City of
Mount Gambier

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 18 November 2025



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

Time: 6:00 pm

Date: Tuesday 18 November 2025

Location: Mount Gambier Library
6 Watson Terrace

Paul Simpson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
14 November 2025

Order of Business

1 Acknowledgement of Country 4

2 Conduct of the Gallery 4

3 Apologies 4

4 Leave of Absence 4

5 Confirmation of Council Minutes 4

5.1 Confirmation of Council Minutes 4

6 Mayoral Report 4

6.1 Mayoral Report - November 2025 4

7 Reports from Councillors 5

7.1 Reports from Councillors 5

8 Questions with Notice 6

9 Questions without Notice 6

10 Petitions 6

11 Deputations 6

12 Notice of Motion to Revoke or Amend 6

13 Elected Members Information Briefing Sessions 6

14 Elected Members Training and Development 14

15 Audit and Risk Committee 14

15.1 Minutes of Audit and Risk Committee held on 5/11/2025 14

16 Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee 14

17 Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee 14

18 Building Fire Safety Committee 14

19 Council Reports 14

19.1 Request for Removal of Gum Trees - 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier 14

19.2 Budget Review 1 2025/2026 45

19.3 City of Mount Gambier 2024/2025 Annual Report 58

19.4 Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 293

19.5 Building and Fire Safety Committee Membership 315
19.6 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report November 2025 350
19.7 Review of Terms of Reference - City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund 355
19.8 Public Interest Disclosure Policy 359
19.9 Authorisation to Affix the Common Seal – Sale of Land at Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown 390
20 Motions with Notice 397
21 Urgent Motions without Notice 398
22 New Confidential Items 398
23 Meeting Close 398
24 Attachment - Previous Council Minutes 398

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

2 CONDUCT OF THE GALLERY

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

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 October 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

6 MAYORAL REPORT

6.1 MAYORAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025

- Radiotherapy Working Group Meeting
- Weekly meetings with Interim CEO / CEO
- A Region of Value public lecture and report launch
- Elected Member Briefing – Limestone Coast Sustainable Futures Association – Proposal for Rare Earth Mineral Mining in our Region
- Elected Member Briefing – The Place of Courage – Ripples Project
- Elected Member Briefing – Brief Update on Topical Matters
- Meeting with LCLGA Executive Officer, Charlotte Edmunds
- Regular meetings with Media and Communications Coordinator
- Photo with Australian Garden History Society and welcome speech at annual conference
- Catch up with outgoing Interim CEO, Andrew Aitken

- Radio Interview with Llew Jones – 5GTR-FM
- Official Opening of the Wattle Range Council Service Centre, with CEO Paul Simpson (Millicent)
- Meeting with Mossop Constructions
- Elected Member Briefing – Procurement Policy and Contract Management
- Elected Member Briefing – Strategic Risk Review
- Elected Member Briefing – Brief Update on Topical Matters
- LGA Board Meeting (virtual)
- Meeting with Philip Bishop – rating review
- Pre-meeting briefing (Audit and Risk Committee) with General Manager Corporate & Regulatory Services
- Audit and Risk Committee – Information Briefing Session
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- Yerkalalpata Community Reference Group Meeting
- Annual Remembrance Day Service
- Elected Member Briefing – BR1
- Confidential Elected Member Briefing – Mossop Constructions
- Elected Member Briefing – Update on Topical Matters
- Internal meetings – planning for 150 Years of Mount Gambier celebrations
- LCLGA Mayors Catch up (virtual)
- Meeting with Ali Dymott (Flinders University)
- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Special Council Meeting

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Report be received.

7 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

7.1 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

RECOMMENDATION

That the reports made by Councillors be received.

8 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

9 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

10 PETITIONS

Nil

11 DEPUTATIONS

The Mayor, Mrs Lynette Martin OAM, has granted a deputation request from Mr Wade Chant, who would like the opportunity to present to Council regarding trees on the Council Reserve at the corner of North Terrace and Kennedy Avenue, Mount Gambier.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Deputation from Mr Wade Chant be noted.

12 NOTICE OF MOTION TO REVOKE OR AMEND

Nil

13 ELECTED MEMBERS INFORMATION BRIEFING SESSIONS

RECOMMENDATION

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. 28-10-2025 - Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings [**13.1.1** - 2 pages]
2. 04-11-2025 - Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings [**13.1.2** - 2 pages]
3. 05-11-2025 - Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings [**13.1.3** - 1 page]
4. 11-11-2025 - Information Briefing Session - Elected Members - Record of Proceedings [**13.1.4** - 2 pages]

INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION
5:00 PM TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2025

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
5:00 pm, Tuesday 28 October 2025
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. LIMESTONE COAST SUSTAINABLE FUTURES ASSOCIATION - PROPOSAL FOR RARE EARTH MINERAL MINING IN OUR REGION

GUESTS:-

Todd Woodard, Chair, Limestone Coast Sustainable Futures Association
Dee Nolan, Committee Member, Limestone Coast Sustainable Futures Association
Liz McKinnon, Director, EHM Advisory

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Interim Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Paul Jenner	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Max Bruins	Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement
Cr Frank Morello	Manager Development Service
Cr Jason Virgo (virtual)	

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Cr Josh Lynagh	Nil

DISCUSSION:

Presentation on proposal for Rate Earth Mineral Mining in our Region.

2. THE PLACE OF COURAGE - RIPPLES PROJECT

GUESTS:-

Heather Oxenham (via teams)

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Interim Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Paul Jenner	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Max Bruins (left at 6.32 pm)	Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement
Cr Frank Morello	Manager Regulatory Services
Cr Jason Virgo (virtual)	

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Cr Josh Lynagh	Nil

DISCUSSION:

Presentation on the Ripples initiative.

3. BRIEF UPDATE ON TOPICAL MATTERS

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Interim Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Paul Jenner	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Frank Morello	Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement
Cr Jason Virgo (virtual)	Manager Development Services

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Cr Max Bruins	Nil
C Josh Lynagh	

DISCUSSION:

Update on the following matters:

- Trees
- Infrastructure Operations
- Valley Lake
- Legal Update

Discussion closed at 9.10 p.m.

INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION
5:00 PM TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2025

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
5:00 pm, Tuesday 4 November 2025
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

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

1. PROCUREMENT POLICY AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Max Bruins	Manager Financial Services
	Manager Governance and Property
	Procurement Business Partner

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Cr Josh Lynagh	Nil
Cr Frank Morello	
Cr Paul Jenner	
Cr Mark Lovett	
Cr Jason Virgo	

DISCUSSION:

Information provided on the following matters:

- Management of Conflict of Interest
- Procurement Management

2. ENTERPRISE RISK UPDATE

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Max Bruins	Manager Governance and Property
Cr Mark Lovett	

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Cr Josh Lynagh	Nil
Cr Frank Morello	
Cr Paul Jenner	
Cr Jason Virgo	

DISCUSSION:

Update on Enterprise Risk Management including Risk Framework and Strategic Risk Review.

3. BRIEF UPDATE ON TOPICAL MATTERS

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Max Bruins	Manager Governance and Property
Cr Mark Lovett	

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Cr Josh Lynagh	Nil
Cr Frank Morello	
Cr Paul Jenner	
Cr Jason Virgo	

DISCUSSION

Update on community feedback on Draft Rating Review.

Discussion closed at 5.48 p.m.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE INFORMATION BRIEFING SESSION
4:30 PM, WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2025

Ref: AF22/549

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
4:30 PM, **WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2025**
Conference Room, Level 1,10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

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

The session described at Item 1 and 2 were open to the public.

1. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE – STRATEGIC RISK

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Chief Executive Officer
Paul Duka	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Belinda Johnson	Manager Governance and Property
Alexander Brown (virtual)	

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

DISCUSSION:

The Committee were updated on the Strategic Risk Framework.

2. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE – INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Chief Executive Officer
Paul Duka	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Belinda Johnson	Manager Governance and Property
Alexander Brown (virtual)	

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

DISCUSSION:

The Committee discussed changes to the Internal Audit Plan.

Discussion closed at 5.30 p.m.

INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION
5:00 PM TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
5:00 pm, Tuesday 11 November 2025
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

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

The session described at Item 1 was open to the public.

1. BUDGET REVIEW 1

The session described at Item 1 will commence open to the public; however, depending on the nature of the discussion, may move into confidence.

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Max Bruins	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Josh Lynagh	General Manager People Place and Liveability
Cr Frank Morello	Manager Financial Services
Cr Paul Jenner	Manager Development Services
Cr Jason Virgo	

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Cr Mark Lovett	Nil

DISCUSSION:

Members were updated on Budget Review 1.

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:

(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;

2. CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING WITH MOSSOP CONSTRUCTION

GUESTS:

Mr Neil Mossop, Director/Chairperson, Mossop Constructions
Mr Aaron Mossop, Joint Managing Director
Mr Craig Williamson, Mount Gambier Regional Manager, Mossop Constructions
Mr John Byleveld, Architect

MEMBERS PRESENT:-	STAFF PRESENT:-
Mayor Lynette Martin	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sonya Mezinec	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Cr Max Bruins	General Manager City Infrastructure
Cr Josh Lynagh	General Manager People Place and Liveability
Cr Frank Morello	Manager Development Services
Cr Paul Jenner	
Cr Jason Virgo	

MEMBERS APOLOGIES:-	LEAVE OF ABSENCE:-
Cr Mark Lovett	Nil

DISCUSSION:

Members were provided with a confidential briefing briefly on the upcoming developments.

Discussion closed at 7.00 p.m.

14 ELECTED MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Nil

15 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

15.1 MINUTES OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE HELD ON 5/11/2025

That having considered the recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee in regard to the agenda items:

5.1 RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK
5.2 QUARTERLY INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE
5.3 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE POLICY
5.4 CARRY FORWARD BUDGET PROCEDURE
5.5 ACCOUNTING FOR RESERVES
5.6 ICAC 2024 PUBLIC INTEGRITY SURVEY 2024: LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSIGHTS
5.7 LEASE AND LICENCE UPDATE
5.8 POLICY UPDATE
5.9 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

Council receive and note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 5 November 2025.

Audit and Risk Committee Minutes

16 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Nil

17 JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE

Nil

18 BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Nil

19 COUNCIL REPORTS

19.1 REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF GUM TREES - 130 NORTH TERRACE, MOUNT GAMBIER

Author: Karl Manarangi, Manager Operations Infrastructure
Authoriser: Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Request for Removal of Gum Trees - 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier' as presented on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be noted.
2. That having given due consideration to the external arborist report and Council's Tree Policy T120:
   (a) the two trees located near the footpath along 130 North Terrace be removed; and
   (b) the two trees directly adjacent to 130 North Terrace be retained.

PURPOSE

This report presents a further formal request from the property owner of 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier, to remove two trees on the Council reserve adjoining their property.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

The current property owner purchased 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier, in September 2024 and soon after contacted Council with concerns of damage being caused to the property from trees on the adjoining reserve.

Council Officers met on 10 October 2024 onsite to discuss these concerns. Resultantly, one tree was removed due to borers, however the remaining trees of concern were not supported for removal. Council's Level 5 Arborist undertook an assessment of the trees on 18 October 2024 and recommended that the remaining three trees be retained as per Council's Tree Policy - Section 4(b)(iv).

The property owner requested an internal review of the decision, and this was completed by the General Manager City Infrastructure. As part of the review, it was determined that the Acacia tree would be removed but the other trees remain.

A claim was also submitted by the owner for repairs undertaken at the property which Council forwarded to the Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme for assessment. A response was provided from the Scheme advising that Council was not liable.

The property owner was not satisfied with the outcomes provided and furthermore correspondence was sent directly to Elected Members. Following this the property owner presented a deputation to Council on 21 January 2025.

A report was then presented to Council for consideration on 18 February 2025, and the following resolved:

"1. That Council report titled 'Request for Removal of Trees - Council Reserve - Corner of North Terrace and Kennedy Avenue, Mount Gambier' as presented on Tuesday 18 February 2025 be noted.

2. *That Council Officers undertake the following:*
   (a) *Continue to monitor the remaining tree near the adjacent property.*
   (b) *Review the status of the two trees located near the road at the time of undertaking schedule civil repair works and progress any action that may be required in accordance with Councils' Tree Policy.*

3. *That council convenes a workshop to review policy T120 by June 2025, before making any further determination about the removal or retention of the Lemon Scented Gum tree and two Mahogany Gum trees.*
4. *That a letter be sent to the owner of 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier, advising of this outcome.*

An Elected Member Briefing was held on 27 May 2025 to review Council's Tree Policy.

The revised policy was presented to Council for consideration on 15 July 2025, and the following resolved:

"1. That Council report titled 'Review of Council Policy - T120 Tree Policy' as presented on Tuesday 15 July 2025 be noted.

2. That the revised draft Council Tree Policy - T120 be adopted.

5. *That the Urban Landscape Strategy Principles be developed in 2025/2026 and the Urban Landscape Strategy be budgeted and completed in 2026/2027."*

Following this, the property owner was advised the two trees located near the footpath would be removed. However, the two trees closest to the property at 130 North Terrace were assessed as healthy and therefore remain. They were also advised that Council is developing an Urban Landscape Strategy within the next twelve months, which will guide Council's management of reserves throughout Mount Gambier, including the ones adjoining their property.

An initial request for an internal review was received on 19 August 2025 from the property owner, however following initial scoping communications the application fee was not paid by the applicant and therefore the application lapsed accordingly. Should the applicant determine to further pursue the dormant application, Council will be presented a further report in accordance with section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Following a significant storm event, additional correspondence was received from the property owner on 1 September 2025 raising their concerns for safety and risk of the large tree limbs falling from the two trees extending directly over their property.

Council therefore engaged a third-party level 5 arborist to assess three trees adjoining this property, which occurred on 14 October 2025. Their findings identified these trees as having a low-risk rating. A copy of the full report and recommendation is attached.

In the conclusion of the report, they advised *"whilst the trees have a low-risk rating, proactive monitoring to maintain this risk level is recommended for all trees. These trees should be assessed regularly and after significant wind events to determine any changes to structural rating. Further pruning at this stage is not recommended and should be discouraged as it will further modify the form of the trees and the forces acting on their crowns and may lead to an increase in branch failure."*

In accordance with the Policy this matter has now been referred to Council for a final decision.

Extract - Council's Tree Policy - T120:

TREE REMOVAL

(a) Where Council grants approval for the removal of a tree for the benefit of a resident, and the tree is in a healthy state, removal and where applicable replacement will be at the ratepayers expense. This may apply where a tree is located in an area where a resident wishes to remove a tree for a supplementary driveway.

(b) Council is frequently requested to remove street trees. The reasons for seeking the removal can vary considerably and each case is to be assessed on its merits.

(i) ***Removal Request***
A resident may seek removal of a tree in writing to the Council Arborist, stating their name, address, location of the tree and the reasons for the request for the removal of the tree.

(ii) ***Assessment and Recommendations***
For each request for removal of a street tree, an assessment using the Tree Assessment Framework is to be undertaken. This framework ensures consistent, evidence-based decisions that consider the safe useful life expectancy, health, risk, amenity, and community benefit. The resulting recommendation will be submitted to the General Manager City Infrastructure or, in their absence, the Chief Executive Officer.

(iii) ***Criteria for Removal***
Approval may be granted for removal under the following conditions, based on Tree Assessment Framework outcomes:

- *The tree has a low safe useful life expectancy and is in structural decline*
- *The tree poses an unacceptable risk to public safety or infrastructure*
- *The tree is contributing to irreversible infrastructure damage that cannot be mitigated*
- *The tree is unsuitable for its location based on health, size, or environmental conflict*

Under these circumstances the Council Arborist, or in their absence the General Manager City Infrastructure or the Chief Executive Officer, may grant approval to remove the tree.

(iv) ***Aesthetic or Nuisance Requests***
Removal requests based solely on aesthetics, nuisance (e.g., leaf drop), or shading are generally not supported. Such requests must undergo full assessment via the Tree Assessment Framework, and if found structurally sound and of high public value, the tree will typically be retained unless Council resolves otherwise.

IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

Legal	Notwithstanding the Council Policy and Arborists Report referred elsewhere in this report, Council should turn its mind to section 244 of the Local Government Act 1999 which provides that Council is only liable as occupier of community land for injury, damage or loss that is a direct consequence of a wrongful act on the part of the Council. In this instance Council's Arborist assessed the subject trees and determined them to be both structurally sound and healthy as

	indicated by good foliage colour and density typical of this species of tree along with no obvious structural flaws. Hence the removal of the tree is not warranted along with any remedial action that would be necessary to maintain the tree in a safe manner.
Financial and Budget	There is no current budget allocation for the removal of these trees. It is estimated that the total removal costs will be approximately $20,000.
Community Consultation and Engagement	Nil
Other Resources	Should the trees remain, there would be no significant financial cost to Council other than the maintenance and monitoring of the trees. Should the trees be removed, the estimated costs are listed above and this will also need to take into account the replacement of the removed trees. With reference to Council's Tree Policy (T120) section 3, Council has resolved that where applicable to plant streets with the same species of tree, which contributes to the aesthetics of the area.

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 - setting of a precedence and future expenses	Minor (2)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Review budget and long-term financial plan.
Reputation - impact Council by setting a precedence	Minor (2)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Ongoing and regular contact between applicants and Council Officers.
Legal / Regulatory / Policy - Council Policy	Minor (2)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Adherence to the Policy.
People - negative impact to staff morale	Moderate (3)	Possible (3)	Moderate	People Management protocols and practice.
Environmental - reduction in green corridor space	Minor (2)	Possible (3)	Low	Offset by planting more trees.

Liability
A claim was also submitted by the owner for repairs undertaken at the property which Council forwarded to the Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme for assessment. A response was provided from the Scheme advising that Council was not liable.

APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

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

{custom-field-strategic-plan-2024-2028}

1.1 Position the region's unique natural features, green corridors and biodiversity at the core of our storytelling to connect the community and travellers to Mount Gambier's natural identity.

1.8 Strengthen the city's connection to nature by enhancing green corridors with native vegetation and creating pathway linkages that connect urban areas to key natural assets, acknowledging the critical role these assets play in our visitor economy and the city's vibrancy.

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

N/A

RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICY

Tree Policy - T120

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

Tree Removals near footpath along 130 North Terrace

1. It is recommended that the two trees located near the footpath along 130 North Terrace be removed in accordance with Council's Arborist report. The tree roots are causing damage by uplifting the footpath, kerbing, and sections of the road surface. If these trees are retained, the root damage will likely recur after infrastructure repairs.

2. As per Council's Tree Policy T120, Section 5 (b3) *"Trees that are contributing to irreversible infrastructure damage that cannot be mitigated allow for their removal."* Therefore, removal is justified under this policy.

Remaining Eucalyptus Trees directly adjacent to 130 North Terrace

1. Based on Council's Arborist report and the assessment undertaken by a third-party arborist, the three eucalyptus trees adjacent to the property were assessed as low risk, with good health and structural integrity. They have adapted well to their environment. As they do not meet the removal criteria under Section 5 of Council's Tree Policy, it is recommended these trees remain.

2. In alignment with Council's Urban Landscape Plan and Principles (yet to be adopted) future plantings of large trees in reserves should maintain a 20m buffer zone from infrastructure. These mature trees predate this guideline. Given their maturity, it is recommended they remain, with further consideration for their management after the Pilot Program has been implemented and evaluated.

CONCLUSION

This matter has been under consideration for an extended period, prompting Council staff to engage a qualified independent arborist to assess the trees adjacent to 130 North Terrace. The recommendation presented in this report aligns with the findings of the independent arborist's assessment.
In accordance with Council's Tree Policy, Council retains the discretion to approve the removal of the two trees directly adjacent to 130 North Terrace, should it determine that such action is warranted. Noting that should Council proceed with removal, a budget amendment would be required at Budget Review 2.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Tree Assessment Report - 130 North Terrace - Arborman Tree Solutions [**19.1.1** - 24 pages]

arborman® tree solutions
PROFESSIONALS IN ARBORICULTURE

Tree Risk Assessment and Management Report

Site: 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier

Date: Tuesday, 14 October 2025

ATS8334-130NorTceTRAM

Contents

Executive Summary 1
Brief 2
Documents and Information Provided 2
Site Location 3
Methodology 4
Tree Management Framework 4
Assessment 5
Tree Assessment 5
Tree Risk Assessment 6
Legislative Assessment 6
Conclusion 7
Definitions 8
References 8

Appendix A - Tree Assessment Methodology
Appendix B - Tree Assessment Findings
Appendix C - Mapping
Appendix D - Tree Assessment Summary

Report Reference Number: ATS8334-130NorTceTRAM

Report prepared for:
Sinaway Georgiou, City of Mount Gambier

Author:
James Ross, Consulting Arborist, Arborman Tree Solutions Pty Ltd

Executive Summary

Arborman Tree Solutions has assessed the three trees as specified by the client in the reserve adjacent to 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier. The assessment was undertaken to determine the levels of risk the trees represent to users of the area and to recommend risk management strategies where required.

The assessment considered three trees which are identified as introduced native species. The trees are considered to be in Good overall condition and have extended useful life expectancies. Tree 1 has a reduced Form rating due to its low live crown ratio and Trees 2 and 3 have low trunk divisions. All of the trees display Good Health and Structure.

The assessment has identified these trees as assets of the City of Mount Gambier and are Controlled under the *Local Government Act 1999.* These trees are not Regulated or Significant as they are not growing in an area covered by the *Planning and Design Code (Regulated and Significant Tree Overlay)*, nor are they Controlled under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* as they are not naturally occurring species indigenous to the local area.

Using the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment methodology (see Appendix A - Methodology), the subject trees were identified as having a Low-Risk Rating. This methodology considers the Likelihood of Failure and Impact and the Consequences of such an event happening.

The assessment has considered three trees and identified them all as having a Low-Risk Rating. Whilst the trees have a Low-Risk Rating proactive monitoring to maintain this risk level is recommended for all trees. These trees should be assessed regularly and after significant wind events to determine any changes to structural rating. Further pruning at this stage is not recommended and should be discouraged as it will further modify the form of the trees and the forces acting on their crowns and may lead to an increase in branch failure.

Brief

Arborman Tree Solutions was engaged to undertake a visual tree assessment and risk assessment of three trees as specified by the client adjacent to 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier and provide guidance to manage the tree population and risk.

- Assess the health and structure of the subject trees.
- Assess the trees against the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act* 2016 (*PDI Act 2016*) and the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*.
- Assessment of the Tree Risk Rating for the trees considering factors such as likelihood of failure, likelihood of impact and the consequences should these occur.
- Recommend management for the trees potentially including crown and root zone treatment and management principles.
- Provide any additional relevant information.

Findings of this assessment and recommendations are provided within Appendix B - Tree Assessment Findings as well as a map showing the location of the tree in Appendix C - Mapping.

Documents and Information Provided

The following information was provided for the preparation of this assessment:-

- Verbal advice on site of the area to be assessed.
- Site Plan identifying the survey area.
- Email instruction on scope of works.
- Associated photographs:
  - Photo 1
  - Photo 2

Site Location

The trees are within the reserve adjacent to the site located at 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier.

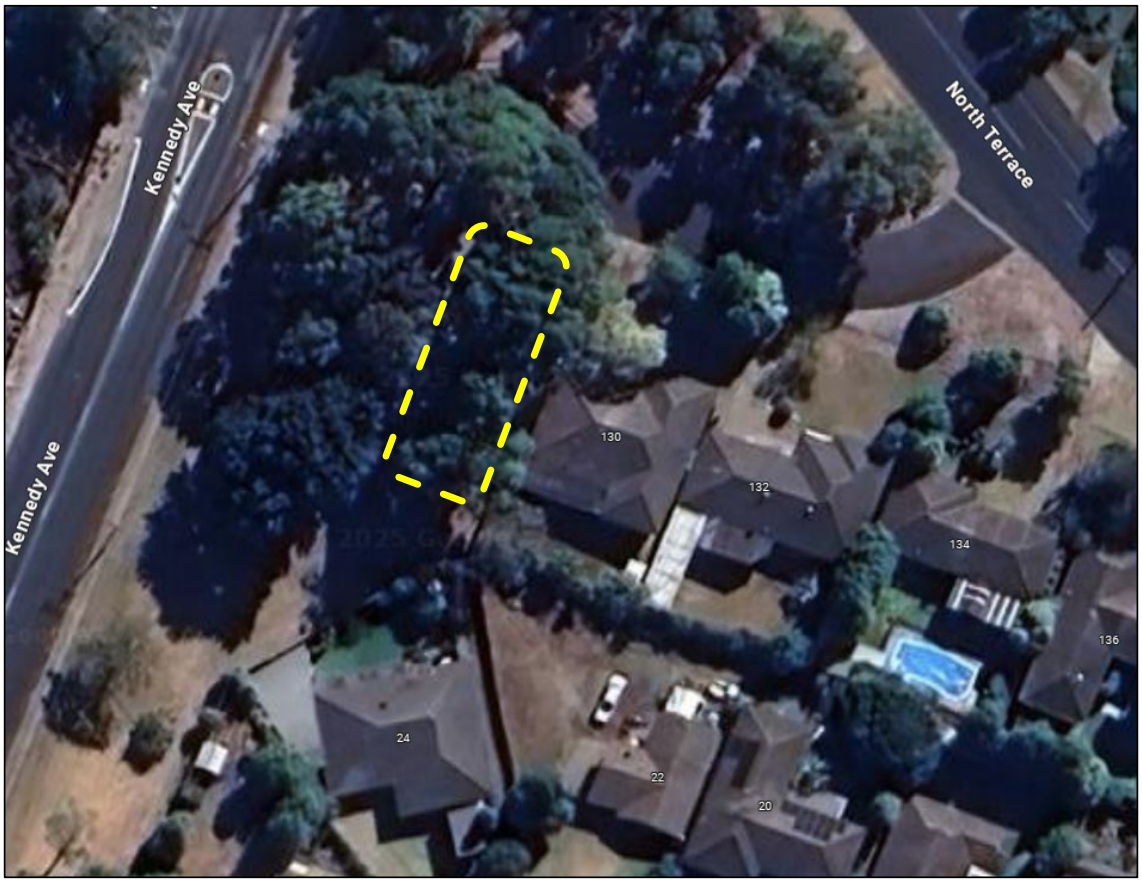


Figure 1: Site Location - 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier

Methodology

Tree Management Framework

Trees are valuable environmental and amenity assets fostering a pleasing environment. However, trees, like all assets, have a useful life expectancy and require ongoing management to ensure they continue to provide value to the community. Arborman Tree Solutions Tree Management Framework© methodology has been used to assess the identified trees at 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier on Wednesday, 1 October 2025. The framework is modelled on AS/NZS ISO 4360-1999 and is shown below in Figure 2. Risk Assessments are conducted by Qualified Arborists certified in the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) "Tree Risk Assessment" methodology.

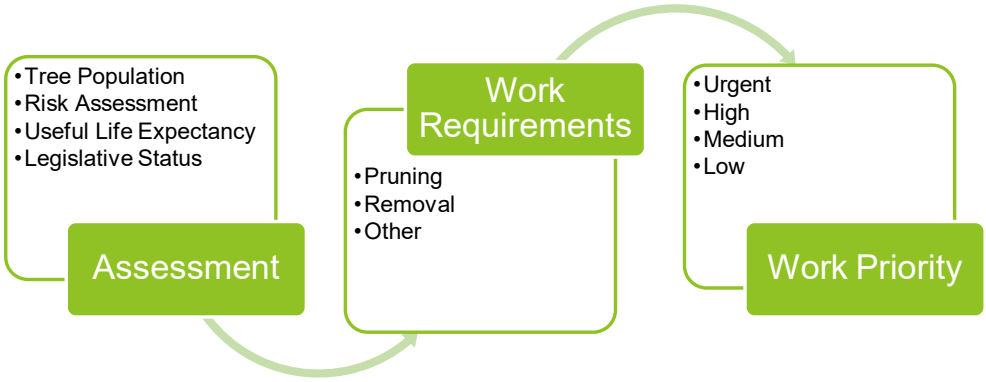


Figure 2: Arborman Tree Solutions Tree Management Framework

The tree population was assessed and recorded using TreePlotter Software and Arborman Tree Solutions Assessment Form (See Appendix B - Tree Assessment Findings). Risk was identified using the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment methodology. The Useful Life Expectancy of each tree was determined using the Table shown in Appendix A Methodology. Legislative requirements are determined under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. Work priority was determined based on the Risk Rating and urgency to reduce risk.

Assessment

Arborman Tree Solutions has assessed the three trees as specified by the client in the reserve adjacent to 130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier. The assessment was undertaken to determine the levels of risk the trees represent to users of the area and to recommend risk management strategies where required.

Tree Assessment

The assessment considered three trees which are identified as introduced native species. The trees are considered to be in Good overall condition and have extended useful life expectancies. Tree 1 has a reduced Form rating due to its low live crown ratio and Trees 2 and 3 have low trunk divisions. All of the trees display Good Health and Structure.

Table 1 - Tree Identification

Botanic Name	Common Name	Number of Trees	Origin	Tree Numbers
Corymbia maculata	Spotted Gum	1	Native	1
Eucalyptus botryoides	Southern Mahogany or Bangalay	2	Native	2 and 3

Findings on individual tree health and condition is presented in Appendix B - Tree Assessment Findings.

Corymbia maculata (Spotted Gum) is a native of New South Wales and southern Queensland where it is generally found on the shaly and sandy loams of the coastal plains. This species is a large smooth barked tree, reaching heights of 45 metres tall with a broad open leafy crown, supported on a massive trunk up to one metre in diameter. A fast-growing tree of aesthetic value for its fine bark and thick foliage it is well suited to roadside plantings or shade/screen trees on parks or on large properties. Spotted Gum has, to a great extent, replaced the Lemon Scented Gum as the preferred species for avenue and specimen plantings due to its more consistent form.

Eucalyptus botryoides (Southern Mahogany) is a fast growing short lived medium sized to tall gum that in its natural environment grows to between 10 and 40 metres depending on the site conditions and forest density. This species is indigenous to the eastern Victoria coast up to and including the NSW south coast. Whilst it manages to grow rapidly in South Australia, it rarely reaches its potential due to the lower rainfall and relatively poor soil conditions. As a result, it can become stressed and susceptible to infestation by borers. Southern Mahogany also has a reputation for dropping branches, this is mainly associated with ended weighted poorly tapered branches and/or epicormic regrowth from lopped trees. Unfortunately, due to the tree's form remedial pruning options to mitigate this problem are not usually available. Due to this the use of this species in high target frequency areas is not recommended.

Tree Risk Assessment

Using the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment methodology (see Appendix A - Methodology), the subject trees were identified as having a Low-Risk Rating. This methodology considers the Likelihood of Failure and Impact and the Consequences of such an event happening. In this case the following has been considered:-

Likelihood of Failure –	Possible	A failure that is likely to result in damage to a person or infrastructure in the area is not expected in the next 36-60 months under normal weather conditions, however it may occur in extreme weather conditions.
Likelihood of Impact –	Low	There is a slight chance a failure will impact a target. The likelihood of impacting a person is Low or possibly Very Low due to the infrequent use of the area and the time the area is used for when it is occupied. There are some permanent targets, and infrastructure in the vicinity of these trees, however they do not occupy more than 50% of the target area and therefore this does not increase this rating.

When combined in the Likelihood of Failure and Impact matrix a rating of **Unlikely** is achieved. The area around the tree is also weather affected and in storm conditions, when a failure is most likely, it is less likely that a person will be in the vicinity of the tree.

Consequence of Failure –	Minor	The consequences of an impact would likely result in minor personal injury, low to moderate monetary damage to a property and/or a low-level disruption to normal activities.

A Likelihood of Failure and Impact of **Unlikely** and a Consequence of **Minor** when combined in the Risk matrix achieve a **Low-Risk Rating**.

In order to achieve a Risk Rating of High the Likelihood of a Failure and Impact would have to raise to **Likely** or **Very Likely**, this would require the Likelihood of Failure to be raised to **Probable** or **Imminent** and/or the Likelihood of Impact raised to **Medium** or **High** either of which would be inappropriate and unreasonable.

Recommendations to manage risk are provided within Appendix B - Tree Assessment Findings and summarised in the Appendix D - Tree Assessment Summary.

Legislative Assessment

The assessment has identified these trees as assets of the City of Mount Gambier and are controlled under the *Local Government Act 1999.* These trees are not Regulated or Significant as they are not growing in an area covered by the *Planning and Design Code (Regulated and Significant Tree Overlay)*, nor are they Controlled under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* as they are not naturally occurring species indigenous to the local area.

Conclusion

The assessment has considered three trees and identified them all as having a Low-Risk Rating. Whilst the trees have a Low-Risk Rating, proactive monitoring to maintain this risk level is recommended for all trees. These trees should be assessed regularly and after significant wind events to determine any changes to structural rating. Further pruning at this stage is not recommended and should be discouraged as it will further modify the form of the trees and the forces acting on their crowns and may lead to an increase in branch failure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this report. Should you require further information, please contact me and I will be happy to be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES ROSS
Consulting Arborist
Diploma of Arboriculture – AHC50520
Diploma of Applied Horticultural Science
VALID Tree Risk Assessment (VALID)
ISA – Tree Risk Assessment Qualification

Definitions

Size: approximate height and width of tree in metres.

Age: identification of the maturity of the subject tree.

Useful Life Expectancy: expected number of the years that the subject specimen will remain alive and sound and/or continues to achieve the relevant *Principles of Development Control*.

Health: visual assessment of tree health.

Structure: visual assessment of tree structure.

Circumference: trunk circumference measured at one metre above ground level. This measurement is used to determine the status of the tree in relation to the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

Tree Damaging Activity: Tree damaging activity includes those activities described within the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* such as removal, killing, lopping, ringbarking or topping or any other substantial damage such as mechanical or chemical damage, filling or cutting of soil within the TPZ. This can also include forms of pruning above and below the ground.

Root Buttressing: area of root development as it joins to the trunk base.

Bifurcation: a stem union supporting ascending stems and potentially containing included bark.

Included Bark Union: a poorly formed stem or branch union where bark becomes trapped between the structural fibres causing a weakness in the supporting structure.

Epicormic Growth: regrowth developing from dormant buds located beneath the bark. Often developing as a result of inappropriate pruning or tree related stress. Such growth can be associated with poor attachment and therefore an increased potential for failure.

Remove: Trees recommended for removal have been so due to poor form, structure or declining health. Unless specified, these trees are low risk and priority. Trees that are removed should be replaced with a suitable species.

Reduction Prune: Trees recommended for reduction pruning should have branches shortened that are overextended. The purpose of reduction pruning is to reduce the likelihood of branch failure in overextended branches and therefore reducing risk or maintaining low risk.

Clearance Prune: One tree has been recommended for a clearance prune. This involves pruning branches that may be impacting structures such as buildings, signs or for pedestrian and vehicle clearance.

Maintenance Prune: Trees recommended for maintenance pruning require whole tree maintenance and should include the removal of deadwood, diseased branches, broken or damaged branches, rubbing/crossing branches, basal growth and epicormic shoots. Additional pruning of live tissue may be required if the Arborist undertaking the works identifies issues that were not identified in the initial assessment.

References

Australian Standards Risk Management AS/NZS 4360:1999 Standards Australia, Standards New Zealand

Dunster J.A., Smiley E.T., Metheny N. and Lilly S. 2013. *Tree Risk Assessment Manual*. Champaign, Illinois: International Society of Arboriculture.

Draper, D & Richards P, A Dictionary for Managing Trees in Urban Environments. CSIRO Publishing, Institute of Australian Consulting Arborists.

Australian Standard AS4373–2007 *Pruning of amenity trees*: Standards Australia.

Keane P.J. Kile G.D. Podger F.D. Brown B.N. 2000: *Diseases and Pathogens of Eucalypts*: CSIRO Publishing, 150 Oxford Street, Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia

Julius A. Kocher W. Liefheit K. Lilly S. et al 2013: ***Tree Risk Assessment Qualification***: International Society of Arboriculture, Champaign, Illinois, USA.

Appendix A - Tree Assessment Methodology

Tree Assessment Form (TAF©)

Record	Description
Tree	In botanical science, a tree is a perennial plant which consists of one or multiple trunks which supports branches and leaves. Trees are generally taller than 5 metres and will live for more than ten seasons, with some species that live for hundreds or thousands of seasons.
Genus and Species	Botanical taxonomy of trees uses the binominal system of a genus and species, often there are subspecies and subgenus as well as cultivars. When identifying tree species, identification techniques such as assessing the tree's form, flower, stem, fruit and location are used. Identifying the right species is critical in assessing the tree's legalisation and environmental benefit. All efforts are made to correctly identify each tree to species level, where possible. Genus is the broader group to which the tree belongs e.g. *Eucalyptus, Fraxinus* and *Melaleuca*. Species identifies the specific tree within the genus e.g. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Fraxinus griffithi* or *Melaleuca styphelioides*. Trees will also be assigned the most commonly used Common Name. Common Names are not generally used for identification due to their nonspecific use, i.e. *Melia azedarach* is commonly known as White Cedar in South Australia but is also called Chinaberry Tree, Pride of India, Bead-tree, Cape Lilac, Syringa Berrytree, Persian Lilac, and Indian Lilac; equally similar common names can refer to trees from completely different Genus e.g. Swamp Oak, Tasmanian Oak and English Oak are from the *Casuarina, Eucalyptus* and *Quercus* genus's respectively.
Height	Tree height is estimated by the arborist at the time of assessment. Tree height is observed and recorded in the following ranges; <5m, 5-10m, 10-15m and >20m.
Spread	Tree crown spread is estimated by the arborist at the time of assessment and recorded in the following ranges <5m, 5-10m, 10-15m, 15-20m, >20m.
Health	Tree health is assessed using the Arborman Tree Solutions - Tree Health Assessment Method that is based on international best practice.
Structure	Tree structure is assessed using Arborman Tree Solutions - Tree Structure Assessment Method that is based on international best practice.
Tree Risk Assessment	Tree Risk is assessed using Tree Risk Assessment methodology. The person conducting the assessment has been trained in the International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ), Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) and/or VALID Tree Risk Assessment (VALID). Refer to the Methodology within the report for additional information.
Legislative Status	Legislation status is identified through the interpretation of the *Development Act 1993*, the *Natural Resource Management Act 2004,* the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and/or any other legislation that may apply.
Mitigation	Measures to reduce tree risk, improve tree condition, remove structural flaws, manage other conditions as appropriate may be recommended in the form of pruning and is listed in the Tree Assessment Findings (Appendix B). Tree pruning is recommended in accordance with AS4373-2007 *Pruning amenity trees* where practicable. Where measures to mitigate risk is not possible and the risk is unacceptable, then tree removal or further investigation is recommended.

Useful Life Expectancy (ULE)

ULE Rating	Definition
Surpassed	The tree has surpassed its Useful Life Expectancy. Trees that achieve a surpassed ULE may do so due to poor health, structure or form. Additionally, trees that are poorly located such as under high voltage powerlines or too close to structures may also achieve a surpassed ULE. Trees that achieve this status will be recommended for removal as there are no reasonable options to retain them.
<10 years	The tree displays either or both Poor Health and/or Structure and is considered to have a short Useful Life Expectancy of less than ten years. Some short-lived species such as *Acacia sp*. may naturally achieve a short ULE.
>10 years	The tree displays Fair Health or Structure and Good Health or Structure and is considered to have a Useful Life Expectancy of ten years or more. Trees identified as having a ULE of >10, will require mitigation such as pruning, stem injections or soil amelioration to increase their ULE.
>20 years	The tree displays Good Health and Structure and is considered to have an extended Useful Life Expectancy of more than twenty years.

Maturity (Age)

Age Class	Definition
Senescent	The tree has surpassed its optimum growing period and is declining and/or reducing in size. May be considered as a veteran in relation to its ongoing management. Tree will have generally reached greater than 80% of its expected life expectancy.
Mature	A mature tree is one that has reached its expected overall size, although the tree's trunk is still expected to continue growing. Tree maturity is also assessed based on species; as some trees are much longer lived than others. Tree will have generally reached 20-80% of its expected life expectancy.
Semi Mature	A tree which has established but has not yet reached maturity. Normally tree establishment practices such as watering will have ceased. Tree will generally not have reached 20% of its expected life expectancy.
Juvenile	A newly planted tree or one which is not yet established in the landscape. Tree establishment practices such as regular watering will still be in place. Tree will generally be a newly planted specimen up to five years old; this may be species dependant.

Tree Health Assessment (THA©)

Category	Description
Good	Tree displays normal vigour, uniform leaf colour, no or minor dieback (<5%), crown density (>90%). When a tree is deciduous, healthy axillary buds and typical internode length is used to determine its health. A tree with good health would show no sign of disease and no or minor pest infestation was identified. The tree has little to no pest and/or disease infestation.
Fair	Tree displays reduced vigour abnormal leaf colour, a moderate level of dieback (<15%), crown density (>70%) and in deciduous trees, reduced axillary buds and internode length. Minor pest and/or disease infestation potentially impacting on tree health. Trees with fair health have the potential to recover with reasonable remedial treatments.
Poor	Tree displays an advanced state of decline with low or no vigour, chlorotic or dull leaf colour, with high crown dieback (>15%), low crown density (<70%) and/or in deciduous trees, few or small axillary buds and shortened internode length. Pest and or disease infestation is evident and/or widespread. Trees with poor health are highly unlikely to recover with any remedial treatments; these trees have declined beyond the point of reversal.
Dead	The tree has died and has no opportunity for recovery.

Tree Structural Assessment (TSA©)

Category	Description
Good	Little to no branch failure observed within the crown, well-formed unions, no included bark, good branch and trunk taper present, root buttressing and root plate are typical. Trees that are identified as having good health display expected condition for their age, species and location.
Fair	The tree may display one or more of the following a history of minor branch failure, included bark unions may be present however, are stable at this time, acceptable branch and trunk taper present, root buttressing and root plate are typical. Trees with fair structure will generally require reasonable remediation methods to ensure the tree's structure remains viable.
Poor	History of significant branch failure observed in the crown, poorly formed unions, unstable included bark unions present, branch and/or trunk taper is abnormal, root buttressing and/or root plate are atypical.
Failed	The structure of the tree has or is in the process of collapsing.

Tree Form Assessment (TFA©)

Category	Description
Good	Form is typical of the species and has not been altered by structures, the environment or other trees.
Fair	The form has minor impacts from structures, the environment or adjacent trees which has altered its shape. There may be slight phototropic response noted or moderate pruning which has altered the tree's form.
Poor	The tree's form has been substantially impacted by structures, the environment, pruning or other trees. Phototropic response is evident and unlikely to be corrected.
Atypical	Tree form is highly irregular due to structures or other trees impacting its ability to correctly mature. Extreme phototropic response is evident; or the tree has had a substantially failure resulting in its poor condition, or extensive pruning has altered the tree's form irreversibly.

Priority

Category	Description
Low	Identified works within this priority should be carried out within 12 months.
Medium	Identified works within this priority should be carried out within 6 months.
High	Identified works within this priority should be carried out within 3 months.
Urgent	Identified works within this priority should be carried out immediately. Works within this priority rating will be brought to attention of the responsible person at the time of assessment.

Tree Risk Assessment

The risk assessment was conducted using the principles and guidelines of the International Society of Arboriculture - Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ).

TRAQ assesses the Tree Risk Rating in three parts that are divided into two stages Likelihood and Consequence; the Likelihood assessment considers two parts Likelihood of Failure and Likelihood of Impact which are combined in a matrix to determine the Likelihood of Impacting a Target. The following categories are used to determine the Likelihood of Impacting a Target for a given tree:-

1. **Likelihood of Failure** – this is the assessment potential for branch failure. The likelihood of failure uses the following categories:-
   - a. Imminent — the tree is failing or is about to fail i.e.: >90% chance.
   - b. Probable — a failure is likely to occur within the inspection period i.e.: >50% chance.
   - c. Possible — a failure may occur within the inspection period i.e.: <50% chance.
   - d. Improbable — a failure is unlikely to occur within the inspection period i.e.: <10% chance.

2. **Likelihood of Impact** – this is an assessment of the potential for a failed branch to contact a person, vehicle, property or other target within the target area. The likelihood of failure uses the following categories:
   - a. High — a failure will almost definitely impact a target.
   - b. Medium — a failure will probably impact a target.
   - c. Low — a failure will possibly impact a target.
   - d. Very Low — a failure is unlikely to impact a target.

The results of the Likelihood assessment are placed into the following matrix to determine the **Likelihood of Impacting a Target**.

Likelihood Matrix				
Likelihood of Failure	**Likelihood of Impacting Target**			
	Very Low	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
Imminent	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely	Very likely
Probable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely
Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely
Improbable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely

The Consequence of Failure section of the assessment considers the result of a failure on the target. The following categories are used to determine the Consequences of a failure impacting a Target for a given tree.

3. **Consequence of Failure** – This is an assessment of the consequence of the branch failure on the target. Consequence of Failure includes factors such as size of part, the level of damage or injury, target protection and target value (monetary or otherwise). The following categories are used to determine the Consequences of Failure for a given tree:-
   - a. Severe — The consequences of an impact will be severe potentially involving serious injury or death or serious damage to or loss of property or infrastructure.
   - b. Significant — The consequences of an impact will be significant potentially involving major injury or damage to property or infrastructure.
   - c. Minor — The consequences of an impact will be minor potentially involving minor injury or minimal damage to property or infrastructure.
   - d. Negligible — The consequences of an impact will be negligible potentially involving no or inconsequential injury or damage to property or infrastructure.

The **Likelihood of Impact** and **Consequence of Failure** are then placed into the following matrix to determine the **Tree Risk Rating**.

Tree Risk Rating Matrix				
Likelihood of Failure and Impact	**Consequences of Failure**			
	Negligible	**Minor**	**Significant**	**Severe**
Very likely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High
Somewhat likely	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low

This Tree Risk Rating is used to qualify the risk so that suitable mitigation strategies can be implemented.

Appendix B - Tree Assessment Findings

Corymbia maculata

Tree No: 1

Spotted Gum

Inspected:	1 October 2025
Height:	15-20 metres
Spread:	5-10 metres
Health:	Good
Structure:	Good
Form:	Good
Trunk Circumference:	>1 metres
Useful Life Expectancy:	>20 years



Observations

The health and structure of this tree indicate it is in good overall condition and has adapted to its local environment. The tree has a small live crown ratio, however it is in a moderately protected area.

Legislative Status	LGA Asset

This tree is not subject to regulation under either the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 or the Native Vegetation Act 1991. However, it is an asset of the local authority and as such its management is controlled under the Local Government Act 1999.

Risk Rating	Low

This tree does not represent an elevated risk.

Action	Monitor

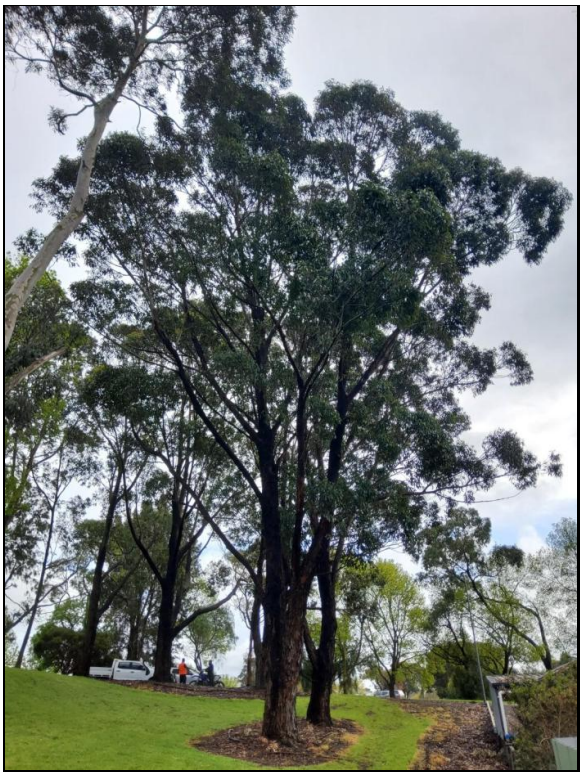
This tree should be regularly monitored as part of an ongoing tree management programme.

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Eucalyptus botryoides Tree No: 2

Southern Mahogany or Bangalay

Inspected:	1 October 2025
Height:	15-20 metres
Spread:	10-15 metres
Health:	Good
Structure:	Good
Form:	Fair
Trunk Circumference:	>2 metres
Useful Life Expectancy:	>20 years



Observations

The health and structure of this tree indicate it is in good overall condition and has adapted to its local environment. The crown partially overhangs the adjacent dwelling. There is obvious leaf litter in the gutter but there is gutter guard in place.

Legislative Status	LGA Asset

This tree is not subject to regulation under either the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 or the Native Vegetation Act 1991. However, it is an asset of the local authority and as such its management is controlled under the Local Government Act 1999.

Risk Rating	Low

This tree does not represent an elevated risk.

Action	Monitor

This tree should be regularly monitored as part of an ongoing tree management programme.

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Eucalyptus botryoides Tree No: 3

Southern Mahogany or Bangalay

Inspected:	1 October 2025
Height:	15-20 metres
Spread:	10-15 metres
Health:	Good
Structure:	Good
Form:	Fair
Trunk Circumference:	>2 metres
Useful Life Expectancy:	>20 years



Observations

The health and structure of this tree indicate it is in good overall condition and has adapted to its local environment. The crown partially overhangs the adjacent dwelling. There is obvious leaf litter in the gutter but there is gutter guard in place.

Legislative Status	LGA Asset

This tree is not subject to regulation under either the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 or the Native Vegetation Act 1991. However, it is an asset of the local authority and as such its management is controlled under the Local Government Act 1999.

Risk Rating	Low

This tree does not represent an elevated risk.

Action	Monitor

This tree should be regularly monitored as part of an ongoing tree management programme.

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Appendix C - Mapping



Date: 3/10/2025
Ref: ATS8334-130NorTceTRAM

Arborman Tree Solutions
23 Aberdeen Street
Port Adelaide SA 5015
0418 812 967
www.arborman.com.au

Tree Risk and Management Report

130 North Terrace, Mount Gambier

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Appendix D – Tree Assessment Summary

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Tree Assessment Summary

Tree Number	Botanic Name	Legislative Status	Risk Rating	Comments	Action
1	*Corymbia maculata*	LGA Asset	Low	The health and structure of this tree indicate it is in good overall condition and has adapted to its local environment. The tree has a small live crown ratio, however it is in a moderately protected area.	Monitor
2	*Eucalyptus botryoides*	LGA Asset	Low	The health and structure of this tree indicate it is in good overall condition and has adapted to its local environment. The crown partially overhangs the adjacent dwelling. There is obvious leaf litter in the gutter but there is gutter guard in place.	Monitor
3	*Eucalyptus botryoides*	LGA Asset	Low	The health and structure of this tree indicate it is in good overall condition and has adapted to its local environment. The crown partially overhangs the adjacent dwelling. There is obvious leaf litter in the gutter but there is gutter guard in place.	Monitor

19.2 BUDGET REVIEW 1 2025/2026

Author: Kahli Rolton, Manager Financial Services

Authoriser: Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Infrastructure

Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Budget Review 1 2025/2026' as presented on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be noted.
2. That Council adopts Budget Review 1, being prepared as at 30 September 2025 for the financial year ending 30 June 2026.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the budget review as at 30 September 2025 is to provide Council, the community and other interested parties, a record of the budgeted financial activities and the financial position of the Council, compared to the original budget for the year ending 30 June 2026.

Budget Review 1 is the first reforecast for 2025/2026, following the adoption of the Annual Business Plan and Budget in June 2025 and the approved budget including carry forwards in August 2025. The full year forecast has been developed in consultation with staff across the organisation for known material changes to operating revenue, expenditure, capital revenue and capital expenditure. As part of this process risks and opportunities have been identified for review as the financial year progresses.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

Statement of Comprehensive Income/Operating Position

Table 1 provides a summary from the attached forecast financial statements showing key variances. The draft budget review (BR1) results in a net nil operating surplus movement, maintaining the balanced budget position. A favourable increase to the net surplus of $203k is a result of one-off grant funding for new or upgraded assets. Table 2 shows the total movement including operating and capital impacts on the statement of comprehensive income.

Table 1: Summary of Comprehensive Income totals and variance $'000

2025 Actual	Comprehensive Income	2025/2026 ABP *	2025/2026 BR1	Variance
51,952	**Total Income**	**51,730**	**52,262**	**532**
50,706	**Total Expense**	**51,730**	**52,262**	**532**
1,246	**Operating Surplus/(Deficit)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
1,925	**Net Surplus/(Deficit)**	**1,200**	**1,403**	**203**
5,040	**Total Comprehensive Income**	**6,843**	**7,008**	**165**

* figures include carry forwards

Table 2: Budget movement overview $'000

Budget Component	Original Budget	Carry forward budget net movement	BR1 net movement	BR2 net movement	BR3 net movement
Operating	**0**	**0**	**0**		
Capital (net)	**1,200**	**0**	**203**		
Total Surplus	**1,200**	**1,200**	**1,403**		

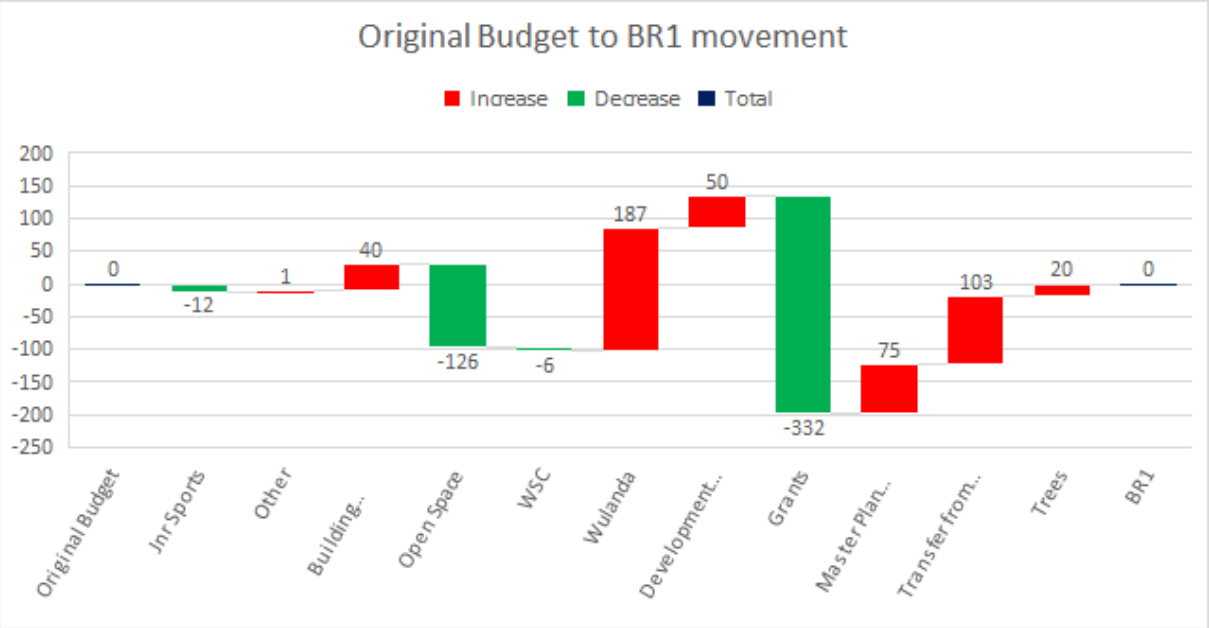
Details of revised amounts/variances from original budget to BR1:

Consolidated position including operating and capital movements

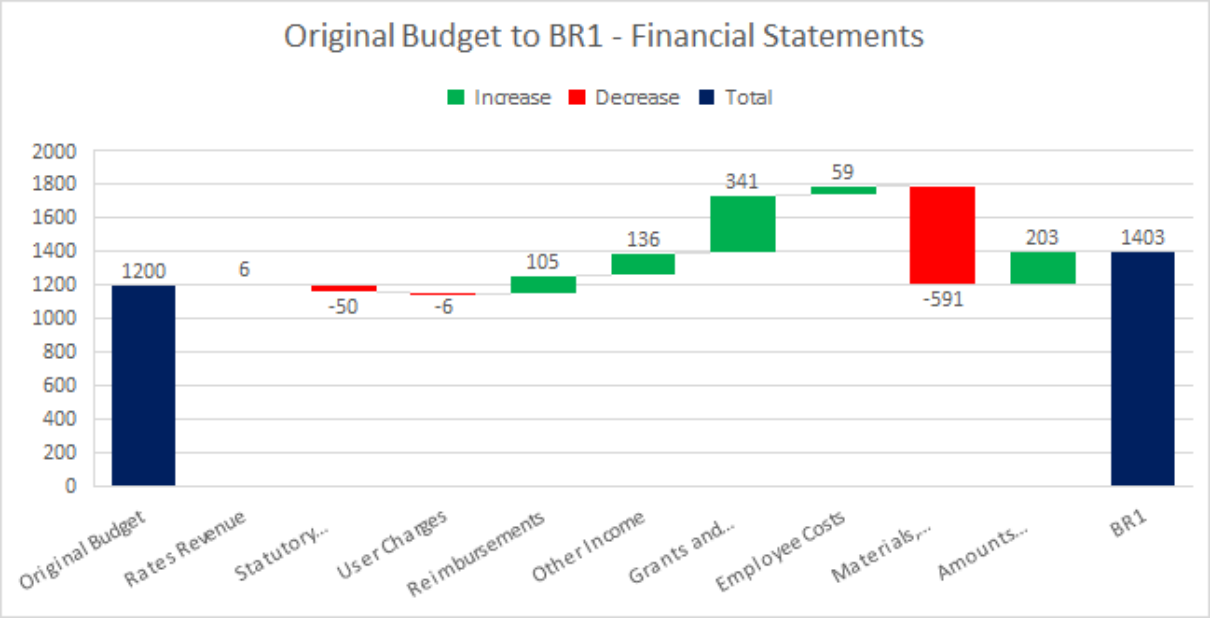
The following graphics provide a summary of movement based on functional/significant categorisation. For noting when interpreting the graph, the adopted operating budget for 2025/2026 started with a balanced operating surplus budget, and while movements have been incorporated for both income and expenditure, the proposed budget revision maintains a balanced operating budget.

A favourable movement of $203k for grants received for new or upgraded assets has increased the overall net position from $1.2m at original budget to $1.4m. This graphic has been included as it is often easier to interpret than the movement to financial statements (refer Graphic 2 below) as it highlights the net movement for functional areas that may include various income and expenditure element changes.

Graphic 1 – Functional Movement (operating only)



Graphic 2 – Financial Statement movement



Operating Income is $532k or 1.03% higher than 2025/2026 adopted budget.

- **Grants Subsidies and Contributions favourable increase $341k:**
  - $302k Special Local Roads State Government Funded. These funding amounts have been allocated against capital projects already budgeted for.
  - $35k Roads to Recovery funding brought forward. This funding amount has been allocated against an existing capital project and will reduce the final amount payable in year 5 of the R2R program.
  - $5k unfavourable variance based on best known information to date, but still subject to change late in the financial year.
- **Other Income favourable increase $136k**
  - Majority of this adjustment is a result of open space revenue received.
- **Statutory Fees unfavourable decrease of ($50k)**
  - Reduction to Development Act Fees due to private certifiers.
- **Reimbursements favourable increase $105k**
  - Majority of reimbursements are offset against increases to materials, contracts and other expenses due to timing issues related to changes in the Belgravia contract for on charging of utility expenses.
- **Rates favourable increase $6k**
  - Due to increase in number of assessments with applicable Waste Service Charge compared to original budget estimate.
- **User Charges unfavourable decrease ($6k)**
  - Majority of user charges movements relates to maintenance fees on leases/licences due to timing of billing to 30 June only while review is underway rather than a full 12 months.

Operating Expenditure is $532k or 1.03% more than 2025/2026 adopted budget.

- **Employment costs favourable decrease $59k**
  Reduction in employment costs is a reallocation to contractors where vacant position(s) required immediate support to reduce impact on service provision.
- **Materials, contracts and other expenses unfavourable increase $591k**
  - Umpherston/Balumbul Master Planning $75k brought forward from prior year.
  - Wulanda expense increase $94k offset by increase to reimbursements for utilities as part of contract changeover as at 30/06/2025 and timing.
  - Wulanda $187k covering a number of risks including finalisation of the contract, correction to original budget and in consideration of maintenance and interest.
  - $103k transferred from Capex as under capitalisation threshold or does not meet definition of capital expenditure under accounting standards.
  - Increase $40k in building consultants required.
  - Reallocation from employment costs.
  - Movements have been made within this area to cover Council resolution for reallocations to the grants and sponsorship program. This is a net nil impact on the budget.
- **Depreciation, amortisation & Impairment favourable decrease**
  - While changes have been made transferring between capex and opex, no corresponding adjustments have been made to depreciation at this time due to pending risks around indexation and Caroline Landfill.

Other Comprehensive Income is $203k or 16.9% more than 2025/2026 adopted budget.

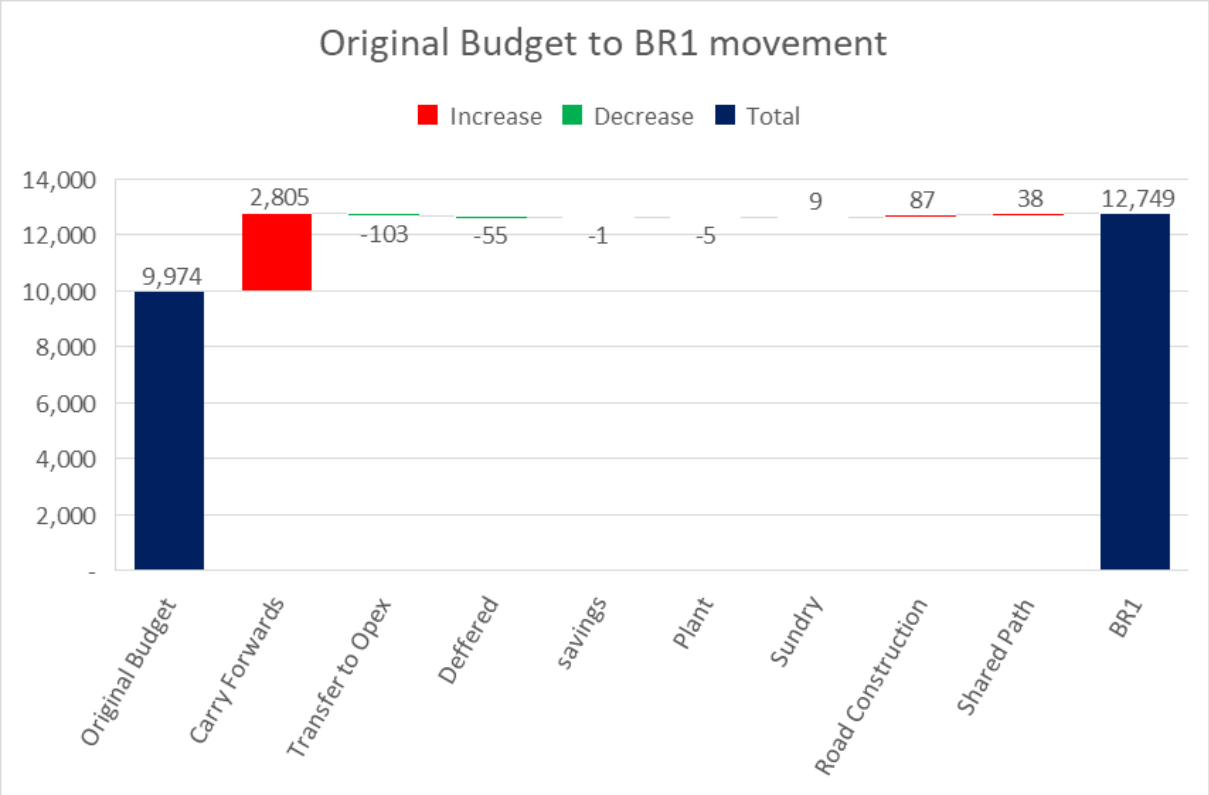
- Amounts Received Specifically for New or Upgraded Assets favourable variance of $203k with $187k for State Bicycle Fund and $16k for Defibrillators. For noting due to expenditure on defibrillators not being completed as at 30 June 2025, the grant funding was sufficiently specific under accounting standards to warrant carrying forward to the 2025/2026 financial year.

Capital Expenditure is ($30k) or 0.24% lower than 2025/2026 Adopted Budget.

Graphic 3 summarises movements to capital expenditure from original budget to BR1, noting carry forwards, previously presented and approved by Council at the August Council Meeting. This table is followed by graphical representation of movements for BR1 grouped by materiality.

- **Capital Increases of $134k have been offset by capital decreases and relate to:**
  - Road Construction $87k majority due to expansion of Reginald Street by 75 meters.
  - Sundy of $9k including minor increase on defibrillators of $3k and plaque and installation of Cast in Blue $6k.
  - Share Path expenditure of $38k, offset by contributions and State Bicycle Fund grant. Noting that majority of the capital project was already included as part of the original capital budget.
- **Capital Decreases ($164k) have offset increases above and relate to:**
  - Amounts transferred to operating ($103k) for crematorium condition audit of ($23k), IT renewal ($10k) and garbage bins ($70k).
  - Deferral of Mayoral Vehicle replacement ($55k) to the following financial year.
  - Take up of plant savings ($5k), noting these are made up of positive and negative movements within the program area.
  - Savings of ($1k) relating to carry forward budget and completion of Blue Lake Sports Park Dog Fence.

Graphic 3: Summary of Capital Expenditure movements



Financial Indicators:

Compared to the original budget, the key financial indicators which measure the financial sustainability and performance of Council are tabled below. For noting that the increase in the asset renewal funding ratio is mainly due to carry forward of renewal projects. This should be compared against an adjusted ratio target of c120%, which assumes no carry forwards required as at 30 June 2026.

Financial Indicators	Target	Adopted Budget	BR1	BR2	BR3
Operating Surplus Ratio	Above 0	0%	0%		
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	100% or less	84%	81%		
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	90-110%	103%	120%		

Changes incorporated as part of BR1 remain within all conditions of borrowings and forecasts for FY2026/2027.

IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

Legal	The Local Government Financial Regulations 2011 Part 2 Section 9 requires Council to reconsider its budget at least three times between 30 September and the 31 May.

Financial and Budget	The draft budget review (BR1) results in a net nil operating surplus movement, maintaining the balanced budget position.
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
Finance – Budget Revision is unrealistic, inaccurately recorded, does not reflect strategic objectives and is not compliant with legislation.	Minor (2)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Ensure new or revised budgets of Council include reference to strategic objectives and legislative requirements. Ensure internal financial controls and independent reviews upheld.
Reputation - Users of the report are not fully informed or make inaccurate assumptions regarding the report and contents.	Insignificant (1)	Possible (3)	Low	Hold informal briefings with Elected Members prior to Council Meeting. Ensure accurate representation in social media from Council.
Legal / Regulatory / Policy – Budget revision does not meet legislative timeframe requirements.	Minor (2)	Unlikely (2)	Low	Ensure staff appropriately trained on legislative requirements. Review, monitor and execute annual work plans. Regular reporting via Audit and Risk Committee.
Service Delivery - Service delivery is compromised due to lack of resources, changing priorities, decision making, inadequate planning or events outside of Council control.	Minor (2)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Continue to review ability to deliver services at each budget revision with relevant managers. Ensure services remain pertinent to the strategic plan.

People – workforce is inadequately trained or unable to deliver.	Minor (2)	Unlikely (2)	Low	Continue to plan resourcing requirements and maintain an agile and multi disciplinary workforce.
Infrastructure - That the capital work program is not completed by 30 June 2026. That infrastructure renewal is accurately planned and prioritised and impedes Council's financial sustainability. Factors outside control of Council eg Weather, supply issues.	Moderate (3)	Likely (4)	High	Quarterly reviews and updates. Review for internal versus external supply options. Tender for large plant items early in the financial year to counteract supply timing issues.
Environmental – waste, weather and emergency management matters are not prioritised and impedes Council's ability to ensure financial sustainability and the delivery of services efficiently and effectively.	Moderate (3)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Progress work in the strategic plan to mitigate environment risks and proactively plan and report on them.

APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Priority 6: Excellence in Leadership and Governance
6.4 Review and continually update the Long -Term Financial Plan to ensure ongoing financial sustainability to community expectations and legislative requirements.

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

N/A

RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICY

Asset Accounting
Budget Policy - B300

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

Following adoption, the budget will be updated to reflect the changes herein this report.

Budget Revision 2 is flagged for presentation to Council in February 2026, following analysis of figures up to December 2025/January 2026.

CONCLUSION

It is a legislative requirement that Council reconsiders its budget at regular intervals during the year. The budget assesses the financial requirements of Council as best estimated as at 30 September 2025 for the 2025/2026 financial year. Budget reviews provide forecasts of financial outcomes and ensure continuation of delivery of community services and strategic work outcomes. This revision resulted in a net nil operating movement to remain within a balanced operating budget and net surplus of $203k due to receipt of one-off grants for new or upgraded assets.

ATTACHMENTS

1. B R 1 combined Financials [**19.2.1** - 4 pages]

City of Mount Gambier - Forecast Statement of Comprehensive Income

2025 Actual	$'000 Comprehensive Income	2026 ABP	2026 BR1	Variance
	Income			
30,388	Rates	33,025	33,031	6
923	Statutory Charges	844	794	- 50
10,408	User Charges	10,938	10,932	- 6
1,225	Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Capital	955	1,293	338
7,091	Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Operating	4,995	4,998	3
79	Investment Income	56	56	- 0
1,141	Reimbursements	276	381	106
697	Other Income	642	778	136
51,952	**Total Income**	**51,730**	**52,262**	**532**
	Expenses			
17,811	Employee Costs	18,346	18,287	- 59
19,110	Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	19,430	20,021	591
11,902	Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	11,997	11,997	-
1,883	Finance Costs	1,957	1,957	-
50,706	**Total Expenses**	**51,730**	**52,262**	**532**
1,246	**Operating Surplus / (Deficit)**	**0**	**- 0**	**- 0**
1,933	Physical Resources Received Free of Charge	1,200	1,200	-
67	Amounts Received Specifically for New or Upgraded Assets	-	203	203
- 1,321	Asset Disposal & Fair Value Adjustments	-	-	-
1,925	**Net Surplus / (Deficit)**	**1,200**	**1,403**	**203**
	Other Comprehensive Income			
	Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result			
3,228	Changes in Revaluation Surplus - I,PP&E	5,643	5,605	- 38
-	Impairment (Expense) / Recoupments Offset to Asset Revaluation Reserve			-
				-
	Amounts which will be reclassified subsequently to operating result			-
	Available-for-Sale Financial Instruments - Change in Fair Value			-
	Transfer to Accumulated Surplus on Sale of Available-for-Sale Financial Instruments			-
- 113	Movements in Other Reserves			-
	Other			-
3,115	**Total Other Comprehensive Income**	**5,643**	**5,605**	**- 38**
5,040	**Total Comprehensive Income**	**6,843**	**7,008**	**165**

City of Mount Gambier - Forecast Statement of Financial Position

2025 Actual	$'000s Forecast Statement of Financial Position	2026 ABP incl C/F	2026 BR1	Variance
	ASSETS			
	Current Assets			
192	Cash & Cash Equivalents	500	500	0
2,861	Trade & Other Receivables	2,683	2,667	16
84	Inventories	80	86	- 6
-	Assets held for sale	-	-	-
3,137	**Total Current Assets**	**3,263**	**3,253**	**10**
	Non-Current Assets			
448,597	Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	454,495	455,828	- 1,332
-	Other Non-Current Assets			-
448,597	**Total Non-Current Assets**	**454,495**	**455,828**	**- 1,332**
451,734	**TOTAL ASSETS**	**457,758**	**459,081**	**- 1,323**
	LIABILITIES			
	Current Liabilities			
4,687	Trade & Other Payables	6,398	6,511	- 113
6,135	Borrowings	15,319	15,319	-
5,171	Provisions	3,756	5,300	- 1,544
15,993	**Total Current Liabilities**	**25,473**	**27,130**	**- 1,658**
	Non-Current Liabilities			
26,068	Borrowings	17,386	16,248	1,138
3,331	Provisions	3,553	2,353	1,200
29,399	**Total Non-Current Liabilities**	**20,939**	**18,601**	**2,338**
45,392	**TOTAL LIABILITIES**	**46,411**	**45,731**	**680**
406,342	**Net Assets**	**411,347**	**413,350**	**- 2,003**
	EQUITY			
89,588	Accumulated Surplus	91,727	90,991	736
315,808	Asset Revaluation Reserves	318,298	321,413	- 3,115
946	Other Reserves	1,322	946	376
406,342	**Total Equity**	**411,347**	**413,350**	**- 2,003**

City of Mount Gambier - Forecast Cash Flow

2025 Actual	$'000 Forecast Cash Flow	2026 ABP	2026 BR1	Variance
	Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
	Receipts:			
30,227	Rates Receipts	32,844	33,225	- 381
864	Statutory Charges	844	794	50
10,320	User Charges	10,938	10,932	6
7,091	Grants, Subsidies and Contributions (operating purpose)	4,995	4,998	- 3
79	Investment Receipts	56	56	0
1,141	Reimbursements	276	381	- 105
746	Other Revenue	642	778	- 136
-	**Payments:**			-
- 17,159	Payments to Employees	- 18,347	- 18,287	- 60
- 19,692	Payments for Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	- 19,743	- 19,249	- 494
- 1,728	Finance Payments	- 1,758	- 1,756	- 1
11,889	**Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities**	**10,749**	**11,871**	**- 1,123**
	Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
	Receipts:			
1,279	Grants Utilised For Capital Purposes	955	1,293	- 338
67	Amounts Received Specifically for New/Upgraded Assets		203	- 203
479	Sale of Replaced Assets	508	508	-
288	Sale of Surplus Assets		-	-
	Payments:			
- 7,691	Expenditure on Renewal/Replacement of Assets	- 8,184	- 9,502	1,318
- 1,596	Expenditure on New/Upgraded Assets	- 1,791	- 3,247	1,456
				-
- 7,174	**Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities**	**- 8,513**	**- 10,747**	**2,234**
	Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
	Receipts:			
8,374	Proceeds from Loans	634	2,055	- 1,421
64	Proceeds from Bonds and Deposits	3,000	3,000	-
	Payments:			-
- 2,930	Repayments of Loans			-
- 202	Repayment of Lease Liabilities	- 5,691	- 5,691	- 0
-	Repayment of Bonds and Deposits	- 181	- 181	- 0
5,306	**Net Cash Flow provided (used in) Financing Activities**	**- 2,238**	**- 817**	**- 1,421**
10,021	**Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents**	**- 1**	**308**	**- 310**
76	**plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year**	**500**	**192**	**500**
10,097	**Cash & Cash Equivalents - end of the year**	**500**	**500**	**190**
6,443	Net Cash Flow before Financing Activities and Interest Payments	3,994	2,881	1,113
52,581	Inflows	52,056	53,166	- 1,110
- 46,138	Outflow	- 48,062	- 50,285	2,223

City of Mount Gambier - Forecast Uniform Presentation of Finances

2025 Actual	$'000s Forecast Uniform Presentation of Finances	2026 ABP	2026 BR1	variance
	Income			
30,388	Rates	33,025	33,031	- 6
923	Statutory Charges	844	794	50
10,408	User Charges	10,938	10,932	6
1,225	Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Capital	955	1,293	- 338
7,091	Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Operating	4,995	4,998	- 3
79	Investment Income	56	56	0
1,141	Reimbursements	276	381	- 106
697	Other Income	642	778	- 136
51,952	**Total Income**	**51,730**	**52,262**	**- 532**
	Expenses			
15,292	Employee Costs	18,346	18,287	59
19,320	Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	19,430	20,021	- 591
10,795	Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	11,997	11,997	-
1,822	Finance Costs	1,957	1,957	-
47,229	**Total Expenses**	**51,730**	**52,262**	**- 532**
4,723	**Operating surplus / (deficit)**	**-**	**- 0**	**0**
-4914	Timing Adjustment for grant revenue	- 955	- 1,293	338
-191	**Adjusted Operating Surplus (Deficit)**	**- 955**	**- 1,293**	**338**
	Net outlays on existing assets			
(3,528)	Capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets	- 8,184	- 9,502	1,318
10,795	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	11,997	11,997	- 0
110	Grants, Subsidies & Contributions - Capital Renewal	955	1,293	- 338
	Proceeds from sale of replaced assets	508	508	1
7,377	**Net outlays on existing assets**	**5,276**	**4,295**	**981**
	Net outlays on new and upgraded assets			
(6,188)	Capital expenditure on new and upgraded assets	- 1,791	- 3,247	1,456
	(including investments property & real estate developments)			-
				-
775	Amounts received specifically for new and upgraded assets		203	- 203
	Proceeds from sale of surplus assets			-
	(including investment property and real estate developments and non-current assets held for resale)			-
-5,413	**Net outlays on new and upgraded assets**	**- 1,791**	**- 3,044**	**1,253**
1,773	**Annual net impact to financing activities (surplus (deficit))**	**2,530**	**- 42**	**2,572**

19.3 CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER 2024/2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Author: Ashlea Watson, Communications Officer
Authoriser: Paul Simpson, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'City of Mount Gambier 2024/2025 Annual Report' as presented on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be noted.
2. The City of Mount Gambier 2024/2025 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* and published on Council's website.
5. The LCLGA Annual Report be added to the electronic file prior to distribution to the required bodies/persons.

PURPOSE

Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1999* requires Council to prepare and adopt on or before 30 November of each year an Annual Report containing the prescribed information and documents relating to the operations of Council for that financial year.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

The final draft of Council's Annual Report in respect of the 2024/2025 financial year has been circulated to Members and is now recommended for adoption. The Annual Report includes the material and specific reports on the matters specified by the *Local Government Act 1999* and Regulations.

Should Council seek any further amendments or time, the Annual Report may be deferred to a special meeting, noting the publication deadlines as set out in the Act.

IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

Legal	The Annual Report has been prepared as per Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and in line with the guidelines supplied by the LGA.
Financial and Budget	The cost of design and printing of the report will be delivered within the 2025/2026 allocated budget. The project is coordinated using existing staff resources.
Community Consultation and Engagement	When planning the Annual Report, consideration is given to the type of information that is of value to the community while also ensuring all legislative requirements are met. The Annual Report aims to showcase Council's work in a transparent manner and promote positive outcomes achieved for the community.
Other Resources	Existing internal resources are used to enable the coordination and delivery of the Annual Report 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	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	Three quotes were obtained for design and print in order to secure best value for money. Project to be delivered within approved budget allocation.
Reputation	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	Ensure project timeframes are adhered to, content is as accurate as possible and appropriate approvals in place for all content
Legal / Regulatory / Policy	Minor (2)	Unlikely (2)	Low	Follow LGA Annual Report Guidelines to ensure all required content is included and adopted on time. Multiple proofs and checks to ensure compliance with legislation.
Service Delivery	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	Coordination of the project through use of existing resources does impact available resources to attend to business-as-usual tasks which occasionally temporarily impacts service delivery throughout the project period.
People	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	As above.
Infrastructure	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	N/A
Environmental	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low	The use of recycled materials in encouraged in the printing of the Annual Report.

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):

N/A

RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICY

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

The Annual Report will be printed and distributed to all relevant parties and bodies as outlined in the Act and will be available on Council's website and in hard copy format from the customer service counter once printed. As required under Schedule 2, Clause 28 (3) of the Act, a regional subsidiary must furnish to constituent councils a report on the work and operations of the subsidiary for the preceding financial year, therefore the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) 2024/2025 Annual Report will be added to the electronic version of the City of Mount Gambier Annual Report that will be published on Council's website upon finalisation and has been referenced within the City of Mount Gambier Annual Report.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends that the City of Mount Gambier 2024/2025 Annual Report as tabled be adopted to ensure Council meets the required deadlines as set out in the *Local Government Act 1999.*

ATTACHMENTS

1. City of Mount Gambier - Annual Report 2024-2025 Final Draft [**19.3.1** - 232 pages]



City of
Mount Gambier

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



The City of Mount Gambier acknowledges the Boandik Peoples as the traditional custodians of the land Mount Gambier (Berrin) sits upon today.

We respect their spiritual relationship with the land and the feelings of attachment our First Nations Peoples have with the land.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

CONTENTS

2 Introduction
27 Community
71 Economy, Strategy and Engagement
85 Infrastructure and Environment
95 Governance and Regulatory
123 Finance

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to present the City of Mount Gambier Annual Report for 2024/2025, a year marked by progress, planning and strong advocacy for our city's future.

In the third year of this council term, we focussed on shaping a clear roadmap for the years ahead. In November 2024, we endorsed our 2024 - 2028 Strategic Plan, underpinned by the community's bold aspirations from the Mount Gambier 2035 vision. This plan is our commitment to building a more liveable, connected and resilient city, guided by six key priorities: Environment and Liveability, Learning and Innovation, Infrastructure and Services, Economic and Business Growth, a Vibrant Community, and Excellence in Leadership and Governance.

Our advocacy efforts continued to be a focus this year. We submitted a strong submission to the South Australian Government's Regional Public Transport Review, pushing for long overdue reform to a system that no longer meets the needs of our growing community. Our message is clear: regional cities like Mount Gambier deserve modern, inclusive and reliable transport. Together with the District Council of Grant, we also called on the Federal Government to take meaningful action to improve regional air services, reduce fare inequity and protect vital aviation infrastructure.

We continue to prioritise environmental sustainability, as shown by our kerbside bin audit, which highlights the importance of better waste separation. With food organics still making up 27 per cent of general waste, we are urging households to embrace composting and utilise their Food Organics/Garden Organics (FOGO) bins. Small actions at the household level have a big impact on our landfill outcomes and community costs.

On the ground, we delivered new infrastructure to promote safety, learning and active living. The learn to ride mini streetscape at the Railway Lands proved to be a popular and practical space for children to gain confidence to navigate traffic scenarios. Built by our talented staff and contractors, this project is a great example of local skills delivering real community benefit.

Financially, Council took a balanced, responsible approach to the 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan and Budget. We listened to our community, reviewed every line of expenditure, and prioritised core services and infrastructure investment. Despite external cost pressures, we delivered a rate revenue increase below our Long Term Financial Plan forecast, while maintaining services and with capacity to progress key projects such as solar lighting at Blue Lake/Warwar, road renewals and shared path extensions.

I extend my sincere thanks to Elected Members, Council staff, and our Executive Leadership Team for their ongoing dedication. Our organisation is evolving, our people are committed, and our goals remain ambitious.

We have achieved a great deal, and we remain focused on making thoughtful, future focussed decisions that position Mount Gambier for long term success.



Lynette Martin OAM
MAYOR

COUNCIL AND COMMITEES (AS AT JUNE 2024)

MRS LYNETTE MARTIN OAM
HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- CEO Performance Review Committee *Presiding Member*
- CEO Selection Panel

EX OFFICIO

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Junior Sports Assistance Fund

OTHER POSITIONS

- Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) *President*
- Local Government Association *Board Member effective 21/11/2024 and City of Mount Gambier representative*
- South Australian Region of Councils (SAROC) *Limestone Coast representative*
- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel Advisory Group
- Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal Advisory Group

CR MAX BRUINS
DEPUTY MAYOR (TO 19/11/2024)



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- CEO Performance Review Committee
- CEO Selection Panel

OTHER POSITIONS

- Limestone Coast Local Government Association *Proxy to 19/11/2024*
- Local Government Association *City of Mount Gambier representative proxy to 19/11/2024*

CR JOSH LYNAGH
DEPUTY MAYOR (FROM 19/11/2024)



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- Junior Sports Assistance Fund *Presiding Member*
- CEO Performance Review Committee
- CEO Selection Panel

OTHER POSITIONS

- Limestone Coast Local Government Association *Proxy effective 19/11/2024*
- Local Government Association *City of Mount Gambier representative proxy effective 19/11/2024*

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) is a regional subsidiary body established by the seven constituent councils in the Limestone Coast, including City of Mount Gambier.

As required under Schedule 2, Clause 28 (3) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, a regional subsidiary must furnish to the constituent councils a report on the work and operations of the subsidiary for the preceding financial year.

The LCLGA 2024/2025 Annual Report can be found at lclga.sa.gov.au and is incorporated into the electronic version of this annual report available on Council's website.

COUNCIL AND COMMITEES (AS AT JUNE 2024)

CR SONYA MEZINEC



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- CEO Performance Review Committee
- Riddoch Arts and Cultural Trust

OTHER POSITIONS

- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Advisory Group

CR PAUL JENNER



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- Building Fire Safety Committee *Presiding Member*
- Audit and Risk Committee
- CEO Selection Panel

OTHER POSITIONS

- Group Training Employment Board
- SAPN/LGA Public Lighting Working Group

CR FRANK MORELLO



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- CEO Performance Review Committee
- CEO Selection Panel

CR JASON VIRGO



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- CEO Selection Panel

CR KATE AMOROSO



Cr Amoroso resigned from Council on 15 April 2025.

CR MARK LOVETT



ELECTED MEMBERS 10 YEARS OF SERVICE CELEBRATED



Cr Sonya Mezinec with Mayor Martin.

Mayor Lynette Martin acknowledged elected members Sonya Mezinec and Frank Morello for ten years of continuous service to Council respectively at the November 2024 Council Meeting.

Cr Sonya Mezinec first joined Council in 2014 and was re-elected in 2018 and 2022.

"This reflects the high regard and trust she holds within our community," Mayor Martin said.

Throughout her tenure, Cr Mezinec has served on various committees, including the Audit and Risk Committee, Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee, Lifelong Learning Subcommittee, Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee and the CEO Selection and Recruitment Committee. Currently, she serves on the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Trust and chairs the Christmas Parade Advisory Group.

From November 2018 to December 2020, Cr Mezinec also served as Deputy Mayor. Mayor Martin described her as a "dedicated councillor with exemplary attendance at meetings, briefings, and workshops" and praised her willingness to represent Council at events.

"Cr Mezinec engages in debates and decision-making with balance and integrity. On behalf of her fellow elected members, I thank her for her invaluable contribution to the City of Mount Gambier and I congratulate her on this significant milestone," Mayor Martin said.

Cr Morello was also commended for his decade of service, having been elected alongside Cr Mezinec in 2014 and re-elected in subsequent terms. Mayor Martin highlighted his consistent dedication and the trust he has earned from the community.

"Cr Morello has contributed to numerous committees, including earlier roles on the Railway Lands Development and Management Committee and the City Development Frameworks Subcommittee. More recently, he has been involved in the CEO Selection and Recruitment Committee and the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee, among others," Mayor Martin said.

Mayor Martin highlighted Cr Morello's commitment and professionalism since joining Council in 2018.

"Cr Morello is a hardworking councillor who rarely misses meetings or workshops. He always participates in respectful and thoughtful debates. On behalf of Council, I congratulate him on this milestone and thank him for his significant contributions to the City of Mount Gambier," she said.

The recognition highlights both councillors' unwavering dedication to serving their community over the past decade.



Cr Frank Morello with Mayor Martin.

ELECTED MEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

The following table shows the recorded attendance (or apologies) of Elected Members at Ordinary and Special Council and Committee meetings and information briefing sessions for the period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

		Meetings held	Mayor Martin	Cr Mezinec	Cr Bruins	Cr Lovett	Cr Jenner	Cr Morello	Cr Amoroso[1]	Cr Virgo	Cr Lynagh
Council	Meetings attended	12	12[P]	12	11	4	10	11	6	12	12
	Apologies		-	-	1	7	2	1	3	-	-
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Leave of absence		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Council	Meetings attended	3	3[P]	3	3	1	2	3	-	3	3
	Apologies		-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Leave of absence		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit and Risk Committee	Meetings attended	7	6*			1	6	1		2	1
	Apologies		1				1				
	Absent (no apology)		-				-				
	Leave of absence		-				-				
Audit and Risk Committee Information/Briefing Sessions	Meetings attended	4	3			1	3	1		2	1
	Apologies		1				1				
	Absent (no apology)		-				-				
	Leave of absence		-				-				
Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee	Meetings attended	4	-								4[P]
	Apologies		4*								-
	Absent (no apology)		-								-
	Leave of absence		-								-
CEO Performance Review	Meetings attended	4	4[P]	4	3		3	4			4
	Apologies		-	-	1			-			-
	Absent (no apology)		-	-				-			-
	Leave of absence		-	-				-			-
CEO Selection Panel	Meetings attended	1	1		1		1	1		1	1
	Apologies		-		-		-	-		-	-
	Absent (no apology)		-		-		-	-		-	-
	Leave of absence		-		-		-	-		-	-
Information/Briefing Sessions	Meetings attended	83	72	81	75	40	63	69	12	78	83
	Apologies		11	2	8	37	20	14	52	5	-
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	6	-	-	3	-	-
	Leave of absence		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-

* Ex Officio
[P] Presiding Member
☐ Member not appointed to committee
[1] Cr Amoroso resigned from Council effective 15/04/2025

CR JOSH LYNAGH APPOINTED DEPUTY MAYOR

Cr Josh Lynagh was elected as Deputy Mayor at the November 2024 Council meeting and will serve in the role until the end of the current term in 2026.

Cr Lynagh has represented the community on Council from 2014 to 2018 and in the current term from 2022, with a strong commitment to community engagement and a passion for local initiatives.

The City of Mount Gambier congratulates Cr Lynagh on his appointment to the role.



Cr Josh Lynagh.

COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

On 15 April 2025 Councillor Kate Amoroso resigned from her role as Elected Member effective immediately.

Kate was elected to Council in November 2018. We thank her for her contribution to Council for the past six and a half years and we wish her the best for the future.



Cr Kate Amoroso.

ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES AND REIMBURSEMENTS

Since the 2010 Local Government Elections, Elected Member allowances have been determined by the independent Remuneration Tribunal in accordance with Section 76 of the *Local Government Act 1999.*

In making its determination, the Tribunal must have regard to:

- The role of members of Council as members of the council's governing body and as representatives of the area,
- The size, population and revenue of the council and any relevant economic, social, demographic and regional factors in the council area,
- The ratio of members to ratepayers,
- That an allowance is not intended to amount to a salary for a member,
- That an allowance should reflect the nature of a member's office, and
- That provisions of the *Local Government Act* provide for reimbursement of members expenses.

Council has also approved Policy M405 Members Allowances and Benefits providing reimbursement of member expenses in accordance with Section 77 of the Act for travel and child/dependent care expenses incurred in relation to prescribed meetings and council business.

Allowance type	Amount
Mayoral allowance	4 x $20,885 ($83,540)
Deputy Mayor/Presiding Member allowance (prescribed committee)	1.25 x $20,885 ($26,106.25)
Councillor allowance	$20,885
Presiding Member sitting fee (non-prescribed committee)	$205 per meeting limited to an aggregate of $1,234 per annum

Council has determined to provide technological and telecommunications support for members during the council term, including access to transportable computing devices (laptop), accessories, software and IT support, and up to $600 per annum for mobile data/plans.

Members have access to specified support and services on the basis that they are necessary or expedient to performing or discharging their official functions and duties. The Mayor is provided with additional support and services including office space, administrative support, and a motor vehicle for civic activities.

All member base and prescribed committee allowances are paid monthly and non-prescribed committee allowances are paid quarterly in arrears.

The allowances set out in the Remuneration Tribunal Determination are adjusted annually on the first, second and third anniversaries of the 2022 Local Government Elections to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index as defined in Section 76 (15) of the Act.

A sitting fee is payable to a member (other than the Principal Member, Deputy Principal Member or a Presiding Member of a prescribed committee) who is the Presiding Member of a council committee that is not a prescribed committee.

Sitting fees for independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee are:

- $400 per meeting or $200 for any special meeting, and
- $550 per meeting or $300 for any special meeting for an independent Presiding Member of the Audit and Risk Committee.

An Elected Member on the Audit and Risk Committee receives no sitting fee, except as Presiding Member.

During 2024/2025 the Audit and Risk Committee had an independent Presiding Member.

ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The *Local Government Act 1999* and Regulations require mandatory training for Elected Members in accordance with the Local Government Association Training Standards under the following headings:

- Behaviour Module,
- Civic Module,
- Legal Module,
- Strategy and Finance Module,
- Principal Member Modules
  - Behaviour,
  - Civic.

An amount of $8,819.36 was expended during 2024/2025 on Elected Member training and development.

Elected Members were provided opportunities to participate in various training programs and briefings, including 87 information briefing sessions on matters relating to:

- Draft Affordable Housing Plan,
- Stand Like Stone Foundation update,
- Crater Lakes Bushfire Rehabilitation Report,
- Parks and Gardens,
- Crater Lakes Cultural Heritage Survey,
- Briefing with Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional South Australia Hon Ben Hood MLC,
- Briefing with Member for Barker Mr Tony Pasin MP,
- New Agendas/Minutes system,
- Council Chamber AV,
- s92 Code of Practice, Discretionary Procedures and r6 Code of Practice,
- Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028,
- Audit and Risk Committee - Waste Financial Modelling,
- CBD Master Plan,
- Confidential development proposal update,
- LCLGA future priorities and direction,
- Country Arts SA - Civic Centre,
- CEO update,
- Waste services update,
- Community Renewables Program,
- Beacon Art Project,
- Grants and sponsorship - Generations in Jazz,
- Mount Gambier and District Tennis Association,
- Pioneers sponsorship and access to Wulanda,
- Railway Lands Play Space - community consultation,
- Basketball Mount Gambier,
- Audit and Risk Committee - liaison with Council's auditor,
- Investment/attraction strategic approach,
- Library café leasing arrangements,
- Strategic land use,
- Elected Member mid-term refresher,
- Budget Review 1,
- Elected Member mandatory training - team building,
- Presentation of Mount Gambier Regional Airport Master Plan,
- Wulanda update
- CBD activation,
- Update from General Manager City Infrastructure,
- Briefing with Minister Clare Scriven MLC,
- General update from SAPOL,
- Briefing with Member for Mount Gambier Mr Troy Bell MP,
- Rating Review,
- Fringe Berrin sponsorship,
- Strategic property use update,
- Introductory meeting with Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast CEO Lauren Oxlade,
- Audit and Risk Committee – Budget update,
- Kelley Jones Lawyers - Public Interest Disclosure,
- By-Law review,
- Strategic risk workshop,
- Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre strategy,
- Budget Review 2,
- Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA),
- 2025/2026 Budget, Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan workshops,
- Belgravia Annual Business Plan,
- Electricity contract,
- Strategic projects update,
- Operational update - Music SA,
- Strategic property development,
- Operational update - unsolicited proposal,
- Briefing with ac.care,
- Grants and Sponsorship Program review,
- Executive Leadership Team/Elected Member communication session,
- Legal and contractual matters,
- Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan Amendment,

ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Draft Limestone Coast Regional Plan,
- Tree management and policy,
- AI Policy,
- Council meeting procedures,
- Briefing with Tony Elletson - Switch the Play Program - FeelBetter Limestone Coast,
- Waste Master Plan,
- Unlocking projects,
- Strategic property matter - Legal and other advice,
- Cats By-Law.

MEMBER BEHAVIOUR

MEMBER HEALTH AND SAFETY DUTIES

Council is required to report on Elected Member health and safety duties under section 75G of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

There were no member contraventions of section 75G during the 2024/2025 financial year.

70 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CITY DECLARATION

On 9 December 2024 Council acknowledged the 70 year anniversary of the city.

In August 1954 the population reached 10,333 which met the revised threshold for country cities, due to a 1953 Act of Parliament lowering the requirement from 20,000 to 10,000. The city status was officially declared in December 1954, with festivities held on 17 January 1955.

Special guests included South Australian Governor Sir Robert George and the 27th Battalion South Australian Scottish Regiment Mayor J.H. (James Hugh) Marks was at the helm during this momentous time.

The photos below from the Les Hill Collection capture the celebrations in front of the Town Hall when Mount Gambier officially gained city status.





DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL

Council has adopted a structure of committees to facilitate good governance and informed decision making processes.

Council's committee structure as at 30 June 2025 is outlined below.

Council meetings are held at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace Mount Gambier on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm.

Meetings of other council committees are held as and when required.

Council and committee meetings are open to the public and Council encourages attendance.

While members of the public are not normally permitted to speak at meetings, individuals or groups may submit a request to make a deputation at a Council or committee meeting.

Any person wishing to have a matter considered by Elected Members should make a request in writing to the CEO for presentation to the Presiding Member of the relevant Council or committee meeting.

Agenda closing dates apply.

Please check for timeframes and the date/times of relevant meetings. Agendas of all meetings are published no less than three clear days prior to the meeting. Minutes of meetings are published within five days of a meeting. Meeting agendas and minutes are accessible on Council's website.

DELEGATIONS

To ensure the efficient performance of operations and activities, Council delegates certain powers and functions to the Chief Executive Officer. These delegations are periodically reviewed by Council.

The Chief Executive Officer further sub-delegates certain powers and functions to specified officer positions.

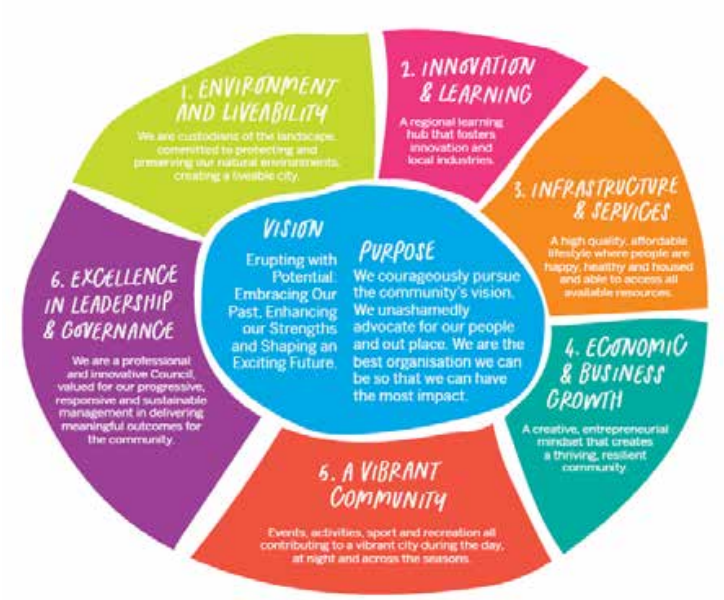
Delegation instruments reference which legislative powers are delegated/sub-delegated and any limitations or conditions that are applicable.

Delegations and sub-delegations are published on Council's website.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2028

Council endorsed the City of Mount Gambier 2024 - 2028 Strategic Plan in November 2024, aligned with the long-term aspirations outlined in the Community Vision - Mount Gambier 2035. The plan guides Council's work over the next four years, shaped by community values, priorities and a shared vision for the future.



The plan is centred around Council's vision and purpose and sets out the outcomes the community can expect from Council's actions over the next four years, organised under six strategic priorities.

Following the adoption of the draft plan at the October 2024 Council meeting, a community consultation process was undertaken between October and November 2024, concluding an extensive engagement program that began with the Mount Gambier 2035 initiative in November 2023.

"The Mount Gambier 2035 project team sought feedback from the community about what we want our future to look like. Resulting in a bold and impressive vision, we have worked hard to ensure the aspirations and values expressed are reflected in what Council is committed to achieve over the next four years," Mayor Martin said.

The 2024 - 2028 Strategic Plan identifies 21 strategic measures and indicators, along with six key strategic priorities including:

- Environment and Liveability,
- Learning and Innovation,
- Infrastructure and Services,
- Economic and Business Growth,
- A Vibrant Community, and
- Excellence in Leadership and Governance.

"This Strategic Plan charts a path to achieve our long-term goals, focussing on the environment and liveability, fostering learning and innovation, enhancing infrastructure and services, stimulating economic and business growth and building a vibrant community - all guided by responsible leadership and governance," Mayor Martin said.

"Each strategic priority outlines what success looks like, what the community can expect from Council over the next four years, the key projects we will undertake and the supporting strategies and plans that will guide us there."

The plan has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and considers Council's Long Term Financial Plan to ensure there is capacity to deliver on the outcomes and objectives included.

"Now that the plan is endorsed, it will become the overarching strategic document that informs Council's ongoing planning and reporting," CEO Sarah Philpott said.

The plan outlines Council's role in the various projects to deliver, partner and advocate.

"In developing this plan, we have considered our diverse and complex roles and the tools we can use to drive and influence change. The plan therefore reflects our commitment to working with others to shape the future of our city," Ms Philpott said.

"We continue to build strong partnerships to advocate and leverage our relationships to seek co-investment, grants and contributions for the benefit of our community."

Outcomes of the Strategic Plan will be reported annually within Council's Annual Report.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2028

OUR VISION

Erupting with Potential: Embracing Our Past, Enhancing our Strengths and Shaping an Exciting Future.

Embracing our volcanic past, Council will partner with the community to build on the strength of our landscape and our connections to shape a sustainable future. Together, we elevate the city's prominence, ignite new opportunities and ensure a thriving, liveable environment for everyone.

Under each theme, Council has made a strategic commitment and defined success. The progress of these commitments is outlined as follows.



PRIORITY 1:
ENVIRONMENT AND LIVEABILITY

'We are custodians of the landscape, committed to protecting and preserving our natural environments, creating a liveable city.'

Key project	Status
Work with key stakeholders to progress the Vision and Guiding Principles of the Crater Lakes Activation Plan and Crater Lakes Trails Plan to ensure the area fulfils its critical role in enabling cultural connection, improves liveability in our community and enhances the visitor experience.	In progress
Implementation of agreed actions under our Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.	Ongoing
Master planning for resource recovery and waste management services to ensure best practice for the future.	In progress
Review and update Community Land Management plans	In progress

PRIORITY 2:
INNOVATION AND LEARNING

'A regional learning hub that fosters innovation and local industries.'

Key project	Status
Implementation of the Mount Gambier Library Strategy 2023 -2027 so that our library fosters curiosity and builds connections that deliver life shaping experiences for all.	Ongoing

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2028

PRIORITY 3:
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

'A high quality, affordable lifestyle where people are happy, healthy and housed and able to access all available resources.'

Key project	Status
Continued implementation of the goals and priorities outlined in our Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy.	Ongoing
Shape the urban form of our city through the application of strategic urban design and place making principles.	In progress
Work with key stakeholders to create a master plan for Hastings Cunningham Reserve ensuring it is developed in alignment with community needs and aspirations.	Not started
Work with key stakeholders to create a master plan for Olympic Park ensuring this precinct is developed in alignment with community needs and aspirations.	Not started
Continue to work with key stakeholders and advocate for funding support for the detailed design and implementation of the Blue Lake Sports Park Master Plan.	Ongoing
Review and update our asset management planning framework to enhance our Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans ensuring that work programs are well planned and budgeted for delivery.	In progress
Delivery of a refreshed Disability Access and Inclusion Plan underpinning our approach to disability access and inclusion.	In progress
Delivery of a refreshed Regional Public Health Plan underpinning our approach to the health and wellbeing of our community.	Not started
Review and implement renewed By-Laws which respond to community needs by 2025.	In progress

Key project	Status
Develop and deliver a Property Management Strategy that informs Council's management, acquisition and disposal of community land and property.	In progress
Progression and the implementation of the priorities and actions in the Shared Path Master Plan.	In progress
Development of a play strategy that informs the provision of play experiences that are attractive to a range of ages.	In progress
Implementation of strategies and actions outlined in our Dog and Cat Management Plan.	In progress



PRIORITY 4:
ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS GROWTH

'A creative, entrepreneurial mindset that creates a thriving, resilient community.'

Key project	Status
Work with key stakeholders to create a master plan for Umpherston Sinkhole/Balumbul that ensures the area fulfils its critical role in enabling cultural connection, enhances the visitor experience and regenerates the natural area.	In progress
Work with key stakeholders to create a master plan for Vansittart Park ensuring it can host finals and exhibition games that contribute to the local economy.	In progress
Implementation of a hub and spoke visitor servicing model where the hub attracts visitors to our CBD and spoke sites enhance the visitor experience and promotes sustainable engagement with the city's diverse offerings.	In progress
Implementation of signage and wayfinding that improves ease of navigation throughout the city, ensuring that both residents and visitors can effortlessly access key destinations and attractions.	In progress
Establish and evolve a Retention, Attraction and Investment Framework and platform that promotes Mount Gambier as a key location to live, work, visit and invest.	In progress

PRIORITY 5:
A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

'Events, activities, sport and recreation all contributing to a vibrant city during the day, at night and across the seasons.'

Key project	Status
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.	In progress
Development and implementation of a Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Strategy.	In progress
Delivery of a beacon art initiative in collaboration with an artist that engages travellers and residents in our local story.	In progress
Pursue programs and opportunities that enhance the live entertainment in our city.	In progress
Continue to pursue opportunities to reactivate the Mount Gambier Railway Station and enhance the role of the Railway Lands precinct as a premier destination in Mount Gambier.	Ongoing
Pursue community activation of the Lady Nelson site to accommodate the city's creative industries and/or historic collections management.	In progress
Develop and implement a place making strategy.	Not started

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2028

PRIORITY 6:
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

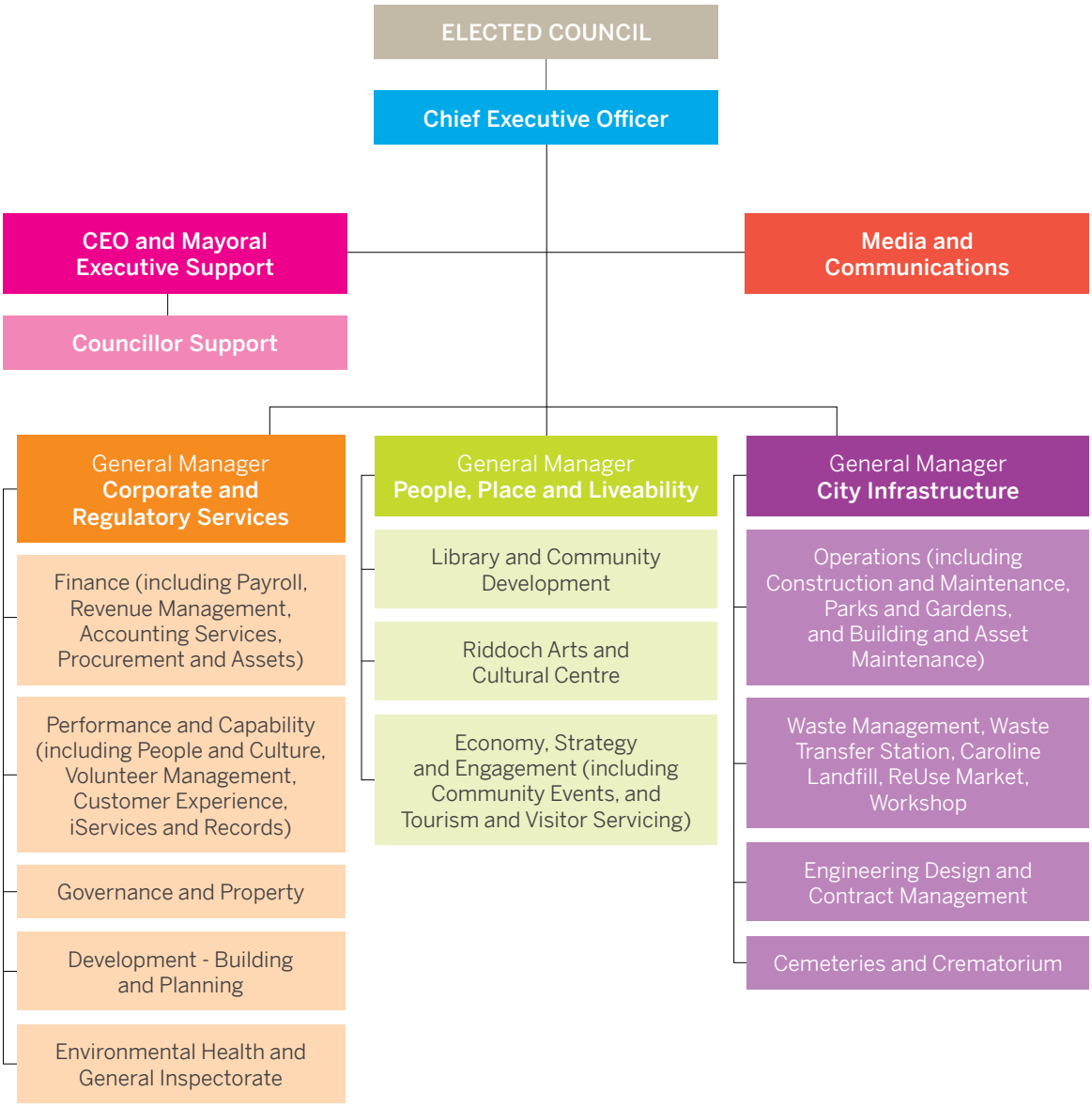
'We are a professional and innovative Council, valued for our progressive, responsive and sustainable management in delivering meaningful outcomes for the community.'

Key project	Status
Deliver business systems and infrastructure improvements that support us to deliver our services more efficiently and effectively to the community.	In progress
Develop and implement a workforce planning framework that informs the skill and capability requirements Council needs to deliver its services and programs.	In progress
Develop and deliver our next Reconciliation Action Plan in partnership with the Yerkalalpata Community Reference Group that supports our organisation's commitment to reconciliation.	In progress
Undertake a rating review that guides Council's approach to rates to ensure our financial sustainability.	In progress
Continue to deliver improvements that enhance a 'Safety First' culture in accordance with our Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Strategy.	Ongoing
Update Council's Community Consultation and Engagement Policy to align with Local Government Association and *Local Government Act* reforms.	In progress
Continue to develop the leadership capability of our workforce in accordance with the Leadership Capability Framework.	Ongoing
Develop and implement policies and procedures that support the organisation to attract grant funding and ensure appropriate accountability in acquitting those funds.	Not started
Develop and implement commercialisation principles and practices that guide the organisation's decision making to diversify revenue streams.	Not started
Continue the implementation of Council's Volunteer Management Plan to support and expand our volunteer workforce.	Ongoing
Continue the implementation of Council's Media and Communications Strategy.	Ongoing
Develop and implement a community feedback mechanism to inform Council's service delivery with results regularly reported back to the community.	In progress



OUR PEOPLE

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



OUR PEOPLE

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

For the purposes of the relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Senior Executive Officers (Executive Leadership Team) of Council are defined as:

- Chief Executive Officer, and
- Three General Managers.

The remuneration and benefits of the Executive Leadership Team are detailed in Council's Salary Register and an extract is below. Each Senior Executive Officer is employed on a five-year fixed term contract of employment.

Position	Salary	Other allowances/benefits
Chief Executive Officer	$269,066	Full private use of vehicle
General Managers	$187,000 - $206,360	



City of Mount Gambier Executive Leadership Team: General Manager City Infrastructure Barbara Cernovskis (left), General Manager People, Place and Liveability Chris White, CEO Sarah Philpott and General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services Jane Fetherstonhaugh.

CEO SARAH PHILPOTT TO RETIRE



CEO Sarah Philpott

City of Mount Gambier Chief Executive Officer Sarah Philpott retired on 1 August 2025 after almost 30 years of public service within local government.

Sarah commenced her career in local government with the City of Mount Gambier in 1992, and has held senior and executive leadership roles in local government in three states. She re-joined the City of Mount Gambier as CEO in 2021, with an intention to give back to the community which was her home growing up, and gave her the opportunities she has enjoyed throughout her career. She leaves to spend time with family, friends and to explore new learning.

"I have been privileged to work in local government in many different roles – it is a sector where you never stop learning, where you help make it possible for communities to reach their potential, and to work with team members who are passionate and committed to providing positive outcomes," Sarah said.

"While at the City of Mount Gambier, we have together delivered on many fronts for our community, and there is a good foundation for a new leader to bring fresh ideas and energy to the CEO role. I have been fortunate to work with a supportive and hard-working Mayor and councillor group, and I thank them for their support during my tenure. And to the executive team and the wonderful staff of the City, my thanks also – I could not have asked for a better team to work with."

Mayor Martin thanked Sarah for her commitment and hard work on behalf of the community and Council.

"Sarah is a dedicated and compassionate leader, investing in and empowering her staff, achieving change which has provided improved outcomes for the organisation and our community," Mayor Martin said.

"Sarah has supported me as Mayor, and Elected Members in our endeavours to achieve outcomes for our city and community and maintain our position as South Australia's largest regional centre, including the delivery of our city's largest infrastructure project, Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre."

NEW GENERAL MANAGER PEOPLE, PLACE AND LIVEABILITY

Council welcomed Chris White to the role of General Manager People, Place and Liveability in January 2025. Chris is a qualified town planner from the United Kingdom, with 30 years' experience in the public and private sector, most recently in Victoria and New South Wales. He specialises in planning, placemaking, engagement, community development, tourism, economic development, sport, recreation, arts and culture.

Born in South East England, Chris studied geography at the University of Huddersfield and continued to follow an interest in urban geography and how places grow and change over time. He completed a postgraduate diploma in town planning at South Bank University, London and travelled throughout England and Scotland in planning and development roles before moving to Australia in January 2012 to work in Victoria's Mallee region.

"I was working in a very similar portfolio to what I've got here for the Gannawarra Shire Council in Victoria and I then had the opportunity to do a year's work with the state government, focussing on advocacy for councils across the Mallee," Mr White said.

In 2017, Chris moved back into local government in the far north of New South Wales and spent seven years as Kyogle Council's Director of Planning and Community Development.

Mr White is familiar with Mount Gambier and the wider Limestone Coast region.

"I love the area and feel privileged to have the opportunity to live and work here. This role is an opportunity to work in a space that I'm experienced in, and I have already been made to feel very welcome by the people of the city."

Mount Gambier's proximity to the Victorian border also appealed to him.

"I have worked in border communities throughout most of my career. I was involved in establishing the office of the Victorian Cross Border Commissioner when I was with government there. Mount Gambier has a catchment that reaches into Victoria, and I'm interested in the policy and strategy challenge of working across two states, and advocating strongly for the best outcomes for our community and businesses."

Mr White welcomed the professional challenge as the leader of Council's People, Place and Liveability portfolio.

"I think there's a great range of opportunities to explore what kind of place the community wants to see Mount Gambier become for coming generations. We are living in a time where people are reconnecting with regional communities more strongly than they have in the past and the possibilities here are different and greater because of that, and our aspirations should match."

"Mount Gambier is clearly changing and I'm all about what we can do as a Council to guide and nurture people through that change period and how we can work with the community and businesses to make the city the best version of itself," Mr White said.

"I'm passionate about my work. I think carefully about the places that I move to and when I get there, I care for them deeply and I want the best for them."

"My intention is to get to know the community and find out how it works, I'll be doing as much listening as talking and I look forward to enjoying the city's strong sporting culture outside of work."

The former City and Community Growth senior management position has been vacant since July 2023.

"The General Manager People, Place and Liveability isn't a new role, it's one of the three General Manager positions within Council's organisational structure, formerly titled City and Community Growth. We held this position vacant for the past 18 months while we applied internal resources to achieve strategic



work objectives such as Mount Gambier 2035 community vision and our strategic plan," CEO Sarah Philpott said.

"We have also rethought the focus of this role considering what the community told us through the community vision. It will concentrate on how we connect people and places, how we guide the urban form, how we think about growth and what makes a city an inviting and meaningful place to live, work, set up a business or visit. The role will also focus on the city's people, supporting and enabling community capacity, learning and artistic participation and creativity."

General Manager People, Place and Liveability Chris White.



OUR PEOPLE

INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SUMMARY

During the 2024/2025 financial year, the following interstate travel was undertaken. No international travel was undertaken by Elected Members or employees.

Date	Attendee	Reason for Travel	Cost of Travel
13/08/2024 – 15/08/2024	Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement	Regions Rising National Summit 2024, Regional Institute Australia, Canberra Australian Capital Territory	$1,440
17/09/2024 – 20/09/2024	Team Leader Exhibitions and Collections	AmaGA Conference, Ballarat, Victoria	$740
02/04/2025 – 04/04/2025	Media and Communications Coordinator	Elevate Local Government Communication Summit 2025, Narre Warren, Victoria	$655
17/04/2025 – 28/04/2025	Director Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre	QVAMG and Art Ark, Launceston, Tasmania	$760
23/05/2025- 26/05/2025	Director Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre	Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia	$1,872
22/06/2025	Strategic Development and Visitor Economy Coordinator	City of Ballarat Tourism and Events Team, Ballarat, Victoria	$190
26/06/2025	Library Officer, Children and Youth Services	IPA Asia Pacific Play Conference, Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne, Victoria	$358

GIFTS AND BENEFITS SUMMARY

Pursuant to Schedule 4 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council is required to provide a summary of the details (including the cost) of any gifts over the value of $50 provided to Members of the Council and employees that are funded in whole or part by the Council.

While there were no Council funded gifts provided to Elected Members or staff in the 2024/2025 financial year, the following is a summary of gifts/benefits received from external sources.

Gift/benefit	Reason	Distribution	Total Value
6 x tickets – Bayside Festival	Provided to Council as an event sponsor	Distributed to Elected Members and Council employees	$150 ($25 each)
10 x festival passes – Generations in Jazz	Provided to Council as an event sponsor	Distributed to Elected Members	$2,200 ($220 each)
2 x tickets – 2025 Limestone Coast Beer and BBQ Festival	Provided to Council as an event sponsor	Distributed to Elected Members	$120 ($60 each)
Wooden benches	Donated to Council by Grant High School	Installed at Engelbrecht Cave	$600
Artline Markers	Donated to Council by Limestone Coast Training.	Utilised for Library programming.	$110
8 x corporate box season passes - Pioneers Basketball home games	Provided to Council as a community partner sponsor	13 home games were played and the eight tickets were offered to Elected Members and employees throughout the season.	$66-$68.75 each
2 x gift hampers containing food, lollies and sweets	Provided to employees as a thankyou from members of public	Donated to Friends of Library raffle	$250

EMPLOYEES BY PORTFOLIO

Portfolio	Male	Female	Non-binary	Total
Office of the CEO	0	6	0	6
Corporate and Regulatory Services	7	38	0	45
People, Place and Liveability	9	47	1	57
City Infrastructure	70	11	0	81
Totals	86	102	1	189

Total number of employees: 189
Full time equivalents: 153

VOLUNTEERS

City of Mount Gambier is fortunate to have more than 100 people who actively volunteer their time to Council.

From the Library and the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre, to the ReUse Market, Youth Activation Group, Valley Lake Conservation Park, and community events hosted throughout the year, volunteers are integral to our operations. Their dedication enhances our ability to deliver services, share knowledge, celebrate in our community, and protect our natural spaces.

Some of our valued volunteers are featured on the following pages.

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND WELLBEING PROGRAM

Work Health Safety (WHS) principles and procedures are in place to ensure the City of Mount Gambier continues to provide a safe workplace for all.

The 'Safety Always' culture is promoted throughout the organisation. To support our workforce additional providers have been added to the Employee Assistance Program including the first national crisis support provider for First Nations people.

The organisation continues to ensure it maintains a safe, healthy and supportive work environment for staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors by eliminating or minimising hazards and risk.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

At the City of Mount Gambier, maintaining a diverse and inclusive culture that allows us to understand and meet our community needs and facilitate services is important to us.

Through our Reconciliation Action Plan, Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) and Equal Opportunity and Discrimination Administrative Procedure, the organisation remains committed to achieving fair and equitable employment practices, workplace diversity and facilitating a culture of inclusiveness.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Employees at the City of Mount Gambier can access various training and development opportunities.

In addition to occupation-specific training, staff must undertake mental health first aid training, conflict resolution training, and disability inclusion training.

OUR PEOPLE

ORGANISATIONAL VALUES

City of Mount Gambier staff have identified core values to influence how the organisation works together to establish and maintain a positive culture and ensure the delivery of actions outlined within the 2024 - 2028 Strategic Plan.

LEAD

- We embrace continuous learning and strive to innovate and implement best practices within local government.
- We feel safe to challenge the status quo and take healthy risks.
- We consider different points of view, and we use these points of difference to inform our decisions.
- We use our expertise to inspire and lead by example, with a focus on flexibility.
- We welcome opportunities for personal and community growth.



CONNECT

- We respect and take the time to understand the people we work and live with, including their diverse backgrounds and experiences.
- We are united in being responsive to the needs of our community.
- We are informed by all levels of community, with a local, regional, national and global outlook.
- We communicate openly and honestly with each other and our community.
- We listen and seek input and feedback to ensure inclusivity and build trust.



DELIVER

- We work together to follow through on our commitments.
- We value and acknowledge contributions from our people, our stakeholders and our community and take pride in the services we deliver.
- We plan to ensure resources are used effectively to deliver sustainable outcomes.
- We are accountable and ensure quality outcomes by taking the time to reflect, learn and celebrate success.



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

City of Mount Gambier celebrated National Volunteers Week with a morning tea for volunteers from across the organisation.

Mayor Martin said volunteers play an essential role in shaping the heart of our city.

"This event is an opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every volunteer who contributes to life in our city," Mayor Martin said.

"Volunteer contributions reach far beyond the tasks performed. They help create a sense of belonging, foster community spirit, and bring people together in ways that strengthen our shared future."

“Volunteering isn’t just about giving time; it’s about being part of something bigger, where learning, growth, and genuine connection take place every day. - Thank you to our wonderful volunteers.”



ReUse Market volunteers Raelene Justice (left), Raylene Anderson, Marianne Bowd, Lois Brooker, and Shirley Chuck with ReUse Market and Waste Transfer Station Coordinator Rebecca Mobbs (back centre).



Library volunteer Kelvin Mahoney (left), Library Programs Officer Kerry Higgins, volunteers Helen Stratford, Val Milner, Marian Thompson, Erin McIntyre and Acting Library Manager Sally Mann celebrate National Volunteer Week.



Cr Jason Virgo (right) chats with volunteers Beryl Mahoney and Maree Thompson at the event.

OUR PEOPLE





Mayor Martin (left) presented all volunteers including Phil Richards (pictured) with a Certificate of Appreciation at the morning tea.

City of Mount Gambier Community Events Officer Liana Golubic (left), volunteer Sandy O'Donnell, Economy, Strategy and Engagement Project Officer Madeleine Brookes, Community Events Team Leader Xarnia Keding, volunteers Beryl Mahoney and Alan Liptrott, Community Events Officer Kristine Berry and volunteer Maree Thompson.



OUR COMMUNITY

29 Grants and Sponsorship
34 Junior Sports Assistance Fund
36 Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants
37 Australian Citizenship Ceremonies
38 Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal
42 Mount Gambier Library
46 The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre
52 Citizen of the Year Awards
58 Mount Gambier Christmas Parade
63 Reconciliation
66 Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre

GOVERNOR-GENERAL VISITS MOUNT GAMBIER

Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia visited Mount Gambier for a whirlwind tour of the city on Saturday 21 September 2024.

During the visit, Her Excellency visited Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre, spoke to stall holders at the Mount Gambier Farmers Market at the Cave Garden/Thugi, visited the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre and attended an informal lunch at City Hall with a small group of community members. She then visited Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier before the last stop of the day at The Kids Shed.

The Governor-General enjoyed spending time in Mount Gambier learning about the region, meeting residents and getting a taste of the local community.

"Visiting Mount Gambier and connecting with local community members, volunteers and organisations was a special way to end my first visit to South Australia as Governor-General." the Governor-General said.

"One of the vital parts of my role is to share the stories of the best of Australia, back to Australians. It was a privilege to spend time in Mount Gambier, experiencing innovation and excellence in community development, cultural leadership and exceptional volunteering and care. I look forward to sharing widely the experience of my visit. Thank you to Mayor Martin, and all in Mount Gambier for your warmth, generosity and hospitality."

Mayor Martin was honoured to welcome and escort Her Excellency who is the 28th Governor General of Australia and the second female to hold the position.

"The Governor-General's visit centred on care, respect and kindness, being the chosen themes for her tenure in the role and the locals who met her were delighted by her strong interest in community activities and her personable nature and we thank Her Excellency for taking the time to visit us here in Mount Gambier," Mayor Martin said.



Mayor Martin was honoured to welcome and escort the Governor-General around Mount Gambier in September 2024.



Above: Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre staff Christina (left) and Dave with Mayor Martin, Centre Manager Heidi Gajic and the Governor-General.



Right: The Governor-General and Mayor Martin chat with Aunty Val Brennan.

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM ROUND 1 RESULTS

Almost $240,000 in cash and more than $40,000 in-kind assistance was distributed to 28 events, projects and programs across nine funding streams in the first round of the revised 2024/2025 Grants and Sponsorship Program.

The program was split into two funding rounds per year and assists eligible groups and individuals with funds and in-kind support to host community events, upgrade infrastructure, or facilitate art projects to meet community needs and improve quality of life in accordance with Council's Strategic Plan.

"This program ensures funding is administered in a responsible, just, transparent and equitable manner to all groups and individuals in the community," Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement Biddie Shearing said.

"The Grants and Sponsorship assessment panel was comprised of five staff and Elected Members. They met three times to assess the applications using a structured evaluation matrix, which generated a ranking based on how well each application met the predetermined criteria. Key factors considered included economic impact of the event, as well as its long-term sustainability to ensure lasting benefits for the community."

Minor Events Grant

Up to $2,000 in funds were provided to community organisations to support the delivery of community events with demonstrated benefit to Mount Gambier.

Seven of the eight submissions were successful in a bid for Council funds:

- Department of Education - South East Primary Schools Music Festival - $2,000 cash,
- Inside Line Downhill Mountain Bike Club Inc. State Series - $1,300 cash and $1,065 in- kind,
- Mount Gambier Legends Baseball Club - $1,000 cash and $489 in-kind,
- South Coast Cycling – Track Cycling Carnival - $900 cash and $400 in-kind,
- Mount Gambier Community RSL – Remembrance Day - $1,130 in-kind,
- Lake City Rodders – Valentines Rod Run - $500 cash, and
- K9's with KAZ - $400 in-kind.



K9's with KAZ received $400 in-kind assistance in round one of the 2024/2025 Grants and Sponsorship Program. Photo courtesy of Phil Ackland.

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

Major Events Grant

Between $2,001 and $15,000 in funds were provided to major/ significant events held within the region to attract substantial economic benefit and visitation to Mount Gambier.

All 10 submissions were provided with financial and in-kind support including:

- Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West - Party in the Park - $3,200 cash and $1,170 in-kind,
- Mount Gambier A&H Society Inc - Mount Gambier 163rd Spring Show - $2,243 in-kind,
- Mount Gambier Disc Golf - 2024 Eruption - $2,500 cash and $1,300 in-kind,
- Mount Gambier Ministers Association - Blue Lake Carols - $5,000 cash and $661 in-kind,
- Basketball Mount Gambier Inc - Junior Basketball Tournament - $2,000 cash,
- Lakes Rotary Mount Gambier - Blue Lake Fun Run - $12,200 cash,
- South Gambier Football Club - Mount Gambier Rodeo - $6,900 and $947 in-kind,
- Port MacDonnell Bayside Festival Association Inc - Bayside Festival - $3,850 cash and $1,957 in-kind,
- Mount Gambier Community RSL Anzac Day Memorial Service and Parade - $2,300 cash and $3,450 in-kind, and
- Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce - Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Business Boost Event - $3,865 in-kind.

Corporate Sponsorship

More than $15,000 in funds was allocated to large scale signature events or programs that have the potential to be regionally, nationally or internationally significant and provide substantial visitation, media coverage, profiling opportunities and positive economic impact for Mount Gambier.

Four submissions from the eight received were awarded funding or in-kind support, including:

- South East Beer and BBQ Fest - $15,000 cash and $10,000 in-kind,
- Australian International Pedal Prix – Round One - $15,000 cash and $625.00 in-kind,



The Australian International Pedal Prix received $15,000 cash and $625 in-kind as part of round one of the 2024/2025 Grants and Sponsorship Program.



The Mount Gambier Ministers Association received $5,000 cash and $661 in-kind support for the Blue Lake Carols.

- South Eastern Automobile Club – Legend of the Lakes Hillclimb - $5,400 in-kind, and
- Limestone Coast Festivals and Events – Fantasy Medieval - $15,000 cash and $5,226 in-kind.

Following discussion at the September Council meeting, Council invited the Generations in Jazz committee and the Fringe Mount Gambier committee to present a three-to-five-year business plan and funding models at an Elected Member briefing to be held before the end of the calendar year.

Minor Community Strengthening Grant

Up to $1,500 in funds for projects that support community quality of life, increase the usage of community facilities and/or encourage people to participate in community services and activities was awarded to one of four submissions:

- CareFlight – Trauma Care Workshop - $1,500 cash.

Major Community Strengthening Grant

A major grant valued at $10,000 was provided to The Stand Like Stone Foundation to support quality of life and encourage people to participate in community services.

Creative Arts Fund

Two projects received funds for creative public art in this round, including:

- Pariya Ziakas and Ruth Stephenson - Artists' Residency Project - "Space and Place" - $23,500 cash.
- Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation – The Faces of Our Elders - $19,155 cash.

Sport and Recreation Capital Works Fund

Three local clubs received funds to assist in the development of, and/or capital renewal, of sport and recreation infrastructure within Mount Gambier, including:

- North Gambier Football and Netball Club – Vansittart Park scoreboard upgrade - $12,000 cash,
- Apollo Football Club – Female friendly and inclusive amenities - $50,000 cash, and
- Mount Gambier and District Tennis Association – Olympic Park Tennis Complex Lighting Upgrade - $35,000 cash.

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM - ROUND 2 RESULTS

A total of $57,453 cash plus in-kind support to the value of $10,462 was endorsed for distribution for round two of the 2024/2025 Grants and Sponsorship Program.

Assisting eligible groups and individuals, round two of the program consisted of the following streams:

- Minor Events Grant - up to $2,000,
- Major Events Grant - $2,001 to $15,000,
- Corporate Sponsorship - Over $15,000,
- Minor Community Strengthening Grant - up to $1,500, and
- Major Community Strengthening Grant - $1,501 to $10,000.

Council received 19 applications for events and/or projects across the five funding streams in March 2025. All applications were assessed during two assessment panel meetings with 16 applications determined to be successful with Council endorsing this recommendation.

Minor Events Grants were endorsed for:

- South East Radio Group Australian 'Fox Hunting' Championship and Convention - $500.00 cash,
- Mount Gambier RSL and District Bowling Club Men's 2 Day Fours - $500.00 cash,
- Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes Science and Engineering Challenge - $2,000 cash,
- Thumb Print Workshop Inc. Silk Screen Printing with Simone Tippett - $1,000 cash,
- South East Street Machines Show 'n' Shine - $500.00 cash and $278.00 in-kind,
- Australian Garden History Society 2025 Annual National Convention - $2,000 cash,
- Mount Gambier Community RSL - Remembrance Day - $1,265 cash,
- Limestone Coast Symphony Orchestra 2025 Gala Concert - $2,000 cash,
- Mount Gambier 8-Ball Association State 8-Ball Carnival - $2,000 cash, and
- Gravity Enduro South Australia GESA Round Two - $1,688 cash and $312.00 in-kind.

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

The Science and Engineering Challenge, a national STEM initiative for high school students, took place in August 2024 at the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre, welcoming approximately 210 participants from across the region.

"The event consists of a series of STEM-related challenges which teams from competing schools undertake, points are awarded and the winning school has the opportunity of competing in State and National competitions," a Lakes Rotary spokesperson said.

The annual Limestone Coast Symphony Orchestra Gala Concert was held at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre on 21 June 2025, providing a platform for local soloists, choristers and composers to showcase their musical talent and creative passion, while highlighting Mount Gambier as a culturally progressive city.

"The Limestone Coast Symphony Orchestra was formed in 2013 to provide opportunities for musicians in our community to participate in an exciting orchestral experience. Each year we provide high quality musical performances to audiences in the Limestone Coast region," Limestone Coast Symphony Orchestra Secretary Jennie Matthews said.

"Our musicians range from dedicated music students to professional musicians who meet regularly throughout the ten-week rehearsal period, in the lead up to our seasonal performances."



The 2024 Science and Engineering Challenge coordinated by Lakes Rotary Club received $2,000 cash from the second round of the Grants and Sponsorship Program.

Major Events Grants were endorsed for:

- Mount Gambier and District Pony Club 2025 Mount Gambier Horse Trials - $5,000 cash,
- South Eastern National Dancing Association Southern State Championship - $1,500 cash and $1,500 in-kind,
- Tower Trail Run - $7,500 cash and $200.00 in-kind, and
- Two Lines Fertility and Women's Health at Hawkins Your Women's Health Expo - $4,000 cash and $1,120 in-kind.

Corporate Sponsorship was approved for the Adelaide Guitar Festival to host AGF Mount Gambier with $25,000 cash and $7,052 in-kind, while South East Arts Society 2025 Open Arts Awards received approval for a Minor Community Strengthening Grant to the value of $1,500 cash and $1,000 in-kind.

Limestone Coast Symphony Orchestra Gala Concert on stage in 2024 (below).





Fringe Berrin

FRINGE BERRIN AND COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Council resolved to enter into a multi-year partnership agreement with Fringe Berrin until 2027/2028, providing financial and in-kind support through the Grants and Sponsorship Program.

Council has partnered with Fringe Berrin since the annual event began in 2017.

"Council recognises Fringe Berrin's significant contribution to the local economy of about $1.5million per year and the strategic links to supporting creative and cultural activation across the city," General Manager People, Place and Liveability Chris White said.

"While the event didn't go ahead in its usual format in 2024, in 2025, Council supported the Fringe Outreach program with $5,000 cash, and an additional $2,000 for a touring Fringe-related act via the quick response funding stream."

Fringe Berrin submitted a three-year partnership proposal to Council in late 2024, including a business plan, budget and marketing plan which was discussed at a Council briefing session on 28 January 2025.

At the February 2025 Council meeting, Elected Members resolved to enter into a multi-year partnership agreement with Fringe Berrin to the value of:

- $51,500 and (up to) $7,000 in-kind in 2025/2026,
- $53,045 and (up to) $7,500 in-kind in 2026/2027, and
- $56,000 and (up to) $8,000 in-kind in 2027/2028.

"Fringe Berrin brings a unique blend of community benefits, creating a vibrant atmosphere and bringing excitement to the city through activation of public spaces and venues," Mr White said.

Fringe Berrin and Council are pleased to continue to partner to deliver the Fringe Mount Gambier festival.

"We are delighted with the City of Mount Gambier's decision for a multi-year funding partnership to support the Fringe Mount Gambier festival," Fringe Berrin Artistic Director Louise Adams said.

"Through the recent workshop, it was great to have the opportunity to speak directly to Elected Members about the many different ways Fringe Mount Gambier brings value to our community. It is wonderful to see this value recognised and encouraged with a three-year funding commitment."

"The cultivation of a vibrant and accessible arts festival takes hard work and support by many, and strong partnerships like the one between Fringe Berrin Inc and the City of Mount Gambier are integral."

"The Fringe committee is thankful for the Council's ongoing support and we look forward to presenting the much-loved festival in 2026."

Council administration will meet with Fringe Berrin regularly to ensure all opportunities for the event are explored, monitored and measured, with a report provided by the committee to Council by 31 December annually.

JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND

Membership of the Junior Sports Assistance Fund is comprised of the City of Mount Gambier, the District Council of Grant and 16 sporting organisations who are financial members of the fund.

The fund provides financial support for junior sports people who have achieved state selection or higher in a specific sport.

The Junior Sports Assistance Fund has generous supporting partners who provide funding enabling additional programs as follows:

- A $3,000 donation from the Commercial Club Inc. with $1,500 of this donation supporting the Exceptional Junior Program.
- The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes provides generous support towards the Youth Empowerment Sports Program which assists juniors who may find it difficult to pursue sport without financial assistance. The funding provided is up to $3,000 from surplus funds raised through the Blue Lake Fun Run.

The financial transactions and financial position of the fund in 2024/2025 is as follows:

2024/2025 financial position	$
Assistance to juniors	5,400
Support for special coaching clinics	8,000
Youth Empowerment Sports Program	1,500
Exceptional Junior funding	3,000
Member contributions (waived for 2024/2025)	-
Council contributions	16,000
Bank Interest earned	1284
Donations received	1,500
Sponsorship of programs received	3,075
Cash at bank - 30 June 2025	139,147

For the 38 years of the fund's operations, the consolidated transactions to 30 June 2025 are as follows:

Fund history*	$
Assistance to juniors	523,745
Support for special coaching clinics	121,413
Youth Empowerment Sports Program	25,600
Exceptional Junior Program	16,500
Member contributions	188,520
Council contributions	436,500
Bank interest earned	74,985
Donations received	49,086
Sponsorship of programs received	59,225
Other expenses	300
Government and bank charges	2,508

**Note that payments from the fund for assistance to juniors did not commence until July 1988, and funding for coaching clinics did not commence until July 1991, funding for the Exceptional Junior program did not commence until 2010 and funding for disadvantaged juniors did not commence until July 2012.*

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SPORTS PROGRAM DONATION

The City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund accepted a $3,000 donation to the Youth Empowerment Sports Program for 2025 from the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes.

"The club's wish is to donate part of the proceeds from the event to assist junior sportspersons who may be restricted for a variety of reasons, with funding to enable them to participate in their chosen sport," Junior Sports Assistance Fund Presiding Member Cr Josh Lynagh said.

"It was agreed with the Mount Gambier Lakes Rotary that the Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee would provide the confidential administration process for the Youth Empowerment Sports Program to identify worthy recipients from our member organisations who could receive financial assistance."

The program provides assistance to juniors who have a desire to participate in their chosen sport, but may be restricted in achieving their goals.

At its meeting on 4 December 2024, the Junior Sports Assistance Fund considered applications to utilise the remaining funds from the 2024 funding round.

Grant funds were provided to:

- Basketball Mount Gambier $600 (two grants of $300), and
- Mount Gambier and District Pony Club $600 (two grants of $300).

Below: Blue Lake Fun Run Committee chair Mark Praolini presented the donation from Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes to Mayor Martin and Cr Josh Lynagh at the 2024 Blue Lake Fun Run.



MOUNT GAMBIER AND DISTRICT TERTIARY HEALTH EDUCATION GRANTS

The Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants (THEG) Program provided seven financial grants to local health students in 2025.

The program supports students who need to leave the region to undertake specific university studies within the health sector and seeks to encourage their return to the region as skilled health professionals upon completion of their studies.

The grants are used for study-related travel, accommodation, textbooks and uniform.

THEG chairman Rodney Summers said the program is in its 18th year of assisting students who hail from the region.

"The Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants have been offered every year since 2007 as a community-led response to meeting essential skills shortages within the local health sector," Mr Summers said.

2024 recipient Jack O'Connor, who is currently studying a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) in Adelaide, said the grant enabled him to dedicate more time to his studies.

"The grant has significantly assisted me in experiencing less financial stress throughout the year and allowed me to spend more time focussing on my studies, without having to work significant hours throughout the week," Jack said.

2017 and 2021 grant recipient Emma Greenfield has returned to the region following seven years in Melbourne. She studied Medicine at Monash University and completed her internship and residency in Melbourne hospitals. Emma is currently working as a GP at Hawkins Clinic while completing her general practice specialist exams this year.

"While completing my studies in Melbourne, I attended hospital placements five days a week, a 45-minute drive from where I lived so the grant helped with the petrol money to do this and contributed to my rent while living away from home. This gave me the financial security to focus on my studies," Emma said.

"Receiving the grant strengthened my desire to return home to work in the country where I hope to improve the health inequalities that exist in regional Australia."

The program is supported by City of Mount Gambier, District Council of Grant, UFS Chemist, Flinders Rural Health SA, Mount Gambier and District Community Bank, Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes and private donors.

In 2025, grants were provided to students who are studying medical imaging, physiotherapy, psychology, occupational therapy, dental science, paramedicine, and nursing and midwifery.



2024 THEG recipient Jack O'Connor is currently studying a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) in Adelaide.



2017 and 2021 grant recipient Emma Greenfield has returned to the region following seven years in Melbourne.

Successful applicant	Course
Abby McShane	Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)
Aleisha Pearson	Bachelor of Medical Imaging
Bridie McPherson	Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery
Gianna Morello	Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)
Maddelyn Stevens	Bachelor of Paramedicine
Remy Duckworth	Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours)
Sari Mutton	Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours)

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

Five citizenship ceremonies were conducted by Council during 2024/2025, with a total of 79 people receiving Australian Citizenship.

Mayor Martin welcomed new residents from:

- Syrian Arab Republic,
- United States,
- Congo Democratic Republic,
- Uganda,
- Myanmar,
- Scotland,
- India,
- Thailand,
- United Kingdom,
- Nepal,
- New Zealand,
- Iran,
- South Africa,
- Philippines,
- Iraq,
- Vietnam,
- Zimbabwe,
- Brazil,
- Pakistan,
- England,
- Sri Lanka,
- Italy,
- South Africa,
- Russian Federation,
- France, and
- Ghana.



Mr Khoshnav Hamiqaydo (left), Mrs Nareen Abdo and their family, formally of Syrian Arab Republic received Australian Citizenship in May 2025.



Mayor Martin congratulates Marion Gravett from the UK on her Australian Citizenship.

2024 MOUNT GAMBIER COMMUNITY MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Mount Gambier community generously donated more than $30,000 to the 2024 Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal.

Mayor Martin expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the community's support during difficult economic times.

"I am deeply thankful for the contributions made to the 2024 appeal. My sincere thanks goes to every individual, group, and business who chose to make a donation to bring the total raised to $31,277.45," Mayor Martin said.

"Despite the rising cost of living, it was inspiring to see that our wonderful, supportive and caring community continued to think about others and what they may need to enjoy the festive season."

The funds raised through the appeal are distributed to local support agencies, including Uniting Care, ac.care, St Vincent de Paul, and The Salvation Army, to provide food hampers, gift vouchers, and presents as part of the Christmas Cheer program.

"The agencies tell me that need within the community was greater than ever this year and gratefully received. I would like to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our local support agencies, who work tirelessly to distribute the food hampers, vouchers, and gifts on behalf of the Christmas Cheer program," Mayor Martin added.

"The four support agencies used the funds they received as part of the program to support 1,657 people and 711 families over the festive season."

"We added an interactive way for the community to track the fundraiser's progress in 2024.



Each $5,000 milestone unlocked a magical window display lit with Christmas lights in the windows of the Old Town Hall building," Mayor Martin said.



ac.care's Sue Watt (left), The Salvation Army's Sue Roberts, Uniting Care's Laura Kilsby and St Vincent de Paul's John D'Souza met with Mayor Martin and Community Development Officer Chloe Rattray to discuss the 2024 Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal.



Mayor Martin with Mount Gambier Men's Shed members Gary Austin (left), Jim Grant, toy manager Peter Heness, Men's Shed vice president Grant Sullivan, George Renzi and secretary Mark Payne.

The Men's Shed donated 130 wooden toys to the appeal in 2024.

"We've been doing this since 2016 and it's become a significant part of the appeal. The guys really love doing it - myself, Ian, and Jim make the toys, while George and Gary handle most of the painting," Mount Gambier's Mens Shed toy manager Peter Heness said.

Mayor Martin is appreciative of the Men's Shed for their ongoing commitment and contribution to the appeal.

"The Men's Shed put so much time and effort into crafting the toys each year and I thank them for their kindness and thought for our local children in need," Mayor Martin said.

The Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal is open all year round. Donations can be made through the following channels:

- Call Council on (08) 8721 2555 with your credit card details on hand. Council staff will email you a tax invoice.
- In person at the City of Mount Gambier customer service counter - Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace.
- Send a cheque made out to 'City of Mount Gambier' PO Box 56 Mount Gambier SA 5290 with advice that the cheque is a donation to the Mayor's Christmas Appeal.



Uniting Care representative Laura Kilsby (left), Salvation Army representative John Douglas, Mayor Lynette Martin and St Vincent de Paul representative John D'Souza.



RAILWAY LANDS PLAY PRECINCT ENDORSED

Council endorsed the final concept designs for the Railway Lands nature playspace and the second draft concept design for the youth activity hub at the November 2024 Council meeting.

Council received more than 230 survey responses from the community during the consultation period to review the draft JPE Design Studio nature playspace plan, proposed for the area opposite the existing creek bed at the Railway Lands.

The 'Choo Choo Train Nature Playground' concept is inspired by the former use of the site as a rail corridor. It includes a train head and driving experience, platform climbing tower, slides, music play, seesaw, basket swing, teepee structure, climbing wall and carriage tunnel.

"This playspace will be the first major custom playground in Mount Gambier and pave the way for a new era of play," City Infrastructure General Manager Barbara Cernovskis said.

Community feedback on the concept design was positive, with 82 per cent of respondents indicating that the nature playspace meets community needs.

"Nature play stimulates development and connection with the environment, increases physical activity and social connection and attracts visitors to the CBD."

"JPE Design Studio has gone a step further to improve the draft concept design with the inclusion of the feedback we received from the community regarding the need for additional accessibility, shade and seating."

The estimated cost for the nature playspace is expected to total more than $1.3 million.

"We have a $500,000 allocation in Council's 2024/2025 budget, which will require $250,000 in grant funding which is yet to be secured and includes a historical $150,000 Out of School Hours Care donation. Some of this funding has also been allocated to the design and delivery of the Railway Lands Learn to Ride space which has been a huge success with our young people already. The remaining funds in the budget will be used as a co-contribution for attracting further funding to make this project and the associated youth space a reality," Ms Cernovskis said.

A second draft concept design for a youth activity hub proposed for the area opposite Bay Road was also endorsed by Council after it also received positive feedback from the community.

The concept includes a flying fox, ninja course, skate park and hard courts.

"We held four workshops with young people who provided valuable insights about what they would like in their space. We have added multi-sport interactive wall/panels and a netball ring to the draft concept design at their request," Ms Cernovskis said.

The estimated cost for the youth activity hub is expected to be more than $2.5 million - not including a skate park.

Further work to finalise the Youth Activity Hub and skate park designs will be dependent on funding.

The Choo Choo Train Nature Playground concept design.





City of Mount Gambier Elected Members with the concept plans for the Railway Lands play precinct.



Youth activity hub concept design.

MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY



Mount Gambier Library celebrated its 15th birthday on 17 December 2024. Library staff Chloe Rattray, Rowan Thurlings, Faith Rees, Keira Martin and Georgina Davison kicked off the festivities including cake, craft, competitions and raffles.

The Mount Gambier Library continues to be an ever evolving place for ever evolving people.

In 2024/2025 the Library team were thrilled to host a visit from the South Australian Libraries Board, providing a chance to showcase the impactful programming and resources available to our community.

The Library continues to partner with local services, individuals and volunteers, supporting them to host events, run programs, and engage with the community in meaningful ways. The launch of the Finding Freedom Exhibition in collaboration with the Mount Gambier Migrant Resource Centre was a highlight for all involved, showcasing artworks from our Congolese, Yazidi and Karenni community.

This year also saw the continuation of the State Government Words Grow Minds campaign. The campaign has assisted to improve results in the Australian Early Development Census. Our under five programs support this initiative, leading to increased school readiness for our future leaders.

Regular programs continue to evolve as our community needs change. You'll see early literacy programs such as Baby Bounce, Storytime and the recent addition of Connect and Play for children under the age of five. Minecraft Club has made a return in the after school regular programming, complementing STEM and Lego Club to encourage creativity and critical thinking skills.

The second year of the implementation of the Library Strategy is complete with many commitments achieved. We look forward to continuing this commitment throughout the third year of the strategy and we welcome all feedback and suggestions as we are always looking to improve.

In 2024/2025, the Library facilitated:

183,291
Visitors

12,857
Active members

4,986
New items

19,649
Program participants

1,327
Total programs

290,587
Loans

Physical loans **224,012**
E-loans **66,575**

MEM FOX VISITS MOUNT GAMBIER

Mount Gambier Library was excited to host beloved children's author Mem Fox, for a discussion on the joy and importance of reading, on Thursday 8 May 2025 at City Hall.

Mem Fox is best known for her books such as *Possum Magic*, *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes*, *Where is the Green Sheep?* and dozens of other beloved children's stories. Starting as an ambassador for the Premier's Reading Challenge in 2004, Ms Fox says her great passion is encouraging adults to read to the young children in their lives.

During her time in the Limestone Coast, Ms Fox visited four schools in Mount Gambier and presented to adults at the City Hall event.

The Premier's Reading Challenge now has over 120,000 students from 670 schools completing the Challenge each year. Manager Premier's Challenge Manager Mark Williams acknowledged Limestone Coast schools for their participation in the challenge over many years.

"The Premier's Reading challenge is fortunate that Mem Fox visits schools across the state as an ambassador to promote the joy of reading. I am not sure who gets more excited about Mem visiting, the students or the adults," Mr Williams said.

During the event Mem Fox discussed the wide-ranging benefits of reading aloud to babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

"It is all about the bonding, brain-development, the amazing language learning and the absolutely hysterical fun," Ms Fox said.

"We were so excited to be hosting Mem Fox to promote the Premier's Reading Challenge through our schools, as well as sharing her knowledge regarding the importance and lifelong benefits of reading in general," Manager Library and Community Development Georgina Davison said.

"Mem is a legend in her field, it is such an honour to host her as she shares her knowledge and passion for stories and reading and their associated benefits. Her visit supports the wonderful Words Grow Minds campaign that has been rolled out across the state promoting the importance of reading to children from birth," Mrs Davison said.

Beloved children's author and literacy advocate Mem Fox visited Mount Gambier.



MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES BOARD VISIT

Mount Gambier Library hosted the South Australian Libraries Board on Thursday 24 October 2024 while on a tour of the Limestone Coast region.

The Libraries Board visits each region in South Australia within a seven-year period. On this tour, the board visited Tintinara, Bordertown, Naracoorte, Mount Gambier, Penola, Lucindale, Kingston and Meningie. The last time the board visited the region was in 2017.

"It's wonderful to be able host the Libraries Board and demonstrate the impact our wonderful library is having on our community. It was an honour to show off the happiest place in Mount Gambier, as our Mayor refers to us as," Manager Library and Community Development Georgina Davison said.

CEO Sarah Philpott and Elected Members Cr Jason Virgo, Cr Josh Lynagh, Cr Paul Jenner and Cr Sonya Mezinec joined the tour and were proud to showcase the much-loved community facility which welcomes more than 180,000 visitors each year.

"The Board were impressed by the building itself – it is 15 years old, but still looks brand new. They loved the innovative programs, activities and resources that are offered within the library – especially the Library of Things, the pool and table tennis tables, not to mention the amazing local history room," Board Chair Bruce Linn AM said.

"This is an outstanding example of a public library that really understands and responds to its community. We love that it is located so centrally, in the cultural precinct overlooking the beautiful Cave Garden/Thugi."



Cr Jason Virgo (left), State Library's Jo Bayly, Cr Paul Jenner, State Library's Amanda Osborne, State Library Board Members Joost den Hartog and Andrew Culley, Megan Berghuis, CEO Sarah Philpott, State Library Board Chair Bruce Linn AM, Manager Library and Community Development Georgina Davison, State Library's Hanlie Erasmus, State Library Board member Bridget Mather and Cr Sonya Mezinec.

Below: Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre staff Kyra Sykes and Bianca Richardson.



WORDS GROW MINDS CELEBRATIONS A SUCCESS

More than 250 people gathered to celebrate the Words Grow Minds campaign across two local events held at AF Sutton and Melaleuca reserves in November 2024.

The free events tailored especially for children under five, were organised by Mount Gambier Library and provided families with opportunities to explore activities focused on the state-wide campaign's calls to action: talk, play, read, and sing, supporting early literacy development in South Australia.

"At both events children and their families enjoyed a variety of engaging activities that encouraged curiosity and learning through play," Mount Gambier Library Team Leader Children and Youth Services Erin Jones said.

"Our aim is to remind families that those small everyday interactions - talking, playing, reading and singing - have a significant impact on children's development," Mrs Jones said.

Attendees were also able to connect with and learn more about local services available within the community. Representatives from various organisations were on hand to offer information and resources, helping families understand how they can continue to support their children's growth at home and within their communities. A free barbeque was also supplied, cooked by Mount Gambier Lakes Rotary Club and hot drinks from the Mount Gambier Baptist Church Solid Rock Café Trailer.

"We are thankful to these local services and organisations for supporting these events and helping us to spread the importance of literacy within our community," Manager Library and Community Development Georgina Davison said.



Jace creating a bookmark.



Manager Library and Community Development Georgina Davison, Cr Paul Jenner and Riddoch Gallery Assistant Kyra Sykes.

Below: Mount Gambier Library staff Chloe Rattray, Caitlin Lindner, Georgina Davison, Rebecca Coates and Erin Jones.



THE RIDDOCH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre's vision is to be the flagship regional gallery in the Limestone Coast, featuring original and touring exhibitions that reflect our rich cultural identity.

Maintaining a collection valued at more than $4.2 million, including 1,500 unique works and artefacts, many of noteworthy cultural value to Australia, The Riddoch plays a significant role in conserving, nurturing and showcasing visual art for current and future generations.

Fostering a vibrant and diverse cultural offering in Mount Gambier, the centre delivers a range of public programs that cater to diverse audiences, complementing or interpreting gallery exhibitions or connecting with emerging creative interests on a local, regional or national level.

Regular programs and services include:

- Visual art exhibitions and workshops,
- Creative media technology workshops,
- Junior creative workshops during school holidays,
- Jewellery making, print making and textiles,
- Film screenings including regular screenings of Craitbul and Volcano,
- Educator exhibition tours, general public tours and school tours,
- Artists in residence, and
- Life drawing, illustration, watercolour and ceramics workshops by established artists.



19
Total exhibitions

33,788
Visitors

138
Programs and events

12,224
Programs and event attendees

ART AND DEMENTIA PROGRAM

The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre is working with Dementia Australia to become a dementia friendly gallery by building connections with local residents living with dementia.

The Riddoch programming team has developed relationships with Boandik residents as part of a trial in conjunction with Boandik St Mary's Lifestyle Coordinator Ellen Feast, Dementia Australia and the National Gallery of Australia. Work on a globally recognised action plan began last year as part of a staff training program. The program is now ongoing and includes gallery visits and art making techniques.

"We were incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to work with Adrienne from the NGA who has more than a decade of experience with access inclusion in the arts," Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Coordinator Talie Teakle said.

"The team were able to passively observe how she interacted with private and residential care participants, before actively engaging with tours and maker activities."

"The sessions were so well received with the comments including statements like 'best day of my life', and 'wow this was so much fun'. I don't think there was a dry eye in the office as we debriefed, and we recognised the value that it would bring to our community to continue to develop the program."

Aligned with exhibitions at The Riddoch, programming staff have been hosting sessions with residents at varied stages of dementia, both at the Riddoch Art Gallery and at St Mary's. These sessions include hands-on art activities or time spent viewing and discussing artwork on display.



Acting Public Programs Officer Kyra Sykes said providing an outreach session as well as on site gallery experience is an important part of the partnership as it enables more frequent connection with the residents and brings elements of the gallery to them.

"Watching how the residents respond and interact with artwork in the gallery is uplifting and rewarding," Kyra said.

Boandik St Mary's Lifestyle Coordinator Ellen Feast said the program not only brings joy and engagement but also promotes a sense of achievement and purpose.

"It's remarkable to see how art can unlock memories and create moments of clarity and happiness," Ms Feast said.

"Seeing our residents respond to art in such a profound way is one of the most rewarding aspects of my role. Knowing that we're part of something that not only enriches their lives, but also brings joy and comfort is incredibly fulfilling."

The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre launched 'Art and Dementia' tours as part of Dementia Action Week in September 2024.

"This ongoing program will include activities available to the broader community, with all aged care facilities and private carers able to register, in what is envisaged to be a regular ongoing activity at The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre," Ms Teakle said.

"The collaboration with St Mary's has been crucial in enriching the lives of residents and enables us at the gallery to further connect with the community by providing these unique experiences."

Kyra Sykes
Acting Public Programs Officer

THE RIDDOCH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

EXPLORING MUSIC HISTORY

The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre hosted the launch of *Enjoy This Trip: The Art of Music Posters*, a national touring exhibition from the National Gallery of Australia on Friday 1 November 2024. Drawn from the National Gallery's collection of Australian and International music posters spanning the 1960s to 1980s, *Enjoy This Trip: The Art of Music Posters* captures the spirit of the times and an era of experimentation.

The exhibition spoke to audiences seeking a nostalgic exploration with interests in art, graphic design, music, colour and typography.

Enjoy This Trip drew comparisons between Australian and International music culture, at the heart of the exhibition is a collection of more than 500 '60s and '70s music posters acquired by the National Gallery in 1978 from the collection of Ben Friedman.

Riddoch Art Gallery Director Ashleigh Whatling said The Riddoch was honoured to be the first to display the collection, offering a look into a transformative era in music and design.

"We were thrilled to provide regional audiences the first opportunity to experience these genre-defining works that capture the spirit and energy of one of the most revolutionary periods in music history," Ms Whatling said.

In conjunction with the major exhibition, The Riddoch curated a unique, locally focussed counterpart: *Trip to the Mount*. The hyperlocal exhibition shone a spotlight on Mount Gambier's own music culture from the same period, featuring posters, ticket stubs, vinyl records and fashion that celebrate the rich musical heritage of the region.



The opening event was held on Friday 1 November 2024 featuring a performance by musicians Dave Graney (right) and Clare Moore.

"While *Enjoy This Trip* showcased a global perspective on music and design through the '60s to '80s, *Trip to the Mount* grounded the experience in our community's own musical journey," Riddoch curator Chris Clements said.

"The combination of these two exhibitions offered visitors a unique dialogue between the international music scene and Mount Gambier's local story. This was a moment of pride for the region, and we were very excited to present these amazing shows together."

The exhibition experience was further enhanced by *The Green Room*, an interactive space designed for hands-on engagement, featuring live mural painting, poster design stations and memorabilia from current local bands.





Riddoch curator Chris Clements with a nostalgic piece of local music memorabilia which was displayed as part of the Trip to the Mount exhibition.

PORTRAITS OF OUR ELDERS

In June 2025 *Portraits of our Elders* offered an intimate glimpse into the lives, stories, and enduring spirit of Aboriginal Elders from the South East.

The exhibition brought together a series of powerful photographic portraits, showcasing Elders in the places most sacred and meaningful to them.

"This is a timely and important exhibition for the Riddoch to be hosting and we are very proud to work in partnership with the community to deliver it," Riddoch Curator Chris Clements said.

Presented in partnership with Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation and supported by the City of Mount Gambier's Creative Arts Fund, the exhibition was part of a broader storytelling initiative led by author and journalist Charlotte Lovett, who has spent months gathering oral histories from each Elder whose portraits have been captured by photographer Wanita Robinson. These personal narratives will be published in a companion book, scheduled for release in July 2025.



"*Portraits of our Elders* is a celebration of culture, truth-telling, and the lived experiences of First Nations people," Charlotte Lovett said.

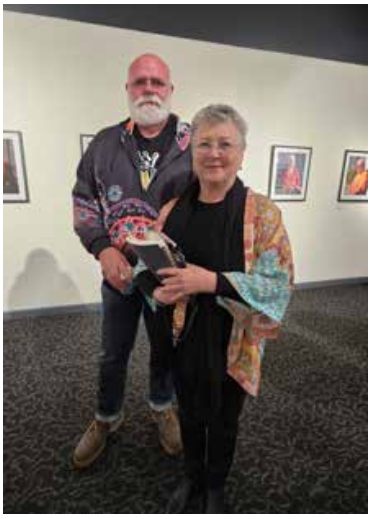
"It invites all of us to listen, learn, and honour the knowledge that our Elders carry. It has been an honour for both Wanita and myself to be allowed a glimpse into the complex, difficult and deeply personal stories our Elders have carried for decades."

In the spirit of promoting healing and understanding, the exhibition aligns with national efforts to acknowledge Australia's complex history and embrace open, honest conversations. Each portrait not only captures a face but also a lifetime of resilience, leadership, and cultural legacy.

"This project is vital in ensuring that the voices of our Elders, their story and legacy, can be heard and passed on. It is my hope that the next generation of Indigenous young people, as well as the broader community, can benefit from the transmission of the knowledge of and connection to Country, as well as the enduring spirit and resilience of our beautiful Elders." Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation Managing Director of Language and Education Tara Bonney said.

Below: Uncle Ken Jones, CEO Sarah Philpott and Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Director Ashleigh Whatling.





Cr Mark Lovett and Aunty Michelle Jacquelin-Furr at the Portraits of our Elders exhibition opening.

THE RIDDOCH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

BEACON ART PROJECT 'CAST IN BLUE'

A mythical megafauna creature, inspired by paleontological discoveries in the sinkholes and caves of the Limestone Coast region will be brought to life as the Mount Gambier Beacon Art Project, after it was endorsed as the successful EOI application at the October 2024 Council meeting.

Artists Mitch Walker and Tom Proctor of Huna Studio in Melbourne came up with the idea for the unique creature after a conversation about the history of the local landscape.

"I was at a family wedding and I was speaking with my aunty Jo who is a paleontologist. I asked her what she was up to, and she told me she had been in Mount Gambier and started showing me all these incredible photos of her cave diving and all the things that she found. She showed me photos of all these creatures and ancient megafauna," Tom said.

"One of them was this thing called a Palorchestes Panei which is a sort of marsupial ant eater, a big, lumbering kind of ant eater creature. So that was a seed for the idea right there."





Palorchestes Panei Skull Rendering.

The designers sought to create a piece of art that was representative of many kinds of ancient marsupials found in the region.

"Mount Gambier is an interesting and unique place. This design is a symbol of lost and ancient creatures, a manifestation of some lost, mythic marsupial mega-fauna. Not a literal recreation, but an imaginary figure that has emerged from the earth and embarked upon a journey across the landscape. Encouraging viewers to question its origin and embark upon their own journey of discovery," Mitch said.

The artists hope the mythical creature will spark a sense of curiosity in people who view it.

"One of the things that I find really interesting about this piece is the stark contrast of it being this really bright, alien object and we're hoping it stops you in your tracks when you see it," Tom said.

Emerging from the depths of one of Mount Gambier's many caves or sinkholes, this invented creature embarks on a journey through the city streets, inspired by prehistoric marsupials. Its form embodies the essence of the Limestone Coast's natural ecology, paying homage to the region's rich biodiversity.

The artists anticipate that initial interest in the larger-than-life artwork will lead to curiosity about its origins and ignite a desire for further discovery.

"We hope it puts a smile on someone's face and brings a little bit of joy. It doesn't have to be a super abstract complicated idea, it can just be something as simple as that," Tom said.



The mythical creature has emerged from the deep corners of the underground and wandered the city streets to find its home.

An assessment panel comprised of four representatives from the City of Mount Gambier, including Councillors Max Bruins and Frank Morello, Riddoch Director Ashleigh Whatling, Team Leader Exhibitions and Collections Chris Clements along with Art Gallery of South Australia's Erin Davidson evaluated 22 Expressions of Interest in May 2024 for the Mount Gambier Beacon Art Project based on a detailed selection criteria.

"The fact is cities gain value through public art – cultural value, social value and economic value. Public art adds meaning to a city and provides uniqueness to communities," Cr Max Bruins said.



Artists Mitch Walker and Tom Proctor of Huna design studio in Melbourne fine tune their concept for a piece of art that is representative of many kinds of ancient marsupials found in the region.

"A vibrant arts and cultural scene is part of the fabric that makes up a robust and well-rounded community and part of the rationale behind allocating funds to a beacon art project is to proudly announce that we want to be such a community with a vibrant arts and cultural scene."

"We know it is bold, it will draw attention, and we know it will almost certainly be controversial however it will also capture imaginations and spark conversations – like so many other significant public art projects it is divisive and has the potential to be both celebrated and criticised."

Mayor Martin acknowledged that the project had sparked controversial debate within the community.

"I admit that when I was first presented with this project, I was not totally convinced about it, but I also admit to being conservative. However, when hearing the back story, I began thinking about it a bit differently and how it connected with our geological and zoological history," Mayor Martin said.

"I hear criticism that Council could find projects more worthy of this money. I want to assure the community that we are committed to focusing on all the other important issues that have been raised. We are using funding that has been quarantined over several budgets for the purpose of this project, with a shortfall of about $20,000 covered by our existing art budget."

"I guess we must ask ourselves the question, do we want beacon art which is designed to attract people and make a statement, or do we want more traditional art. I believe we have room for both in our city," Mayor Martin said.

Expressions of interest for the Beacon Art Project were received from around Australia and Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Director Ashleigh Whatling said the assessment panel were impressed with the high quality of the applicants' proposals.

"The Beacon Art Project seeks to capture the unique combination of landscape, people and history that forms Mount Gambier's identity and resonates with the local community and visitors to the city," Ms Whatling said.

Huna Studio was shortlisted for the project due to demonstrated engagement with the history of the region, combined with the original concept and proven experience working in public architecture.

"Bold public art has the proven power to transform and elevate the natural and built environment and connect communities to place. Huna Studio's proposal speaks directly to the geological and natural history of the Limestone Coast region."

The project budget of $137,450 provides investment in the city's cultural vibrancy, aligned with the Community Vision for Mount Gambier 2035 and the Mount Gambier Public Arts Strategy.

Cast in Blue will be installed on Bay Road outside the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre in July 2025.

"We think of it as being friendly and we hope that kids will give it a hug. You want people to lean in and then that will open the door to them wanting to learn more about where it came from and why it was created."

Mitch Walker
Artist - Huna Studio

2025 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Council was proud to celebrate the 2025 Citizen of the Year recipients. Awardees were formally acknowledged at the Australia Day Breakfast and Awards event at the Cave Garden/Thugi on Sunday 26 January 2025.

The awards acknowledged the contributions of individuals and community groups who go above and beyond for the community.

"This year we recognised some outstanding community members who so generously provide their time, resources and goodwill to benefit others," Mayor Martin said.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – TRUDI SHELTON

Mount Gambier woman Trudi Shelton, founder of local charity Four Reasons Why, is a dedicated community advocate committed to supporting those in need.

Her efforts include providing winter clothing, food, household essentials and hygiene items, as well as providing refurbished whitegoods for victims of domestic violence who are leaving emergency accommodation and starting over. Trudi also organises fuel vouchers and assistance with sports membership fees to make a meaningful difference to the lives of many.

Trudi felt compelled to help those in need when she was working in pastoral care at North Gambier Primary School in 2016.

"I identified that children were not dressed appropriately for winter, they were cold and they needed coats, jumpers and shoes," Trudi said.



City of Mount Gambier Citizen of the Year, Trudi Shelton.

"So, I went home and cleaned out my four children's wardrobes and donated their old clothes, which of course wasn't enough, so I asked my friends to do the same."

The uniform drive sparked the creation of a Facebook group 'Mount Gambier winter wear for kids in need'. Word about the initiative spread quickly and Trudi soon had enough warm clothing to provide for children at nine local schools.

"My children and I literally lived around piles of clothes because we touched every article of clothing to make sure that it was okay to be passed on and then we did all the deliveries," she said.

The Facebook group soon evolved to provide clothing and food to those in need, which prompted a name change to 'Mount Gambier community of helping hands'.

In 2017, Trudi was the recipient of a Women in Business and Regional Development community leader award for her dedication to provide for the less fortunate within the community, with a cash prize of $1,000.

"I used that money as seed funding to become incorporated. The name was too long, so we had to think of another one. My children are the reason I never gave up, so I called it 'Four Reasons Why' and we became incorporated with members of a board. – 4RW turned seven in November in 2024."

Four Reasons Why provides support, assistance, and opportunities to local people in need. This includes the provision of good condition pre-loved items, brand new goods, winter clothing and footwear, drink bottles, sports equipment and memberships for local

children, families and individuals experiencing hardship. All donations stay within the local community.

"There's no shame in wanting, needing, receiving, or asking for help and the cycle of giving and a receiving is never ending. If we can walk side by side together, and do it with you and not for you, then we can empower you to do the same, or give back where you can."

Citizen of the Year
Trudi Shelton

"We support an incredible young person who lost her Mum in an unfair and tragic DV situation when she was only young. She has always worked part time, attended school and further studies trying to help herself. To help her out further, 4RW provide her with ongoing support across the years and will continue to do so. We provided a laptop for her TAFE course and most recently paid for all of her driving lessons and final test to which she passed and can now work towards her independence even more. We do some of these additional things for people that need it because they are lost and traumatised. It's a real privilege to be able to step in and make some small difference that might prevent them from going down the wrong path."

Trudi's passion, understanding and empathy for others in need stems from her own personal experience of hardship and trauma.

"I know how tough life situations can be at times. I was five months pregnant with my fourth child when my partner left, and I was unable to work with three small children at home. It was neighbours, friends and family that stepped in to get us through."

"It takes the village to raise a child, but it also takes that same village to rebuild their broken mum."

Now that Trudi is back on her feet, her firm focus is supporting others in need to get back on theirs.

"I reconciled with myself that I can't give back to whoever gave to me, but one day when I can, I will. I had no idea it was going to be this big, it has been a beautiful organic, surprising journey."

Trudi sees herself as a traffic controller to connect those who want to give with those in need of receiving.

"There are so many beautiful, amazing people in this community that want to give and there's so many people in need, so 4RW and I try our best to identify where can we connect givers to receivers to bridge the gap and help each other out. You can't have one without the other, so it's never really about any one person, because if we didn't have the givers, we can't offer so much support, and if we didn't have those brave enough to ask for help, then we've got no one to receive. So that's what I really love about Four Reasons Why - it's a team effort."

Trudi feels honoured to receive the City of Mount Gambier 2025 Citizen of the Year award.

"It is very humbling and unexpected and a lovely surprise. It's difficult to receive accolades, but I am very grateful, and it is nice to be acknowledged."

SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – RODNEY SUMMERS

Mount Gambier man Rodney Summers has made remarkable contributions to the local community throughout his life. Rodney is deeply committed to volunteering and generously gives his time and energy to support various community organisations and sit on local boards and committees.

Husband to Judy and father of five children: Michael, Kate, Naomi, Anthony and Amanda, Rodney juggled a busy home and work life as a well-known local postman delivering mail for Australia Post from 1965 until he retired in 2008.

"I always said that I would do some volunteer work when I retired and had some spare time, so I got involved with Rotary and my involvement on other boards and committees snowballed from there," Rodney said.

'When you work at the post office as a postie you're always in the community anyway, so to me, it wasn't a big jump."

Rodney joined the Mount Gambier Lakes Rotary Club in 2009 and provided leadership through various roles including President (2018/2019 and 2021/2022), Vice President and Secretary. Under his guidance, the club undertook many community projects, supported local initiatives, and helped those in need. Rodney can usually be found front and centre at Rotary events greeting people at the Australia Day breakfast, the Mount Gambier Fun Run, market days and the Mount Gambier Christmas Parade.

2025 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

"I love to speak to people, once I start, the eggs or chips I'm cooking might not be turned because I'm too busy talking," he joked.

"I get a buzz out of that too, because there's nothing better than seeing a smile on people's faces."

In 2022 Rodney was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary International. The prestigious award is given to individuals who significantly contribute to Rotary values and demonstrate outstanding service to the community.

Rodney was one of the founding members of Sunset Community Kitchen in 2008 and has since dedicated time as a cook and currently on the committee as Treasurer. He said the initiative not only provides meals for those in need, but also creates a sense of community and belonging among volunteers and those who use the service.

"When we first started, we used to have a sit down meal for our clients, that way it was a more socialised experience for them. But, when COVID came along we sadly couldn't do that anymore and moved to packaged food that people could take home," Rodney reflected.

Rodney joined the board of the Mount Gambier Community Bendigo Bank in 2009, serving as Vice Chairman and a member of the Sponsorship Committee. His efforts help to facilitate funding for local projects and initiatives to enhance the living standards of the local community.

"I love giving out money, and we provide grants three times a year. It's rewarding to go to a function and hand out a couple of thousand dollars in cash to the recipients to go towards a good cause," he said.

Rodney is chairman of the Mount Gambier Tertiary Health Scholarship Committee which administers grants to support local students pursuing health-related careers away from home, ensuring that the next generation of health professionals receive financial assistance to help them succeed on their path.

"It's amazing how many people come back to Mount Gambier once they realise the lifestyle advantages we have here. We really want to support our young people to return to the area and use their skills if they wish to do so."

Rodney is a member of the Stand Like Stone Small Grants Committee, with an aim to foster educational and cultural development within the community, to enable local groups and individuals to access vital funding for projects.

The sports fan served as a tribunal member for the Western Border Football League and Mount Gambier and District Baseball League. He contributes to maintaining fair play and sportsmanship within local sports, promoting the benefits of teamwork and community involvement.

"I played cricket for West, played baseball for Federals, coached the Mount Gambier side, umpired baseball and then I was asked to join the tribunal and I was happy to do that," he said.

Rodney was involved with the West Gambier Football Club from 1974 to 2000 in various positions where he aimed to create opportunities for local athletes and promote physical activity and community spirit through sport.



City of Mount Gambier Senior Citizen of the Year, Rodney Summers.

Rodney suffered a heart attack in 2017 and consequently underwent a five-way bypass. His doctor recommended he start walking to improve his health, so he came out of retirement and took up an offer from Australia Post to walk the main street delivering mail to businesses for three hours, five days a week.

"We're very blessed in Mount Gambier with volunteers and since COVID we've lost a lot of volunteers through ill health or age. I recommend it, it can be the best thing for you. I think it's even good for you mentally as your brain's always working and you are meeting other people and you'll probably get some good ideas from them too."

Senior Citizen of the Year
Rodney Summers

"Every time I walk the main street, I probably say good morning 200 times a day, and to me, that's good," he said.

Rodney eventually plans to retire once again and spend time with the light of his life, his first grandchild Leo.

"I never thought that at 75 years old that I'd have a grandchild, so when he came along he brought a new purpose and meaning to my life, he's amazing."

Rodney is humble about his efforts to give back to the community and says he continues to do so simply because he enjoys it.

"I've never regretted volunteering and I've met a lot of wonderful people and made many friends," he said.

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – BRAD HANN

Brad Hann is a local podcaster passionate about promoting physical activity as a way to enhance mental health and overall wellbeing among young people. Recognised by his peers as a role model, Brad actively engages with local sports clubs, including soccer, basketball and hockey, inspiring people within the community.

Brad and his friend Thomas established a podcast 'Yarns of Rubbish' in July 2022 with a focus on local issues and events around Mount Gambier.

The benefits of sport and physical activity to combat mental health issues and promote wellbeing in young people is often a topic of discussion on the podcast.

"I've had mates that have had nothing to do in winter and I try to get them engaged and convince them to come and play social sport," Brad said.

The 22 year old recruited players for West Hockey Club, encouraging friends who had never played hockey before to participate in the division 3 team. As a division 1 player himself, Brad coached the under 16 boys in addition to the division 3 squad.

Division 3 lost the first five games of the competition, but with Brad coaching and developing the new players, their game improved and the team made the grand final following a four-game winning streak. They were ultimately defeated 2 - 0.

Brad received the West Hockey Club Person of the Year award for his contribution, dedication and efforts to grow and develop players along with his support of the club with bar and canteen duties.

The Yarns podcast brand has now evolved to include social sporting teams, with more than 30 new players involved in sport within the community, developing camaraderie, a sense of belonging and the courage to have a go at different sports.

"We've got three men's basketball teams, a women's basketball team and an indoor soccer team. We're now looking at doing touch football and volleyball as well. If we could get a team in every single social sport, that would be incredible," Brad said.

Men's social basketball team 'Yarns' was put together in the summer season of 2023/2024, played on Tuesday nights. Brad designed uniforms and sought sponsors for the team, which grew to two by the winter season - Yarns Pink and Yarns Blue.

"If you want to do things you should just do it, there are people there to support you, it's really cool that everyone's so supportive and we're not cutting people down for trying."

Young Citizen of the Year Brad Hann



City of Mount Gambier Young Citizen of the Year, Brad Hann.

2025 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The two Yarns teams competed for a spot in the final. Yarns Pink made the final and trailed three quarters of the game to then come from behind and win the premiership.

Brad also volunteers at the local community radio station 5GTR FM as a program announcer once a week and voices commercials for sponsors to help keep the organisation running.

Brad encourages other young people to be active and engaged within the community.

Brad is honoured to receive the City of Mount Gambier Young Citizen of the Year award.

"Winning this award is awesome, it's unexpected, but it's really cool and I'm incredibly grateful," Brad said.

COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR – MOUNT GAMBIER FAMILY TRUCK SHOW

The Mount Gambier Family Truck Show began as the annual Toy Run, including a convoy of trucks that travel from Penola to Mount Gambier delivering toys to children and families in need. The initiative evolved into the Family Truck Show, which features a display of gleaming local and interstate trucks at the Mount Gambier Showgrounds. The event also provides free activities for children and entertainment for the whole family.

About 4,500 people typically attend the annual event, with 93 trucks involved in the convoy from Penola to Mount Gambier.

"The truck drivers are up polishing their trucks at 3:00am – 4:00am in the morning to make sure they are ready to roll in to Mount Gambier for the families and children eagerly waiting to see them by the roadside," Mount Gambier Family Truck Show Committee Member Alex Moreland said.

"The drivers bring toys with them and they are donated to children in need. The trucks make their way to the Mount Gambier Showgrounds and park up for closer inspection by the crowds."

The event is organised and run by a hard-working committee of volunteers, with the aim to provide a fun and memorable family outing that is accessible for everyone.

"It is an affordable day out for families, so once they pay the gold coin donation to get in at the gate at the showgrounds, all the children's activities are free," Committee Member Haydn McPherson said.

"There's a jumping castle, inflatable bungee run, laser tag, giant sandpit with toys, a trike ride inside hay bales, colouring, face painting, scavenger hunt and of course Santa giving out lollies to children," Secretary Michelle Nicholls said.

"We get great feedback from the parents saying that it is a great day out. They don't have to spend a fortune. They can pack a picnic lunch, you really don't have to spend any money."

Mount Gambier Family Truck Show Committee Member Belinda Butler

The event receives generous support from local community sponsors and the transport and forestry industry to ensure it gets bigger and better every year.

"Local dealerships bring vehicles along such as trucks, utes, boats and caravans, forestry simulators, forestry units, tractors, old steam engines, speedway vehicles and go karts. Local emergency services take part, including Police, Ambulance, Fire Service, NHVR and CFS units."

"This event is one of a kind, it allows people to get up close and personal with trucks that they see around the area embedded



The City of Mount Gambier Community Event of the Year Award was presented to the Mount Gambier Family Truck Show. Committee members absent from image: Aaron Mattner and Dennis Jackson.

within the local transport and forestry industry," Michelle said.

Since 2017, the Mount Gambier Family Truck Show has raised about $75,000 for local charities to assist less fortunate families during the festive season throughout the Limestone Coast.

"We've given funds to ac.care, Sunset Kitchen, Four Reasons Why, the Mount Gambier Community Christmas Luncheon, Spare Ya Change for Kids, Foodbank, the Salvation Army and Gordon Education just to name some of them," Michelle said.



The City of Mount Gambier Award for Active Citizenship was presented to the Mount Gambier Breast Cancer Awareness Group.

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AWARD - MOUNT GAMBIER BREAST CANCER AWARENESS GROUP

The Mount Gambier Breast Cancer Awareness Group raise funds to support local people on their breast cancer journey. Since launching the initiative in 2012, the group has distributed 483 'Helping Handbags' valued at $1,000 each to assist with everyday expenses like groceries, fuel, and pharmacy needs. Additionally, the group established a lymphoedema service in Mount Gambier, providing early intervention and local treatment.

The group was originally formed in 2000 by the late Leanne Kosch and Kay Holloway. The women planned a luncheon to raise funds for breast cancer awareness which later evolved into 'The Pink Party', a fundraising event held annually since 2013.

The helping handbag initiative began after local woman Maria Knightly joined the group in 2010.

"At that time, we were hosting a lunch at The Commodore and the funds that we raised didn't stay local within the community. I really wanted to run with the idea of locals helping locals, so in 2012 I created the Helping Handbag and I took the idea to the committee and the breast care nurse at the time, and they got on board with it. We started distributing our first bags that were valued at $300 in November 2012 and it has just grown from there," Maria said.

The group of 13 women host a highly successful annual fundraiser The Pink Party at the Glenburnie Racecourse each year - a night to celebrate life in a supportive atmosphere. The event raised a record $27,000 in 2024.

"All the money comes to us from the community, we spend it at local businesses, they give us discount on the vouchers we purchase from them, they are quite generous, and then we give them to the McGrath Cancer Care Nurse Dana Mulraney who discreetly gives them to the patients at their first appointment," Jill said.

The group's ongoing fundraising efforts resulted in a healthy bank balance, so in 2019 the ladies decided to spend more than $70,000 to establish a local lymphoedema service.

"Local people that are diagnosed with lymphoedema need treatment and early intervention and this service wasn't available in Mount Gambier."

"We put a call out to physiotherapists to see if anyone was interested and Shelley Blachut-Jevtic was, so we paid for her training in Brisbane and Melbourne and set her up with a state-of-the-art diagnostic machine and a portable laser treatment machine. The diagnostic machine can pre-diagnose if you are likely to be susceptible to lymphoedema. We also purchased a diagnostic machine for the Mount Gambier Hospital," Jill said.

"This service enables early intervention for everybody, not just for those with breast cancer, but for all local people with

2025 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

compromised immune systems as a public and private service."

The group is honoured to be presented with the City of Mount Gambier Active Citizenship Award.

"We are humbled to win this award, we're not looking for recognition, we're quiet achievers, but we certainly appreciate this and we acknowledge the work of our former members who supported the cause along the way," committee member Loraine Baron said.

The City of Mount Gambier Australia Day Breakfast and Citizen of the Year Awards presentation was held on Sunday 26 January at the Cave Garden/ Thugi.

The event commenced with breakfast provided by the Lakes Rotary Club of Mount Gambier, with all proceeds donated back to the community.

"We often receive written feedback or cards from patients thanking us for the vouchers they receive. They state that it feels like someone else cares, and that is exactly why we all volunteer our time for this group, we do all care."

Breast Cancer Awareness Group Committee Member Jill Gilmore

2024 AAM TIMBER MOUNT GAMBIER CHRISTMAS PARADE

Thousands of people braved hot and windy conditions on Saturday 16 November 2024 to welcome in the festive season at the AAM Timber 65th Mount Gambier Christmas Parade on Commercial Street.

Event organisers thanked the community, schools, businesses, sporting groups and volunteers who brought Christmas spirit to the heart of the city.

"It was amazing to see and feel the excitement and fun that this annual event brings each year. We appreciate the efforts of everyone involved to make it happen," Community Events Team Leader Xarnia Keding said.

49 entries competed for prizes judged on energy and engagement, creativity and effort.



"The judging panel was impressed with the quality of the floats involved in the parade this year. The new entries and the annual favourites really do bring that magic," parade judge Sandy O'Donnell said.

"It was great to see the wonderful smiling faces both on the floats and in the crowd," parade judge Kevin Douglas said.



Top right: Parade judges Vicki Clark (left), Kevin Douglas, Sonya Mezinec and Sandy O'Donnell.



Bottom right: Mayor Martin collects donations on behalf of the Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal at the parade.



2024 AAM TIMBER MOUNT GAMBIER CHRISTMAS PARADE

2024 CATEGORY WINNERS

All prize money was donated by AAM Timber.

MOST OUTSTANDING ENTRY
Growing God's Garden
St Martins Lutheran College | $750





BEST CHRISTMAS THEME
Yule Ku Lele Christmas
Arleyukes | $500

BEST SCHOOL ENTRY
Auslan Christmas | McDonald Park Primary School | $500

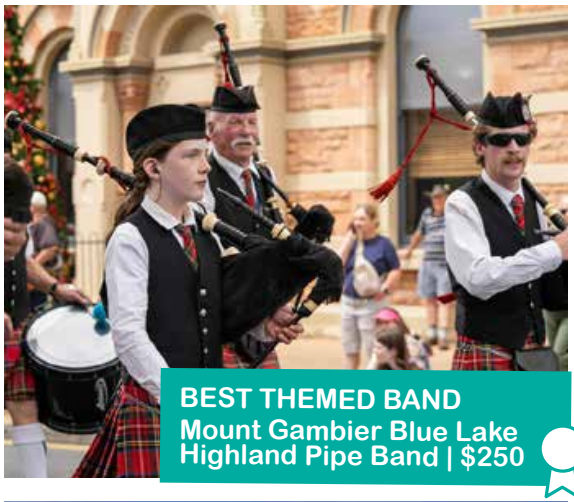




BEST CLUB OR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION ENTRY
The Night Before Christmas | HYPE Dance Mount Gambier | $250

OPEN CATEGORY
An Aussie Christmas | Mulga Street Primary School | $250





BEST THEMED BAND
Mount Gambier Blue Lake Highland Pipe Band | $250





ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD
A Beyondafied Christmas
Beyond Early Learning Mount Gambier | $500

2024 AAM TIMBER MOUNT GAMBIER CHRISTMAS PARADE

BEST NON-CITY ENTRY
A Magical Christmas
Compton Primary School | $250



BEST BRASS BAND
Auslan Christmas | Mount Gambier City Band | $250





Council parade shed volunteers and staff Liana Golubic, Alan Liptrott, Kristine Berry, Mike Scutter, Tom Telford, Denise Richardson, Alan Richardson and Helen Telford with the new float for 2024 - Noah's Ark.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD
A Bluey Christmas
The Property Co | $250



RECONCILIATION

City of Mount Gambier has a commitment to lead and support reconciliation in our community. Our inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), known as the Yerkalalpata, was formally endorsed by Council on 3 March 2020 following years of collaboration with Elders, community leaders, Elected Members, and Council staff.

The plan, launched on 1 June 2020, aligned with Reconciliation Australia's Innovate RAP framework and included more than 70 deliverables. While initially a two-year plan, this work has continued, ensuring ongoing progress toward reconciliation.

Council is progressing the development of the next Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) through a structured approach which will build on achievements, strengthen partnerships, and align reconciliation efforts with evolving community needs. Discussions with Council's Yerkalalpata Community Reference Group and consultation with Elected Members, Council staff, and First Nations leaders will shape key actions, ensuring transparency and shared decision-making.

NAIDOC WEEK 2024

City of Mount Gambier, in collaboration with Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation, Pangula Mannamurna Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal Family Support Services hosted the annual NAIDOC Week Community Celebration on Monday 8 July 2024 with a gathering at Cave Garden/ Thugi.

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

The annual community celebration included a reception hosted by Mayor Martin, a Smoking Ceremony led by local cultural leaders and a flag raising ceremony featuring the raising of the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.

"This is a truly collaborative annual event in celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It's an event that I look forward to each year," Mayor Martin said.

"We have an ever-growing First Nations community in Mount Gambier and I'm proud to work alongside our Elders and cultural leaders in important events like this. These celebrations bring our community together and highlight the rich contribution that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to the cultural landscape of our city."

A unique feature of the event was the leadership of three generations of the Brennan family. Esteemed local Elder Aunty Val Brennan raised the Aboriginal flag and her son Tim and his three sons Alfie, Bobby and Chuck, provided a Welcome to Country to officially open the event.



Above: Tim, Alfie, Bobby and Chuck Brennan delivered the Welcome to Country at the event held at City Hall.



Three generations: Local Elder Aunty Val Brennan, her son Tim and his three sons Alfie, Bobby and Chuck led NAIDOC Week celebrations.

RECONCILIATION

Mayor Martin acknowledged that this connection, which celebrates intergenerational cultural leadership, aligns with the 2024 NAIDOC theme 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud'.

"We were witness to a great example of how cultural leadership is passed from one generation to another, fostering emerging leaders within our community and therefore keeping the fire burning into the future."

The NAIDOC community street march along Commercial Street to Pangula Mannamurna followed, with a community barbecue and the presentation of the 2024 NAIDOC Awards.



Below: Reconciliation artwork 'Now More Than Ever', a collaborative painting created by local artist Belinda Bonney was on display at the Mount Gambier Library from 27 May to 3 June 2025 for National Reconciliation Week.

















Elected Members and Council staff joined First Nations leaders and community members to celebrate the beginning of NAIDOC Week 2024.

WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE

Since opening in late 2022, Wulanda has established its place within the community to provide a diverse range of facilities to support wellbeing through sport and recreation.

Key events hosted at Wulanda include:

- NBL pre-season game between the Adelaide 36ers and the Brisbane Bullets (1,425 attendees),
- Mount Gambier Junior Basketball tournament (5,500 attendees),
- Questacon Science Circus (1,398 attendees),
- Karate SA tournament,
- Inaugural cross border Netball Challenge,
- Limestone Coast Market Network Events (2,000 attendees), and
- George the Farmer concert.

Key user groups include:

- Mount Gambier Swimming Club,
- Mount Gambier Pioneers,
- Football Association of SA,
- Mount Gambier Netball Association,
- Blue Lake Aero Modellers,
- Breaking Barriers,
- Walking Netball,
- South East Volleyball Association,
- School Sport South Australia South East Zone (Secondary School Competitions),
- Community Living Australia, and
- Sporting associations and allied health professionals utilising the community offices and consulting suites.

Key highlights include:

- A year of growth, engagement, and operational resilience at Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre.
- Continued key partnerships, strong court sport bookings, and a diverse calendar of corporate and community events drove high patronage, including many first-time visitors.
- The centre recorded a total combined attendance of 258,404, with 164,903 direct visits from members and casual users, highlighting the community's strong connection to the facility.
- Strong financial performance to budget.
- Two community network forums (September 2024 and March 2025).
- Belgravia Foundation Wulanda's Biggest Aqua Class in April 2025 with 46 participants.
- More than 20 programs including Mindful Movement, Mums and Bubs and All Abilities Aqua.
- SA Pool Lifeguard of the Year 2024: Wulanda Lifeguard, Archie Muller was awarded Pool Lifeguard of the Year at the prestigious 2024 Aquatic Industry Awards for Excellence.

258,404
Attendees in 2024/2025

622
Health and wellness members*

865
GOSwim participants*

415
Aquatic members*

197
User groups

86%
of Key Performance Indicators achieved

*As at 30 June 2025.

WULANDA OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Following a full financial year of operation, Council was provided with an update on the financial performance and costs associated with the construction of Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre at the September 2024 Council meeting.

CEO Sarah Philpott explained that the report provides the community with a transparent overview of operations.

"Wulanda is a fantastic facility built for our community and the report not only outlines the costs, but also what has been achieved in the first 12 months of operation with management partner Belgravia Leisure," Ms Philpott said.

"We've put this report together to lay it all out for our community. We've pieced it all together so people can better understand the costs and benefits."

Since opening in late 2022, Wulanda has provided a diverse range of facilities to support community wellbeing.

"Usage is much higher than we anticipated. While we had an initial target of 120,000 direct attendances, we've actually had close to 170,000 and that doesn't even include everybody - that's just the people who are swiping in for particular services, like the gym or the pools. Then there's others who are attending events such as those who come and watch the Pioneers."

The centre has had strong support from user groups with 26 annual hire agreements signed ranging from sporting and community groups through to education and health.



Wulanda provides an entertainment and conference venue to attract large scale community and cultural events, business events and conferences, and premier sporting events and activities to the region which were previously unable to be accommodated in Mount Gambier.

"We continue to focus on attracting major events to Wulanda to ensure our community is exposed to a range of events they may not otherwise have had access to. We have taken the opportunity to, and continue to, speak with ministers and government about the facility to get it on the events radar from a statewide and interstate perspective."

Wulanda's financial performance is tracked and analysed closely. The facility recorded a total income of $2.7 million and a gross operating deficit of $1.23 million in 2023/2024.

"To be clear, when Council embarked on this major project several years ago now, we anticipated that the facility would initially operate in a deficit position and we anticipated depreciation costs for the use of the asset over its life," Ms Philpott said.

"Council proactively worked to reduce the centre's running expenses in 2023/2024 with a positive variance of $140,000 to the revised budget, reporting an actual gross operating deficit of $1.23 million."

When thinking about costs, Council's CEO encouraged the community to consider that Wulanda has been built for the long term.

"Wulanda is a 60 year plus facility, an intergenerational asset for our community. We attracted Federal and State funding and borrowed in order to spread out the impact of that cost. For Council to provide a quality community facility such as Wulanda, of course that does comes at a cost for the community, but the cost is ultimately about benefit." Ms Philpott said.

WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE

"This facility is a venue unlike any other in our region and there was a lot to learn within the first 12 months of operation about how a new centre of this magnitude operates."

"We're not only providing a service which people pay for, but we are also making sure that young people are learning how to swim, that people are getting their exercise, that they're entertained at events, and we are attracting people to our city and that is generating economic benefit," Ms Philpott said.

"That's ultimately the reason Council made an initial investment in the capital costs for Wulanda, our community deserves great facilities. Wulanda is an example of a wonderful place for our community to use on a daily basis. Our regular users, the people who are doing their lap swimming every day, or the local sporting groups using the facility are the heartbeat of Wulanda, and it's packed."





RENEWED PARTNERSHIP WITH PIONEERS BASKETBALL CLUB

In February 2025, Council announced a renewed multi-year partnership with the Pioneers Basketball Club, extending support for both the national men's and women's teams through to the end of the 2030 season.

"Council recognises that the Pioneers Basketball Club is the only regional South Australian team to compete in a national basketball competition," Mayor Martin said.



Cr Josh Lynagh (left), Pioneers Basketball Club's Tom Kosch, Michael Kosch, John Williamson (back), Jacinta Jones (front), Mayor Martin, Cr Sonya Mezinec and Cr Paul Jenner.

"The club provides significant economic benefit to Mount Gambier and the team is an inspiration to our aspiring young basketball players."

The six-year agreement includes both financial and in-kind support, enabling the Pioneers to continue delivering their home games at the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre. The partnership also strengthens the club's efforts to activate Wulanda as a central venue for basketball and other sport and recreation events.

"Council is proud to support the Club through the 2024/2025 Grants and Sponsorship Program to the value of $50,000 and also provide up to $75,000 in-kind support and further support where required to assist with the facilitation of home games at Wulanda."

"It is wonderful to see the Pioneers play at Wulanda, showcasing their talent at our city's state of the art, sport and recreation facility."

The Pioneers Basketball Club expressed deep appreciation for Council's continued support.

"The City of Mount Gambier's continued support is invaluable to our basketball club," Pioneers Basketball President Tom Kosch said.

"This long-term commitment allows us to focus on our performance and sustainability within NBL1 South and allows us to further enhance the game night experience for our fans and community."

Council looks forward to supporting the Pioneers as they continue to grow their presence and impact both on and off the court.

Mayor Martin had the pleasure of visiting Boandik in December 2024 where she spent time connecting with residents from St Mary's, sharing insights into the workings of the City of Mount Gambier, and discussing exciting updates about projects and events happening across the city.

The residents thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to exchange ideas, ask questions, and share their thoughts on the future of Mount Gambier. Visitors such as the Mayor not only strengthen community ties but also bring joy and a sense of connection to the residents.





Mayor Martin hosted an official welcome for eight new medical interns joining the Limestone Coast Local Health Network in January 2025. The interns spent the morning connecting with Council staff and sharing some of the reasons for choosing to undertake their intern year in the region.



ECONOMY, STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT

72 Tourism and Visitor Servicing
79 Advocacy
84 Community Consultation and Engagement

TOURISM AND VISITOR SERVICING

Council endorsed a new visitor servicing model in 2024/2025 scaling up operations and resourcing which serviced more than 74,000 visitors face-to-face. A key feature of this new visitor servicing model saw both Engelbrecht Cave and the Umpherston Sinkhole/Balumbul sites revert to the care and control of City of Mount Gambier, aligning with the retirement of private operators. Visitor experiences were enriched through guided tours at Engelbrecht Cave proving highly popular, with positive visitor sentiment received.

A new visitor website was launched in October 2024, providing an enhanced user experience with improved navigation, fresh content and greater functionality to inspire and convert visitation, seeing a 53 per cent increase in users in comparison to the former website. Throughout the year, targeted marketing and public relations achieved significant exposure, including magazine features, hosting national and international television film crews and investment in imagery to strengthen future promotional efforts.

Another highlight was the successful month-long social media marketing campaign aimed at leveraging AFL Gather Round travellers. This highlighted Mount Gambier as a destination, and Engelbrecht Cave as a 'must-do' experience, collectively reaching more than 174,000 people.

Industry and stakeholder engagement was supported with a monthly e-newsletter which provided insights and encouraged collaboration to 195 subscribers.

VISITATION TO VISITOR SERVICING SITES

Mount Gambier Visitor Centre
27,649





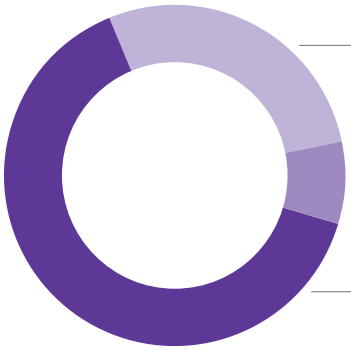
Blue Lake Welcome Centre
8,668



Umpherston Sinkhole/ Balambul
18,258



Engelbrecht Cave
20,139

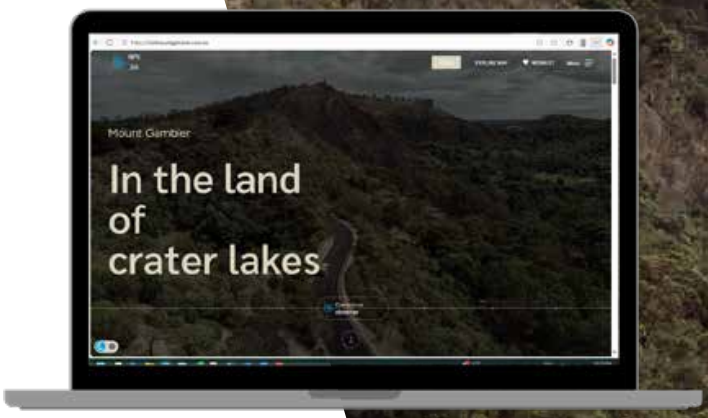


Intrastate
21,224 | 28%

Overseas
6,108 | 8%

Interstate
47,382 | 64%
(incl. Victoria: 31,344 - 42%)

KEY ONLINE STATISTICS



74.1K+
visitors assisted

390K+
website views
from 75k+ users

24.2K+
social media followers

@visitmountgambier

@mountgambiervisitorcentre

TOURISM AND VISITOR SERVICING



Visitor Services Officer Rebecca Harmer conducts a tour of Engelbrecht Cave.

NEW VISITOR SERVICING MODEL FOR MOUNT GAMBIER

Council began the implementation of a 'hub and spoke' visitor servicing model from mid July 2024. The concept involves a visitor centre hub to be located at the main corner entrance of the Riddoch building on Commercial Street, with spoke sites at Engelbrecht Cave, Umpherston Sinkhole/ Balumbul, the Blue Lake Welcome Centre and the Lady Nelson.

Council acknowledges that tourism has changed significantly since the Lady Nelson Visitor and Discovery Centre opened on Jubilee Highway East in 1986, and endorsed a position to grow the city's visitor economy by changing the way travellers experience and contribute to Mount Gambier.

"Mount Gambier's destination appeal is strong, and the time is right to consider the long term direction for visitor servicing in our city," General Manager City Infrastructure Barbara Cernovskis said.

This model represents a paradigm shift in the way Council develops visitor economy, one that prioritises traveller engagement with our visitor servicing team, industry connection and environmental stewardship.

"When Engelbrecht Cave licensee Jan Coleman gave us notice that she was handing back the keys at the conclusion of her lease at the end of June 2024, Council decided to activate this site - one of our highest visited tourism sites - as the first 'spoke'."

The spoke site was the first transition site of the hub and spoke model to provide cohesive storytelling, digital and physical visitor information, accessible to travellers seven days a week.

"Council provides visitor servicing, tour guide experiences, Mount Gambier branded merchandise and light refreshments."

"A business development and implementation plan will guide the roll out and we will take a phased approach to the changes at the site. This will enable us to closely measure how things are going with the new model to inform our decision making and ensure best practice," Ms Cernovskis said.

Council began offering visitor servicing from the Umpherston Sinkhole/Balumbul building in October 2024, further implementing the new 'hub and spoke' model. Occupation of the site followed the retirement of the previous operator at the end of the lease period and successful activation of Engelbrecht Cave in July 2024.

The building was reopened prior to the October 2024 long weekend after a short closure to undertake minor critical maintenance on site.

"Over the long weekend, the visitor servicing team provided information to South Australian, interstate and international travellers, aiding dispersal into Mount Gambier CBD and assisting travellers in exploring our city and surrounds," Strategic Development and Visitor Economy Coordinator Amanda Stevens said.

Council gradually transitioned to a seven day a week operation at the site, starting with weekends and public holidays in October, followed by seven day operation in November 2024.

"With the visitor servicing team on site, it will also assist Council in better understanding how the site is being used, to collect visitation data and to gather traveller feedback and sentiment," Ms Stevens said.

"The results will help inform future decision-making at this site and be beneficial to the Umpherston Sinkhole/ Balumbul master plan which is currently underway."

Changes to the visitor service model mean that the current visitor centre at the Lady Nelson site will be repurposed, aligned with the Community Land Management Plan.



Below: Visitor Services Officer Kristie Pearson (left) and Acting Team Leader Visitor Services Tracey Martin at the Umpherston Sinkhole/ Balumbul building.



TOURISM AND VISITOR SERVICING

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED FOR LADY NELSON SITE

Council called for Expressions of Interest (EOI) in February 2025 to seek community activation of the Lady Nelson site with a view to house local creative industries and/or historic collections.

Changes to Council's visitor servicing model will see the hub of tourism services vacate the site to relocate to the Main Corner in the CBD, creating a unique opportunity for the Lady Nelson to realise a new community outcome.

General Manager People, Place and Liveability Chris White said the activation proposition arose following ongoing discussions with the creative community which revealed a need for a fit for purpose gallery/maker's space in Mount Gambier that provides a place where artists can create and connect with each other and the broader community.

"Council is committed to supporting the development and growth of the creative industries, as well as celebrating the unique culture and heritage of the region. Discussions as part of the Mount Gambier 2035 Community Vision indicated that artists in Mount Gambier would like to work collaboratively in a shared space," Mr White said.

"We also know there are groups in the community who aspire to a place for the preservation and presentation of historic collections. We welcome Expressions of Interest from these groups, or even joint proposals from multiple groups who may see this as an opportunity to realise a shared vision for community use of the space."

"In recognising this aspiration and community need, and in line with Council's Strategic Plan, expressions of interest are invited for ongoing activation of the Lady Nelson site once the visitor servicing hub has relocated to the CBD."

The request for Expressions of Interest is an initial market-sounding process and is being conducted for the purpose of considering the breadth of potential activation from within the creative industries sector and/or historic collections management, while also allowing Council to prioritise systems required to consider and facilitate commercial activity in and around this site in the future.

Stage one of the EOI process invited the submission of concepts for the use and activation of the site and closed on 30 April 2025.

"In order to proceed to the second stage, proposals must demonstrate engagement with a broad spectrum of the community that focuses on inclusivity, sustainability and growth in the creative sector that serves residents and engages visitors of Mount Gambier," Mr White said.



ENGELBRECHT CAVE NUMBER ONE TOURIST ATTRACTION

In October 2024, Engelbrecht Cave was the top clicked Limestone Coast attraction and second most clicked attraction in the state on the online tourism information portal the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW).

"The activation of Engelbrecht Cave under the hub and spoke visitor servicing model builds on the foundation of its former management with insights such as this telling us that it is tracking very well," Strategic Development and Visitor Economy Coordinator Amanda Stevens said.

Engelbrecht Cave is a highly sought after storytelling and immersive experience. It makes Mount Gambier a more desirable destination, builds on our brand, the unique location of our city and has strong regional appeal.

"You can book a guided tour online and that means it is now part of the consideration process in the planning and dreaming phase of a traveller's trip."

"We know that when travellers speak to a visitor servicing team member, they then spend on average an extra, unplanned $124.00 within the local community. Most of this is a new economy for Mount Gambier and South Australia," Ms Stevens said.

Council has received positive feedback about Engelbrecht Cave from travellers and will continue to use available data to implement business improvements to match the dynamic nature of tourism.

"Engelbrecht Cave's number one status as the top attraction and overall product in Limestone Coast, and number two attraction in the state on ATDW demonstrates the appeal and demand for this unique experience."

"We are currently looking at how we can market this world-class experience to an international audience where we know there is demand."



Mayor Martin (left), Cr Paul Jenner, Cr Jason Virgo, Cr Josh Lynagh and Strategic Development and Visitor Economy Coordinator Amanda Stevens at Engelbrecht Cave.

Amanda Stevens, Cr Paul Jenner, Cr Josh Lynagh, Mayor Martin and Cr Jason Virgo at Engelbrecht Cave.



CMCA ROLL INTO THE CITY

More than 600 campervans and motorhomes rolled into the city to take part in the 37th annual Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) National Rally from 22 to 29 September 2024.

About 1,500 visitors and their vehicles were based at the Mount Gambier Showgrounds for a week.

"The rally is an annual gathering of CMCA members and incorporates the Company's Annual General Meeting," Rally Manager Jo-Anne Arthur said.

"Our delegates are so excited to be here and are looking forward to catching up with friends they haven't seen in a year and meeting new people in this friendly city."

"This event will provide many activities for our members to participate in, including entertainment, craft, line dancing, seminars, workshops, disc bowl activities, trade stands, exhibitors, a movie night, musical band, ball night, singers and off-site tours."

Council provided $20,000 in cash and $2,500 in-kind assistance to support the event which generated more than $1 million within the local economy.

"About 85 per cent of our visitors involved in this event came to us from interstate, providing a huge economic and visitation boost," Manager Economy Strategy and Engagement Biddie Shearing said.

"We also assisted the CMCA courtesy bus to loop between the showgrounds into the CBD to enable delegates to leave their vans at the showgrounds and explore the heart of our city," Ms Shearing said.

Established in 1986, CMCA is Australia's largest RV club with around 70,000 members.

"In the lead up to the event, Mount Gambier has been featured in CMCA promotional material and we are anticipating high engagement within the next week as the delegates arrive and repeat visitation into the future," Ms Shearing said.

Salty Horrigan (left), Barrie Paulo, Jo-Anne Arthur, Mick and Lyn McLaughlin on site at the Mount Gambier Showgrounds for the CMCA National Rally.



ADVOCACY

REGIONAL AIR TRAVEL ADVOCACY

City of Mount Gambier and District Council of Grant submitted a joint motion regarding regional air travel for consideration within the agenda for the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly held in June 2025.

The motion called on the Federal Government to:

- Increase targeted investment in operational aspects of regional airports to support ongoing usage of essential infrastructure and long-term viability.
- Introduce strategies which result in fairer airline pricing policies, encourage competition and reduce airfare disparities.
- Establish frameworks that safeguard regional flights, frequencies and reliability.
- Expand regional aviation support programs ensuring that communities reliant on air travel are not left behind.

"This motion acknowledges the role of local government in operating airports across regional Australia as critical community infrastructure. It highlights the financial pressure to meet regulation, maintenance and upgrade requirements. The motion also details the inequality in regional passenger fares, service frequency and reliability and the liveability implications for regional Australians," District Council of Grant Mayor Kylie Boston said.

"Air travel is a critical lifeline for regional Australia, connecting communities to essential services, economic opportunities, and social networks. Our local people and other regional Australians often rely on limited aviation services as their only viable means of safe, timely, and efficient long-distance travel."

City and Grant councils worked together to draft the motion informed by the Federal Government's Aviation White Paper: Towards 2050, the Australian Airports Association Taking Flight report, the Mount Gambier Regional Airport Master Plan 2025 – 2035, public advocacy statements provided by the Local Government Association South Australia and the City of Mount Gambier's 2024 - 2028 Strategic Plan and Mount Gambier 2035 Community Vision.

"Air connectivity in regional areas is so important, but it is fragile. I am sure many people can attest that we are often subjected to comparatively high fares, limited flight frequency, difficult onward connections and service reliability challenges," Mayor Martin said.

Findings from the Towards 2050 Aviation White Paper reported a collective view that regional aviation fails to serve the community's needs.

"The paper highlights that the average ticket price per kilometre is 52 per cent higher for return flights to or from a non-capital city than return flights between two capital cities. These costs make air travel unaffordable for many people living in regional areas, and disproportionately impact those with no viable alternatives, such as patients seeking critical medical care," Mayor Martin said.



Mayor Martin and District Council of Grant Mayor Kylie Boston at the Mount Gambier Regional Airport.

"We are calling for a national strategy that addresses these barriers and ensures affordable, reliable air access for all," Mayor Boston said.

Aviation services are vital to the visitor economy, connecting tourists to regional destinations that showcase Australia's diverse landscapes and heritage.

"Without improved air access, tourism potential and the visitor economy will be constrained. This motion aligns with our shared advocacy commitments to support the sustainability and ongoing improvement of air travel to and from our region, highlighting its direct contribution to liveability, our economy and our access to critical services," Mayor Martin said.

"A proactive approach to federal funding and regulation will help future-proof regional aviation, supporting the communities, like us, that depend on it," Mayor Boston said.

COUNCIL DEMANDS PUBLIC TRANSPORT REFORM

Council lodged a submission to the South Australian Government's Regional Public Transport Review in June 2025, continuing the push for urgent and long overdue reform to the city's outdated and inadequate public transport system.

Public transport in Mount Gambier and throughout South Australia, is the responsibility of the Government of South Australia, via the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). Despite being South Australia's regional capital and servicing a cross-border population of more than 130,000 people, Mount Gambier's public transport model has not changed in more than 35 years.

"Improving public transport is one of our top advocacy priorities. We have been lobbying for change for more than five years and we have heard community concerns loud and clear that our current system simply doesn't meet the needs of our growing and changing community. It is outdated, limited, and doesn't provide an adequate service for our people," Mayor Martin said.

As part of the Regional Public Transport Review led by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), Council will make a submission informed by community feedback and expert analysis. It outlines the scale of the problem and recommends practical solutions for meaningful, evidence based reform.

"This is a key opportunity for us to make our case. We are seeking immediate service improvements, including expanded coverage, higher frequency of service and weekend operations," Mayor Martin said.

"We need a fit-for-purpose model in partnership with the community and would like to be considered for a regional trial for innovative transport solutions such as an 'on-demand' transport model similar to the Keoride system in Mount Barker."

"We also seek equity in funding and standards, to establish transparent, population based benchmarks for public transport that bring Mount Gambier in line with other Australian regional cities."

"We are not asking for more than what other areas already have. We are asking for fair, modern and accessible public transport so our residents can live, work, learn and participate in their daily lives with dignity," Mayor Martin said.

Council unanimously endorsed the submission at the June 2025 Council meeting, with a strong united voice in support of a system that reflects Mount Gambier's needs, not just now, but into the future.

"Our city bus service does not service areas like Conroe Heights, Hallmont Estate and Woodlands Grove, meaning some people in our community can't access the service as they should. The service does not operate during evenings, on weekends, or public holidays, and it does not service places like the airport, cemetery, or tourist destinations. We have just one infrequent loop servicing the hospital and TAFE and UniSA precinct," Cr Josh Lynagh said.

"Residents in Mount Gambier have been stuck with an inadequate service for far too long and more needs to be done to make the service meet the needs and expectations for our community," Cr Lynagh added.

Cr Frank Morello echoed the sentiment, describing the State's treatment of Mount Gambier's transport needs as "tiresome and insulting".

"The government has been dragging its heels on this issue for such a long time. It's tiresome being treated as a poor country cousin having to beg for what would be considered to be unacceptable anywhere else," Cr Morello said.

"There is an eye watering disparity between bus funding for metropolitan and regional South Australia. It is $273.00 per person in metropolitan areas and a meagre $40.00 per person in regional South Australia. You'd think that inequity would be clear to see for everybody, and yet, here we are five years later and we're still advocating. It seems the wheels on the bus are moving ever so slowly in Mount Gambier," he added.

Mayor Martin recently raised the issue with Premier Malinauskas following the State's announcement of a $20.7 million cost of living transport package, which cut the price of student fares on the Adelaide metroCARD which is only available to metropolitan students.

"From 1 July, Adelaide students will pay just 25 cents per trip. But students in Mount Gambier are completely left out. How is that fair?" she said.

Councillor Max Bruins challenged State Government staff to experience the local bus system themselves.

"Nothing's changing and DIT have got all the information in front of them. They're wasting their own resources. They're wasting our resources to basically have the same information that has been served up, time and time again. I challenge DIT staff the next time they visit to get from the airport to here on public transport," Cr Bruins said.

Councillor Sonya Mezinec highlighted the practical impact of the current service on the most vulnerable members of the community.

"During a public consultation a few years ago we received a lot of feedback from our community and many stories about the difficulty for people particularly with special needs and disabilities, who, to get to and from medical appointments at the hospital by bus took them all day," Cr Mezinec said.

Councillor Jason Virgo called out the flawed logic behind the State Government's inaction.

"It's the chicken and egg argument, we keep being told there is not enough demand, but there's not enough demand because it takes too long to get anywhere. I would happily take public transport, but I know I can't without wasting hours, so we really need to get the on demand service. Are the children of Mount Gambier worth less than the children of Adelaide? - They're not, we know that," Cr Virgo said.



WAITING: Mayor Lynette Martin and Deputy Mayor Cr Josh Lynagh at the Don McDonnell Reserve bus stop in Conroe Heights, an urban development undertaken in the 1980s. Despite 2,000 homes and 5,000 residents living in the area, the bus only stops here for the school run.

Council is urging the State Government to act on the concerns raised, not just listen.

"This is about fairness, access and making sure our city has the services it needs to thrive now and into the future. We are pushing for the public transport system Mount Gambier deserves," Mayor Martin said.

"We call on the South Australian Government to work in collaboration with us to deliver a sustainable, inclusive and modern public transport system that supports liveability, social equity, and opportunities for all in our community."

The current Mount Gambier City Bus model is not a reflection of bus service operators LinkSA, which is working within the constraints of a contract and funding agreement.

GATHER ROUND 2025

The 2025 AFL Gather Round was held in April 2025 with more than 54,000 people estimated to have travelled to South Australia for the event. The South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) road trip campaign encouraged travellers to explore the state en route to Adelaide. With Mount Gambier positioned as the first stop, Gather Round signage was prepared by the SATC and AFL.

Building on the success of the 2024 Before the Bounce program, SANFL added to the Gather Round excitement with an event held at Frew Park, featuring a junior footy clinic and umpiring session delivered by SANFL game development staff, display of the SANFL and AFL premiership cups, Kicks4Kicks initiative by Four Reasons Why, barbecue hosted by Lakes Rotary and activities facilitated by Mount Gambier Library.





ADVOCACY

MUSIC SA PARTNERSHIP

Council will partner with Music SA to highlight Mount Gambier as a regional centre for live music and a destination for touring acts, following a successful funding application through the Federal Government's Live Music Australia Grant Program. A dedicated Regional Venues Coordinator will provide training and mentoring to local venues and musicians to foster improved connection to state and national industry networks.

The initiative will target several small and medium key live music venues, including the Limestone Coast Pantry.

"Small venues like ours are critical to the growth and sustainability of live music in any city, but potentially even more significant in a regional community like Mount Gambier where each venue plays its own unique role, both for musicians and our local audiences," Limestone Coast Pantry Director Lyn McLachlan said.

Mayor Martin acknowledged that as a cross-border community, the city plays an important role as the gateway between Victoria and South Australia and a strategic contributor to regional touring routes.

"The project aligns with industry recommendations from Council's Live Music Roundtable and the community feedback received through the creation of the Mount Gambier 2035 community vision, particularly around further fostering city vibrancy, annual event calendars and early evening economy development," Mayor Martin said.



Mayor Martin (left) and Limestone Coast Pantry representative Ash Rowbottom.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council is proactive in seeking the views of our community. This includes considering the specific needs of different sections of the community, and ensuring appropriate strategies are developed to maximise opportunities for all to participate.

Throughout 2024/2025 Council consulted with the community and sought feedback on the following matters:

- City of Mount Gambier Strategic Plan 2024-2028,
- Mount Gambier Railway Lands Playspace concept design,
- Crater Lakes Bushfire Rehabilitation Plan,
- Elector Representation Review 2024,
- Proposal for the revocation of community land (Jubilee Highway West),
- Public E-Scooter fleet trial framework,
- CBD activation and place-based assessments of Commercial Street and Gray Street,
- Mount Gambier Charter for Children review,
- Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Strategic Plan,
- By-Law Review 2025,
- Draft Business Plan and Budget 2025/2026, and
- Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035.

Council also maintained a series of community reference groups including:

- Mount Gambier Youth Activation Group,
- Yerkalalpata Reconciliation Action Plan Community Reference Group,
- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Reference Group,
- Australia Day Reference Group,
- Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal Committee, and
- Blue Lake Sports Park User Group.

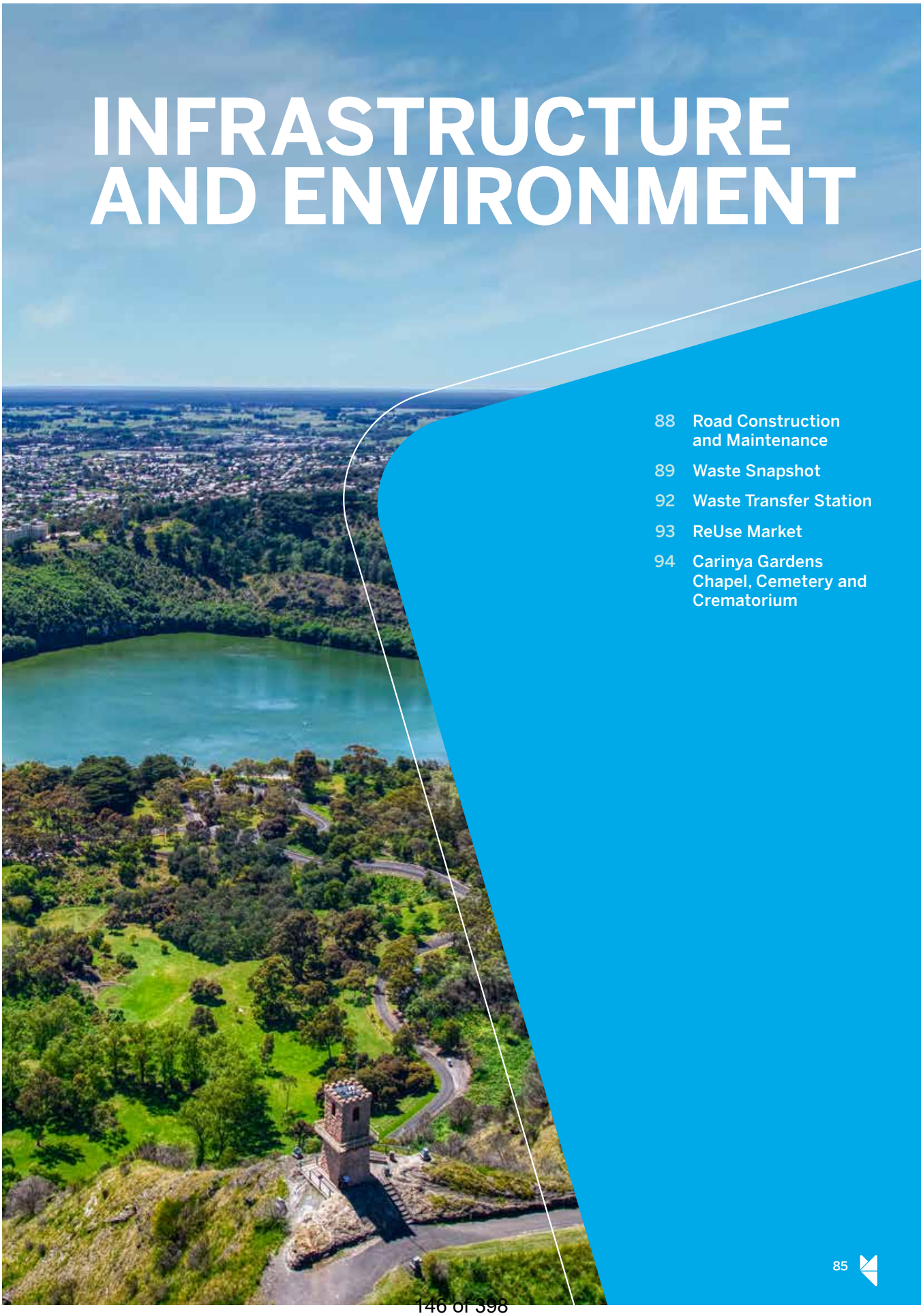
The Community Consultation and Engagement Policy outlines Council's commitment to effective, ongoing and timely community engagement as an integral part of local governance and decision making. The policy can be found on Council's website.

Mayor Martin on an E-Scooter at the Railway Lands.



City of Mount Gambier called for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from electric scooter (E-Scooter) mobility operators in March 2025 to trial a public E-Scooter fleet in Mount Gambier for 12 months.

Expressions of Interest closed in April 2025, no EOIs were received, and the trial was abandoned.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

88 Road Construction and Maintenance
89 Waste Snapshot
92 Waste Transfer Station
93 ReUse Market
94 Carinya Gardens Chapel, Cemetery and Crematorium

LEARN TO RIDE MINI STREETSCAPE OPEN

The learn to ride mini streetscape located on the western platform at the Railway Lands was opened for use in October 2024.

The design replicates elements of typical traffic settings, providing young riders, skaters and scooters with realistic learning scenarios. It features roundabouts, speed bumps, crossings and parking areas to help children learn how to navigate traffic environments safely.

"The space aims to boost cycling safety and confidence, encourages an active lifestyle and provides a fun learning experience for children of all ages, while teaching riders to navigate the road network confidently," Mayor Martin said.

"There are give way signs, parking bays, rest areas and an illuminated push button traffic light signal. I know our young people are going to have many hours of fun in this space."

Gladigau Park Kindergarten students took the opportunity to be the first to test out the mini road network and were full of praise for the initiative.

"I think it's really great 'cause it inspires lots of kids to learn the road rules," Noah said.

"I like it because I like riding scooters," Ben said.

Council engaged internal staff with trade base skill sets and competencies to design and create the traffic lights and paint the road network. While local contractors undertook the metal fabrication of the planter boxes, signs, electrical works and designs.



Gladigau Park Kindergarten educator Kate Ellis and children enjoy the new learn to ride mini streetscape at the Railway Lands.

"The team have done an amazing job on this project. They battled with unseasonal weather conditions making the task of painting a challenge. They delivered the project on time and on budget and I commend them for their time and dedication to achieve this outstanding outcome for the young people in our community," Mayor Martin said.

Designed by JPE Designs, the project cost $50,000 to construct.

"I wish to acknowledge a $150,000 contribution from Mount Gambier Out of School Hours Care. These funds have been put towards this project and the design of the youth and nature play spaces which underwent community consultation," Mayor Martin said.

Council is currently exploring funding opportunities for the future development of the proposed youth and nature play community spaces at the Railway Lands.

The learn to ride mini streetscape at the Railway Lands.





Rory and Harriet had fun negotiating the mini streetscape on their scooters.



Sumarta and friends on course at the mini streetscape.



Left: Kate, Raven and Ollie with Mayor Martin at the learn to ride mini streetscape.

Below: JPE Design Studio Senior Landscape Architect Lin Markus (left), Coordinator Construction and Maintenance Chris Habets, Construction and Maintenance Works Supervisor Dallas Humphries, Mayor Martin, Manager Engineering Design and Assets Abdullah Mahmud and Project Engineer Andrew Thompson.





ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Council is committed to maintaining its road network to a high standard. In 2024/2025 Council invested $4,037,349 as part of the Capital Works Program.

The following works were undertaken as part of this spend.

ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Council contribution - **$2,280,117**

Roads to Recovery funding - **$667,760**

- Bertha Street (Anderson Street to Commercial Street),
- Elder Street,
- Walter Street,
- Boandik Terrace (Crouch Street to Werona Street),
- Canavan Road (McDonald Street to Locke Street),
- Shelley Crescent (Shelley Crescent mid to Shelley Crescent East),
- Shepherdson Road (Berth Street to Wehl Street),
- Sinclair Street, and
- Frew Park - New access road.

Roads to Recovery projects:

- Wireless Road East (Kennedy Avenue to Attamurra Road),
- Anthony Street (Jubilee Highway to North Terrace),
- Truman Street (MacKenzie Street to Bond Street), and
- Wehl Street North (Agnes Street to Chute Street).

Other projects:

- Canavan Road (Noojee Street to Crouch Street) kerb and channel repairs, and
- Pinehall Avenue shared path separation kerbing.

ROAD RESEAL PROGRAM

Road reseal program - **$221,540**

Asphalt overlay on intersections and cul-de-sacs - **$275,768**

TRAFFIC LIGHT RENEWAL - $75,978

- Wehl Street South (Reidy Park School crossing),
- Wehl Street/Helen Street/ Edward Street intersection,
- Crouch Street/Sturt Street intersection, and
- Shepherdson Road (Tenison Woods College crossing).

FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION

In 2024/2025 Council invested $118,465 in construction of new concrete footpaths.

The projects included in the program were:

- Chute Street (Ehret Street to Victoria Terrace),
- Link Street (Anthony Street to Byrne Street), and
- Ramsay Avenue (Jubilee Highway to Ralston Road).

FOOTPATH ASPHALT OVERLAY PROGRAM - $74,770

- Victoria Terrace (Agnes Street to Jubilee Highway),
- Elizabeth Street (Railway Terrace to Helen Street),
- Shepherdson Road (Coutts Street to Bertha Street),
- Penola Road (Jubilee Highway to Queens Avenue), and
- Dickson Square Reserve.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT - $70,775

Council's 2024/2025 capital drainage works comprised of the following:

- Installation of a new bore, silt pit and associated drainage infrastructure at Frew Park, and
- Renewal of existing silt pit on Laird Street.

BOUNDARY ROADS - $252,176

Works completed on Grant Avenue include resealing of the section between White Avenue and Orchard Road, and the creation of a turning lane at Orchard Road intersection by widening the road pavement and seal width.

This project has been funded by Special Local Roads Program (SLRP).

Resealing works were also undertaken on the following roads:

- O'Leary Road (portion of segment between Wireless Road and Pinehall Avenue) due to wearing of the sealed surface from an increase in heavy vehicle traffic along this road, and
- Tollner Road (Avey Road to White Avenue).



WASTE SNAPSHOT

KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS IN 2024/2025

1,079,966
BIN COLLECTIONS

12,041
TONNES COLLECTED

614,904
GENERAL WASTE COLLECTIONS

275,370
RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

189,692
FOGO COLLECTIONS



CAROLINE LANDFILL

27,857.18
TONNES OF WASTE RECEIVED

6,906
CO2E TONNES ABATED
(Equivalent to removing 2,773 cars from the road)

854,654m³
LANDFILL BIOGAS CAPTURED
(Enough to fill 342 Olympic sized pools)



KERBSIDE BIN AUDIT CONDUCTED

A kerbside bin audit undertaken by Rawtec and Dynamic 3E on behalf of Council identified that more than half the general waste stream could be diverted away from landfill with food organics making up 27 per cent of the average residential general waste bin.

Residential waste was audited from a representative sample of the community across the three bin system including general waste, recycling and food organics/garden organics (FOGO) with results indicating contamination in all kerbside streams was above reasonable levels.

"In the 2016 audit food organics made up 36 per cent, so while we are making good progress, 27 per cent is still very high and equates to more than 1,500 tonnes of food waste from Mount Gambier households going to landfill every year," Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard said.

"We implore residents not to put food waste in the general waste bin, but instead purchase a FOGO bin, or take advantage of discounts on composting gear through Council's partnership with Compost Revolution and start composting food scraps at home."

"Everyone can do their bit to help the environment and reduce the cost to the community – food waste should not be going in the general waste bin as all food waste – even bones, meat, dairy etc can go in the organics bin," Mr Izzard said.

The audit highlighted that on average residents generate 14.9 kilograms of waste per household per week, while 30 per cent of the contents of the average general waste bin could be placed in the recycling bin.

"Each household has a recycling bin with fortnightly collection and this result highlights a need for the community to better separate their waste and make proper use of the recycling bin system," Mr Izzard said.

The sample showed a contamination rate in the recycling stream of more than 22 per cent with the most common contaminants including general waste, large e-waste, textiles and soft plastics.

The composition of the FOGO recycling stream was identified as predominantly garden organics with a contamination rate of 3.4 per cent. Of this, 2.8 per cent was general waste either loose or in plastic bags.

"It is pleasing to see a low contamination rate in the FOGO bin, and this may be a result of the current opt-in system, however any amount of contamination makes the recycling and organics systems more expensive and less viable."

"Every little bit counts so we encourage all residents to choose the right bin, don't just throw it in."

The audit results will be used to inform Council's waste services and education activities.

"Council will continue to explore opportunities to increase education and communication around effective recycling and landfill reduction," Mr Izzard said.

Households are encouraged to access existing resources to assist in better understanding the most impactful actions that can be taken to reduce their waste footprint.



Environmental Sustainability Business Partner Aaron Izzard calls on the community to choose the right bin following a residential kerbside bin audit which highlighted contamination issues across Council's waste streams.





A kerbside bin audit identified a contamination rate of more than 22 per cent in recycling bins across the city with contaminants including soft plastics and general waste.





An audit of the FOGO stream identified a contamination rate of 3.4 per cent including general waste and plastic packaged food.

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

The Waste Transfer Station located at 5 Eucalypt Drive, is an important link in our community's total waste management system that aims to reduce landfill by understanding the opportunities, and unique challenges of managing waste.

The facility plays a vital role in the collection, treatment and disposal of waste streams received including commercial contractors, residents, and community members.

Material taken through the Waste Transfer Station from domestic customers is separated prior to going to landfill to ensure maximum resource recovery.

The Waste Transfer Station is where all items are salvaged or donated for sale at the ReUse Market.

The Waste Transfer Station also assists to deliver waste education to community groups and schools through regular site tours where participants see the process of recovery, recycle and reuse, and promotion of Council's 'sort and save' initiative.

The Waste Transfer Station is open seven days a week and is a popular destination for those that are enthusiastic about reducing waste to landfill.

For more information visit mountgambier.sa.gov.au/WTS



In 2024/2025, the Waste Transfer Station processed:

11 TONNES
EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE PROCESSED FOR RECYCLING ON SITE

180 TONNES
METAL RECYCLING

5,500
APPROX. TRANSACTIONS

31 TONNES
MATTRESS RECYCLING

OTHER RECYCLED MATERIAL

Cardboard, engine oil, cooking oil, globes, paint, batteries, x-rays, cables, lids, dental hygiene, masonry, tyres, fridges, bread tags, gas bottles, and couches.

CONTRACTOR WASTE
13,947
TONNES

TOTAL TO LANDFILL
27,857
TONNES

671
TONNES
WASTE BINS

44
TONNES
E-WASTE

542
TONNES
GREEN WASTE /FOGO

MOUNT GAMBIER REUSE MARKET

The Mount Gambier ReUse Market, located at 3 Eucalypt Drive, aims to reduce landfill by reusing and upcycling useful items salvaged or donated via the Waste Transfer Station. It is a place where you can get anything and everything second hand from building materials, bikes, sports gear, garden equipment, tools, bric-a-brac and furniture.

Along with the Waste Transfer Station, the ReUse Market plays a pivotal role in assisting to deliver waste education to community groups, schools, and the broader community by saving useful second-hand items from the waste stream.

Since opening in 2018, the ReUse Market has built several partnerships within the community, including volunteers, who play an active role assisting the operation of the market by sorting, recovering, upcycling, cleaning, and presenting items for sale.

Opening twice per month, the ReUse Market is a popular destination for those seeking secondhand items in good condition that would otherwise end up in landfill.

For information about upcoming open days visit mountgambier.sa.gov.au/reusemarket or find us on Facebook.

8,000
VISITORS TO THE REUSE MARKET

147 TONNES
MATERIAL DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL TO REUSE MARKET

5,444
APPROX. TRANSACTIONS

$114,000
TOTAL SALES

WASTE TRANSFER STATION WEIGHBRIDGE UPGRADE

The Waste Transfer Station weighbridge underwent an essential upgrade and service in February 2025.

This project followed calibrations by a local contractor in 2024 which identified the need for the works to be undertaken. The project will ensure the facility can continue to manage materials efficiently, with an upgrade to a 4-loadcell system to maintain accuracy and extend the service life of the 30-year-old weighbridge.



COMMUNITY UNITES FOR SPRING CLEAN WEEKEND

A Spring Clean event held on 23 and 24 of November 2024 saw enthusiastic participation from the community, resulting in the proper disposal of hundreds of items, including tyres, mattresses, and couches.

OneFortyOne, in collaboration with the City of Mount Gambier, sponsored the community-driven event.

OneFortyOne Environmental Manager Belinda Williamson expressed her gratitude for the community's support.

"The Spring Clean Weekend was a fantastic trial initiative to try and address the persistent issue of illegal dumping in our forests," Ms Williamson said.

"The community's response was incredible, and we managed to collect a significant amount of waste, hopefully diverting some of this rubbish from ending up in our forests."

Over two days, the Waste Transfer Station on Eucalypt Drive was bustling with activity as residents took advantage of the opportunity to dispose of items such as car and 4WD tyres, mattresses, armchairs, and lounges sponsored by OneFortyOne.

"Over the weekend we collected 433 mattresses, 147 couches, 240 armchairs and around 2,000 tyres," Ms Williamson said.

ReUse Market and Waste Transfer Station Coordinator Rebecca Clark said the Spring Clean initiative was a tremendous success benefiting community members who took part.

"Our dedicated Waste Transfer Station team and the OneFortyOne team worked together tirelessly to ensure everything ran smoothly," Ms Clark said.

The Waste Transfer Station team played a pivotal role in managing and organising traffic management and the waste material.

"Together they made the disposal process efficient, organised, and accessible for all evident in their ability to serve 550 cars."

Belinda emphasised the importance of community involvement.

"This event was a testament to what we can achieve when we come together as a community to do the right thing."

"While this is just a start, it is a positive step towards reducing illegal dumping and protecting our beautiful forests for everyone."

"We're looking forward to measuring the real success of the event, and tracking any changes in the amount of rubbish dumped in the forests surrounding Mount Gambier."



Above: OneFortyOne Environmental Manager Belinda Williamson, City of Mount Gambier Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard, and ReUse Market Attendant Tanis Alexander.



An aerial view of the goods deposited at the Waste Transfer Station following the Spring Clean event.

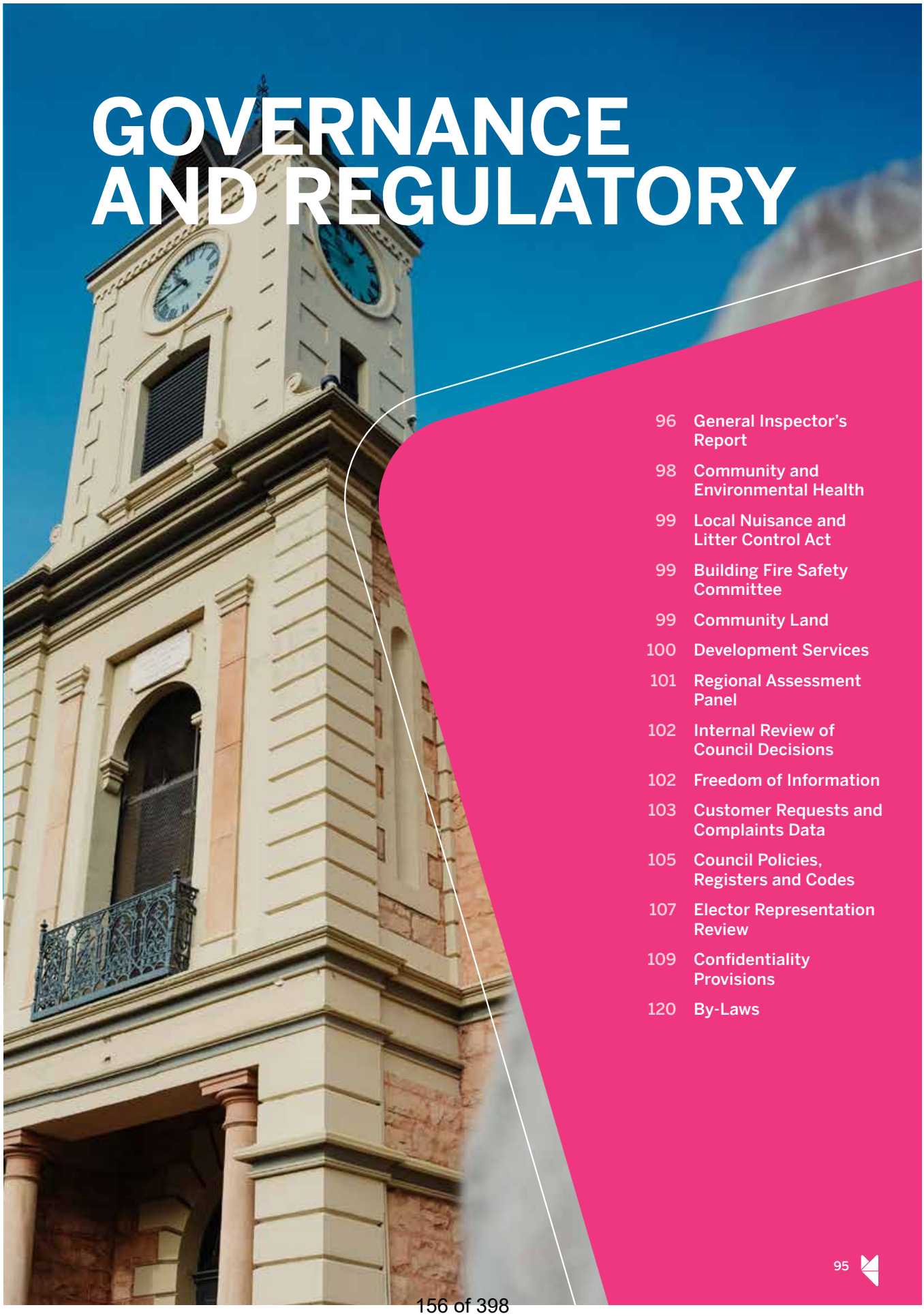
CARINYA GARDENS CHAPEL, CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM

The gardens, chapel, and surrounding areas of Carinya Gardens offer a serene and respectful setting for bereavement services.

City of Mount Gambier is committed to providing high quality services at Carinya with a strong focus on supporting families during difficult times.

In 2024/2025, a total of 567 services were held at the cemetery, up from 499 in the previous year. The cemetery undertook 120 burials compared with 112 the previous year, and a total of 447 cremations were performed, compared to 387 in 2023/2024.





GOVERNANCE AND REGULATORY

96 General Inspector's Report
98 Community and Environmental Health
99 Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act
99 Building Fire Safety Committee
99 Community Land
100 Development Services
101 Regional Assessment Panel
102 Internal Review of Council Decisions
102 Freedom of Information
103 Customer Requests and Complaints Data
105 Council Policies, Registers and Codes
107 Elector Representation Review
109 Confidentiality Provisions
120 By-Laws

GENERAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Dog expiations	348
Dog complaints	393
Dog impoundments	39
Dogs returned to owners	294
Dog attack reports	36
Parking offences	552
Fire permits	92
Cattle impoundments (sheep and cows)	3
Vehicle impoundments	1
Dog registrations	5,726
Cat registrations	2,211
Dog registration fees	$223,524



COUNCIL CONTINUES REHOMING PARTNERSHIP WITH SEAWL

A rehoming partnership agreement between City of Mount Gambier and South East Animal Welfare League (SEAWL) was extended until 31 March 2029 in April 2025.

Council impounds lost dogs at its holding facility approved by the Dog and Cat Management Board for the legislated holding period of 72 hours and beyond. Dogs are then transferred to SEAWL as one of Council's rehoming partners.

Council has four rehoming partnerships in place, including SEAWL, Wet Noses Animal Rescue, Dusty Paws Dog Rescue and Grampians Shire Council.

"We're seeing more dogs being safely returned to their owners than ever before, with 81 per cent of all collected dogs reunited with their families over the past 18 months. That's a really positive trend and reflects both our team's hard work and the responsiveness of our community," General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services Jane Fetherstonhaugh said.

"For those dogs that aren't reclaimed, our rehoming efforts, especially through SEAWL, have played a vital role. Since June 2024, 87 per cent of all rehomed dogs were successfully placed via SEAWL, showing the value of that partnership."

"SEAWL was more than happy to agree to a four year extension of the current Rehoming Services Agreement with Council, as at the end of the day SEAWL's and Council's priority is the wellbeing of dogs in impound facilities," Mr Twilley said.

All dogs receive a veterinary check, microchip and vaccination prior to transfer to a rehoming partner, in accordance with Council's Unclaimed Dog Policy.

"Ultimately, our goal is to give every dog the best chance at a safe and happy outcome - whether that's back home with their owner or into a new forever home," Mrs Fetherstonhaugh said.



General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services Jane Fetherstonhaugh and South East Animal Welfare League President Trevor Twilley with Gemma a 12.5 year old Bichon Frise impounded by Council and rehomed through SEAWL.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Food Safety	
Total food businesses currently registered	507
Facilities which require food safety audits	12
P1 (highest) risk classified food businesses	131
P2 (high) risk classified food businesses	183
P3 (medium) risk classified food businesses	119
P4 (low) risk classified food businesses	74
Complaints received by Council	
Alleged food poisoning	0
Pests in food premises	2
Poor personal hygiene or poor food handling practices	1
Unsuitable food	0
Unclean premises	4
Food recall notifications received	31
Food safety education	
New business fit-out advice and consultations	9

Communicable Disease Control Branch mandatory notifications	
Influenza notifications	219
Potential food borne related illnesses	60
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	76

Public Health	
Registered high risk manufactured water systems	60
Publicly accessible swimming pool and spa inspections	17
Registered hair, beauty and skin penetration businesses	92
Onsite waste water treatment system applications	11
Complaints received by Council	
Accommodation standards	0
Air pollution/odour	2
General health complaint or enquiry/other	5
Hoarding and squalor	3
Infectious/notifiable disease	0
On-site wastewater systems	1
Hairdressing/beauty salons	1
Supported residential facilities	1
Vermin (including birds, rats and mice)	2
Public swimming pools and spa pools	1



507

Food businesses registered



92

Registered hair, beauty and skin penetration businesses

LOCAL NUISANCE AND LITTER CONTROL ACT

Council is responsible for managing local nuisance and litter control matters within the City of Mount Gambier boundary.

Allowing or contributing to local nuisance or litter is a crime and can result in penalties being applied. Some common complaints of nuisance Council becomes involved with include noise, smoke, unsightly properties and littering.

Council officers have investigated a number of enquiries and customer requests in relation to matters which can be addressed by the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act* and at 30 June 2025 had not made any prosecutions under this Act.

No Nuisance or Litter Abatement Notices were issued in relation to local nuisance matters. While Council did issue letters indicating its intention to issue such a notice, the situation was resolved without the need to proceed with a formal Notice.

BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

The primary function of the Building Fire Safety Committee (BFSC) is to:

- Achieve a reasonable standard of fire safety for the occupiers of a building,
- Ensure minimal spread of fire and smoke, and
- Ensure an acceptable firefighting environment.

The BFSC is made up of one Elected Member, Cr Paul Jenner, who is the chairperson, a member of both the Metropolitan Fire Service and Country Fire Service, a Level 1 accredited Building Surveyor, a person with expertise in the area of fire safety and Council's Senior Building Officer.

For 2024/2025 the Building Fire Safety Committee did not have any matters to address and did not meet.

A focused program of compliance for buildings over 500m2 has been ongoing to ensure building owners maintain their buildings in respect to building fire safety matters.

Several matters involving building fire safety for larger buildings have been addressed through development applications for building fire safety upgrades.

These applications are assessed against the National Construction Code and brings these buildings into alignment with current standards.

COMMUNITY LAND

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 1999* to adopt a Community Land Management Plan for any land classified as community land that has been specifically modified or adapted for the benefit or enjoyment of the community, or that is, or is to be, occupied under a lease or licence.

Community Land Management Plans are periodically prepared and/or reviewed and re-adopted for new and existing community land parcels.

New community land parcels arise when Council purchases land (that is not excluded prior to acquisition) or receives land from subdivisions (usually in the form of reserves and roads).

Roads are specifically excluded from the definition of community land.

When Council prepares a new, or reviews an existing Community Land Management Plan, it undertakes public consultation in accordance with the *Local Government Act* prior to its adoption.

Council has recently commenced a Community Land review project, which will see Council's entire suite of Community Land Management Plans reviewed and updated over the coming years to ensure they are contemporary and still meet the needs of our community.

A Community Land Register and Community Land Management Plan extracts are published on Council's website.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES - BUILDING AND PLANNING

Throughout 2024/2025 Council's building division continued to support local builders and professionals to deliver a core range of services. These included:

- Assessment of proposed development,
- On-site audit-based inspection of construction activities,
- Approval for occupation of commercial premises,
- Maintenance of Essential Safety Provisions registers, and
- Administration of Council's Building Fire Safety Committee.

These duties are carried out under a series of regulations and statutory instruments adopted under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, the planning and Design Code and the National Construction Code.

Statistics for development within the city are provided through the online ePlanning platform, PlanSA.

Council's building division records statistics regarding activities within the local construction industry for Development Approvals granted. These are shown in the table below.



	2024/2025	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021
Dwellings	**111**	80	206	149	210
Dwelling additions	**21**	12	76	19	17
Outbuildings	**147**	61	279	208	263
Commercial	**24**	13	42	33	31
Industrial	**10**	5	10	2	15
Signage	**11**	14	17	3	12
Other	**73**	199	229	27	86
Total number of development applications	**397**	384	859	441	634
Estimated total development expenditure	**$136,015,086**	$78,340,029	$177,079,518	$68,495,083	$162,682,216

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT PANEL

The Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 **requires all councils in South Australia to establish an Assessment Panel to make decisions in respect to the assessment of development applications.**

Together with the District Council of Grant, District Council of Robe and the Wattle Range Council, the City of Mount Gambier have formed the Limestone Coast Southern Regional Assessment Panel (RAP) which commenced operation on 1 July 2022.

In the assessment process the RAP has regard to the Planning and Design Code, third party representations and any advice from a referral body to determine the merits of each application.

The RAP is the decision making authority for development applications that are required to be publicly notified.

The RAP is also responsible for determining applications for review of a decision of the Assessment Manager.

The membership of the RAP must be no more than five members. All members of the RAP are appointed by the councils and must have experience and/or qualifications in town planning or a similar field of expertise.

The members of the RAP in 2024/2025 were:

- Mr Mark Teakle (Presiding Member),
- Ms Lamorna Alexander,
- Mr Carlin McNeil,
- Mr Ian Von Stanke, and
- Ms Cheryle Pedler.

During 2024/2025 the RAP considered 19 development applications and seven applications for review of a decision of the Assessment Manager.

RAP meetings were held monthly on the third Thursday.

INTERNAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council has adopted a formal policy and procedure, C290 – Internal Review of Council's Decisions, in accordance with the requirements of Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

This policy and procedure is one aspect of Council's customer-focused approach to service delivery. It provides the opportunity for any person to seek a review of a council decision, the manner in which Council provides services to the community and to identify areas for improvement.

The Internal Review of Council's Decisions Procedure applies to all formal requests for review of decisions of Council, its employees or other persons acting on behalf of Council, except in instances where specific procedures are prescribed in the *Local Government Act 1999* or other relevant legislation where these alternative review processes will be followed.

Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) relates to the internal review of council actions or decisions.

Council is required by Section 270(8) of the Act to initiate and consider a report on an annual basis that relates to the:

- Number of applications received under the provisions of Section 270,
- Kinds of matters to which the applications relate, and
- Outcome of applications.

The Local Government (General) Regulations further prescribes that the report required under section 270(8) is material that is to be included in the annual report of the council.

There was one (1) application for a Section 270 Internal Review of a Council Decision received in 2024/2025.

Date	Description	Outcome
21 April 2025	A review of all resolutions (decisions) made by the Council at the ordinary meeting 15 April 2025, following the first section 90(3) order to exclude the public and specifically Resolution OCM 2025/96 – Resolution OCM 2025/104 (inclusive), to assess the legal validity of such orders in circumstances where the public were excluded from the building for the duration of same (including consideration and debate of the confidential orders themselves).	Carried over to 2025/2026 financial year.

There were no requests for an internal review of a Council decision carried over from previous financial years.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

City of Mount Gambier received and determined applications under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* during the 2024/2025 year as follows:

Number of applications	3
Number of applications carried over from 2023/2024	0
Full access granted	0
Partial access granted	2
Access refused	1
Withdrawn	0
Fees not paid	1
Documents otherwise available	0
Incomplete (at 30 June 2025)	0
Applications for internal review	0
Decision confirmed	0

Enquiries or requests for information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* should be forwarded to Council's Manager Governance and Property. An information statement in accordance with the requirements of the Act is available to view on Council's website.

CUSTOMER REQUESTS AND COMPLAINTS DATA

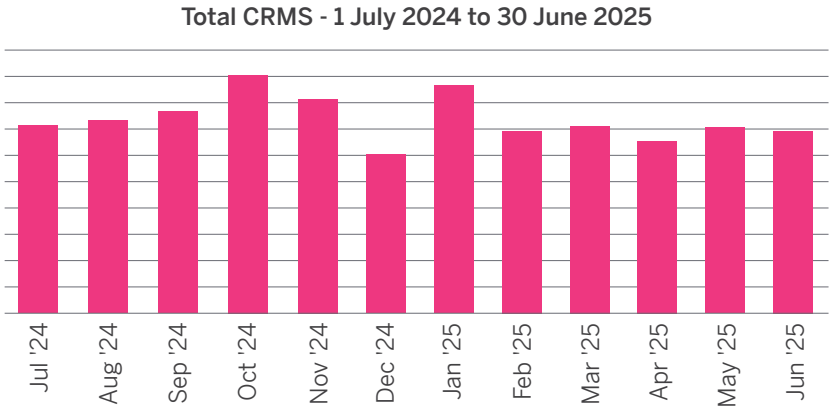
REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

Council has a Customer Request Management system (CRM), which is used to lodge requests for service. This system allows staff to proactively identify items for action so that the item can be attended to by the relevant department. Requests for service lodged using the 'My Local Services' app are also lodged by staff as CRMs for action.

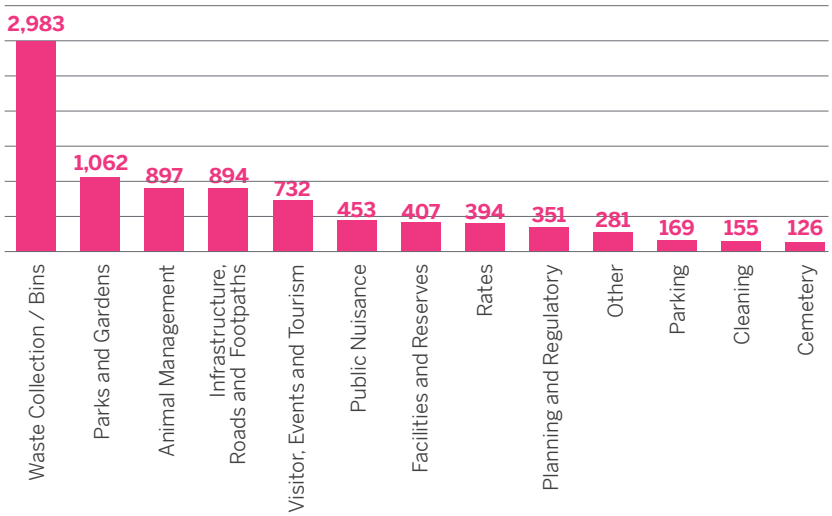
For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025:

- Total number of CRMs opened = 8,904
- Total number of CRMs closed = 8,876
- Total outstanding CRMs = 28
- Closure rate = 99.69%

CRMS BY MONTH



CRMS BY CATEGORY



CUSTOMER REQUESTS AND COMPLAINTS DATA

COMPLAINTS

City of Mount Gambier is committed to delivering high-quality service to the community and views complaints as valuable opportunities to enhance practices and procedures.

Complaints not only allow Council to address and rectify situations where service standards have not been met, but also contribute meaningfully to ongoing improvement efforts.

A complaint is defined as an expression of dissatisfaction regarding a Council action, decision, or service that has not met the expected, stated, or implied standard.

Council's Complaints Policy C200 – Request For Service and Complaint Policy and Procedure outlines the process to be followed when a complaint is received to ensure a fair, consistent and structured approach.

Council received a total of 54 complaints during the 2024/2025 financial year, concerning a range of service areas. All of these complaints have been actioned and finalised. The below table identifies the nature of complaints received.

Summary	Number of complaints	Action
Animal management	8	Response provided/resolved
Waste collection	9	Response provided/resolved
Infrastructure – boat ramps	1	Response provided/resolved
Bookable facility booking system	2	Response provided/resolved
Public facilities – cleaning	4	Response provided/resolved
Lady Nelson	1	Response provided/resolved
Budget/Council expenditure	2	Response provided/resolved* **one complainant was anonymous and therefore no response could be provided*
Parks and Gardens – maintenance	6	Response provided/resolved
ReUse Market	1	Response provided/resolved
Library café	1	Response Provided/resolved
Public nuisance	3	Response provided/resolved
Vacant council sites	1	Response provided/resolved
Maintenance – hazards	1	Response provided/resolved
Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre	12	Response provided/referred to facility manager (external contractor)
Responsiveness/timing	2	Response provided/resolved
TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS	**54**	

COUNCIL POLICIES, REGISTERS AND CODES

Council has a range of policies, registers and codes to assist in its administrative and decision-making processes.

Council policies, registers and codes are periodically reviewed to ensure they are up to date with legislative requirements, Council and community expectations and emerging practices in local government.

Current council policies, registers and codes and a range of other documents required by legislation are available at the Council office and on Council's website.

The following policy index lists all current Council policies at 30 June 2025.

A520	Animal Control
A515	Animal Control Dogs
	Animal Management - Unclaimed Dogs
A240	Assemblies and Events on Streets and other Council Land
	Asset Accounting
A900	Asset Management
	Behavioural Management
B300	Budget Framework
C120	Cemeteries - Carinya Gardens and Lake Terrace Cemetery
	Citizen of the Year Awards *(formerly A270 Australia Day Awards)*
F125	City Burning
	Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures
P195	Community Consultation and Engagement Policy
R200	Community Land (Reserves) Lease/ Licence/Rental Arrangements
C700	Corporate Branding and Identity
C320	Council Chamber and Reception Area - Use of
	Council Election Caretaker Policy *(formerly C305)*
C355	Council Land - Irrigation Policy
D230	Donations – Authority to Approve Requests
	Disposal of Land and Assets
	Dual Naming
E115	Elections - Council Entitlement to Vote
	Emergency Management
E200	Employees Service Awards Gifts at Resignation or Retirement - E200 *(Temporarily suspended)*
E135	Encroachments - Protection of Public during Building and Maintenance Works
P135	Planning - Entertainment Venues
	External Grant Funding
F110	Fencing Costs - Contributions by Council
S115	Fencing and Stormwater Retention Basins
F140	Flag Protocol
F135	Flammable Undergrowth
F510	Footways and Council Land - Fundraising and Promotion
F500	Footways and Council Land - Removal of Objects
F505	Footways and Council Land - Sales of Commodities
F175	Footways and Crossovers
F190	Footways - Paving in City Centre Zone
F225	Fraud Corruption Misconduct and Maladministration Prevention
	Grants and Sponsorship
	Illumination of Assets
	Information Security
	Internal Audit
	Internal Controls
C290	Internal Review of Council's Decisions
L130	Land Divisions
	Library Collection Development
L230	Licensed Premises
M130	Media - Statements on behalf of Council
M405	Members - Allowances, Reimbursements, Benefits and Facilities
M205	Members - Mayor - Anniversary Messages
M270	Members - Mayor Seeking Legal Advice
M500	Members - Training and Development Policy
	Memorials
	Onsite Waste Water

COUNCIL POLICIES, REGISTERS AND CODES

O110	Order Making
	Political Neutrality and Government Relations
P155	Privacy
	Private Parking Areas
	Procurement
P910	Provision of Loans or Guarantees to Community Groups *(Temporarily suspended)*
P415	Prudential Management
P900	Public Interest Disclosure
R105	Rates - Rating
R155	Rates - Rate Rebate
R180	Records Management
C200	Request for Service and Complaint Policy
	Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence
	Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Hire
	Risk Appetite Statement
	Risk Management
R270	Road Openings and Reinstatements
S92	Code of Practice for Access to Meetings and Documents
S140	Street Numbering
S120	Street Signs - Directional, Tourist and other Scenic Facility Signs
S135	Streets - Naming of
S400	Supplementary Elections
T150	Treasury Management
T120	Tree
U900	Unsolicited Proposals
	Unreasonable Conduct Policy
	Volunteer Management
W125	Waste Management - Refuse Collection
W115	Waste Management - Receival of Waste - Caroline Landfill

The following codes and registers are required in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*.

S44	Record of Delegations
S68	Register of Interests (Members)
S72A	Gifts and Benefits Register (Members)
S79	Register of Allowances and Benefits (Members)
S80A	Training and Development Register (Members)
S92	Code of Practice for Access to Meetings and Documents
S105	Register of Employees Remuneration, Salaries and Benefits
S116	Register of Interests (Officers)
S119A	Gifts and Benefits (Employees)
S207	Community Land Register
S231	Public Road Register
S252	By-Law Register
Sch 1B	Register of Building Upgrade Agreements*

** Council currently has no Building Upgrade Agreements.*

ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Schedule 4 of the *Local Government Act 1999* requires Council to publish in its Annual Report a statement of:

- The council's representation quota,
- The average representation quota for councils of a similar size and type, and
- When the council next intends to conduct a review under Chapter 3 Part 1 Division 2.

The following provides the required statements.

Council	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio
Port Pirie	10	13,286	1:1328
Victor Harbor	10	14,120	1:1412
Whyalla	10	16,079	1:1607
Murray Bridge	10	16,436	1:1643
State average			1:1944
Mount Gambier	9	20,766	1:2307
Alexandrina	10	24,063	1:2406
Adelaide Hills	13	31,698	1:2438
Mount Barker	11	31,633	1:2875

Section 12(4) of the Act outlines that a council must ensure that all aspects of the composition of the council are comprehensively reviewed at least once every eight years.

Council conducted an Elector Representation Review during 2024/2025 with an amended composition applying from the November 2026 Local Government Elections.

The following composition applied to the City of Mount Gambier from the November 2022 Local Government Elections:

- The principal member of Council be a Mayor elected by the community,
- The council area not be divided into wards, and
- The elected body of Council comprise eight Area Councillors and the Mayor.

The next representation review for the City of Mount Gambier will take place in eight years, within the relevant period as published by the Minister of Local Government. Chapter 3 of the *Local Government Act 1999* prescribes the procedures that are available for electors to make submissions on representation under this Act.

REPRESENTATIVE REVIEW

City of Mount Gambier sought community feedback on a Representative Review of Council's elected body in September 2024.

The review, conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999*, determined whether the current Council structure and composition is the most appropriate way to represent the community.

"This is probably one of the most important consultations that we undertake in terms of how we represent our community," Governance and Property Manager Brittany Shelton said.

"This is our community's opportunity to have their say on what kind of structure Council has in place to represent them and how their priorities are administered by Council."

A local government consultant reviewed City of Mount Gambier's existing representation structure and recommended it remain the same for the next eight years, until the next review. The community was invited to provide feedback on the proposed composition and structure of Council.

"Essentially, the community could provide feedback on the composition, including the number and type of councillors representing them and the structure, including whether or not we have wards dividing the council into communities of interest."



City of Mount Gambier Elected Members Frank Morello (left), Sonya Mezinec, Max Bruins, Mayor Lynette Martin OAM, Paul Jenner and Jason Virgo. Councillors Josh Lynagh, Kate Amoroso and Mark Lovett are absent from this image.

The endorsed preferred representation model is:

- The Principal Member remains as a Mayor elected by the community.
- The Council area is not divided into wards (i.e. retain existing 'no wards' structure).
- Council is comprised of eight area councillors in addition to the Mayor.

"Council strongly feels that the current representation model has worked well for the City of Mount Gambier in the eight years since the previous review and is committed to maintaining a 'one council' structure (no wards)."

"Generally, you tend to see ward structures in much larger councils in terms of the land size who have particular communities of interest who are separate and distinct, such as unique townships or suburbs," Ms Shelton said

"It's important that we have the right representation model in place for our community to ensure that all voices are heard and considered."

Community feedback was included in a report to Council for consideration and the adopted model will was submitted to the Electoral Commission of SA (ECSA) for approval. The new representation model will come into operation from the next Periodic Election, in November 2026.

CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

Council is required to report on the use of confidentiality provisions under subsections 90(2) and 91(7) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

The following tables provide the information required to be published for the 2024/2025 financial year:

Use of Section 90(2) Orders to Exclude Public and Section 90(3) Grounds

		Grounds Section 90(3)													
	No. of S90(2) Orders made	(a) Personal Affairs of Person	(b) Commercial Advantage	(c) Trade Secret	(d) Prejudice Commercial Position	(e) Security of Council Members Employees	(f) Maintenance of Law	(g) Does not Breach any Law or Court	(h) Legal Advice	(i) Litigation may take place	(j) Info provided by Crown or Minister	(k) Tenders	(m) DPA's	(n) FOI	(o) Award Recipients
Totals	38#	11	21	-	23	2	1	18	9	4	3	7	-	-	-

Use of Section 91(7) orders to keep documents confidential

No. of S91(7) Orders made during the 2023/2024 year	No. of S91(7) Orders remaining operative at 30 June 2025
38	157^

Some Orders were made under more than one S90(3) ground, making the total number of Orders less than the aggregate for all grounds.

^ Includes Orders that remain operative from previous financial years.

Council meeting date, subject, S90(3) grounds and status of S91(7) orders made in the 2024/2025 year, and that remained operative at 30 June 2025.

Date of Meeting	Source Meeting	Subject	S90(3) Reference	Current / Released
17/06/2025	Council	ITEM 22.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECRUITMENT - APPOINTMENT OF RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT	(b) & (k)	Current
20/05/2025	Council	ITEM 22.2 VANSITTART PARK - FACILITY PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIP	(d) & (k)	Partially Released
20/05/2025	Council	ITEM 22.1 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION AGGREGATES	(b) & (k)	Partially Released
15/04/2025	Council	ITEM 22.5 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - PROJECT UPDATE	(b), (d), (g) & (h)	Current

CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

Date of Meeting	Source Meeting	Subject	S90(3) Reference	Current / Released
15/04/2025	Council	ITEM 22.4 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - CONTRACTUAL MATTERS	(b), (d) & (g)	Current
15/04/2025	Council	ITEM 22.3 ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT - LARGE AND UNMETERED SUPPLY	(b)	Partially Released
18/03/2025	Council	ITEM 22.6 OUTSTANDING COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS - MARCH 2025	(g)	Current
18/03/2025	Council	ITEM 22.5 DISCRETIONARY RATE REBATE	(a) (d) (g)	Current
18/03/2025	Council	ITEM 22.4 BUSINESS SYSTEMS CONTRACT	(d)	Current
18/03/2025	Council	ITEM 22.3 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - PROJECT UPDATE	(b) (d) (g) & (h)	Current
18/03/2025	Council	ITEM 22.2 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BULK FUEL	(k)	Partially Released
18/03/2025	Council	ITEM 22.1 LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LCLGA) UPDATE	(a) (j)	Current
18/02/2025	Council	ITEM 22.1 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - PROJECT UPDATE	(b), (d), (g) & (h)	Partially Released
18/02/2025	CEO Performance Review Committee	ITEM 21.1 REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL REVIEW 2024	(a) & (g)	Current
21/01/2025	Council	ITEM 22.3 SALE OF LAND FOR NON PAYMENT OF RATES	(a)	Current
21/01/2025	Council	ITEM 22.2 UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL - PROPERTY THIRD PARTY	(d)	Current
21/01/2025	Council	ITEM 22.1 LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LCLGA) BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS	(a) (j)	Current
17/12/2024	Council	ITEM 22.3 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - PROJECT UPDATE	(b) (d) (g) & (h)	Current
17/12/2024	Council	ITEM 22.2 TENDER - ROADS RECONSTRUCTION TENDER - RAMSAY AVENUE, SHEPHERDSON ROAD AND ANTHONY STREET	(k)	Partially Released
17/12/2024	Council	ITEM 22.1 ELECTRICITY CONTRACT	(d)	Current
19/11/2024	Council	ITEM 22.3 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - PROJECT UPDATE	(b) (d) & (g)	Current
19/11/2024	Council	ITEM 22.2 AF24/218 TENDER - PROCUREMENT - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LANDFILL COMPACTOR (UNIT 41)	(k)	Partially Released
19/11/2024	Council	ITEM 22.1 CRATER LAKES UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL	(b) (d) & (g)	Partially Released
15/10/2024	Council	ITEM 22.2 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE	(b) (d) (g) & (h)	Current

Date of Meeting	Source Meeting	Subject	S90(3) Reference	Current / Released
15/10/2024	Council	ITEM 22.1 CRATER LAKES UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL	(b) (d) and (g)	Partially Released
17/09/2024	Council	ITEM 22.4 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - PROJECT UPDATE	(b) (d) (g) & (h)	Current
17/09/2024	Council	ITEM 22.3 DISCRETIONARY RATE REBATE	(d) and (j)	Current
17/09/2024	Council	ITEM 22.2 DELEGATION TO AWARD ELECTRICITY CONTRACT	(b)	Current
20/08/2024	Council	ITEM 23.3 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - PROJECT UPDATE – REPORT NO. AR24/56252	(b) (d) (g) and (h)	Current
20/08/2024	Council	ITEM 23.1 UPDATE ON UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL - PROPERTY THIRD PARTY – REPORT NO. AR24/17886	(a) (b) & (d)	Current
20/08/2024	Audit Committee	ITEM 22.2 LEGAL/LITIGATION COST/LIABILITY (RISK) EXPOSURE – REPORT NO. AR24/43578	(a) (b) (d) (f) (g) (h) & (i)	Current
20/08/2024	Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee	ITEM 22.1 INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND REMUNERATION REVIEW 2024 – REPORT NO. AR24/50717	(a) & (g)	Partially Released
16/07/2024	Council	ITEM 23.1 UPDATE - MITCHELL STREET TREES – REPORT NO. AR24/39130	(a) (g) (h) & (i)	Partially Released
16/07/2024	Council	ITEM 22.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - 12 MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE – REPORT NO. AR24/33762	(a)	Current
18/06/2024	Council	ITEM 23.3 LATE ITEM - UPDATE ON LEGAL MATTER – REPORT NO. AR24/42920	(f) (g) and (i)	Current
18/06/2024	Council	ITEM 23.2 VISITOR SERVICING MODEL - UPDATE – REPORT NO. AR24/31997	(b) &(d)	Current
18/06/2024	Council	ITEM 23.1 AF24/171 TENDER - PROCUREMENT - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PREMIXED CONCRETE – REPORT NO. AR24/40482	(k)	Partially Released
21/05/2024	Council	ITEM 23.3 - AF24/8 TENDER - PROCUREMENT - ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF AIR CONDITIONING PLANT AND EQUIPMENT –REPORT NO. AR24/32482	(k)	Partially Released
21/05/2024	Council	ITEM 23.2 - AF24/16 TENDER - PROCUREMENT - SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND PLACEMENT OF ASPHALT – REPORT NO. AR24/31855	(k)	Partially Released
21/05/2024	Council	ITEM 23.1 - AF24/15 TENDER - PROCUREMENT - SUPPLY AND PLACEMENT OF BITUMEN – REPORT NO. AR24/31841	(a) and (k)	Partially Released

CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

Date of Meeting	Source Meeting	Subject	S90(3) Reference	Current / Released
21/05/2024	Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee	ITEM 22.2 - INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST SUPPORT SELECTION – REPORT NO. AR24/24508	(b) and (d)	Partially Released
16/04/2024	Council	ITEM 23.2 - QUESTION WITH NOTICE - REGIONAL WASTE – REPORT NO. AR24/24863	(b) (d) and (g)	Current
19/03/2024	Council	ITEM 23.7 - STATUS REPORT - WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE – REPORT NO. AR24/16660	(b)(d) and (g)	Current
19/03/2024	Council	ITEM 23.2 - CRATER LAKES UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL REPORT NO. AR24/19114	(b) (d) and (g)	Current
19/03/2024	Council	ITEM 23.1 - VISITOR SERVICING MODEL – REPORT NO. AR24/18981	(b) and (d)	Current
20/02/2024	Council	ITEM 23.2 - QUESTION WITH NOTICE - UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL - PROPERTY THIRD PARTY PROPOSAL – REPORT NO. AR24/6186	(a), (b) and (d)	Current
20/02/2024	Council	ITEM 23.1 - QUESTION WITH NOTICE - CRATER LAKES UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL – REPORT NO. AR24/6182	(b), (d), and (g)	Current
23/01/2024	Council	ITEM 23.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - INDEPENDENT MEMBER APPOINTMENT - REPORT NO. AR24/1084	(a)	Partially Released
23/01/2024	Council	ITEM 23.1 RAA EV CHARGING STATION PROJECT - REPORT NO. AR24/26360	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
12/12/2023	Council	ITEM 23.2 AF23/431 TENDER - PROCUREMENT - RECONSTRUCTION OF FOUR ROAD SEGMENTS - REPORT NO. AR23/84680	(k)	Partially Released
12/12/2023	Council	ITEM 23.1 RIDDOCH ARTS AND CULTURAL TRUST - BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT - REPORT NO. AR23/83171	(a)	Partially Released
21/11/2023	Council	ITEM 23.7 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - STRATEGIC STATUS UPDATE – REPORT NO. AR23/78853	(b)	Current
21/11/2023	Council	ITEM 23.6 AF23/254 TENDER - PROCUREMENT - TENDER FOR CIVIC CENTRE LIFT UPGRADE – REPORT NO. AR23/79137	(k)	Partially Released
21/11/2023	Council	ITEM 23.5 CRATER LAKES UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL – REPORT NO. AR23/78247	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
21/11/2023	Council	ITEM 23.4 UPDATE ON TELSTRA CO-INVESTMENT PROPOSAL FOR MOBILE BLACKSPOTS – REPORT NO. AR23/76480	(b), (d), (g) and (j)	Current

Date of Meeting	Source Meeting	Subject	S90(3) Reference	Current / Released
17/10/2023	Council	ITEM 23.2 UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL - PROPERTY THIRD PARTY PROPOSAL - REPORT NO. AR23/68865	(a), (b) and (d)	Partially Released
17/10/2023	Council	ITEM 23.1 UPDATE ON LEGAL MATTER - REPORT NO. AR23/68588	(f), (g), (h) and (i)	Current
19/09/2023	Council	ITEM 23.2 CONTRACTED CLEANING SERVICES – REPORT NO. AR23/63952	(b) and (i)	Current
19/09/2023	Council	ITEM 23.1 CRATER LAKES UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL – REPORT NO. AR23/61873	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
15/08/2023	Audit Committee	ITEM 22.2 PHRIENDLY PHISHING REPORT – REPORT NO. AR23/36674	(e)	Current
18/07/2023	Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee	ITEM 22.2 INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND REMUNERATION REVIEW - REPORT NO. AR23/34047	(a) and (g)	Partially Released
20/06/2023	Council	ITEM 23.2 UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL - TENISON WOODS COLLEGE – REPORT NO. AR23/32053	(b)	Current
20/06/2023	Council	ITEM 23.1 RAA EV CHARGING STATION PROJECT – REPORT NO. AR23/30191	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
16/05/2023	Council	ITEM 23.2 AF23/54 TENDER - PROCUREMENT - TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CAROLINE CELL 4A – REPORT NO. AR23/27593	(k)	Partially Released
16/05/2023	Council	ITEM - 23.1 TELSTRA CO-INVESTMENT PROPOSAL FOR MOBILE BLACKSPOTS – REPORT NO. AR23/28946	(b), (d), (g) and (j)	Partially Released
16/05/2023	Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee	ITEM 22.2 REQUEST FOR QUOTES - INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST SUPPORT - REPORT NO. AR23/22334	(a), (b), (d) and (k)	Partially Released
18/04/2023	Council	ITEM 23.5 MITCHELL STREET TREES - ESTIMATED COSTS FOR STEM INJECTIONS/ REMOVAL – REPORT NO. AR23/15854	(b), (d), (g), (h) and (i)	Partially Released
18/04/2023	Council	ITEM 23.3 UPDATE ON LEGAL MATTER – REPORT NO. AR23/21104	(g), (h), (i) and (j)	Current
21/03/2023	Council	ITEM - 23.1 LIBRARY CAFE - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – REPORT NO. AR23/15719	(b)	Current
21/02/2023	Council	ITEM 23.2 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #25 - AS AT 07/02/2023 – REPORT NO. AR23/9397	(b), (d), (g) and (h)	Current
21/02/2023	Council	ITEM 23.1 SECTION 270 INTERNAL REVIEW - MITCHELL STREET TREES - LEGAL ADVICE – REPORT NO. AR23/10258	(g) and (h)	Partially Released

CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

Date of Meeting	Source Meeting	Subject	S90(3) Reference	Current / Released
13/12/2022	Council	ITEM 23.3 SECTION 270 - INTERNAL REVIEW – REPORT NO. AR22/77592	(g) and (h)	Partially Released
13/12/2022	Council	ITEM 23.1 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #23 & #24 - AS AT 06/12/2022 – REPORT NO. AR22/83941	(b), (d), (g) and (h)	Current
18/10/2022	Council	ITEM 25.1 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #22 - AS AT 04/10/2022 – REPORT NO. AR22/68454	(b), (d), (g) and (h)	Current
20/09/2022	Council	ITEM 25.1 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #21 - AS AT 06/09/2022 – REPORT NO. AR22/61993	(b), (d), (g) and (h)	Current
23/08/2022	Special Council	ITEM 4.2 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - CONTRACTUAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS – REPORT NO. AR22/56817	(b) and (d)	Partially Released
23/08/2022	Special Council	ITEM 4.1 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - OPERATIONAL MATTERS – REPORT NO. AR22/56796	(b), (d) and (g)	Partially Released
16/08/2022	Council	ITEM 25.5 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #20 - AS AT 02/08/2022 – REPORT NO. AR22/52001	(b), (d), (g) and (h)	Current
19/07/2022	Council	ITEM 26.3 TENDER - SUPPLY CONTRACTS FOR CITY INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS – REPORT NO. AR22/46711	(b), (d) and (k)	Partially Released
19/07/2022	Council	ITEM 26.1 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #19 - AS AT 05/07/2022 – REPORT NO. AR22/46752	(b), (d), (g) and (h)	Current
19/07/2022	Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee	ITEM 25.2 INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND REMUNERATION REVIEW – REPORT NO. AR22/43771	(a) and (g)	Partially Released
21/06/2022	Council	ITEM 26.3 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #18 - AS AT 07/06/2022 – REPORT NO. AR22/38086	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
17/05/2022	Council	ITEM 26.1 - PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #17 - AS AT 10/05/2022 – REPORT NO. AR22/30401	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
17/05/2022	Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee	ITEM 25.3 - PERFORMANCE REVIEW DOCUMENTATION PRESENTATION - REPORT NO. AR22/30546	(a)	Current
17/05/2022	Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee	ITEM 25.2 - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - 12 MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE - REPORT NO. AR22/28319	(a)	Current

Date of Meeting	Source Meeting	Subject	S90(3) Reference	Current / Released
19/04/2022	Council	ITEM 26.2 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #16 - AS AT 05/04/2022 – REPORT NO. AR22/24271	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
19/04/2022	Council	ITEM 26.1 REQUEST FOR INTERNAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL DECISION – REPORT NO. AR22/21802	(h)	Partially Released
15/03/2022	Council	ITEM 26.1 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #15 - AS AT 07/03/2022 – REPORT NO. AR22/16061	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
15/02/2022	Council	ITEM 26.4 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS – REPORT NO. AR22/8463	(a)	Partially Released
15/02/2022	Council	ITEM 26.3 CRATER LAKES PROJECT PROPOSAL – REPORT NO. AR22/8597	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
15/02/2022	Council	ITEM 26.2 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #14 - AS AT 01/02/2022 – REPORT NO. AR22/7779	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
14/12/2021	Council	ITEM 26.3 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #13 - AS AT 07/12/2021 – REPORT NO. AR21/79587	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
16/11/2021	Council	ITEM 26.3 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #12 - AS AT 02/11/2021 – REPORT NO. AR21/71837	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
16/11/2021	Audit Committee	ITEM 25.5 CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER - IT ENTITY CONTROLS REVIEW 2020/21 - REPORT NO. AR21/71285	(b), (e) and (g)	Current
19/10/2021	Council	ITEM 26.1 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #11 - AS AT 05/10/2021 – REPORT NO. AR21/64848	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
19/10/2021	People and Place Committee	ITEM 25.2 MOUNT GAMBIER HEALTH PRESENTATION – REPORT NO. AR21/62736	(g) and (j)	Current
21/09/2021	Council	ITEM 27.7 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT VARIATION (SUPERANNUATION) – REPORT NO. AR21/57924	(a)	Partially Released
21/09/2021	Council	ITEM 27.6 WASTE AND MATERIALS RECYCLING OPTIONS – REPORT NO. AR21/59399	(a), (b), (d) and (g)	Current
21/09/2021	Council	ITEM 27.5 VALLEY LAKE ALGAL CONTROL – REPORT NO. AR21/47621	(k)	Current
21/09/2021	Council	ITEM 27.4 SITE STRATEGIC LAND USE ASSESSMENT – REPORT NO. AR21/52780	(b), (d), (g) and (j)	Current
21/09/2021	Council	ITEM 27.1 LEGAL ADVICE – REPORT NO. AR21/58597	(g), (h), (i) and (j)	Current

CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

Date of Meeting	Source Meeting	Subject	S90(3) Reference	Current / Released
21/09/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 26.7 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF MOUNT GAMBIER COMMUNITY AND RECREATION HUB UPDATE - REPORT NO. AR21/57503	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
21/09/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 26.6 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #10 - As at 07/09/2021 - REPORT NO. AR21/57494	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
21/09/2021	Economic and Environment Committee	ITEM 26.2 COMMUNITY HEALTH INFORMATION - REPORT NO. AR21/51525	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
17/08/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 26.2 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #9 - AS AT 03/08/2021	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
20/07/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 27.3 DESIGN SERVICES - CONSTRUCTION AND DEFECTS LIABILITY PERIOD	(b), (d), (g) and (h)	Partially Released
20/07/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 27.2 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT #8 - AS AT 06/07/2021	(b) and (d)	Current
20/07/2021	Council	ITEM 28.4 TENDER AF21/209 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PREMIXED CONCRETE – REPORT NO. AR21/43214	(k)	Partially Released
20/07/2021	Council	ITEM 28.3 COVID-19 TOURISM TENANCIES – REPORT NO. AR21/41157	(a), (b) and (d)	Current
20/07/2021	Council	ITEM 28.1 LEGAL ADVICE - REPORT NO. AR21/39325	(g), (h), (i) and (j)	Current
15/06/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 27.4 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT - AS AT 01/06/2021 – REPORT NO. AR21/32471	(b) & (d)	Current
15/06/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 27.5 REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - AF20/515 MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF MOUNT GAMBIER COMMUNITY AND RECREATION HUB – REPORT NO. AR21/34712	(b) & (k)	Partially Released
18/05/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 27.5 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT - AS AT 02/05/2021 – REPORT NO. AR21/26211	(b) & (d)	Current

Date of Meeting	Source Meeting	Subject	S90(3) Reference	Current / Released
20/04/2021	Council	ITEM 28.1 COUNTRY ARTS SA - SIR ROBERT HELPMANN THEATRE MASTER PLAN – REPORT NO. AR21/21895	(b), (d), (g) & (j)	Current
20/04/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 27.8 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - STAGE 3 COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP - MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS – REPORT NO. AR21/16985	(a)	Current
20/04/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 27.7 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT - AS AT 05/04/2021 – REPORT NO. AR21/20559	(b) & (d)	Current
23/03/2021	Council	ITEM 4.1 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE FUNDING – REPORT NO. AR21/17395	(b), (d) & (k)	Partially Released
16/03/2021	Council	ITEM 28.2 WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE - STAGE 3 - COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP - MEMBER SELECTION - REPORT NO. AR21/14861	(a)	Partially Released
16/03/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 27.2 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT - AS AT 01/03/2021 - REPORT NO. AR21/11450	(b), (d) & (k)	Current
11/03/2021	Special Council (adjourned to 16/03/2021)	ITEM 4.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT – REPORT NO. AR21/15086	(a) & (g)	Partially Released
03/03/2021	Chief Executive Officer Selection Panel	ITEM 5.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECRUITMENT - REPORT NO. AR21/11473	(a), (b), (d) & (g)	Partially Released
03/03/2021	Chief Executive Officer Selection Panel	ITEM 5.1 UPDATE ON THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SELECTION PROCESS – REPORT NO. AR21/12144	(a), (b), (d) & (g)	Current
16/02/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee	ITEM 27.2 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT - AS AT 01/02/2021 – REPORT NO. AR21/6521	(b), (d) & (k)	Current
20/01/2021	Chief Executive Officer Selection Panel	ITEM 5.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECRUITMENT – REPORT NO. AR21/3669	(a), (b), (d) & (g)	Current
19/01/2021	Council	ITEM 28.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT MEMBER OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SELECTION PANEL – REPORT NO. AR21/1800	(a), (b) & (d)	Partially Released
19/01/2021	Council	ITEM 28.1 MOUNT GAMBIER PRIVATE HOSPITAL - FEASIBILITY STUDY STAGES 4-6 – REPORT NO. AR21/1334	(d) & (g)	Current

CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

Date of Meeting	Source Meeting	Subject	S90(3) Reference	Current / Released
22/12/2020	Chief Executive Officer Selection Panel	ITEM 4.1 REVIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS, MORTON PHILIPS – REPORT NO. AR20/85494	(a), (b), (d) & (g)	Current
15/12/2020	Council	ITEM 28.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - COMMUNITY AND RECREATION HUB – REPORT NO. AR20/82569	(h)	Current
15/12/2020	Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Commitee	ITEM 27.2 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT - AS AT 29/11/2020 – REPORT NO. AR20/80910	(b), (d), (k)	Current
17/11/2020	Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Commitee	ITEM 27.4 MOUNT GAMBIER COMMUNITY AND RECREATION HUB PROJECT BUDGET – REPORT NO. AR20/73063	(b) & (d)	Partially Released
17/11/2020	Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Commitee	ITEM 27.5 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (PCG) PROGRESS REPORT - AS AT 02/11/2020 – REPORT NO. AR20/73679	(b) & (d)	Current
15/09/2020	Economic and Environment Committee	ITEM 26.3 VIABILITY OF ESTABLISHING MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES IN THE LIMESTONE COAST REGION – REPORT NO. AR20/57874	(a), (b), (d), (g) & (j)	Current
15/09/2020	Economic and Environment Committee	ITEM 26.2 MOUNT GAMBIER PRIVATE HOSPITAL FEASIBILITY STUDY – REPORT NO. AR20/56996	(b), (d), & (g)	Current
21/07/2020	Council	ITEM 27.1 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT - EXPIRY OF AGREEMENT – REPORT NO. AR20/44292	(a), (b), (d) & (i)	Partially Released
01/07/2020	Special Council	ITEM 4.1 COMMUNITY AND RECREATION HUB PROCUREMENT – REPORT NO. AR20/39192	(b) & (k)	Partially Released
19/05/2020	Council	ITEM 27.1 PROPOSAL FROM MOUNT GAMBIER PRIVATE HOSPITAL – REPORT NO. AR20/30776	(d)	Current
17/03/2020	Deputation	ITEM 26.2 PRESENTATION BY BEACH ENERGY – REPORT NO. AR20/8188	(d)	Current
18/02/2020	Council	ITEM 26.2 RIDDOCH ART GALLERY CRATE LOADER - REPORT NO. AR19/62327	(b) & (k)	Partially Released
18/02/2020	Council	ITEM 26.1 BOOKMARK CAFÉ - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - REPORT NO. AR20/3205	(a), (b), (d) & (g)	Partially Released
07/03/2019	Special Council	ITEM 2.1 'DISCUSSION WITH QEPT ON THE WELLPLAYED REPORT, THE QEPT'S RESPONSE TO THAT REPORT AND THEIR PROPOSED SUB-LEASING ARRANGEMENTS-	(b), (c) & (g)	Partially Released
07/03/2019	Special Council	ITEM 2.2 'QEPT WELLPLAYED REPORT AND DOCUMENTATION'- REPORT NO. AR19/10346	(b), (c) & (g)	Partially Released
07/03/2019	Special Council	ITEM 2.3 DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CRATER LAKES AREA - REPORT NO. AR19/10304	(b), (c) & (g)	Partially Released

Date of Meeting	Source Meeting	Subject	S90(3) Reference	Current / Released
21/08/2018	Operational Standing Committee	ITEM 17.2 MOUNT GAMBIER AQUATIC CENTRE 2018-19 BUSINESS PLAN - REPORT NO. AR18/30233	(g)	Current
17/04/2018	Strategic Standing Committee	ITEM 17.2 SURPLUS GOVERNMENT PROPERTY NOTICE - REPORT NO. AR18/12667	(j)	Current
21/11/2017	Council	ITEM 17.5 REPORT NO. AR17/47214 – SURPLUS GOVERNMENT PROPERTY NOTICE	(b)	Current
18/04/2017	Council	COUNCIL ITEM 1 - CEO REPORT ON CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS - Ref. AF11/1894	(g)	Current
31/01/2017	Special Council	ALLEGATIONS REGARDING MAYOR ANDREW LEE TO BE REFERRED TO ICAC – Ref. AF13/275	(g)	Current
18/08/2015	Operational Services Committee	PROPERTY MANAGEMENT - RAILWAY LANDS - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNTIY MARKETS	(b)	Current
18/08/2015	Operational Services Committee	PROPERTY MANAGEMENT - RAILWAY LANDS - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - OCCUPATION AND USE OF OLD RAILWAY STATION BUILDING	(b)	Current
15/04/2014	Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee	GOVERNANCE – COMMITTEES – CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND (SECTION 41) - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 2 APRIL, 2014 – REF. AF11/725	(a)	Current
17/12/2013	Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee	COMMERCIAL CLUB INC. - DONATION TO EXCEPTIONAL JUNIOR SPORTSPERSON	(a)	Current
17/12/2013	Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee	ROTARY CLUB OF MOUNT GAMBIER LAKES - DONATIONS TO FINANCIALLY DISADVANTAGED JUNIOR SPORTSPERSONS	(a)	Current
18/06/2013	Corporate and Community Services	SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - COMMITTEES - CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER JUNIOR SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND (SECTION 41) COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 22 MAY, 2013 – REF. AF11/725	(a)	Current

BY-LAWS

Council had the following By-Laws in operation during the 2024/2025 year:

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

By-Laws 1 to 5 will expire on 1 January 2026 after the seventh anniversary of their adoption, unless revoked or replaced prior to this date. By-Laws can be viewed on Council's website.

BY-LAW REVIEW

In April 2025, City of Mount Gambier sought community feedback on its proposed By-Laws - the powers enacted via the Local Government Act 1999 to set certain rules about permitted activities under general authorisation, activities that require specific permission, and activities that are prohibited.

"By-Laws are used, along with a range of other mechanisms, to ensure that residents and visitors to our Council area can enjoy a clean and safe city," Governance and Property Manager Brittany Shelton said.

By-Laws must be reviewed every seven years. The review includes the consideration of changes in relevant legislation and compliance requirements or activities of Council, and issues of significance to the community which may be reasonably regulated by a By-Law.

"When we undertook community consultation for the 2024 – 2028 Dog and Cat Management Plan in 2023, we heard quite clearly that there was a desire for Council to take a more active role in the management of cats."

Following the community feedback, Council will introduce a new Cats By-Law.

"There are four key inclusions in the proposed Cats By-Law, including:

1. Making cat registration mandatory,
2. Creating a 'nuisance offence' which seeks to prevent issues such as property damage, aggressive behaviour and wandering onto private property,
3. Setting a limit of two cats per household (unless permission is granted for a higher number), and
4. To allow Council to put containment requirements in place, such as curfews in the future."

Additional community consultation will occur before a proposed Cats By-Law is implemented, and not all suggested provisions will be enforced from the start date of the new By-Laws, 1 January 2026.

"We want to give cat owners some time to get used to the changes, so there would be an initial transitional grace period to enable community education prior to any enforcement of the proposed new provisions," Ms Shelton said.



Following community feedback, Council will introduce a new Cats By-Law, to commence from 1 January 2026.

Since the last time Council reviewed its By-Laws, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) advised it objects to regulations/conditions over activities occurring on, and in bodies of water being included in Council By-Laws, as these matters are already regulated under the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993*, which is the responsibility of DIT (Marine Safety).

The current regulations for activity on and in the Valley Lake/Ketla Malpi imposed by DIT for Area 1, Area 2 and Area 3 (see map below for reference) are as follows:

- A person must not take a vessel into the specified waters or cause or permit a vessel to enter or remain in the specified waters, and
- A person must not ski, aquaplane or be towed in any other manner by a vessel in the specified waters.

"The balance (majority of the centre) of the lake does not have any prohibition on swimming or use of vessels. For the community, there is no changes to the current rules for Valley Lake/Ketla Malpi, they will simply be regulated by DIT (Marine Safety) rather than Council from 1 January 2026."

"By-Laws cannot overlap onto subject matter which is already covered by Federal or State legislation.

While Council will no longer have the authority to make By-Laws which regulate activities on and in the water, we will continue to regulate who can access the water via the boat ramp facilities."

The Legislative Review Committee (LRC) recommends that councils consider modernising language used to describe gender on public amenities in Council's Local Government Land By-Law, to ensure it does not discriminate against a person that identifies as transgender, intersex or gender diverse.

Valley Lake

Area 1: the portion of Valley Lake bounded on the south-east side by a straight line extending south-west from the white marker post situated approximately midway along the north shore of Valley Lake to the white marker post situated on the west shore of Valley Lake.

Area 2: the portion of Valley Lake bounded on the west by a straight line from the white marker post situated near the end of the north shore of Valley Lake to the white marker post on the east shore of Valley Lake.

Area 3: the portion of Valley Lake not included in Area 1 or 2 bounded on the south-west by a straight line extending south-east from the yellow marker post situated on the north shore of Valley Lake to the yellow marker post situated on the shore at the approximate north-east corner of Valley Lake.



"The LRC's preference is for By-Laws to use gender neutral language rather than gender specific language e.g. 'unisex' or 'all-gender', not exclusively 'men', 'male' or 'women', 'female'," Ms Shelton said.

"This is consistent with the model clauses provided in the 'Inquiry into Local Government Land By-laws – Public Conveniences' tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 28 September 2022."

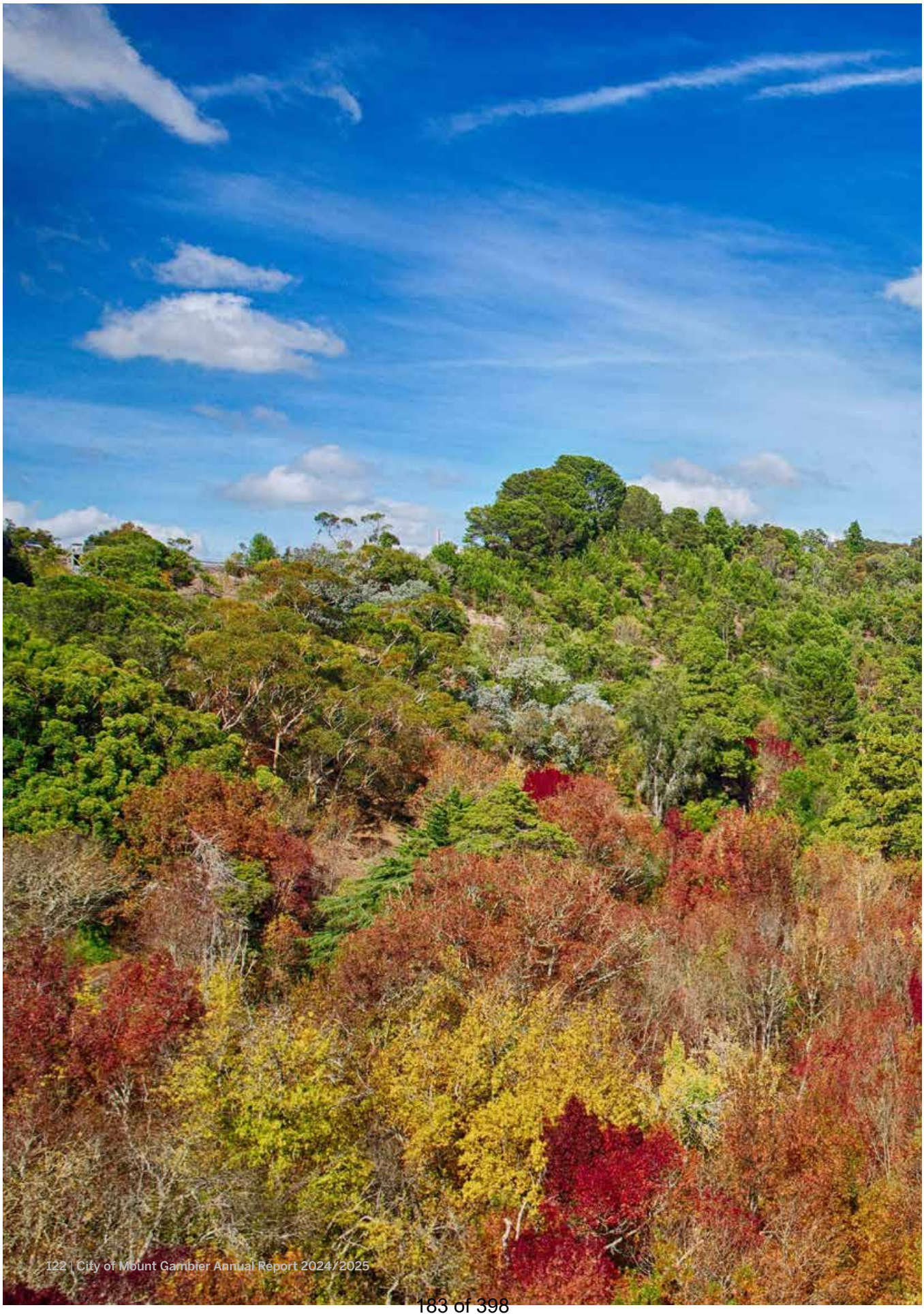
The By-Law review community consultation process will be conducted in two phases, aligned to how By-Laws operate:

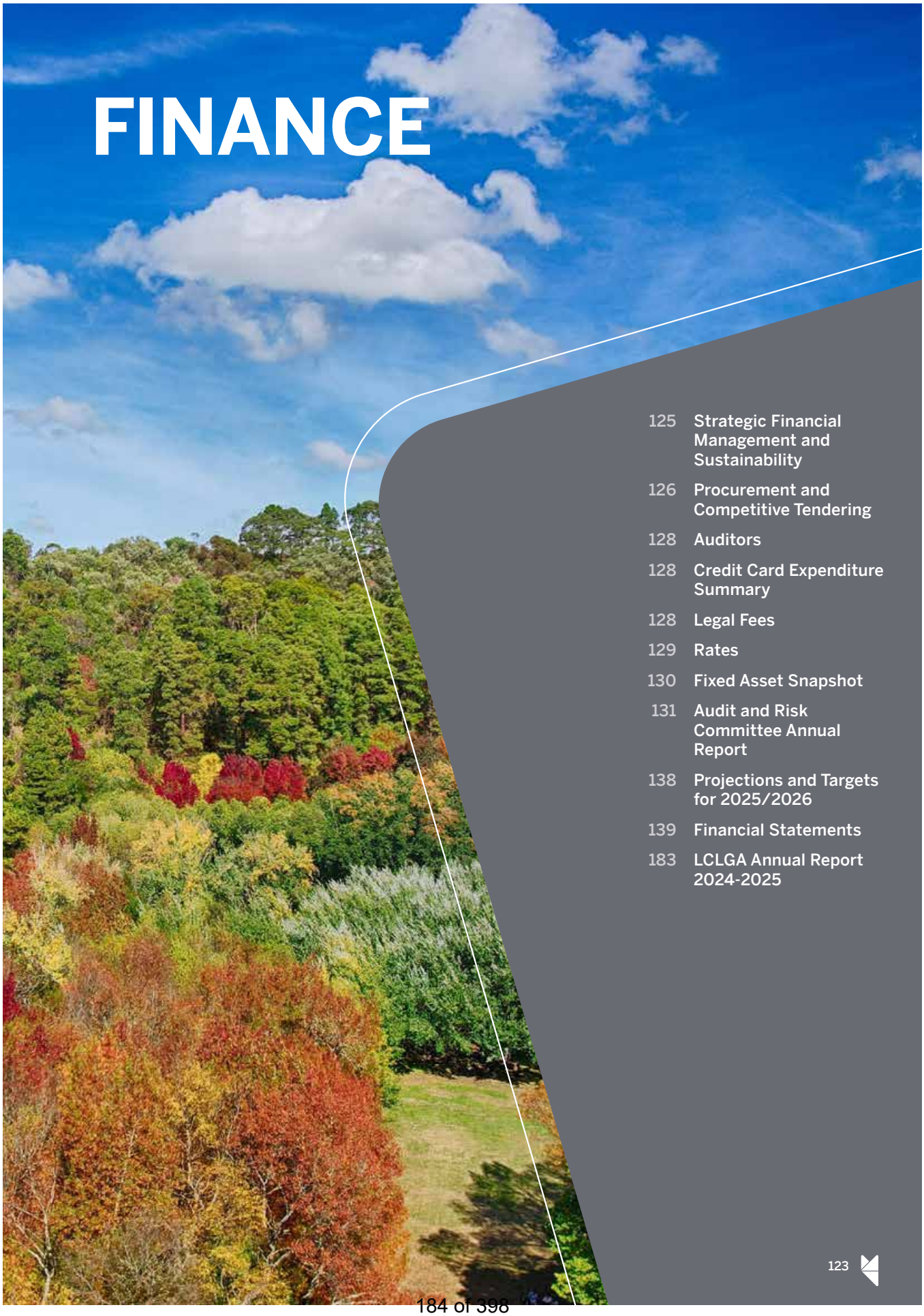
- Phase one: feedback on the By-Law documents themselves – Council seeks feedback on the powers contained within By-Law documents. For example, consideration if there should be a provision which enables Council to regulate dogs.
- Phase two: feedback on the application of the By-Law documents within Council's area. For example, consideration as to where dogs should be allowed off leash.



Valley Lake/Kelta Malpi.

"Phase one of the consultation was completed in April/May, which sought feedback on the By-Laws themselves. Phase two of consultation will be conducted in the second half of 2025."





FINANCE

125 Strategic Financial Management and Sustainability
126 Procurement and Competitive Tendering
128 Auditors
128 Credit Card Expenditure Summary
128 Legal Fees
129 Rates
130 Fixed Asset Snapshot
131 Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report
138 Projections and Targets for 2025/2026
139 Financial Statements
183 LCLGA Annual Report 2024-2025

ESCOSA FINDS COUNCIL 'MOSTLY SUSTAINABLE'

The Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) found City of Mount Gambier's historical, current and projected financial performance to be 'mostly sustainable'.

The report into Council's financial position was issued in February 2025 as part of the third round of findings under the Local Government Advice Scheme established through the *Local Government Act 1999*. Under the scheme, ESCOSA is the advisory body providing advice to all 68 councils across the state in a four-year cycle.

"This outcome reflects Council's commitment to delivering services and infrastructure while maintaining long-term stability. It is good to know that Council is headed in the right direction and this result reinforces the positive impact of our ongoing work," Mayor Martin said.

The report highlighted Council's good financial management practices, including the development and review of strategic management plans in consultation with stakeholders and the community.

"We also received recognition for the development of separate Asset Management Plans for each asset group and the integration of data within the Long Term Financial Plan and budget. Council was also acknowledged for conducting community consultations and surveys to identify service level priorities," CEO Sarah Philpott said.

ESCOSA outlined risks that could impact Council's sustainability, including dependency on rate growth and the impact of operating expenses. The advice considered Council's forecast average residential rate increases of 4.8 per cent (excluding growth) over the next 10 years as outlined in the Long Term Financial Plan.

"Historically, residential rates have been lower than average in Mount Gambier compared to similar council areas, and our rates haven't kept up with inflation. A rate increase responded to growth and depreciation pressures, resulting in rates above CPI this financial year."

ESCOSA recommended that Council review depreciation assumptions and asset valuation data to ensure accurate reflection of asset consumption and fully fund asset renewal and replacement. The Commission also encouraged Council to assess the development of new and upgraded assets and consider balancing rates affordability, future financial liabilities, and the prioritisation of asset renewal and replacement.

"We welcome the review and the recommendations to further refine the work that we are already doing to improve our financial position and practices. We are currently commencing a service review process, strategic property review, rating review, budgetary controls and scrutiny and considering areas for cost reduction to ensure financial sustainability is maintained, ultimately to try to reduce the impost on our ratepayers," Ms Philpott said.

"Council's work on assets, and on business improvement is about looking to increase our asset understanding, ensure appropriate investment and also seeking efficiencies, as we are very conscious of the pressures on our ratepayers."

"Now we have the report, we will further consider what other strategies and actions we need to take to address the recommendations."

ESCOSA acknowledged that Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre is a valuable long term asset that will serve both current and future generations of ratepayers. The Commission recommended that Council consider longer-term debt repayment periods for the facility, reflecting its status as an intergenerational asset.

"Importantly, ESCOSA also recognised the work we've done to reduce operating expenses at the community facility since opening," Ms Philpott said.



STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Council's 2024/2025 financial sustainability indicators are all trending improvements on the prior financial year.

The operating surplus ratio of 2.4% meets the local government target range of 0 - 10%, and is improved on the adopted budget of (3.5%). The adjusted operating surplus ratio of (2.4%) is predominantly due to the timing of receipt of financial assistance grants.

Net financial liabilities (both adjusted and non- adjusted) have improved in 2024/2025. The ratio is lower than the adopted budget of 100% largely driven by reduced borrowings due to timing of capital expenditure, treasury management practices and an increase to operating income.

The current Long Term Financial Plan forecasts debt to peak in 2024/2025 financial year, pending timing of capital expenditure. It is projected that the ratio will continue to trend downwards in future years.

The asset renewal funding ratio at 88% is marginally lower than the local government target of 90%-110% and a significant improvement on the prior year. The ratio is lower than the adopted budget of 100% largely driven by carry forward capital renewal expenditure of $1.475 million, some of which relates to timing of plant purchases and supply chain lead time.

Financial ratios	Local Government target	2024/2025 actual	2023/2024 actual
Operating surplus	0% - 10%	2.4%	(12.3%)
Adjusted		(2.4%)	(1.8%)
Net financial liabilities ratio	0% - 100%	81%	106%
Adjusted		85%	96%
Asset renewal funding ratio	90% - 110%	88%	61%

PROCUREMENT AND COMPETITIVE TENDERING

Council is committed to achieving value for money in procuring goods and services that benefit the community and support the city's economic, environmental, cultural and social values.

The City of Mount Gambier Procurement Policy complies with Section 49 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (last reviewed and endorsed in December 2023) and drives consistent, transparent processes and cultivates a competitive environment. It also seeks to advance good ethical practice and ensure an open, fair and competitive process that provides equal opportunities to participants.

The expenditure levels established within the Procurement Policy determine the appropriate purchase method, and the strategies for tenders, formal quotes and expressions of interest are built to deliver value, achieve high quality and manage attendant risks, including sustaining appropriate standards of workplace health and safety.

Council undertook 33 formal requests for tender/quote processes during 2024/2025.

Council recognises the significant impact that its operations play in the local economy and endeavours to support local businesses wherever possible, while being mindful of the requirement to provide value for money outcomes and achieve budget expectations.

Consideration will vary with each procurement to determine local and regional opportunities, with tenders incorporating a local weighting as part of the evaluation process.

In 2024/2025, approximately 55% of Council's direct spend was with businesses within the local area.

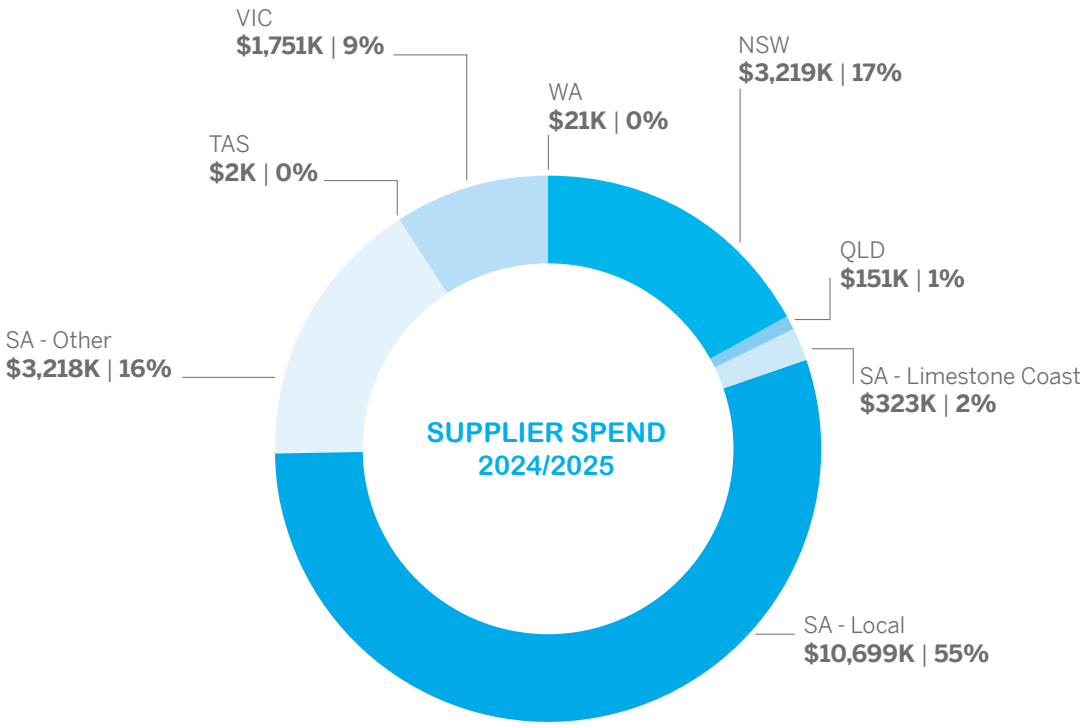
City of Mount Gambier did not commence or cease any new significant business activities during the 2024/2025 financial year. Council has articulated the following procurement objectives, which aim to ensure fair, transparent and competitive outcomes:

1. Open and fair competition,
2. Value for money,
3. Probity, accountability and transparency,
4. Ethical behaviour and fair dealing,
5. Risk management,
6. Work health and safety,
7. Environmental sustainability,
8. Local economic benefit and social inclusion,
9. Social impact, and
10. Effective management of the end to end procurement lifecycle.

As part of Council's most recent By-Law Review, which commenced in 2024/2025, no proposals were made to amend or include By-Law provisions which restrict competition. Council has received no complaints alleging breach of competitive neutrality principles during the 2024/2025 financial year.



A breakdown of supplier spending (excluding GST) is shown below:





AUDITORS

The City of Mount Gambier Annual Financial Statements for 2024/2025 were audited by Dean Newbery and Partners who were appointed as external auditors in May 2021 for a five year term pursuant to Section 128 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Remuneration paid or payable during 2024/2025 to the auditors for work performed for the annual audit of Council's financial statements pursuant to Section 128 of the Act was $25,539.

A further $1,095 was paid to the auditors relating to the auditing of financial aquittals as required for grant funding received.

An unmodified audit report was issued for the 2024/2025 financial year.

CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

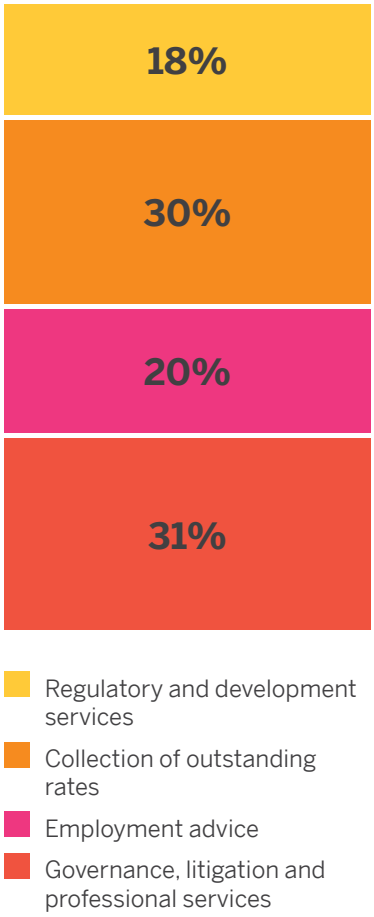
City of Mount Gambier has a corporate card facility with an overall purchasing limit approved of $30,000.

No cards are issued to Elected Members and there are nine employees currently allocated limits within the corporate facility. For the financial period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 the total amount expended via credit cards totalled $43,276.

LEGAL FEES

In the 2024/2025 financial year, Council incurred legal costs totalling $153,358 as outlined in Note 3 of the Financial Statements.

30% of legal fees relate to the collection of rates and is recoverable. A portion of regulatory and development services and litigation is also recoverable.



RATES

Rates are Council's main source of revenue. Council has determined to raise differential rates based on the use of the land. Land use is recognised by state taxing agencies and is easily identified and understood by communities. It is therefore considered the most appropriate method to apply different rates by the majority of councils.

General Rates

For the 2024/2025 financial year Council adopted an increase in general rate revenue of 11.24% i.e. 10.13% plus assessment growth of 1.11%. In terms of residential rates, the average residential ratepayer paid $1,342 (excluding the Waste Service Charge), an increase of $119.00 compared with the 2023/2024 average.

Waste Service Charge

To provide greater transparency around the cost of waste management, Council introduced a separate fixed Waste Service Charge (WSC) four years ago. Previously included in general rates, the WSC now reflects the cost of delivering kerbside waste services - from bin collection through to treatment, disposal, and ongoing service improvements.

Charged based on service availability at the property, the WSC is currently set at $311.00. Council hopes this approach will encourage ratepayers to consider both their environmental impact and the true cost of managing waste in our community.

Council hopes the WSC will encourage ratepayers to consider their personal environmental impact and the costs associated with waste management.

Valuations

City of Mount Gambier continues to use the capital value determined by the Office of the Valuer-General as the basis for valuing land within this council area.

How rates are determined

Council's rating strategy uses a combination of a fixed charge on every rateable property and a differential or variable rating system, based on land use, when calculating general rates.

The fixed charge component was $634.65 in 2024/2025 ($566.60 in 2023/2024), applicable to every rateable property, raising approximately (38%) of Council's gross general rate revenue.

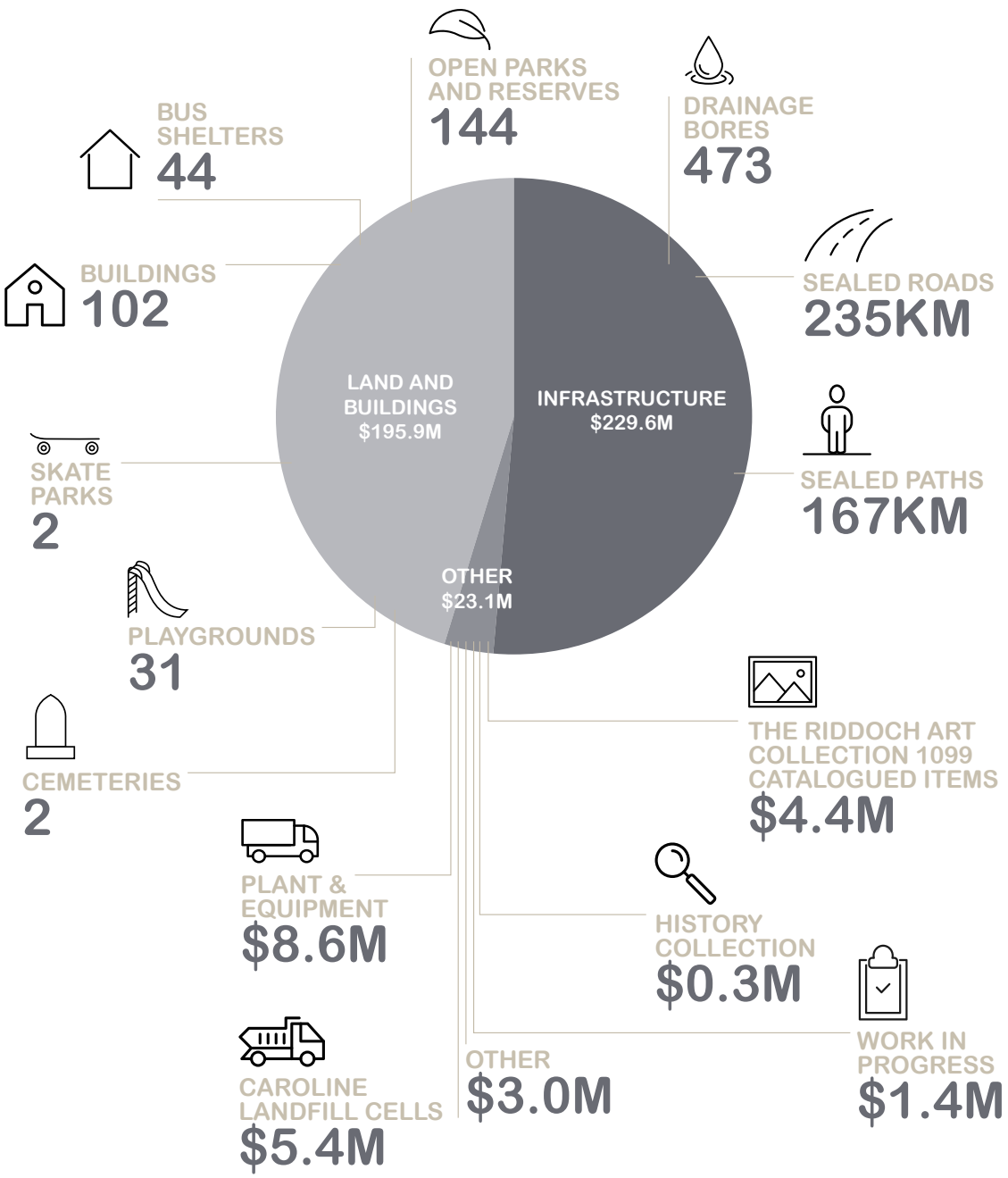
The variable rating component that raises the remaining 62% is determined by multiplying the individual property value by the differential rate in the dollar adopted for each separate land use category, i.e. residential, commercial, industrial, primary production, vacant land or other land use.

As part of Council's rating strategy, a range of rate relief measures are available upon application.



FIXED ASSET SNAPSHOT

TOTAL ASSET VALUE $448.6M



AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed and monitored numerous functions adding value to Council's strategic planning, annual financial statements, risk management and internal controls.

Highlights for the year included the waste financial modelling, debt refinancing, policy reviews and governance, ESCOSA local government advice, biennial review of internal financial controls and associated risk, internal audit program recommendations and actions, and review of long term financial plan and annual budget.

MEETING ATTENDANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Seven ordinary meetings were held over the course of the 2024/2025 financial year.

The meetings were held in July 2024, August 2024, October 2024, November 2024, February 2025, April 2025 and June 2025.

Audit and Risk Committee attendance was as follows:

Committee member	Meetings attended
Mr Paul Duka (Presiding Member)	7/7
Mayor Martin (Ex-officio)	6/7
Cr Paul Jenner (Council Member)	6/7
Mr Alexander Brown	7/7
Ms Belinda Johnson	7/7

INFORMAL PRE MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Prior to each formal meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee staff hold pre meeting briefings separately with the Presiding Member and Council member at their request.

Five workshops were held:

- 14 August 2024 - Audit and Risk Committee update and waste financial modeling,
- 9 January 2025 - Confidential workshop - refinancing options,
- 5 February 2025 - Audit and Risk Committee update, Rating Review and update on budget preparation,
- 2 April 2025 - Audit and Risk Committee update, ESCOSA and internal financial controls, and
- 4 June 2025 - Audit and Risk Committee update, internal audits and interim external audit.

SELF ASSESSMENT EVALUATION

Self-assessment is completed annually by the committee which covers 10 broad areas for performance review. The last review was completed 28 October 2024 including the following areas:

- Role and Terms of Reference,
- Independence,
- Committee skills/training,
- Work program,
- Council structure and decision making,
- Meeting operation and frequency,
- Resources available to the committee,
- Working relationship with Council and senior management,
- Access to appropriate Council information, and
- The extent to which the committee's advice is contributing to the effective operation of Council.

The Audit and Risk Committee agreed majority of performance areas are being met.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

REVISED ANNUAL WORK PLAN

	Feb	Apr	Jun	Sept	Nov	Dec
Meeting date	5/2	2/4	4/6	24/9	5/11	3/12
Financial Reporting and Management						
Review statutory financial statements						
Comparison of actual performance to budget as at year-end						
Review performance of investments and borrowings						
Audit and Risk Committee self-assessment and annual report						
Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems						
Monitor effectiveness of Council's internal controls and risk management systems						
Strategic Risk Register						
Review of insurances						
Work Health Safety update						
Policies and leases/licenses update						
Public Interest Disclosure Act and Prudential Reports						
Review arrangements for employees to raise concerns in financial reporting and other matters						
Be satisfied that independent investigation of matters raised are appropriately followed up						
Internal Audit						
Internal audit – Oversight of program planning and scope						
Progress on internal audits						
External Audit						
Review annual audit plan						
Meeting with auditors to review audit findings						
Review audit management report and management's response						
Review Management Representation Letter						
Auditor engagement (term 3 of 5 years)						
Review of Strategic Management and Business Plans						
Review Asset Management Plans (Forward Works Program)						
Review Long Term Financial Plan						
Review Annual Business Plan						
Budget reviews (for noting only)						

REVISED ANNUAL WORK PLAN

	Feb	Apr	Jun	Sept	Nov	Dec
Meeting date	5/2	2/4	4/6	24/9	5/11	3/12
Policy Reviews						
Budget Framework Policy B300						
Treasury Management Policy T150						
Asset Accounting Policy (annual review)						
Any other policies as required						
Other						
Review annual work program						
Review Terms of Reference						

COMMITTEE DECISION MAKING

Date	Report	Work Program Category
29/07/2024	Correspondence received	Other
	Internal Audit – Payroll and Remuneration	Internal Audit
	Internal Audit – PDI Act – Post Implementation	Internal Audit
	Quarterly Internal Audit Update	Internal Audit
	Lease and Licence Update	Other
	Council Policy Update	Policy Review
	2023/2024 External Audit Interim Management Report	External Audit
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report	Other
14/08/2024	Caroline Landfill 2023/2024 Post Closure Provision Update	Financial Reporting and Management
28/10/2024	Draft 2023/2024 Financial Statements	Financial Reporting and Management
	Comparison of Actual to Budget for the year ended 30 June 2024	Financial Reporting and Management
	Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report	Committee Governance
	Audit and Risk Committee Self-Assessment Review 2023/2024	Committee Governance
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report	Other

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE DECISION MAKING

Date	Report	Work Program Category
25/11/2024	Annual Review Borrowing and Investments	Treasury Management
	Internal Audit: Amended Plan, Quarterly Update and Project Scope	Internal Audit
	Policy Update	Policy Review
	Policies for Review • Request for Service and Complaint Procedure • Internal Review of Council's Decisions • Emergency Management • Treasury Management	Policy Review
	Lease and Licence Update	Other
	Annual Work Plan and Meeting Schedule	Committee Governance
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report	Other
05/02/2025	Strategic Risk Register	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Quarterly Report	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Budget Framework Policy B300	Policy Review
	Review of Terms of Reference	Committee Governance
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report	Other
2/04/2025	Lease and Licence Update	Other
	Policy Update	Policy Review
	Quarterly Internal Audit Update	Internal Audit
	Internal Financial Controls 2024/2025 Self-Assessment and Update from Previous Assessment	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Asset Accounting Policy	Policy Review
	ESCOSA Local Government Advice February 2025	Financial Reports and Management
	External Audit Matters 2023/2024 Update	External Audit
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report	Other
4/06/2024	Draft 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan and Budget	Review of Strategic Management and Business Plans
	Draft Long Term Financial Plan for Public Consultation 2025-2034	Review of Strategic Management and Business Plans
	Draft Asset Management Planning Approach	Review of Strategic Management and Business Plans

Date	Report	Work Program Category
4/06/2024	Risk Appetite Statement	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	External Audit Interim Management Report 2024/2025	External Audit
	Quarterly Internal Audit Update	Internal Audit
	Internal Audit Procurement and Contract Management	Internal Audit
	Work Health Safety (WHS) and Wellbeing Quarterly Report - January - March 2025	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report	Other

2025/2026 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET ADOPTED

The 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan and Budget along with the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) were adopted at a Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24 June 2025.

The plan outlines the delivery of services, strategic priorities and a balanced financial position, with total budgeted expenditure of $52.2 million.

Mayor Martin said the budget reflects a responsible and community focused approach to financial planning and service delivery.

"We have worked hard to deliver a balanced budget that supports ongoing investment in services, infrastructure renewal and the long term sustainability of our city. This plan has been shaped by community feedback and sets a strong foundation for the year ahead," Mayor Martin said.

Key features of the 2025/2026 budget:

- $26.801 million to be raised from general rates.
- A 7.81% increase in general rate revenue (excluding growth).
- A 10.61% increase in the Waste Service Charge (WSC) at $344.00 per assessment, to better reflect the actual cost of service delivery.

Council endorsed a lower rate increase than initially proposed in the draft budget, reducing it from 8.18% to 7.81% from 1 July 2025.

CEO Sarah Philpott explained that the final rate adjustment reflects updated growth figures.

"The draft budget included an 8.18% rate increase plus 0.5% growth, an 8.68% total increase in rate revenue. However, actual growth for the year rose to 0.87%, allowing us to reduce the rate increase to 7.81% while maintaining the same overall revenue target," Ms Philpott said.

"For the average residential ratepayer, this equates to an increase of approximately $33.00 per quarter, including the Waste Service Charge (WSC)," Ms Philpott said.

"It's important to note this 7.81% figure refers to the total revenue collected from rates, not necessarily the rate change experienced by individual property owners - that will vary depending on each property's valuation."

The plan outlines a range of initiatives aligned to the Strategic Plan 2024–2028, Asset Management Plans and the Mount Gambier 2035 Community Vision, including:

- Blue Lake/Warwar solar lighting renewal: commencing a two-year upgrade program with potential co-funding opportunities.
- Civic Centre renewal: roof and lift replacement in partnership with Country Arts SA.
- CBD master planning and activation: completion of master plan and funding to implement short term activation.
- Road infrastructure: reconstruction of Lake Terrace East and Wireless Road West (Roads to Recovery funding), and Davison Drive (subject to Special Local Roads Funding).
- James Street public toilets: renewal in line with asset planning.
- Shared path extension: Rail Trail extension to O'Leary Road in line with the Shared Path Master Plan.
- Master planning for open spaces: Planning for Umpherston Sinkhole/ Balumbul, with future work proposed for Vansittart Park, Olympic Park, and Hastings Cunningham Reserve.
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre: continued activation, including capital upgrades to the AV system.
- Continued review and implementation of a hub-and-spoke visitor servicing model.
- Strategic unlocking projects to enhance organisational performance and data-driven decision making.

The Annual Business Plan and Budget was informed by extensive community engagement, including two public information sessions, 23 written submissions and a Special Meeting to hear verbal submissions, held on 17 June 2025.

"We sincerely thank our community for their active participation in the budget process. Key topics of interest included the rate increase, ESCOSA guidance, cost-saving initiatives, the strategic plan and the range of services provided," Mayor Martin said.

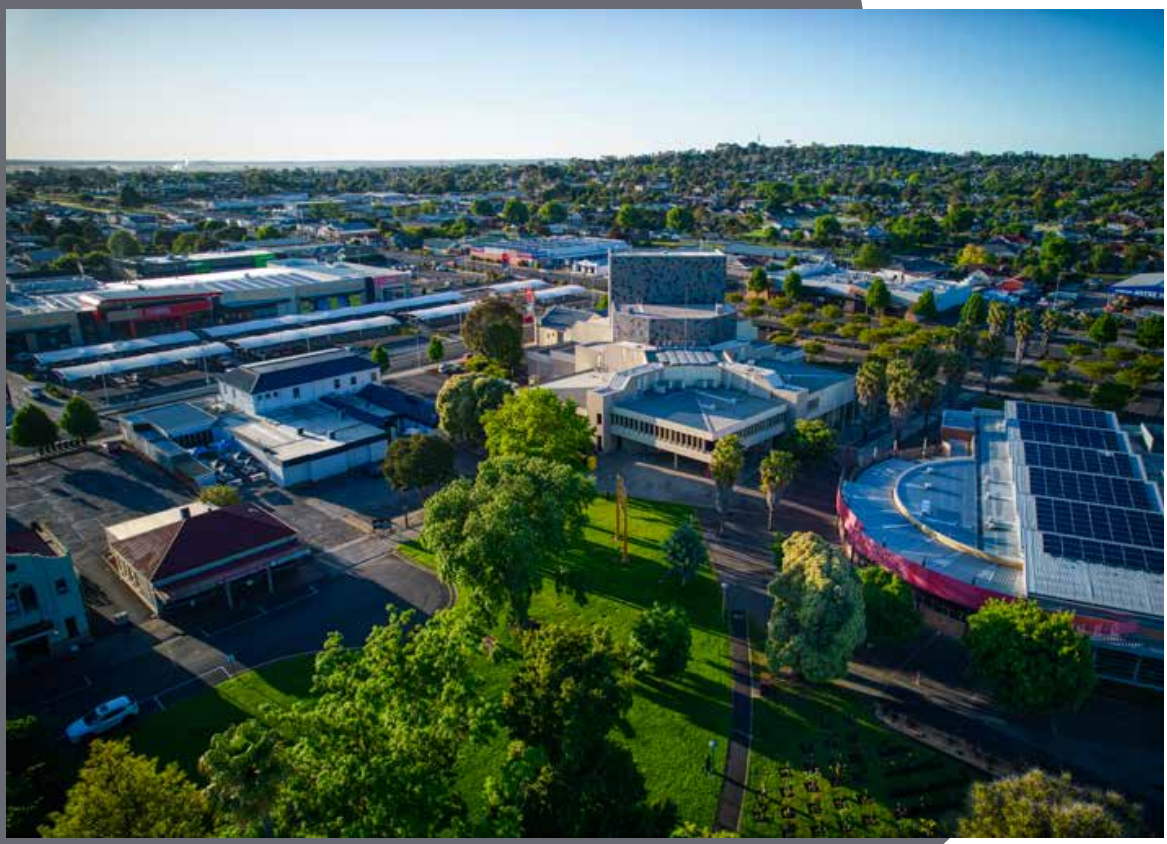
"In response to a verbal submission from Substance Misuse Limestone Coast, Council will allocate $20,000 from

the Grants and Sponsorships Program to support the Limestone Coast Alcohol and Other Drugs Regional Summit 2025 and related training initiatives."

"Additionally, following a verbal submission at the Special Meeting, Council committed $25,000 from the Strategic Capacity Fund to support improvements at Frew Park, aimed at enhancing safety and amenity and reducing antisocial behaviour."

The Annual Business Plan and Budget 2025/2026 is available on Council's website. Performance against the plan will be reported on quarterly to Council and the community.

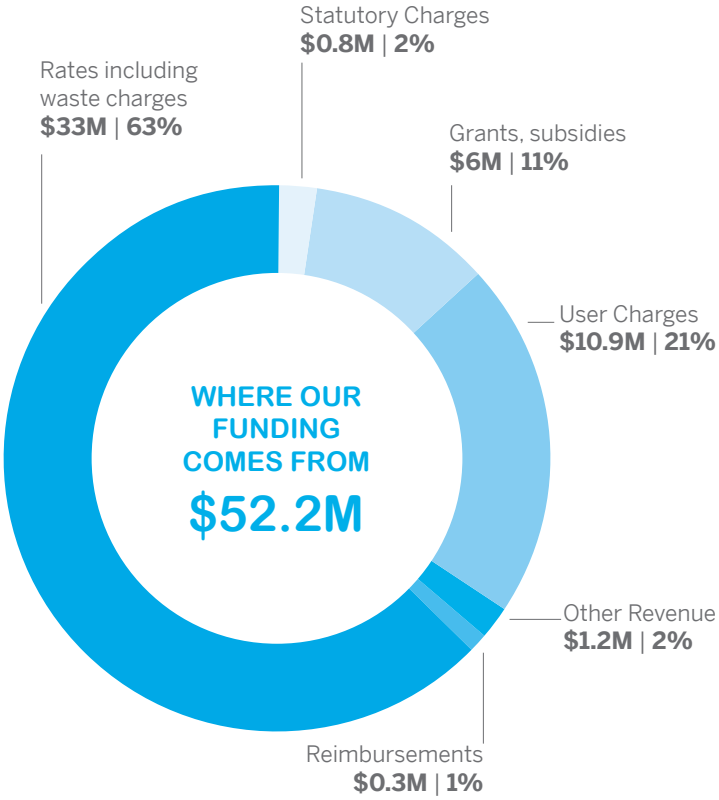
In addition, Council reviewed and adopted the Rating Policy (R105) and Rate Rebate Policy (R155), incorporating changes to improve clarity and ensure alignment with the *Local Government Act 1999* and feedback from the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA).

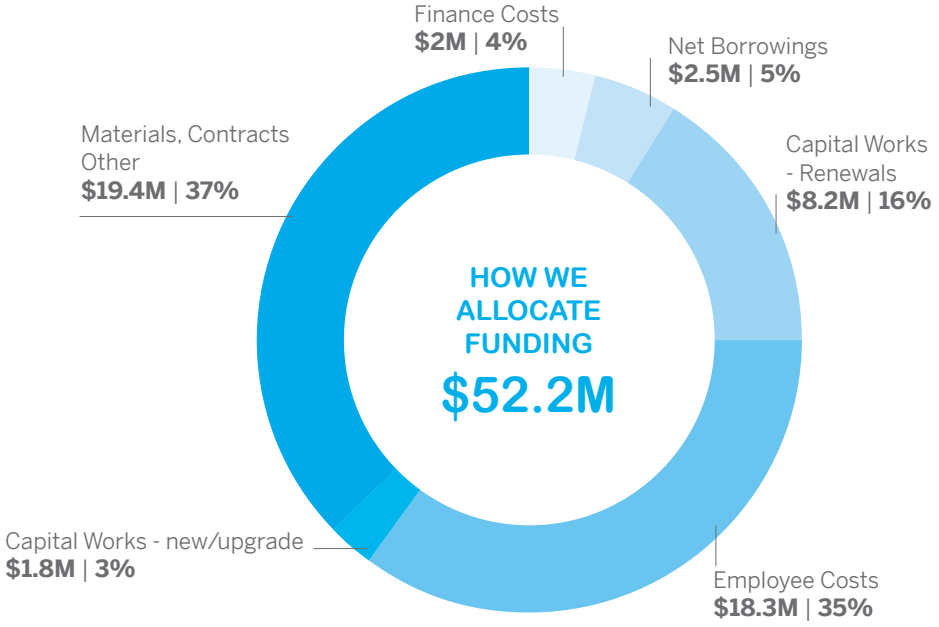


PROJECTIONS AND TARGETS FOR 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR

The City of Mount Gambier 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan and Budget outlines the services, programs and activities Council plans to deliver over the 12 month period.

The objectives and key initiatives outlined in the plan reflect the aspirations, priorities and values articulated in the Community Vision – Mount Gambier 2035, the City of Mount Gambier Strategic Plan 2024-2028 and are guided by the Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plans. These documents can be viewed on Council's website.





City of Mount Gambier

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Contents Page

Council certificate **140**

Principal Financial Statements
Statement of Comprehensive Income 141
Statement of Financial Position 142
Statement of Changes in Equity 143
Statement of Cash Flows 144

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements **145**

Independent Auditor's Report – Financial Statements **174**

Independent Auditor's Report – Internal Controls **176**

Certificates of Audit Independence
Council Certificate of Audit Independence 178
Audit Certificate of Audit Independence 179

City of Mount Gambier

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Certification of Financial Statements

We have been authorised by the Council to certify the financial statements in their final form.

In our opinion:

- the accompanying financial statements comply with the *Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Australian Accounting Standards,
- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Council's financial position at 30 June 2025 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year,
- internal controls implemented by the Council provide a reasonable assurance that the Council's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year,
- the financial statements accurately reflect the Council's accounting and other records.

Andrew Aitken
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 29/10/2025

Lynette Martin
MAYOR

Date: 29/10/2025

City of Mount Gambier

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Income			
Rates	2a	30,388	26,488
Statutory charges	2b	923	781
User charges	2c	10,408	9,179
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	2g	1,225	989
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	2g	7,091	672
Investment income	2d	79	53
Reimbursements	2e	1,141	1,230
Other income	2f	697	2,669
Total income		51,952	42,061
Expenses			
Employee costs	3a	17,811	15,292
Materials, contracts and other expenses	3b	19,110	19,320
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	3c	11,902	10,795
Finance costs	3d	1,883	1,822
Total expenses		50,706	47,229
Operating surplus / (deficit)		1,246	(5,168)
Physical resources received free of charge	2i	1,933	2,053
Asset disposal and fair value adjustments	4	(1,321)	(1,475)
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2g	67	216
Net surplus / (deficit)		1,925	(4,374)
Other comprehensive income			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result			
Changes in revaluation surplus - I,PP&E	8a	3,228	45,425
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve	8a	(113)	(177)
Total amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result		3,115	45,248
Total other comprehensive income		3,115	45,248
Total comprehensive income		5,040	40,874

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

City of Mount Gambier

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalent assets	5a	192	270
Trade and other receivables	5b	2,861	2,531
Inventories	5c	84	76
Subtotal		3,137	2,877
Non-current assets held for sale	16	–	335
Total current assets		3,137	3,212
Non-current assets			
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	6	448,597	445,641
Total non-current assets		448,597	445,641
TOTAL ASSETS		451,734	448,853
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7a	4,687	5,317
Borrowings	7b	6,135	9,986
Provisions	7c	5,171	3,561
Total current liabilities		15,993	18,864
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	7b	26,068	27,079
Provisions	7c	3,331	1,608
Total non-current liabilities		29,399	28,687
TOTAL LIABILITIES		45,392	47,551
Net assets		406,342	401,302
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		89,588	87,287
Asset revaluation reserves	8a	315,808	312,693
Other reserves	8b	946	1,322
Total equity		406,342	401,302

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

City of Mount Gambier

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	Accumulated surplus	Asset revaluation reserve	Other reserves	Total equity
2025					
Balance as at 1 July		87,287	312,693	1,322	401,302
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		1,925	–	–	1,925
Other comprehensive income					
Gain (loss) on revaluation of IPP&E	6a	–	3,228	–	3,228
IPP&E impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to ARR	6a	–	(113)	–	(113)
Total comprehensive income		1,925	3,115	–	5,040
Transfers between reserves	8b	376	–	(376)	–
Balance at the end of period		89,588	315,808	946	406,342
2024					
Balance as at 1 July		87,644	271,174	1,610	360,428
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		(4,374)	–	–	(4,374)
Other comprehensive income					
Gain (loss) on revaluation of IPP&E	6a	–	45,425	–	45,425
IPP&E impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to ARR	6a	–	(177)	–	(177)
Total comprehensive income		(4,374)	45,248	–	40,874
Transfers between reserves	8b	288	–	(288)	–
Balance at the end of period		87,287	312,693	1,322	401,302

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

City of Mount Gambier

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Rates receipts		30,227	26,501
Statutory charges		864	781
User charges		10,320	9,179
Grants, subsidies and contributions		7,091	1,102
Investment receipts		79	54
Reimbursements		1,141	1,230
Other receipts		746	1,349
Payments			
Payments to employees		(17,159)	(14,663)
Payments for materials, contracts and other expenses		(19,692)	(19,843)
Finance payments		(1,728)	(1,719)
Net cash provided by (or used in) operating activities	9b	11,889	3,971
Cash flows from investing activities			
Receipts			
Grants utilised for capital purposes		1,279	307
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		67	216
Sale of replaced assets		479	110
Sale of surplus assets		288	–
Payments			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(7,691)	(3,528)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(1,596)	(6,188)
Net cash provided (or used in) investing activities		(7,174)	(9,083)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Receipts			
Proceeds from loans		4,750	8,374
Proceeds from bonds and deposits		83	64
Payments			
Repayments of loans		(9,482)	(2,930)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(144)	(202)
Net cash provided by (or used in) financing activities		(4,793)	5,306
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(78)	194
plus: cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period		270	76
Cash and cash equivalents held at end of period	9a	192	270

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Contents of the Notes accompanying the General Purpose Financial Statements

Note	Details	Page
1	Summary of Material Accounting Policies	146
2	Income	151
3	Expenses	154
4	Asset disposal and fair value adjustments	155
5	Current assets	156
6	Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property	157
7	Liabilities	161
8	Reserves	163
9	Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows	164
10	Financial instruments	165
11	Capital expenditure and investment property commitments	168
12	Financial indicators	169
13	Uniform presentation of finances	172
14	Leases	173
15	Superannuation	174
16	Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations	175
17	Contingencies and assets/liabilities not recognised in the balance sheet	175
18	Related party transactions	176

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by Council in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below.

These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(1) Basis of preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.

1.2 Historical cost convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

1.2 Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies.

The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of this Note.

1.3 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars ($'000).

(2) The local government reporting entity

City of Mount Gambier is incorporated under the SA Local Government Act 1999 and has its principal place of business at 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier. These consolidated financial statements include the Council's direct operations and all entities through which Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas and controlled entities have been eliminated.

(3) Income recognition

The Council recognises revenue under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when a not-for-profit (NFP) entity enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the council. In this case, the council recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

In recent years, the payment of untied grants (financial assistance grants/ local roads/ supplementary grants) has varied from the annual allocation as shown in the table below:

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

	Cash Payment Received	Annual Allocation	Difference
2021/22	$5,134,125	$3,891,585	+ $1,242,540
2022/23	$5,541,926	$4,227,169	+ $1,314,757
2023/24	$263,252	$4,618,149	- $4,354,897
2024/25	$6,765,226	$4,417,888	+ $2,347,338

Because these grants are untied, the Australian Accounting Standards require that payments be recognised upon receipt. Accordingly, the operating results of these periods have been distorted compared to those that would have been reported had the grants been paid in the year to which they were allocated.

The Operating Surplus Ratio disclosed in Note 12 has also been calculated after adjusting for the distortions resulting from the differences between the actual grants received and the grants entitlements allocated.

(4) Cash, cash equivalents and other financial instruments

Cash assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments also form part of Note 10.

(5) Inventories

Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Inventories held in respect of business undertakings have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

continued on next page ...

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

(6) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

6.1 Initial recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held “ready for use”. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

6.2 Materiality

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life.

Examples of capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are given in Note 6. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land or the Riddoch Art Collection.

6.3 Subsequent recognition

All material asset classes are revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. Significant uncertainties exist in the estimation of fair value of a number of asset classes including land, buildings and associated structures and infrastructure. Further detail of these uncertainties, and of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 6.

6.4 Depreciation of non-current assets

Other than land, footpath nature strips, the Les Hill Collection and the Riddoch art Collection, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of Council, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Waste management assets are depreciated on an asset capacity in use basis.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually.

Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown in Note 6. Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council, but appropriate records covering the entire life cycle of these assets are not available, and extreme care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

6.5 Impairment

Assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, are not subject to impairment testing.

Other assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset’s carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash inflows or value in use).

Where an asset that has been revalued is subsequently impaired, the impairment is first offset against such amount as stands to the credit of that class of assets in Asset Revaluation Reserve, any excess being recognised as an expense.

(7) Payables

7.1 Goods & Services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

7.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts other than grants received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

(8) Borrowings

Borrowings are carried at their principal amounts which represent the present value of future cash flows associated with servicing the debt. Interest is accrued over the period to which it relates and is recorded as part of "Payables". Interest free loans are carried at their nominal amounts; interest revenues foregone by the lender effectively being a reduction of interest expense in the period to which it relates.

Beginning 2024 financial year, cash advance debentures that are used in lieu of an overdraft facility for working capital have been classified to current liabilities.

(9) Employee benefits

9.1 Salaries, Wages & Compensated Absences

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based oncosts) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based oncosts) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

Weighted avg. discount rate 3.50% (2024, 4.00%)
Weighted avg. settlement period 1 year (2024, 1 year)

9.2 Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Hostplus Superannuation Scheme. The Scheme has two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Details of the accounting policies applied and Council's involvement with the schemes are reported in Note 15.

(10) Provisions for reinstatement, restoration and rehabilitation

Council operates the Caroline landfill site, incorporating cells which require capping upon complete fill. Capping and restoration costs can include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure and the removal of residual materials and remediation and rehabilitation of disturbed areas. Estimated close down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs and are carried at the net present value of estimated future costs.

Although estimated future costs are based on a closure plan, such plans are based on current environmental requirements. Council's strategic planning aims to reduce waste to landfill and is extending the operational life of this facility. Due to this and the changing legislative environment it operates, uncertainty exists in the estimation of the future closure date. Engineering review by external consultants, Tonkins Engineering was completed 5 August 2024 to provide independent assessment of the future restoration provision as at 30 June 2024 and estimated future closure dates. Independent consultants, BRM Advisory were also engaged to complete financial modelling which adjusted the methodology in calculating the net present value of future restoration costs over the life of the landfill site. This resulted in an impact to other income of $2,155,237 and subsequent reduction to the future restoration provision, liability recorded in the previous financial year.

As at the time of preparing these financial statements, the Council is undertaking a strategic review of its waste management and disposal activities which may impact on the projected remaining filling life of the landfill activities and the landfill capping and post closure strategies. The Council has developed a waste and resource recovery master plan which may impact on the scope and timing of future works connected with the closure and rehabilitation of the landfill site. Consequently, the value of the landfill liability provisions may be subject to material changes once elements of the master plan are implemented. Users of the financial statements should be aware of this potential material change in the future and in context of the key assumptions and estimates relating to the landfill liabilities recorded on the Balance Sheet.

continued on next page ...

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

(11) Leases

The Council assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Council as a lessee

The Council recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

i) Right-of-Use-Assets

The Council recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease. Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received and the estimate of costs to be incurred to restore the leased asset.

Right of use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets based on the life of the lease.

Office and equipment	2 to 5 years
Land Improvements	1 year

The right-of-use assets are also subject to impairment. Refer to the accounting policies in section 6.5 - Impairment of non-financial assets above.

ii) Lease Liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Council recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Council uses its incremental borrowing rate or the interest rate implicit in the lease.

(12) New accounting standards and UIG interpretations

Council has assessed all the standards / interpretations currently issued which are not yet effective and have determined that there is no expected material impact on the reported financial position or performance.

(13) Comparative figures

To ensure comparability with the current reporting period's figures, some comparative period line items and amounts may have been reclassified or individually reported for the first time within these financial statements and/or the notes.

In 2023-24 note 2(c), "Sales - general" included tourism revenue and waste discounts. From 2024-25, tourism revenue is disclosed seperately as "Tourism and Vistor Services" due to its increased materiality, resulting in the removal of "Sundry". Waste discounts have been reclassified to Landfill Charges to better reflect their classification. Comparative figures for 2023-24 have been reclassified accordingy.

In 2023-24 note 2(g), the Roads to Recovery grant was classified as operating grant income. In 2024-25, this has been reclassified as capital grant income to better reflect its classification. Comparative figures for 2023-24 have been reclassified accordingly.

In 2023-2024 note 2(d), an internal interest allocation for the section 41 Committee - Junior Sports Assistance Fund was classified as "Investment income - banks and other". In 2024-25, this been removed to ensure Council is compliant with accounting standards. Comparative figures for 2023-24 have been removed accordingly.

In 2023-2024 note 3(a), "Salaries and wages'" included expenses for Income protection. From 2024-2025, Income protection has been included in "Other employee related costs" to better reflect its classification.

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income

$ '000	2025	2024
(a) Rates		
General rates		
General rates	24,647	22,164
Less: mandatory rebates	(293)	(269)
Less: discretionary rebates, remissions and write-offs	(24)	(17)
Total general rates	24,330	21,878
Other rates (including service charges)		
Landscape levy	1,409	1,352
Waste collection	4,457	3,097
Total other rates (including service charges)	5,866	4,449
Other charges		
Penalties for late payment	138	122
Legal and other costs recovered	54	39
Total other charges	192	161
Total rates	30,388	26,488
(b) Statutory charges		
Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act fees	238	189
Town planning fees	224	250
Animal registration fees and fines	309	223
Parking fines / expiation fees	71	42
Other licences, fees and fines	81	77
Total statutory charges	923	781
(c) User charges		
Cemetery/crematoria fees	948	911
Hall and equipment hire	15	14
Property lease	294	298
Sales - general	60	100
Wulanda	2,783	2,726
Green Waste Collection	34	35
Landfill Charges	5,431	4,593
Sales - Waste Transfer Station and Re-Use Market	422	372
Tourism and Visitor Services	421	130
Total user charges	10,408	9,179
(d) Investment income		
Local Government Finance Authority	79	53
Total investment income	79	53

continued on next page ...

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income (continued)

$ '000	2025	2024
(e) Reimbursements		
Private works	51	19
Wulanda	830	975
Other	260	236
Total reimbursements	1,141	1,230

$ '000	2025	2024
(f) Other income		
Insurance and other recoupments - infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	121	80
Sundry	430	361
Donations	105	73
Caroline Landfill	41	2,155
Total other income	697	2,669

$ '000	2025	2024
(g) Grants, subsidies and contributions		
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	67	216
Total amounts received for new or upgraded assets	67	216
Other grants, subsidies and contributions - capital		
Roads to Recovery	574	430
Untied - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	591	509
Boundary Roads Contributions	60	50
Total Other grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	1,225	989
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions		
Regional Transport Subsidy Program	90	134
Untied - Financial Assistance Grant	6,765	263
Library and communications	153	165
Sundry	83	110
Other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating		
Total other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	7,091	672
Total grants, subsidies and contributions	8,383	1,877

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income (continued)

$ '000	2025	2024
(i) Sources of grants		
Commonwealth Government	1,175	950
State Government	7,103	793
Other	105	134
Total	8,383	1,877

(h) Conditions over grants and contributions

Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet expended in accordance with those conditions, and are required to be repaid to the funding body if not expended, are as follows:

Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period	34	294
Less:		
Expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods		
Pine Hall / O'Leary Road	–	(12)
Tertiary Education	(14)	(30)
State Bicycle	–	(7)
Pinehall Avenue (O'Leary Road to Sunnybrae Road)	–	(208)
Margaret Worth Exhibition	–	(25)
Age Friendly - Immersive Storytelling	–	–
Subtotal	(14)	(282)
Plus:		
Amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions		
Tertiary Education	22	22
Pinehall Avenue (O'Leary Road to Sunnybrae Road)	–	–
Margaret Worth Exhibition	–	–
Age Friendly - Immersive Storytelling	12	–
Subtotal	34	22
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period	54	34
Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period	20	(260)

(i) Physical resources received free of charge

Land and improvements	226	23
Roads	602	1,231
Stormwater drainage	812	508
Footpaths & Kerbing	293	291
Total physical resources received free of charge	1,933	2,053

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Expenses

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
(a) Employee costs			
Salaries and wages		14,011	12,208
Employee leave expense		1,852	1,617
Superannuation	15	1,799	1,512
Workers' compensation insurance		753	590
Other employee related costs		309	277
Less: capitalised and distributed costs		(913)	(912)
Total operating employee costs		17,811	15,292
Total number of employees (full time equivalent at end of reporting period)		153	143
(b) Materials, contracts and other expenses			
(i) Prescribed expenses			
Auditor's remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		27	28
Elected members' expenses		250	243
Election expenses		9	10
Subtotal - prescribed expenses		286	281
(ii) Other materials, contracts and expenses			
Contractors		7,999	8,100
Energy		1,780	1,827
Legal expenses		153	219
Levies Paid to Government - Regional Landscape levy recovered		1,407	1,351
Sundry		225	189
Contributions/Donations		495	547
Insurance		661	635
Levies Paid to Government - EPA, ESL & Dog Levies		2,028	1,925
Materials		1,608	1,564
Training		151	133
Water		264	257
Communication		204	238
Consultants		527	722
Licences and Subscriptions		1,322	1,332
Subtotal - Other material, contracts and expenses		18,824	19,039
Total materials, contracts and other expenses		19,110	19,320

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Expenses (continued)

$ '000	2025	2024
(c) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		
(i) Depreciation and amortisation		
Buildings and other structures	4,572	4,560
Infrastructure		
Stormwater Drainage	323	319
Kerbing and Footpaths	1,621	1,603
Roads	2,471	2,400
Carparks	240	240
Right-of-use assets	161	217
Plant and equipment	1,145	775
Waste Management	1,011	345
Office Equipment	279	281
Other assets	56	49
Subtotal	11,879	10,789
(ii) Impairment		
Capital Work In Progress	23	6
Subtotal	23	6
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment	11,902	10,795
(d) Finance costs		
Interest on loans	1,717	1,706
Interest on leases	11	32
Unwinding of present value discounts	155	84
Total finance costs	1,883	1,822

Note 4. Asset disposal and fair value adjustments

$ '000	2025	2024
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		
(i) Assets renewed or directly replaced		
Proceeds from disposal	479	110
Less: carrying amount of assets sold	(1,860)	(1,469)
Gain (loss) on disposal	(1,381)	(1,359)
(ii) Assets surplus to requirements		
Proceeds from disposal	288	–
Less: carrying amount of assets sold	(201)	(116)
Less: assets held for sale gain	(27)	–
Gain (loss) on disposal	60	(116)
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	(1,321)	(1,475)

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Current assets

$ '000	2025	2024
(a) Cash and cash equivalent assets		
Cash on hand and at bank	192	270
Total cash and cash equivalent assets	192	270

$ '000	2025	2024
(b) Trade and other receivables		
Rates - general and other	1,034	873
Accrued revenues	116	–
Debtors - general	1,480	1,333
GST recoupment	206	323
Prepayments	9	2
Other	16	–
Subtotal	2,861	2,531
Total trade and other receivables	2,861	2,531

$ '000	2025	2024
(c) Inventories		
Stores and materials	30	22
Trading stock	54	54
Total inventories	84	76

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

		as at 30/06/24				Asset movements during the reporting period										as at 30/06/25			
$ '000	Fair Value Level	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount	Asset Additions New / Upgrade	Asset Additions Renewals	WDV of Asset Disposals	Depreciation Expense (Note 3c)	Impairment Loss (recognised in P/L) (Note 3c)	Impairment Loss (recognised in Equity) (Note 9)	WIP Transfers	Adjustments	TIfrs from/(to) "Held for Sale" category	Revaluation Increments to Equity (ARR) (Note 9)	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount
Capital work in progress		–	4,339	–	4,339	369	901	–	–	(23)	–	(4,236)	–	–	–	–	1,350	–	1,350
Waste Management	3	–	9,783	(9,626)	157	2,781	–	–	(1,011)	–	–	3,488	–	–	–	16,052	–	(10,637)	5,415
Land	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Land	3	69,586	–	–	69,586	226	–	(255)	–	–	–	–	–	–	53	69,610	–	–	69,610
Office Equipment		–	4,110	(1,919)	2,191	6	37	(6)	(279)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4,120	(2,171)	1,949
Riddoch Collection	3	4,356	–	–	4,356	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4,356	23	–	4,379
Buildings and other structures	3	193,052	852	(64,830)	129,074	414	207	(16)	(4,572)	–	(113)	156	–	–	1,126	194,947	1,237	(69,908)	126,276
Stormwater Drainage	3	36,090	62	(10,022)	26,130	766	116	(3)	(323)	–	–	46	–	–	241	37,228	182	(10,437)	26,973
Kerbing and Footpaths	3	95,545	675	(22,934)	73,286	578	814	(433)	(1,621)	–	–	243	–	–	656	95,970	2,259	(24,706)	73,523
Public Lighting		–	712	(56)	656	–	–	–	(36)	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	718	(92)	626
Infrastructure - Other (Retaining walls, safety barriers)		5,471	358	(1,394)	4,435	21	–	–	(67)	–	–	–	–	–	39	5,520	382	(1,474)	4,428
Roads (sub-base, pavement, seal, traffic lights)	3	148,594	3,537	(36,283)	115,848	974	2,146	(845)	(2,367)	–	–	303	–	–	1,045	149,080	6,792	(38,769)	117,103
Carparks	3	10,497	168	(3,536)	7,129	–	–	–	(240)	–	–	–	–	–	62	10,591	170	(3,810)	6,951
Right-of-use assets		–	625	(359)	266	14	–	–	(161)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	459	(340)	119
Plant and equipment		–	11,272	(4,393)	6,879	387	3,072	(557)	(1,145)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	12,744	(4,108)	8,636
Other assets		–	1,672	(363)	1,309	–	6	–	(56)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,678	(419)	1,259
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		563,191	38,165	(155,715)	445,641	6,559	7,299	(2,115)	(11,878)	(23)	(113)	–	–	–	3,228	583,354	32,114	(166,871)	448,597
Comparatives		445,777	87,234	(133,255)	399,756	9,296	4,139	(1,628)	(10,789)	(6)	(177)	–	(40)	(335)	45,425	563,191	38,165	(155,715)	445,641

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

Valuation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property

Valuation of assets

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various Accounting Standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a "level" in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Refer to Note 6a for the disclosure of the Fair Value Levels of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment Assets.

Information on valuations

Fair value hierarchy level 2 valuations - External valuation completed as at 1 July 2024 on buildings and structures used the current gross replacement cost with fair value level 3 inputs. Due to this certain buildings and structures and land thereon that were previously recorded as fair value level 2 have been transferred to fair value level 3.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of land - Valuations of Crown land, community land and land subject to other restrictions on use or disposal, shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 3 valuation inputs, are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, but include adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset that are not directly or indirectly observable in that market, or the number and / or amount of observable adjustments of which are so great that the valuation is more fairly described as being based on level 3 valuation inputs.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of buildings, infrastructure and other assets - There is no known market for buildings, infrastructure and other assets. These assets are valued at depreciated current replacement cost. This method involves:

- The determination of the cost to construct the asset (or its modern engineering equivalent) using current prices for materials and labour, the quantities of each being estimated based on recent experience of this or similar Councils, or on industry construction guides where these are more appropriate.
- The calculation of the depreciation that would have accumulated since original construction using current estimates of residual value and useful life under the prime cost depreciation method adopted by Council.

This method has significant inherent uncertainties, relying on estimates of quantities of materials and labour, residual values and useful lives, and the possibility of changes in prices for materials and labour, and the potential for development of more efficient construction techniques. Accordingly, formal sensitivity analysis does not provide useful information.

Other information

At 1 July 2004 upon the transition to AIFRS, Council elected pursuant to *AASB 1.D5* to retain a previously established deemed cost under GAAP as its deemed cost. With subsequent addition at cost, this remains as the basis of recognition of non-material asset classes.

Upon revaluation, the current new replacement cost and accumulated depreciation are re-stated such that the difference represents the fair value of the asset determined in accordance with *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*: accumulated depreciation is taken to be the difference between current new replacement cost and fair value. In the case of land, current replacement cost is taken to be the fair value.

Highest and best use
All of Council's non financial assets are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.

Highest and best use - For land which Council has an unfettered right to sell, the “highest and best use” recognises the possibility of the demolition or substantial modification of some or all of the existing buildings and structures affixed to the land.

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

Much of the land under Council's care and control is Crown land or has been declared as community land under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999. Other types of restrictions also exist.

For land subject to these restrictions, the highest and best use is taken to be the "highest and best use" available to Council, with a rebuttable presumption that the current use is the "highest and best use". The reason for the current use of a large proportion of Council's assets being other than the "highest and best use" relates to Council's principal role as the provider of services to the community, rather than the use of those assets for the generation of revenue.

For buildings and other structures on and in the land, including infrastructure, "highest and best use" is determined in accordance with the land on and in which they are situated.

Transition to AASB 13 - Fair Value Measurement
The requirements of AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement have been applied to all valuations undertaken since 1 July 2013 as shown by the valuation dates by individual asset classes below.

Capitalisation Thresholds

Capitalisation thresholds used by Council for a representative range of assets are shown below. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

	$
Office Furniture & Equipment	5,000
Other Plant & Equipment	5,000
Buildings - new contruction/extensions	10,000
Park & Playground Furniture & Equipment	5,000
Road construction & reconstruction	10,000
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	10,000
Stormwater Drainage	10,000
Waste Management	10,000

Estimated Useful Lives

Useful lives are estimated for each individual asset. In estimating useful lives, regard is had to technical and commercial obsolescence, as well as legal and other limitations on continued use. The range of useful lives for a representative range of assets is shown below, although individual assets may have an estimated total useful life of greater or lesser amount:

Plant, Furniture & Equipment	
Office Equipment	3 to 10 years
Vehicles and Road-making Equipment	3 to 25 years
Other Plant & Equipment	3 to 30 years
Building & Other Structures	
Buildings	15 to 250 years
Park Structures	20 to 30 years
Playground Equipment	20 to 40 years
Benches, Seats, etc	10 to 30 years
Waste Management	
Landfill assets	capacity in use
Infrastructure	
Sealed Roads - Surface	15 to 40 years
Sealed Roads - Structure	40 to 240 years
Unsealed Roads	12 to 75 years
Paving and Footpaths, Kerb and Gutter	10 to 80 years
Carparks	15 - 80 years
Public Lighting	20 years
Stormwater Drainage	50 to 125 years

continued on next page ...

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

Other Assets	10 to 15 years
Artworks and Historical Collections	indefinite
Right-of-Use Assets (refer to Note 15)	life of lease

Waste Management - Landfill
Landfill remediation and cell development assets are amortised on a consumption basis over the individual landfill cell's capacity to receive waste and estimated life of the whole site. At the time of construction of a cell, Council includes the present value of estimated costs to cap the cell. This estimate is offset by the recognition of a provision. This recognition of the capping costs is amortised in line with the consumption of the landfill cell's capacity used in any one year.

Land & Land Improvements
Council being of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably to qualify for recognition, land under roads has not been recognised in these reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

Freehold land and land over which Council has control, but does not have title, is recognised on the cost basis. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Land was revalued as at 30 June 2025 based on Valuer General valuations provided to Council.
- Basis of valuation: Fair Value/Site value, Land Valuation Act 1971
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2025
- Valuer: Valuer General

Artworks and Historical Collections
The Riddoch Art Collection was last revalued as at 30 June 2023 by Simon Storey Art and Cultural Collection valuers. Revaluations occur every 4 yeears. These assets and other historical collections are not depreciated.
- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2023
- Valuer: Simon Storey Valuers
- Next valuation: 30 June 2027

Buildings & Other Structures
Buildings and other structures were revalued as at 1 July 2023 by Brooke Smith of AssetVal/Marsh. Revaluations occur every four years. All additions are initially recorded at cost. There was a 13% average increase in depreciation for buildings and structures as a result of the revaluation undertaken in the previous reporting period.
- Basis of valuation: Fair Value/Market Value/Current Gross Replacement Cost
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2023
- Valuer: AssetVal
- Internal indexation applied as per Asset Accounting Policy as at 30 June 2025
- Next valuation: 1 July 2027

Infrastructure - Stormwater, Retaining Walls and Carparks
The valuation of Other Infrastructure including stormwater drainage, retaining walls and carpark assets were undertaken by independent valuer, Antonio Blefari MIE(Aust) NER from iinSights Pty Ltd as at 1 July 2023. There was a 59% average increase in depreciation for Other Infrastructure as a result of the revaluation undertaken in the previous reporting period.
- Basis of valuation: Fair Value/Current Gross Replacement Cost
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2023
- Valuer: iinSights Pty Ltd
- Internal indexation applied as per Asset Accounting Policy as at 30 June 2025
- Next valuation: 1 July 2027

Infrastructure - Kerbing and Footpaths, Roads, Public Lighting
Infrastructure assets including footpaths, kerbs and guttering, and road assets were last revalued as at 30 June 2023 by independent valuer, Antonio Blefari MIE(Aust) NER from iinSights Pty Ltd.
- Basis of valuation: Fair Value/Current Gross Replacement Cost
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2023
- Valuer: iinSights Pty Ltd
- Internal indexation applied as per Asset Accounting Policy as at 30 June 2025
- Next valuation: 1 July 2026

Infrastructure - Public Lighting

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

These assets are recognised on the cost basis.

Plant, Furniture & Equipment
These assets are recognised on the cost basis.

All other Assets
These assets are recognised on the cost basis in the case of signage and IT assets and depreciated over their established useful lives.

Note 7. Liabilities

$ '000		2025 Current	2025 Non Current	2024 Current	2024 Non Current
(a) Trade and other payables					
Goods and services		2,908	–	3,804	–
Payments received in advance		532	–	472	–
- Grants and contributions - capital		54	–	–	–
- Other		41	–	37	–
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements		485	–	407	–
Accrued expenses - other		401	–	412	–
Deposits, retentions and bonds		255	–	172	–
Other		11	–	13	–
Total trade and other payables		4,687	–	5,317	–
(b) Borrowings					
Loans		6,091	26,018	9,884	26,957
Lease liabilities	14b	44	50	102	122
Total Borrowings		6,135	26,068	9,986	27,079

All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council

(c) Provisions					
Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		4,025	349	3,561	239
Cell capping		1,146	2,803	–	1,200
Future restoration		–	179	–	169
Total provisions		5,171	3,331	3,561	1,608

continued on next page ...

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. Liabilities (continued)

Movements in Landfill & Restoration Provisions

2025 (current and non-current) $ '000	Provision for Capping Cell 3c (current) 2025	Provision for Capping Cell 4a (non-current) 2025	Provision for Future Restoration (non-current) 2025	Total 2025
Opening balance	1,200	–	168	1,368
Add: additional amounts recognised/derecognised	–	2,659	–	2,659
(Less): payments	(54)	–	–	(54)
Add: unwinding of present value discounts	–	144	11	155
Closing balance	1,146	2,803	179	4,128

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 8. Reserves

$ '000	as at 30/06/24 Opening Balance	Increments (Decrements)	Transfers	Impairments	as at 30/06/25 Closing Balance
(a) Asset revaluation reserve					
Land	59,254	53	–	–	59,307
Buildings and other structures	70,789	1,126	–	(113)	71,802
Infrastructure	180,230	2,049	–	–	182,279
Minor Plant	–	–	–	–	–
Other assets	2,420	–	–	–	2,420
Total asset revaluation reserve	312,693	3,228	–	(113)	315,808
Comparatives	271,174	45,425	(3,729)	(177)	312,693

$ '000	as at 30/06/24 Opening Balance	Tfrs to Reserve	Tfrs from Reserve	Other Movements	as at 30/06/25 Closing Balance
(b) Other reserves					
Mount Gambier Cemetery	711	–	(711)	–	–
Mayor Christmas Appeal	72	31	(52)	–	51
Junior Sports Assistance Fund	135	22	(18)	–	139
Waste Service	–	–	–	–	–
Open Space	404	–	(10)	–	394
Downstrean Drainage	–	–	–	–	–
Building Asset Maintenance	–	362	–	–	362
Total other reserves	1,322	415	(791)	–	946
Comparatives	1,610	64	(352)	–	1,322

Purposes of reserves

Asset revaluation reserves
The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non current assets (less any subsequent impairment losses, where applicable).

Other reserves
Other Reserves are used when reserves are maintained for the purpose of specific Council committees or for committed funds of Council.

Mount Gambier Cemetery
Council has reviewed the purpose and operation of the Cemetery Reserve. Analysis determined that when all costs associated with cemetery operations are considered, no surplus funds are generated. The reserve as at 30 June 2025 is nil as the reserve has now been closed.

Mayor Christmas Appeal
Represents funds held for the City of Mount Gambier's Mayor Christmas Appeal, to be used soley for that purpose.

Junior Sports Assistance Fund
Represents funds held for the Junior Sports Assistance Fund, to be used soley for that purpose.

Waste Service
Represents the net surplus (income less expenses) from waste collection and related waste management activities, set aside to fund future waste service operations. The reserve balance at 30 June 2025 is nil as expenses have exceeded revenue to date.

continued on next page ...

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 8. Reserves (continued)

Open Space
Represents the funds collected from the creation of subivisions, to be used for future open space development and improvement projects.

Downstream Drainage
Represents funds collected for downstream drainage projects. The reserve balance at 30 June 2025 is nil as expenses exceeded revenue to date.

Building Asset Maintenance Reserve
Represents funds received from the sale of surplus assets, set aside to fund future building asset maintenance and related expenses.

Note 9. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
(a) Reconciliation of cash			
Cash assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:			
Total cash and equivalent assets	5	192	270
Balances per Statement of Cash Flows		192	270

$ '000	2025	2024
(b) Reconciliation of Operating Result		
Net surplus/(deficit)	1,925	(4,374)
Non-cash items in income statements		
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	11,902	10,795
Non-cash asset acquisitions	(1,933)	(2,053)
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as investing activity	(1,292)	(775)
Net (gain)/loss on disposals	1,321	1,475
Adjustment Caroline	–	(2,155)
	11,923	2,913
Add (less): changes in net current assets		
Net (increase)/decrease in receivables	(330)	912
Net (increase)/decrease in inventories	(8)	(9)
Net increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(269)	(467)
Net increase/(decrease) in unpaid employee benefits	574	622
Net increase/(decrease) in other provisions	(1)	–
Net cash provided by (or used in) operations	11,889	3,971

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows (continued)

(c) Non-cash financing and investing activities

Acquisition of assets by means of:			
Physical resources received free of charge	2i	1,933	2,053
Amounts recognised in income statement		1,933	2,053
Non-cash financing (other)			
Leases		14	14
Total non-cash financing and investing activities		1,947	2,067

(d) Financing arrangements

Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit ($ '000):		
Bank overdrafts	400	250
Corporate credit cards	30	30
LGFA cash advance debenture facility	21,500	21,500

The bank overdraft facilities may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

Note 10. Financial instruments

Recognised financial instruments

Bank, deposits at call, short term deposits

Accounting Policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost; interest is recognised when earned.

Terms & Conditions:
Deposits retured fixed interest rates between 4.15% and 4.65% (2024: 4.30% and 4.55%) during the year, with a balance of nil at 30/06/2025.

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - rates and associated charges (including legals and penalties for late payment)

Accounting Policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms & Conditions:
Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 0.76% (2024: 0.75%). Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - fees and other charges

Accounting Policy:

continued on next page ...

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 10. Financial instruments (continued)

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms & Conditions:
Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - other levels of government

Accounting Policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms & Conditions:
Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments.

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - creditors and accruals

Accounting Policy:
Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.

Terms & Conditions:
Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - interest bearing borrowings

Accounting Policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate.

Terms & Conditions:
Secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable; variable interest is charged between 5.40% and 6.15%, with fixed interest charged between 4.75% and 4.95%.

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - leases

Accounting Policy:
Accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 as stated in Note 14.

continued on next page ...

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 10. Financial instruments (continued)

$ '000	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year and ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial assets and liabilities					
2025					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	192	–	–	192	192
Receivables	2,861	–	–	2,861	2,861
Total financial assets	3,053	–	–	3,053	3,053
Financial liabilities					
Non-current borrowings	5,551	17,022	7,890	30,463	26,018
Payables	3,706	–	–	3,706	3,706
Current borrowings	7,238	–	–	7,238	6,091
Lease liabilities	44	50	–	94	94
Total financial liabilities	16,539	17,072	7,890	41,501	35,909
Total financial assets and liabilities	19,592	17,072	7,890	44,554	38,962
2024					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	270	–	–	270	270
Receivables	2,528	–	–	2,528	2,529
Total financial assets	2,798	–	–	2,798	2,799
Financial liabilities					
Non-current borrowings	–	22,396	9,470	31,866	26,958
Payables	4,461	–	–	4,461	4,461
Current borrowings	11,249	–	–	11,249	9,883
Lease liabilities	102	122	–	224	224
Total financial liabilities	15,812	22,518	9,470	47,800	41,526
Total financial assets and liabilities	18,610	22,518	9,470	50,598	44,325

The following interest rates were applicable to Council's borrowings at balance date:

	2025		2024	
$ '000	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value
Other variable rates	5.50%	10,400	6.15%	13,920
Fixed interest rates	4.86%	21,803	4.91%	23,145
		32,203		37,065

Net fair value
All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

Risk exposures

continued on next page ...

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 10. Financial instruments (continued)

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. All Council investments are made with the SA Local Government Finance Authority and are guaranteed by the SA Government. Except as detailed in Notes 5 & 6 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor **currency risk** apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Mangement Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. Council also has available a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing facilities that it can access.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

Note 11. Capital expenditure and investment property commitments

$ '000	2025	2024
Capital commitments		
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Buildings & Other Structures	105	247
- Footpaths and Kerbing	72	51
- Roads	49	384
Plant and equipment	669	1,036
Waste	85	44
Other	187	69
	1,167	1,831
These expenditures are payable:		
Not later than one year	1,167	1,831
	1,167	1,831

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 12. Financial indicators

$ '000	Amounts 2025	Indicator 2025	Indicators 2024	Indicators 2023
Financial Indicators overview *These Financial Indicators have been calculated in accordance with Information paper 9 - Local Government Financial Indicators prepared as part of the LGA Financial Sustainability Program for the Local Government Association of South Australia.*				
1. Operating Surplus Ratio				
Operating surplus	**1,246**	**2.4%**	(12.3)%	(4.1)%
Total operating income	**51,952**			
This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of total operating revenue.				
2. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio				
Net financial liabilities	**42,339**	**81%**	106%	95%
Total operating income	**51,952**			
Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council businesses). These are expressed as a percentage of total operating revenue.				
Adjustments to Ratios *In recent years the Federal Government has made advance payments prior to 30th June from future year allocations of financial assistance grants, as explained in Note 1. These Adjusted Ratios correct for the resulting distortion in key ratios for each year and provide a more accurate basis for comparison.*				
Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio				
Operating surplus	**(1,168)**	**(2.4)%**	(1.8)%	(7.5)%
Total operating income	**49,605**			
Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio				
Net financial liabilities	**42,339**	**85%**	96%	109%
Total operating income	**49,605**			
3. Asset Renewal Funding Ratio				
Asset renewals	**7,691**	**88%**	61%	88%
Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan required expenditure	**8,696**			
Asset renewals expenditure is defined as capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets relative to the optimal level planned, and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets.				

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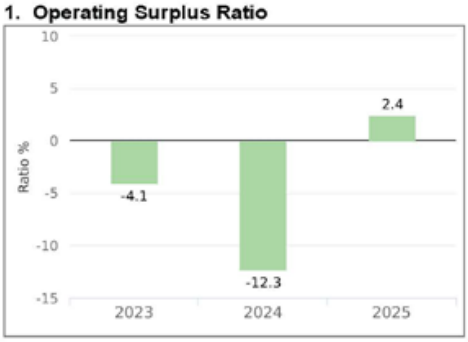
City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 12. Financial indicators (continued)

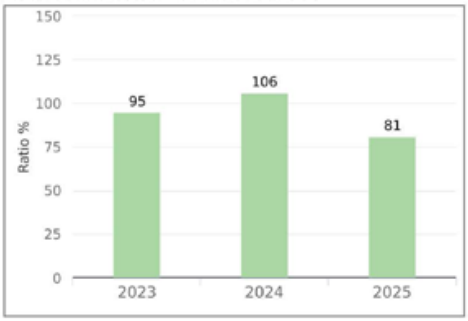
Financial indicators - graphs

1. Operating Surplus Ratio



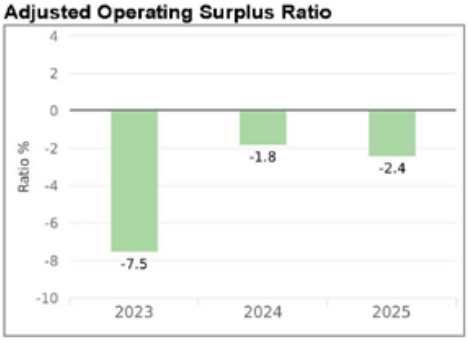
Purpose of operating surplus ratio	Commentary on 2024/25 result
This indicator is to determine the percentage the operating revenue varies from operating expenditure	2024/25 ratio 2.4% The operating surplus ratio in 2025 is higher than the previous year largely driven by an increase in grants received due to the late payment of Financial Assistance Grants. The target per Council's Treasury Management Policy is a ratio of greater or equal to 0.0% by 2026/2027.

2. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio



Purpose of net financial liabilities ratio	Commentary on 2024/25 result
This indicator shows the significance of the net amount owed to others, compared to operating revenue	2024/25 ratio 81% The 2025 ratio is lower than the previous year largely due to a decrease in borrowings and creditors. Council's target ratio is lower than 100% by 2026/2027.

Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio



Purpose of adjusted operating surplus ratio	Commentary on 2024/25 result
This indicator is to determine the percentage the operating revenue (adjusted for timing differences in the Financial Assistance Grant) varies from operating expenditure	2024/25 ratio (2.4)% The adjusted operating surplus ratio is more in line with expectations following adjustments to the Financial Assistance Grants brought forward payments.

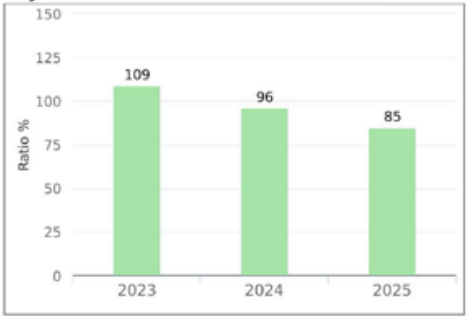
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City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

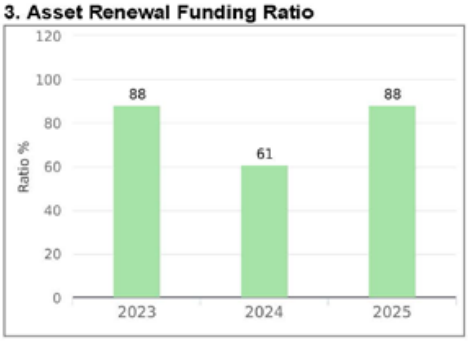
Note 12. Financial indicators (continued)

Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio



Purpose of adjusted net financial liabilities ratio	Commentary on 2024/25 result
This indicator is to determine the percentage the operating revenue (adjusted for timing differences in the Financial Assistance Grant) varies from operating expenditure	2024/25 ratio 85% Aligned with the unadjusted net financial liabilities ratio above, the increase is driven by adjustments to the Financial Assistance Grants brought forward payments.

3. Asset Renewal Funding Ratio



Purpose of asset renewal funding ratio	Commentary on 2024/25 result
This indicator aims to determine if assets are being renewed and replaced in an optimal way	2024/25 ratio 88% Council update Asset Management Plans annually which provide guidance of when and how much needs to be spent to maintain Council's assets. Disruptions and supply chain issues have impacted on the timing of delivery of planned works. These projects are expected to be completed in the 2025/2026 financial year.

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 13. Uniform presentation of finances

$ '000	2025	2024
The following is a high level summary of both operating and capital investment activities of the Council prepared on a simplified Uniform Presentation Framework basis. All Councils in South Australia have agreed to summarise annual budgets and long-term financial plans on the same basis. The arrangements ensure that all Councils provide a common 'core' of financial information, which enables meaningful comparisons of each Council's finances.		
Income		
Rates	30,388	26,488
Statutory charges	923	781
User charges	10,408	9,179
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	1,225	989
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	7,091	672
Investment income	79	53
Reimbursements	1,141	1,230
Other income	697	2,669
Total Income	51,952	42,061
Expenses		
Employee costs	(17,811)	(15,292)
Materials, contracts and other expenses	(19,110)	(19,320)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(11,902)	(10,795)
Finance costs	(1,883)	(1,822)
Total Expenses	(50,706)	(47,229)
Operating surplus / (deficit)	1,246	(5,168)
Net timing adjustment for general purpose grant funding	2,347	(4,355)
Less: grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	(1,225)	(989)
Adjusted Operating surplus / (deficit)	2,368	(10,512)
Net outlays on existing assets		
Capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets	(7,691)	(3,528)
Add back depreciation, amortisation and impairment	11,902	10,795
Add back proceeds from sale of replaced assets	479	110
	4,690	7,377
Net outlays on new and upgraded assets		
Capital expenditure on new and upgraded assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	(1,596)	(6,188)
Add back grants, subsidies and contributions - capital new/upgraded	1,225	989
Add back amounts received specifically for new and upgraded assets	67	216
Add back proceeds from sale of surplus assets (including investment property, real estate developments and non-current assets held for resale)	288	–
	(16)	(4,983)
Annual net impact to financing activities (surplus/(deficit))	7,042	(8,118)

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 14. Leases

(i) Council as a lessee

Terms and conditions of leases

Council entered contracts as a lessee for various IT equipment.

Set out below are the carrying amounts (written down value) of right of use assets recognised within Infrastructure Propery, Plant & Equipment.

(a) Right of use assets

$ '000	Office	Other	Total
2025			
Opening balance	259	7	266
Additions to right-of-use assets	–	14	14
Depreciation charge	(155)	27	(128)
Balance at 30 June	104	48	152
2024			
Opening balance	442	27	469
Additions to right-of-use assets	–	14	14
Depreciation charge	(183)	(34)	(217)
Balance at 30 June	259	7	266

(b) Lease liabilities

Set out below are the carrying amounts of lease liabilities (included under interest-bearing loans and borrowings) and the movements during the period:

$ '000	2025	2024
Balance at 1 July	224	403
Additions	14	14
Accretion of interest	11	32
Payments	(155)	(225)
Balance at 30 June	94	224
Classified as:		
Current	44	102
Non-current	50	122

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities is included in Note 12.

The Group had total cash outflows for leases of $210,000.
The following are the amounts recognised in profit or loss:

Depreciation expense of right-of-use assets	161	217
Interest expense on lease liabilities	11	32
Total amount recognised in profit or loss	172	249

continued on next page ...

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 14. Leases (continued)

(ii) Council as a lessor

Council owns various buildings, plant and other facilities that are available for hire or lease (on a non-cancellable basis wherever practicable) in accordance with the published revenue policy. Rentals received from such leases are disclosed as rent and hire of non-investment property in Note 2.

Note 15. Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to Hostplus (formerly Local Government Superannuation Scheme and Statewide Super). There are two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Permanent and contract employees of the South Australian Local Government sector with Salarylink benefits prior to 24 November 2009 have the option to contribute to the Accumulation section and/or Salarylink. All other employees (including casuals) have all contributions allocated to the Accumulation section.

Accumulation only members
Accumulation only members receive both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of ordinary time earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (11.50% in 2024/25; 11.00% in 2023/24) and enterprise bargaining agreement (1% in 2025 and 2024). No further liability accrues to the Council as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

Salarylink (Defined Benefit Fund) members
Salarylink is a defined benefit scheme where the benefit payable is generally based on a formula determined by the member's contribution rate, number of years and complete days and level of contribution and final average salary. Council makes employer contributions to Salarylink as determined by the Fund's Trustee based on advice from the appointed Actuary. The rate is currently 6.3% (6.3% in 2023/24) of "superannuation" salary.

In addition, Council makes a separate contribution of 3% of ordinary time earnings for Salarylink members to their Accumulation account. Employees also make member contributions to the Salarylink section of the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Salarylink section of the Fund to meet the member's benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

The Salarylink section is a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Salarylink section's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by each employer, and employees may transfer to another employer within the local government sector and retain membership of the Fund, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided by AASB 119.34(a), Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

The most recent actuarial investigation was conducted by the Fund's actuary, Louise Campbell, FIAA, of Willis Towers Watson as at 30 June 2023. The Trustee has determined that the current funding arrangements are adequate for the expected Salarylink liabilities. However, future financial and economic circumstances may require changes to Council's contribution rates at some future time.

Contributions to other superannuation schemes
Council also makes contributions to other superannuation schemes selected by employees under the "choice of fund" legislation. All such schemes are of the accumulation type, where the superannuation benefits accruing to the employee are represented by their share of the net assets of the scheme, and no further liability attaches to the Council.

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 16. Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations

Non-current assets held for sale
The two parcels of land were held for sale as at 30 June 2024 we sold during the 2024-2025 financial year. No assets remain classified as held for sale at 30 June 2025.

$ '000	2025	2024
(ii). Carrying amounts of assets and liabilities		
Assets		
Land	–	335
Total assets	–	335
Net assets	–	335

Note 17. Contingencies and assets/liabilities not recognised in the balance sheet

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but knowledge is considered relevant to the users of the financial report in making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of scarce resources.

1. Land under roads

As reported in the Financial Statements, Council is of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably for these assets to qualify for recognition, and accordingly land under roads has not been recognised in the reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

At reporting date, Council controlled 234.7 km of road reserves of average width 20 metres.

2. Potential insurance losses

Council is a multi-purpose organisation providing a large range of building, parks infrastructure, playgrounds and other facilities accessible to the public. At any time, it is likely that claims will have been made against Council that remain unsettled.

Council insures against all known insurable risks using a range of insurance policies, each of which is subject to deductable "insurance excesses", the amount of which varies according to the class of insurance.

Council has recognised the potential losses arising from claims known at reporting date based on average historical net cost (including insurance excess) of similar types of claims. Other potential claims not reported to Council may have existed at reporting date.

3. Legal expenses

Council is the planning consent authority for its area under the Development Act 1993 (as amended). Pursuant to that Act, certain persons aggrieved by a planning decision of the Council may appeal. It is normal practice that parties bear their own legal costs. At the date of these reports, Council has not received notice of any appeals against planning decisions made prior to reporting date. All known costs have been recognised, but the amount of further costs cannot be known until the appeals are determined.

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 18. Related party transactions

Key management personnel

Transactions with key management personnel

The Key Management Personnel of the Council include the Mayor, Councillors, CEO and certain prescribed officers under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1999. In all, 13 persons were paid the following total compensation:

$ '000	2025	2024
The compensation paid to key management personnel comprises:		
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	1,012	917
Post-employment benefits	88	88
Total	1,100	1,005

Retail businesses owned by key management personnel and/or relatives of key management personnel supplied various goods to Council during 2024/2025. Purchases were made as required on a 30 day account, on normal commercial terms and at arm's length. No individual purchases from these businesses exceeded $260.00 with the total cumulative spend $2,551.67.

Two key mannagement personnel and/or relatives of key personnel are members in a community based not-for-profit organisation that Council engage for cultural services and contractual labour hire services including apprentices and trainees.

One key management personnel and/or relatives of key management personnel undertook a land subdivision within the City of Mount Gambier during the 2024/2025 financial year. The subdivision was managaed by a neutral thrid party within normal terms and conditions applicable to the public including payment of fees and charges.

One key management personal and/or relatives of key management personnel submitted a planning and building application during the 2024/2025 financial year and paid applicable fees. The transaction was conducted under normal terms and conditions applicable to the public.

DeanNewbery

Chartered Accountants

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ABN: 48 007 865 081

Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of the City of Mount Gambier

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the City of Mount Gambier (the Council), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Certification of the Financial Statements.

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2025, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 2011* and the Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described as in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (Including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Council's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and for such internal control as Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Council is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Council either intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that the audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Council.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DEAN NEWBERY



SAMANTHA CRETEN
Director

6 November 2025

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INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE INTERNAL CONTROLS OF THE CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER

Opinion

In our opinion, the City of Mount Gambier (the Council) has complied, in all material respects, with Section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1999* in relation to the Internal Controls established by the Council relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities so as to provide reasonable assurance that the financial transactions of the Council have been conducted properly and in accordance with law for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Basis for opinion

We have audited the Internal Controls of the Council under the requirements of *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements *ASAE 3000 Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and *ASAE 3150 Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The Council's Responsibility for the Internal Controls

The Council is responsible for implementing and maintaining an adequate system of internal controls, in accordance with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and incurring of liabilities have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

Our Independence and Quality Control

We have complied with the independence and other relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements, and applying Auditing Standard *ASQC 1 Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Review of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements* in undertaking the assurance engagement.

Assurance Practitioner's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Council's compliance with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities, based on our procedures have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

ASAE 3150 requires that we plan and perform our procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the control objectives and the controls operating effectively through the period. ASAE 3000 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements for the Australian professional accounting bodies.

An assurance engagement to report on the design and operating effectiveness of controls involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the control objectives and the operating effectiveness of the controls throughout the period. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including the assessment of the risks that the controls are not suitably designed or the controls did not operate effectively. Our procedures included testing the operating effectiveness to the controls that we consider necessary to achieve the control objectives identified. An Assurance engagement of this type also includes evaluating the suitability of the control objectives.

Limitation on Use

This report has been prepared for the members of the Council in accordance with *Section 129(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to the Internal Controls specified above. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any persons or users other than the members of the Council, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Limitations of Controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and operating effectively, the control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected.

An assurance engagement on operating effectiveness of controls is not designed to detect all instances of controls operating ineffectively as it is not performed continuously throughout the period and the tests performed are on a sample basis. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with them may deteriorate.

DEAN NEWBERY



SAMANTHA CRETEN
Director

6 November 2025

City of Mount Gambier

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Certification of Auditor Independence

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of City of Mount Gambier Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 the Council's Auditor, Dean Newbery and Partners has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(3) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.*

Andrew Aitken
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Paul Duka
PRESIDING MEMBER, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Date: 01/10/2025

DeanNewbery

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Certification of Auditor's Independence

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of the City of Mount Gambier for the year ended 30 June 2025, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Part 4A, published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

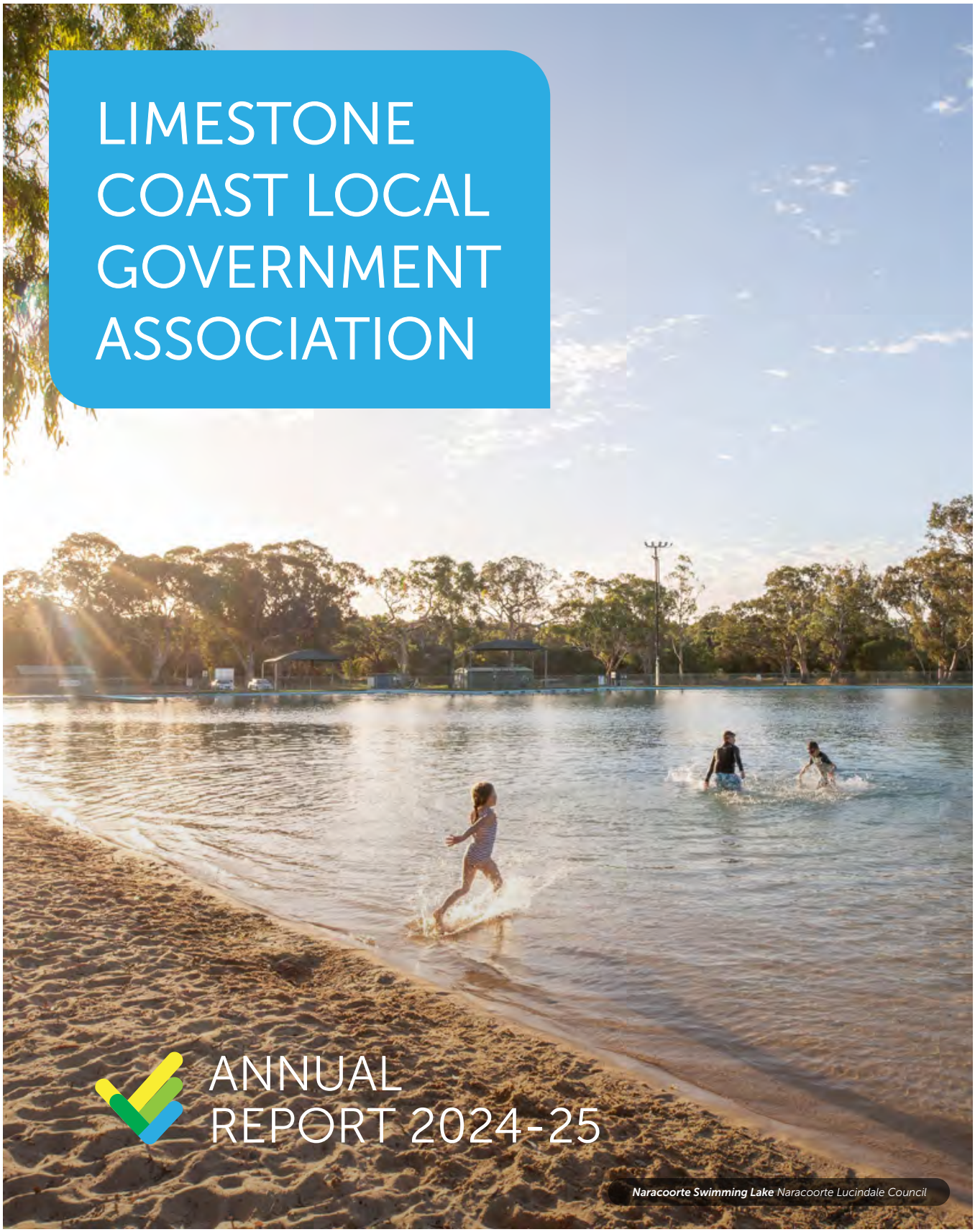
This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22 (5) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.*

SAMANTHA CRETEN

Director

DEAN NEWBERY

6 November 2025



LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Naracoorte Swimming Lake *Naracoorte Lucindale Council*

July 2025 marked the beginning of a new chapter for the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) following significant changes to our structure to realign with our core purpose. Charlotte Edmunds joins the LCLGA as Executive Officer to lead our collaborative advocacy agenda under the new model.

The LCLGA Board comprising Mayors Liz Goosens (Vice President), Kylie Boston, Jeff Pope, Patrick Ross, Lisa Ruffell and myself, look forward to working with Charlotte to deliver outcomes for the Limestone Coast region, its member councils and communities. As we continue work to define our strategic priorities under the new structure, the 2025/26 year will see a strong focus on tourism through the development of the new Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan, along with taking an active part in the South Australian Tourism Commission's Regional Tourism Review. Enabling infrastructure for growth and connecting communities within and to our region will also be a key focus.

We will continue to work with Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast on the recently adopted Regional Growth Strategy and the Drought Resilience Plan.

As a result of the new LCLGA model, the delivery of some programs will change. The Limestone Coast Sporting Academy will transition into a standalone not-for-profit organization and the Connected and Active Communities Program will be auspiced through a member Council.

On behalf of the Board I thank Colin Byles for once again stepping into the role of Interim Executive Officer and for his guidance and commitment to transitioning the LCLGA to its new governance model.

I also acknowledge the LCLGA staff, who through the re-structuring process will no longer be employed by the organization and thank them for their dedication and commitment to the LCLGA during their tenure.

We acknowledge the productive working relationship we enjoy with Federal Member for Barker Mr Tony Pasin MP, Member for Mount Gambier Mr Troy Bell MP and Member for McKillop Mr Nick McBride MP.

The historic investment in mobile telecommunications infrastructure in the Limestone Coast as a result of a partnership between Telstra, the LCLGA, Federal and State Governments and industry will not only make the Limestone Coast the most connected region in South Australia, but it also serves as a reminder about the power of collaboration.

The LCLGA recognises that working with stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of South Australia, the South Australian Tourism Commission, Government Ministers and Departments Members of Parliament and our member Councils is paramount to ensuring the long-term social and economic sustainability of our region.

My thanks go to my fellow Mayors, Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers for their ongoing support and commitment to make the 'Limestone Coast Better Together' as we begin this new phase of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association.

On behalf of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association, I am pleased to present the 2024/25 Annual Report.

Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM)
President LCLGA



Introduction

This document is the Annual Report of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) Inc. for the period 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025 and was prepared pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999 to report to Constituent Councils on the work and operation of the Association for the preceding financial year.

This report details the activities of the Association to represent and serve the six Constituent Councils and to advance the Limestone Coast communities through effective advocacy, facilitation, project delivery and innovation.

Our Association

LCLGA was established as a regional body on 6th October 1885. LCLGA is a regional subsidiary representing its Constituent Councils and is established pursuant to Section 43 of the Local Government Act 1999 by the Constituent Councils.

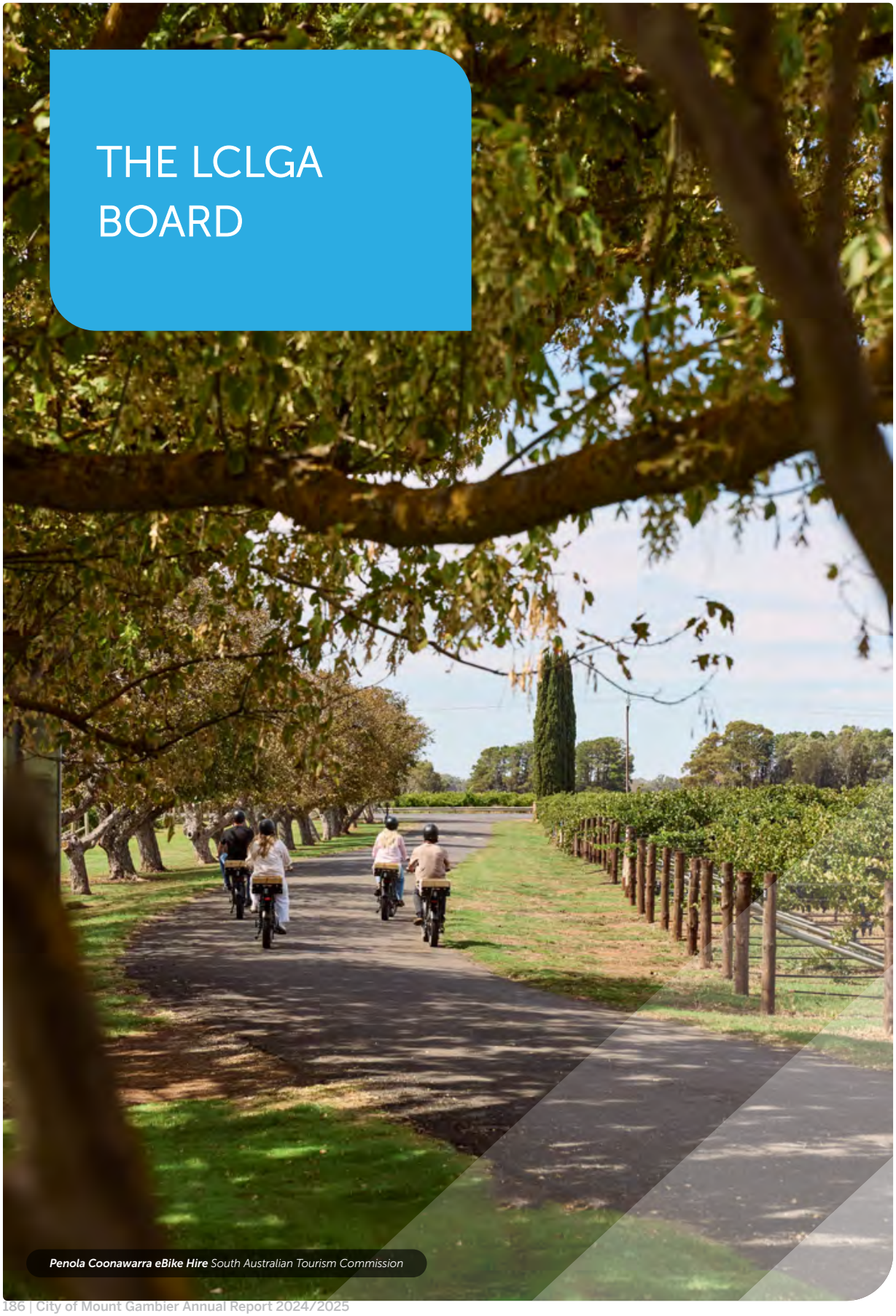
The Association is comprised of the following Constituent Councils:

1. City of Mount Gambier
2. District Council of Grant
3. Kingston District Council
4. Naracoorte Lucindale Council
5. District Council of Robe
6. Tatiara District Council

Under its Charter, LCLGA's objectives are to:

- Work in Association with both the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA) and the Australian Local Government Association.
- Undertake co-coordinating, advocacy and representational roles on behalf of its Constituent Councils at a regional level.
- Facilitate and coordinate activities of local government at a regional level related to social, environmental and community development with the object of achieving improvement for the benefit of the communities of its Constituent Councils.
- Develop, encourage, promote, foster and maintain consultation and co-operation and to strengthen the representation and status of local government when dealing with other governments, private enterprise and the community.
- Develop further co-operation between its Constituent Councils for the benefit of the communities of its region.
- Develop and manage policies which guide the conduct of programs and projects in its region with the objective of securing the best outcomes for the communities of the region.
- Undertake projects and activities that benefit its region and its communities.
- Associate, collaborate and work in conjunction with other regional local government bodies for the advancement of matters of common interest.
- Implement programs that seek to deliver local government services on a regional basis; and
- To effectively liaise and work with the State and Commonwealth Government and instrumentalities on a regional basis for the general enhancement of the region.

THE LCLGA BOARD



Penola Coonawarra eBike Hire *South Australian Tourism Commission*

The LCLGA Board

The LCLGA Board as at 30 June 2025

The LCLGA Board comprises nominated representatives from each of the Constituent Councils and is chaired by the LCLGA President. Each Constituent Council can nominate up to two Deputy Board Members.

LCLGA Board Members

Council	Delegate	Deputy Board Member/s
City of Mount Gambier	President Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM)	Deputy Mayor Josh Lynagh
Tatiara District Council	Vice President Mayor Liz Goossens	Deputy Mayor Lynton MacKenzie
District Council of Grant	Mayor Kylie Boston	Deputy Mayor Brad Mann
Kingston District Council	Mayor Jeff Pope	Deputy Mayor Jamie Parkins
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	Mayor Partick Ross	Deputy Mayor Abigail Goodman
District Council of Robe	Mayor Lisa Ruffell	Deputy Mayor Nick Brown

The Board held six ordinary bi-monthly General Meetings, and The Annual General Meeting during 2024-25. Meetings are hosted by Constituent Councils on a rotational basis.



Bordertown White Kangaroos *Fuller*

The LCLGA Board

Office Bearers 2024-2025

In accordance with the LCLGA Charter, the positions of LCLGA President and Vice President are appointed at the Annual General Meeting, held in February.

At the Annual General Meeting in February 2025, Mayor Lynette Martin was elected as LCLGA President, to serve in the position for a period of 12 months. Mayor Liz Goossens was elected as LCLGA Vice President.

During 2024-2025, Deb Brokenshire was appointed Interim Executive Officer from 1st July 2024 to 12 September 2024. Colin Byles was appointed Interim Executive Officer from 13 September 2024 to 30 June 2024. Charlotte Edmunds was appointed Executive Officer from 23 June 2025 onwards.

Dean Newbery and Partners are the appointed Auditor.

LCLGA Staff

During 2024-2025, LCLGA engaged the following staff to deliver regional programs:

Position	Staff Member	Period
Interim Executive Officer	Deb Brokenshire	1 July 2024 - 12 September 2024
Connected & Active Communities Officer	Tony Elletson	30 June 2025
Destination Development Manager	Kate Napper	30 June 2025
Destination Development Co-ordinator	Emma Herring	30 June 2025
Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Administrator	Rhiannon Zammit	30 June 2025
Corporate Services Officer	Paul Manfrin	19 September 2024
Interim Executive Officer	Colin Byles	13 September 2024 - 30 June 2025
Executive Officer	Charlotte Edmunds	23 June 2025- 30 June 2025

LCLGA Working Parties & Committees

Delegates to the Local Government Association of South Australia

Under the Constitution of the LGASA, regions are represented via appointed members to serve on the LGA Board and the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC).

Representatives

	LCLGA Representative
SAROC	Mayor Lynette Martin OAM Mayor Liz Goossens (proxy)

SAROC is an important LGA committee for non-metropolitan Councils.

Membership is drawn from each of the six non-metropolitan Regional Local Government Associations with members meeting bi-monthly to discuss the key issues affecting non-metropolitan Councils.



Blue Lake/Warwar *South Australian Tourism Commission*

LCLGA Working Parties & Committees

Association Committees and Working Parties

To undertake specific projects or fulfil areas of operational responsibility, LCLGA convenes a number of committees and working parties. LCLGA acknowledges the work of all who have contributed to the following committees and working parties throughout 2024-2025.

Representatives as at 30th June 2025

LCLGA Roads and Transport Management Group

Current Appointment	Council
Mr Aaron Hillier	Tatiara District Council
Mr Abdulah Muhmud	City of Mount Gambier
Mr Daniel Willsmore	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
Mr Dave Worthley	District Council of Robe
Mr Peter Halton	Wattle Range Council
Mr Tony Jordan	District Council of Grant
Mr Brett Holmes	Kingston District Council
Mr Colin Byles	Interim Executive Officer LCLGA

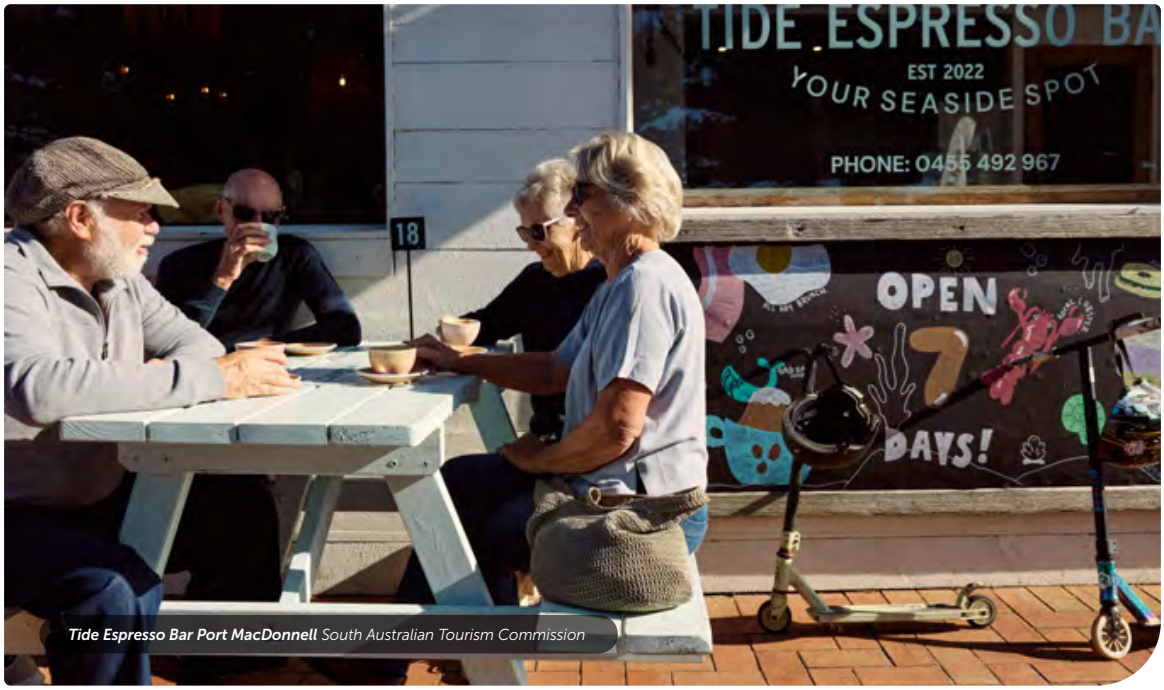
LCLGA Audit & Risk Committee

Current Appointment	Council
Mayor Lisa Ruffell	District Council of Robe
Mayor Jeff Pope	Kingston District Council
Anna Champness (CEO)	Tatiara District Council
Darryl Whicker (CEO)	District Council of Grant
Independent Member - vacant	

LCLGA Working Parties & Committees

Tourism Management Group

Current Appointment	Council
Ms Amanda Stevens Ms Biddie Shearing	City of Mount Gambier
Ms Rebecca Perkin	District Council of Grant
Ms Tess Armfield	Kingston District Council
Ms Josie Collins	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
Ms Camille Lehmann	District Council of Robe
Ms Kelly Hutchinson	Tatiara District Council
Ms Emma Clay Ms Nicole Croser	Wattle Range Council
Ms Kate Napper Ms Emma Herring Mr Colin Byles	LCLGA



Tide Espresso Bar Port MacDonnell *South Australian Tourism Commission*

LCLGA Working Parties & Committees

Association Representation – Outside Organisations as at the 30 June 2025

LCLGA has numerous representatives on working parties, boards and committees including State Government boards, cross border bodies and regional boards and committees. This representation allows LCLGA to keep in touch with communities and contribute to new and existing initiatives.

During 2024-2025, LCLGA made or continued the following appointments to other organisations.

South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance (SACCA)

Current Appointment	Council
Mayor Kylie Boston	District Council of Grant
Mayor Lisa Ruffell (Proxy)	District Council of Robe

Green Triangle Freight Action Plan

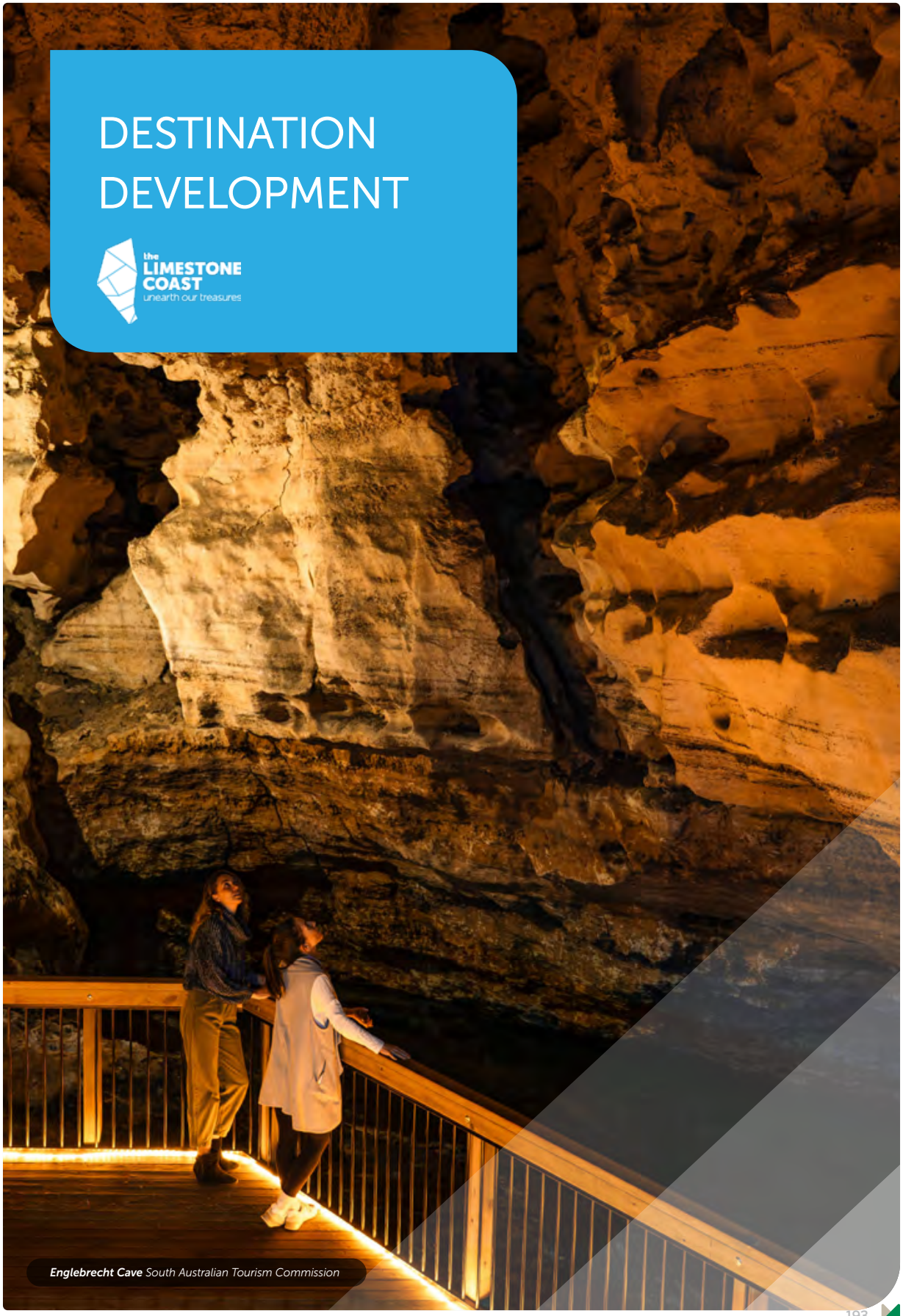
Current Appointment	Council
Kylie Boston	District Council of Grant
Mr Colin Byles	Interim Executive Officer LCLGA



Padthaway Landscape *Sarah Densley*

DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT

the LIMESTONE COAST
unearth our treasures



Englebrecht Cave *South Australian Tourism Commission*

Destination Development

Destination Development continued as a strategic function of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) throughout the 2024–25 financial year, with a focus on building a sustainable and high-performing visitor economy for the region in partnership with constituent councils and the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC).

The Limestone Coast tourism region recorded $662 million in visitor expenditure for the year ending December 2024; the highest of any South Australian region outside of Adelaide, and an increase of $136M on the prior year. This is consistent with an upward trend in visitation and expenditure experienced over the past decade (with the exception of COVID-19 impacts). While influenced by many factors, these results underscore the relevance of the visitor economy to the region and the opportunities for continued growth.

The 2024-25 year saw the conclusion of Destination Development as a project undertaken and funded by the LCLGA, as we embark upon transition to a new tourism model in response to the recommendations of the South Australian Regional Tourism Review.

Furthermore, the refreshed South Australia Tourism Plan 2030, publised by the State Government in June, outlines a strategy to grow regional tourism from $4 billion to $5.1 billion. The Limestone Coast stands in a strong position to contribute to this goal.



Lacepede Seafood *South Australian Tourism Commission*

Destination Development

Strategy in Action 2024-25

Throughout the year the LCLGA remained focused on delivering outcomes aligned with the Destination Development Strategy 2025 - a regional framework established to guide coordinated action across marketing, experience development, industry capability, advocacy, and collaboration.

Destination Development highlights delivered during the reporting year included:

Limestone Coast Marketing and Storytelling

- @limestonecoast Facebook and Instagram reached a combined organic audience of 2.86 million, with strong engagement and follower growth (+30% on Facebook, +5.3% on Instagram). This reach was further amplified through reposting by prominent accounts - including @southaustralia, Glam Adelaide, and South Aussie with Cosi - extending visibility to an audience of millions.
- The Limestone Coast Destination Website (visitlimestonecoast.com.au) attracted over 183,000 page views and more than 79,000 new users, with strong engagement driven by long-form blog content that highlights visitor experiences and supports trip planning. Blogs generated 56,632 views, with users spending an average of 52 seconds per post - nearly double the site-wide average. Top-performing topics included Sinkholes and Swimming Hotspots of the Limestone Coast and Fishing in the Limestone Coast.
- Maintained regular quarterly e-newsletters to prospective visitors, sharing seasonal inspiration and 'what's on' information - helping drive traffic to the website and increase blog engagement.
- The Website also delivered over 6,700 direct leads to Limestone Coast businesses via Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) listings.

Regional Representation & Advocacy

- Represented the Limestone Coast at state and national tourism forums, including Destination Australia, the national Regional Tourism Organisation Forum (March 2025), and the South Australian Tourism Conference (June 2025).
- Ongoing engagement with cross-border and state-level tourism partners to represent regional priorities and foster collaboration
- Supported a week-long digital content shoot in the region led by the SATC (March 2025), contributing to the Limestone Coast's presence in the new Simple Pleasures destination brand platform
- Assisted with the delivery of SATC-funded regional marketing initiatives, including South Aussie with Cosi and Hello SA TV campaigns

Tourism Insights & Communication

- Continued distribution of a bi-monthly Limestone Coast Tourism Industry Updates e-newsletter to industry contacts, and management of the regional tourism industry Facebook group with more than 670 members.
- Maintained investment in monthly tourism data snapshot reports (prepared by Localis Analytics) to provide up-to-date regional insights and performance comparisons with neighbouring regions such as the Great Ocean Road and Grampians.

Industry Development & Support

- Facilitated strong operator engagement in SATC's Experience Development Program and the Tourism for Good storytelling workshop co-hosted with TiCSA and The Tourism Collective in Mount Gambier
- Supported and strengthened regional input into the Gather Round Festival of Footy campaign and associated road trip promotions
- Coordinated a comprehensive content refresh of the Limestone Coast regional visitor guide
- Supported the delivery of two online ATDW workshops specifically for Limestone Coast businesses

Destination Development

Destination Management Planning

The next phase of regional tourism strategy commenced during the 2024–25 reporting period, with consultation on a new Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan (DMP) progressing across the region. The DMP is being developed in partnership between the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) and the South Australian Tourism Commission and is intended to provide a shared framework to guide regional tourism priorities and investment through to 2030.

The DMP also presents an opportunity to reaffirm regional needs and build on the strong foundations laid through the Destination Development function. Work on the DMP will continue into the latter half of 2025, progressing alongside a broader period of transition for regional tourism in South Australia - including a statewide review of how tourism is structured and funded. The DMP provides an important opportunity to reaffirm the Limestone Coast's regional priorities and will help inform the region's focus areas moving forward.

LCLGA remains the appointed Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for the Limestone Coast, with coordination support provided through a part-time Regional Tourism Manager appointed through to 30 June 2026 funded by the South Australian Tourism Commission.







Tourism for Good storytelling workshop, co-hosted by TiCSA and The Tourism Collective, Mount Gambier



Destination Development Manager represents Limestone Coast at Destination Australia 2025 and Regional Tourism Organisation Forum hosted by Tourism Australia pictured with fellow regional tourism managers from Barossa, Adelaide, Fleurieu Peninsula, and Kangaroo Island regions.







Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan consultation workshops, delivered in partnership by LCLGA and SATC, held in Robe and Mount Gambier

Destination Development

Destination Development 2020–2025: Reflections and Highlights

The conclusion of the Destination Development function on 30 June 2025 marks the end of a defined period of strategic, regionally coordinated tourism activity - shaped by sustained council and SATC investment, and guided by the Destination Development Strategy 2020–2025. With this transition, it is timely to reflect on the broader shifts and outcomes delivered throughout the life of the Strategy.

When the Strategy was adopted, 2018 tourism statistics were used to establish targets across core areas including visitor expenditure, visits, and nights. These benchmarks were set before the onset of COVID-19, which brought ongoing challenges throughout the Strategy's implementation.

Despite this, the Limestone Coast tourism region recorded several notable outcomes:

- Visitor expenditure increased from $337 million to $662 million over the life of the Strategy - exceeding the 2025 target of $479 million.
- For the year ending December 2024, the Limestone Coast recorded the highest visitor expenditure and highest total visitor numbers of all South Australian regions outside of Adelaide.
- Overnight visits rose from 617,000 to 807,000, and visitor nights from 2 million to 2.26 million - nearing target.

A regional legacy has also been created through sustained investment in digital storytelling, which has helped elevate the profile of the Limestone Coast and inspire visitation by promoting events, attractions, and experiences across the region.
This work spanned the introduction of Limestone Coast social media platforms, development of a regional destination website, and region-wide curated content creation.

Since their founding in 2020, and through to June 2025, the @limestonecoast Facebook and Instagram channels have collectively:

- Reached a combined organic audience of over 7.5 million
- Published 2,353 posts
- Grown their follower base by 882% on Facebook and 2,715% on Instagram
- Maintained high engagement rates - 6.2% on Facebook, 8.4% on Instagram
- Been amplified by major media and tourism partners, including Tourism Australia, SATC, ABC, Glam Adelaide, Adelady, and South Aussie with Cosi

In just over three years (website analytics were first implemented in June 2022), the Limestone Coast Destination Website - visitlimestonecoast.com.au - has recorded:

- More than 187,000 unique visitors
- Over 397,000 total page views
- An average of 11 direct leads per day to Limestone Coast businesses via ATDW listings - totalling over 12,000 leads.

This sustained focus on regional storytelling has played a valuable role in elevating the Limestone Coast's visibility and profile as a destination. In 2023, the region was named one of SATC's top-performing destinations on social media - a milestone that reflected the cumulative impact of consistent, high-quality content creation and digital coordination at a regional level. The @limestonecoast social channels have contributed to broader promotion by showcasing optimised, engaging content that aligns with state-wide destination marketing efforts and encourages further content creation and amplification.

More recently, the Limestone Coast was recognised as Australia's number one destination in Australian Traveller's Top 100 Greatest Getaways (May–July 2025 edition) - a reflection of the region's growing appeal and momentum, and a positive marker as the current strategy period draws to a close.

CONNECTED AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES



Robe Coastal Walk *South Australian Tourism Commission*

Connected and Active Communities

The Connected and Active Communities (CAC) Project is a place-based approach that aims to address poor levels of physical activity participation at a local level by investing in the strengths of our communities through a partnership approach.

Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) and The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) recognises that those living within our regional communities are the experts in their own lives, and through proactive engagement aim to work with and harness this expertise to inform, co-design and implement initiatives that have lasting impact.

By partnering with local communities, the CAC Project identifies opportunities to elevate the capacity of volunteers, decision makers and local leaders to create and deliver innovative and effective sport and recreation initiatives.

Harnessing diversity as a key strength of our region, the CAC Project connects and leverages traditional and non-traditional networks to bring communities together and positively impact physical activity participation rates through locally tailored solutions.

The CAC Project has delivered the following in the reporting period;

Young Leaders Program

11 students between the ages of 15 and 17 from across Limestone Coast have started the journey to participate in the inaugural Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and Duke of Edinburgh Awards Young Leaders Program. This is a fully subsidised program with no cost to the participant.

Key highlights of the Young Leaders Program include:

- Learn Understand the inner workings of a sporting club, the issues affecting sport and how to make sporting clubs more accessible to the community.
- Develop your communication skills, leadership and emotional intelligence and undertake sporting medical support training.
- Experience - Get first-hand experience within a community sporting club and apply your skills & learning practically.

The course consists of –

- **Physical Recreation** 6 months of Physical Activity (1 hour per week for 6 months)
- **Voluntary Service** 3 months of volunteering at a community organisation/sporting club (1 hour per week for 3 months)
- **Skill Development** - 5 workshops:
  - *How to increase participation in sport (delivered by ORSR)* ·
  - *How does a sporting club run (delivered by ORSR)*
  - *Improving your communication (deliverer TBC)*
  - *Developing your life skills and emotional intelligence (delivered by Global Community Sports)*
  - *Maintaining your members health (delivered by SA Sports Medicine Association)*
  - *Communication workshop, focussing on the following areas:*
  - *Confidence, running a meeting, Grant writing, Having difficult conversations, How to influence, Social media training.*

Connected and Active Communities

Young Leaders Program

Plus 1 of either:

- Community Coaching Essential Skills (Delivered by Australian Sports Commission) Community Officiating Essential Skills (Delivered by Australian Sports Commission).
- Adventurous Journey Overnight stay at AFL Max (TBC) Tour of new ORSR/SASI Cultural Awareness Training (delivered by Tjindu Foundation).

This program is free of costs to the participants, and they are able to gain a minimum of 10 SACE Points, by completing the program. We have at least 1 person from all 7 council areas in the program

Regional Workshops Delivered

The CAC Program delivered Child Safe Officer, Responsible Service of Alcohol, Grant Writing, Grant Readiness, Cultural Inclusivity and Food Safety Supervisor workshops across the region in the reporting period.

The Power of Her Sport Awards

The CAC Officer was apart of the selection Panel for the inaugural Power of Her Sport Awards and attended the Award Ceremony on the 12th March. The Naracoorte Little Athletics Club was successful in the Champion Local Club – Regional section and Chloe Mackenzie was a joint winner in the emerging leader category.

Chloe created the very first South-East junior girl's cricket group to assist in the development of junior girls as well as to give them an opportunity to play and train with only other girls. Previously, junior girls in the south-east were only able to play cricket in a mixed gender competition, so Chloe created a 'Girls only' group to support and encourage them early on in their cricket journey.

By conducting training sessions at various cricket grounds in the Limestone Coast region eg. Naracoorte, Penola and Mt Gambier, Chloe ensures 'girls only' cricket is inclusive and accessible at regional local cricket clubs. Sometimes she travels over 200kms after her working day just to conduct a 'girls only' training session.

Support for Community Clubs

- The CAC Officer has worked with multiple clubs on a range of Funding Programs.
- The CAC Officer worked with the EQUiPP Project through Uni SA on Co-designing an educational campaign for people living with chronic pain in the Limestone Coast and Western Victoria. The aim of this study, EQUiPP: Co-design Workshops, is to engage with locals to co-design a chronic pain-targeted educational intervention that is specific to your community.
- For this study, we are running a workshop with people who live and/or work in the Limestone Coast. EQUiPP is a research project with a bold vision: to change the way Australians understand pain. www.equipp.org.au

Connected and Active Communities

Sports Programs Supporting Migrants

Project based around soccer and migrants. We are supporting soccer in the Tatiara, with a focus on the migrant community's needs, by exploring ways in which the strengths of the community can be leveraged to create positive physical activity outcomes to establish active lives and connected communities.

There are currently multiple forms of informal Soccer participation occurring in the community. We have supported Senior Soccer with equipment and Governance support. This program has now expanded into having a Basketball component to it. This is proving to be very successful.



Tatiara Migrant Program



Tatiara Migrant Program

Paralympic and Disability Sport Initiatives

The CAC Officer worked with the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) Paralympic section to activate Physical Activity opportunities for people in the Limestone Coast. SASI have agreed to come down for a 4-day initial visit to work with clubs, councils and schools to look at setting up sustainable and ongoing disability sport programs for young and old in the region.

These programs will be supported by and managed by the SASI Paralympic team and the CAC program. They will be grass root programs open to young and old. There will also be Talent Identification Testing run for young athletes with a disability with a hope to add a Paralympic section to our local Academy.

Connected and Active Communities

The Power of Her Event

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association (through the Connected and Active Communities Program), in partnership with the Office for Recreation Sport and Racing, The City of Mount Gambier and University of SA Mount Gambier Campus was proud to present 'The Power of Her' - an inspiring event dedicated to celebrating and empowering females in sport. The event was held at Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre on Thursday 21st November.

The Power of Her brought together influential voices, thought leaders and change makers for an unforgettable day and night of connection, learning and growth.

The event was held in two parts.

The first, a Schools specific session, for female students, held in the morning that discussed topics relevant to those in attendance, not only in sport but in everyday life. Topics such as, Body Image, Leadership, what it takes to reach their goals and How to navigate life changes that happen to them as they grow.

The students then heard from Paris Olympic Bronze Medallist Caitlin Parker, in an inspiring talk about breaking down stereotypes and overcoming barriers. Then a keynote address from Former Australian Diamond Captain Natalie Von Bertouch and current Thunderbird Premiership Captain Hannah Petty, which engaged the crowd and involved them in the discussion.

Questions from the students were then forthcoming, and so engaged where the students, we ran out of time for all the questions. Students were able to approach the presenters for photos and to discuss things personally before they left.

The second session saw keynote addresses from Natalie Von Bertouch and Caitlin Parker, along with a panel discussion with Natalie, Caitlin, Nicola Jensen (Pelvic Pain Foundation), Holly Bailey (Play Like a Girl Foundation), Hannah Petty, Lorraine Pitman (The Embrace Collective) and former Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy member and current South Australian Sports Institute Cycling athlete Sarah Dally.

The event was packed with powerful ideas and insights, engaging presentations, lively conversations and personal stories. Not to mention highly practical tools to empower change in gender equality. Both sessions were superbly led by Limestone Coast born, Channel 9 News Presenter Alice Monfries as MC.

Never before have we seen such a collection of sporting legends and leaders in significant female focused areas come together on the Limestone Coast in one setting. Over 200 people came to both sessions.



Holly Bailey and Caitlin Parker



Caitlin Parker

Mental Health Support – Switch The Play Program

The CAC program worked with Feel Better (Mental Health Professionals) to develop and roll out the Switch The Play: A Grassroots Mental Health Program for Sporting Clubs.

Switch The Play is an innovative grassroots mental health program designed by FeelBetter Limestone Coast for implementation within sporting clubs. The program aims to provide ongoing, consistent, and accessible mental health and well-being support to club members and the broader community.

The program provides localised easily accessible mental health support for sporting clubs, with support being long term and ongoing in nature to avoid the gap often experienced with fly-in-fly-out mental health models which provide information however do not provide the tangible mental health support that clubs need at the times when it is needed.

Not having ongoing accessible support is viewed as a barrier to clubs embedding mental health and wellbeing as a natural part of their operations, as clubs are already normally overburdened with role responsibilities being managed mostly by volunteers.

Having access to accredited mental health social workers to support and guide designated club wellbeing support persons will enable reduction of the fear and responsibility likely associated with a person agreeing to take on a volunteer role of this kind.

Understanding that support will be readily available to the volunteer within the wellbeing role will we envisage make it much easier clubs to present the role to their club and for a club person to agree to being attached to the role.

Program Objectives:

1. Reduce stigma surrounding mental health support-seeking
2. Reach a wide demographic, particularly adult males and young men
3. Address high male suicide rates in rural and remote South Australia
4. Provide informal, less confronting support at a grassroots level
5. Normalise mental health discussions within sporting communities

Program Design:

- Implementation within sporting clubs
- Dedicated wellbeing role attached to each club
- Access to accredited mental health social workers – FeelBetter Limestone Coast
- Online group sessions for wellbeing club contact available
- Individual consultations for wellbeing contact available
- Website materials and resources on mental health topics available at any time
- Critical incident support available provided by AMHSW FeelBetter Limestone Coast

Connected and Active Communities

Supporting At-Risk Youth

Partnered with Department of Child Protection and are in the early phase of running a project that will provide children at risk with opportunities to participate and benefit from sport they choose to be involved in. Children and Sports have been selected and are being supported through the CAC program to be able to attend trainings and games and to be able to do so safely.

Facility Planning and Governance Support

Delivered a Facility Analysis report which will provide valuable data in partnership with Naracoorte Lucindale Council about the viability and future of facilities in their council area.

The CAC Officer also continued to provide many clubs across the region with Governance and off field support, including, Constitution, Strategic Planning and Grant/Funding support.


LIMESTONE
COAST REGIONAL
SPORTING ACADEMY
Athletics
South Australia
AUSTRALIAN
ATHLETICS
CHAMPIONSHIPS
PERTH
CROKER
GOLD
U20 Women's Heptathlon
Leila Croker

Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy

In partnership with the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and the LCLGA, the Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy (LCRSA) inducted its first Inductees in October 2017 and commenced working with these Athletes in November, as part of a Pilot Program.

Since then, the LCLGA have been successful in meeting certain requirements from the ORSR and have continued to obtain funding to run the program ongoing. Once again, the LCLGA partnered with the ORSR and the seventh year of the LCRSA was launched in October 2023. The program was also supported through the Local Government Research and Development Scheme funding program.

We were pleased to welcome back Hockey SA, Tennis SA, SASI Cycling, Swimming SA, Mount Gambier Pioneers, SA Country Basketball and Athletics SA as official partners of the Academy. We also welcomed for the first time Glenelg Football Club as a partner in a new AFLW Program.

We were able to offer skill-based sessions for athletes in these sports and coaching development for local coaches as well. We also continued to offer a Lonestar program for athletes from any sporting background.

The LCRSA inducted 82 athletes into the Academy for the 2024/25 iteration.

These athletes are provided with a 12-month Gym membership, a 12-month Elite Athlete Strength and Conditioning Program (2 sessions a week at the gym and an at home program), Coaching, Educational Sessions (Sports Psychology, Media Training, Coping with Pressure, Sporting Routines and Sports Nutrition), and High-level testing at the University of SA's High Performance Centre in Adelaide.

We are also able to live stream our Education sessions to athletes across the region who are unable to attend due to travel.

The program has given the athletes the chance to understand the training and preparation requirements to become an elite athlete, as well as improve their performances at school as well as on the field or track.

We also continued our partnership with Uni SA, who provide us with the venue for our Education sessions and Testing. The LCRSA is extremely pleased to also be supported by the M & G Hotel Group, who have provided us with 30 nights of free accommodation for athletes and families, as well as a reduced rate for athletes and families on an ongoing basis.

The LCRSA has four main objectives



To identify regional sporting talent



To educate and develop youth in the region



To provide pathways to State and national representation



To develop the skills of regional coaches

Outside of these four main sporting objectives, our key goal is to help young people become leaders in our communities.

Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy

The Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy (LCRSA) has officially adopted an independent governance structure, marking its evolution from being managed by the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA). This pivotal development represents a major step forward for athlete development in South Australia, enhancing the support available to emerging sports talent across the region.



The LCRSA is set to become the first regional academy in South Australia to operate under an independent governance model. This transition has been carefully considered by the LCLGA, with thorough due diligence conducted to assess the benefits of independent operations. The Academy will now be managed and operated locally, with strategic and operational support from Regional Academies of Sport Ltd (RAS Ltd), its parent organisation, which provides expertise in governance, strategy and risk, finance, marketing and more.

The move to independence will allow the LCRSA to access a broader network of expertise, resources and support, while continuing to deliver tailored programs that reflect the region's sporting culture and aspirations.

With the Brisbane 2032 Olympics on the horizon, now is the time to invest in the next generation of regional talent. Programs delivered in the Limestone Coast, and those still to be developed, will not only nurture future sporting stars but also help shape a stronger, more resilient generation, equipped for life beyond the playing field. It's an incredibly exciting time to be an emerging athlete in South Australia.







LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



FINANCIAL REPORTS

30 JUNE 2025

Farmers Leap Padthaway Sarah Cunningham

Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been authorised by the Association to certify the financial statements in their final form. In our opinion:

- the accompanying financial statements comply with the *Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Australian Accounting Standards.
- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Association's financial position at 30 June 2025 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.
- internal controls implemented by the Association provide a reasonable assurance that the Association's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year.
- the financial statements accurately reflect the Association's accounting and other records.

Charlotte Edmunds
Executive Officer

Mayor Lynette Martin
President

Date: 8/8/25

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	**2025** **$**	2024 $
INCOME			
Local Government Council Contributions	2	**915,891**	874,335
Other Contributions	2	**40,000**	40,000
Other Income	2	**80,997**	114,681
Project Income	2	**371,024**	378,368
Total Income		**1,407,912**	1,407,384
EXPENSES			
Operating Expenes	3	**187,053**	201,624
Employee Costs	3	**584,805**	638,542
Project Expenditure	3	**532,627**	625,676
Total Expenses		**1,304,484**	1,465,842
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) transferred to Equity Statement		**103,428**	(58,458)
Other Comprehensive Income			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result			
Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		**-**	-
Total Other Comprehensive Income		**-**	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		**103,428**	(58,458)

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2025

	Notes	**2025** $	2024 $
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	**594,504**	636,311
Trade and Other Receivables	4	**7,178**	9,201
Total Assets		**601,682**	645,512
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	5	**239,415**	70,923
Provisions	5	**7,403**	70,089
Other Liabilities	5	**-**	252,405
Total Current Liabilities		**246,817**	393,417
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	5	**-**	658
Total Non-current Liabilities		**-**	658
Total Liabilities		**246,817**	394,075
NET ASSETS		**354,865**	251,437
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		**354,865**	251,437
TOTAL EQUITY		**354,865**	251,437

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	Accumulated Surplus	TOTAL EQUITY
2025		$	$
Balance at end of previous reporting period		**251,437**	**251,437**
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		**103,428**	**103,428**
Other Comprehensive Income		**-**	**-**
Balance at end of period		**354,865**	**354,865**
2024			
Balance at end of previous reporting period		309,895	309,895
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(58,458)	(58,458)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Balance at end of period		251,437	251,437

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	**2025** **$**	2024 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Local Government Council Contributions		915,891	874,335
Other Contributions		40,000	40,000
Other Income		80,997	114,681
Project Income		120,642	240,332
Payments			
Operating Expenes		(151,508)	(173,162)
Employee Costs		(667,078)	(613,228)
Project Expenditure		(380,751)	(625,676)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	6	**(41,807)**	(142,718)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities		-	-
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities		-	-
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		(41,807)	(142,718)
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period		636,311	779,029
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	4	594,504	636,311

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

Limestone Cost Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1 - MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

1.2 Historical Cost Convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates, and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Limestone Coast LGA's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of this Note.

1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar ($).

2 The Local Government Reporting Entity

Limestone Coast Local Government Association (Association) is incorporated under the SA Local Government Act 1999 and has its principal place of business at Level 1, 9 Bay Road, Mount Gambier, SA, 5290. These financial statements include Limestone Coast Local Government Associations direct operations and all entities through which Limestone Coast Local Government Association controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on Limestone Coast Local Government Association as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas and controlled entities have been eliminated.

3 Income recognition

The Association recognises revenue under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Association expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

Income from Local Government Council Contributions includes income for "pass-through" expenditure for Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast (RDALC), SA Coastal Councils Alliance (SACCA) and the provision of heritage services.

4 Cash, Cash Equivalents and other Financial Instruments

Cash Assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Limestone Coast Local Government Associations option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1 - MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (con't)

5 Payables

5.1 Goods & Services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

5.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts received from external parties in advance of service delivery, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

6 Employee Benefits

6.1 Salaries, Wages & Compensated Absences

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based on costs) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based on costs) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

Weighted average discount rate	3.927% (2024 3.929%)
Weighted average settlement period	1 year (2024, 1 year)

No accrual is made for sick leave as Limestone Coast Local Government Assoications experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. The Association does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

7 GST Implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax"

- Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

8 Leases

At the inception of a contract, the Association assesses if the contract is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right of use assets and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the Association where the Association is a lessee. However, all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (lease with remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

9 New Accounting Standards and UIG interpretations

The Association has assessed all the standards / interpretations which are not yet effective and have determined that there is no expected material impact on the reported financial position or performance.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
NOTE 2: INCOME			
Local Government Council Contributions			
City of Mount Gambier		**252,677**	241,162
District Council of Grant		**112,556**	107,456
Wattle Range Council		**191,873**	183,140
Naracoorte Lucindale Council		**129,504**	123,628
District Council of Robe		**60,867**	58,140
Tatiara District Council		**109,867**	104,890
Kingston District Council		**58,547**	55,919
Total		**915,891**	874,335
Other Contributions			
LGA SA		**40,000**	40,000
Total		**40,000**	40,000
Other Income			
Interest		**36,352**	42,894
Participant Contribution		**26,421**	26,027
Other		**18,225**	45,760
Total		**80,997**	114,681
Project Income			
Tourism (Includes SA Touism Commission payments)		**80,840**	52,198
Connective Active Communities (Office of Sport and Rec payments)		**155,000**	155,000
Sports Academy & Connective Active Communities (Office of Sport and Rec payments)		**80,600**	100,000
SA Coastal Councils Alliance		**54,584**	71,170
Total		**371,024**	378,368

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
NOTE 3: Expenditure			
Operating Expenses			
Audit Fees (2023/2024 & 2024/2025)		**8,450**	4,018
Accounting Fees		**23,684**	25,350
Computing and IT		**15,641**	27,108
Rent		**24,735**	20,824
Insurance		**19,030**	18,247
Vehicles		**27,305**	30,048
Chairperson Allowance		**9,380**	9,160
Travel, Accomodation and Meals		**25,096**	13,455
Relocation Costs		**3,884**	-
Other		**29,847**	53,415
Total		**187,053**	201,624
Employee Costs			
Salaries and Wages		**549,128**	540,561
Workcover		**6,890**	6,241
Superannuation		**59,063**	57,530
Leave Provision Movement		**(38,835)**	27,262
FBT		**8,557**	6,949
Total		**584,805**	638,542
Project Expenditure			
Tourism		**105,781**	102,126
Connective Active Communities		**40,549**	51,047
Sports Academy		**95,926**	158,063
SA Coastal Councils Alliance		**73,450**	79,577
Other		**216,921**	234,862
Total		**532,627**	625,676

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
NOTE 4: Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Cash at Bank		**594,504**	636,311
Total		**594,504**	636,311
Trade and Other Receivables			
Trade Debtors		**5,040**	10,220
Provision for Doubtful Debts		**-**	(2,980)
Accrued Interest		**2,138**	1,961
Total		**7,178**	9,201
NOTE 5: Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables			
Goods and Services		**226,352**	42,287
Accrued Expenses		**7,231**	26,159
Other		**5,831**	2,476
Total		**239,415**	70,923
Provisions - Current			
Employee Entitlements including On-Costs		**7,403**	70,089
Total		**7,403**	70,089
Provisions - Non-Current			
Employee Entitlements including On-Costs		**-**	658
Total		**-**	658
Other Liabilities			
LC Regional Sport Academy		**-**	100,000
Connected and Active Communities (CAC)		**-**	135,600
SA Coastal Councils Alliance		**-**	16,805
Total		**-**	252,405

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
NOTE 6: Reconciliation of Cash Flow Statement			
(a) Reconciliation of Cash			
Cash Assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:			
Total cash & equivalent assets	4	**594,504**	636,311
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		**594,504**	636,311
(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities			
Net Surplus (Deficit)		**103,427**	(58,458)
Non-cash items in Income Statement			
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		**(63,345)**	25,314
		40,082	(33,144)
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets			
Net (increase) decrease in receivables		**2,023**	2,127
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables		**168,492**	28,462
Net increase (decrease) in other liabilities		**(252,404)**	(140,164)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations		**(41,807)**	(142,719)
(c) Financing Arrangements			
Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:			
Corporate Credit Cards		**5,000**	11,024

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

NOTE 7: Financial Instruments

All financial instruments are categorised as *loans and receivables.*

Accounting Policies - Recognised Financial Instruments

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits	**Accounting Policy:** initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured atamortised cost, interest is recognised when earned **Terms & conditions:** Deposits are returning interest rates between 4.15% and 4.55% (2024: 4.30% and 4.55%). **Carrying amount:** approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.
Receivables - Fees & other charges	**Accounting Policy:** initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method **Terms & conditions:** Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Although the association is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk **Carrying amount:** approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).
Receivables - other levels of government	**Accounting Policy:** initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method. **Terms & conditions:** Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments. **Carrying amount:** approximates fair value.
Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals	**Accounting Policy:** Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Association. **Terms & conditions:** Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms. **Carrying amount:** approximates fair value.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7: Financial Instruments (Cont.)

Liquidity Analysis

2025		Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets		$	$	$	$	$
Cash & Equivalents		**594,504**	-	-	**594,504**	**594,504**
Receivables		**7,178**	-	-	**7,178**	**7,178**
	Total	**601,683**	-	-	**601,683**	**601,683**
Financial Liabilities						
Payables		**235,203**	-	-	**235,203**	**235,203**
	Total	**235,203**	-	-	**235,203**	**235,203**

2024		Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year < 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets		$	$	$	$	$
Cash & Equivalents		**636,311**	-	-	**636,311**	**636,311**
Receivables		**9,201**	-	-	**9,201**	**9,201**
	Total	**645,512**	-	-	**645,512**	**645,512**
Financial Liabilities						
Payables		**54,338**	-	-	**54,338**	**54,338**
	Total	**54,338**	-	-	**54,338**	**54,338**

The following interest rates were applicable to Limestone Coast LGA at balance date:

	30 June 2025		30 June 2024	
	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Carrying Value
	%	$	%	$
At Call	**4.15**	**594,504**	4.55	636,311
Term Deposits		**-**		-
		594,504		636,311

Net Fair Value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of Limestone Coast Local Government Association.

Risk Exposures:

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Association is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. Except as detailed in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Limestone Coast LGA boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of the Associations financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor currency risk apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that the Association will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Association has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate investments.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

NOTE 8: Uniform Presentation of Financial Statements

	Notes	**2025** **$**	2024 $
INCOME			
Local Government Council Contributions		915,891	874,335
Other Contributions		40,000	40,000
Other Income		80,997	114,681
Project Income		371,024	378,368
EXPENSES			
Operating Expenes		(187,053)	(201,624)
Employee Costs		(584,805)	(638,542)
Project Expenditure		(532,627)	(625,676)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before Capital Amounts		**103,428**	(58,458)
Less Net Outlays in Existing Assets			
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Exising Assets		-	-
Add Back Depreciation Amortisation and Impairment		-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets		-	-
		-	-
Less Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets			
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets		-	-
Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets		-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets		-	-
		-	-
Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year		**103,428**	(58,458)

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

Limestone Cost Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

At 30 June 2025, the Association is unaware of any liability, contingent or otherwise, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in the this financial report.

Note 10 – Capital Commitments

At 30 June 2025, the Association is unaware of any capital or leasing commitments which have not already been recorded elsewhere in the this financial report.

Note 11 – Events after the end of the reporting period

There were no events subsequent to 30 June 2025 that need to be disclosed in the financial statements.

Note 12 – Economic Dependence

Limestone Coast Local Government Association is dependent on the Local Councils within its jurisdiction and other funding bodies for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report, the Board believe that the Local Councils and other bodies will continue to fund the Association.

Note 13 – Capital Management

The Board controls the capital of the entity to ensure that adequate cash flows are generated to fund its programs and that returns from investments are maximised within tolerable risk parameters. The Board ensure that the overall risk management strategy is in line with this objective. The Board operates under policies approved by the board. Risk management policies are approved and reviewed by the Board on a regular basis. These include credit risk policies and future cash flow requirements. The entity's capital consists of financial liabilities supported by financial assets. There has been no changes to the strategy adopted by the Board to control the capital of the entity since the previous financial year.

Note 14 – Related Party Disclosure

The Key Management Personnel of the Council include the Board of Management and Executive Officer. In all, four people were paid the following total compensation:

	2025		2024
	$		$
Salaries, allowances & Other Short Term benefits	**$ 172,393**		$ 178,849
Post-Employment Benefits	**$ 905**		$ 15,875
TOTAL	**$ 173,298**		$ 194,724

The specific banding of key management personnel and Board of management from the Limestone Coast Local Government Association Incorporated during the year was as follows;

$	**2025**	2024
Under $50,000	3	1
$50,000 to $100,000	0	2
$100,001 to $150,000	1	0
$150,001 to $200,000	0	0

Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Other related parties includes close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by those key management personnel individually or collectively with their close family members.

Note 14 – Related Party Disclosure (Cont.)

There were no transactions with other related parties.

Related Party Entity	Amounts received from Related Party during the Financial Year
	2025
	$
City of Mount Gambier	278,944
District Council of Grant	123,812
Wattle Range Council	211,060
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	142,454
District Council of Robe	66,954
Tatiara District Council	120,854
Kingston District Council	64,402
TOTAL	1,008,480

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (the Authority), which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statements of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and other explanatory information and the Certification of the Financial Statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2025, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999*, *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and the Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described as in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibility of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*, and for such controls as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Management is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that the audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by those charged with governance.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DEAN NEWBERY



SAMANTHA CRETEN
Director

19 August 2025

Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

CERTIFICATION OF AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of Limestone Coast Local Government Association for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Association's Auditor, Dean Newbery, has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(3) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

Executive Officer
LC Local Government Association

President
LC Local Government Association

Chief Executive Officer
District Council of Grant

Chief Executive Officer
City of Mount Gambier

Chief Executive Officer
Kingston District Council

Chief Executive Officer
Naracoorte Lucindale Council

Chief Executive Officer
District Council of Robe

Chief Executive Officer
Tatiara District Council

Date: 8/8/25

DeanNewbery

Chartered
Accountants

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Dean Newbery
ABN: 48 007 865 081

Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 22 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 to the Limestone Coast Local Government Association

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association for the year ended 30 June 2025, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Part 4A, published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22 (5) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.*

SAMANTHA CRETEN
DIRECTOR

19 August 2025

Acknowledgements

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) extends its sincere appreciation to its constituent councils for their continuing support and collaboration.

We acknowledge the valuable contributions and guidance of all board Members over the 2024-25 year: President Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM) - City of Mount Gambier, Vice President Mayor Liz Goossens - Tatiara District Council, Mayor Kylie Boston - District Council of Grant, Mayor Jeff Pope - Kingston District Council, Mayor Patrick Ross - Naracoorte Lucindale Council and Mayor Lisa Ruffell - District Council of Robe.

The 2024-25 year has been one of significant change for the Association as we have embarked upon a shift towards an advocacy focused structure.

The transition period of the LCLGA during 2024-25 was led by highly experienced and capable leadership. Deb Brokenshire served as Interim Executive Officer from June 2024 for a three-month term whilst the strategic direction was established. Colin Byles then took over the interim position to lead the Association's structural transition including the recruitment of a new Executive Officer to lead the new advocacy-focused organisation going forward. We wholeheartedly thank Deb and Colin for their collective efforts over the past 12 months.

Equally, each of the LCLGA staff members have demonstrated integrity and professionalism of the highest regard during the transition period ensuring programs continued seamlessly throughout the various changes and challenges that comes with organisational restructure.

Immense appreciation and respect is extended to Tony Elletson, Connected & Active Communities Officer; Kate Napper, Destination Development Manager; Emma Herring, Destination Development Coordinator; Rhiannon Zammit, Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Administrator; and Paul Manfrin, Corporate Services Officer.

The Australian Local Government Association, the Local Government Association of SA (including support via the Regional Capacity Building Program, which funded both regional tourism marketing activities and the Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy), and the five other regional local government associations in SA continue to provide guidance and support to the LCLGA, for which we extend our gratitude.

Our strong working relationship with Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast board members and staff also remains an invaluable component in advancing the region's interests and strengthening our economic future. We look forward to continuing to partner with RDALC towards achieving our shared goals.

While the 2024-25 period has been one of transition, the founding principles have remained at the forefront of decision making and continue to guide us into the next chapter of our 140-year-old Association. While each council is unique in its circumstance and situation we are united in a shared responsibility and vision for the future of our region. We are committed to continued regional collaboration that crosses council boundaries to ensure effective solutions and shared burdens.

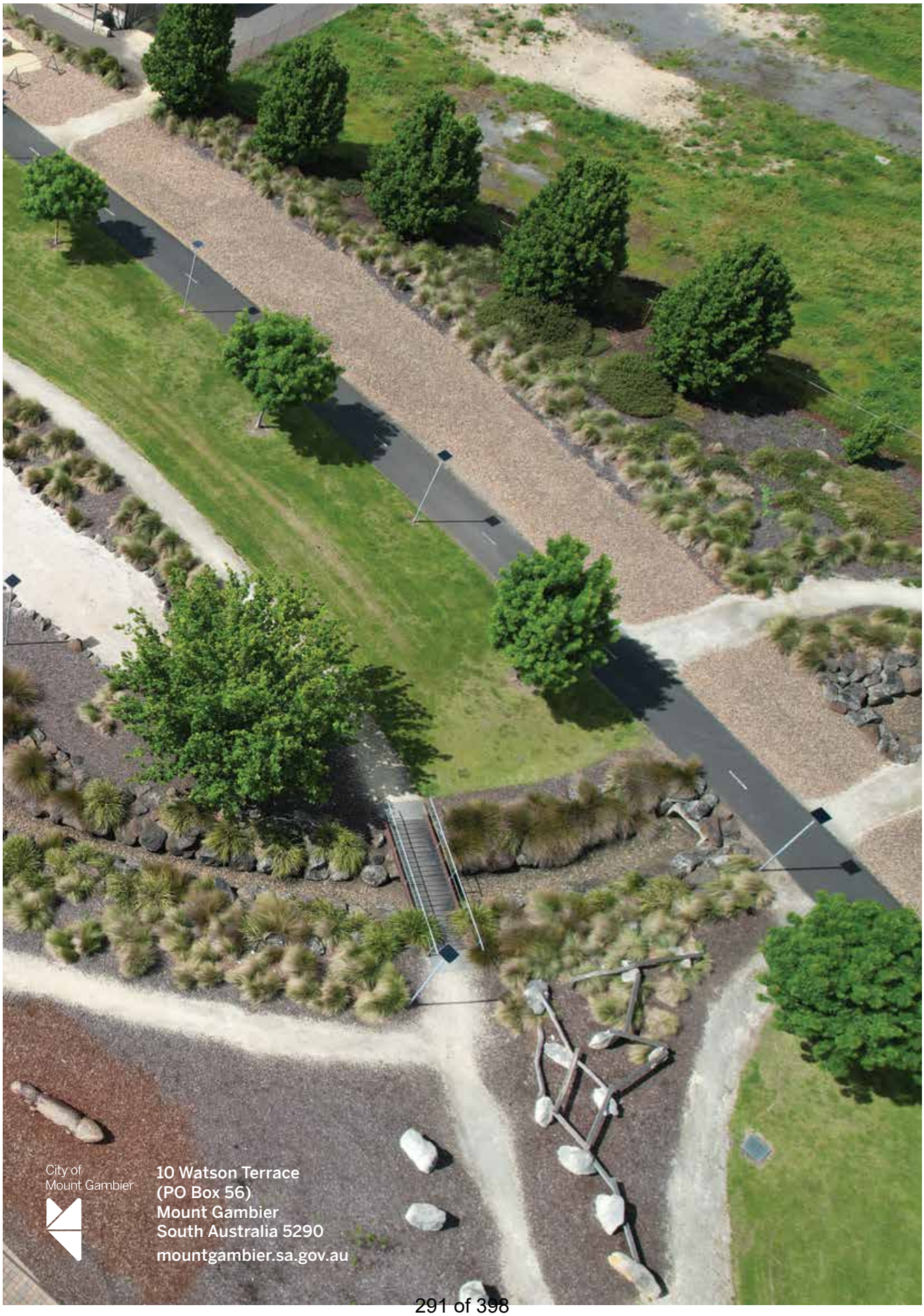
Our potential for growth is strengthened by local government cooperation to drive the social, environmental and community development goals, always ultimately advocating for the region's best asset - its people.

We look forward to the LCLGA continuing to play a vital role in shaping and supporting the future of our region as we have done since 1885.

Better Together.

Charlotte Edmunds
Executive Officer LCLGA




City of
Mount Gambier
10 Watson Terrace
(PO Box 56)
Mount Gambier
South Australia 5290
mountgambier.sa.gov.au

19.4 DRAFT DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2025-2029

Author: Sally Mann, Team Leader Library Operations
Authoriser: Chris White, General Manager People Place and Liveability

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029' as presented on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be noted.
2. That Council endorse the draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 for public consultation.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer or delegate be authorised to make any necessary minor typographical and format amendments as required.

PURPOSE

To present to Council the draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (DAIP) for endorsement for public consultation.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

The City of Mount Gambier is required under the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) to develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP). This plan must be endorsed by Council and published by 14 February 2026. It is a legislative obligation designed to ensure that people with disability can participate fully and equally in community life. The DAIP must include strategies to support people living with disabilities in built environments, events, facilities, information and communications, services, and employment.

To align with the updated State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025–2029 (SDIP) and building on successes and learnings from the first plan, the DAIP outlines Council's renewed commitment to positive change and improved access and inclusion for people living with disabilities in Mount Gambier. Council's actions in this plan will focus on what we can deliver, support, and advocate for within the role of local government. This includes building and maintaining the physical environment, providing accessible information to the community, and hosting inclusive community events. It also involves supporting community projects, funding infrastructure upgrades, collaborating with local organisations and businesses to increase access and awareness, creating employment and volunteering opportunities, and representing our community at regional, state, and federal levels.

Community Engagement

In approaching the development of the DAIP, the City of Mount Gambier committed to an engagement process that aimed to ensure that the voices of those with lived experience of disability were central to the actions and priorities detailed within the plan.

The engagement approach invited broad participation through a range of channels. This included a digital ideas board on the *Have Your Say Mount Gambier* web site, feedback letterboxes at the Mount Gambier Library, and opportunities to provide submissions via face-to-face interview, phone, online form, email, or post.

The project team also endeavoured to provide background information in Easy Read format and made a conscious effort to reach people of different ages, backgrounds, and

experiences, acknowledging that access and inclusion mean different things to different people.

The Have Your Say Mount Gambier page received 388 visits during the initial consultation period demonstrating broad community interest in the project. In addition to the ideas generated on the page, 4 submissions were received from local organisations and individuals. A summary of the themes arising from this feedback is attached to this report for information.

Co-Design Group

Following emerging best practice and to add depth and shared ownership to the development of the Plan, a partnership was developed with JFA Purple Orange (a social profit organisation experienced in the development of inclusivity plans) to facilitate a co-design process. This brought together people with lived experience of disability, Elected Members, and Council staff to consider community feedback and collaboratively frame and prioritise the Plan's actions. A total of 15 expressions of interest were received for participation in the Co-Design group, culminating in the selection of 5 participants to provide a balanced representation of the broad needs and interests of our community.

The process helped build common understanding and strengthened the relevance and impact of the proposed actions. The feedback received was thoughtful, generous, and deeply insightful. It shaped our understanding of the barriers people face and the opportunities for improvement.

IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

Legal	Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) requires a Disability Access and Inclusion plan for each State authority.
Financial and Budget	The cost of consultation and development of the draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 is approximately $13,000. This has been achieved within Council's existing operational budget. Upon future adoption, implementation of recommended actions will be dependent upon the availability of resources, funds and supporting grant sources.
Community Consultation and Engagement	Public Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with Council Policy P195 Community Consultation and Engagement.

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 – Insufficient budget allocation	Major (4)	Unlikely (2)	Low	Achieved within existing operational budget.
Reputation - Failure to publish a document which	Moderate (3)	Unlikely (2)	Moderate	Extensive engagement activity conducted

represents the affected community				following best practice.
Legal / Regulatory / Policy – Failure to publish document by 14 February 2026	Moderate (3)	Rare (1)	Low	Project plan in place in agreement with key stakeholders.

APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Priority 2: Learning and Innovation

2.4 Address the diverse needs of our community with accessible and inclusive spaces that promote creativity, learning, build connections and ensure a welcoming and safe environment.

Priority 3: Infrastructure and Services

3.4 Conduct a review of Council's asset management planning approach to implement asset improvements that ensure assets are fit for purpose and adaptable to changing community needs, while managing maintenance service levels and asset lifecycles to optimise longevity and achieve service efficiency.

3.6 Continue to support and advocate for the health services and facilities that our community needs and attract funding and investment that is equivalent to that provided to our State's metropolitan areas.

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.

3.13 Improve the quality and safety of, and access to, our active open space facilities, including our sporting and recreation reserves.

Priority 5: A Vibrant Community

5.2 Provide well-considered public realm improvements which echo our local identity, enhance access and walkability and foster greater community connection.

5.7 Support and foster a program of festivals, events and arts initiatives that celebrate and promote diversity, accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring that everyone can fully participate in the cultural and social life of the city.

Priority 6: Excellence in Leadership and Governance

6.6 Implement systems and frameworks that foster effective planning and continuous improvement, ensuring customer-centric service delivery and effective, transparent reporting.

6.10 Continue to enhance our safety systems to provide our workforce with a safe and healthy work environment.

6.12 Proactively advocate for community priorities.

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

Community Consultation and Engagement - P195

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

Upon consideration and endorsement, the draft Plan will be released for 21 days of community consultation, providing an opportunity for community feedback on the actions and priorities within. A further meeting of the Co-Design Group will also be held to assist in processing any feedback received and finalising the plan. The proposed final document will be presented to Council at the Ordinary Meeting in January 2026 for final consideration for endorsement. The final version will be formatted to reflect Council's corporate style.

It is a legislative requirement to have the final DAIP endorsed and published by 14 February 2026.

CONCLUSION

The development of the City of Mount Gambier's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 reflects Council's ongoing commitment to creating an inclusive, accessible, and equitable community for people living with disability. By aligning with the State Disability Inclusion Plan and building on the achievements of the first DAIP, this renewed plan sets clear actions that focus on what Council can deliver, support, and advocate for.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Table DAIP Feedback and Consideration [**19.4.1** - 2 pages]
2. DRAFT City of Mount Gambier Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 2029 [**19.4.2** - 16 pages]

Participation Channel	**Feedback** (summarised, paraphrased/reproduced and personal detail redacted).	**Consideration by project team**
Have Your Say Ideas Tool and Mount Gambier Library Letterbox Suggestions	**Accessibility:** Hearing loops in council buildings, Auslan training, improved footpaths, inclusive recreation (e.g., wheelchair pump track). **Respect & Inclusion:** Treat people with disabilities with dignity; promote inclusive events and cultural activities. **Health & Support:** Better access to doctors, mental health services, and NDIS-related programs. **Employment:** Support inclusive work and work experience opportunities. **Visibility**: Increase representation in community events, tourism, and regional media.	Directly influenced numerous actions: • Accessibility Footpath design (1.13), Recreation spaces (1.14), Auslan and hearing loops. (1.22, 1.23) • Respect & Inclusion Inclusion training (1.4-1.6), Promoting inclusive events (1.1-1.3, 1.7) • Health and Support Advocating for better health access (4.1) • Employment Inclusive work and volunteering opportunities (2.1-2.4)
Submission	The Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home Foundation, a registered charity, operates two homes for 10 people with disabilities and plans to build two additional purpose-designed homes for six more residents. The project is shovel-ready but requires approximately $1 million in matching government funding.	• Outside the scope of the DHS DAIP framework. • Opportunity for consideration in future housing and disability advocacy channels.
Submission	‘Appropriate disabled public seating for the aged and disabled in our main street, Wulanda aquatic center, The Main Corner Complex, the Valley Lakes precinct, The Rail Lands, all of our local parks/playgrounds and public spaces. We need compliant wheelchair friendly picnic tables and appropriate height comfortable seating with arm rests in all of our public spaces indoor and outdoor for the elderly and infirm citizens of Mount Gambier. We also need more disabled parking especially in the main street and near the entrance to the Main Corner Complex and council chambers front entrance’.	• Key point of discussion within Co-Design process. • Specific action included in DAIP regarding seating (1.1) and lived experience influencing public infrastructure design (1.10).

Submission	'It's The better future of regional economy to have more local tourism, the service industries, and it's key areas of local business, it's been targeted by Inclusion of Key Community Services in the South East SA community of Mount Gambier and Limestone Coast, were the same idea as Mount Gambier 2035 as well'.	• Aligns with actions strengthening access through event planning and visitor access (1.14, 1.2, 1.3).
Submission	Submission noted that many footpaths that are uneven, a hazard and especially difficult for people with mobility issues or using aids. Suggestion made that all businesses should have ramps. Wulanda focussed feedback: • 'Wulanda is a great place and I am a regular user there. However I know many people with mobility issues who refuse to go there and are therefore excluded because it's too far for them to walk and too many hazards such as wet floors and kids running around'. • Opportunities for improvement include: o Improvement of awareness amongst staff of the support needs of some site users, particularly those who may not have a carer or their own support person o A focus on the timely maintenance of key accessibility infrastructure within the centre such as broken automatic doors which otherwise make it impossible to get through without assistance o Promoting any services that might be available to support people with accessibility considerations to access the site and its facilities. • 'I personally feel that council doesn't care about inclusion based on my experiences at Wulanda so I look forward to seeing these issues rectified'.	• Influenced actions attached to exploration of training for customer facing services and facilities (1.4). • Feedback referred to Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre for consideration/action.

City of
Mount Gambier

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

2025-2029



MAYOR'S/CEO's MESSAGE

[To be added to final edition]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Mount Gambier/Berrin sits upon the land of the Boandik Peoples. We acknowledge the Boandik Peoples as the traditional custodians of the land and waters our city sits upon today. We respect and recognise the deep feelings of attachment and the spiritual relationship our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have with the land and water.

OUR VISION

"A vibrant community is where people of all abilities, linguistic, cultural backgrounds and age groups can connect, contribute and are valued"

- Mount Gambier 2035 Community Vision

CONTACT US

This Disability Access and Inclusion Plan is available on the City of Mount Gambier website at https://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/.**###**

If you require a copy in an alternative format, please contact City of Mount Gambier on 08 8721 2555 or visit the Civic Centre or Mount Gambier Library at 6 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier.

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INTRODUCTION

The Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) requires the council to develop a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan in line with the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (SDIP).

In 2020, City of Mount Gambier developed its first Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) in consultation with staff and community. It featured twelve actions ranging from universal design of services and facilities, staff training and workforce diversity to improved community consultation and advocacy.

To align with the updated SDIP and building on our successes and learnings from the first Plan, this DAIP outlines Council's renewed commitment to positive change and improved access and inclusion for people with disability in Mount Gambier. Council's actions in this Plan will concentrate on what we can do, support and advocate for within the role of local government, which includes:

- Building and maintaining the physical environment
- Providing information to the community
- Hosting community events
- Providing community programming through the Library and Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre
- Funding community projects and infrastructure upgrades
- Collaborating with local organisations and businesses to increase access and awareness
- Providing employment and volunteering opportunities
- Representing our community at the regional, state and federal level.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 data states that 2,022 people or 7.5% of the City of Mount Gambier population reported needing assistance in their day-to-day lives. People living with a disability may experience difficulties including but not limited to when using footpaths and ramps, accessing public buildings and spaces, gaining employment, and feeling accepted and valued.

LANGUAGE AND TERMINOLOGY

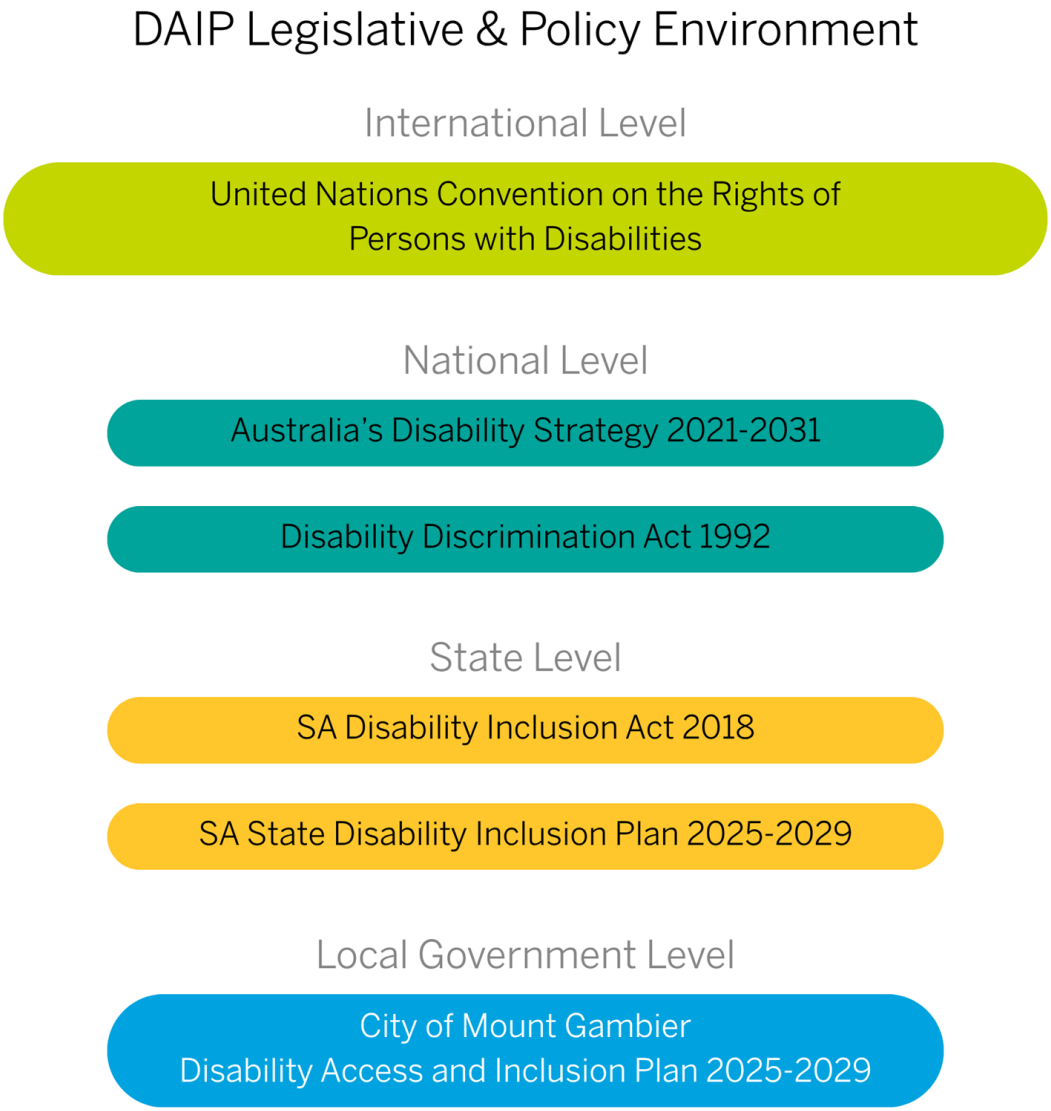
Throughout this document, person-first language (eg: person with disability) is used, rather than identity-first language (eg: disabled person). This underscores our commitment to centre people with disability in the Plan and to acknowledge that many barriers to full community participation are societal rather than physical.

Council respects that each individual may have a personal preference when referring to themselves and the disability community, and urges open-mindedness and curiosity when asking people with disability how they wish to be addressed.

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STRATEGIC AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

This DAIP sits within an international context of human rights and disability legislation, which informs our priorities and responsibilities.



The DAIP is also influenced by City of Mount Gambier's policies and strategies, such as the 2035 Community Vision and the Strategic Plan 2024-2028. In turn, the DAIP will affect how we approach future plans and projects which will reference and strengthen this Plan.

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Prior achievements

As part of the prior DAIP and our ongoing work to improve disability access, City of Mount Gambier has delivered the following:

- Disability inclusion training delivered to staff and internal policies developed to support working environments that are flexible, safe and inclusive of people with disability.
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre built to a high accessibility standard and incorporating feedback from members of the disability community.
- Grew the number of Council-owned disability parking places to **49**, with 4 new places added to the Sturt Street carpark.
- Access audit of Mount Gambier CBD undertaken and a priority list of improvements created.
- Grants and sponsorship program now reflects City of Mount Gambier's commitment to disability access and inclusion, leading our community in delivering accessible events.
- An innovative and responsive range of community programming delivered through the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre and Mount Gambier Library catering to the disability community.

Consultation

In developing this DAIP, the City of Mount Gambier undertook a community engagement process grounded in respect, inclusion, and a genuine commitment to listening and learning. We recognised the importance of hearing directly from people with lived experience of disability, their families, carers, and advocates, and worked to ensure their voices meaningfully guided the direction of the Plan.

Our engagement approach invited broad participation through a range of channels. This included a digital ideas board on the *Have Your Say Mount Gambier* web site, feedback letterboxes at the Mount Gambier Library, and opportunities to provide submissions via face-to-face interview, phone, online form, email, or post.

We also endeavoured to provide background information in Easy Read format and made a conscious effort to reach people of different ages, backgrounds, and experiences, acknowledging that access and inclusion mean different things to different people.

To add depth and shared ownership to the development of the Plan, we partnered with JFA Purple Orange to facilitate a co-design process. This brought together people with lived experience of disability, Elected Members, and Council staff to consider community feedback and collaboratively frame and prioritise the Plan’s actions. The process helped build common understanding and strengthened the relevance and impact of the proposed actions.

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The feedback we received was thoughtful, generous, and deeply insightful. It shaped our understanding of the barriers people face and the opportunities for improvement. We are sincerely grateful to everyone who contributed their time, ideas, and lived experience. Their input has had a meaningful impact on the development of the DAIP and will continue to influence our work moving forward.

DOMAINS & PRIORITY GROUPS

To align with the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029, the actions in this Plan are broken down into five Domains:

1. Inclusive environments and communities
2. Education and employment
3. Personal and community supports
4. Health and wellbeing
5. Safety, rights and justice

Some actions under each Domain have been assigned to Council from the State Government, and some have been developed through consultation with the disability community in Mount Gambier to address the challenges and priorities locally.

The Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) identifies certain communities who are at further risk of disadvantage or discrimination, and mandates that the actions in this Plan address their additional barriers to access and inclusion. These priority groups are:

- Aboriginal people with disability
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds with disability
- Women with disability
- Children with disability
- People with disability who identify as LGBTQIA+
- People with significant intellectual disability or who have high levels of vulnerability due to disability
- People with disability who live in regional communities.

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Domain 1 – Inclusive environments and communities

No.	Action	State Plan Measure	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
Active participation					
1.1	All Council operated venues to hold a variety of accessible seating options, including a minimum of 1 high-back, adjustable, static, armed chair per venue.	1.1.2	The number of inclusive and accessible events, both internal and external, with 50+ people following best practice event management principles. For example, the *Accessible and Inclusive Community Events Toolkit.*	Throughout 2027	Site Managers
1.2	By the end of 2026, relevant Council staff to undergo accessible events training.			Throughout 2026	People and Culture
1.3	Council's ticketed events to include a question on access needs at the point of booking, as well as considering access needs of facilitators and partners.			Throughout 2026	Library, Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre, Events
Inclusive communities and attitudes					
1.4	By 2027, 85% of Council staff and volunteers will have completed disability inclusion training.	1.2.1	The number of initiatives undertaken to promote disability inclusion and improve community attitudes towards people with disability in the community, including: The number of staff and volunteers participating in disability awareness training, including Universal Design.	2027	People and Culture
1.5	In 2027, all newly elected members will have received disability inclusion training.				Governance
1.6	By 2027, relevant staff will have received training on the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower, ensuring all customer facing services are “Sunflower Friendly”.				People and Culture, Site Managers
1.7	Council will deliver two community facing initiatives, and two internal initiatives per year that promote disability awareness/inclusion. These initiatives will be hosted in diverse locations and formats, which could include International Day of People with Disability, and Disability Pride Month.		The number of initiatives undertaken to promote disability inclusion and improve community attitudes towards people with disability in the community, including: The number of workplace initiatives promoting disability inclusion.	Ongoing	Community Development

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1.8	Relevant staff to receive training on how to access, interpret and apply existing data sources (such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics) to inform and enhance the local relevance of Council's disability inclusion initiatives.	Nil	The number of staff participating in data collection and interpretation training.	2027	People and Culture
1.9	Disability perspectives to be included in Council's work towards Closing the Gap targets, through the Yerkalalpata Community Reference Group and available sector networks.	1.2.3	The number of actions embedded in our DAIP working towards Closing the Gap targets.	2026	Economy Strategy and Engagement, Community Development
Universal design					
1.10	Guided by lived experience, Council to partake in building access checks in order to complete: • 3 low resource recommendations during 2027 • 2 medium resource recommendations during 2028 • A budget submission for a high resource recommendation by the end of 2029	1.3.2	The number of public-facing government buildings, spaces, play spaces and infrastructure that are modified to improve accessibility. For example, signage and widening doors.	2029	City Infrastructure, Development Services
1.11	Council to identify and have a plan to implement accessible carparks (to code) nearby each Council owned and operated venue and event.			2029	City Infrastructure, Development Services
1.12	Council to implement principles of universal design in new developments, utilising both co-design and consultation where possible to ensure a wide variety of voices are included in planning, delivery, and review.		The number of new developments that incorporate Universal Design.	Ongoing	City Infrastructure, Development Services
1.13	All new pavement and footpaths to be constructed to code and with consideration given to universal accessibility.			Ongoing	City Infrastructure

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1.14	Accessibility audit undertaken of Council's visitor sites and outdoor recreation spaces in alignment with the Sports, Recreation and Open Spaces Strategy (parks and playgrounds) in order to complete: • 3 low resource modifications during 2027 • 2 medium resource recommendations during 2028 • And create a budget submission for a high resource recommendation by the end of 2029	1.3.3	The number of parks, reserves, beaches and playgrounds (within these areas) that are built or modified to improve accessibility.	2029	City Infrastructure
1.15	Council to test regularly placing customer service trained staff in accessible locations to assist community members in their enquiries.	Nil	Sessions held per year.	2027	Customer Service, People and Culture
Accessible facilities					
1.16	By 2029 Council to consult with community on placement and design of new Changing Places facilities within Mount Gambier in line with new funding opportunities.	1.4.1	The number of public toilet facilities across South Australia that meet accessibility standards and/or a designated Changing Places facility.	2029	City Infrastructure, Development Services
1.17	Audit undertaken of Council-owned public toilet facilities to check accessibility and create a plan by 2029 with low, medium, and high priorities to implement in the next DAIP			2029	City Infrastructure, Development Services
1.18	Council to support information sharing and education on Changing Places facilities, MLAK accessibility and accessible toilets at events.			Ongoing	Community Development, Media & Comms
1.19	Council to advocate for and work collaboratively with agencies to improve the safety and cleanliness of Council-owned accessible public toilets, for example through CCTV cameras, improved lighting, and public education.		The number of safety improvements implemented surrounding Council-owned public toilets.	2028	Development Services, Community Development

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Communications and information					
1.20	Council to create and implement minimum standards for stronger information accessibility, including but not limited to: • Council produced videos including captions and transcripts • Video and image descriptions on all new council images and videos online • Alternative format options for public facing documents and important internal polices/documents	1.5.1	The number of resources or materials that have been developed in accessible formats. For example, websites that meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 level AA accessibility standard (or above), Auslan translations and Easy Reads.	2027	Media & Comms
1.21	Council to complete website audits to ensure it reaches Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 level AA accessibility standard			2028	Media & Comms
1.22	Council to make progress towards having alternative and assistive communication services at events/meetings by progressing through the following goals: • Live streaming more events with live captions. • Hiring online interpreters for live streamed events/emergency presentations • Hiring interpreters for local events in-person	1.5.2	Total number of Auslan, assistive listening devices, and augmentative and alternative communication services provided to meet support needs, including at emergency presentations. For example, during hospital emergencies, crisis services, bushfires or floods, where timely communication support is essential.	2029	Media & Comms, Events
1.23	Council to install hearing loops in all public-facing Council buildings by: • By 2027, audit all public facing buildings to ascertain hearing loop requirements and availability (if they are available or not, and functional or not). • By 2028, Council to create processes/deliver training to staff to			2029	City Infrastructure, Site Managers, Governance

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	improve the utilisation of hearing loops across venues. • By the end of 2029, Council to ensure all public facing buildings have an operational hearing loop that is advertised appropriately and all staff are trained on how to use.				
Collaboration, consultation and innovation					
1.24	People with disability are considered in all stages of community consultation planning and project delivery, particularly those relevant to DAIP actions.	1.7.1	The number of public consultations that included and sought input from people with disability, including engagement with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).	Ongoing	Economy Strategy and Engagement, Community Development
1.25	Council will work with local cultural leadership, including ACCO's, to ensure the needs and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with a disability are considered in community consultation activity, particularly those relevant to DAIP actions.			Ongoing	
1.26	Council to establish a Disability Community Reference Group (CRG) and support participation for people with disability, parents and carers in that and other existing working groups.	1.7.2	The number of people with disability (including parents and carers) serving on committees and working groups.	2026	Community Development

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Domain 2 – Education and employment

Supports and resources for children and young people					
2.1	Mount Gambier Library to expand its collection of accessible resources for children and young people with disability, such as VOX readers and dyslexia friendly editions, as well as curating quality non-fiction resources on disability.	Nil	Number of new assistive, augmented or otherwise accessible resources added to the Library collection.	Ongoing	Library
Targeted transitional supports					
2.2	Council to improve accessibility of current and future volunteer positions through the next City of Mount Gambier Volunteer Management Plan due in 2026.	2.3.5	The number of initiatives taken to encourage people with disability to volunteer.	2026	People and Culture
Access to employment opportunities					
2.3	All recruiting officers and People and Culture staff to participate in Inclusive Recruitment Training by end of 2027, with a specific focus on improving inclusive hiring practices within the organisation.	2.4.3	The number of organisational changes adopted to improve inclusive recruitment for people with disability. For example, tailoring roles to fit individuals and employer incentives.	2027	People and Culture
Inclusive working environments					
2.4	People and Culture to review internal employment principles to provide more support for people with disability, expand on the return to work principle, and develop a neurodivergent hiring principle to support the hiring and professional development of new employees.	2.5.1	The number of workplace practices implemented to support people with disability to have equal opportunities for growth and success, including support to remain in employment. For example, outcome-based employment, flexible work arrangements, workplace adjustments and mentoring programs.	2029	People and Culture

DRAFT

Domain 3 – Personal and community support

Accessibility					
3.1	Council to update the accessibility section of the website to feature disability service information alongside the DAIP, and actively share relevant information with the community as it arises.	3.1.1	The number of initiatives and improvements made to connect people with disability to community supports and services wherever they present. For example, referral hubs, mobile outreach, online information platforms, frontline worker training, and partnerships with community organisations	2026	Media & Comms, Community Development
Information sharing					
3.2	Council will continue to collaborate with local and state agencies to strengthen disability access and inclusion within the community. This includes ongoing and intentional engagement with partners in the disability space.	3.3.1	The number of inter-agency meetings and initiatives to support the implementation of the State Plan and our DAIP.	Ongoing	Economy Strategy and Engagement, Community Development
Programs					
3.3	Council's Grants and Sponsorships Program acquittal process to be refined to enable learning from the experience of event hosts on accessibility barriers and solutions.	3.5.1	The number of grants and funding amount distributed to enhance disability inclusion.	2026	Economy Strategy and Engagement, Events

DRAFT

Domain 4: Health and wellbeing

Targeted knowledge, understanding and support					
4.1	Council to continue advocating for and supporting the expansion of health services within Mount Gambier in line with the Regional Public Health Plan.	Nil	Number of submissions to government agencies and representatives. Alignment to renewed Regional Public Health Plan.	Ongoing	Environmental Health

Domain 5: Safety, rights and justice

Responding to emergencies					
5.1	Relevant staff to undertake training on P-CEP and DIEM approaches to enable effective reviews of Council venue evacuation plans.	5.2.1	The number of emergency response resources and systems developed for people with disability, including the Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) approach.	2029	People and Culture
5.2	DAIP Community Reference Group to test evacuation plans from a lived experience perspective.			2029	People and Culture, Community Development

DRAFT

DAIP IMPLEMENTATION

All the above actions have been assigned to teams within Council who will oversee their implementation. Progress will be monitored by a broad project team of staff from across Council who will come together quarterly and create an annual report for the Department of Human Services.

The DAIP will be embedded into Council's day to day operations through alignment with other plans such as the Regional Public Health Plan, Volunteer Management Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan. This means all teams will have a hand in delivering smart and efficient actions that create progress across the organisation. This will also promote the DAIP across Council and the community as being linked to all the work we undertake.

People with disability will continue to be involved in the implementation of the plan through the proposed Community Reference Group, as well as targeted consultation on individual projects and initiatives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

City of Mount Gambier acknowledges the many individuals and groups within our community, as well as dedicated staff and Elected Members, who provided feedback on the Plan.

We note the special contribution of the DAIP Co-Design group, who generously gave their time and expertise to the project.

We give thanks to JFA Purple Orange for their advice, guidance and support which was instrumental to the development of the DAIP.

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GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS

ACCO

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. These are non-for-profit organisations operated by local Aboriginal people to provide services and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

CALD

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse. This refers to people from multicultural backgrounds and families, who may or may not speak English as a first language.

DAIP

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. This is Council's plan and will be active until 2029.

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is an international project providing training and raising awareness of a large spectrum of disabilities that may not be immediately visible. If you see someone wearing a lanyard or pin featuring the Hidden Disability Sunflower, they may require extra help, time, and understanding.

LGBTQIA+

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and more. Otherwise referred to as the Rainbow Community, this refers to people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

MLAK

Master Locksmith Access Key. This is a key that opens any Changing Places facility across Australia. Keys are available from Mount Gambier Civic Centre for loan or purchase.

SDIP

State Disability Inclusion Plan. This is the parent-plan created by the State Government in consultation with people with disability from all across South Australia and sets out what local government and other authorities must respond to in their DAIP.

Universal Design

Universal design involves creating facilities, environments, and services that can be used by people of all abilities, to the greatest extent possible, without adaptations.

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19.5 BUILDING AND FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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Authoriser: Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Building and Fire Safety Committee Membership' as presented on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be noted.
2. That Council acknowledges Cr Jenner's decision to step down as Chair of the Building Fire Safety Committee and remain as a member until 30 June 2026.
3. That Council seeks expressions of interest for a person with expertise in the area of fire safety to be appointed to the Building Fire Safety Committee.
4. That Council writes to the Chief Officer of the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service requesting the nomination of an authorised officer to the Committee.
5. That Council supports the appointment of a person with prescribed building surveying qualifications to the Committee and designates this person as the Presiding Member.
6. That Council supports the update of the Building Fire Safety Committee Terms of Reference to:
    - Reflect correct membership structure (3–4 members).
    - Designate the building surveyor as Presiding Member.
    - Set member terms not exceeding three years.
    - Include provisions for proactive audits and targeted inspections.
7. That Council formally thanks Cr Jenner for his dedicated service and leadership as Chairperson of the BFSC and acknowledges his longstanding commitment to community safety and fire prevention.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Building Fire Safety Committee and Terms of Reference as required by the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

The current Building Fire Safety Committee (BFSC) was formed pursuant to section 157 of the *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* on 16 March 2021. At this time Council resolved that Council's consulting Building Surveyor Dave Vanborg, as a person with expertise in the area of fire safety, become a member of the Committee. The BFSC Terms of Reference (TOR) also lists Dave as an authorised officer of Council.

Dave has recently resigned his position with Council. Due to his resignation, legal advice was sought about the membership of the BFSC. This resulted in a general review of the BFSC including its membership and terms of reference.

The BFSC is constituted under Section 157 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, not as a Section 41 Committee under the Local Government Act 1999. The Committee is responsible for adopting its own Terms of Reference and procedures. Council's role is limited to appointing members in accordance with the Act.

Section 157 (17) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* provides the following with respect to the membership of the Building Fire Safety Committee:

The appropriate authority will be constituted of:

a) A person who holds prescribed qualifications in building surveying appointed by the Council or Councils; and
b) An authorised officer under Part 3 Division 5 or section 86 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 who, depending on the location of the Council area or areas, has been approved by the Chief Officer of the relevant fire authority to participate as a member of the appropriate authority; and
c) A person with expertise in the area of fire safety appointed by the Council or Councils; and
d) If so determined by the Council or Councils – a person selected by the Council or Councils
e) The committee must comprise three to four members.

The review identified that:

- The current BFSC exceeds the maximum number of members;
- Council has only formally resolved to appoint Cr Jenner;
- While Councillors may be appointed, the intent of the legislation is to ensure technical expertise, particularly in fire engineering and building safety.

It is acknowledged that Cr Jenner has made a valued contribution to the BFSC and has demonstrated a strong commitment to fire safety through his background as a CFS volunteer. His passion and dedication are appreciated and respected. However, legal advice has clarified that the BFSC is intended to be a technical body, and membership should reflect the specific qualifications and expertise outlined in the legislation.

This recommendation is not intended to diminish the contributions of elected members, but rather to ensure that Council's processes align with statutory requirements and best practice guidance.

Cr Jenner has advised of his intention to step down as Chair but wishes to remain on the Committee until 30 June 2026. This arrangement allows continuity while Council recruits a fire safety expert and updates the Terms of Reference. His priority during this transition is to see the adoption of an Inspection Regime within the Terms of Reference and ensure it is implemented and actioned before his departure. He hopes that within this period, the Committee will conduct at least one, preferably two, building inspections based on an audit or targeted high-risk approach, which he has strongly advocated for over the past three years.

Considering the review, the following is recommended:

- A person who holds prescribed qualification in building surveying be appointed by the Council to the BFSC;
- Council writes to the Chief Officer, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS), asking they nominate officer to the BFSC;
- Council seeks expressions of interest for a person with expertise in the area of fire safety to be appointed to the BFSC;
- If so determined by the Council, a person selected by the Council to be appointed to the BFSC; and
- The membership of the Committee be reviewed and appointments of the appropriate number of members be properly made by Council.

Planning SA has produced a guide for local government that is designed to assist Councils and BFSC members to understand their roles and responsibilities with regard to fire safety of existing buildings. It also outlines suggested procedures and protocols that a BFSC may follow. The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* also incorporates provisions for the Building Fire Safety Committee to determine it's own procedures. (please see attached Guide)

A further review of the TOR utilising the BFSC Guide found the following alterations and additions would improve the TOR and provide clarity to the membership.

- The person who holds prescribed qualifications in building surveying be appointed as the presiding member,
- All members of the Committee shall be appointed for a term not exceeding 3 years and
- A proactive approach to audit and/ or targeted building and businesses be adopted

IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

Legal	It is a requirement of Part 11 Division 6, section 157(16) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* that a body be established by Council and designated as an appropriate authority
Financial and Budget	Any increased proactive approach to audit and /or targeted inspection would increase budget requirements
Community Consultation and Engagement	Legislative requirement
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
Finance – Budget requirments for	Insignificant (1)	Likely (4)	Moderate	Budget review

BFSC meetings and inspection				
Reputation – Scrutiny from external parties such as SAMFS	Moderate (3)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Open line of communications
Legal / Regulatory / Policy – Non-compliance with the Act	Moderate (3)	Likely (4)	High	Review of TOR
Service Delivery - Community expectation	Minor (2)	Possible (3)	Moderate	Prioritisation of inspections
People – Capacity to implement a proactive approach to audit and targeted inspection	Moderate (3)	Likely (4)	High	Prioritisation of resourcing
Infrastructure – N/A	Insignificant (1)	Possible (3)	N/A	N/A
Environmental – N/A	Minor (2)	N/A	N/A	N/A

APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Priority 3: Infrastructure and Services

3.9 Protect, share and elevate our heritage and significant places, maintaining their character while encouraging adaptive reuse, repurposing and upgrading of buildings.

3.15 Improve community safety and wellbeing through proactive information and regulatory services.

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):

N/A

RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICY

Risk Management

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

Cr Jenner will remain on the Committee until all new appointments are confirmed, providing continuity during the transition. He has indicated his intention to step down completely on 30 June 2026, and the updated Terms of Reference will allow for this arrangement.

The Council will formalise membership appointments for the Building Fire Safety Committee by:

- Engaging a qualified building surveyor as Presiding Member.
- Requesting an authorised officer from the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service.

- Recruiting a fire safety expert through an expression of interest process.
- Retaining the option to appoint a fourth member if required.

The Terms of Reference will be amended at the first meeting of the Committee following the filling of all appointments to:

- Confirm a three-to-four-member structure.
- Designate the building surveyor as Presiding Member.
- Set member terms of up to three years.
- Include provisions for proactive audits and targeted inspections.
- Ensure alignment with Planning SA's Building Fire Safety Committee Guide.

Formal communication with relevant authorities and a structured recruitment process will support compliance and attract suitably qualified candidates.

A further report will be presented to Council to appoint the recommended applicants once the recruitment process is complete and all nominations have been received.

CONCLUSION

The review has confirmed that the Building Fire Safety Committee's current membership and Terms of Reference do not fully comply with the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016. Updating the Committee structure and procedures will ensure compliance, strengthen technical expertise, and improve fire safety oversight. Cr Jenner's decision to step down as Chair while remaining a member until 30 June 2026 provides continuity during this transition.

ATTACHMENTS

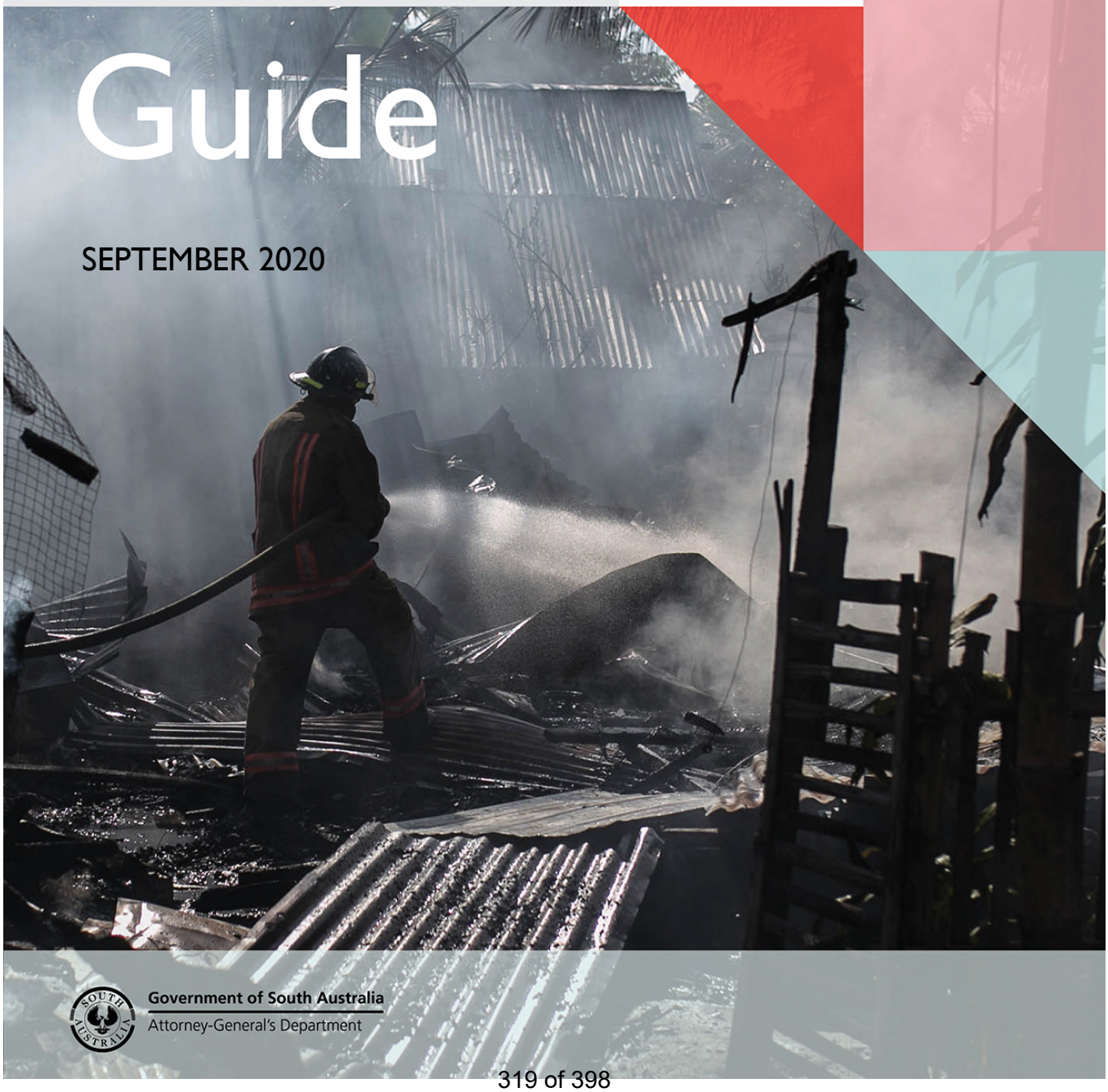
1. Guide Council Building Fire Safety Committees [**19.5.1** - 24 pages]
2. Building Fire Safety Committee - Terms of Reference - Adopted 01/07/2021 [**19.5.2** - 6 pages]

PlanSA

Council Building Fire Safety Committees

Guide

SEPTEMBER 2020



Government of South Australia
Attorney-General's Department

Attorney-General's Department

Planning and Land Use Services

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Contents

Introduction 1

Building Fire Safety Committee Protocols 2

What is the role of a Building Fire Safety Committee? 2

How does Council establish a Building Fire Safety Committee? 2

Who can be a member of a Building Fire Safety Committee? 3

What policies and procedures need to be considered and/or established by a Building Fire Safety Committee? 4

What does a Building Fire Safety Committee consider when assessing if the fire safety of an existing building is adequate? 6

Why are Fire Safety Notices issued and what should they include? 9

What rights and obligations does a building owner have in relation to actions by a Building Fire Safety Committee? 11

What does a Building Fire Safety Committee do if a building owner fails to comply with a notice? 11

Appendix A 14

Example of a Section 157(3) Notice of Fire Safety Defect 14

Appendix B 15

Example of Section 157(7) Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required 15

Appendix C 16

Information required in an application to the ERD Court to serve a summons: 16

Appendix D 17

Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Act 1994 - Section 7 enquiry 17

Appendix E 18

Standard Letters 18

Introduction

Local government councils play an important role in protecting the ongoing safety of building occupiers and users through the provisions of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the PDI Act).

Section 157 of the PDI Act establishes the power for a council to investigate whether building owners are maintaining proper levels of fire safety in their buildings for the protection of all occupiers, whether they be residents and workers who use them regularly, or clients and visitors who only use them occasionally.

An appropriately qualified 'authorised officer' from a council or a member of a Building Fire Safety Committee, as an ‘appropriate authority’ under the PDI Act, can inspect existing buildings to check if the fire safety is adequate. If not, a Building Fire Safety Committee can take action to require the owner to upgrade the fire safety of the building to an appropriate level.

For the purposes of this Guide, the term ‘Building Fire Safety Committee’ means an ‘appropriate authority’ under section 157 of the PDI Act.

This guide is designed to -

- Assist councils and Building Fire Safety Committee members to understand their roles and responsibilities with regard to fire safety of existing buildings; and
- Outline suggested procedures and protocols that a Building Fire Safety Committee may follow.

Building Fire Safety Committee Protocols

What is the role of a Building Fire Safety Committee?

The role of a Building Fire Safety Committee includes -

- Developing appropriate building fire safety inspection policies for existing buildings based on the likely fire safety risks that could arise depending on the building use and occupant characteristics;
- Scrutinising the fire safety of buildings that have been identified as having fire safety provisions that are not adequate;
- Issuing of a notice to the building owner (where a Building Fire Safety Committee determines that the fire safety of a building is not adequate) identifying inadequacies that need to be addressed or rectified to an extent that will provide an adequate level of safety for the occupants;
- Forwarding information on any fire safety notices issued by the Building Fire Safety Committee to council administration for Section 7 enquiries (made by a vendor when a building is available for sale or lease - refer Appendix D);
- Where appropriate, negotiating a cost effective solution with a building owner that will reduce fire safety risks to an acceptable level and meet the required fire safety performance;
- Issuing notices that schedule rectification work that must be carried out in order to raise the building fire safety to an adequate level of safety or in high risk situations issuing notices that prohibit the occupation or use of a building until a fire hazard no longer exists;
- Initiating enforcement or other action to ensure a building owner complies with a section 157 notice; and
- Revoking or varying fire safety notices when appropriate.

How does Council establish a Building Fire Safety Committee?

The process for a council to establish a Building Fire Safety Committee is generally as follows -

1. Decide whether to have a stand-alone Building Fire Safety Committee to serve its council area, or to have an agreement with one or more adjoining councils to form a regional Building Fire Safety Committee;
2. Select and appoint appropriate Building Fire Safety Committee members;
3. Appoint the Building Fire Safety Committee under Section 157 of the PDI Act;
4. Note and support council inspection policies for building fire safety;
5. Appoint one or more appropriately qualified authorised officers, who may enter and inspect the fire safety of existing buildings; and
6. Provide administrative support to the Building Fire Safety Committee.

If a regional Building Fire Safety Committee is appointed, agreement will need to be reached on matters such as cost sharing arrangements for legal proceedings etc.

Who can be a member of a Building Fire Safety Committee?

A Building Fire Safety Committee is required to have at least 3 members, of whom-

(a) One must be a person with prescribed qualifications in building surveying appointed by the council or councils;

(b) One must be an authorised officer under Part 3 Division 5 or section 86 of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* who, depending on the location of the council or areas, has been approved by the Chief Officer of the relevant fire authority to participate as a member of the Building Fire Safety Committee; and

(c) One must be a person with expertise in the area of fire safety appointed by the council or councils.

Councils have the option of appointing a fourth member to a Building Fire Safety Committee, who may be-

(d) Any person the council or group of councils considers appropriate to nominate.

In relation to member (b) from the Fire Services, the council or group of councils will need to write to the Chief Officer relevant to its area of jurisdiction, asking that an officer be nominated for appointment to its Building Fire Safety Committee.

For areas under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Fire Services (MFS) contact -

The Chief Officer
SA Metropolitan Fire Service
GPO Box 98 ADELAIDE SA 5001
www.mfs.sa.gov.au

For areas under the jurisdiction of the Country Fire Services (CFS) contact -

The Chief Officer
SA Country Fire Service
GPO Box 2468 ADELAIDE SA 5001
www.cfs.sa.gov.au

For areas with dual jurisdiction (MFS and CFS), it would be advisable to contact both jurisdictions and ask that they collaborate with each other and nominate the most appropriate officer.

In relation to member (c), *'a person with expertise in the area of fire safety'*, this person would be expected to have significant practical and technical knowledge and experience in the principles of building fire safety, including (but not limited to) -

- Detection;
- Communication;
- Evacuation;
- Containment; and
- Extinguishment.

With regard to member (d), the Council has the option of appointing any person it considers appropriate under their particular circumstances. In some cases the Council may decide to appoint a fourth member on an as needs basis. For example, using a fire engineer or other expert to match knowledge with building types and complexity of fire safety issues.

The council may also specify a term of office of a member of a Building Fire Safety Committee.

Deputy members

Deputies can be appointed and it is recommended that a deputy for each member is nominated when the Building Fire Safety Committee is established to ensure that meetings are held at the appropriate times.

Conflict of interest

Under the PDI Act, a member of a Building Fire Safety Committee who has a personal interest or a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter before the Building Fire Safety Committee must not take part in any deliberations or decisions of the Building Fire Safety Committee in relation to that matter.

What policies and procedures need to be considered and/or established by a Building Fire Safety Committee?

Once established, a Building Fire Safety Committee will need to determine its procedures and protocols. These are likely to include -

- Where and how often it will meet;
- How many members constitute a quorum;
- Who will chair the meetings;
- Who will act as the minute secretary;
- How records are to be kept, filed and stored;
- What types/classes of buildings are to be scrutinised;
- Who the Council has appointed as authorised officer to undertake inspections;
- Procedures for Building Fire Safety Committee inspections;
- Appropriate formats for fire safety notices, correspondence etc;
- Procedures for issuing, varying and revoking notices; and
- Procedures for prosecutions/appeals.

Meeting procedures and protocols

A Building Fire Safety Committee will need to meet on a regular basis to consider and determine matters such as -

- Appropriate action to take following a fire safety inspection;
- Whether upgrading works outlined in a fire safety report submitted by an owner are appropriate;
- Negotiating and agreeing appropriate performance solutions with building owners;
- Issuing, varying or lifting fire safety notices;
- Monitoring progress and checking if owners are complying with fire safety notices; and
- Procedures for instigating prosecution and/or enforcement action.

The Building Fire Safety Committee may decide to meet monthly until it has had an opportunity to assess the particular needs of the area.

Quorum

It is recommended that for a 3-member Building Fire Safety Committee, two members should constitute a quorum and that one of those members be the Fire Services representative.

For a 4-member Building Fire Safety Committee, it is recommended that three members should constitute a quorum and that one of those members be the Fire Services representative.

Each Building Fire Safety Committee will need to determine what to do if a majority decision cannot be reached. Some options include-

- Provisions for one particular member (e.g. the Chair) to have a second or casting vote; or
- Deferral until a majority decision can be reached.

Chair

It is recommended that each Building Fire Safety Committee has a Chairperson to preside at meetings. It may be that member (a) who has building surveying qualifications would be the most appropriate person for this role, however, this is not mandatory. In the absence of the Chair, the Committee should appoint the next most appropriate person to preside at meetings.

Secretarial and administrative support

A council or group of councils may provide a staff member to act as secretary to the Building Fire Safety Committee, or the Building Fire Safety Committee may decide that one of its members will undertake this function.

Regardless of the administrative support, it is important that proper, accurate minutes and records be kept of Building Fire Safety Committee proceedings and actions, as they may later form the basis of -

- Legal proceedings should an appeal be made against a decision of the Building Fire Safety Committee; or
- A history of sites with recurrent issues over long periods of time.

Irrespective of who will take minutes, additional administrative support will need to be provided by council(s) to -

- Prepare and issue correspondence and notices;
- Co-ordinate information for Section 7 enquiries;
- Track progress of actions; and
- File, store and retrieve records.

[Refer to Appendix D for details of Section 7 statements and Appendix E for examples of standard letters that may be useful]

Specialist support

The Building Fire Safety Committee will need to check if the council(s) has appointed an appropriately qualified authorised officer to undertake fire safety inspections of buildings in its area, and if procedures are in place for forwarding fire safety reports to the Building Fire Safety Committee.

Inspection policy

Once appointed, a Building Fire Safety Committee will need to develop a broad policy that sets out the basis for undertaking building inspections for fire safety purposes. Inspections must be carried out at the request of the fire authority, but may also be carried out when -

(a) A complaint is received;

(b) On an audit basis; or

(c) On a targeted high risk basis.

In determining its policy, a Building Fire Safety Committee should have regard to the types of buildings and/or occupancies within its area of jurisdiction to identify those that may constitute a high fire safety risk and need to be systematically inspected. For instance-

- Buildings that provide overnight accommodation for unrelated persons; or
- Buildings where large crowds congregate during operating hours, such as shops or assembly buildings

might be identified as a high-risk priority.

When a Building Fire Safety Committee has determined its policy on buildings to be scrutinised, it would be good practice to have that policy noted by the elected council member..

A fire safety inspection policy also needs to address how the policy is to be monitored.

What does a Building Fire Safety Committee consider when assessing if the fire safety of an existing building is adequate?

If an authorised officer or a fire authority has inspected a building and considers the fire safety is not adequate, the Building Fire Safety Committee will then need to identify what features of the building make the fire safety inadequate. Section 157 of the PDI Act, sets out the priorities for assessing and upgrading the fire safety risks of an existing building (in order of priority) as-

- Firstly, a reasonable standard of fire safety for the occupiers of a building
- Secondly, the minimal spread of fire and smoke
- Thirdly, an acceptable fire-fighting environment,

in accordance with the fire safety objectives and performance criteria of the *Building Code*.

The fire safety of an existing building is not considered adequate if-

(a) building occupants are not able to evacuate safely during a fire, due to-

  (i) blocked or obstructed exit*s*;

  (ii) obstructions in exit*s* and paths of travel to exit*s*;

  (iii) width of exit*s* and paths of travel to exit*s* are not adequate to cater for the number of occupants;

  (iv) fire and/or smoke spreading to exit*s* and evacuation routes through unprotected openings, damage to fire resisting building elements or lack of smoke control features;

  (vi) fire hazards or excessive fire loads that could impede evacuation (which may include combustible floor coverings, ceilings, wall linings and wall claddings);

  (vii) insufficient exit*s* to cater for the number of occupants;

  (viii) excessive travel distances to exit*s*;

  (ix) door hardware and/or direction of door swings in exit*s* that are likely to impede safe evacuation;

  (x) inadequate lighting is available for occupants to locate and use exits during an emergency;

  (xi) no first attack fire-fighting facilities available for occupant use; or

  (xii) building occupants will not receive adequate warning of a fire or other emergency to enable them to evacuate to a safe place;

(b) occupants using exit*s* and paths of travel to exit*s* are not protected from the effects of smoke and fire (e.g. by fire resisting construction, by use of non-combustible materials, by use of materials that have low fire hazard properties, by use of a smoke control system or fire suppression system), and/or

(c) the fire brigade cannot access or use existing fire services and equipment needed for fire-fighting operations and to assist safe evacuation.

When the fire safety of a building is not adequate, the role of a Building Fire Safety Committee is to work with the building owner to develop a cost effective solution that will make the fire safety of the building adequate.

Ministerial Building Standard MBS 001 – Upgrading health and safety in existing buildings outlines the general requirements for fire safety in existing buildings. Sections 301 to 331 of that Standard have performance requirements and deemed-to-satisfy provisions for fire safety in existing buildings and Appendix B4 of the Standard expands on the fire safety priorities required by the PDI Act, which are-

1. A reasonable standard of fire safety for the occupiers of a building

A reasonable standard of fire safety can be achieved where occupants are alerted to a fire in the building and are able to find and use exits and evacuation routes to evacuate to a safe place before being overcome by the effects of smoke or fire.

Safe evacuation can be achieved if-

- Occupants, particularly sleeping occupants, are alerted to a fire in the building as soon as possible;
- The number, dimensions, location, operation and visibility of exits and evacuation routes are sufficient to enable the number of occupants to evacuate safely;
- Occupants using exit*s* and evacuation routes to evacuate are protected from the effects of smoke and/or fire during the time needed for safe evacuation; and
- The building will maintain structural stability for the period of time needed for building occupants to evacuate to a safe place before being overcome by smoke or fire.

Occupants can be protected during evacuation through the use of-

- non-combustible and/or fire or smoke resisting building elements where necessary to-
  - delay or prevent fire from damaging structural elements in exit*s* and evacuation routes;
  - prevent smoke and/or fire spreading to exit*s* and evacuation routes;
  - reduce travel distances and allow occupants more time to reach exit*s* and evacuation routes;
  - contain or separate special fire hazards from exit*s* and evacuation routes.
- additional exits to decrease travel times needed to reach an exit;
- fire extinguishers for occupants to use to undertake initial fire attack;
- fire hose reels where appropriate and available for occupants to use to undertake initial fire attack;
- fire hazard reduction strategies (eg reducing fire loads that could arise from storage of highly combustible materials or goods);
- early fire suppression systems such as sprinklers where appropriate to–
  - delay or prevent fire from damaging structural elements in exit*s* and evacuation routes;
  - prevent smoke and/or fire spreading to exit*s* and evacuation routes;
  - permit extended travel distances and still allow occupants time to reach exit*s* and evacuation routes;
  - suppress a fire arising from an identified fire hazard;
- a smoke extraction system to keep smoke above a safe level within exit*s* and evacuation routes.

2. Minimal spread of fire and smoke

Minimal spread of fire and smoke can be achieved if smoke and fire spread to evacuation routes is minimised to the extent necessary to enable occupants to reach exit*s* and evacuation routes before being overcome by the effects of smoke or fire.

Smoke and fire spread can be minimised through the use of-

- fire or smoke resistant construction where necessary to-
  - delay or prevent fire from damaging structural elements in evacuation routes;
  - prevent smoke and/or fire spreading to and within evacuation routes, from one fire compartment to another, or from one storey to another storey;
  - allow occupants more time to use evacuation routes to reach exit*s*.
- an early fire suppression sprinkler system where necessary to–
  - delay or prevent fire from damaging structural elements in evacuation routes;
  - reduce fire and/or smoke spreading within evacuation routes, from one fire compartment to another fire compartment, or from an identified fire hazard;
  - allow occupants more time to use evacuation routes to reach exit*s*.
- a smoke extraction system to keep smoke above a safe level within evacuation routes, or from spreading from one fire compartment to another fire compartment.
- early fire brigade intervention where fire-fighting facilities are available and where the building or occupant characteristics are such that they need to rely on fire brigade intervention for safe evacuation.

3. An acceptable fire-fighting environment

An acceptable fire-fighting environment can be achieved if the fire brigade is able to safely access and use facilities needed for its fire-fighting operations.

Safe access and facilities needed for fire-fighting operations may include-

- Where provided, a fire hydrant system or other water supply system for fire-fighting purposes that is suitable for use by the fire brigade
- Where provided, fire monitoring connections to the fire brigade are working as required
- Where provided, a fire control centre/room is protected from fire/smoke spread and has working equipment suitable for use by the fire brigade for its fire-fighting operations
- The building maintaining structural stability and resisting the spread of fire and smoke to the extent necessary for the fire brigade to safely access and use facilities provided for its fire-fighting operations.

Issuing of Notices

A Council Building Fire Safety Committee can serve a notice under section 157(3) of the PDI Act on the owner of the building (in a form similar to the Notice of Fire Safety Defect as provided in Appendix A of this Standard) if it believes that the fire safety of a building is not adequate.

It is advisable for a Building Fire Safety Committee to inspect a building before issuing a Section 157(3) notice so that it can make better informed decisions regarding the fire safety adequacy and extent of upgrading work it may require.

Before undertaking an inspection, the Building Fire Safety Committee should advise the building owner in writing of its intention to do so, to give the owner the opportunity to be present during the inspection.

Under the PDI Act, the Building Fire Safety Committee can authorise the following fire safety notices to be served on a building owner -

- Section 157(3) Notice of Fire Safety Defect; and
- Section 157(7) Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required.

In order to reduce exposure to criticism or legal challenge it would be advisable to have at least two members of a Building Fire Safety Committee sign notices issued under Section 157 of the PDI Act.

It may also be appropriate to seek legal advice regarding any notices before they are issued to ensure technical and procedural soundness and avoid exposure to actions in relation to due process.

The Building Fire Safety Committee can vary or revoke a fire safety notice at any time if it is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so. For example, the Building Fire Safety Committee should revoke a Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required once it is satisfied that the prescribed works scheduled in the notice have been completed.

Both the building owner and the council administration responsible for providing information for Section 7 enquiries must be notified of any change to a fire safety notice.

Why are Fire Safety Notices issued and what should they include?

Section 157(3) Notice of Fire Safety Defect

A Notice of Fire Safety Defect (as issued under section 157(3) of the PDI Act) is issued to alert the building owner that the building fire safety is not considered adequate, and that certain work needs to be undertaken to rectify the situation.

The PDI Act stipulates that such a notice may require -

- The owner to report to the Building Fire Safety Committee on building work or other measures necessary to ensure that the fire safety of the building is adequate; or
- In the case of an emergency, require the owner to carry out a program of work, or other measures to overcome any fire hazard, which may include evacuation of the building or part of a building until the Building Fire Safety Committee is satisfied that the fire hazard no longer exists.

A list of building fire safety matters that the Building Fire Safety Committee considers are not adequate may be attached as a schedule to the Notice of Fire Safety Defect. The maximum amount of time allowed for an owner to report to council (as required by a Notice of Fire Safety Defect) is two months unless the Building Fire Safety Committee specifically agrees to a longer period. During this time the building owner can make representations to the Building Fire Safety Committee about the fire safety of the building and work or other measures to be carried out.

The Notice of Fire Safety Defect should also inform the owner of his/her right to appeal within 14 days to the Environment, Resources and Development (ERD) Court if he or she disputes anything in the notice or schedule.

A suggested format for a Section 157(3) Notice of Fire Safety Defect can be found in Appendix A.

Information regarding fire safety notices must be declared by the council if a Section 7 enquiry is made to the council. *[Refer to Appendix D]*

Section 157(7) Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required

A Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required (as issued under section 157(7) of the PDI Act) is issued to require a building owner to undertake appropriate upgrading work to rectify the fire safety of the building.

The PDI Act stipulates that such a notice may -

- Require the owner to seek development authorisation to carry out a program of work or other measures to make the fire safety of the building or structure adequate; or
- Prohibit occupation of the building, or part of the building, until the Building Fire Safety Committee is satisfied that the fire hazard no longer exists.

Ministerial Building Standard MBS001 – Upgrading health and safety in existing buildings provides performance requirements and deemed-to-satisfy provisions for achieving acceptable levels of fire safety in existing buildings, against which a program of work or other proposed measures can be assessed.

In addition, a schedule detailing the program of work or other measures to be undertaken must be attached as a schedule to a section 157(7) Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required.

A section 157(7) Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required must also stipulate a period of time in which the prescribed works are to be completed. The specified time period may include time for the owner to obtain development approval (if required).

It is recommended that when issuing a section 157(7) Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required, the Building Fire Safety Committee informs the owner of the right to appeal within 14 days to the ERD Court if they disputes anything in the notice or schedule.

A suggested format for a section 157(7) Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required is included in Appendix B.

Information regarding fire safety notices must be declared by the council in Section 7 statements. *[Refer to Appendix D]*

Prescribed building work

When determining what work is appropriate to include in a schedule or program of prescribed building work (forming part of a section 157(7) Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required), it is recommended that the Building Fire Safety Committee take a performance approach and take the following into consideration-

- Any representation made by the building owner;
- Any report/s submitted by the building owner;
- Any risk analysis undertaken of the building by the building owner;
- Any action plans previously prepared by the building owner to eliminate or minimise identified risks at the earliest opportunity, including those identified by the Building Fire Safety Committee; and
- The possible staging of the work to minimise possible financial hardship for the building owner.

Staged works

A Building Fire Safety Committee may allow an owner to undertake fire safety rectification work in stages, provided that the agreed program of work eliminates or minimises risks that threaten the life safety of occupants as a first priority.

Staging the works can reduce the cost burden for an owner to a manageable level. It may also be useful in cases where the building owner elects to take the opportunity to progressively upgrade the whole building to meet current Building Code requirements (i.e. over and above the elimination of urgent high priority risks).

What rights and obligations does a building owner have in relation to actions by a Building Fire Safety Committee?

Fire safety notices

A building owner served with a Section 157(3) Notice of Fire Safety Defect has two months (or a longer period if a time extension is negotiated with the Building Fire Safety Committee) in which to develop an appropriate upgrading proposal and report to the Building Fire Safety Committee on work or measures proposed to be undertaken to make the fire safety of the building adequate.

A building owner can -

- During that period make representations to the Building Fire Safety Committee about the fire safety of the building and the work or other measures that need to be carried out;
- Apply to the Building Fire Safety Committee at any stage to have a fire safety notice varied or revoked; or
- Appeal to the ERD Court against the service of a notice under Division 6 of the PDI Act.

An owner must comply with a fire safety notice or risk prosecution and/or enforcement action through the ERD Court.

On completion of any work required by a fire safety notice, the owner must notify the Building Fire Safety Committee in writing that the work has been completed.

Appeals with the ERD Court

Appeals are lodged with and determined by the ERD Court.

An appeal must be lodged within 14 days after a notice is given unless the Court allows longer time.

The operation of a fire safety notice is not suspended pending the determination of an appeal, unless the ERD Court orders otherwise.

To initiate an appeal the applicant must -

- Submit a notice of appeal with the ERD Court; and
- Pay the prescribed fee.

A notice of appeal must be in writing, in a form determined by the ERD Court, setting out the grounds of the appeal, with a copy of the disputed notice attached.

The Building Fire Safety Committee may only become aware of the appeal when the notice of appeal is served on them by the ERD Court.

What does a Building Fire Safety Committee do if a building owner fails to comply with a notice?

If a building owner fails to comply with a notice, the Building Fire Safety Committee can apply to the ERD Court for an enforcement order, and/or apply for a summons to be issued for the defendant to appear at a prosecution hearing (both procedures can run concurrently).

Prosecution

A building owner is guilty of an offence if he/she contravenes or fails to comply with a fire safety notice. The maximum penalties are -

- Failure to comply with a notice under section 157(4)(b) or 157(7) is an offence with a maximum penalty of $20,000 and a default penalty of $200 (payable for every day that the owner continues to fail to comply).
- A maximum penalty of $2500 applies for-
  - failure to comply with a notice and provide a report within 2 months to the Building Fire Safety Committee as required under section 157(4)(a) of the PDI Act; and
  - failure to notify the Building Fire Safety Committee that the work has been completed as required under section 157(8) of the PDI Act.

Offences under the PDI Act lie within the criminal jurisdiction of the ERD Court. A prosecution may be commenced within 3 years after the date of the alleged offence or at a later date with the authorisation of the Attorney General.

With any ERD Court activities the Building Fire Safety Committee must provide reasonable information to the Court as to the nature of the charge including a statement of the specific offence with reference to the relevant section of the PDI Act.

A summons for appearance of defendant (in duplicate) will -

- Be directed to the defendant charged by the information;
- State shortly the matter charged; and
- Require the defendant to appear before the Court at a specified time and place to answer the charge.

Enforcement of notices

The Building Fire Safety Committee may apply to the ERD Court for an order to remedy or restrain a breach of the PDI Act.

If the Court is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the respondent has breached the PDI Act, the Court may make an order requiring the respondent to comply with the order or take any other action as the Court thinks fit under the circumstances. This can include ordering the respondent to pay penalties for failing to comply with a notice as prescribed in the regulations.

Application to Court for an enforcement order

A Building Fire Safety Committee can commence proceedings for an enforcement order by filing the following documents with the ERD Court -

(a) An application seeking leave to serve a summons;

(b) The summons in respect of which leave is sought;

(c) One or more supporting affidavits; and

(d) Where the applicant brings the proceedings in a representative capacity, a memorandum.

Every application must -

- Be in writing and give the full name of the applicant;
- Identify the person or persons on whom it is sought to serve the summons;
- Specify the address for service of the applicant and, if available, the telephone and facsimile numbers of the applicant; and
- Be signed by the applicant, or on his or her behalf by a solicitor, agent or other representative.

Every summons must be in a format prescribed by the ERD Court Rules. An example of a summons is given in Appendix C.

Every accompanying affidavit must set out -

- The facts and circumstances upon which the applicant relies; and
- The name, address, telephone and facsimile numbers of any person who, in the opinion of the deponent, either has or might reasonably be expected to have a legal or equitable interest in the land the subject of the application.

Every memorandum must specify all the people or organisations upon behalf of whom or which the proceedings are brought and signed by all the people or organisations in such manner as shows that all the people or organisations consent to the proceedings being brought on their behalf.

Leave to serve a summons

On hearing an application to serve a summons, the ERD Court may refuse to grant the application or amend or strike out part of the summons.

If leave is granted by the Court to serve a summons it must be issued within one month of the leave being granted, and once issued it remains in force for three months unless the Court extends such period.

As soon as is reasonably practicable after a summons and accompanying affidavits have been served, the applicant must file an affidavit verifying such service.

Non Compliance with Court order

A person who fails to comply with a Court order shall be guilty of contempt of Court and be liable to imprisonment or a fine or both.

Appendix A

Example of a Section 157(3) Notice of Fire Safety Defect

Section 157(3) NOTICE OF FIRE SAFETY DEFECT

In the matter of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and the premises situated at *[insert name and location of premises]*

TO: The Owner/s

[Insert name of premises]

c/-[Insert name of owner's representative]

[Insert postal address of owner's representative]

TAKE NOTICE that whereas the *[insert name of council or council region]* Building Fire Safety Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee') or an authorised officer of the council has inspected the building situated at *[insert location details of premises];*

TAKE NOTICE that the said Committee is satisfied that the fire safety of the building so inspected is not adequate and, pursuant to Section 157(3), (4) and (5) of the said *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, hereby gives notice that you are required to report within two months to the Committee on the work or other measures necessary to ensure that the fire safety of the building is adequate.

PURSUANT TO the provisions of Section 157(6) of the said *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* you may, during the period of two months commencing upon the date of issue of this notice, make representations to the Committee about the fire safety of the building and the work or other measures to be carried out or taken.

PURSUANT TO the provisions of Section 157(10) of the said *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, if you dispute the propriety of any requisition contained in this notice, you have 14 days in which to lodge an appeal with a registry of the Environment, Resources and Development Court.

Dated at…...……..this ……..…..……day of……...……..in the year two thousand and……..…...….

CHAIR: .....

MEMBER: .....

MEMBER: .....

Appendix B

Example of Section 157(7) Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required

SECTION 157(7) NOTICE OF BUILDING WORK OR OTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED

In the matter of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and the premises situated at *[insert name and location of premises]*

TO: The Owner/s

[*Insert name of premises*]

c/- [*Insert name of owner's representative]*

[Insert postal address of owner's representative]

TAKE NOTICE that whereas the [*insert name of council or council region*] Building Fire Safety Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee') did, by notice dated [*insert relevant date*] advise that it considered that the fire safety of the building situated at [*insert location details of premises*], was not adequate, and required you to report to the Committee on the work or other measures necessary to ensure that the fire safety of the building is adequate; and

TAKE NOTICE that during the period of two months, commencing upon the date of issue of the said notice, such representations as were made on your behalf were considered by the Committee, now therefore

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of Section 157(7) of the said *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016,* the Committee hereby gives you notice of building work or other measures, which it requires you to carry out within [insert appropriate period of time] from the date of issue of this notice. The building work or other measures required are set out in the attached schedule.

The building work required is to be completed in the following stages-

Stage 1 [*insert date by which stage 1 must be completed*]

Stage 2 [*insert date by which stage 2 must be completed*]

Stage 3 [*insert date by which stage 3 must be completed*]

Before commencing any building work you are required to obtain a development approval from the council. Time has been allowed in the program of work for obtaining development approval.

PURSUANT TO the provisions of Section 157(10) of the said *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, if you dispute the propriety of any requisition contained in this notice, you have 14 days in which to lodge an appeal with a registry of the Environment, Resources and Development Court.

Dated at……..this ……..…day of……..in the year two thousand and…..……

CHAIR: .....

MEMBER: .....

MEMBER: .....

Appendix C

Information required in an application to the ERD Court to serve a summons:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FDN

IN THE ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT COURT

No ……. of 20…….

BETWEEN

……

Applicant

-and-

……..

Respondent

SUMMONS

Summons issued at the request of the Applicant ……..(*Name of applicant)*

Solicitor for the Applicant: …… *(Law firm's name)*

…….... (*Law firm's address)*

…….. *(Telephone)* ……..… *(Email)*

Date of filing: ……..

Summons issued at the request of the Applicant, ……..…. (*Name of applicant)*

of …… *(Address),* South Australia.

To: …… *(Name of Responder)* of ……..……

…… *(Address)*

[Set out text of relevant judgment/order] [If applicable specify grounds in successively marked and numbered paragraph]

[Set out relief sought in successively numbered paragraphs]

The facts upon which the applicant relies are set out in the affidavit of …….

(Name of the person on the Affidavit) served with this Summons.

If you wish to be heard or to oppose the making of any of these orders, you or your solicitor must file a Notice of Address for Service within 14 days after service of this Summons on you. This Notice of Address for Service must be filed at a Registry of the Court. If you do not have a solicitor, you may attend personally at a Registry to do this. If a Notice of Address for Service is not filed within the time stated, orders may be made against you in your absence.

DATED the …… day of ……

This summons remains in force for three months only after its date of issue unless it has been extended by order of the Court.

……..
Registrar

Appendix D

Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Act 1994 - Section 7 enquiry

Under Section 12 of the *Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Act 1994*, if a council receives a Section 7 enquiry from a vendor, requesting information regarding any charge or prescribed encumbrance over land within the council area, or regarding insurance under Division 3 of Part 5 of the *Building Work Contractors Act 1995*, the council must provide the information to the applicant within eight clear business days after receiving the request.

Form 1 of Schedule 1 of the *Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing*) *Regulations 2010* lists information relating to property and land for sale that must be provided by a council to the vendor for inclusion in a Section 7 statement provided to the purchaser, which includes -

4.10 Fire safety notice under section 157 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

Date of notice:

Name of authority giving notice:

Requirements of notice:

Building work (if any) required to be carried out:
[attach in a schedule if appropriate]

Amount payable (if any):

4.13 Proceedings under Division 1 of Part 16 (disputes, reviews and appeals) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.*

Date of commencement of proceedings:

Date of determination or order (if any):

Terms of determination or order (if any):

Appendix E

Standard Letters

1. Letter to owner that the Building Fire Safety Committee wishes to inspect premises

Date

[Insert name of property owner] [Insert name of property]

[Insert postal address for property owner]

Dear Sir/Madam

[Insert property name, and property location] – **Building Fire Safety Inspection**

[Insert as appropriate - 'an authorised officer from the council' or 'an authorised officer from the Fire Services'] has inspected the fire safety of the above premises and reported to the *[insert name of council or regional council area]* Building Fire Safety Committee that the fire safety of the building is not considered adequate to protect the safety of the occupants should a fire occur in the building.

Where the fire safety of a building is not considered adequate, a Building Fire Safety Committee is empowered under Section 157 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* to serve notice on the building owner requiring the owner to undertake actions to improve the fire safety to an adequate level.

Before serving any such notice, the Building Fire Safety Committee wishes to undertake its own inspection of fire safety of the above premises. Could you please contact *[insert details]* on *[insert details]* to arrange a convenient time for this inspection.

Yours sincerely

[Insert name of Chairperson]

CHAIR
BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE
[Insert name of council or regional council area]

2. Letter associated with issuing a Section 157(3) Notice of Fire Safety Defect

Date

[Insert name of property owner] [Insert name of property]
[Insert postal address for property owner]

Dear Sir/Madam

[Insert property name, and property location] – **Building Fire Safety**

The *[insert name of council or regional council area]* Building Fire Safety Committee inspected the fire safety of the above premises on *[insert date].* The Building Fire Safety Committee determined that the fire safety of the building is not adequate to protect the safety of the occupants should a fire occur in the building.

Where the fire safety of a building is not considered adequate, a Building Fire Safety Committee is empowered under Section 157 of the ***Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*** to serve notice on the building owner requiring the owner to undertake actions to improve the fire safety to an adequate level.

The *[insert name of council or regional council area]* Building Fire Safety Committee met on *[insert date]* to consider appropriate action. In this case the Building Fire Safety Committee resolved to serve you with the attached Section 157(3) Notice of Fire Safety Defect.

This notice requires you to report within two months to the Building Fire Safety Committee on the work or other measures necessary to ensure that the fire safety of the building is made adequate. During that period, you may make representation(s) to the Building Fire Safety Committee about the fire safety of the building and the work or other measures to be carried out.

If you dispute any of the details of this notice, you have 14 days in which to lodge an appeal with the Registrar of the Environment, Resources and Development Court. For more information contact the Court administration on 8204 0289 or by email at erdcourt@courts.sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

[Insert name of Chairperson]

CHAIR
BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE
[Insert name of council or regional council area]

3. Letter associated with issuing a Section 157(7) Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required

Date

[Insert name of property owner] [Insert name of property]

[Insert postal address for property owner]

Dear Sir/Madam

[Insert property name, and property location] – **Building Fire Safety Notice**

In accordance with the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016,* a Section 157(3) Notice of Fire Safety Defect was issued on the above premises on *[insert date]*. The notice required that you report to the Building Fire Safety Committee on work or other measures necessary to ensure that the fire safety of the building is made adequate.

Following an inspection of the above premises on *[insert date]* the *[insert name of council or regional council area]* Building Fire Safety Committee met on *[insert date]* to consider appropriate action. The Building Fire Safety Committee has considered all reports or representations made by you, or on your behalf, in relation to the fire safety of these premises, and has resolved to serve you with the attached Section 157(7) Notice of Building Work or Other Actions Required. This notice requires you to undertake the scheduled building work within the time prescribed, to ensure that the fire safety of the building is made adequate.

If you dispute any of the details of this notice, you have 14 days in which to lodge an appeal with the Registrar of the Environment, Resources and Development Court. For more information contact the Court administration on 8204 0289 or by email at erdcourt@courts.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

[Insert name of Chairperson]

CHAIR
BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE
[Insert name of council or regional council area]

Building Fire Safety Committee

Terms of Reference

Adopted by the Building Fire Safety Committee on 1 July 2021

Contents

1. Establishment & Status of the Building Fire Safety Committee 3
2. Membership 3
3. Terms of Reference 3
4. Council BFSC should seek to achieve the following objectives 5
5. BFSC Investigation and Inspection Priority 5

1. Establishment & Status of the Building Fire Safety Committee

1.1 Pursuant to Section 157(17) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (PDI Act), the Council establishes a body to be known as the City of Mount Gambier Building Fire Safety Committee (BFSC).

1.2 The Building Fire Safety Committee is established for the purpose of acting as the "appropriate authority" (as that term is defined in the PDI Act) in respect of fire safety matters arising under the PDI Act.

2. Membership

2.1 Membership of the Building Fire Safety Committee (BFSC) shall consist of:

- Grant Riches appointed by the Council and who holds prescribed qualifications in building surveying; and
- An authorised officer under Part 3 Division 5 of section 86 of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, and has been approved by the Chief Officer of the relevant fire authority: and
- Dave Vandborg being a person with expertise in the area of fire safety appointed by the Council and appointed as an authorised officer
- Paul Gibbs as Councils Senior Building Officer, Accredited Level 2 Building Surveyor and appointed as an authorised officer
- Paul Jenner, City of Mount Gambier Elected Member

2.2 The office of a member of the BFSC will become vacant if the member:

2.2.1 dies; or
2.2.2 completes a term of office and is not reappointed; or
2.2.3 resigns by written notice addressed to the Council; or
2.2.4 removed from office by the Council for any reasonable cause.

3. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the BFSC are as follows:

3.1 The BFSC is charged with undertaking statutory obligations as prescribed in Division 6, Section 157 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, which are of a building fire safety nature.

3.2 A quorum for a meeting of the BFSC shall be three (3) persons, one of whom should be the person nominated by the Chief Officer of the relevant fire authority

3.3 All decisions of the BFSC shall be made on the basis of a majority decision of the members present.

3.4 The BFSC shall meet at the Council office or at such other places as the BFSC may, from time to time, determine.

3.4.1 Building Fire Safety Committee be able to hold meetings via electronic means such as video conferencing using software such as Zoom, Teams or the like when required

3.5 The BFSC should meet on at least 1 occasion in each calendar year.

3.6 A member of the BFSC who has a personal interest or a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter before the BFSC (other than an indirect interest which exists in common with a substantial class of persons) must not take part in any deliberations or decisions of the BFSC in relation to that matter;

3.7 The following provisions apply to the calling of meetings:

3.7.1 Council must give each member of the BFSC notice of a meeting at least three (3) clear business days before the date of the meeting.

3.7.2 Notice may be given to a member of the BFSC:

3.7.2.1 personally.
3.7.2.2 by posting to the person at their usual or last known place of business; or
3.7.2.3 by an email known to be used by the person.

3.8 Each member of the BFSC present at a meeting must, subject to that person having an interest in the matter, vote on a question arising for decision at that meeting.

3.9 The City of Mount Gambier Elected Member shall be the Presiding Member of the BFSC when available, with Council providing support for minute taking and record keeping.

3.10 In the event that the Presiding Member is not present at a meeting (or part thereof) an acting Presiding Member will be appointed by those BFSC Members who are present at the meeting

3.11 The minutes of the proceedings and meetings must include:

- the names of the members present.
- in relation to each member present, the time at which the person entered or left the meeting.
- all motions and amendments, and the names of the mover and seconder.
- whether a motion or amendment is carried or lost.
- any disclosure of interest made by a member; and
- any other matter required to be included in the minutes by direction of the Council.

3.12 The procedure to be observed at a meeting of the BFSC insofar as the procedure is not prescribed by these terms of reference, may be determined by the Committee.

3.13 Notices will be issued by the BFSC as the appropriate authority pursuant to Section 157(3) and 157(4) of the Act

4. Council BFSC should seek to achieve the following objectives

4.1 Any action taken under this section should seek to achieve (in the following order of priority)

4.1.1 Firstly, a reasonable standard of fire safety for the occupiers of the relevant building
4.1.2 Secondly, the minimal spread of fire and smoke
4.1.3 Thirdly, an acceptable firefighting environment

5. BFSC Investigation and Inspection Priority policy

5.1 The following sets out what may trigger an inspection by an authorised officer

5.1.1 Direction by a relevant fire authority
5.1.2 Complaint from the public
5.1.3 Audit and/or targeted buildings and businesses

5.2 The following sets out the Building Fire Safety Committee inspection priority noting the intent is not to carry out annual inspections, but to address or rectify buildings as identified under 5.1, to the extent that would provide an adequate level of safety for the building occupants

Accommodation for vulnerable patrons including, but not limited to the following:

5.2.1 Aged care
5.2.2 Nursing homes
5.2.3 Health care providers
5.2.4 Private hospitals, day surgery
5.2.5 Supported residential facilities
5.2.6 Accommodation for the aged

Accommodation for the public including, but not limited to the following:

5.2.7 Hotels and Motels
5.2.8 Night clubs
5.2.9 Short term holiday accommodation
5.2.10 Workplace accommodation
5.2.11 Caravan parks

Public Assembly Buildings including but not limited to the following:

5.2.12 Sporting clubrooms

5.2.13 Public halls
5.2.14 Cinema

5.3 Audits should be performed on a 10 yearly basis and monitored through Council's record keeping systems with updates of inspection to BFSC

19.6 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

Author: Kahli Rolton, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report November 2025' as presented on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be noted.
2. That Council note the report provided by the Audit and Risk Committee, summarises the work of the Committee:
   (a) In the lead up to its meeting, held 5 November 2025
   (b) The broad observations and discussions of the Committee during the pre-meeting informal briefing and the meeting.

PURPOSE

A report to Council after the Audit and Risk Committee meeting, summarising the work of the committee preceding the meeting and the outcomes of the meeting.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

Period Preceding the November Meeting:

1. Email to Committee 26 September 2025 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary Report was presented to Council Meeting on 21 October 2025. Members were requested to review the report and provide any feedback prior to the meeting.

2. Email to Committee 26 September 2025 – A copy of the Capital Work in Progress Carry Forwards 2024/2025 Council Report provided to Audit and Risk Committee Members following discussions at previous meeting.

3. Email to Presiding Member 8 October 2025 - Invitation to Audit and Risk Committee Chairs to the LGA's inaugural Beyond Compliance: 2025 Audit & Risk Chairs Forum being held on Monday 10 November 2025.

4. Email to Committee 29 October 2025 – The Internal Audit Plan was circulated to Audit and Risk Committee Members for pre-reading ahead of the 5 November 2025 workshop, with a request to review the document to support open discussion and inform the development of a revised plan.

5. Council Member Briefing – Meeting held as required between the Council Member Audit and Risk Committee representative and General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services, Manager Financial Services to provide a briefing on the reports included in the agenda prior to the meeting.

6. Presiding Member Pre-Meeting - Meeting held as required between the Manager Financial Services and the Presiding Member to discuss the agenda prior to the meeting.

Outcomes of the Informal Briefing 5 November 2025:
An informal briefing was held immediately prior to the Audit and Risk Committee meeting to present Enterprise Risk Management Framework and discuss Internal Audit Plan updates.

- **Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)** – following on from the LGRS industry benchmarking survey report recommendations, and the development of the new Risk Appetite Statement, Manager Governance and Property presented the newly drafted Risk

Management Framework, Council's current risk maturity level and changes to ERM processes.

From late 2024 / early 2025, the following activities have been undertaken towards actioning these recommendations, generally:

- Enterprise risk portfolio has been transitioned to the Governance and Property team in recognition of resourcing constraints.
- Risk assessment built into all Council reports, to improve organisational awareness, staff participation of the identification and evaluation process, consideration of risk in making of strategic decisions, and risk reporting.
- Education sessions facilitated by LGRS with Elected Members and senior staff.
- Current investigations into appropriate software options to manage enterprise risk management.
- Development of clearly articulated risk appetite and tolerances for the City of Mount Gambier.
- Contemporary Risk Management Framework, supporting embedded enterprise risk management throughout the organisation.

Key changes to the documents and processes include:

- Review of Current Risk Ratings – Considering the existing strategic and operational context, as well as the status of treatments and controls.
- Review of Target Risk Ratings – Aligning with the Risk Appetite determined by Council.
- Review of Risk Areas and Consequence Levels – Ensuring alignment with the Risk Appetite and confirming their continued relevance to strategic risk management.
- Updates to Terminology and Presentation – Enhancing consistency and readability of the information presented in regular reporting.
- Expansion of the Framework to Include Opportunities – Promoting a balanced approach that not only mitigates potential threats but also identifies and maximises value-creating opportunities for the organisation and community.

Further work towards organisational integration and increased risk maturity is planned, including:

- Implementation and embedding of the Risk Management Administrative Principle (Framework),
- Staff education workshops,
- Review of the strategic risk reporting and review function,
- Establishment of and Operational Risk Register,
- Establishment of a standard Project Risk process,
- Implication of regular risk reporting processes at Executive Leadership level, and Elected Council level,
- Integration of a contemporary enterprise risk management software,
- Integration of risk management culture throughout the organisation.

- **Internal Audit Program** – A collaborative discussion with staff took place to allow questions, clarify direction, determine/define approach (risk based) for the next iteration of the internal audit plan.

Committee Members provided the following feedback:

- Refining focus of the Plan to first principles of reducing risk and adding value.
- Pinpoint specific areas based on higher risk priority.

- That previous audits including PDI Act, were more procedural reviews and not necessarily high risk targets. Procurement and contract management internal audits more recently undertaken progressed to higher level.
- Ensure that internal audits undertaken assure the public that Council is looking at high risk areas identified.
- There was discussion around the ability to resource actions and recommendations from completed internal audits. It was agreed that identifying key priorities would be important, with lower-priority items deferred where appropriate. Reporting to Committee Members will focus on areas of higher risk, and projects that no longer require updates—such as the rating review—will be removed from the reporting schedule.
- No more than two internal audits for 2025/2026 that are quite focussed and targeted on addressing key risk.
- Develop operational risk register per the Enterprise Risk Management Framework and map out financial risk framework.
- Wait until February 2026 Meeting to present new internal audit plan to allow input from the Enterprise Risk Management Framework and further risk identification.

Outcomes of the Meeting:
5.1 Risk Management Framework
The Committee praised the work that has been undertaken in this space and improvements made.
In more detail, the Committee highlighted that the consequence tables are most important and to focus on reviewing this section of the Framework to ensure that tolerance levels are reasonable and easy for users to follow.

The Committee highlighted that number of scenarios result in extreme rating when using the risk matrix. And if something is extreme, the need for identifying the controls and having mechanisms to respond to that extreme risk. Expressing that in contrast another council has been actively reducing the ability for risks to be classified as extreme down to ensure focus on only true extreme risks.

Further clarification was sought on the relationship between positive and negative risk, in particular whether they can influence an overall net positive when considered holistically.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of risk culture within the organisation and ensuring that risk is appropriately embedded.

Other key discussion points included:
- Use of catastrophic versus significant terminology.
- Further detail required on positive versus negative risk.
- Consideration of how you get the whole organisation to think about risk and have it front of mind.
- Review consequence tables against other councils.

5.2 Quarterly Internal Audit Update
The Committee emphasised the importance of Cyber Security as a key priority and suggested focusing internal audit programming for 2025/2026 in this area. One of the Committee members recently engaged an external provider to review their cyber security and will provide further details describing the engagement as "very good” and “supportive”. Other key discussion points included reducing the actions list to only pertinent.

5.3 Public Interest Disclosure Policy
The Committee complimented the work undertaken noting:

- Some minor topographical and formatting amendments.
- Acknowledged the influence of legislative reform and the changing roles and responsibilities of integrity agencies ICAC, OPI and Ombudsman.
- Noted that due to the prescriptive nature of the Policy, the inability to change a lot of the content.
- Update references to the PID Act.

5.4 Carry Forward Budget Process

The Committee discussed opportunities for improvement and suggested the following:

- That a quarter 4 report be presented to Council of actuals versus budget for capital expenditure.
- Define wording in the procedure to reflect actual process being to only carry forward what is required and not the entire remaining budget if not required.
- Consider capacity to deliver on top of the current year program.
- Ensuring enough cash to fund at year end.

5.5 Accounting for Reserves

The Committee sought clarification on the future approach to cashing back reserves and provided the following recommendations:

- Open Space Reserve utilised for capital as per the Act.
- Consideration of growth for Open Space. City of Unley applies any growth above 0.5% to open space reserve.
- Consideration of PDI Act changes to open space contributions.

5.6 ICAC 2024 Public Integrity Survey 2024: Loval Government Insights

The Committee found the report informative and observed that some survey results may reflect the characteristics of the response pool.. Other key discussion points included:

- Requested that available ICAC training be sent through to Committee Members.
- Noted less trust in OPI.
- Key report recommendations in relation to delegations, appointments, contracts, transparency and influencing decision making.
- Experiencing more challenges to decisions and people using AI, more public scrutiny in next 10 years.
- Public perceptions increasing but personal observations reducing and the need to do more work around perception.

5.7 Lease and Licence Update

The Committee discussed the importance of managing the renewal cycle effectively and highlighted the opportunity to transition toward a long-term model now that the major risk has been addressed. Discussion around the new policy development and how that will continue to strengthen councils' position strategically and in compliance with relevant obligations in this space.

5.8 Policy Update

The Committee acknowledged the update and discussed ways to ensure Administrative Principles remain current. They suggested exploring options to fast-track these through the Executive Team to help avoid potential bottlenecks. Discussion also included the new system (software tracking) for review schedule, and the inclusion of not only policies, but also administrative principles, procedures and strategic and corporate plans to ensure clarity, accountability and oversight.

5.9 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report

The Committee noted the report.

CONCLUSION

The recommendation to Council is that they note the report as presented (in conjunction with the minutes of the meeting).

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report titled 'Review of Terms of Reference - City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund' as presented on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be noted.
2. That the amended Junior Sports Assistance Fund Terms of Reference as presented be adopted.
3. That council notes the Committee's preference to retain interest earned within the Fund and decision to waive Council's contribution for the 2025/26 financial year.

PURPOSE

This report presents the Junior Sports Assistance Fund (JSAF) amended Terms of Reference which were endorsed by the JSAF Committee at its Annual General Meeting held 25 September 2025 for presentation and adoption at the next meeting of Council.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

N/A

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

Following a presentation to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) on Accounting for Reserves it was recommended that consistent with the Junior Sports Assistance Fund (JSAF) Terms of Reference the City of Mount Gambier suspend its contributions to the Fund until the balance of the Fund is reduced.

Since COVID-19, applications to the fund have significantly declined resulting in reduced expenditure. Consequently, member contributions since that time have been waived due to the Fund's strong financial position. The JSAF Terms of Reference state

"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)".

An additional recommendation to ELT concerned administration and interest earnt, with the following options proposed for potential inclusion in Clause 21.2 of the JSAF Terms of Reference:

- **Option 1:** that any costs borne to administer the fund are the responsibility of the Council to which this s41 Committee is established (may not be necessary).

- **Option 2:** that nominal interest allocations by the CoMG who is responsible for the Administration and management of the monies contributed will not be applied in lieu of the cost of administering the fund; OR
- **Option 3:** that contributions are to be solely used for the purpose of payments to sporting beneficiaries and agreed direct expenditure such as marketing and bank fees, but must not be used for administration purposes.

Option 2 was presented at the JSAF Annual General Meeting held 24 September 2025. The Fund resolved not to include this wording in the JSAF Terms of Reference, opting instead to continue to retain interest earnt, particularly in light of the suspension of Council contributions.

Committee Sentiment and Governance Considerations

Some members of the Committee raised concerns with the proposed change to absorb interest into Council revenue, noting that historically all money raised — whether through member fees, Council contributions or interest — has gone into the Fund for the benefit of young sportspeople in our region. While this is ultimately a decision for Council, as a s41 Committee, the Terms of Reference must be endorsed by Council.

Council may wish to uphold the sentiment of the Committee and retain the current approach or alternatively resolve that no interest be applied. It should be noted that interest is minimal compared to other revenue streams and is a nominal figure provided by Council as the funds are not held in a separate bank account.

The administration of the Fund is an in-kind contribution. While recognition of this was queried, it is assumed this is reflected in the Fund being referred to as the City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund. Currently, no in-kind contributions are formally recognised as it is a service provided to the community and region via a s41 Committee of Council.

At the recent AGM, the Committee resolved to waive Council's contribution to the Fund for the 2025/26 financial year, totalling $12,000. It was noted that in prior years, the Committee was technically non-compliant with its Terms of Reference when Council paid contributions in years where member contributions were waived. As per Item 15.2.1 of the Terms of Reference, Council contributions should have been equivalent to member contributions — which in those years was Nil.

There is no question that funds must be solely utilised for the benefit of young sportspeople in the region; the question is around the most efficient strategy to do so — which may involve not accumulating funds unnecessarily, but rather distributing them strategically, including for identified large events.

Question taken on notice

At the Annual General Meeting of the Junior Sports Assistance Fund held 25 September 2025, the following question was taken on notice:

Cr Megan Dukalskis:

How does Council allocate the interest earned on the Fund's deposits and are we receiving a competitive interest rate on these funds, and if not, what are the reasons?

This question aligns with broader discussions around interest allocation and the governance of the Fund, and is addressed below.

Interest allocation

Currently, Council allocates interest to the Junior Sports Assistance Fund based on the proportion of interest it would have earned in an interest-bearing fund with the Local Government Finance Authority (LGFA). This approach reflects the Fund's integration within Council's banking structure and ensures consistency with Council's financial management practices, noting this is a Committee of Council.

It is important to note that the original Terms of Reference were silent on the treatment of interest. Council applied interest as a discretionary practice to reflect the Fund's notional share of earnings within Council's broader banking arrangements.

However, it is important to note:

- The Fund is accounted for in an equity reserve but is not cash-backed, meaning the interest applied is not derived from a separate investment or deposit account. It is a nominal figure applied.

- Council bears the full cost of administration, including financial management, governance oversight, and processing of payments, without recognising its contribution to the JSAF to account for these in-kind services. Notably, at the most recent meeting, the Committee is seeking to further increase the administration service provision of Council.

- The Committee has continued to receive contributions from Council over the past 2–3 years, despite this not aligning with the current Terms of Reference. Given these factors, it is timely to review the appropriateness of continuing to apply interest to the Fund.

Competitive interest rate

As the Fund is held within Council's general banking arrangements and not in a separate interest-bearing account, its interest rate is aligned with what Council would receive should it choose to cash-back the funds. This is the equivalent interest rate for deposits offered by the LGFA and takes into consideration that Council is required to regularly access and pay monies to eligible sports persons.

Council Administration has been reviewing its reserve accounting administrative principles and will consider cash-backing the reserve once the balance of funds is reduced to an agreed level.

Previous banking arrangements

The previous arrangement with Bendigo Bank—where a separate account was established in the Committee's name—raised governance concerns for both Bendigo Bank and Council, as it did not comply with the requirement for accounts to be held in Council's name and signatories became an issue. These monies were transferred to Council approximately 4–5 years ago and absorbed into Council's general banking arrangements at that time.

Council is committed to ensuring all financial arrangements comply with legislative and governance standards and meet Council's Policies and Procedures. Part of this governance includes the independent audit of the Junior Sports Assistance Fund annually.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends the Junior Sports Assistance Fund Terms of Reference to be presented for adoption at the next meeting of Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

19.8 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE POLICY

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

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Public Interest Disclosure Policy' as presented on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be noted.
2. That having been endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 5 November 2025, the reviewed and amended Public interest Disclosure Policy be adopted.

PURPOSE

To present reviewed and amended policies and procedures which are recommended to Council for adoption or revocation, along with any relevant feedback from the Audit and Risk Committee.

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:

- Public Interest Disclosure Policy

Policy / Procedure Proposed Changes:

Public Interest Disclosure Policy:

The City of Mount Gambier (Council) is committed to encouraging the making of appropriate Disclosures of public interest information in accordance with this Policy including:

- The protection of informants who make public interest Disclosures.
- The genuine and efficient consideration and action in relation to information provided in a public interest Disclosure.
- Referring, as necessary, appropriate Disclosures to another Relevant Authority.
- Where the Disclosure relates to Corruption, reporting the Disclosure directly to the Office for Public Integrity (OPI) in accordance with the OPI Directions and Guidelines and the requirements of the ICAC Act.
- Where the Disclosure relates to Misconduct or Maladministration in public administration, reporting the Disclosure directly to the Ombudsman in accordance with the Ombudsman Directions and Guidelines.

The Policy has been reviewed and amended in line with the changes to structure and roles of the ICAC, OPI and SA Ombudsman, resulting from legislative reform in 2021. Materially the LGA template has been utilised, and as a result of the significant changes, it was preferable to simply create an entirely new document, rather than make marked up changes to the existing policy, which would have been difficult to understand. The previous version is also **attached** for comparison and information, water marked 'FOR REVOCATION'. Because

the content / procedure under this policy is largely dictated by legislation, there is minimal discretion in how council applies those obligations under the policy.

CONCLUSION

That having been endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 5 November 2025, the following reviewed and amended policies be adopted:

3. Public Interest Disclosure Policy

The updated policy is intended to be managed in accordance with the review schedule framework already in place / operation.

ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT - Council Policy P 900 - Public Interest Disclosure - August 2025 [**19.8.1** - 17 pages]
2. REVOKE - Council Policy P 900 - Public Interest Disclosure [**19.8.2** - 12 pages]

City of Mount Gambier	PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE POLICY	Version No:	4
		Issued:	September 2025
		Next Review:	July 2026

1. Introduction

The City of Mount Gambier (Council) is committed to encouraging the making of appropriate Disclosures of public interest information in accordance with this Policy including:

- The protection of informants who make public interest Disclosures.
- The genuine and efficient consideration and action in relation to information provided in a public interest Disclosure.
- Referring, as necessary, appropriate Disclosures to another Relevant Authority.
- Where the Disclosure relates to Corruption, reporting the Disclosure directly to the Office for Public Integrity (OPI) in accordance with the OPI Directions and Guidelines and the requirements of the ICAC Act.
- Where the Disclosure relates to Misconduct or Maladministration in public administration, reporting the Disclosure directly to the Ombudsman in accordance with the Ombudsman Directions and Guidelines.

The Chief Executive Officer will review the operation of this Policy as needed.

This Policy will be available free of charge for inspection at the Council's Offices during ordinary business hours and via the Council's website. Copies will also be provided to the public upon request and upon payment of a fee in accordance with the Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

2. Purpose

This document explains the applicable procedures and processes that Council has in place for when a person makes an appropriate Disclosure of public interest information, to ensure that Council:

- Properly fulfils its responsibilities under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* (PID Act) and the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012* (ICAC Act), including the PID Guidelines.
- Appropriately encourages and facilitates Disclosures of public interest information, including environmental and health information regarding a location within the area of the Council.
- Provides a process by which Disclosures may be made so that they are properly dealt with.
- Provides appropriate protection for those who make Disclosures in accordance with the PID Act.
- Recognises the need to appropriately support Informants, the Responsible Officer and, as appropriate, those public officers affected by any appropriate Disclosure.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to appropriate Disclosures of public interest information, that are made in accordance with the PID Act, by public officers including council members, officers and employees of the Council, and by members of the public.

This Policy is intended to support the legislatively required reporting framework under the ICAC Act and Ombudsman Act, and to operate in conjunction with existing policies, including the:

- Behavioural Standards for Council Employees
- Behavioural Standards for Council Members

4. Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy the following definitions apply:

Commission	Means the Independent Commission Against Corruption
Commissioner	Means the person holding or acting in the office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption
Corruption in public administration	Is defined in section 5(1) of the ICAC Act and means conduct that constitutes: *an offence against Part 7 Division 4 (Offences relating to public officers) of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935, which includes the following offences:* *bribery or corruption of public officers;* *threats or reprisals against public officers;* *abuse of public office;* *demanding or requiring benefit on basis of public office;* *offences relating to appointment to public office; or* *an offence against the Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act 1995 or the Public Corporations Act 1993, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or* *an offence against the Lobbyists Act 2015, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or* *any of the following in relation to an offence referred to in a preceding paragraph:* *aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of the offence;* *inducing, whether by threats or promises or otherwise, the commission of the offence;*

	being in any way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the commission of the offence; *conspiring with others to effect the commission of the offence.*
Detriment	As per section 9(7) of the PID Act detriment includes: *loss or damage (including damage to reputation); or* *injury or harm (including psychological harm); or* *intimidation or harassment; or* *discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to a person's employment; or* *threats of reprisal*.
Disclosure	For the purposes of the PID Act means an appropriate Disclosure of public interest information made by an Informant to a Relevant Authority.[1]
Appropriate Disclosure of environmental and health information	As per section 5(3) of the PID Act, a person makes an appropriate Disclosure of environmental and health information if the disclosure is made to a relevant authority and the person: • believes on reasonable grounds that the information is true; or • is not in a position to form a belief on reasonable grounds about the truth of the information, but believes on reasonable grounds that the information may be true and is of sufficient significance to justify its Disclosure so that its truth may be investigated.
Appropriate Disclosure of public administration information	As per section 5(4) of the PID Act, a person makes an appropriate Disclosure of public administration information if the disclosure is made to a relevant authority and the public officer reasonably suspects that the information raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration.
Environmental and health information	Means information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the health or safety of the public generally or a significant section of the public.[2]
Informant	Means a person who makes an appropriate Disclosure of public interest information to a Relevant Authority.[3]
Maladministration in public administration	As per section 4(2) of the *Ombudsman Act* 1972 (the Ombudsman Act): *Means:* *conduct of a public officer, or a practice, policy or procedure of a public authority, that results in an irregular and unauthorised use of public money or substantial mismanagement of public resources; or*

[1] PID Act, section 4
[2] PID Act, section 4
[3] PID Act, section 4

	conduct of a public officer involving substantial mismanagement in or in relation to the performance of official functions; and *includes conduct resulting from impropriety, incompetence or negligence; and* *is to be assessed having regard to relevant statutory provisions and administrative instructions and directions.*
Misconduct in public administration	As per section 4(1) of the Ombudsman Act *means an intentional and serious contravention of a code of conduct by a public officer while acting in their capacity as a public officer that constitutes a ground for disciplinary action against the officer.*
Ombudsman Directions and Guidelines	Means the directions and guidelines issued pursuant to section 12D(1) of the Ombudsman Act relating to reporting matters of suspected misconduct or maladministration in public administration.
Office for Public Integrity (OPI)	Established by the ICAC Act *to manage complaints about public administration with a view to—* *the identification of corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration; and* *ensuring that complaints about public administration are dealt with by the most appropriate person or body.*[4] The functions of OPI are: *(a) to receive and assess complaints about public administration from members of the public;* *(b) to receive and assess reports about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration from inquiry agencies, public authorities and public officers;* *(c) to refer complaints and reports to inquiry agencies, public authorities and public officers or to determine to take no action in accordance with this section.*[5]
OPI Directions and Guidelines	Is a reference to the directions and guidelines issued by OPI pursuant to section 18B of the ICAC Act in relation to reporting matters of suspected corruption in public administration.
Public administration	As per section 4(1) of the ICAC Act - an administrative act carried out in the course of public administration. An **administrative act** is as per the definition in the Ombudsman Act 1972 and means:

[4] ICAC Act, section 3(1)(b)
[5] ICAC Act, section 17(1)

(a) an act relating to a matter of administration on the part of an agency to which this Act applies or a person engaged in the work of such an agency; or

(b) an act done in the performance of functions conferred under a contract for services with the Crown or an agency to which this Act applies,

but does not include—

(c) an act done in the discharge of a judicial authority; or

(d) an act done by a person in the capacity of legal adviser to the Crown or an agency to which this Act applies; or

(e) an act of a class declared by the regulations not to be an administrative act for the purposes of this definition.

Public administration information	Means information that raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration.[6]
PID Guidelines	Is a reference to the Guidelines issued by ICAC pursuant to section 14 of the PID Act.
Principal Officer	For the purposes of the PID Act means the Chief Executive Officer of the Council.[7]
Public Officer	Has the meaning given by section 4 and Schedule 1 of the ICAC Act and includes council members and an employee or officer of the Council.
Relevant Authority	Means the person or entity that receives an appropriate Disclosure of public interest information in accordance with the PID Act.[8]
Responsible Officer	Is a person who has completed any training courses approved by the Commissioner for the purposes of the *Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019* and has been designated by the Chief Executive Officer as the responsible officer under section 12 of the PID Act. Designated to undertake the duties as per section 13 of the PID Act.
Victimisation	As per section 9(1) of the PID Act, occurs when a person causes detriment to another on the ground, or substantially on the ground, that the other person (or a third person) has made or intends to make an appropriate Disclosure of public interest information. Refer to definition of 'detriment' in this table and section 9(7) of the PID Act.

[6] PID Act, section 4
[7] PID Act, section 4
[8] PID Act, section 5(5)

5. Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

Council's Chief Executive Officer is the principal officer for the purposes of the PID Act and is responsible for:

- Ensuring that one or more appropriately qualified officers or employees of the Council are designated as responsible officers of the Council for the purposes of the PID Act, and they undertake any training required by the Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019.
- Ensuring that the name and contact details of each responsible officer of the Council are made available to officers or employees of the Council.
- The preparation and maintenance of this Policy in accordance with the requirements of the PID Act and the PID Guidelines.

The Chief Executive Officer will support the Responsible Officer including by ensuring there is a system in place to securely receive and store Disclosures.

Responsible Officer(s)

Council's Responsible Officer may be contacted in person, by telephone or in writing. The relevant contact details are provided in Item 7 of this Policy.

A person designated as a **Responsible Officer** for the Council has the following responsibilities:

- Receiving and securely storing appropriate Disclosures relating to council and ensuring compliance with the PID Act, and this Policy, in relation to any such Disclosures.
- Upon receipt of a Disclosure, the Responsible Officer will deal with the Disclosure in accordance with the processes described in this Policy, and the PID Act. This includes being responsible for the procedures set out in section 4.2.3 of this Policy.
- Liaising as required with the Informant and ensuring that the Informant is provided with support and protection as necessary and appropriate in the circumstances of the Disclosure.
- Making appropriate recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer (principal officer) of the Council in relation to dealing with Disclosures, including any suggested changes to this Policy.
- Providing advice to Council Members, officers and employees of the Council in relation to the administration of the PID Act.
- Completing any training courses approved by the Commissioner for the purposes of the PID Regulations.
- Carrying out any other functions relating to the PID Act as appropriate to their role.

Council Member, officer or employee of the Council (public officers)

A Council Member, officer or employee of the Council is responsible for:

- Ensuring they comply with this Policy and the PID Act when dealing with any Disclosure.
- Immediately referring any Disclosure of environmental and health information made to them by a member of the public, or any Disclosure of public interest information made to them by a public officer, to the Responsible Officer.

6. Disclosure protection information

Immunity

Section 5 of the PID Act provides for protection for Informants where appropriate public interest Disclosures are made:

- By a member of the public or a public officer about environmental and health information which the Informant reasonably believes to be true or which the Informant believes may be true and is of sufficient significance to warrant Disclosure, regarding a location within the Council area.
- By a public officer about information that the public officer reasonably suspects raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration.

Confidentiality and protections

Confidentiality and security of information

The identity of an Informant will be maintained as confidential in accordance with the PID Act.

The recipient of an appropriate Disclosure may only divulge the identity of an Informant where:

- The recipient believes on reasonable grounds that it is necessary to divulge the identity of the Informant in order to prevent or minimise an imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person, and the identity of the Informant is then divulged to a person or authority that the recipient believes on reasonable grounds is the most appropriate authority or person to be able to take action to prevent or minimise the imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person.
- Doing so is necessary for the matter to be properly investigated (but only to the extent necessary to ensure proper investigation).
- The Informant consents to their identity being disclosed.

The PID Act does not expressly require any other information relating to a Disclosure (including, for example, the nature of the allegations and information provided) to be maintained as confidential. In considering whether to further disclose other information provided as part of an appropriate Disclosure consideration should be given to whether it is necessary and appropriate to do so.

The Responsible Officer will ensure the steps listed below are followed for the secure receipt and storage of a Disclosure received.

Protection of informants

The PID Act provides for protection for Informants where public interest Disclosures are made[9]:

- By a member of the public or a public officer about environmental and health information which the Informant reasonably believes to be true or which the Informant believes may be true and is of sufficient significance to warrant Disclosure, regarding a location within the Council area; and/or
- By a public officer about information that the public officer reasonably suspects raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration.

Victimisation of informants is a criminal offence in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of the PID Act. A person who causes detriment to another on the ground, or substantially on the ground, that the other person or a third person has made or intends to make an appropriate disclosure of public interest information commits an act of victimisation. Detriment includes:

(a) loss or damage (including damage to reputation); or

(b) injury or harm (including psychological); or

(c) intimidation or harassment; or

(d) discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to a person's employment; or

(e) threats of reprisal – which may be express or implied, or conditional or unconditional.

A person must not prevent another person from making an appropriate disclosure of public interest information or hinder or obstruct another person in making such a disclosure.

Risk management steps and processes – confidentiality and protection

To ensure confidentiality is maintained and to minimise the likelihood of any victimisation associated with public interest disclosures, Council has the following steps in place to assess and minimise detrimental action in relation to public interest disclosures:

- Ensuring accurate records of an appropriate Disclosure are securely and confidentially maintained including notes of all discussions, phone calls, and interviews.
- Ensuring all information relating to an appropriate Disclosure is maintained as confidential and securely stored such that access to the records is limited to the Responsible Officer and such other persons as is necessary to ensure compliance with the PID Act and to ensure the matters to which the disclosure relates may be properly investigated.
- Ensuring any other person involved in investigating the Disclosure is aware of the confidentiality and security requirements, and is provided with the access to support the confidentiality and security steps put in place by council.
- Ensuring that in the event that a person's appointment as a Responsible Officer is terminated, the person must provide access to the information to the newly-appointed

[9] PID Act – section5(1)

Responsible Officer and having done so will continue to be bound by a duty of confidentiality in respect of an Informant's identity and the information received as a result of the Disclosure.

7. Disclosure process information

Who can make a disclosure?

Refer to the definitions within the PID Act (section 4 and 5) and as included in this Policy for what is an 'appropriate disclosure'.

Any person can make an appropriate disclosure of environmental and health information and will be protected from liability because of that disclosure.

Any person can make an appropriate disclosure of public administration information in accordance with the PID Act, however only public officers are protected from liability because of that disclosure[10].

How to submit Disclosure – Informant considerations

Appropriate Disclosures of public administration information should generally, and wherever possible, be directed in the first instance to the Responsible Officer in person or via email or telephone using the details below:

Name	Brittany Shelton	Kate Gilmore
Telephone	(08) 8721 2552	(08) 8721 2598
Email	bshelton@mountgambier.sa.gov.au OR disclosure@mountgambier.sa.gov.au	kgilmore@mountgambier.sa.gov.au OR disclosure@mountgambier.sa.gov.au
Address	Postal: PO Box 56, MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290 In-person: Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace, MOUNT GAMBIER Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm *Note – Disclosures provided via mail or in person should be in an envelope marked: CONFIDENTIAL – Responsible Officer, Public Interest Disclosure*	Postal: PO Box 56, MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290 In-person: Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace, MOUNT GAMBIER Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm *Note – Disclosures provided via mail or in person should be in an envelope marked: CONFIDENTIAL – Responsible Officer, Public Interest Disclosure*

Following the above steps will ensure public interest information is securely received.

[10] PID Act – section 5

However, nothing in this Policy prevents a person from making an appropriate Disclosure to another Relevant Authority, including a Relevant Authority external to the Council[11]. This is a choice to be made by the Informant at their discretion.

The following are further relevant considerations for an Informant in determining where to direct a Disclosure:

- When choosing to make a Disclosure internally, Disclosures relating to a Council Member or employee, including the Chief Executive Officer, should be made to a Responsible Officer.
- Any Disclosure relating to a person appointed as a Responsible Officer should be made to the other person appointed as a Responsible Officer or failing this, to a Relevant Authority external to the Council (such as the OPI).
- Any Disclosure relating to public administration information about a public officer who is a Council Member or employee of the Council may be made to a Responsible Officer, or to the person responsible (either in fact, or as may be designated by the PID Act) for the management or supervision of the public officer the subject of the Disclosure.
- If there is a reasonable suspicion of corruption, it must be reported to the OPI in accordance with the OPI Directions and Guidelines.
- Any Disclosure relating to maladministration or misconduct in public administration should be reported to the Ombudsman in accordance with the Ombudsman Directions and Guidelines. Note such disclosures may also be made to the OPI in accordance with the ICAC Act.

Receipt of Disclosure

A flowchart outlining the Disclosure Process is at **Appendix B** to this Policy.

Where a Disclosure is made by telephone, the recipient (noting this is ideally, but not always the Responsible Officer) must take notes of the conversation.

If a Council Member, officer or employee receives a Disclosure of public interest information regarding a location within the Council area, the recipient of that Disclosure will:

- Ask the Informant whether they consent to the details of their identity being provided to the Responsible Officer, and in doing so advise the Informant that:
    - a failure to provide that consent may mean that the Disclosure cannot be properly investigated; and
    - notwithstanding that the informant may not consent to their identity being disclosed, it may nonetheless be disclosed if it is necessary to do so to ensure the matters to which the information relates may be properly investigated;
- Refer the Disclosure to the Responsible Officer and, in doing so, comply with the wishes of the Informant with respect to whether details of their identity may be divulged unless it is necessary to disclose their identity contrary to their wishes to ensure the matters to which the information relates may be properly investigated.

[11] PID Act – section 5(5)

Where the identity of the Informant is known to the Responsible Officer or is reasonably ascertainable, the Responsible Officer will acknowledge receipt of the Disclosure within 7 days and in doing so, will provide a copy of this Policy to the Informant.

To ensure the secure receipt and storage of the Disclosure, upon the receipt of a Disclosure (whether directly, or by referral from a Council Member, officer or employee), the Responsible Officer will ensure that a Disclosure is stored securely in accordance with Council's record management system and confidentiality requirements.

8. Assessment and actions

Preliminary assessment and action

Upon receipt of a Disclosure, the Responsible Officer will undertake a preliminary assessment to determine the below and what (if any) actions need to be taken:

- If the content of the Disclosure suggests there is an imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person or the public generally. If it does, the Responsible Officer must immediately communicate such information as may be necessary to mitigate that risk to the most appropriate agency (for example to, South Australia Police, SafeWork SA, SA Ambulance, Environment Protection Authority). In doing so, the Responsible Officer must also have regard to applicable parts of this Policy.
- If the matter/s the subject of the Disclosure result in the Responsible Officer forming a reasonable suspicion that they involve corruption in public administration, or misconduct or maladministration in public administration; the Responsible Officer must comply with his/her reporting obligations under the ICAC Act in accordance with the OPI Directions and Guidelines and reporting expectations under the Ombudsman Act in accordance with the Ombudsman Directions and Guidelines.
- If the Responsible Officer determines the Disclosure warrants referral to an external body or another Relevant Authority (listed at **Appendix A** to this Policy), the Responsible Officer will undertake the referral, including ensuring that such information as is necessary to enable action to be taken is communicated to the most appropriate person or relevant authority to take that action.
- If the Disclosure is frivolous, vexatious or trivial, the Responsible Officer may determine no further action will be taken in relation to the Disclosure.
- If the information disclosed involves a matter which has already been investigated or acted upon by a Relevant Authority and there is no reason to re-examine the matter or there is other good reason why no action should be taken in respect of the matter, the Responsible Officer can determine no further action will be taken in relation to the Disclosure.

Having considered the above, the Responsible Officer can initiate council's usual investigation process noting the requirements of the PID Act around confidentiality and security of information.

If an Informant believes that their Disclosure is not being dealt with appropriately or in accordance with this Policy they should contact the Responsible Officer in the first instance.

Notification of Preliminary Assessment

So long as the identity of the Informant is known to the Responsible Officer or is reasonably ascertainable, the Responsible Officer will notify the Informant of the outcome of their determination in writing as soon as is reasonably practicable after the Preliminary Assessment has been made, and in any event within 30 days of receipt of the Disclosure. In doing so, the Responsible Officer must advise the Informant of:

- any action that has been, or will be, taken in relation to the Disclosure; or
- if no action is being taken in relation to the Disclosure, the reason/s why.

If the Responsible Officer fails to notify the Informant in accordance with the above, the Informant may be entitled to protection in relation to any subsequent Disclosure of that information to a journalist or member of Parliament in accordance with the PID Act.

If the Informant is dissatisfied with the Responsible Officer's determination, it is open to him/her to report the Disclosure to another Relevant Authority external to the Council.

As soon as reasonably practicable following the Preliminary Assessment and notification to the Informant, the Responsible Officer must use the dedicated online notification form at https://www.icac.sa.gov.au to notify OPI of the Disclosure (Initial Notification), and in doing so must ensure that the details required by Guideline 1.4 of the Public Interest Disclosure Guidelines are included in the Initial Notification.

The Responsible Officer will retain the unique reference number issued by the OPI upon making the Initial Notification, and will ensure that reference number is provided to any other person or authority to whom the Disclosure is referred.

Notification of Further Action

So long as the identity of the Informant is known to the Responsible Officer or is reasonably ascertainable, the Responsible Officer will notify the Informant of the outcome of their determination in writing as soon as is reasonably practicable after the Further Action has been taken and, in any event, within either:

- 90 days of receipt of the Disclosure; or
- such longer period as may be specified by written notice given by the Responsible Officer within that 90 day period.

In doing so the Responsible Officer must advise the Informant of:

- any action that has been, or will be, taken in relation to the Disclosure; or
- if no action is being taken in relation to the Disclosure, the reason/s why.

If the Responsible Officer fails to notify the Informant in accordance with clauses above, the Informant may be entitled to protection in relation to any subsequent Disclosure of that information to a journalist or member of Parliament in accordance with the PID Act.

If the Informant is dissatisfied with the Responsible Officer's determination or the action taken it is open to him/her to report the Disclosure to another Relevant Authority external to the Council.

As soon as reasonably practicable following the Preliminary Assessment and notification to the Informant, the Responsible Officer must use the dedicated online notification form at https://www.icac.sa.gov.au to notify OPI of the action taken in relation to the Disclosure (Further Notification) and, in doing so, must ensure that the details required by Guideline 2 of the Public Interest Disclosure Guidelines are included in the Further Notification.

If the Disclosure came to the Council by way of a referral from a Minister, the Responsible Officer must ensure that the Minister is also notified of the action taken in relation to the Disclosure, and the outcome of any such action. The Minister should be notified in accordance with this clause following the Preliminary Assessment if the Responsible Officer determines that no action is to be taken.

9. Review

Council will review this Policy at least once per year, or upon significant legislative change as required. This Policy may, at any time, be altered, substituted, or revoked.

Appendix A

Relevant Authorities

Where the information relates to…	the relevant authority is…
a public officer* *as defined and set out in Schedule 1 of the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012* - relevantly, this includes council members, officers and employees of local government bodies	either: the person who is designated by the Guidelines as being taken to be responsible for management or supervision of the public officer; or the person who is in fact responsible for the management or supervision of the public officer; or the relevant responsible officer (as designated by the Council in accordance with section 12 of the PID Act)
a public sector agency or public sector employee	either: the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment; or the responsible officer for the relevant public sector agency
an agency to which the *Ombudsman Act 1972* applies	the Ombudsman
a location within the area of a particular council established under the *Local Government Act 1999*	a member, officer or employee of that Council
a risk to the environment	the Environment Protection Authority
an irregular and unauthorised use of public money or substantial	the Auditor-General
the commission, or suspected commission, of any offence	a member of the police force
a judicial officer	the Judicial Conduct Commissioner
a member of Parliament	the Presiding Officer of the House of Parliament to which the member belongs
a person or a matter of a prescribed class[12]	an authority declared by the regulations to be a relevant authority in relation to such information

[12] Presently, no prescribed persons or classes have been identified

Where the information relates to…	the relevant authority is…
public interest information - being: environmental and health information (information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the health or safety of the public generally or a significant section of the public); or public administration information (information that raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration)	the OPI; a Minister of the Crown; or any other prescribed person or person of a prescribed class

City of Mount Gambier	PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE POLICY	Version No:	4
		Issued:	September 2025
		Next Review:	July 2026

Appendix B

Notification Process Flowchart

Receipt of disclosure

- Disclosure by a public officer about public administration information – can be made to the person responsible for the supervision of the public officer that the information relates to, or the Responsible Officer
- Disclosure by a member of public about environmental/health information to do with a location in the council area – can be made to any member, officer or employee of that council, to then be passed on to the Responsible Officer to access.
- Acknowledge receipt within 7 days – see Item 7 of Policy.

Preliminary Assessment

- Undertaken by the Responsible Officer, or (for public administration disclosures only) by the public officer's supervisor, to determine:
  - if an imminent risk of serious harm exists;
  - whether there is a need to refer to OPI;
  - whether other action is required, and if so, what

Preliminary Assessment action

- For example – report risk of imminent harm to SA police or another appropriate agency, make report to OPI.
- See Item 8 of Policy

Notify informant re Preliminary Assessment

- Must be done within 30 days of the disclosure being made – see Item 8 of Policy
- Include details of the action that has been, or will be taken
- Alternatively, if no action will be taken, advise why

Notify OPI about disclosure

- As soon as reasonably practicable
- Use the online notification form at icac.sa.gov.au.
- Must include the details specified in Guideline One – see Item 8 of Policy

Take action

- May include undertaking investigations, or referring to another relevant authority – see Item 8 Policy

Notify informant – outcome of action

- Must be done within either 90 days of the disclosure being made, or such longer period as specified by written notice given within that 90 day period– see Item 8 of Policy.
- Include details of the outcome of the action taken

Notify OPI – outcome of action

- Use the online notification form at icac.sa.gov.au
- Must include the details specified in Guideline Two – see Item 8 of Policy

If applicable, notify Minister re outcome of action

- Only applicable if the initial disclosure came from/via a Minister – see Item 8 of Policy

City of Mount Gambier	PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE POLICY	Version No:	4
		Issued:	September 2025
		Next Review:	July 2026

File Reference:	AF18/48; AF19/333
Applicable Legislation:	Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018 Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012 Ombudsman Act 1972 Local Government Act 1999
Reference: Community Plan – The Futures Paper	Goal 6, Excellence in Leadership and Governance
Related Policies:	Behavioural Management Policy Fraud, Corruption, Misconduct and Maladministration Prevention Policy - F225 Internal Audit Policy Internal Controls Policy Privacy Policy - P155 Risk Management Policy
Related Procedures:	
Related Documents:	ICAC Public Interest Disclosure Guidelines

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Responsibility:	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Version:	4.0
Last revised date:	16 September 2025
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City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	3
		Issued:	16 July 2024
		Next Review:	July 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The City of Mount Gambier is committed to upholding the principles of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices and, therefore, encourages the making of disclosures that reveal public interest information.

1.2. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that the City of Mount Gambier:

- properly fulfils its responsibilities under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018;
- encourages and facilitates Disclosures of Public Interest Information in accordance with the objects and requirements of the PID Act ;
- ensures there is appropriate oversight of public interest disclosures about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration;
- provides appropriate protection for those who make Disclosures in accordance with the Act; and
- acknowledges the need to appropriately support Informants, the Responsible Officer and, as appropriate, those Public Officers affected by any appropriate Disclosure.

1.3 The Council will review and update this Policy each year as part of its annual policy review.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This Policy applies to appropriate Disclosures of Public Interest Information that are made in accordance with the PID Act by public officers including Council Members, Officers and Employees of the Council, and by members of the public, and is intended to complement the reporting framework under the ICAC Act.

2.2. This Policy is also designed to complement the existing communication channels within Council, and operate in conjunction with other existing policies, including:

- Fraud & Corruption Prevention Policy;
- Code of Conduct for Council Employees;
- Code of Conduct for Council Members; and
- Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy under section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

2.3. The Council is committed to:

- referring, as necessary, appropriate Disclosures to another Relevant Authority;
- where the Disclosure relates to Corruption, or serious or systemic Misconduct or Maladministration in public administration, reporting the Disclosure directly to the OPI in accordance with the Guidelines and the requirements of the ICAC Act;
- otherwise facilitating the investigation of appropriate Disclosures in a manner which promotes fair and objective treatment of those involved; and
- rectifying any substantiated wrongdoing to the extent practicable in all the circumstances.

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy the following definitions apply.

3.1. ***Commissioner*** means the person holding or acting in the office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption.

FOR REVOCATION

City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	3
		Issued:	16 July 2024
		Next Review:	July 2025

3.2. ***Corruption in public administration*** is defined in section 5(1) of the ICAC Act and means**:**

3.2.1. an offence against Part 7 Division 4 (Offences relating to public officers) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*, which includes the following offences:
(i) bribery or corruption of public officers;
(ii) threats or reprisals against public officers;
(iii) abuse of public office;
(iv) demanding or requiring benefit on basis of public office;
(v) offences relating to appointment to public office; or

3.2.2. an offence against the *Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act 1995* or the *Public Corporations Act 1993*, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or

3.2.3. an offence against the *Lobbyists Act 2015*, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or

3.2.4. any other offence (including an offence against Part 5 (Offences of dishonesty) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*) committed by a public officer while acting in his or her capacity as a public officer or by a former public officer and related to his or her former capacity as a public officer, or by a person before becoming a public officer and related to his or her capacity as a public officer, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or

3.2.5. any of the following in relation to an offence referred to in a preceding paragraph:
(i) aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of the offence;
(ii) inducing, whether by threats or promises or otherwise, the commission of the offence;
(iii) being in any way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the commission of the offence;
(iv) conspiring with others to effect the commission of the offence

3.3. ***Council*** means the City of Mount Gambier.

3.4. ***Detriment*** includes:
- injury, harm (including psychological harm), damage (including damage to reputation) or loss;
- intimidation or harassment;
- discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to a person's employment; and/or
- threats of reprisal (which may be express or implied, and/or conditional or unconditional).

3.5. ***Directions and Guidelines*** is a reference to the Directions and Guidelines issued pursuant to section 20 of the ICAC Act and/or section 14 of the PID Act, which are available on the Commissioner's website (www.icac.sa.gov.au).

3.6. ***Disclosure*** means an appropriate disclosure of public interest information made by an Informant to a Relevant Authority.

A person makes an ***appropriate disclosure of environmental and health information*** if:
(a) the person:
i. believes on reasonable grounds that the information is true; or
ii. is not in a position to form a belief on reasonable grounds about the truth of the information, but believes on reasonable grounds that the information may be true and is of sufficient significance to justify its disclosure so that its truth may be investigated; and

FOR REVOCATION

City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	3
		Issued:	16 July 2024
		Next Review:	July 2025

(b) the disclosure is made to a Relevant Authority.

A person makes an ***appropriate disclosure of public administration information*** if:

(a) the person:
   i. is a public officer;
   ii. reasonably suspects that the information raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration; and

(b) the disclosure is made to a Relevant Authority.

3.7. ***Employee*** refers to all the Council's employees, whether they are working in a full-time, part-time or casual capacity.

3.8. ***Environmental and health information*** means information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the health or safety of the public generally or a significant section of the public.

3.9. ***Fraud*** includes an intentional dishonest act or omission done with the purpose of deceiving.

3.10. **ICAC Act** is the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012.*

3.11. ***Independent Assessor*** means the person designated by the Responsible Officer as being responsible for investigating a disclosure made to City of Mount Gambier in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure.

3.12. **Informant** means a person who makes an appropriate disclosure of public interest information to a Relevant Authority.

3.13. ***Maladministration in public administration*** is defined in section 5(4) of the ICAC Act and

3.13.1. means:
   (i) conduct of a public officer, or a practice, policy or procedure of a public authority, that results in an irregular and unauthorised use of public money or substantial mismanagement of public resources; or
   (ii) conduct of a public officer involving substantial mismanagement in or in relation to the performance of official functions; and

3.13.2. includes conduct resulting from impropriety, incompetence or negligence; and

3.13.3. is to be assessed having regard to relevant statutory provisions and administrative instructions and directions.

3.14. ***Misconduct in public administration*** is defined in section 5(3) of the *ICAC Act* and means:

3.14.1. contravention of a code of conduct by a public officer while acting in his or her capacity as a public officer that constitutes a ground for disciplinary action against the officer; or

3.14.2. other misconduct of a public officer while acting in his or her capacity as a public officer.

FOR REVOCATION

3.15. ***Office for Public Integrity (OPI)*** is the office established under the *ICAC Act* that has the function to:

3.15.1. receive and assess complaints about public administration from members of the public;

3.15.2. receive and assess reports about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration from the Ombudsman, the Council and public officers;

3.15.3. refer complaints and reports to inquiry agencies, public authorities and public officers in circumstances approved by the Commissioner or make recommendations as to whether and by whom complaints and reports should be investigated;

3.15.4. give directions or guidance to public authorities in circumstances approved by the Commissioner;

3.15.5. perform other functions assigned to the Office by the Commissioner.

3.16. ***Public administration*** defined at section 4 of the ICAC Act and, without limiting the acts that may comprise public administration, an administrative act within the meaning of the *Ombudsman Act 1972* will be taken to be carried out in the course of public administration.

3.17. ***Public administration information*** means information that raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration.

3.18. ***Public interest information*** means environmental or health information, or public administration information.

3.19. ***PID Act*** means the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*.

3.20. ***Principal Officer*** for the purposes of the PID Act means the Chief Executive Officer of the Council.

3.21. ***Public Officer*** has the meaning given by section 4 and Schedule 1 of the ICAC Act, and includes:

- a Council member; and
- an employee or officer of the Council;

3.22. ***Relevant Authority*** means the person or entity that receives an appropriate disclosure of public interest information in accordance with the PID Act, as set out in Appendix A to this Policy.

3.23. ***Responsible Officer*** is a person who has completed any training courses approved by the Commissioner for the purposes of the *Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019* and has been designated by the Council as responsible officer under section 12 of the PID Act.

3.24. ***Victimisation*** occurs when a person causes detriment to another on the ground, or substantially on the ground, that the other person (or a third person) has made or intends to make an appropriate disclosure of public interest information.

FOR REVOCATION

City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	3
		Issued:	16 July 2024
		Next Review:	July 2025

4. CONFIDENTIALITY

4.1. The identity of an Informant will be maintained as confidential in accordance with the PID Act.

4.2. A recipient of an appropriate Disclosure may only divulge the identity of an Informant where:

4.2.1. the recipient believes on reasonable grounds that it is necessary to divulge the identity of the Informant in order to prevent or minimise an imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person, **and** the identity of the Informant is then divulged to a person or authority that the recipient believes on reasonable grounds is the most appropriate authority or person to be able to take action to prevent or minimise the imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person;

4.2.2. the recipient has been issued with a notice from the OPI advising that the identity of the Informant is required by the OPI, in which case the recipient **must** disclose the identity of the Informant to the OPI;

4.2.3. doing so is necessary for the matter to be properly investigated (but only to the extent necessary to ensure proper investigation); or

4.2.4. the Informant consents to his/her identity being disclosed.

4.3. The PID Act does not expressly require any other information relating to a Disclosure (including, for example, the nature of the allegations) to be maintained as confidential, but in considering whether to further disclose other information provided as part of an appropriate Disclosure the Council should be mindful of the prohibition against Victimisation in the PID Act.

4.4. An Informant may wish to remain anonymous, but in that event must ensure that the allegation is sufficiently supported by the provision of necessary details and evidence to enable the matter to be properly investigated.

5. DISCLOSURE PROCESS

5.1. Disclosures are to be handled by the Council in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure.

5.2. Nothing in this Policy prevents a person from making a Disclosure to a Relevant Authority external to the Council (i.e. the Ombudsman or the OPI). This is a choice to be made by the Informant at his/her discretion. The Council recommends an Informant have regard to the factors at clause 6.4 of the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure when deciding where to direct a Disclosure.

5.3. A Disclosure may be made to the Council's designated Responsible Officer(s) in person, by telephone or in writing, including by email. The relevant contact details are:

Chief Executive Officer
Ms Sarah Philpott
Phone: 8721 2598
Email: sphilpott@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

CEO & Mayoral Executive Support
Ms Kate Gilmore
Phone: 8721 2598
Email: kgilmore@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

Email: disclosure@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

FOR REVOCATION

City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	3
		Issued:	16 July 2024
		Next Review:	July 2025

Address Confidential
Responsible Officer, Public Interest Disclosure
PO Box 56
Mount Gambier SA 5290

6. ROLE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

6.1. A person designated as a Responsible Officer for the Council:
6.1.1. must**:**

6.1.1.1. receive appropriate Disclosures relating to the Council and ensure compliance with the PID Act, and the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure, in relation to any such Disclosures;
6.1.1.2. make appropriate recommendations to the principal officer of the Council in relation to dealing with Disclosures, including any suggested changes to this Policy or the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure; and
6.1.1.3. provide advice to officer and employees of the Council in relation to the administration of the PID Act; and
6.1.1.4. complete any training courses approved by the Commissioner for the purposes of the Public Interest Disclosure Regulations; and
6.1.2. may carry out any other functions relating to the PID Act.

6.2. Upon the receipt of a Disclosure, the Responsible Officer will deal with the disclosure in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure.

6.3. In making any determination or taking any action under this Policy or pursuant to the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure:
6.3.1. the Responsible Officer may seek legal advice from Council's lawyers and/or guidance from SAPOL or the Ombudsman in relation to the most appropriate course of action to pursue; and
6.3.2. is authorised to incur costs in accordance with the Council's Budget for that purpose.

6.4. The Responsible Officer will liaise as required with the Informant and any Independent Assessor in relation to any investigation process undertaken in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure, and will ensure that the Informant is provided with support and protection as necessary and appropriate in the circumstances of the Disclosure.

7. INFORMATION TO ELECTED BODY

7.1. As a matter of discretion, the Chief Executive Officer may inform the elected body, on a confidential basis, of the fact that an investigation of a Disclosure took place and the outcome of the investigation.

7.2. Factors the Chief Executive Officer will take into account in determining whether to inform the elected body under paragraph 7.1 above and the level of detail provided in doing so are to include:
7.2.1. if known, the identity of the Informant, and whether the Informant has consented to his/her identity being divulged;
7.2.2. if applicable, the identity of any person the subject of the Disclosure;
7.2.3. the impact (if any) of the investigation upon the Council's achievement of its objectives under its Strategic Plan and/or policies; and

FOR REVOCATION

City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	3
		Issued:	16 July 2024
		Next Review:	July 2025

7.2.4. the impact of any action taken to finalise the matter upon the Council's operations and/or budget.

7.3 In the event the Disclosure and/or any subsequent investigation process is confined to issues that impact only upon Council staff and human resource processes, the Chief Executive Officer will not inform the elected body of the fact of the Disclosure and/or investigation (since these matters fall outside the roles and responsibilities of elected members under the *Local Government Act 1999*).

8. INFORMANT PROTECTION

8.1. An Informant who makes an appropriate Disclosure is protected by:

8.1.1. immunity from criminal or civil liability as provided for in section 5(1) of the PID Act;

8.1.2. a prohibition on disclosure of his/her identity as provided for in section 8 of the PID Act;

8.1.3. a prohibition against Victimisation as provided for in section 9 of the PID Act; and

8.1.4. a prohibition against hindering, obstructing or preventing an Informant from making an appropriate Disclosure as provided for in section 11 of the PID Act.

8.2. The PID Act does not provide any protection to people who knowingly make disclosures that are false or misleading in a material particular (whether by reason of the inclusion or omission of a particular).

8.3. A person who knowingly makes a Disclosure that is false or misleading in a material particular is guilty of an offence and may be prosecuted.

8.4. A person who personally commits an act of Victimisation against an Informant is guilty of an offence and may be prosecuted.

8.5. The Council will take action as appropriate in the circumstances of the relevant Disclosure/s to protect Informants from Victimisation. Such action may include acting in accordance with the risk minimisation steps set out in the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure and/or referring the matter to the SA Police.

8.6. Any Council Member or employee or officer of the Council who:

8.6.1. knowingly makes a disclosure that is false or misleading in a material particular; or

8.6.2. commits an act of Victimisation in relation to an Informant; or

8.6.3. acts otherwise than in accordance with this Policy or the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure (including with respect to divulging the identity of an Informant) in relation to a Disclosure

may also face disciplinary action by the Council or the Chief Executive Officer (as appropriate).

9. TRAINING / EDUCATION:

9.1. It is the responsibility of Council Administration to provide adequate training and support for staff.

9.2. Training will be provided to relevant staff as part of the induction process and be refreshed as and when required.

FOR REVOCATION

City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	3
		Issued:	16 July 2024
		Next Review:	July 2025

10. REVIEW & EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed:
- annually; or
- earlier in the event of changes to legislation or related policies and procedures; or
- if deemed necessary by the General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services.

11. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

11.1. This Policy will be available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and on the Council's website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au. Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

FOR REVOCATION

City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	3
		Issued:	16 July 2024
		Next Review:	July 2025

Appendix A

Relevant Authorities

Where the information relates to…	the relevant authority is…
a public officer* *as defined and set out in Schedule 1 of the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012* - relevantly, this includes members, officers and employees of local government bodies	either: the person who is designated by the Guidelines as being taken to be responsible for management or supervision of the public officer; or the person who is in fact responsible for the management or supervision of the public officer; or the relevant responsible officer (as designated by the Council in accordance with section 12 of the PID Act)
a public sector agency or public sector employee	either: the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment; or the responsible officer for the relevant public sector agency
an agency to which the *Ombudsman Act 1972* applies	the Ombudsman
a location within the area of a particular council established under the *Local Government Act 1999*	a member, officer or employee of that Council
a risk to the environment	the Environment Protection Authority
an irregular and unauthorised use of public money or substantial	the Auditor-General
the commission, or suspected commission, of any offence	a member of the police force
a judicial officer	the Judicial Conduct Commissioner
a member of Parliament	the Presiding Officer of the House of Parliament to which the member belongs
a person or a matter of a prescribed class[1]	an authority declared by the regulations to be a relevant authority in relation to such information
public interest information - being: environmental and health information (information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the health or safety of the public generally or a significant section of the public); or public administration information (information that raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration)	the OPI; a Minister of the Crown; or any other prescribed person or person of a prescribed class

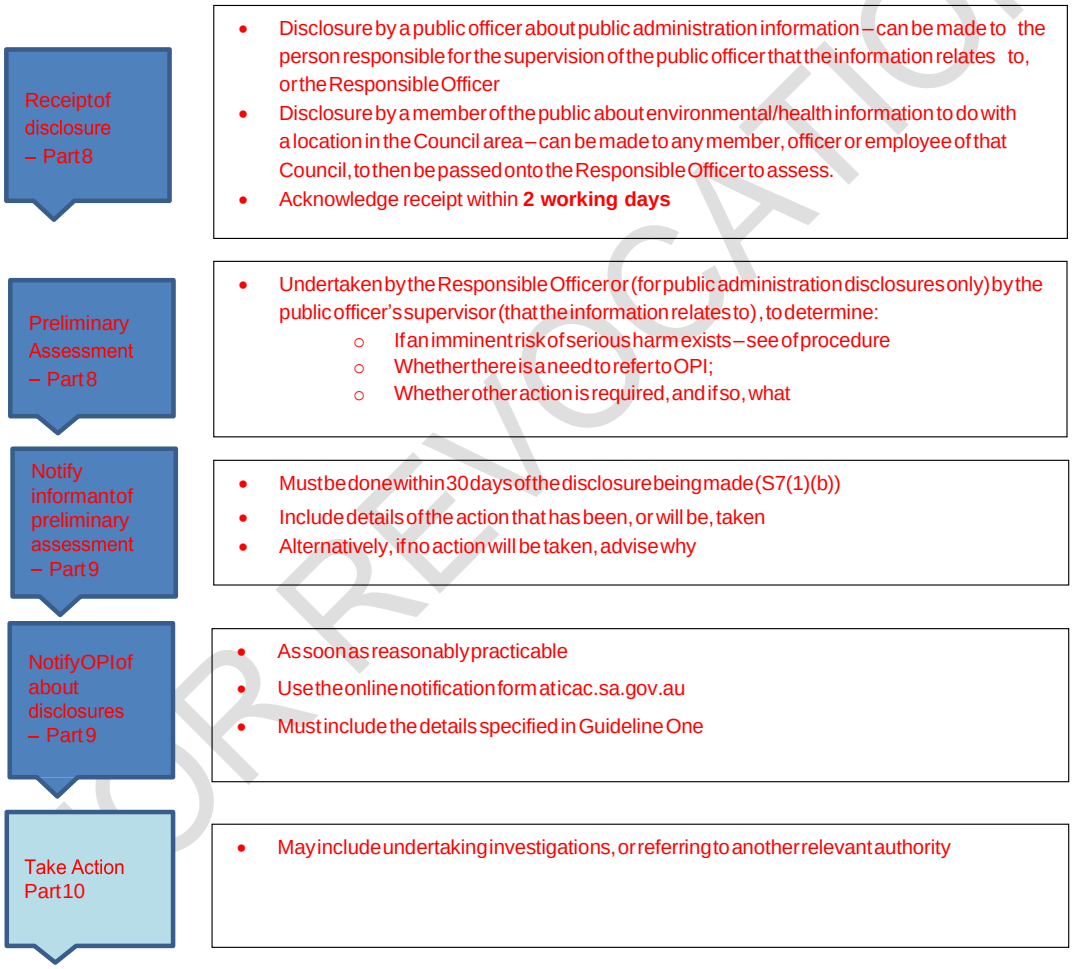
[1] at this stage, no prescribed persons or classes have been identified

FOR REVOCATION

City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	3
		Issued:	16 July 2024
		Next Review:	July 2025

Appendix B
Notification Process Flowchart

The Responsible Officer is available to provide advice as to what constitutes an appropriate Disclosure (as per clause 3.6 of this Procedure) having regard to who can make a public interest information Disclosure, what is public interest information and who can receive a Disclosure – refer section 5(3) and 5(4) of the PDI Act 2018 In the event the Disclosure does not constitute an appropriate Disclosure as per clause 3.6 of this Procedure, the person making such a disclosure will be advised that this Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018 Council Procedure does not apply and no further action will be taken, and they will be referred to Council's Complaints Handling Policy



FOR REVOCATION

City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	3
		Issued:	16 July 2024
		Next Review:	July 2025

Notify Informant outcome of action - Part 11	• Must be done within either **90 days** of the disclosure being made, or such longer period as specified by written notice given within 90 day period (S7(3)(a)) • Include details of the outcome of the action taken
Notify OPI outcome of action - Part 11	• Use the online notification form at icac.sa.gov.au • Must include the details specified in Guideline Two
If applicable notify Minister re outcome of action – Part 11.6	• Only applicable if the initial disclosure came from/via a Minister (S7(5)(b)(ii))

FOR REVOCATION

City of Mount Gambier	P900 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Version No:	3
		Issued:	16 July 2024
		Next Review:	July 2025

File Reference:	AF18/48
Applicable Legislation:	Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018 Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012 Ombudsman Act 1972 Local Government Act 1999
Reference: Community Plan – The Futures Paper	Goal 3, Our Diverse Economy
Related Policies:	Internal Controls Internal Audit Fraud & Corruption Prevention - F225 Privacy - P155 Records Management - R180 Request for Service & Complaints - C200 Risk Management Internal Review of Council's Decisions - C290
Related Procedures:	Public Interest Disclosure Procedure ICAC Public Interest Disclosure Guidelines
Related Documents:	

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Responsibility:	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Version:	3.0
Last revised date:	16 July 2024
Effective date:	16 July 2024
Minute reference:	Council Meeting 16 July 2024, Item 19.6 Resolution 2024/161
Next review date:	July 2025
Document History First Adopted By Council: Reviewed/Amended:	 16 July 2019 12 December 2023, 16 July 2024

FOR REVOCATION

19.9 AUTHORISATION TO AFFIX THE COMMON SEAL – SALE OF LAND AT JUBILEE HIGHWAY WEST, SUTTONTOWN

Author: Emily Lennerth, Governance and Property Officer

Authoriser: Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council report titled 'Authorisation to Affix the Common Seal – Sale of Land at Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown' as presented on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be noted.
2. Hereby approves the sale of land described as Allotment 212, Deposited Plan 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown contained in Certificate of Title Volume 6250 Folio 283, to Steeline Mount Gambier for the consideration of $1,235.40.
3. Authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to affix the Common Seal of Council to the following documents, to give effect to the sale of land:
   (a) The Contract for Sale of Land and any associated documentation;
   (b) The Notice of Revocation of Community Land (Annexure); and
   (c) The Client Authorisation form enabling Bernie Flood Property Conveyancer to act on Council's behalf in the conveyancing transaction.

PURPOSE

To obtain Council approval for the execution of a Contract for Sale concerning land formerly classified as Community Land, specifically Allotment 212, Deposit Plan 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown contained in Certificate of Title Volume 6250 Folio 283, and to authorise the affixing of the Common Seal to the Contract, the Notice of Revocation of Community Land, and associated Client Authorisation documentation.

BACKGROUND / OPTIONS

On 23 October 2024, Council received a request from Frank Brennan Consulting Services, on behalf of Steeline Mount Gambier, to revoke the Community Land classification over Allotment 212, Deposited Plan 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown, in accordance with Section 194 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) ('LG Act').

Public consultation was undertaken, and no objections were received. Ministerial approval for the revocation was subsequently granted. At its meeting on 15 April 2025, Council resolved (Resolution 2025/89, Item 18.5) to revoke the Community Land classification of the land, enabling its sale (refer extract below).

> *RESOLUTION OCM 2025/89*
> *Moved: Cr Max Bruins*
> *Seconded: Cr Jason Virgo*
> *1. That Council report titled 'Authorisation to Affix the Common Seal – Sale of Land at Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown' as presented on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be noted.*

2. Hereby revokes the community land status over the land parcel described as Allotment 212, Deposited Plan 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown contained in Certificate of Title Volume 6250 Folio 283 (the subject land) in accordance with section 194(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999.
3. Hereby determines to dispense with the requirement to obtain an independent valuation of the subject land, noting market value is likely to be an inappropriate indication of the value of land, given its unique nature.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to negotiate and enter into a formal agreement with Steeline Mount Gambier (the purchaser) for the transfer of land described as Allotment 212, Deposited Plan 125742, Jubilee Highway West, Suttontown contained in Certificate of Title Volume 6250 Folio 283 (the subject land), subject to the following conditions:
(a) The purchaser pay consideration in the sum of $1,235.40 for the subject land.
(b) The purchaser to be responsible for all associated costs, in accordance with Council's Disposal of Land and Assets Policy.
(c) That the purchaser be required to retain the landscaping and vegetation screening, or other suitable alternative landscaping and vegetation screening, to ensure an audio and visual buffer for road users of Jubilee highway West is maintained.
(d) That the purchaser be required to amalgamate the subject land into the existing Certificates of Title for the adjoining land.
(e) That where necessary, Easements for relevant infrastructure be included in the transfer.

CARRIED

In accordance with the above Council resolution, there was no requirement for independent valuation of the subject land, noting market value is likely to be an inappropriate indication of the value of land, given its unique nature. Instead, a blended value based on the Valuer-General's capital values of adjoining properties was used to estimate a fair sale price of $1,235.40, which is to be paid by the purchaser.

To complete the transaction, the following actions are required:

1. Execution of the Contract for Sale;
2. Execution of the Notice of Revocation of Community Land (Annexure);
3. Completion of a Client Authorisation Form;
4. Signing of the Form 1 Vendor's Statement; and
5. Execution of an Authority to Act for both parties.

Section 38 of the LG Act requires that the Council's Common Seal must be affixed to documents that give effect to a Council resolution. The Seal must be attested by both the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer.

The Client Authorisation Form, required under the Electronic Conveyancing National Law, permits the conveyancer to:

- Sign documents on Council's behalf;
- Lodge instruments with the Land Titles Office;
- Authorise financial settlement and complete the transaction.

In addition to the execution of the Contract for Sale and associated documents, the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, will be required to sign the Form 1 Vendor's Statement pursuant to Section 7 of the *Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Act 1994* (SA). The CEO or delegate will also be required to sign an Authority to act on behalf of both parties, enabling Bernie Flood Property Conveyancer to prepare and lodge the necessary documentation to complete the transaction.

IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

Legal	The revocation of the Community Land classification was undertaken in accordance with Section 194 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA), including the required public consultation and Ministerial approval. The proposed sale is consistent with Council's legislative powers. To complete the conveyancing process in compliance with the *Electronic Conveyancing National Law*, the following documents must be executed: the Contract for Sale of Land, the Notice of Revocation of Community Land (Annexure), the Client Authorisation Form, the Form 1 Vendor's Statement, and the Authority to Act for both parties. The affixing of the Common Seal and appropriate authorisations by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer are required to give legal effect to these documents.
Financial and Budget	The land will be sold for $1,235.40, based on a blended valuation of adjoining properties. All costs associated with the conveyancing process, including preparation and lodgement of required documentation, will be borne by the purchaser. As such, there will be no financial outlay required by Council to complete the transaction.
Community Consultation and Engagement	The disposal of this land aligns with Council's Disposal of Land and Assets Policy and strategic objective to manage land assets efficiently. The land is surplus to Council's operational and community needs, and its sale supports rationalisation of underutilised assets.
Other Resources	Execution of the Contract for Sale, Notice of Revocation of Community Land, and Client Authorisation Form will be managed by Council staff in collaboration with Bernie Flood Property Conveyancer. The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer will affix the Common Seal and sign the required documents to finalise the transaction.

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 - Failure to complete legal documentation correctly (e.g. Contract, Notice of	Major (4)	Unlikely (2)	Moderate	Ensure documents are reviewed by governance staff. Authorise only the Mayor and

Revocation, Client Authorisation)				CEO to sign and affix the Common Seal.
Reputation - Public perception or concern regarding sale of former Community Land	Moderate (3)	Unlikely (2)	Low	Public consultation was undertaken with no objections received. Ministerial approval was granted. Sale aligns with Council's Property Management Framework.
Legal / Regulatory / Policy - Dispute over land value or sale price	Minor (2)	Rare (1)	Low	Valuation approach based on blended rate of adjoining properties. Council resolution (2025/89) confirmed no independent valuation required. Transparent methodology documented.
Service Delivery - Delays in settlement or conveyancing process	Minor (2)	Possible (3)	Low	Bernie Flood Property Conveyancer authorised to act on Council's behalf. Client Authorisation Form completed and retained. Regular communication with conveyancer to monitor progress.
People - Impact on adjacent landowners or users	Minor (2)	Rare (1)	Low	Land is small and not used for public access. Sale to adjoining landowner ensures continuity of use.
Infrastructure - Unintended impact	Moderate (3)	Rare (1)	Low	Land is not known to contain

on infrastructure (e.g. underground services)				infrastructure. Council records reviewed. Purchaser responsible for due diligence.
Environmental - Environmental impact (e.g. vegetation, drainage)	Minor (2)	Rare (1)	Low	Land is small, cleared, and not environmentally sensitive. No known environmental constraints.

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

Disposal of Land and Assets

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

Following Council's resolution, the Contract for Sale of Land will be finalised and executed by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer. The Common Seal of Council will be affixed to the Contract, the Notice of Revocation of Community Land, and the Client Authorisation Form, in accordance with section 38 of the LG Act.

Once executed, the Notice of Revocation of Community Land will be submitted to the Land Titles Office to formally complete the revocation process. Bernie Flood Property Conveyancer, authorised through the signed Client Authorisation Form, will then proceed with lodging the Contract and managing the conveyancing process through to settlement.

Upon completion of the transaction, Council staff will update the Community Land Register and GIS mapping systems to reflect the change in land ownership. All documentation, including the Client Authorisation Form, will be retained in accordance with Council's Records Management Policy, which requires a minimum retention period of seven years.

CONCLUSION

Council must now resolve to authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to affix the Common Seal of Council to the Contract for Sale of Land and associated documentation, including the Notice of Revocation of Community Land and the Client Authorisation Form. This will enable the formal execution of the sale and ensure the transaction proceeds in accordance with legislative requirements and Council's prior resolution.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter - Bernie Flood Property Conveyancer - 08/10/2025 [**19.9.1** - 1 page]

Member of the Australian Institute of Conveyancers
10 Bay Road Mount Gambier SA 5290
PO Box 372 Mount Gambier SA 5290
Ph: 08 8725 9344
Email: office@bernieflood.com.au
www.bernieflood.com.au
ABN 36 686 031 890

BERNIE FLOOD
PROPERTY CONVEYANCER

Our ref: BF27914

8 October, 2025

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

Attention: Brittany Shelton

Dear Brittany,

Lot 212 Jubilee Highway West Mount Gambier

Further to previous correspondence, please find enclosed the following documentation relating to the sale of the community land:

a. **Contract for Sale.** Please arrange for execution under seal on page 18 of 24.

b. Form 1. You can sign and date on page 5 of 13 on behalf on the Council.

c. **Client Authorisation** gives me the authority to execute the transfer on behalf of the City of Mount Gambier. The Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) are to sign half way down the page.

d. **Authority to Act for both parties.** The CEO can sign on behalf of the Council.

e. **Notice of Revocation of Community Land Annexure.** This is to be executed under seal by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer. The annexure will be attached to the Memorandum of Transfer (copy attached).

After execution, please return the originals to this office.

Please call me at any time if you have any questions at all in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Per: B I Flood
Property Conveyancer

BIF:BIF

encls

20 MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

20.1 MOTION – FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION REFORM BILL 2025

I, Councillor Jason Virgo, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 18 November 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

1. That the motion from Cr Jason Virgo as presented on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be noted.
2. Notes that the Federal Government's Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025 proposes powers allowing the Environment Minister to approve projects deemed to be in the national interest, inclusive those involving critical minerals, defence, or national security.
3. Takes a formal position to oppose the introduction of the proposed powers on the basis that they have potential to reduce community consultation and local government input, undermine safeguards, and allow environmental concerns to be disregarded.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to write to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee inquiry into the Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025, within the consultation period, outlining the City of Mount Gambier's concerns in relation to powers, and in particular that they may:
   a. Diminish environmental outcomes;
   b. Reduce transparency, environmental protections, as well as meaningful community and local government consultation; and
   c. Do not appear to prioritise localised environmental and economic impacts relevant to the Limestone Coast region, including but not limited to loss of prime agricultural land and potential environmental impacts upon fundamental groundwater resources.
5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to provide a copy of the correspondence to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee inquiry into the Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025 to the Local Government Association of South Australia and the Australian Local Government Association, and request that they consider including this topic on their respective advocacy agendas on behalf of the sector.

RATIONALE

The *Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025* proposes a new "national interest" approval mechanism that would allow the Federal Environment Minister to approve certain projects - including those involving critical minerals - even where they do not comply with new National Environmental Standards.

While these powers may be intended to streamline strategically significant projects, they risk centralising decision-making in Canberra and diminishing the role of communities, councils, and independent environmental oversight.

For us in the Limestone Coast, the implications are serious. This mechanism could be used to override local environmental objections and disregard concerns about impacts on our prime agricultural land, water systems, and natural assets — resources that are vital to our region's economy, environment, and way of life.

As a Council we have a responsibility to ensure that local voices are not silenced and that environmental protections remain strong. Supporting this motion sends a clear message

that the City of Mount Gambier stands for responsible development, genuine consultation, and the long-term wellbeing of our region.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

21 URGENT MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

22 NEW CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

23 MEETING CLOSE

24 ATTACHMENT - PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES