



City of
Mount Gambier

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

Date: Tuesday, 20 June 2023

Time: 5:00 p.m.

**Location: Council Chamber
Civic Centre
10 Watson Terrace
Mount Gambier**

AGENDA

Special Council Meeting 20 June 2023

**Sarah Philpott
Chief Executive Officer
16 June 2023**

Order Of Business

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil



4 COUNCIL REPORTS

4.1 2023/2024 DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FEEDBACK – REPORT NO. AR23/34122

Committee:	Council
Meeting Date:	20 June 2023
Report No.:	AR23/34122
CM9 Reference:	AF22/378
Author:	Julie Scoggins, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser:	Jane Fetherstonhaugh, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Summary:	A report providing Council with feedback on the public consultation for the 2023/2024 Annual Business Plan and Budget.
Strategic Plan Reference:	Goal 1: Our People
	Goal 2: Our Location
	Goal 3: Our Diverse Economy
	Goal 4: Our Climate, Natural Resources, Arts, Culture and Heritage
	Goal 5: Our Commitment

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Report No. AR23/34122 titled '2023/2024 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget - Community Consultation Feedback' as presented on 20 June 2023 be noted.
2. That Council notes the written submissions received on the 2023/2024 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget.
3. That Council thanks the organisations for their verbal submissions as presented at the Special Council meeting on 20 June 2023 and notes:
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4. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make minor textual changes to the 2023/2024 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget to correct typos and errors of fact and to update the Mayoral Message if required in consultation with the Mayor.



TYPE OF REPORT

Corporate

BACKGROUND

1. **Legislation** - Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1999 requires Council to have an Annual Business Plan and Budget. The Plan is Council's statement of its intended programs and outcomes for the year and the required contents of the document are laid out in Section 123 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.
2. **Key Documents** - Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget was formulated within the guiding principles detailed in its suite of Strategic Management Plans, including the City of Mount Gambier Strategic Plan 2020-2024, Asset Management Plans and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP). The Asset Management Plans, LTFP and Annual Business Plan and Budget were reviewed at the same time to ensure alignment and are intended to be reviewed together annually in future years.
3. **Public Consultation** - at the Special Council meeting on 23 May 2023, Council endorsed the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2023/2024 for the purposes of public consultation in accordance with Council Policy P195 Community Consultation and Engagement and section 123 (4) of the Local Government Act.
4. Notification during the consultation period was provided through the following avenues:
 - **Media Release** - was released on 25 May to all local channels and outlets.
 - **Social Media** - 1 post was placed on Facebook and Instagram on 25 May 2023 and Facebook and Instagram stories were also posted on 6 June 2023.
 - **Articles** - were published in SE Voice on 30 May and the Border Watch 26 May 2023.
 - **Have Your Say Website** - the City of Mount Gambier Council's Have Your Say website provided links to the full 2023-2024 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget document, Council Rates fact sheet, and the submission form;
 - **Council's Main Offices** - the full 2023/2024 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget document was located at Council's Customer Service Centre and library; and
 - **Public Notice** - an advertisement was placed in the SE Voice newspaper on Tuesday 30 May 2023.
5. **Special Council Meeting** - a special council meeting has been arranged pursuant with Section 123(4) (a) & (b) of the Act on 20 June 2023 to enable the public to make submissions and ask questions regarding the 2023/2024 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget.

PROPOSAL

1. **Primary method of consultation** - the online Have Your Say City of Mount Gambier site was used as the primary method of consultation by Council to provide ease of access to the community and engagement statistics to be analysed by Council staff.
2. **Have Your Say consultation statistics** - the site provided the opportunity for the community to consult on the following documents: Draft Annual Business and Budget, Draft Long Term Financial Plan, and Draft Asset Management Plans. The statistics show that the community engaged in the followed way compared to the Draft Annual Business Plan statistics from the previous year:
 - **Total Visits** - 97, down from 115 visits for 2022/2023.
 - **Aware Participants** - 79 people (down from 92 for 2022/23) were deemed to be 'aware' i.e. they went on the website and looked at the page but did not download a document or access tools.



