

Reference: AF11/877  
Enquiries to: Mr Mark McShane

**MAYOR  
MEMBERS**

NOTICE is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Council has been called by the Mayor, to be held at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier on the following date and time:

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 - Council Chamber – Civic Centre (commencing at 5:30 pm)

For the purpose of:

1. South East Community Legal Service Withdrawal of Funding

An Agenda for the meeting to be held tomorrow, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 at 5:30 pm is attached.



**Mark McSHANE**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

31<sup>st</sup> May, 2017  
AL

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER

Special Meeting of Council to be held Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

**COUNCIL**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Andrew Lee  
Cr Christian Greco  
Cr Mark Lovett  
Cr Josh Lynagh  
Cr Sonya Meziniec  
Cr Frank Morello  
Cr Des Mutton  
Cr Steven Perryman  
Cr Hanna Persello  
Cr Penny Richardson  
Cr Ian Von Stanke

**APOLOGY/IES:** moved that the apology from be received.  
seconded

**COUNCIL OFFICERS:** Chief Executive Officer - Mr M McShane

**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.**

**1. DEPUTATION**

Presentation by Sandy Clark - Senior Solicitor South East Community Legal Service

**2. SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - Advocating - South East Community Legal Service - Ref. AF17/241**

moved:

- (i) On behalf of the City of Mount Gambier and the Limestone Coast Region the Council expresses its extreme disappointment of the State Government's decision to withdraw all funding from the South East Community Legal Service.
- (ii) the City of Mount Gambier acknowledges The South East Community Legal Service for the critical services they provide to the community many of whom are unable to source alternative legal assistance.
- (iii) the decision by the State Government to centralise legal services to metropolitan Adelaide is unacceptable and has a direct negative impact on the regional community and is a further example of the withdrawal and centralisation of services from the regions to Adelaide.

Agenda for Special Meeting of Council, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 cont'd...

- (iv) the City of Mount Gambier formally writes to the Premier Jay Wetherall and to the Attorney General John Rau calling for the immediate and full reinstatement of funding to the South East Community Legal Service allowing for the continuity of this critical service.
- (v) the Council continues to;
- lobby the State Government to retain funding for the South East Community Legal Service, and
  - to maintain information to stakeholders and the community regarding the importance of retaining this service.

seconded

Meeting closed at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

AL

## COUNCIL REPORT NO. 09/2017

**SUBJECT: SOUTH EAST COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING**

**REF: AF17/241**

---

The Mayor reported:

The withdrawal of State Government funds from the South East Community Legal Service is another example of the State Government's disdain for the provision of services to our Limestone Coast community.

I have attempted to contact Member for Mount Gambier Troy Bell and Attorney-General John Rau to express Council's extreme disappointment and frustration about the shock closure of such a critical local service to our community. Parliament was sitting yesterday and I am awaiting a response.

Along with the recently fought reduction in local mental health facilities, the withdrawal of funding for the South East Community Legal service will greatly impact the residents of Mount Gambier and the surrounding region. The centralisation of services to metropolitan Adelaide means that legal services and advice will no longer be easily accessible to some members of the community.

I have been in contact with the South East Community Legal Service's senior solicitor Sandy Clark to gain further insight into the impact the State Government funding withdrawal will have on the community.

Further to the provision of legal advice and service, the South East Community Legal Service is very active within school legal educational programs and provides legal education to other community workers and non-government organisations, in addition to providing a connecting service to clients.

The South East Community Legal Service also provides legal services to the ever-growing Mount Gambier prison, which it would appear as a result of the services' impending closure, will soon receive no legal aid services whatsoever.

This service has been operating for 17 years and is supported by the City of Mount Gambier with peppercorn rental of the office building they are situated in on Penola Road. It is unreasonable and unacceptable that employees have been given a timeframe of just four weeks to terminate the entire service to the community.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- (i) On behalf of the City of Mount Gambier and the Limestone Coast Region the Council expresses its extreme disappointment of the State Government's decision to withdraw all funding from the South East Community Legal Service.
- (ii) the City of Mount Gambier acknowledges The South East Community Legal Service for the critical services they provide to the community many of whom are unable to source alternative legal assistance.
- (iii) the decision by the State Government to centralise legal services to metropolitan Adelaide is unacceptable and has a direct negative impact on the regional community and is a further example of the withdrawal and centralisation of services from the regions to Adelaide.
- (iv) the City of Mount Gambier formally writes to the Premier Jay Wetherall and to the Attorney General John Rau calling for the immediate and full reinstatement of funding to the South East Community Legal Service allowing for the continuity of this critical service.

Council Report No. 09/2017 cont'd...

(v) the Council continues to;

- lobby the State Government to retain funding for the South East Community Legal Service, and
- to maintain information to stakeholders and the community regarding the importance of retaining this service.

seconded

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark McShane', written in a cursive style.

**Mark McSHANE**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

31<sup>st</sup> May, 2017  
AL