsiveness: this will be achieved by providing sufficient resources, well trained staff and review and improvement of the systems
- Efficiency: complaints will be resolved as quickly as possible, while ensuring that they are dealt with at a level that reflects their level of complexity
- Integration of different areas of Council where the complaint overlaps functional responsibilities.

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In processing requests for service emphasis will be placed on:

- Public safety and emergencies
- Fulfilling Council’s strategic and business plans
- Using Council resources effectively
- Guidelines and conditions of externally funded programs.

3. INTERPRETATION

In this Policy:

Business Day means a day when the Council is normally open for business, i.e. Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

A **Complaint** is an expression of dissatisfaction with a product or service delivered by the Council or its representatives that have failed to reach the standard stated, implied or expected. This includes complaints about a service that has been, or should have been delivered.

Council refers to the City of Mount Gambier.

Employee includes a person employed directly by the Council in a full time, part time or casual capacity (whether that position is permanent or contractual) and persons providing services to, or on behalf of, the Council even though they may be employed by another party.

Feedback can take the form of comments, both positive and negative, about services provided by Council without necessarily requiring a corrective action, change of services or formal review of a decision. Feedback may, however, influence future service reviews and delivery methods.

A **Request for Service** is an application to have Council or its representative take some form of action to provide or improve a Council service.

Where ambiguity exists, Council will deal with a matter as a Request for Service, rather than a Complaint, in the first instance.

Complaints which are determined to be about matters that are not Council’s responsibility, such as disputes between neighbours, will not be handled under this policy.

4. REQUESTS FOR SERVICE


Requests for service will be assessed in the context of the services and work provided for in Council’s Annual Business Plan and Budget and according to the conditions of externally funded programs.

4.1 Reasonable Request for Service

In determining how to respond to a request for service Council will consider:

- An assessment of risk
- Statutory responsibilities
- The content of Council’s Strategic Management Plans, Annual Business Plan and Budget and annual works program.
- Relevant Council policies and codes

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- Established service standards and response times for regular Council activities.

4.2 Processing a Request for Service

In Council's experience, most requests fit within well established guidelines which will be explained to an applicant at the outset. Council aims to manage requests efficiently and effectively. Employees are provided with a level of authority to advise applicants of the likely timeframe to complete the action required.

Where further evaluation is necessary before committing Council to undertake the work the applicant will be informed accordingly. If a request cannot be fulfilled in a reasonable timeframe the applicant will be advised, including an explanation of why this decision was taken.

Where an applicant is not satisfied with the Council's decision, it is open to the applicant to lodge a complaint against the decision under Council's Complaints Policy.

4.3 Timeframes for Response

The circumstances of individual requests for service will vary greatly. In the majority of cases requests will be processed promptly and the applicant advised verbally or by return post/email.

Routine requests are often subject to service response standards. For example, uncollected rubbish bins will be collected within [five \(5\)](#) business days and assessment of public safety concerns will occur, where practicable, the same day a request is received.

Other requests may be best suited to scheduling to coincide with work in a particular suburb or season. Examples of this include tree pruning on Council streets and attention to minor drainage problems.

Requests for major works or new services will be referred for consideration as part of the next annual cycle of review and public consultation. Council staff will respond within [ten \(10\)](#) business days advising of Council's intentions in regard to the request given major works may require gathering of information in addition to the information provided with the request.

4.4 Recording Requests for Service

A person can make application for a service in a number of ways:

- [Customer Request Form](#) ~~Completion of the appropriate form~~ on Council's website
- [My Local Service App](#)
- Telephone
- Email
- Letter
- Petition to Council
- Visit a Council customer service office.

All requests will be recorded in Council's records management system in such a way that the information can also be analysed for service improvement opportunities.


4.5 Rejected Requests

All rejected requests will be recorded and may be reconsidered at a future date, such as in conjunction with the preparation of an Annual Business Plan and Budget.

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Council will receive a report on the number and nature of requests, including the percentage of rejected requests, at least ~~once~~ twice a year.

5. COMPLAINT HANDLING

Council welcomes complaints as a way of improving its services and programs as well as providing an opportunity to put things right. ~~Lessons learnt from complaints will be used to directly inform service improvements.~~

Emphasis is placed on resolving complaints as quickly as possible. However where complaints cannot be settled in the first instance, Council will ensure that they are dealt with through appropriate, more formal procedures by staff with the authority to make decisions.

Except for ~~minor tier 1~~ responses, (refer 5.2 Procedures for resolving complaints below) Council will try to ensure that, whenever possible, complaints will be handled independently of the original decision-maker or officer involved in the matter that is the subject of the complaint.

A person can make a complaint in a number of ways:

- ~~• Complete the appropriate form on Council's website~~
- Telephone
- Email
- Letter
- Visit a Council customer service office.

Council acknowledges that no one should be excluded from lodging a complaint because of any difficulties they may have representing themselves. Our staff will offer assistance where appropriate and provide it on request, including assistance in documenting the complaint in writing when circumstances warrant. It may be necessary to arrange access to interpreters, aids or advocates to ensure that a complainant is treated equitably.

All complaints will be recorded in Council's records management system in such a way that the information can also be analysed for service improvement opportunities.

Verbal complaints received by Council will be recorded and forwarded to the service area to which the complaint relates.


It can be difficult to effectively deal with an anonymous complaint. Council encourages customers to provide their identity in order for their complaint to be fully processed. Anonymous complaints will be logged and addressed by the relevant service area in order to identify possible areas for service improvement.

Complainants will be advised of the likely timeframe required to investigate and resolve a complaint and regularly updated as to progress where necessary.

Employees will be trained to manage complaints efficiently and effectively, and provided with a level of delegated authority appropriate for the nature of complaints they are expected to resolve.

The following steps will be followed by staff to ensure complaints are dealt with efficiently and effectively:

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1. Acknowledge complaints promptly
2. Assess the complaint - simple problems may not need to be investigated
3. Plan the investigation where one is warranted
4. Investigate the complaint
5. Respond to the complainant with a clear decision
6. Follow up any customer service concerns
7. Consider whether there are systemic issues which need correction.

5.1 Timeframes for Response

Where a complaint cannot be resolved immediately the complainant will be advised of the process to be undertaken. Council will respond within ~~five (5) [5]~~ business days, acknowledging receipt of the complaint and where possible, resolving it at that time. If a resolution is not possible at that time, the complainant will be kept regularly informed of progress, either by email, letter or personal contact.

5.2 Procedures for resolving complaints

Complaints may vary greatly in their level of complexity and seriousness. Wherever possible complaints will be resolved when first reported, but if necessary officers will escalate complaint handling as set out below.

The complaints procedure consists of three tiers.

1. *Immediate response to resolve the complaint*

All staff are empowered to handle complaints in the first instance and it is preferable that they are dealt with promptly at the initial point of contact and at the appropriate officer level.