- **Informed Participants** - 0 people (down from 54 in 2022/23) were deemed to be 'informed' i.e. they had downloaded/viewed the Annual Business Plan document.
 - **Engaged Participants** - 0 people (down from 1 in 2022/23) submitted online via the submission form.
 - **Written Submissions** - The public consultation process generated 3 formal written submissions (**Attachment 1**) on the Draft Annual Business Plan, all submitted via email. It should be noted that material which may be deemed to be personal, offensive or discriminatory has been redacted, however Councillors have been provided with the un-redacted content to ensure they have received all information.
3. **Verbal Submissions** - No verbal submissions have been requested for the Special Council meeting on Tuesday 20 June 2023.
4. **Audit and Risk Committee** - At the special Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 5 June 2023, the Committee reviewed the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget and the below recommendation be presented for Council resolution at the special Council meeting on 27 June 2023.
2. *That the Audit and Risk Committee feedback on Council's Draft 2023/2024 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget and/or the associated processes and risks, as follows:*
- *Consideration should be given of the potential implications of Adelaide CPI (March 2023) in its final Annual Business Plan and Budget considerations.*
 - *Note the feedback regarding how to represent the total rate revenue increase.*
 - *Page 11 - update the Capital table to reconcile the Expenditure summary on page 6.*
 - *Consideration should be given to Federal assistance grants and local roads and community infrastructure timing and impact on both the Budget Review 3 2022/2023 and draft 2023/2024 Annual Business Plan and Budget.*
 - *That Council convey to the Valuer-General the Audit and Risk Committee recommendation for the earlier receipt of property valuation data for 2024/2025.*
- be incorporated with the public consultation feedback to be presented to the Special Council meeting to be held on the 27 June 2023 for consideration of the adoption of the Draft 2023/2024 Annual Business Plan and Budget.*

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act Section 123 (4) and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2023/2024 is aligned with the City of Mount Gambier Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

COUNCIL POLICY

[R105 Draft Rating Policy 2023/2024](#)

[R130 Rates General Matters](#)

[R155 Rate Rebate Policy](#)

[P195 Community Consultation and Engagement](#)

[B300 Budget Framework Policy](#)



ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

VALUE FOR MONEY

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The community consultation timelines and approach was aligned with that defined in the Local Government Act and Council's Policy P195 Community Consultation and Engagement Policy defines community consultation as being "part of community engagement and means a planned process by which the Council formally invites its constituents and stakeholders to comment about matters upon which Elected members are to deliberate."

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Nil

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Following a series of workshops and committee consideration, Council endorsed the 2023/2024 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for the purposes of public consultation and received three submissions from the community.

The four formal submissions are included in/attached to this report for Elected Member review.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Submissions - Community Consultation - 2023/2024 Draft Annual Business Plan [↓](#)



[REDACTED]
To: [City Emails](#)
[REDACTED]
Subject: Rate increases
Date: Monday, 29 May 2023 7:36:54 AM

Attention Mayor Martin and Mount Gambier City Councillors,

I am writing to provide feedback on your most recent rate rise announcement. I think it is a disgrace that you think it is appropriate for you to raise homeowners rates at this time. The council has been living beyond its means and now wants homeowners who are being smashed with inflation and the devaluation of the Australian dollar to foot your bill.

Your council has chosen to go on a spending spree with little accountability or transparency and now you want us to foot the bill. The Wulanda swimming centre build went over budget and no-one has been held accountable. You have lost focus on your core business which is to be answerable to the rate payers. You engage in woke morally repugnant virtue signalling like the Drag Queen story time and do not reply to correspondence complaining about the radical gender ideology being pushed through the Mount Gambier Library.

Our parks and playgrounds are in need of attention and we still do not have hard rubbish collection. Stop spending a fortune on white elephant projects so you can all pat yourselves on the back and get back to the core business of council. Speak to local business owners like I do and address the red tape and council apathy toward improving the local business environment.

We have had enough and will be waiting and watching for the next elections. You lot need to go.

[REDACTED]
Mount Gambier Resident and Ratepayer

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.



To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [City Emails](#)
Date: COUNCIL RATE RISE
Saturday, 27 May 2023 4:59:29 PM

Attn: Lynette Martin

I write with regards to your suggestion for Feedback on the 6.2% Council Rate Rise. Soon you wont have any Rate Payers as they'll all be homeless like so many in our area.

Firstly, do you have any comprehension on how hard residents are doing it presently, I'm sure you do but clearly don't care..... Mortgage repayments have doubled in some cases, groceries have sky rocketed, fuel is through the roof because of a fake war in Ukraine, Utilities are still rising, and yet you, the Council cannot manage our funds appropriately without persecution to City Council Residents yet again. Seems each project you undertake in this town you manage to exceed budget by Millions, and then expect Rate Payers to pick up the slack time after time. We are so done with this nonsense, we are fed up, with you, your cronie council members who act as if we're back in the ice age.... Pull your socks up, do something for residents and stop the rip off increases. The hardest decision this council has to make is what pair of shoes to wear each day, there is no care factor for residents whatsoever.

Please explain to us, when building the centre on Margaret Street, if careful planning was undertaken at the time of initiation, when quotes and contractors were being instigated HOW ON EARTH could this centre have blown out to the extent that it did, if reliable contractors and quotes were obtained ??? I am quite certain that this has escalated the deficit you are now predicting.

The other complete failure in our town is ROADS. Our roads in many areas of this town have completely collapsed. They are not vehicle worthy – expectations that are vehicles have to be “Roadworthy” has nothing on the state of our streets and highway. They are an absolute joke the patches and band-aids all over our streets is quite laughable presently. Imagine the thoughts of visitors to our region, having to repair their vehicles whilst driving on crater filled streets.

Tyre businesses in town are noticing severe increases in damage to customers tyres & rims due to the state of our roads. I personally had to spend over \$700 because of a Pot Hole on Wehl St North. Naturally no one wanted to own it or care, just pass the buck. Blocked drains over town who's responsible for these ? Street Sweepers do they still exist ? Never see one in our residential area, unless we request it. How about tidying up our town, it's untidy and a disgrace but I guess 3 council members leaning on a shovel will do that.

Another failure of late... Our council bins... Our collection day at [REDACTED] is Monday. For several months now we have waited some days until Thursday to have recycling or greenwaste collected having to leave our bins roadside for this period, great service – NOT. Most occasions we're told lack of staff or trucks have broken down, well here's a suggestion for you – How about spending our council rates on fixing those trucks ? Just a thought.

Elected Rainbow Council Members have more interest in attending a Drag Queen book reading than giving any consideration to residents. And please – AVOIDABLE LANDFILL TO ZERO BY 2030



What a joke, come on now if you believe this will happen then the circus has left you behind – Or does this involve a 15 minute city for us ? AGENEDA 2030 seems so far from conspiracy now doesn't it. Your Climate Change Agenda – all a hoax, and a WEF Agenda, ARE YOU SURE Klaus Schwab doesn't attend your meetings ?

Can you explain to me what we will do with the degenerating solar panels in and around our region, how will you recycle those can I please ask ? – and with the numerous wind farms in our area why aren't we seeing the benefits of these Mrs Martin ?

Can you please supply me with a Statement for the last 7 years of my council Rates paid please.

Hoping my correspondence receives consideration although I strongly doubt it, as your Agenda is clearly already set out for you, and the elected council members live so far from reality they need a space suit to breathe.

Kind Regards,



Mount Gambier



To: [City Emails](#); [Mayor Martin](#)
Cc: [Cr Max Bruins](#); [Cr Sonya Mezinac](#); [Cr Josh Lynagh](#); [Cr Paul Jenner](#); [Cr Frank Morello](#); [Cr Kate Amoroso](#); [Cr Mark Lovett](#); [Cr Jason Virgo](#)
Subject: Attn CEO, Mayor and councilors
Date: Tuesday, 30 May 2023 12:43:52 PM

To the Mount Gambier City Council

Attn:

CEO

Mayor Lynette Martin

Councilors:

Max Bruins

Sonya Mezinac

Josh Lynagh

Paul Jenner

Frank Morello

Kate Amoroso

Mark Lovett

Jason Virgo

I am writing this letter in response to the current situation I find our city in as what I believe is miss management under the current and past council, which is under Mayor Lynette Martin.

1 - I would firstly like to address the pending rate rises. Which I believe will compound ongoing financial pressure on every day households, including my own, in this current economic crisis which we are currently in as a city, state and country. Every one is doing it tough and with rising prices across the board, a rate rise is the last thing we currently need.

Can I please ask why we are supplied a "Rate Notice" with threatening communication as well if we don't pay? Any other business in town requests payment through a tax invoice for payment. Please don't insult me with a response of "It is in the Local Government Act 1999" which is actual null and void as a result of all state and federal government acts form the last 30 years being not brought in correctly within the constitution.



2 - I am disgusted how the council can sit on its hands when presented by members of the public with issues of concern and let time frames of up to five years pass with no outcome. I am sure if it was relevant to any councilors situation it would be dealt with in a timely manner.

3 - I am discussed as to how this city council has bent the knee to the world controlling factions in supporting wokeness, smart cities and segregation within our community. In relation to segregation [REDACTED] Is the a financial kick back to the council for this?

4 - I also believe the Mayor has sold Mount Gambier to a smart city plan either late 2019 or early 2020? A response on this in writing would be appreciated Mayor Lynette Martin

5 - on 27/4/2023 I forwarded an email to all elected councilor, the mayor and the CEO relating to Smart cities, and the potential 5g system, I did receive a call from Kate Amoroso, where she advised she would follow up, but I have had no other follow up, especially from Paul Jenner, as he was on the working party associated SA Power Networks

A written response would be appreciated from all above mentioned parties, on there response to the 5 mentioned points by close of business of 1/7/2023 -

[REDACTED]

Warm Regards

[REDACTED]



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5 MEETING CLOSE