2. *Complaint escalated to a more senior officer*

A complaint will be directed to a more senior officer in the Council, where circumstances indicate that the complaint would be more appropriately handled at a higher level. This may occur, for example, where an officer has been involved in the matter that is the subject of the complaint, where the complaint is about an issue that requires a decision to be made at a more senior level, or where a complaint concerns a matter that ranges across more than one Council work area.


3. *Internal review of a Council decision by statutory process*

Internal review of a Council decision under s270 of the *Local Government Act 1999*. This is a process established by legislation that enables a Council to reconsider all the evidence relied on to make a decision, including new evidence if relevant.

This process is generally a last resort in the complaint handling process, but may also be used in situations which are not able to be resolved by other means, such as a complaint about a decision of the CEO.

Refer Council's Internal Review of Council's Decisions Policy.

While Council prefers to work with its customers to resolve complaints quickly and effectively, a complainant will always retain the right to seek other forms of resolution, such as contacting the Ombudsman, or taking legal action at any time. Note however

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that as a general rule, the Ombudsman prefers a complaint to be addressed by Council in the first instance, unless this is not appropriate in the circumstances.

5.3 Alternative Procedures

There are other complaint procedures which apply to particular types of complaints. If the complaint would be more appropriately dealt with by another process this will be explained to the complainant at the outset.

For example:

- Complaints against a Councillor or the Chief Executive Officer
- Freedom of Information applications
- Insurance claims
- Decisions made under legislation other than the *Local Government Act*, such as the [Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016](#), ~~[Development Act 1993](#)~~ or [Expiation of Offences Act 1996](#).

In some instances, it may be appropriate to consider mediation, conciliation or neutral evaluation under the Council's scheme authorised by section 271 of the Local Government Act. Costs and expenses of the appointment and work of a mediator, conciliator or evaluator will be shared equally between the Council and the other party.

5.4 Complaints under the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

If you are involved with a development application, you are entitled to make a complaint about a decision that was made or the conduct of a decision-maker.

Complaint handling procedures for assessment panels, assessment managers and accredited professionals (including automatic deemed registered professionals) exist under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

Detailed guidelines for making a complaint about a member of an Assessment Panel, Assessment Managers, an Accredited Professional or an Automatic Deemed Registered Building Practitioner are outlined on the Plan SA website.

Assessment Panels


Complaints about an assessment panel member must be lodged to the State Planning Commission. They should be lodged within six months of when the event is believed to have occurred. Details of the form and process for lodging a complaint regarding an Assessment Panel can be found on the Plan SA website.

Assessment Managers

Complaints about an Assessment Manager must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer of the council that appointed them. Complaints about an Assessment Manager for a Regional Assessment Panel must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Housing and Urban Development. Details of the form and process for lodging a complaint regarding an Assessment Manager can be found on the Plan SA website.

Accredited Professionals

Complaints about Accredited Professionals can be submitted to the Accreditation Authority. A complaint must not be lodged with the Accreditation Authority more than

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[12 months after the day on which the complainant first had notice of the matters alleged in the complaint, unless the Accreditation Authority allows you to. Details of the form and process for lodging a complaint regarding an Accredited Professional can be found on the Plan SA website.](#)

5.5 Office for Public Integrity

[Reports can be made to the Office for Public Integrity \(OPI\) if you think a South Australian public officer has broken the law, or acted in a way that is seriously inappropriate or negligent.](#)

[This includes the conduct of any state or local government agency or other government authority, the people who work with them and for them, which includes accredited professionals under the *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.](#)

[Members of the public can make a complaint to the Office for Public Integrity \(OPI\) anonymously if they wish. Complaints can be made online at the OPI website or complaints and reports about misconduct or maladministration \(but not corruption\) can also be made to the South Australian Ombudsman by emailing \[ombudsman@ombudsman.sa.gov.au\]\(mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.sa.gov.au\) or phoning \(08\) 8226 8699.](#)

[For information on reporting corruption, please see Council's Fraud, Corruption, Misconduct and Maladministration Prevention Policy F225.](#)

5.64 Unreasonable Complainant Conduct

All complaints received by Council will be treated seriously and complainants will be treated courteously. However, occasionally the conduct of a complainant can be unreasonable. This may take the form of unreasonable persistence, unreasonable demands, a lack of cooperation, argumentative or threatening behaviour. What can be termed 'unreasonable' will vary depending on a number of factors and Council aims to manage these situations in a fair and equitable manner.

Where a complainant's behaviour consumes an unwarranted amount of Council resources or impedes the investigation of their complaint, a decision may be made to apply restrictions on contact with the person. Before making any decision to restrict contact, the complainant will be warned that if the specified behaviour(s) or actions continue, restrictions may be applied.

Any decision to suspend action on a complaint will be made by the Chief Executive Officer or his/her delegate and communicated in writing to the complainant in accordance with Council's Unreasonable Complainant Policy.

5.75 Using Complaints to Improve Service

Quality of service is an important measure of Council's effectiveness. Learning from complaints is a powerful way of helping to develop the Council and increase trust among the people who use our services.

In addition to making changes to procedures and practices where appropriate, Council will review and evaluate the information gained through its complaints handling system on an annual basis to identify systemic issues and improvements to

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service. Council will receive a report on the number and nature of complaints received, including the percentage of unresolved complaints, at least once a year.

Where appropriate, complainants will be provided with an explanation of changes proposed or made as a result of the investigation of their complaint.

5.86 Privacy and Confidentiality

Complainants have a right to expect that their complaint will be investigated in private, to the extent possible. The identity of complainants will be made known only to those who need to know in the process of investigating and resolving the complaint. The complaint will not be revealed or made public by the Council, except where required by law.

All complaints lodged with Council are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1991 and confidentiality cannot be guaranteed under the provisions of that legislation.

5.97 Remedies

Where complaints are found to be justified Council will, where practicable, remedy the situation in a manner which is consistent and fair for both Council and complainants. The solution chosen will be proportionate and appropriate to the circumstances.

As a general principle the complainant should, so far as possible, be put in the position they would have been in, had things not gone wrong. This may mean providing the desired service or changing a decision. Sometimes, however, it may only be possible to offer an apology.

Compensation will only be offered in cases where the loss or suffering is considered substantial. The Elected Council and the CEO are the only representatives authorised to offer financial compensation and may consult with the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme before taking any such action.

5.108 Alternative Remedies

Council may seek to use alternative dispute resolution methods such as mediation to resolve a complaint in circumstances where the CEO or his/her delegate deems such a course of action appropriate and the complainant is amenable to that process.

When advising a complainant of the outcome of an investigation of a complaint, Council will provide information about alternative remedies, including any rights of appeal and the right to make a complaint to an external agency such as the SA Ombudsman.


6. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

In order to ensure Council continues to provide the best possible complaints handling service for its customers, this policy will be subject to periodic evaluation and review and within 12 months after each general election of Council.

7. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

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This Policy will be available for inspection at Council’s principal office during ordinary business hours and to download free of charge from Council’s website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au. Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request and payment of a fee in accordance with Council’s Schedule of Fee and Charges.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION


The City of Mount Gambier's Contact Officers for advice about the policy and procedures for complaints are the following:

Chief Executive Officer
 General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
 Manager Governance and Property

For further information about this Procedure please contact any of the above mentioned Officers, c/-

PO Box 56,
 Mount Gambier SA 5290

Phone: 8721 2555,
 Fax: 8724 9791,
 Email: city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au.

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File Reference:	AF18/56
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999 s270
Reference: Community Plan	Our People Our Economy Our Location
Related Policies:	Internal Review of Council’s Decisions Policy C290 Fraud & Corruption Prevention Policy F225 Fraud, Corruption, Misconduct and Maladministration Prevention Policy F225 Members Complaints Handling Policy M265 Records Management R180 Public Interest Disclosure Policy P900 Whistleblower’s Protection Policy W150 (revoked)
Related Procedures:	Complaints Procedures Unreasonable Complainant Conduct Records Management Procedures
Related Documents:	Australian Standard ISO 10002-2006, Customer satisfaction – guidelines for complaint handling in organisations Managing Unreasonable Complainant Conduct - Practice Manual Behavioural Standards Code of Conduct for Council Employees Behavioural Standards Code of Conduct for Council Members

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Responsibility:	Manager Governance and Property <u>General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services</u>
Version:	56.0
Last revised date:	16 July 2019 <u>24 October 2024</u> 3
Effective date:	16 July 2019
Minute reference:	16 July 2019 - Minute Reference 23.2
Next review date:	March 2024 <u>October 2027</u> 5
<u>Document History</u> First Adopted By Council: Reviewed/Amended:	16 February, 2010 21 March 2017, 19 September 2017, 12 March 2019, 16 July 2019

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		Issued:	21 st March 2017
		Next Review:	November, 2019 October 2027

1 INTRODUCTION

This policy and procedure specifically addresses the manner in which requests for a review of a previous decision of Council will be dealt with, and provides a fair, consistent and structured process for any party dissatisfied with a decision which has been made by Council or its agents.

Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999* requires Council to maintain “policies, practices and procedures” for dealing with requests for service and complaints including a procedure about “the review of decisions of—

- (a) the council;
- (b) employees of the council;
- (c) other persons acting on behalf of the council.”

Council has a three tier process for managing customer complaints, set out below, which includes immediate, informal resolution as well as established processes for review by senior staff.

1. Immediate response to resolve the complaint

All staff are empowered to handle complaints in the first instance and it is preferable that they are dealt with promptly at the initial point of contact and at the appropriate officer level.

2. Complaint escalated to a more senior officer

A complaint will be directed to a more senior officer in the Council, where circumstances indicate that the complaint would be more appropriately handled at a higher level. This may occur, for example, where an officer has been involved in the matter that is the subject of the complaint, where the complaint is about an issue that requires a decision to be made at a more senior level, or where a complaint concerns a matter that ranges across more than one Council work area.

3. Internal review of a Council decision by statutory process

Internal review of a Council decision is available under section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999*. This is a process established by legislation that enables a Council to reconsider all the evidence relied on to make a decision, including new evidence if relevant. This process is generally a last resort in the complaint handling process, but may also be used in situations which are not able to be resolved by other means, such as a complaint about a decision of the CEO.

Council's detailed Complaints [Policy is](#) available to the public.

This policy and procedure for review of a decision commences at the point where:

- A request for the review of a decision is received, or
- A complaint [is escalated to Tier 3](#) under Council's complaint handling policy.

The aim of this policy and procedure, which is available on Council's website, is to ensure a fair, consistent and structured process for any party dissatisfied with a decision which has been made by Council or its agents.

The policy and procedure applies to all Council staff who may be involved in receiving an application for review of a Council decision.

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1.1 Key Principles

The policy and procedure are based on five principles, which are fundamental in the way Council approaches requests for service, complaint handling and reviews of decisions.

They are:

- Fair treatment: which requires impartiality, confidentiality and transparency at all stages of the process
- Accessibility: to be accessible there must be broad public awareness about Council's policies and procedures and a range of contact options
- Responsiveness: this will be achieved by providing sufficient resources, well trained staff and ongoing review and improvement of the systems
- Efficiency: requests and complaints will be resolved as quickly as possible, while ensuring that they are dealt with at a level that reflects their level of complexity
- Integration of different areas of Council where the matter under review overlaps functional responsibilities.

2 SCOPE

2.1 Application of policy and procedures

This policy and procedure applies when reviewing decisions of Council as outlined below.

Council also has defined procedures for dealing with complaints and requests for service. As a general rule, Council will promote these procedures in the first instance as they offer the potential for immediate resolution.

An internal review is the [highest third](#)-tier in Council's complaints handling process. It will apply:

- when matters cannot be resolved satisfactorily
- when a decision has to be reviewed by the elected Council (See 6.1 Assignment of application for review)

2.2 Matters outside the scope of the policy and procedures

Other provisions in the *Local Government Act* prescribe appeal arrangements in certain circumstances. For example:

- objections to valuations made by a Council and appeals against orders made pursuant to section 254 of the *Local Government Act*.

Other legislation that has its own prescribed appeal procedures, including:

- the [Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016](#) ~~Development Act 1993~~
- the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*
- the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.

While Council prefers to work with its customers to resolve requests for review quickly and effectively, an applicant will always retain the right to seek other forms of resolution, such as contacting the [State](#) Ombudsman, or taking legal action at any time. Note however that as a general rule, the Ombudsman prefers that matters be addressed by Council in the first instance, unless this is not appropriate in the circumstances.

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2.3 Council's commitment

Council, its committees, staff and contractors make decisions every day which impact on members of the community. It is imperative that these decisions are fair, objective and subject to review.

Council is committed to open, responsive and accountable government. This includes providing processes by which citizens adversely affected by a decision of Council can have their grievances considered.

This policy and procedure will be widely accessible to ensure that customers are fully aware of their right to request the review of a decision and the process that will be followed.

Everyone will be treated equally, in accordance with good administrative practice. Council's procedures are designed to ensure that:

- Every applicant has the opportunity to make an application for review of a decision covered by this procedure
- An unbiased assessment is undertaken
- Decisions are based on sound evidence
- Applicants receive information about the outcome of the review.

3 INTERPRETATION

Alternative Dispute Resolution includes mediation, conciliation or neutral evaluation as set out in section 271 of the Local Government Act.

Applicant is the party lodging the requests for review. Examples include residents, ratepayers, members of a community group, users of Council facilities and visitors to the area.

Business Day means a day when the Council is normally open for business, i.e. Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

Council refers to the City of Mount Gambier.

Decision is a position adopted by Council or its employees. It will generally be a judgement reached after consideration of relevant information.

Decision-maker refers to the individual or entity responsible for the decision under review.

Employee includes a person employed directly by the Council in a full time, part time or casual capacity (whether that position is permanent or contractual) and persons providing services to, or on behalf of, the Council even though they may be employed by another party.

Reviewer refers to the individual or entity responsible for resolution of a request for review of a decision.

4 RECORDS MANAGEMENT

All documents, notes, photographs and correspondence must be retained and stored in accordance with Council's Records Management protocols as required by Section 125 of the *Local Government Act*.

All applications must be recorded in Council's records management system in such a way that the information can also be analysed for service improvement opportunities.

5 PROCEDURE

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5.1 Making an application

An application for a review of a Council decision provides Council with an opportunity to revisit a decision which has aggrieved an interested party. This may include an individual or a group, ratepayer, resident or business owner. Depending on the particular circumstances, it may also include a person who is not the direct subject of the decision. *(For example, where a Council issues a permit for a person to keep more than the maximum number of dogs permitted under a by-law, a neighbour may seek an internal review of the decision.)*

Council will determine whether a person has a sufficient interest to apply for an internal review of a decision, on a case-by-case basis.

An application for review must be in writing and set out the reasons for applying for the review (that is, why the applicant believes that the decision is wrong). Although Council can be expected to have information and material relevant to the matter under review, an application for review may also include new, relevant information or evidence to support the application.

[Applications for review must be submitted within 6 months of the making of the relevant council decision. Council may determine to permit applications made after the elapse of 6 months in appropriate cases.](#)

[Applications must be accompanied by the prescribed fee of \\$20 in accordance with the Local Government \(Application for Review Fee\) Notice 2021. Council may determine to waive the prescribed fee in circumstances where the Applicant can demonstrate financial hardship, such as evidence of a valid concession card.](#)

5.2 Assisting with the application for review

It is essential that no one is excluded from lodging an application for review because of any difficulties they may have representing themselves. All staff are expected to offer assistance where appropriate and provide it on request, including assistance in documenting the reasons for the review in writing when circumstances warrant.

If necessary arrange access to interpreters, aids or advocates to ensure that an applicant is treated equitably.

5.3 Internal Review Contact Officer

An Internal Review Contact Officer (IRCO) appointed by the Chief Executive Officer is the initial point of contact for applicants.

The role of the Internal Review Contact Officer is to:

- explain the procedure to the applicant and explore any alternative options to resolve the matter, such as alternative dispute resolution prior to an application for review.
- acknowledge the receipt of the application
- maintain a register of all applications for review received and the outcomes of the applications
- outline the timeframes involved and the action to be taken in the first instance
- undertake a preliminary investigation to determine what actions have already been taken to try to resolve the matter
- keep the applicant informed of progress

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- ensure adequate records are maintained
- report to Council at prescribed intervals on all applications lodged for review

All applications are to be referred to the IRCO immediately, including meeting with the applicant or transferring a telephone call when contact is first made.

5.4 Acknowledging an application for review

The IRCO is responsible for:

- working in conjunction with the appropriately delegated officer to determine how the review will be handled
- advising the applicant of the process to be undertaken and the time of the next contact
- ensuring the application is properly lodged and assigned.

Applications for a review of a decision must be acknowledged within [5] business days and advising of the expected timeframe for dealing with the matter. Council will use its best endeavours to ensure that a review of the original decision will be completed within [21] business days.

If the decision is to be reviewed by Council, a committee, or an external panel there may be delays caused by meeting cycle timelines. In more complex cases, a review may take longer.

The applicant will be regularly informed of progress, either by email, letter or telephone.

5.5 Applications for a review of the impact of rates or services charges

If Council receives an application for a review of a decision concerning the financial impact of Council rates or services charges, these will be dealt with as a matter of priority. Where circumstances warrant, Council will consider financial relief or the granting of concessions in line with the provisions of the *Local Government Act*.

6 UNDERTAKING A REVIEW

6.1 Assignment of applications for review

Review applications will be referred to the elected Council for consideration:

- when the decision being reviewed was made by the elected Council, a Committee of the Council or the CEO
- when the decision relates to civic and ceremonial matters
- in other circumstances as determined by the CEO or resolution of the Council

Council is also responsible for determining who will undertake the investigation and the preparation of a report for Council consideration. (This may be the CEO, his/her delegate, or an expert party from outside the organisation.)

Where the elected Council is not the reviewer, a review methodology to suit the nature of the internal review to be undertaken will be chosen from the following:

- CEO
- A Senior Officer (General Manager/Manager)
- A panel comprised of Council Members and/or Senior Staff

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- An external person
- A panel of external experts

Wherever possible and appropriate, Council will seek to involve an external person or panel to assist with the review, which may include employees of other Councils.

6.2 Role of reviewer

The role of a reviewer is to review the decision in question to ensure that the decision-maker complied with the following procedural requirements and made the best possible decision in the circumstances:

- The decision must be within a power properly conferred on the decision-maker under the relevant Act.
- A decision-maker must consider all matters which are relevant to the making of the decision and not take into account matters which are not relevant to the decision.
- A decision-maker must not make a decision or exercise a power or discretion in bad faith or for an improper purpose.
- A decision-maker must ensure that findings of fact are based on evidence.
- Decisions must be reasonable.
- Those who may be affected by a decision must be accorded procedural fairness, which includes the principles of natural justice.
- A decision-maker must properly consider the application of existing policies.
- A decision-maker must not exercise a discretionary power at the direction of another person.

6.3 Review process

In carrying out a review of a decision, the reviewer will consider all the information and material that was before the original decision-maker and any additional relevant information or material provided by the applicant. The reviewer will 'stand in the shoes' of the original decision-maker and make the best decision available on the evidence.

This means the reviewer will do more than simply consider whether the decision is legally and procedurally correct. The reviewer will also consider whether a different decision would be better, based on the evidence. The process of merits review, as described above, will typically involve a review of the facts that support a decision, including any new evidence that may come to light.

6.4 Providing 'Procedural Fairness'

Council will observe the principles of procedural fairness (also called 'natural justice') when exercising its statutory powers which could affect the rights and interests of individuals.

Put simply, 'procedural fairness' involves:

- Giving an applicant a right to put their case forward. This will generally involve giving an applicant the opportunity to provide all relevant documentary evidence, rather than an oral hearing
- Ensuring that the reviewer does not have a personal interest in the outcome (is not biased) and

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- Acting only on proper evidence that is capable of proving the case.

6.5 Giving Reasons

While there is no statutory requirement to give reasons for a decision, Council will provide reasons for the decision of the reviewer where practicable.

Council will always give reasons to explain the outcome where:

- A decision is not in accordance with published policy;
- A decision is likely to detrimentally affect rights or interests of individuals (or organisations) in a material way; or
- Conditions are attached to any approval, consent, permit, licence or other authorisation.

6.6 Refusing an application for review

A council, or a person assigned to consider the application, may refuse to consider an application for review if—

- the application is made by an employee of the council and relates to an issue concerning his or her employment; or
- it appears that the application is frivolous or vexatious; or
- more than 6 months has elapsed from the time of the decision; or
- the applicant does not have a sufficient interest in the matter.
- alternative statutory review processes exist, including but not limited to:
 - Electoral issues (Local, State and Commonwealth)
 - [Planning Development and Infrastructure Act and ~~Development Act and Development~~ Regulations](#)
 - Freedom of Information Act matters
 - Expiation of Offences matters
 - By-Laws and Orders
 - Rates and Property Valuations
 - Code of Conduct and Employment related issues
 - Conflict of Interest matters – Elected Members
 - Decisions made through delegations under other Acts

Such matters will be considered for the conduct of a section 270 review on the merits of the individual application.

Refusing an application for review will not be done lightly and reasons for the refusal will document the evidence on which a refusal is based.

[Council may determine not to review a matter if the application has already been the subject of a review by the council or an investigation, inquiry, or review by another authority. The decision maker in these circumstances shall be the reviewer assigned to consider the application. A member of the public who is dissatisfied with such determination remains entitled to make a complaint to the Ombudsman.](#)

[Council will not refuse to deal with, or to take no further action in relation to:](#)

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- [complaints about council members made pursuant to sections 262A to 262E of the Local Government Act.](#)
- [relating to a recommendation of the Ombudsman.](#)

7 REMEDIES

Where the review of a decision upholds the applicant's grievance, an appropriate remedy or response will be determined which is consistent and fair for both Council and applicant. The remedy chosen will be proportionate and appropriate to the failure identified.

As a general principle the applicant will, so far as possible, be put in the position he or she would have been in, had the decision not been made. This may mean changing a decision. Where circumstances are such that it is not possible to return to the original situation, or to rectify the outcome of the decision, it may only be possible to offer an apology.

The range of other possible outcomes includes:

- an explanation
- mediation
- an admission of fault
- a change to policy, procedure or practice
- a correction of misleading records
- financial compensation, including a refund of any fees
- the waiving of a debt
- the remission of a penalty
- disciplinary action
- referral of a matter to an external agency for further investigation or prosecution.

The remedy or response may be one, or a combination of these actions. The chosen remedy will be proportionate and appropriate to the failure in service and take account of what the applicant is seeking as an outcome of the review.

If an apology is required it will be done promptly and the applicant advised that appropriate action will be taken to ensure the problem is not repeated.

Compensation will only be offered in cases where the loss or suffering is considered substantial. The Council itself and the CEO are the only people authorised to offer financial compensation and this will only occur after consultation with the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme.

When advising an applicant of the outcome of a review, information will also be provided about alternative remedies, including any rights of appeal and the right to make a complaint to an external agency such as the SA Ombudsman.

8 REPORTING

All applications will be recorded in Council's records management system in such a way that the information can also be analysed for service improvement opportunities.

The IRCO records the following information about all applications for review:

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- a) the number of applications for review made
- b) the kinds of matters to which the applications relate
- c) the outcome of applications
- d) such other matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.

The IRCO will submit a report to Council annually about section 270 applications for review of a decision, including:

- the number of applications for review made under this section
- the kinds of matters to which the applications relate
- the outcomes of applications under this section.

The IRCO will also provide information on how the outcomes have been used to improve Council's customer service, policies, procedures and practices.

This information, as specified in section 270(8), will be included in Council's Annual Report.

9. REVIEW & EVALUATION

This Procedure will be reviewed by the City of Mount Gambier within 12 months after each general election of Council.

10. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

This Procedure will be available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and on the Council's website. 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 Fee and Charges.

11. FURTHER INFORMATION

The City of Mount Gambier's Contact Officers for advice about the procedure for the Review of Council Decisions are the following:

Chief Executive Officer

General Manager [Corporate and Regulatory Services](#) [Council Business Services](#)

Manager —Governance & Property

For further information about this Procedure please contact any of the above mentioned Officers, c/-

PO Box 56,
Mount Gambier SA 5290

Phone: 8721 2555,
Fax: 8724 9791,
Email: city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au.

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File Reference:	AF11/1740
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999 s270
Reference: Community Plan	
Related Policies:	Complaint Policy C200
Related Procedures:	Unreasonable Complainant Conduct
Related Documents:	Managing Unreasonable Complainant - Practice Manual

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Responsibility:	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Version:	6.0
Last revised date:	21st March, 2017 October 2024
Effective date:	21 st March, 2017
Minute reference:	Council Meeting 21 st March, 2017, Corporate and Community Services Committee Item 5
Next review date:	November, 2019 October 2027
<u>Document History</u>	
First Adopted By Council:	20 th July, 2000
Reviewed/Amended:	19 th August 2003, 19 th September 2006, 28 th November 2006, 16 th August 2011, 18 th August 2015, 21 st March 2017

19 MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

20 URGENT MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

21 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

22 NEW CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

22.1 ELECTRICITY CONTRACT

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 Electricity Contract.

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:

- (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; 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 future contracts between Council and suppliers associated with the supply of energy for city services. The disclosure of information in association with this item could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of Council or the third parties and is considered on balance to be contrary to the public interest as it could prejudice the Councils position in obtaining best value 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 Electricity Contract and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under:
 - (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; and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until 12 months after a contract has been executed for the relevant supply.
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 ROADS RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT - RAMSAY AVENUE, SHEPHERDSON ROAD AND ANTHONY STREET

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 Roads Reconstruction Project - Ramsay Avenue, Shepherdson Road and Anthony Street.

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:

- (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 discussed in this item relates to a contract between Council and the successful tenderer.

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 Roads Reconstruction Project - Ramsay Avenue, Shepherdson Road and Anthony Street and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under:
 - (k) tenders for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of worksbe kept confidential and not available for public inspection until 12 months after the execution of the contract, with the name of the successful tenderer 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.



22.3 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - PROJECT UPDATE

CONSIDERATION FOR EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that all members of the public, except the Mayor, Councillors and (Council Officers) be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre - Project Update.

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.
- (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; and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
- (g) matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the council does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligation or duty.
- (h) legal advice.

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 contained within the report and attachments presents matters relating to contracts between Council and contractors associated with the construction and operation of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre. The disclosure of information contained in this report and attachments could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of Council or the third parties and is considered on balance to be contrary to the public interest as it could prejudice the Councils position in obtaining best value project delivery 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 Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre - Project Update 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.
 - (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; and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
 - (g) matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the council does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligation or duty.
 - (h) legal advice.

be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until the latter of two years after the satisfactory resolution of any outstanding commercial contractual dispute, or two years after the conclusion of any legal proceedings, and Council has been released from its duty of confidence.
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 19 November 2024



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

Time: 6:00 pm
Date: Tuesday 19 November 2024
Location: Council Chamber - Civic Centre
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/178

Moved: Cr Mark Lovett
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 October 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

CARRIED

5 MAYORAL REPORT

5.1 MAYORAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2024

- ABC radio interview – Beacon Art Project
- Southern Cross Austereo interview – Council meeting outcomes
- Meeting with David Coltman, Tafe SA – follow up to Mount Gambier 2035 engagement
- Meeting with Yerkalalpata Community Reference Group
- The Border Watch – photo – Beacon Art Project
- RFDS AGM and lunch
- Meeting with Mayor's Christmas Appeal Committee
- Meeting with Aaron Davis, Jens Hotel Manager
- Meeting with internal Council staff – finalise Christmas Parade Program
- Meeting with Erica Vickery
- Elected Member Briefing – Railway Lands Play Space
- Confidential Elected Member Briefing – Basketball Mount Gambier



- The Border Watch – interview and photo – LCLGA Local Roads Funding announcement
- Meeting with internal Council staff and CEO Sarah Philpott – Elected Member Mandatory Training
- LCLGA Mayors Catch Up (virtual)
- Triple M radio interview
- Regional Libraries Board Tour
- RDALC Office Opening
- Learn to Ride Playspace Launch
- Blue Lake Golf Club 40th Anniversary Cocktail Party
- 5GTR-FM radio interview (Llew Jones)
- Audit and Risk Committee Workshop
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- Elected Member Briefing – Investment / Attraction Strategic Approach
- Meeting with Pauline Kenny, Sunset Kitchen
- Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) Transport Strategy Briefing – to LCLGA Mayors and CEOs (Naracoorte)
- Volunteering at Mount Gambier Red Cross Blood Collection Centre –
- The Mount Gambier Men’s Shed – photo with Christmas Appeal toy makers
- Hour of Power Business Lunch – Chamber of Commerce (the Barn)
- Meeting with the Hon. Ben Hood MP and the Hon. Vincent Tarzia MP
- Elected Member Mandatory Training – Mid Tern Refresher
- Opening of “Enjoy This Trip” – the Art of Music Posters
- Meeting with internal Council staff – Mayor’s Christmas Appeal
- Catch up with Manager Governance & Property
- Confidential Elected Member Briefing – Library – Leasing Arrangements
- Confidential Elected Member Briefing – Strategic Land Use Discussion
- Substance Misuse Limestone Coast – Results from AOD Service Model Feasibility Study
- Introductory Meeting – Limestone Coast Sustainable Futures Association
- Screening of Dr Richard Harris documentary
- LCLGA Mayors Catch Up (virtual)
- Stand Like Stone Foundation 20th Anniversary Luncheon
- Michelle McCranor – meet and greet – charity runner running from Adelaide to Mount Gambier



- Legend of the Lakes Hillclimb event
- Remembrance Day 2024 Service and wreath laying
- Catch-up meeting with Colin Byles, Executive Officer – LCLGA
- Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal Launch
- Uni SA Annual Leaders in Industry Luncheon
- Elected Member Mandatory Training – Mid Term Refresher
- Radiotherapy Working Group Meeting
- Meeting with Jeanette Elliot – St Vincent de Paul
- Introductory Meeting with CEO Sarah Philpott and Kelly-Anne Saffin, new South Australian Cross Border Commissioner
- VAILO Adelaide 500 SA Suite
- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade
- Farewell Service for Fr Neil Fernando
- Official opening of St Vincent de Paul Mount Gambier new Admin building
- Tenison Woods College Senior School Awards Ceremony

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/179

Moved: Mayor Lynette Martin

Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

That the Mayoral Report be received.

CARRIED

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

6.1 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Cr Josh Lynagh | South East Primary Schools Music Festival, Regional Health Advisory Council Conference |
| Cr Jason Virgo | Welcomed Libraries Board to Mount Gambier Library |
| Cr Paul Jenner | EPA Waste to Resources Policy Review, EPA Water Quality 2015 Policy Review, Regional Libraries Board Tour of the Mount Gambier Public Library, Chamber of Commerce Business Luncheon (GTE) with Commonwealth Bank Chief Economist, Opening of the Riddoch Art Gallery Exhibitions, Melaleuca Reserve Library Exhibition, Thungi Summer Market at Cave Gardens, Trident Tyre Centre Legend of the Lakes Hill Climb, Remembrance Day Ceremony at Vansittart Park, Mount Gambier Re-use Market. |



RESOLUTION OCM 2024/180

Moved: Cr Jason Virgo
Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

That the reports made by Councillors be received.

CARRIED

7 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

8 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The following question without notice was received from Cr Paul Jenner:

8.1 Question: DIT - Planning and Budgeting - Sutton Avenue

What is Council doing with the Department of Infrastructure and Transport strategically in planning and budgeting to get the worst road in Mount Gambier, Sutton Avenue actioned and fixed?

Response: General Manager City Infrastructure

Long Term Planning for Regional Roads

- Council formally wrote to DIT in August 2024 to continue advocating for improvements to the deteriorating condition of DIT owned regional roads. It was noted that Bay Road, White Avenue and Suttontown Ave require priority upgrades.
- DIT have responded and advised that state-maintained roads within the City of Mount Gambier are not listed under their current 2-year renewal program.
- DIT are currently preparing an Asset Management Plan and Council have requested a copy of this be made available to our Council upon its completion (hopefully by the end of 2024).

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/181

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

That the question and response regarding DIT Planning and Budgeting - Sutton Avenue be recorded in the Council Minutes.

CARRIED

9 PETITIONS

Nil



10 DEPUTATIONS

10.1 DEPUTATION - MOUNT GAMBIER SWIMMING CLUB

1. That the Deputation from Mount Gambier Swimming Club be noted.

10.2 DEPUTATION - FRINGE MOUNT GAMBIER

1. That the Deputation from Fringe Berrin Inc. be noted.

11 NOTICE OF MOTION TO REVOKE OR AMEND

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/183

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Kate Amoroso

1. That the motion from Cr Paul Jenner as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.
2. That having further considered Item 18.5 Beacon Art Project tabled at the ordinary meeting of 15 October 2024, the Council hereby revoke the Resolution OCM 2024/155 as follows:
 2. That shortlisted applicant Huna Studio be endorsed to receive \$120,179 ex GST for the Beacon Art Project, noting that these funds will be conditional to a commission contract with the City of Mount Gambier and be dispensed in installations according to project milestones.
 3. That \$17,271 ex GST be allocated to site preparation, communications strategy and development approval costs.
 4. That Council is not in favour of the artwork being situated in front of the old town hall (as was outlined in the Huna Studios proposal), given the historical significance of the facade of this building, and that a further report be brought back to Council proposing alternate sites for the artwork within the CBD and outcomes of the feedback from the Community Reference Group.
3. That, in the alternative, Council hereby resolves:
 1. The Beacon Art Project is to stay on Council's agenda as a project for the Arts.
 2. The Allocated money in the Budget currently of \$116,497 stays in the Beacon Art Budget fund, including being carried forward for the 25/26 budget.

3. Council notes however that some expenditure has already occurred on this project in line with Councils resolution in marketing and other costs which is to be reflected in Budget Review 2.
4. The Administration be authorised to negotiate an appropriate settlement with Huna Studio's from the budgeted funds for costs of works already done in good faith (such as additional design and location options) in response to Councils resolution for their proposal for the Beacon Art Project which will be reflected in Budget Review 2.
5. Appropriate additional funding is to be considered for the 2025 / 2026 Annual Budget towards future Beacon Art Projects given Council's commitment to the Arts and projects of this nature.
6. A workshop of Council be convened before the end of March 2025 to work through the way forward with the Beacon Art Project, including consideration of community engagement in future projects.
7. Huna Studio and Council staff are to be thanked for the work they have done so far on this project, notwithstanding the decision not to proceed at this time.
8. The alternative Beacon Art Project to be finalised by June 2026.
9. That Council continue to support public artworks and artists in a variety of forms, both large and small-scale and continue to work on fostering a vibrant arts and cultural scene in the City of Mount Gambier.

LOST

DIVISION

Cr Frank Morello called a division.

The declaration was set aside.

Voting by division being:

In Favour: Cr Kate Amoroso, Cr Paul Jenner and Cr Mark Lovett

Against: Cr Max Bruins, Cr Josh Lynagh, Cr Sonya Mezinec, Cr Frank Morello and Cr Jason Virgo

The Mayor declared the motion

3/5 LOST



12 ELECTED MEMBERS INFORMATION BRIEFING SESSIONS

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/184

Moved: Cr Max Bruins
Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

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 28 OCTOBER 2024

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/185

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

That the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 28 October 2024 as attached be noted.

CARRIED

14.2 DRAFT 2023/2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/186

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

That Council report titled 'Draft 2023/2024 Financial Statements' as presented on Monday 28 October 2024 be noted.

1. That the Audit and Risk Committee advises Council that in accordance with Section 126(4(a)) of the Local Government Act 1999, it has reviewed the draft annual financial statements of Council for the financial year 2024 and 'they present fairly the state of affairs of the Council'.



2. That having been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 28 October 2024, the Audit Completion Report and Management Representations Letter as attached to this report be noted.
3. That having reviewed the audit completion report, management representations letter and met with the external auditors, the Committee agree Dean Newbery and Partners have been effective in their appointment.
4. Acknowledges progress towards matters raised by Auditors, Dean Newbery to be addressed in future years as detailed in the Audit Completion report will be reported on at future Audit and Risk Committee meetings.

CARRIED

14.3 COMPARISON OF ACTUAL TO BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/187

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council report titled 'Comparison of Actual to Budget for the year ended 30 June 2024' as presented on Monday 28 October 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

14.4 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/188

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

1. That Council report titled 'Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report' as presented on Monday 28 October 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

14.5 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE SELF-ASSESSMENT REVIEW 2023/2024

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/189

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Josh Lynagh

1. That Council report titled 'Audit and Risk Committee Self-Assessment Review 2023/2024' as presented on Monday 28 October 2024 be noted.

CARRIED



14.6 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/190

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

1. That Council report titled 'Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report' as presented on Monday 28 October 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

15 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Nil

16 JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE

Nil

17 BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Nil

18 COUNCIL REPORTS

18.1 GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM ROUND ONE - NEW YEAR'S EVE AND FRINGE MOUNT GAMBIER

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/191

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Paul Jenner

1. That Council report titled 'Grants and Sponsorship Program Round One - New Year's Eve and Fringe Mount Gambier' as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.
2. That \$22,600 cash and \$1,287 in-kind be endorsed for distribution as part of Round One of the 2024/2025 Grants and Sponsorships program specifically for:
 - (a) Mount Gambier Community Events Inc – \$17,600 cash and \$1,287 in-kind to support the 2024 New Years Eve Event only, noting the requirement for a CBD location and a majority of musicians performing to be based in the Mount Gambier area for future events.
 - (b) Fringe Berrin Inc. - \$5,000 cash to support 'Fringe Outreach Program in 2025.

CARRIED

18.2 BEACON ART PROJECT

Cr Kate Amoroso left the meeting at 7:29 pm.

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/192

Moved: Cr Frank Morello
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council report titled 'Beacon Art Project' as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.
2. That Council considers the location of the Beacon Art Project and selects option 1.

CARRIED

Cr Kate Amoroso returned to the meeting at 7:35 pm.

18.3 CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2028

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/193

Moved: Cr Sonya Meziniec
Seconded: Cr Paul Jenner

1. That Council report titled 'City of Mount Gambier Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028' as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.
2. That Council endorse the City of Mount Gambier Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028 as attached to this report.
3. The Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to make necessary changes or amendments, including editorial adjustments and final formatting and graphic design, provided these do not materially affect the document's integrity.

CARRIED

Mayor Lynette Martin sought leave of the meeting to advise of the intent to move Item 18.10 Statutory Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2024 for consideration and adoption prior to the adoption of the City of Mount Gambier Annual Report which contains the financial statements.

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

CARRIED

Cr Mark Lovett left the meeting at 07:37 pm.



18.10 STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2024

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/194

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council report titled 'Statutory Financial Statements for the Year Ending 30 June 2024' as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.
2. That the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024, as attached, be adopted.
3. That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to certify the financial statements in their final form.

CARRIED

Cr Mark Lovett returned to the meeting at 07:42 pm.

18.4 2023/2024 CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER ANNUAL REPORT

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/195

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

1. That Council report titled '2023/2024 City of Mount Gambier Annual Report' as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.
2. The City of Mount Gambier 2023/2024 Annual Report as tabled be adopted.
3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make any non-material amendments as considered necessary prior to publication.
4. Copies of the City of Mount Gambier Annual Report be distributed to the bodies/persons referred to in Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.
5. The LCLGA Annual Report be added to the electronic file prior to distribution to the required bodies/persons.

CARRIED



18.5 RAILWAY LANDS PLAYSPACE - CONCEPT DESIGN

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/196

Moved: Cr Josh Lynagh
Seconded: Cr Max Bruins

1. That Council report titled 'Railway Lands Playspace - Concept Design' as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.
2. That Council endorse the final concept design for the Railway Lands nature playspace and the second draft concept design for the youth activity hub.
3. That Council acknowledge progress will be dependent on attracting matched funding.

CARRIED

18.6 COMMUNITY LAND REVOCATION PROPOSAL - JUBILEE HIGHWAY WEST, SUTTONTOWN

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/197

Moved: Cr Max Bruins
Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

1. That Council report titled 'Community Land Revocation Proposal - Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown' as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.
2. That Council hereby endorses community consultation on the Community Land Revocation Proposal Report for the parcel of land identified as Allotment 212 in Deposited Plan 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown in accordance with section 194 of the Local Government Act 1999.

LOST

18.7 PROPOSED UPGRADE - BAY ROAD / LAKE TERRACE INTERSECTION - DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT (DIT)

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/198

Moved: Cr Max Bruins
Seconded: Cr Paul Jenner

1. That Council report titled 'Proposed Upgrade - Bay Road / Lake Terrace Intersection - Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT)' as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.

2. That Council provide the following feedback to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) on the proposed minor upgrade works at the intersection of Bay Road/Lake Terrace, Mount Gambier:

- c. Proceed with DIT's minor modifications as an interim solution while conducting a more in-depth assessment to determine the potential for future, more comprehensive upgrades.

CARRIED

18.8 BUDGET REVIEW 1 2024/2025

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/199

Moved: Cr Mark Lovett
Seconded: Cr Paul Jenner

1. That Council report titled 'Budget Review 1 2024/2025' as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.
2. That Council adopts the budget review 1, being prepared as at 30 September 2024 for the year ending 30 June 2025.

CARRIED

18.9 FIRST QUARTER REPORT ON ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2024-2025 ANNUAL OBJECTIVES

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/200

Moved: Cr Sonya Meziniec
Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

1. That Council report titled 'First Quarter Report on Annual Business Plan 2024-2025 Annual Objectives' as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.

CARRIED

Item 18.10 Statutory Financial Statements for year ending 30 June 2024 moved to follow Item 18.3.

18.11 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MEETING PROCEDURES

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/201

Moved: Cr Jason Virgo
Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

1. That Council report titled 'Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures' as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.

2. That Council hereby:
- (a) Endorse and adopt the Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures 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 2023;
 - i. That the Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures (as presented) be amended as follows:
 - 1. City of Mount Gambier 11.1 be amended to reflect that supporting materials must be provided at least 7 clear days prior to the relevant council meeting, rather than at the time the deputation is requested; and
 - 2. City of Mount Gambier 19.1 be amended to reflect that initial extension period will be for 1 hour, with each subsequent extension occurring in increments of 30 minutes each.
 - 3. City of Mount Gambier 9.2 be amended to reflect it relates to questions without notice at the item in the agenda.
 - 4. City of Mount Gambier 12.2 be amended to remove the requirement for the presiding members permission although the presiding member must be advised.
 - 5. Typographical errors to be fixed by the Chief Executive Officer.
 - (b) Revoke the Council Determined Meeting Procedures Policy.

CARRIED

18.12 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Nominations were sought from Members in attendance.

The Mayor declared nominations received for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Having received more than one nomination a secret ballot was conducted.

The Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Philpott conducted a ballot process in accordance with the Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures.

A secret ballot was conducted for the position of Deputy Mayor.

The Chief Executive Officer declared the result on the secret ballot to be that Cr Josh Lynagh selected for the position of Deputy Mayor.



RESOLUTION OCM 2024/202

Moved: Cr Max Bruins
Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

1. That Council Report titled "Appointment of Deputy Mayor" as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.
2. That Council appoints Cr Josh Lynagh to the position of Deputy Mayor for a term of 2 years in accordance with Section 51 of the Local Government Act 1999.

CARRIED

19 MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

19.1 MOTION WITH NOTICE - COMMUNITY ART

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/203

Moved: Cr Kate Amoroso
Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

1. That the motion from Cr Kate Amoroso as presented on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be noted.
2. That Council undertake to review the City of Mount Gambier policy and practise regarding community art projects.

CARRIED

DIVISION

Cr Kate Amoroso called a division.

The declaration was set aside.

Voting by division being:

In Favour: Cr Kate Amoroso, Cr Mark Lovett, Cr Josh Lynagh, Cr Sonya Meziniec and Cr Jason Virgo

Against: Cr Max Bruins, Cr Paul Jenner and Cr Frank Morello

The Mayor declared the motion

CARRIED 5/3



20 URGENT MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

21 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

22 NEW CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

22.1 CRATER LAKES UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/206

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo

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, B Shelton, K Rolton, B Shearing, S McLean, K Gilmore, M Telford and T Chant be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Crater Lakes Unsolicited Proposal.

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 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.
- (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 supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
- (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 is in regards to the Crater Lakes Project Proposal, including the report and attachment, contains commercial information of a confidential nature provided to Council in confidence creating a duty of confidence, the consideration of which if conducted in open would prejudice the position of Council, the party that provided the information, and potentially confer commercial advantage on a third party.

The public interest in the matter being considered in open is considered to be outweighed by the public interest in ensuring the best possible outcome for the community, which may be prejudiced if the matter were considered in open.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/207

Moved: Cr Max Bruins
Seconded: Cr Frank Morello

CONSIDERATION FOR KEEPING ITEMS CONFIDENTIAL

1. In accordance with Sections 91(7) and 91(9) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the report Crater Lakes Unsolicited Proposal 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 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.
 - (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 supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
 - (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 the latter of: two years after the expiry of an agreement entered into in relation to the matter, or two years after the proposal has been abandoned, and Council has been released from its duty of confidence.
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

22.2 AF24/218 TENDER - PROCUREMENT - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LANDFILL COMPACTOR (UNIT 41)

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/208

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, B Shelton, K Rolton, B Shearing, S McLean, K Gilmore, M Telford and T Chant be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of AF24/218 Tender - Procurement - Supply and Delivery of Landfill Compactor (Unit 41).



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:

(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 discussed in this item relates to a contract between Council and GCM Enviro Pty Ltd.

The disclosure of information in association with this item could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of Council or confer advantage on third parties and is considered on balance to be contrary to the public interest as it could prejudice the Council's position in obtaining best value on behalf of the community.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/210

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Sonya Meziniec

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 AF24/218 Tender - Procurement - Supply and Delivery of Landfill Compactor (Unit 41) and its attachments, resolution/s and minutes arising from the report, having been considered by the Council in confidence under:

(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 12 months after the execution of a contract, with the name of the successful tenderer and the tender contract value 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.

CARRIED

22.3 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - PROJECT UPDATE

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/209

Moved: Cr Paul Jenner

Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

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, B Shelton, K Rolton, B Shearing, S McLean, K Gilmore, M Telford and T Chant be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt and consideration in confidence of Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre - Project Update.



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.
- (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; and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
- (g) matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the council does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligation or duty.
- (h) legal advice.

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 contained within the report and attachments presents matters relating to contracts between Council and contractors associated with the construction and operation of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre. The disclosure of information contained in this report and attachments could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of Council or the third parties and is considered on balance to be contrary to the public interest as it could prejudice the Council's position in obtaining best value project delivery on behalf of the community.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION OCM 2024/211

Moved: Cr Max Bruins

Seconded: Cr Mark Lovett

CONSIDERATION FOR KEEPING ITEMS CONFIDENTIAL

1. In accordance with Sections 91(7) and 91(9) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the report Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre - Project Update 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.
 - (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; and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.



- (g) matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the council does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligation or duty.
- (h) legal advice.
- be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until 2 years after the resolution of the commercial, contractual and legal matters outlined within this report
2. Further that Council delegates the power to review, revoke, but not extend the confidential order to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of Section 91(9)(c) of the Local Government Act 1999.

CARRIED

23 MEETING CLOSE 09:04 pm.

24 ATTACHMENT - PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES

