



City of
Mount Gambier

ANNUAL REPORT
2023/2024

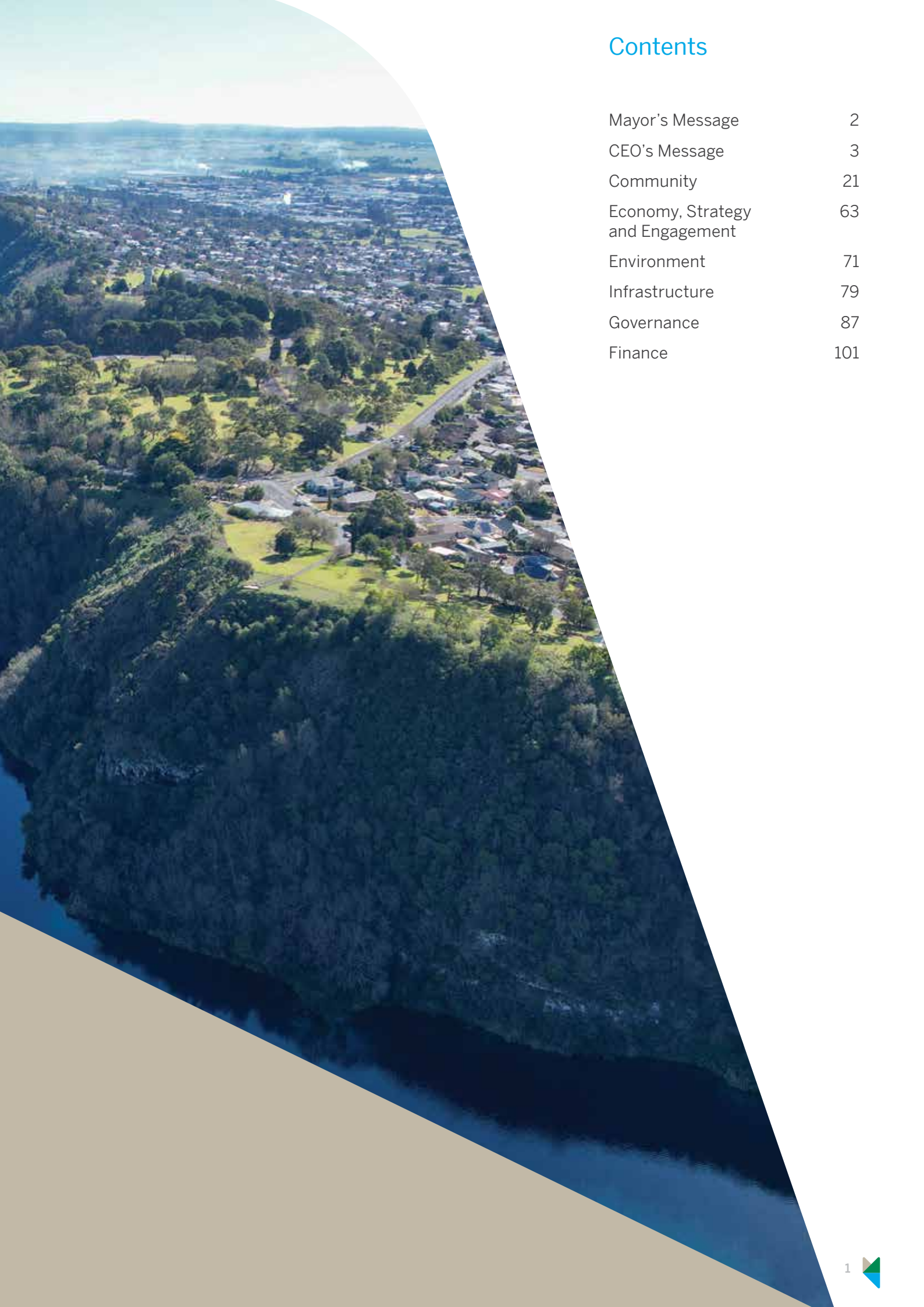




The City of Mount Gambier acknowledges the Boandik Peoples as the traditional custodians of the land Mount Gambier (Berrin) sits upon today.

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.



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I am pleased to present the City of Mount Gambier 2023/2024 Annual Report. In the second year of this Council term, we continued our focus on strategic planning to ensure our community is set up for success in the long term.

Developing and maintaining partnerships and advocating for important issues on behalf of our community is a major part of our role as Elected Members. Throughout the past year, this included the revision of the Partnership Priorities and Advocacy strategic working document which outlines initiatives to help to facilitate growth and prosperity within our community and more widely across the region and the state. This document guided many meetings and conversations with State and Federal Government representatives on various issues of importance to our community, including homelessness and housing, public transport, tourism, radiation therapy and cancer treatment, the Mount Gambier Urgent Care Clinic, and opportunities to encourage skilled migration to the region.

Council undertook many other key partnership and advocacy activities and initiatives in the 2023/2024 financial year, including Before the Bounce activities in the lead up to AFL Gather Round in Adelaide, contribution to the Limestone Coast Local Government Association's Regional Growth Strategy and a submission to the national inquiry into Local Government sustainability.

An important highlight I wish to mention is the work of the Mount Gambier 2035 community panel. A diverse group of 28 local people came together in three

separate sessions to create a draft vision for the city's future. Elected Members asked the panel to consider key elements drawn from the community consultation phase in late 2023 to inform a community vision, including future strategic priorities and how we might describe our cultural identity. Panel representatives presented their thoughts and ideas to Council, and we were in awe of their inspiring work. It was very powerful and energising to hear from panel members as they envisaged how our future could look, and they should be proud of their work and what they have achieved to help shape and guide Mount Gambier 2035: A Community Vision for our Regional Capital. Council's role was to provide strategic leadership to the panel and bring it all together. This vision captures the most powerful themes that emerged from community feedback, and I thank the panel members who committed themselves to the task of creating a vision for our city that embodies who we are and what we aspire to be.

Council undertook months of intensive discussions to balance Council's priorities in what is a difficult financial climate. Elected Members engaged in the most robust budget discussions I have been part of in my six years as Mayor, and I can assure you that no stone was left unturned to balance Council's short and long term financial obligations for creating capacity to deliver what the community expects in the years ahead. Like everyone in the community, Council is feeling the pressure of cost escalations and has attempted to minimise the impact of increasing costs for our ratepayers for several



years now. We have previously absorbed the impact of growth and rated below CPI and we are now unable to continue to absorb the true additional service and waste costs and therefore rates increased by 10.13 per cent in general rate revenue (excluding growth of 1.11 per cent).

I wish to thank my fellow Elected Members, Council staff and the Executive Leadership Team. Council is a very dynamic organisation and I am incredibly appreciative of the work of our CEO and General Managers. Our leaders are positioning Council for ongoing success. They empower staff to do the very best they can for the community, and ensure we have the right people where we need them to meet the growing level of demand within local government.

It has been a challenging year and there is always more to achieve, as the work is never done, however we remain focussed on making the best possible decisions for the benefit of our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynette Martin'.

**Lynette Martin OAM
MAYOR**

As we round out the 2023/2024 financial year, I reflect on the work of Council as an organisation, delivering many projects and outcomes in the final year of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.

We saw some big achievements this year, the Dog and Cat Management Plan, Volunteer Management Plan, Blue Lake Sports Park Master Plan, Library Strategy and an updated version of our Partnerships and Advocacy document were all endorsed by Council. We also took the next steps in the Crater Lakes activation planning. Council adopted a vision and a set of principles to balance the environmental, social and cultural aspects of this important place for our community.

The Mount Gambier 2035 project team sought feedback from the community about what we want our future to look like. This has resulted in a bold and impressive vision which will require all in our community to play a role. From Council's perspective, the vision will directly influence our next strategic plan, to be developed and adopted in late 2024.

From late November 2023 until the end of January 2024, an activation program 'Summer on Watson' ran in the Cave Garden/ Thugi and Watson Terrace on weekends as a trial. The program brought together existing and supported events and activities which included markets, live music, food and wine and yoga in the park. As the season changed, we celebrated all things footy in the lead up to the AFL Gather Round with more than 40,000 people travelling through Mount Gambier on the way to Adelaide. 'Before the Bounce' provided a program of footy based community activities and events

designed to capitalise on the influx of visitors.

Mount Gambier is well known as a land of volcanoes, crater lakes and sinkholes. Following heavy rain in winter 2023, a mysterious sinkhole opened up in the Margaret Street walkway. The sinkhole created a lot of interest, and our infrastructure team and local geoscientist Ian Lewis did a great job to carefully and safely explore the extent of the collapse. Council engineers fitted a remote-control rover with a GoPro camera on top, which went down into the sinkhole to take measurements and provide detailed footage of the volcanic ash and soil profile to enable the investigation to go ahead safely. The 'risk reducing rover' was subsequently recognised with the Local Government Risk Services Work Health Safety Best Practice Regional Merit Award as an innovative approach to a novel problem. I congratulate our team for their initiative and creativity to tackle the issue with the rover, which enabled them to come up with a plan for dealing with the hole, which was subsequently filled in early 2024.

I also congratulate the Library for recognition at the Excellence in Public Health Awards for The Haven. The Haven operates from the site and provides critical information and support to women including those experiencing family violence. This important partnership was highly commended at the awards presented at the Local Government Association AGM in November 2023.



Elected Members and the Executive Leadership Team took time throughout the year to think about the strategic direction of the organisation and the future. We worked through a very challenging budget process, exploring 30 different financial models in seven workshops to establish a budget that ensures that Council provides the services and facilities required to meet community expectations and our key financial targets to ensure long term financial sustainability for our community.

I thank our staff and Elected Members for their work to serve our community. I believe we are truly lucky to live in a city with such an engaged community, working in partnership to ensure we all enjoy the best quality of life. There is a bright future ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Philpott'.

Sarah Philpott
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Council and Committees (as at June 2024)

MRS LYNETTE MARTIN OAM
HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- CEO Performance Review Committee (Presiding Member)

EX OFFICIO

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Junior Sports Assistance Fund

OTHER POSITIONS

- Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) (President)
- Local Government Association
- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel Advisory Group
- Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal Advisory Group
- South Australian Region of Councils (SAROC) (Limestone Coast representative)

CR MAX BRUINS
DEPUTY MAYOR



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- CEO Performance Review Committee

OTHER POSITIONS

- Limestone Coast Local Government Association (proxy)
- Local Government Association (proxy)

CR SONYA MEZINEC



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- CEO Performance Review Committee
- Riddoch Arts and Cultural Trust

OTHER POSITIONS

- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Advisory Group

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 2023/2024 Annual Report can be found at www.lclga.sa.gov.au and is incorporated into the electronic version of this annual report available on Council's website.

CR KATE AMOROSO



CR JOSH LYNAGH



CR MARK LOVETT



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- Junior Sports Assistance Fund (Presiding Member)
- CEO Performance Review Committee

CR PAUL JENNER



CR FRANK MORELLO



CR JASON VIRGO



COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- Building Fire Safety Committee (Presiding Member)
- Audit and Risk Committee

OTHER POSITIONS

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

COUNCIL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- CEO Performance Review Committee

Elected Member Meeting Attendance

The following is 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 2023 to 30 June 2024.

		Meetings held	Mayor Martin	Cr Mezinac	Cr Bruins	Cr Lovett	Cr Jenner	Cr Morello	Cr Amoroso	Cr Virgo	Cr Lynagh	
Council	Meetings attended	12	12 ^P	10	12	7	12	12	9	11	9	
	Apologies		-	2	-	5	-	-	3	1	3	
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Leave of absence		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Special Council	Meetings attended	2	2 ^P	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	
	Apologies		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Leave of absence		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Audit and Risk Committee	Meetings attended	8	6*				7					
	Apologies		2				1					
	Absent (no apology)		-				-					
	Leave of absence		-				-					
Audit and Risk Committee Information/Briefing Sessions	Meetings attended	6	5				6			1		
	Apologies		1				-					
	Absent (no apology)		-				-					
	Leave of absence		-				-					
Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee	Meetings attended	4	3*								4 ^P	
	Apologies		1								-	
	Absent (no apology)		-									-
	Leave of absence		-									-
CEO Performance Review	Meetings attended	3	3 ^P	3	3			3			2	
	Apologies		-	-	-			-			1	
	Absent (no apology)							-			-	
	Leave of absence							-			-	
Information/Briefing Sessions	Meetings attended	85	74	69	82	50	82	73	24	65	71	
	Apologies		11	16	3	29	3	12	58	16	14	
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	6	-	-	3	4	-	
	Leave of absence		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	

* Ex Officio

^P Presiding Member

■ Member not appointed to committee

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 \$20,237 or \$80,948
Deputy Mayor/Presiding Member allowance (prescribed committee)	1.25 x \$20,237 or \$25,296
Councillor allowance	\$20,237
Presiding Member sitting fee (non-prescribed committee)	\$199 per meeting limited to an aggregate \$1,196 per annum

Council has determined reimbursement limits for telecommunications of up to \$1,500 per member for the council term for devices, 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 will be 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:

- \$200 per meeting or \$100 for any special meeting, and
- \$300 per meeting or \$200 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 2023/2024 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:

- Introduction to Local Government,
- Strategy/Finance Module,
- Council Leadership Workshop,
- Legal Module,
- Risk Module,
- Behaviour (Technical)/Legal Modules,
- Civic Module, and
- Principal Member Module.

The 2023/2024 budget allocation for Elected Member training and development was \$4,500 and an amount of \$7,435.47 was expended.

During 2023/2024, Elected Members were provided opportunities to participate in a varied range of training programs and briefings, including 91 information briefing sessions on matters relating to:

- Stand Like Stone Foundation - Introductory meeting with CEO Roger Babolka
- Draft Blue Lake Sports Park Master Plan
- Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce – Update/general business
- Offshore Wind Zone in the Southern Ocean - Presentation by South Eastern Professional Fishermen's Association and Southern Coast Ocean Care Committee
- Strategic project updates
- Wulanda contractual matters
- Crater Lakes Activation Plan

- Crater Lakes Trails Draft Plan
- Valley Lakes fishing stock proposal - Presentation by RecFish SA
- Unsolicited proposal
- Discussion on government relationships/Political Neutrality Policy
- Cost benefit analysis/business case - PLEC and LED lighting
- Operational update
- Contractual matters
- Personal information disclosure for the information of Councillors
- Member behavioral standards/ support policy
- Local Affordable Housing Plan toolkit and Affordable Housing Strategy
- Update on third party confidential housing initiative
- Landscape SA – Karst Springs
- South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) presentation
- Operational matters - Australia Day Breakfast and Awards Ceremony and contractual matters
- Operational update – Discussion on two legal contractual matters
- Presentation by Nathan Paine, CEO of South Australian Forest Products Association
- RDALC presentations
- Strategic plan update
- ac.care briefing - New strategic direction
- Draft Signage and Wayfinding Strategy
- Operational update - Crater Lakes fire prevention
- Operational update - Trees
- Operational update - Regulatory matter
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Dog and Cat Management Plan
- Cyber security
- Finance process and budget review 1 update
- District Council of Grant Land Use Planning Study consultation
- Introduction of Services: Focus One Health Limestone Coast
- Regional plan - Land use planning
- Audit and Risk Committee updates
- Audit and Risk Committee – Cyber security
- Audit and Risk Committee – LGRS update
- Conduct of Meetings Policy
- Confidential Items process
- Partnership Priorities and Advocacy document 2024 – 2025
- Council Elections and Reform Paper
- CBD activation
- Operational update – Tourism and civic assets
- Shared Path Master Plan and CBD audit
- Wulanda operational update
- Governance Policy matters
- Finance update - Budget review 2, Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management plans
- Updates from meetings with Mount Gambier and District Residents and Ratepayers Association
- Mount Gambier 2035 Strategic Planning session

Member Contraventions

- Audit Committee workshop
- Strategic workplan, business systems and infrastructure
- Criteria for 2024/2025 Sport and Recreation Capital Works Program
- LCLGA presentation - Connected and active communities and tourism
- Public bus service update
- Visitor servicing update
- Contractual update
- Belgravia 2024/2025 Wulanda Annual Business Plan and Budget
- Budget, contractual matters and three year work plan update
- Annual Business Plan and Budget workshops
- Recent meetings and media update
- Mount Gambier 2035 update
- Long Term Financial Plan and Infrastructure Asset Management plans
- Elector Representation Review
- SA Water update
- Legal advice
- Native Title update
- Presentation from Mount Gambier 2035 Community Panel
- Strategic planning session
- Update on legal matter
- Planet Youth – Presentation by Substance Misuse Limestone Coast
- Debrief - CBD Activation and Summer on Watson
- Railway Lands Play Space
- Special Council meeting process/location
- Budget consultation and update.

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 2023/2024 financial year.

Elected Members and staff consider public feedback on the 2023/2024 Annual Business Plan and Budget at a Special Council meeting.



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 2024 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 Council 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 with Council for timeframes and the date/times of relevant meetings. Agendas of all meetings are published not 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.

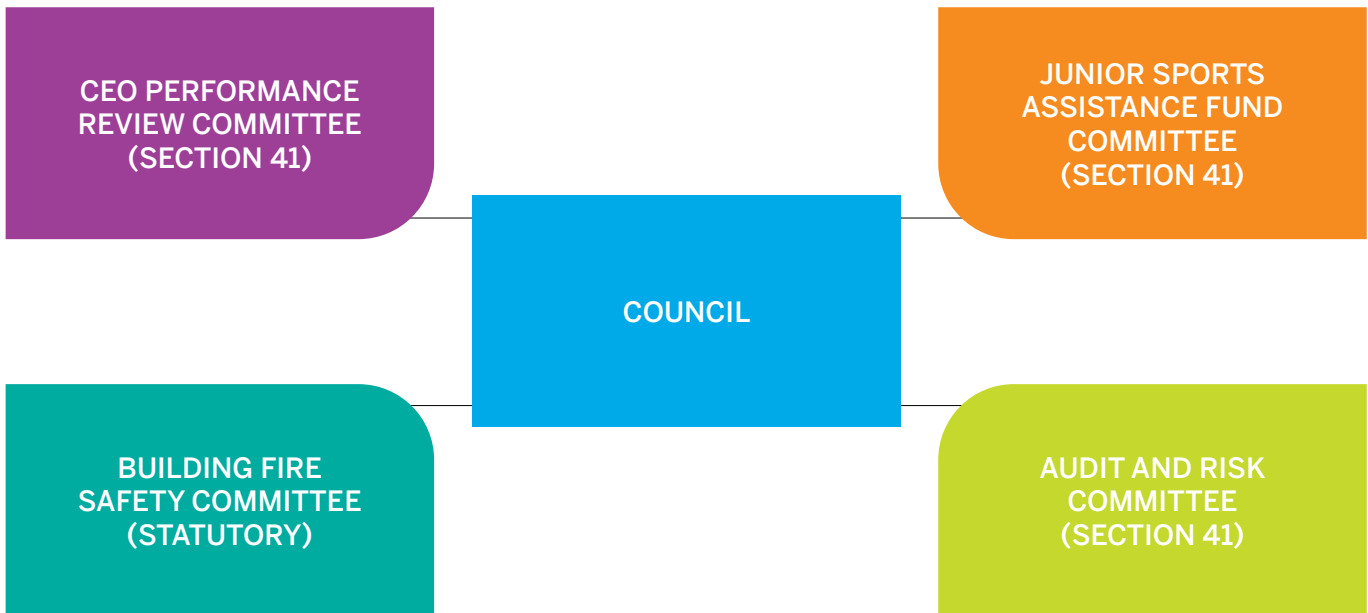
DELEGATIONS

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 2020 - 2024

OUR VISION

An inclusive city, where people lead fulfilling lives.

OUR GOALS

Mount Gambier is a thriving and successful place that people are proud to call home. This is attributed to the richness and diversity of:

- Our People,
- Our Location,
- Our Economy, and
- Our Climate, Natural Resources, Art, Culture and Heritage.

These elements contribute to the future growth and development of the city and form the goals included within Council's Strategic Plan 2020 - 2024. The plan is based on aspirations identified in the Futures Paper, Council's long term visionary plan.

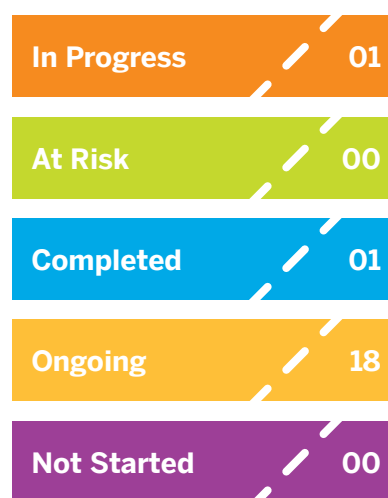
This is the final year of Council's Strategic Plan, which was endorsed in February 2020. The process to develop a new strategic plan for the next four years is scheduled for completion by November 2024.

Overall, most strategic priorities contained within the plan are in progress and ongoing.

GOAL 1: OUR PEOPLE

This goal brings together five key themes that affect our people – whether they live, work, study or visit Mount Gambier. We seek to grow the city and the communities from which it is comprised.

Under each theme, Council made a strategic commitment and defined success. The graphics below outline how we are tracking against these commitments.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES UPDATE

- A Volunteer Management Plan and Volunteer Management Policy was endorsed by Council in October 2023 and its implementation has commenced.
- A new Grants and Sponsorship Policy was endorsed by Council in May 2024 and implementation has commenced. Two community forums were hosted ahead of the first round being open to submissions which were both well attended.

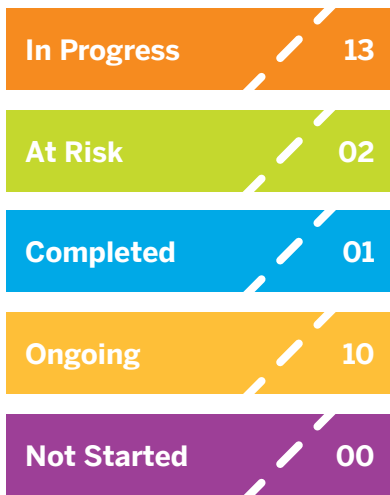


- Final concept plan for a Learn to Ride space at the Railway Lands was adopted by Council in June 2024.



GOAL 2: OUR LOCATION

This goal brings together five key themes to attract people, business and industry to our location – including our geography, our role as a regional centre and our natural and manmade assets. We want to continue to tell our story to a wider audience – whether it is those who want to visit, or relocate their business or family.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES UPDATE

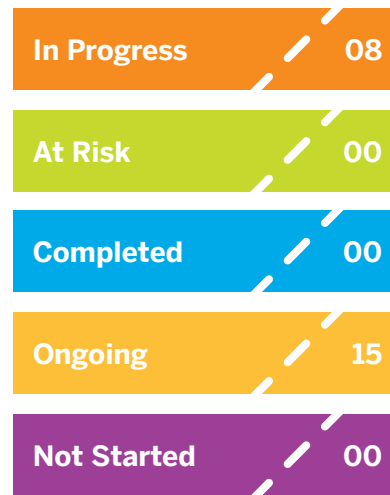
- A Shared Path Master Plan, featuring identified priorities, was endorsed by Council in April 2024. Implementation will occur as funding is identified.



- A Wayfinding Strategy was endorsed by Council in November 2023.
- A new visitor servicing model was developed which includes digital and printed assets and placement of visitor servicing expertise where we can curate the storytelling of our unique landscape.
- A digital platform to house attraction and investment content is in development.

GOAL 3: OUR DIVERSE ECONOMY

This goal brings together five key themes that strengthen our economy and provide the right landscape for industry and business to thrive in our community. A diverse economy provides a greater range of opportunities and helps provide a degree of resilience during economic downturns.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES UPDATE

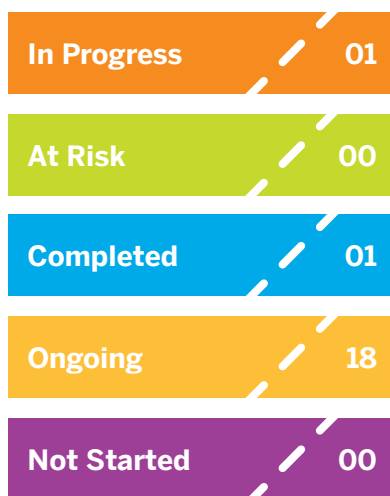
- Continued advocacy for equity of investment regarding public bus services.
- An Affordable Housing Plan for Mount Gambier was circulated for community consultation and was endorsed by Council in July 2024.
- A Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy was endorsed by Council in November 2023. Waste management master planning is underway.



- Continued to see a reduction in domestic waste to landfill. A 1.6 per cent reduction resulted in a 53 per cent diversion of recyclable materials from landfill.

GOAL 4:
OUR CLIMATE, NATURAL RESOURCES, ART, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

This goal brings together five key themes that help tell the story of our community and improve quality of life by giving us a sense of place and a clean, green, creative environment. Ensuring we look after our environment and celebrate the achievements of our community assists our capacity to thrive.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES UPDATE

- The Blue Lake Sports Park Master Plan was endorsed by Council in July 2023.



- Four master plans have been prioritised and endorsed by Council for delivery over the next three years for Umpherston Sinkhole/ Balumbul, Vansittart Park, Olympic Park and Hastings Cunningham Reserve.
- The Crater Lakes Trails Plan was endorsed by Council November 2023.
- The Beacon Art Project process has begun and an assessment panel convened. Marketing strategy and implementation planning is ongoing.

GOAL 5:
OUR COMMITMENT

Council has determined the following principles to ensure delivery against the Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024. These principles underpin all decisions made by Council. They guide strategic planning, processes, service delivery and the management of assets.

Our commitment – the City of Mount Gambier will be:

- Sustainable
- Transparent
- Responsive
- Involving
- Values-based
- Effective

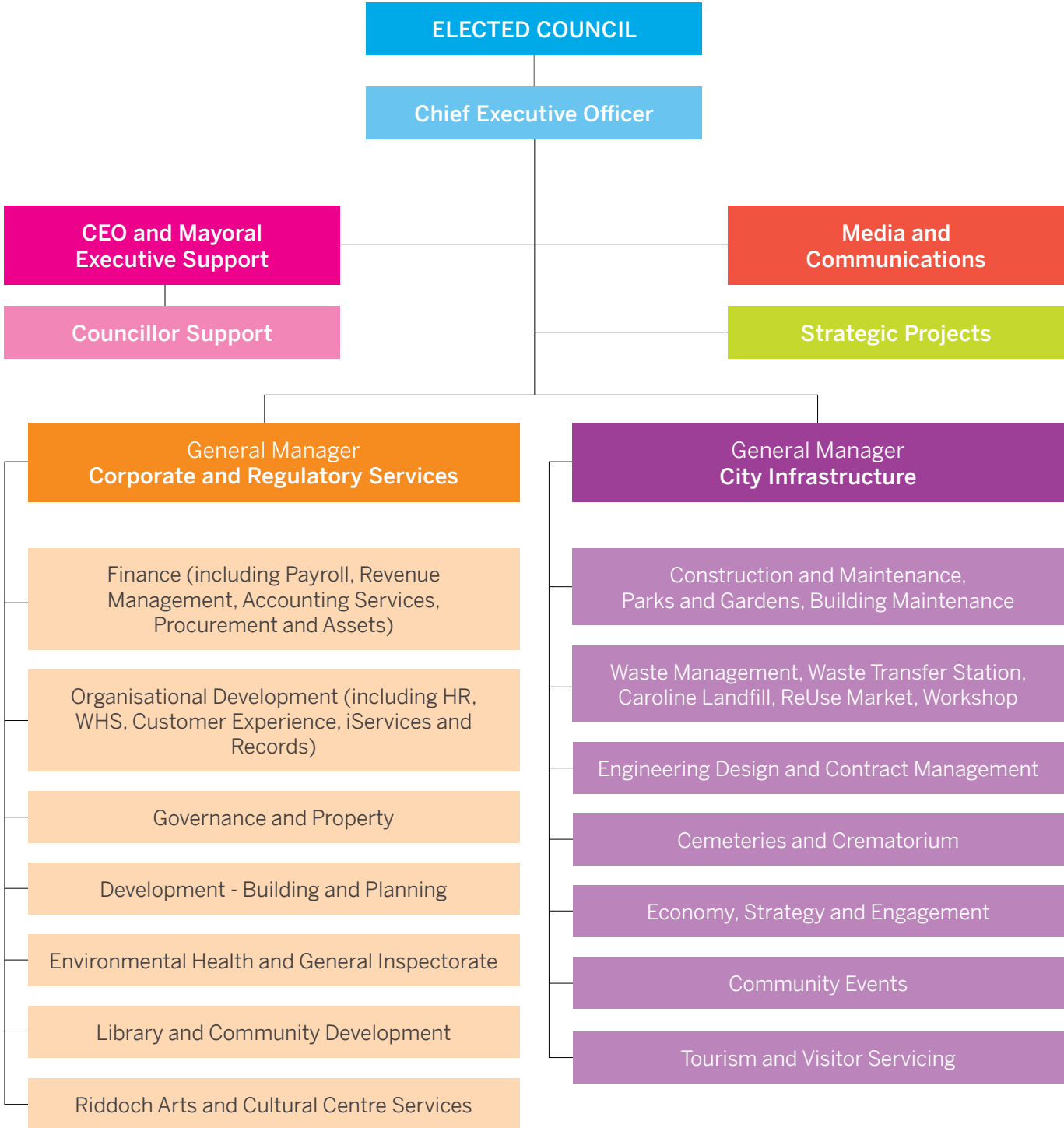
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES UPDATE

- Ongoing review and continuous improvement of Council policies, principles and procedures.
- Review of Asset Management plans.
- Continued implementation of relevant changes in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* reforms.
- Ongoing implementation and refinement of the Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework and appropriate governance.
- Worked in collaboration with the community to develop Mount Gambier 2035 – A community vision for our regional capital.



- Commenced implementation of the Volunteer Management Plan, making improvements to onboarding and safety for volunteers.
- Continued focus and development of a strategic risk register and broader risk management framework.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



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	\$179,000- \$197,470	

* One General Manager position vacant throughout 2023/2024.

General Manager City Infrastructure Barbara Cernovskis (left), Chief Executive Officer Sarah Philpott and General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services Jane Fetherstonhaugh.



INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SUMMARY

During the 2023/2024 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
20/06/2024 – 21/06/2024	Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Customer Service and Retail Officer	Regional gallery site visits - Horsham, Hamilton and Warrnambool, Victoria.	\$200
22/05/2024 – 24/05/2024	Manager Development Services	Planning Institute of Australia Planning Congress 2024 – Melbourne, Victoria.	\$3,440
09/11/2023	General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services	Local Government IT Summit – Melbourne, Victoria.	\$800
26/10/2023	Workshop Team Leader	Quality Control Inspection of Garbage Compactor, Bucher Municipal – Melbourne, Victoria.	\$600
13/09/2023 – 14/09/2023	Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement	National Regions Rising Summit, Regional Australia Institute - Canberra, ACT.	\$2,200

GIFTS AND BENEFITS SUMMARY

- **10 x tickets - Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce and Women in Business and Regional Development 2023 Business Awards**

Provided to Council as an event sponsor.

Distributed to 3 x Elected Members and 7 x employees.

Total value \$1,250 (\$125.00 each).

- **3 x VIP tickets - Borderline Speedway 30th Kings Challenge**

Provided to Council as an event sponsor.

Distributed to Elected Members.

Total value \$240 (\$80.00 each).

- **9 x tickets - 2024 Women in Business and Regional Development International Women's Day Breakfast**

Purchased by Council in support of Women in Business and Regional Development.

Distributed to 1 x Elected Member and 8 x employees.

Total value \$340 (\$35.00 each plus booking fee).

- **10 x tickets - Limestone Coast Support Homeless People Luncheon**

Purchased by Council in support of ac.care.

Distributed to 2 x Elected Members and 8 x employees.

Total value \$1,000 (\$100.00 each).

- **8 x tickets - 2024 Fantasy Medieval Fair**

Provided to Council as an event sponsor.

Distributed to Elected Members and employees.

Total value \$460 (\$57.50 each).

- **8 x corporate box season tickets - Pioneers Basketball home games**

Provided to Council as a community partner sponsor.

15 home games were played and the eight tickets were offered to Elected Members and employees throughout the season.

Total value \$7,920 (\$66.00 each).

- **30 x standard tickets – Pioneers Basketball home final**

Provided to Council as a community partner sponsor.

Distributed to employees.

Total value - \$720 (\$24 each).

EMPLOYEES BY PORTFOLIO

Portfolio	Male	Female	Non-binary	Total
Office of the CEO	0	7	0	7
Corporate and Regulatory Services	6	27	0	33
City and Community Growth	10	41	1	52
City Infrastructure	65	10	0	75
Totals	81	85	1	167

Total number of employees: 167

Full time equivalents: 144

VOLUNTEERS

City of Mount Gambier is fortunate to have volunteers offering support across multiple areas within the organisation, enhancing our capacity to deliver services.

Volunteers can often be found at the Mount Gambier Library, The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre, ReUse Market, Valley Lake/Ketla Malpi Conservation Park and providing assistance to community events.

Some of our valued volunteers are featured on pages 44 and 45.

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 and healthy workplace for staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors by eliminating or minimising hazards and risk, providing a safe and supportive work environment.

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, MAYBO conflict training, and disability inclusion training.



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 2020 - 2024 Strategic Plan.

▶▶▶ LEAD	CONNECT	DELIVER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
		

RISK REDUCING ROVER

City of Mount Gambier was recently awarded the regional Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme Work Health Safety Best Practice Merit award for a local initiative known as the 'risk reducing rover'.

This innovative but simple solution consisted of purchasing a remote-controlled buggy, equipping it with a GoPro camera and LED torch, and securely connecting it to a rope line enabling the Margaret Street sinkhole base, which opened spontaneously in June 2023, to be explored safely.

Thank you to Local Government Risk Services and Local Government Association of South Australia for recognising this innovative and low-cost approach to a novel problem.



Risk reducing rover.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

City of Mount Gambier endorsed a Volunteer Management Plan and policy in October 2023 to maximise the benefit of volunteering for more than 100 people who actively donate their time to Council, and future volunteers.

Volunteers are identified as workers under the *South Australian Work Health & Safety Act (2012)* and have the same rights and responsibilities as paid workers.

Council volunteers work at the Library, ReUse Market and Waste Transfer Station, the Riddoch, the Valley Lakes/Ketla Malpi Conservation Park and also support the community events team.

“Volunteers provide such a valuable contribution to Council and we know that the services and programs they support wouldn’t be able to operate at their current capacity without them,” CEO Sarah Philpott said.

“We know that volunteering plays a key role in sustaining healthy, resilient communities and contributes significantly to the quality and vibrancy of our community.”

In the development of the Volunteer Management Plan, the project team undertook a benchmarking exercise against the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement. A volunteer experience survey was also conducted.



Library volunteers Erin McIntyre and Helen Stratford.

“As a result of this work, the plan addresses any gaps and inconsistencies and aims to improve the experience for our volunteers in addition to supporting our community to reach a higher volunteer participation rate.”

Local women Helen Stratford and Erin McIntyre have volunteered their time at the Mount Gambier Library for nine and 10 years respectively and both say it provides them with a strong sense of personal satisfaction.

“I currently volunteer on Thursdays each week for a few hours and I just love it. I love reading and it’s such a friendly place, the staff are terrific and I’ve made some great friends,” Mrs Stratford said.

“I was retired and looking to do something and my time at the Library has been very rewarding. The people are so nice and I enjoy going down there for the company. I have become quite good friends with some of the other ladies who volunteer,” Mrs McIntyre said.

Richard Radley has been volunteering at the Mount Gambier ReUse Market for the past two years after seeing firsthand how busy the team looked on a market day, so he thought he’d put up his hand to help.

“I’m usually out at the ReUse Market three or four days a week, any maintenance donations might need, I fix them up and get them ready to sell. All they need is a bit of love and care,” Mr Radley said.

“We know that people who volunteer are more likely to take part in other aspects of community life and that communities that harness volunteers are more resilient. We thank our volunteers for all their support and are pleased to have formalised the Volunteer Management Plan and policy for their benefit,” Ms Philpott said.

COMMUNITY



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Mount Gambier 2035: A community vision for our regional capital

As South Australia’s regional capital, Mount Gambier serves as a central point to access essential infrastructure, services, business, employment and education not only for local residents, but also for those in surrounding areas.

A lot has changed in Mount Gambier since the previous vision was outlined in 2011 – The Futures Paper. This is why, hand in hand with the community, Council facilitated the development of a new community vision - Mount Gambier 2035.

DEVELOPING THE COMMUNITY VISION

Mount Gambier 2035 was developed by the local community between November 2023 and June 2024. Council encouraged residents, workers, students, visitors, business owners, and those connected to the city to contribute to the vision.

Mount Gambier 2035 was developed across five phases.

Community members and key stakeholders contributed stories, ideas and perspectives throughout the first two consultation phases.

Phase 1: Exploration of community vision

NOV-DEC 2023

We spoke with the community about what we collectively value, what we want to be known for, and what we can do together as we approach 2035.

Phase 2: Exploration of the key themes

JAN-MAR 2024

We analysed the community feedback and facilitated a series of targeted conversations and interviews to explore key themes.

Phase 3: Shaping Mount Gambier 2035

APR-MAY 2024

We developed the draft Community Vision based on the recommendations provided by a community panel.

Phase 4: Sought final community feedback

JUN 2024

The final draft was presented to the community for feedback.

Phase 5: Council endorsement

JUL 2024

Mount Gambier 2035 was presented to Council for final endorsement.

Councillors Frank Morello (left), Sonya Meziniec, Max Bruins, Jason Virgo and Paul Jenner with Mayor Martin and the Mount Gambier 2035 promotional banner.



PHASE 1:

440

submissions responding to questions on the Have Your Say Mount Gambier website.

2,000+

postcards distributed throughout the community with post boxes located at Council sites for the 165 responses received.

4

drop-in sessions set up at key community events where members of the community could come for a conversation and provide their feedback.

40+

submissions to the Young Thinkers competition where people under the age of 18 provided their feedback and input.

This feedback assisted Council to identify important key themes to consider while shaping the vision for the future of Mount Gambier.

In approaching 2035, Mount Gambier, as South Australia's regional capital is:

1. A city with considered population targets achieving sustainable, high-quality services, opportunity and activity.

2. A city committed to preserving and enhancing our environment through sustainability and custodianship.

3. A proud, inclusive and welcoming city with known values and community connection.

4. A safe and supportive city with a focus on the health and wellbeing of its people.

5. A vibrant and creative city with a living narrative, that owns and celebrates its rich cultural identity.

6. A thriving and resilient city which elevates its profile, based on its unique environmental and economic landscape.

7. A well-planned and interconnected city with robust infrastructure supporting sustainable growth.



Mount Gambier 2035: A community vision for our regional capital

The themes informed targeted engagement activities undertaken with key stakeholders and community members in the second phase of the project.

PHASE 2:

9

roundtable forums with more than 100 key stakeholders and subject-matter experts.

16

focus group discussions and interviews with key stakeholders and subject matter experts.

1,900

visitors to the Mount Gambier 2035 Have Your Say page, including 587 informed and 177 engaged participants.

A series of strategic workshops with Elected Members and Council staff to explore the community feedback.

In phase three of the process, the Mount Gambier 2035 community panel used the community feedback to inform their thinking and discussions to shape the city's draft vision for the future.

Forty-four community members were independently selected for the Mount Gambier 2035 community panel and made up a representative sample of our community. Of the 44, 28 community members attended three sessions. These individuals brought their diverse expertise, ideas and life experience to the table to review and reflect on the feedback from our community in responding to the following task set by Council:

- What are the key elements that will inform the vision for Mount Gambier 2035?
- What should the strategic priorities for our community as we approach 2035?
- How might we describe our cultural identity as a city?



City of Mount Gambier Mayor Lynette Martin addresses the Mount Gambier 2035 community panel members at their first session at City Hall.

Mount Gambier 2035 community panel members and Council facilitators present at the third session held at Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre on 26 May 2024.



Participants were split into three groups to explore and address the individual topics: the overarching vision, strategic priorities, and cultural identity.

The vision group focussed on developing a statement that captures the city's inherent strengths and shared values of family, connection, growth and nature. They created a statement to serve as an overarching message for approaching the city's future: 'A volcanic past with a crystal-clear future'.

The group envisions that by 2035, Mount Gambier will be 'A connected hub nestled on the slopes of an ancient volcano; a haven of natural beauty. It will be a place of stories, where our community is family, nurtured through growth, opportunity and connection'.

The strategic priorities group identified five priorities to represent the key focus areas that will contribute to achieving the vision for the future:

- Environment and liveability: We are custodians of the landscape, committed to protecting and preserving our natural environment, creating a liveable city.
- Learning and innovation: A regional learning hub that fosters innovation and local industries.
- Infrastructure and services: A high quality, affordable lifestyle where people are happy, healthy and housed and able to access all available resources.
- Economic and business growth: A creative, entrepreneurial mindset that creates a thriving, resilient community.



Members of the vision team present at the third panel session: Caroline Bradshaw (left), Alison Whibley, Belinda Cook, Matthew Crowden, Ruth Mott and Shayne Haggis.



Members of the strategic priorities team present at the third panel session: Lynette Corletto (left), Michael Collins, Ancy Joseph, Johnathan Pople and Mike Stevens. Tessa Deak attended virtually.

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

Mount Gambier 2035: A community vision for our regional capital

The cultural identity group considered what it means to be from 'the Mount' and what it looks and feels like when Mount Gambier is at its best.

'A volcanic past with a crystal clear future.'

The community panel presented their recommendations to Council on 28 May 2024 to ultimately inform the final draft of Mount Gambier 2035.

The community vision was endorsed by Council in July 2024.

Achieving the vision will require a collaborative approach involving the entire community. The vision will directly influence Council's next strategic plan, which will be developed and adopted by November 2024.



Community panel members Alison Whibley and Matthew Crowden present the vision group's ideas to Elected Members.

Members of the cultural identity team present at the third panel session: Alexandra Nicholson (left), Monica Hart, Shaun Dunford, Joti Prasad, Aunty Michelle Jacquelin-Furr, Aden Clarke, Ally Finnis and Le-Anne Thomson.



Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants

The Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants program provided 15 financial grants to local health students in 2024.

The program provides local students with a \$2,000 grant to help them complete their tertiary studies within the health field.

Chairperson Rodney Summers said the program delivers a unique community-led response to local essential skill shortages within the health sector.

“The program supports locals who need to leave the region to undertake university studies within the health sector, with the hope they return to the region as skilled health professionals,” Mr Summers said.

In 2024, 15 grants were provided to students who studied in different health areas, including medicine, prosthetics and orthotics, physiotherapy, psychology, occupational therapy, and paramedic science.

Occupational therapist Alycia Pitson received the Tertiary Health Education Grant in 2016 while she was completing a Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) through the University of Adelaide.

“Receiving the grant allowed me to complete the first year of my degree without having to work a part time job in Adelaide so I could focus on my studies.”

Alycia has since returned to Mount Gambier and is currently working as an occupational therapist at Country Health Connect at the Mount Gambier Hospital.

“Job opportunities working in health in regional areas are very broad compared to the city and provide great experience,” Mrs Pitson said.

“I work with paediatric clients and their families to achieve their goals and support their development. I get to meet so many beautiful children in my role and work within a multi-disciplinary team to support their families.”

The Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants 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, John and Helen Kentish and Ken and Carol Stafford.

In 2024 the program provided 15 financial grants to the following health students:

Abby Budarick	Bachelor of Oral Health (Therapy and Hygiene)
Alyssa Duncan	Bachelor of Occupational Therapy
Brianna Bates	Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Speech and Language Therapy
Claire Ferguson	Bachelor of Paramedic Practice (Honours)
Jack Lockwood	Bachelor of Physiotherapy
Jack O'Connor	Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)
Jemima Puust	Bachelor Medical Studies
Jordan Stephens	Bachelor of Physiotherapy
Lara Willoughby	Bachelor of Prosthetics and Orthotics (Honours)
Maddelyn Stevens	Bachelor of Paramedicine
Olivia Patzel	Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Occupational Therapy
Sophie Ellis	Bachelor of Speech Pathology
Tess Kenseley	Bachelor of Chiropractic
Tyne Bosko	Bachelor of Midwifery
Zarly Jones	Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)



For more information visit mountgambier.sa.gov.au/THEG

Previous Tertiary Health Education Grant recipient Alycia Pitson is now working as an Occupational Therapist in Mount Gambier.



Financial Support for Community Groups, Services and Initiatives

Council provides direct and indirect services and support to the community to improve the health, welfare, lifestyle and wellbeing of residents.

In addition to other contributions that may be referenced in this Annual Report, direct financial support was provided by Council in 2023/2024 to:

The Riddoch/City Hall hire subsidies	\$17,840
Wehl Street Theatre	\$9,500
Pioneers Basketball	\$40,000
Mount Gambier City Band	\$7,000
Mount Gambier Toy Library	\$2,000
Stand Like Stone Foundation	\$8,000



Sport and Recreation Capital Works Program

City of Mount Gambier allocated \$100,000 to four local sporting clubs following applications for the 2023/2024 Sport and Recreation Capital Works Program for projects totalling more than \$555,000.

Club	Project	Grant amount
North Gambier Football and Netball Club	Replacement of existing Vansittart Park football goal posts	\$14,500
Mount Gambier & District RSL Bowling Club	Resurfacing of Bowling Club entry road and car park	\$25,000
South Gambier Football and Netball Club	Replace clubroom carpet	\$12,500
Apollo Football Club	Female changerooms*	\$48,000
Total		\$100,000

*Did not proceed

North Gambier Football and Netball Club received a grant of \$14,500 from the program to support the replacement of the football goal posts at Vansittart Park.

The \$23,000 project enabled the removal and replacement of the goal posts that had been in place for more than 40 years and ensure underground footings were appropriately engineered in accordance with current standards.

While Apollo Football Club were allocated \$48,000 to construct new changerooms at their Webb Street premises, the project is yet to proceed due to a lack of funding from additional sources.

“We have had female teams playing at Apollo for two years now and the numbers are growing each year so investing in well-designed female change rooms isn't just about meeting a basic need; it's a step toward creating a more inclusive, empowered, and healthier community for everyone,” Apollo Football Club President Jerome England said.

The club is hoping to commence the works when further grant funding is secured.

North Gambier Football and Netball Club received a grant to support the replacement of the football goal posts at Vansittart Park.



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 17 sporting organisations who are financial members of the fund.

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

The Junior Sports Assistance Fund has generous partners who provide funds to enable additional programs. These include:

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

The financial transactions and financial position of the fund in 2023/2024 is as follows:

2023/2024 financial position	\$
Assistance to juniors	13,300
Support for special coaching clinics	-
Youth Empowerment Sports Program	3,300
Exceptional Junior funding	-
Member contributions (waived for 2023/2024)	-
Council contributions	16,000
Bank Interest earned	1,330
Donations received	1,500
Sponsorship of programs received	4,500
Cash at bank - 30 June 2024	135,187

For the 37 years of the fund's operations, the consolidated transactions to 30 June 2024 are as follows:

Fund history*	\$
Assistance to juniors	518,345
Support for special coaching clinics	113,413
Youth Empowerment Sports Program	24,100
Exceptional Junior Program	13,500
Member contributions	188,520
Council contributions	420,500
Bank Interest earned	73,701
Donations received	47,586
Sponsorship of programs received	56,150
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.*

Australian Citizenship Ceremonies

Four citizenship ceremonies were conducted by Council during 2023/2024, with a total of 91 people receiving Australian Citizenship.

Mayor Martin welcomed new residents to the city from Kuwait, Myanmar, China, Thailand, United Kingdom, South Africa, Qatar, United States, Egypt, Pakistan, Colombia, Congo, Dem Republic, Scotland, Philippines, Iran, Bangladesh, Italy, Romania, Nepal, Vietnam, Iraq, Sudan, New Zealand, Taiwan, India, Rwanda, Brazil, Venezuela and Malawi.

Originally from the United States, new Australian citizen Jeffrey Stricklin has called Australia home since 2008.

"I moved to Australia in 2008 while still deployed in Iraq. What I love most about Mount Gambier is its wonderful people and strong sense of community. It reminds me of the places I've lived in the USA, with similar weather and a welcoming atmosphere," Mr Stricklin said.

Canadian Canh Ly moved to Mount Gambier in 2021 around the beginning of Covid to help service regional South Australia as a Chiropractor. He said he was very excited to become an Australian after living in the country for 11 years.

"As a Canadian with Vietnamese heritage, I believe becoming an Australian citizen is a privilege. I have the opportunity to help my community and now my country. Canada is part of the Commonwealth and I have always felt Australian, but now citizenship feels like the common bond uniting us all," Mr Ly said.

Council invited local singers Alison Newman, Danni Reade and Zoe Aberle to attend and lead in the singing of the National Anthem at ceremonies held during 2023/2024.



Canh Thanh Duong Ly from Canada proudly shows off his Australian Citizenship certificate.



Jeffrey Stricklin receives his Australian Citizenship certificate from Mayor Martin at the Citizenship Ceremony held on 20 June 2024.

Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal

The local community donated more than \$40,000 to the 2023 Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal.

Mayor Lynette Martin is appreciative of the generosity shown by the community during challenging economic times.

"I am so grateful for the support we received for the appeal in 2023 and I thank each and every individual, group and business who chose to donate," Mayor Martin said.

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

All funds raised as part of 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, vouchers and gifts through the Christmas Cheer program.

"I would also like to thank the local agencies who distribute food, vouchers and gifts on behalf of the Christmas Cheer program. The level of need within the community was the greatest we've ever seen this past year and the funds helped them meet that demand."

"The four support agencies used the funds they received to support 816 families, including 826 adults and 626 children and teenagers over the festive season."

Young helpers assisted St Vincent de Paul volunteers to pack the toys and hampers ready for delivery to local families with children who had registered for assistance.

"Our team of volunteers assembled 33 toy boxes, each valued at up to \$120, benefiting around 97 children collectively. In addition to these generous contributions, we also prepared 112 food hampers for distribution," St Vincent de Paul representative John D'Souza said.

Six Mount Gambier Men's Shed members spent hundreds of hours crafting 130 handmade wooden toys to donate to the 2023 appeal.

"Over the past seven years the volunteers at the Men's Shed have made 1000 toys for children in our community. We love doing this to make sure that our local kids receive gifts at Christmas," Men's Shed volunteer Peter Heness said.

The Mount Gambier Library coordinated a Christmas Book Drive as part of the appeal, with 246 books generously donated by the community and distributed by the agencies involved.

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.



Salvation Army representative John Douglas (left), Mayor Martin and St Vincent de Paul representative John D'Souza with a cheque for the total donation amount of more than \$40,000 to the Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal.


Mayor Martin with Uniting Care representative Laura Kilsby (left), Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal Committee representative Suzanne Roberts, ac.care representatives Trish Spark and Deanne Swift, Salvation Army representative John Douglas and St Vincent de Paul representative John D'Souza (right).

The Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas APPEAL

City of Mount Gambier Mayor Lynette Martin OAM wishes to thank and acknowledge the community groups, businesses and individuals who supported the 2023 Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal. Thanks to this generous support, the appeal raised \$40,128.64 in 2023.

Mayor Martin also acknowledges the important work of a.c care, Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul and Uniting Care who ensure food hampers, gifts and vouchers are distributed to those who are most in need in our community each Christmas.

<p>Andrew and Angela Turner Anglican Church Bank SA Barney McCusker Bio Gro Blue Lake Carols Bucik Tyrepower Carleen Laslett Carlin and Gazzard Chamber of Commerce Chapmans Newsagency employees Christmas Parade attendees Claire Staskevicius Colin Wilson City of Mount Gambier employees Community Bank Mount Gambier David and Trudi Herbert David and Kay Turnbull Dennis Crowe Eddies Furniture G and S Morris</p>	<p>Gambier City Ladies Probus Club Gary Vandepuer Gebhardt's Real Estate Golden Oldies Green Triangle Forest Products Group Training Employment Heritage and People's Choice Limited Janelle Birks Joseph Lapatha John Williamson Julian Mattay Julienne Feast OAM K&S Freighters Lakes Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Leone McDonough Les Clode Lester and Julia Masters Liz Moriarty and Associates MJ and EJ Donovan Margaret Kaethner Maria Georgiou</p>	<p>Maureen J Childs MM Riquier Mount Gambier Central Mount Gambier Ladies Probus Club Mount Gambier Men's Shed Mount Gambier Scout Group Mount Glass and Glazing Neil Richardson Noel and Marg Doody Olivia Slattery Owen Schulz Penelope Fisher Peter Hoggood Peter Roberts Ray Scott Group Rosemary Bankes Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West Sandy O'Donnell Sarah Philpott Sheila Roach</p>	<p>Simon South East Dart Association Spencer and Sharon Buck St Martins Lutheran College Stuckey Electrical Sue Roberts Susan Briffa The Border Watch The Distributors Timberlink Tonkin Consulting Tony Pasin MP - Barker Electoral Office UFS Chemist UniSA Vicki Jackson Vicki Osbourne Mount Gambier Visitor Centre We Care Lawn Spraying Wendy Carne</p>
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Mayor Martin with Anglican Church representative Rick Fisher.



Eddie from Eddie's Furniture presented Mayor Martin with a donation of \$500 for the 2023 Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal.



The Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce donated \$600 from its 'Christmas Wrap Up' after hours shopping event held on Wednesday 6 December 2023 in the CBD.



Mayor Martin and Team Leader Library Programs Kristi Brooks with books donated to the appeal.

Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal



Julian Mattay made a generous donation to the 2023 appeal.

Mayor Martin accepted a generous donation from students at St Martins Lutheran College. The college raised funds for the appeal through various initiatives, including a Christmas market.



Mayor Martin with Mount Gambier Catholic Parish Youth Group and St Vincent de Paul volunteers.

Thank you to Timberlink for the generous \$2,000 donation to the 2023 Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal.



Mount Gambier Library

The Mount Gambier Library continues to evolve with our community.

This year has seen the opening of the new social enterprise café – operated by Kefi Supports, providing employment and upskilling opportunities to members of the community. We also launched our new collection – Library of Things. This initiative provides access to a range of items and activities for people to borrow. This not only saves on waste but encourages people to try new things and access items they may not be able to afford.

This year also saw the Library pilot the Words Grow Minds campaign, which has now been rolled out across South Australia enabling its continuation in Mount Gambier. Our under five programs support this campaign leading to increased school readiness for our future leaders.

The first year of the implementation of the library strategy is complete with many commitments achieved, as detailed throughout this report. We look forward to continuing this commitment throughout the second year of the strategy.

Our regular programs are evolving as our community needs change. You'll still see Baby Bounce, Move and Groove, Storytime and STEAM, while Lego has made a return alongside some additional after school programs. We always aim to provide something for everyone and are open to suggestions and feedback.



192,285

Visitors



5,964

New items



17,004

Program participants



12,568

Active members



1,224

Total programs



312,466

Loans

Physical loans 243,552
E-loans 68,914



Mount Gambier Library

INTRODUCTION OF 'LIBRARY OF THINGS'

Mount Gambier Library customers now have access to more than just books, with the introduction of Library of Things – an array of items that can be borrowed to create memories, enhance skills or try something new at home.

From pasta machines and board games such as Twister to Google Chromecast and Bocce sets, Mount Gambier Library of Things, launched in July 2023, allows customers to borrow items they might not otherwise have access to.

"Sometimes people don't just need a book on cooking; they need the equipment too," Manager Library and Community Development Georgina Davison said.

"Items such as the karaoke machine, the popcorn maker and the slushie machine are super popular for hosting children's parties."

The introduction of the Library of Things not only saves Library members money by not having to purchase their own, but it also aims to reduce waste.

"We all have those gimmick items that we purchase, and they only see the light of day once; they are either pushed to the back of the cupboard or end up in landfill. Now customers can borrow from the Library of Things guilt free, and it's passed on to the next person," Ms Davison said.

With new items being added to the collection regularly, members are encouraged to visit the Library and view the display of items available for borrowing.

"It's a great reminder that Library membership is free and gives you access to information, services, materials and now a whole lot more."

Manager Library and Community Development Georgina Davison (left) and Team Leader Library Operations Sally Mann with items available to borrow through the Library of Things.



BOOKMARKED BY KEFI'

A social enterprise training café opened at the Mount Gambier Library in July 2023. 'Bookmarked By Kefi' is a new concept delivered by local service Kefi Supports to help local people into work.

"Our motto for the café is that everyone is capable to contribute to society in a positive manner," Kefi Supports CEO Toby Harrap said.

Staff have been employed to work in the café with assistance from an individual support worker when required.

"All of the support staff we have hired are all neurodivergent, so they have autism, extreme anxiety or ADHD," Mr Harrap said.

"We have got a group of people who are on supported wages, so they have the capability to work, but they may not be able to work in the pressure of a standard work environment. They may just need that extra help, so that's why we have our support workers on, just to back them up."

Mr Harrap said that the café provides opportunities for people who may feel overwhelmed by a full time job, but still want to contribute to the community.

Kefi Supports hopes to work with local educational providers and cafes to upskill staff.

"Libraries are all about lifelong learning, so this partnership with Bookmarked by Kefi really makes sense," Manager Library and Community Development Georgina Davison said.

"The café provides a point of difference in supporting local people to develop their skill set and confidence through Kefi, and I know our community enjoy their hospitality."



Manager Library and Community Development Georgina Davison (left) with Kefi Supports CEO Toby Harrap and Bookmarked by Kefi staff member Laura Hinge.

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS 2023 – THE HAVEN

In October 2023 City of Mount Gambier was awarded highly commended regional council at the Minister for Health and Wellbeing - Excellence in Public Health Awards 2023 for community domestic violence initiative The Haven.

The award recognises the outstanding contribution of this initiative in promoting and protecting health and wellbeing within the local community and region through public health action. The Haven operates from the Mount Gambier Library and provides critical information and support to women including those experiencing family violence.

Mayor Lynette Martin was proud to accept the award on behalf of the initiative from South Australia Chief Public Health Officer Professor Nicola Spurrier at the Local Government Association Annual General Meeting in Adelaide.



The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

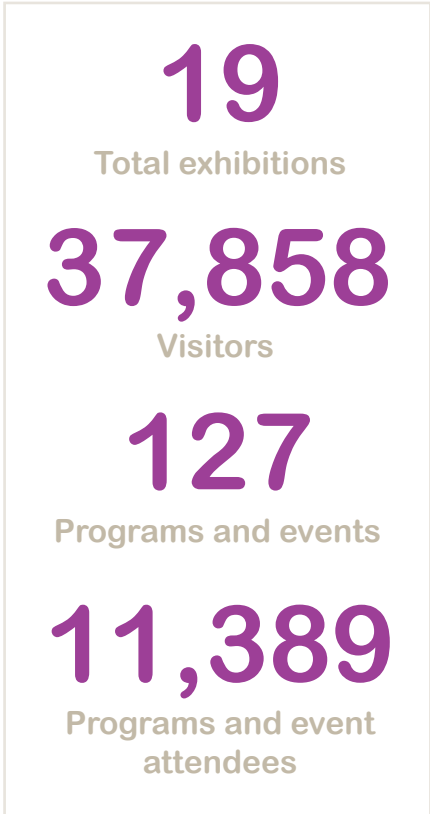
The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre’s vision is to be the flagship regional gallery in the Limestone Coast, featuring original and touring exhibitions that reflect our rich cultural identity.

Maintaining a collection valued at more than \$4 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.



RIDDOCH WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

City of Mount Gambier welcomed Ashleigh Whatling as the new Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Director in November 2023.

The Adelaide born curator has experience working in the arts and cultural sectors in South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland and is settling into her new role in Mount Gambier, a position she had her eye on for a while.

"I am happy to be here and be closer to my family and friends. I really want to understand what this community is interested in and how we can elevate that into art exhibitions that draw people in and tell stories about who we are," Ashleigh said.

"The Riddoch has an excellent reputation for programming within the regional arts network and I would like to continue to develop that reputation of national significance in terms of cultural conversation."

"The Riddoch is strongly positioned to become a destination gallery as we are within driving distance of Adelaide and Melbourne. I'd like to continue to focus on developing our original programming because there is a lot of talent in the region. We can encourage people from further afield to come and spend time in Mount Gambier and one of the ways we can do that is by having a flagship gallery."

Ashleigh studied a double masters degree in Art History and Museum and Curatorial Studies at the University of South Australia. Following an internship, she was employed as a full time Curatorial Assistant at Samstag Museum of Art in 2011.

"It was a wonderful place to work, and I learned the ropes of collection management, artist liaison, publication research and development, arts administration and marketing and front of house presentation. I got to cut my teeth in a prestigious environment - a purpose-built gallery with a high functioning team."

In 2017 Ashleigh was appointed as Curator of Visual Arts and Design at QVMAG in Launceston, Tasmania, the largest regional gallery in Australia. Here she managed a small curatorial team responsible for a large collection of furniture, works on paper, paintings, sculpture, textiles, ceramics and photography spanning 250 years of practice.

"I was also responsible for delivering a schedule of changing and permanent exhibitions across 11 galleries. As part of that, we closed the permanent Colonial and Federation galleries and we reopened them with much more contemporary and inclusive permanent displays of the collection that told multiple stories and also included 13 new commissions."

In 2019 Ashleigh was promoted to Senior Curator of Visual Arts and Design within QVMAG which involved strategic planning for the gallery.

"We managed to pull off major change in the gallery and draw national attention during that time, which I am very proud of."

In 2021 Ashleigh made the move to regional Queensland after she was appointed Director of the Hervey Bay Regional Gallery.

"This position gave me the opportunity to re-open the gallery after a two-year closure due to COVID and develop and launch a strategic plan."

Ashleigh plans to build on her previous success at Hervey Bay and Launceston with a focus on hyper local content - stories that can't be told anywhere else.

"Hyper local content is really what will draw people from other places and Mount Gambier is really rich in stories that only we can tell, the volcanic landscape is rich with stories."

"Artists are always drawn to these dramatic landscapes, so I'm keen for the Riddoch to become a place for original content you can't find anywhere else," Ashleigh said.

"I think storytelling is at the core of what regional galleries can do. There is an opportunity to further build connections with our Boandik community and understand our stories and how they relate to the deep history of this place."

Riddoch Art Gallery Director Ashleigh Whatling.



The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

CREATIVE ARTS FUND

City of Mount Gambier endorsed two projects, including an interactive mural and community weaving project, as part of the 2023/2024 Creative Arts Fund.

The program supports artists, community groups and not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects that contribute to a connected, vibrant, culturally diverse community.

“The Creative Arts Fund selection panel were very pleased to be recommending the two successful applications for funding,” Acting Manager Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Ben Kilsby said.

“Each year the Creative Arts Fund attracts a diverse range of applications, representing the broad interests and creative capacity of our arts community. The successful proposals this year reflect this and will provide high-quality public art or extensive cultural development outcomes through their delivery.”

The successful applications include:

Project	Artist	Approved funds
Coming Home	Lucy Bonnin	\$18,893
Sea Weave: A community weaving project	Tabitha Williams	\$13,610



Mayor Lynette Martin is pictured at the 'Coming Home' mural at the Railway Lands which was painted by artist Lucy Bonnin.

COMING HOME – LUCY BONNIN

Artist Lucy Bonnin delivered a burst of colour to the Mount Gambier Railway Lands. The large interactive mural features colourful balloons and is located on the vacant wall in the central plaza of the Railway Lands.

Completed in April 2024, the mural complements the existing railway theme of the 'Signalling Change' artwork and adds a playful touch to appeal to the families and children attracted to the adjacent play space.

"I moved to Mount Gambier with my family at the start of 2023 and appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the community and the region's public art realm," artist Lucy Bonnin said.

"The mural is colourful, bold, and interactive. The design includes a collection of balloons symbolising joy, freedom, creativity, and hope."

"The interactive element adds to this sense of depth and allows viewers to stand at the bottom-centre of the mural and 'hold' the bunch of balloons by the string. This will create an excellent opportunity for people to take photos of themselves with the mural."

"I certainly hope this public art would help to bring life to the city for all those who live here or pass through."

SEA WEAVE – TABITHA WILLIAMS

Artist Tabitha Williams brought community members of all ages together through a series of workshops.

Participants crafted individual woven rounds that were combined to form a magnificent sculpture of algae, promoting

both the resilience and fragility of our oceans on the Limestone Coast.

"The weaving project is a collaborative endeavour that seeks to celebrate the region's coastal beauty while fostering a sense of community and raising awareness about environmental fragility," artist Tabitha Williams said.

"This project invited community members to participate in a series of weaving workshops. Guided by experienced weaving instructors, participants will learn traditional weaving techniques and contribute to the creation of a significant communal artwork that will tour the Limestone Coast."

The finished artwork is proposed to be displayed within public buildings throughout the city.

"SeaWeave supported the goal of building a socially connected and healthy community by inviting members from all sections of our community to partake in free weaving sessions. This created an avenue for people from various backgrounds to converge, interact, and collectively contribute to a shared artwork."

WINTER WONDER ROOM

The Wonder Room returned to the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre in time for winter 2023, offering a creative space for children aged four to 12, focusing on shape, colour, movement and creation.

The inaugural Wonder Room was trialled over summer in 2022/2023 and saw more than 3,000 visitors engage with the space, demonstrating the importance of having a free and



Artist Tabitha Williams.

accessible place for local families and visitors to explore their creativity.

The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre team created a space full of interesting and colourful activities to celebrate what makes winter in Mount Gambier special, encouraging children to roleplay, imagine and explore a range of hands-on or sensory-based activities.



Youth Activation Group Relaunch

City of Mount Gambier launched a new Youth Activation Group (YAG) to brainstorm and deliver ideas, events and activities to make Mount Gambier a great place for young people.

Council began the search for local young people between the ages of 15 to 25 years old keen to act on the things that matter to them and help boost the vibrancy of the city.

“We’re looking for young people who live, work, study, or play in the City of Mount Gambier area to actively participate in the YAG through regular meetings and support the delivery of activities and events that the YAG wants to deliver,” Strategic Recreation Coordinator Hayley Rowe said.

“It is well documented that meaningful youth participation helps to build self-confidence, self-esteem and leadership skills, leading to more effective decision making.”

Council received a \$5,000 Children and Youth Engagement Grant from the Commissioner for Children and Young People in 2023. The YAG’s first project will be to activate the youth space at the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre with the funds.

We need ideas of what to do in this space, which is pretty much a blank canvas. It could be painting a mural on the walls, delivering workshops/events/activities during the summer holiday break, or buying consoles/equipment to use in the room for drop in sessions – it’s totally up to the YAG,” Ms Rowe said.

Council reviewed the applications received and assessed them to form a diverse YAG that represents the community and has the skills and ambition to get things happening.

“Once the Wulanda activation project is complete, the group will continue to work with Council to activate other spaces such as the Library and a youth hub at the Railway Lands.”



YAG members Zoey, Jannika and Annapurna present their brainstormed ideas for activation of the youth space at Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre at the May 2024 meeting.

Community and Environmental Health

Food Safety	
Total food businesses currently registered	509
Facilities which require food safety audits	12
P1 (highest) risk classified food businesses	145
P2 (high) risk classified food businesses	178
P3 (medium) risk classified food businesses	106
P4 (low) risk classified food businesses	81
Complaints received by Council	
Alleged food poisoning	4
Pests in food premises	2
Poor personal hygiene or poor food handling practices	2
Unsuitable food	0
Unclean premises	3
Food recall notifications received	66
Food safety education	
New business fit-out advice and consultations	6
'I'm Alert' online non-accredited food safety training users	2,713
Food business food safety newsletters	0

Communicable Disease Control Branch mandatory notifications	
Influenza notifications	185
Food borne related illnesses – eg. Campylobacter, Salmonella	136
Varicella Virus (Chicken Pox)	28

Public Health	
Registered high risk manufactured water systems	62
Publicly accessible swimming pool and spa inspections	17
Registered hair, beauty and skin penetration businesses	92
Onsite waste water treatment system applications	4
Complaints received by Council	
Accommodation standards	2
Air pollution/odour	N/A
Waste control/yard conditions	N/A
General health complaint or enquiry/other	N/A
Hoarding and squalor	N/A
Infectious disease/notifiable disease	0
Litter control/unsightly properties	2
Sewer and on-site wastewater systems	N/A
Hairdressing/beauty salons	1
Supported residential facilities	2
Vermin (including birds, rats and mice)	3
Water quality (other than public swimming pools and spa pools)	0

Community Health	
Hazardous waste (sharps) collected at Civic Centre	N/A



509

Food businesses registered



92

Registered hair, beauty and skin penetration businesses



2,713

Online non-accredited food safety training users



National Volunteer Week

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, City of Mount Gambier hosted a morning tea to acknowledge the contribution of volunteers across the organisation.

The theme for National Volunteer Week 2024 was 'Something for Everyone'. The City of Mount Gambier has volunteer opportunities to suit people from different walks of life and we appreciate that each individual has something to offer.

At Council, volunteers work hard to enhance our capacity to deliver services in many areas including the Library, Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre, ReUse Market, Valley Lake/Ketla Malpi Conservation Park and assist with various community events throughout the year.



Cr Paul Jenner (left), Mayor Martin and Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre volunteer Phil Richards.



ReUse Market volunteers Marianne Bowd (left), Raelene Justice, Shirley Chuck and Raylene Anderson.



Library volunteers Louise Wheller (left), Helen Stratford, Marian Thompson and Cheryl Tilley.

Volunteers Phil Richards (left) and Sandy O'Donnell.



Community Events Officer Liana Golubic (second to left) with Events volunteers John Cruise and Helen and Tom Telford.



Library volunteers Marian Thompson (left), Helen Stratford and Beryl Mahoney.

Citizen of the Year Awards

The Citizen of the Year Awards acknowledge the unsung heroes of our community who make our city a better place. These individuals and organisations offer outstanding service and build strength within our community as a result of their tireless efforts.

In 2024, Citizen of the Year was awarded to Richard Harry, Senior Citizen of the Year was awarded to Kevin Douglas, Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Luke Thomson, the Community Event of the Year was awarded to the Mount Gambier Community Christmas Lunch and the Active Citizenship Award was presented to Julian Mattay.

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – RICHARD HARRY

Mount Gambier man Richard Harry was a founder of the Limestone Coast Prostate Cancer Support Group (LCPCSG) after his own prostate cancer diagnosis in 2010.

“When your treating specialist tells you you’ve got the big ‘c’ it frightens the living daylights out of you,” Richard, a husband and father of two said.

“I ended up having a radical prostatectomy after my diagnosis, but during that time I was trying to find out more information and wanted to talk with other men about why they had chosen particular types of treatment. However, the closest support group was at Murray Bridge.”

After his surgery, the retired dairy farmer and business owner joined with the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West to facilitate a public meeting to discuss the viability of establishing a local support group.

“We had urologist Professor Villis Marshall come down from Adelaide to speak to us and we also had members of an Adelaide based support group address a crowd of about 150 people,” Richard explained.

Following the meeting, LCPCSG was formed in October 2010 with Richard appointed at the helm as chair.

“At the inaugural meeting we decided it wasn’t just to be a men’s group, because any cancer impacts the whole family and we wanted to include the women as well. I think we had 20 odd families at that point in time.”

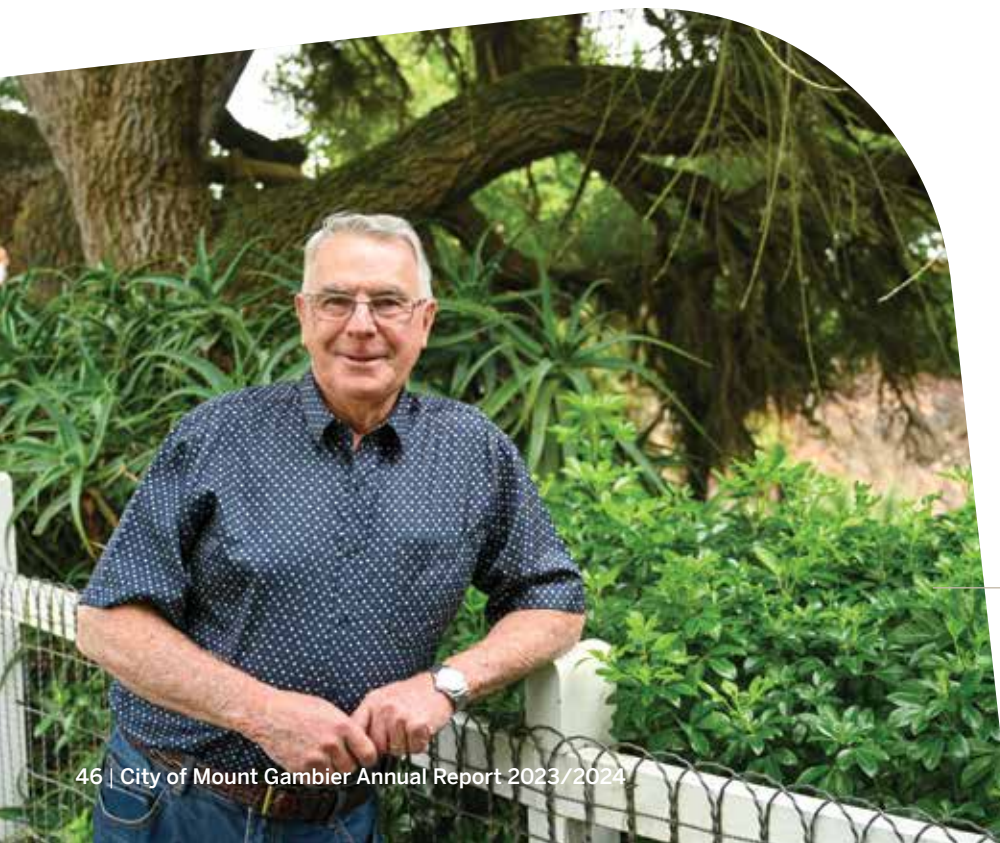
The group provides support, compassion and understanding to men and their families following a prostate cancer diagnosis.

“Over the years it has been interesting to see that we have a transient membership, some people need information and assistance early in the piece, they have their treatment, they find out it’s not always a life sentence and they get on with their life and they walk away from the group. Others have stayed on; they enjoy the camaraderie of a group of guys that have been through the same sort of thing.”

The LCPCSG’s functions evolved to include fundraising and lobbying government for equipment and resources.

“We joined with WIN Television to be part of their annual golf charity event which raised funds for us to be able to provide \$15,000 to upgrade the chemo chairs at the Mount Gambier Hospital.”

The 2024 City of Mount Gambier Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Richard Harry.



“People are there in those chairs for a number of hours when they receive chemo and we thought that it wasn’t just men with prostate cancer that were benefiting from this, it was women with breast cancer, it was kids with childhood cancers such as leukemia, it had a whole community benefit.”

Richard says community groups and organisations from throughout the region got behind the group to support its endeavours to provide support to men diagnosed with prostate cancer.

“We worked with the Male Bag Foundation, WIN TV, Bendigo Bank, Limestone Coast Councils, Naracoorte Area Health Advisory Council and local individuals and businesses to raise \$198,000 to purchase a portable Transperineal Biopsy machine in 2019. The machine is used by visiting urologists in Mount Gambier and Naracoorte and reduces the need for men to travel to Adelaide or Melbourne for the procedure,” Richard said.

Alongside Federal Member for Barker Tony Pasin, Richard was one of the driving forces behind the appointment of a part time specialist prostate cancer nurse in the Limestone Coast in 2020.

“We were trying to get a nurse for the Limestone Coast nurse as the only prostate nurses at that time were based in Adelaide. We were happy when Tracy Bryant was appointed by the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. She has more than 100 clients across the region and provides information and support to help men come to terms with living with prostate cancer.”

The 79-year-old is also an active member of the Limestone Coast Radiation Treatment Working Group, established in 2022. The group circulated a petition which garnered 16,000 signatures and an additional 4,000 digital signatures in support of establishing a radiation treatment centre in the region.

“We are the only state in the country that doesn’t have a radiation centre outside of a capital city. Why should Mount Gambier, the largest city outside of Adelaide, not have something like this?” Richard questioned.

Members of the working group presented the petition to state parliament in May 2023 and Richard, Lachie Haynes and Dee Carmody fronted the independent review parliamentary committee that followed in June 2023. As a result, the State Government is currently undertaking a feasibility study to assess the need for a radiation treatment facility for the region. This work is expected to be completed by mid-June 2024.

“I am hoping like crazy that we can get a treatment facility here. If successful, it will reduce the anxiety around travel costs and family commitments for up to two months at a time while in Adelaide or Warrnambool, Victoria for the radiation treatment for standard cancers.”

Richard was formally recognised for his advocacy work when he was presented with the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia’s Max Gardner Award for Distinguished Service in 2021.

Beyond his dedication to raising cancer awareness, Richard has had a long term involvement with the local CFS; he received a Paul Harris Fellow for his involvement with the Gambier Lakes Rotary

“I think we have got an absolutely magic community, we work together, it’s not just our community in Mount Gambier, it’s the whole of the Limestone Coast and I feel so privileged that we live in such a caring area.”

**Citizen of the Year
Richard Harry**

Club between 1992 to 1997; and was involved in Scouts from 1976 until 1992, serving as a leader for Port MacDonnell and then a district leader.

Richard was humble when told he had been awarded the City of Mount Gambier 2024 Citizen of the Year Award.

“I feel very honoured, but I still feel there are a lot of people out there that do a lot more than me,” he said.

“I am just a cog in the groups that I’ve been involved with, I am just part of it. It takes a lot of people to bring these things together.”

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in Australian men and Richard has some advice to all men over 50 - get a PSA test.

“Fellas, get yourself tested. I’ve seen some good men die with it, and it’s not pretty. We don’t want that happening, and why should it? If we can do something about it, let’s do it, it’s a simple blood test at the doctor these days.”



Citizen of the Year Awards

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – KEVIN DOUGLAS

Kevin Douglas has been a well-known personality in the Mount Gambier community for more than 50 years.

Affectionately known as KD to many, the 72-year-old once fronted local classrooms as a teacher, coached local football teams and has been behind the microphone as master of ceremonies at many sporting events and presentations in addition to volunteering his time extensively throughout the community.

Born in the Riverland and raised in Adelaide, Kevin moved to Mount Gambier in 1974 for his first teaching post at Grant High School. His career in education spanned 45 years as a Physical Education (PE), Mathematics and Geography teacher throughout the region, including Allendale East Area School, Millicent High School, Mount Gambier High School and the district office before he retired in 2016.

“It’s not a job that can be taken lightly, because you really are putting down a foundation for a lot of kids,” Kevin said.

Grant High School Deputy Principal David Thomson attributed the introduction of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) program at the school to Kevin.

“His teaching methods were innovative and engaging, designing and delivering the work related studies program which gave young people disengaged from traditional education a pathway to work,” Mr Thomson said.

Kevin is proud of his legacy within the local education sector and was honoured in 2007 when Grant High School dedicated an area of the school as the Carol Lock/Kevin Douglas quadrangle in recognition of his service.

“That was huge to me,” he said.

“Even just recently I went to get the bus from the school for the Mount Gambier Community Christmas Lunch and they said, ‘yeah, it’s down by KD’s shed’. I said, ‘you still call it that?’ I haven’t been there for 20 something years, but they still call it that. That hits home a bit that you’ve made an impact at the school.”

Sport has played a huge role in Kevin’s life, whether it be playing a game of footy for South, West Gambier, Kongorong or Western Border Interleague, or coaching.

“Right from being a youth, my Mum Thelma ensured my brother and I played a lot of sport, and I believe it is so important. It has so much more to offer than potentially getting a kick on Adelaide oval - the responsibility, the organisation, the punctuality, all those social skills that are

so important, the teamwork, the friendship, they are all the benefits of playing sport,” he said.

Over several decades, Kevin also volunteered his time to chair panels for local tribunal boards, including soccer, basketball, baseball, softball and football.

After hosting a sports show on local radio 5SE for the best part of a decade in the 90s, Kevin was in demand as a master of ceremonies around the region for various events. That included presentations and special events on race days at the Mount Gambier Harness Club, trotting evenings at the Mount Gambier Greyhound Club, sports nights and charity fundraisers.

“I loved every minute of it. Out at the trots if they had a presentation, I’d grab the microphone and do it right. I am not a professional at it, but I am someone who took some pride in doing things right,” he said.

The City of Mount Gambier Senior Citizen of the Year 2024 was awarded to Kevin Douglas.



In 2021, Kevin was presented with an Outstanding Service to Industry Award at the Greyhound Racing SA annual awards for his fundraising work and the assistance he provided to the local Quaran Care group.

"I really enjoyed working with the group to make them feel comfortable enough to come and visit the club, join in, and enjoy watching the races on a weekly basis. I assisted one young lad to become a licensed handler and it was a real joy to do so."

Kevin enjoys using his skills to guide local volunteer organisations to success, including the Mount Gambier Community Christmas Lunch event. From 2020 to 2023 Kevin led the event, which grew to 170 attendees under his guidance and passion for the cause to ensure that everyone involved enjoyed Christmas lunch together, no matter their circumstances.

"Kevin engaged with the whole community to gain support for the event. He has put a structure in place to ensure that it can now continue to run for many years," Mount Gambier Community Christmas Lunch event organiser Vicki Clark said.

Kevin discovered Sunset Kitchen as a result of his work with the Community Christmas Lunch.

"I would go along and ask people if they would like to attend the Christmas lunch, and then I realised what they did at Sunset Kitchen. I thought that it was fantastic, not making judgements, just providing underprivileged people of all ages with a meal on a Monday and Wednesday night."

He now volunteers at the kitchen regularly and is grateful for the contribution and support of generous local businesses throughout Mount Gambier.

Kevin has been forced to reduce some of his volunteer work and activities in recent years due to ongoing health issues. He has been battling prostate cancer for the past five years and travels to Adelaide every three weeks for treatment.

"I stay with my son Bradley and my daughter Carmen and my three grandkids Noah, Eli and Xavier. It's having those people at the end of your bed that is most important," he said.

When asked why he is so community minded, Kevin is solemn. In 2010, at almost 60, he decided to research his father Les' untimely death. He died in 1956 at the age of 29 in a car accident in the Riverland where the family lived. Kevin was just four years old at the time, and his older brother Gary was six.

"I looked up all the old microfilms, all the old newspapers in Waikerie and Blanchetown at the Adelaide Library because Mum never talked about it (the accident), she was traumatised," Kevin said.

"I found out that my Dad was secretary of the Waikerie Football Club. Not a good footballer, but a great social person, so one out of two. It also had written in there what the Waikerie community did to fundraise and support Mum, Gary and myself when he died and it has never, ever left me."

"The Waikerie community held a fundraiser and raised an unbelievable amount of money for the family between 1956 to 1960 which greatly assisted us," he said.

"If there is a genuine need, I haven't found a business, corporation, or individual in Mount Gambier who will say no, they will do what they can."

**Senior Citizen of the Year
Kevin Douglas**

Kevin said the goodwill displayed during that difficult time for his family astounded him and he wanted to continue to give back to others where he could, both locally and in the Riverland.

"My brother and I went back to the Waikerie Football Club and gave a donation to their junior program," he said.

"That's my why, you've got to do what you can to help other people in need."



Citizen of the Year Awards

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – LUKE THOMSON

Mount Gambier man Luke Thomson had been silently struggling with his mental health for a couple years before he decided to speak to a doctor about it in 2022.

The former Nangwarry football coach was subsequently diagnosed with anxiety and depression and plucked up the courage to talk to some friends about it as a guest on 'The Richo & Toddy Poddy' podcast which usually focused on sport.

"I guess people were noticing when I was a bit down and my behaviour was all over the place, and they wanted to know why. To be upfront and honest I told a couple of mates about my diagnosis on the podcast, and they were taken aback, and everything really took off from there," Luke said.

"That little chat between us led to some pretty good opportunities to help raise awareness about mental health and help break the stigma."

The young father of two started the 'Let's Talk' podcast in 2023 and quickly created a safe space for local people to discuss mental health issues.

"In sharing my story, I have found that more people have opened up. People have come to me and spoken about their own experiences, I have had people that you wouldn't expect get in touch and it's really opened up the conversation," he said.

Luke was part of a local committee that raised more than \$50,000 for headspace Mount Gambier through the twilight charity football match 'switch the headspace' held at East Gambier Football Club in February 2023 for mental health awareness.

He was also a Swinging with the Stars participant in 2023, raising about \$10,000 in funds for the Stand Like Stone Foundation.

In his working life, Luke works at a hotel and supports and mentors youth in his role as a School Services Officer (SSO) at Mount Gambier High School.

"I think Mount Gambier as a whole is a good community, people really come together especially when it is for the mental health side of things."

**Young Citizen of the Year
Luke Thomson**

"You're shaping these kids and you get the opportunity to guide them and help them on their way and to move out into the community to find casual jobs, to find an apprenticeship or whatever future they want to explore."

The 29-year-old was surprised when told that he had been awarded the Young Citizen of the Year award.

"I was in a bit of shock, obviously you don't set out to get these things, but I'm very happy and excited about it."

"This all wouldn't be possible with the support of my partner Chanelle, and my boys Louie and Zeb," he said.



The 2024 City of Mount Gambier Young Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Luke Thomson.

COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR – MOUNT GAMBIER COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

In 2009 local man Leigh Marcus hosted the first Mount Gambier Community Christmas Lunch at St Martin's Lutheran Church Hall with 75 people in attendance.

In the years since, several volunteers including Heidi Bates, Liz Rymill, Kevin Douglas and current organiser Vicki Clark have led and facilitated the Mount Gambier Community Christmas Lunch.

"We have a wonderful group of volunteers who give up their own Christmas celebrations to support those less fortunate each year," Vicki said.

The lunch is held annually on Christmas Day at City Hall. Attendees are provided with a free, three course Christmas lunch along with entertainment and a gift bag of items donated by local community members and businesses.

"The lunch is provided in an inclusive, safe environment to ensure everyone in our community gets the chance to enjoy a Christmas lunch which they may not have otherwise been able to do. We all know everyone needs a helping hand now and then, and that's why we do what we do," Vicki said.

A bus is provided for those who don't have transport, and taxis for those with disabilities to ensure no-one misses out on attending.

In 2023, the lunch was attended by 170 guests, with approximately 30 takeaway meals provided for those who were not comfortable in a group environment.



Vicki says attendees at the lunch come from all walks of life and from all parts of the community.

"They include people who are vulnerable, lonely or homeless, as well as refugee families who have relocated, or just people who want to share Christmas with others."

Vicki attributes the generosity of the local community to the success of the event.

"This event couldn't go ahead without the generous donations provided by the business community."

The committee of eight also purchases about 30 toys each year to ensure each child in attendance receives a gift appropriate for their age.

Vicki says the many personal stories attendees share makes the community effort worthwhile.

"Late last year we received a message from a lady who asked how she could donate to the lunch. I called her back and she said she had attended the previous year's lunch as a guest with her three children after fleeing to Mount Gambier as a result of domestic violence."

"She said she walked in with her children, all a little scared because they knew no-one, but they were welcomed with open arms by the volunteers. It was a wonderful day for her and her children, and one they had never expected to have."

The 2024 Community Event of the Year Award was presented to the Mount Gambier Community Christmas Lunch. Event volunteers are pictured at the Cave Garden/Thugi.

"She also said her life had since turned around and she wanted to donate some money to help others and that she would never forget that day. When I checked our bank account, she had deposited \$200, it brought tears to my eyes," Vicki said.

"It's a very humbling event to be involved with and we are very grateful to have the opportunity to support our community in this way. Christmas is a very hard time for a lot of vulnerable people and if we can take their mind off their woes for a few hours, our job is done."

**Mount Gambier Community Christmas Lunch Organiser
Vicki Clark**



Citizen of the Year Awards

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AWARD – JULIAN MATTAY

As a child Julian Mattay and his family moved to Australia as refugees from war torn Hungary, Europe and decided to settle in Tasmania. He says Australia offered him many opportunities and now, he pays it forward by volunteering his time to local charities and organisations and donates generously to local causes to return the favour to others. For this, Julian is the recipient of the City of Mount Gambier Active Citizenship Award.

Julian studied mathematics and physics at university and began his working life with the CSIRO in Hobart in 1966 at the age of 21. Throughout his career he focused on tree growth biometrics, modelling, computer programming and data analysis. Outside of work he would often take on double shifts as an Ambulance Service volunteer on weekends and had also joined the local bushfire brigade before moving to Mount Gambier in 1984 as part of a job transfer.

Mount Gambier has since been Julian's home for the past 40 years. His position at CSIRO was made redundant in 2006 and he

subsequently decided to use his free time to help others.

"I work with the Rotary Club, Sunset Community Kitchen, the Flying Doctor Service Support Group, the Ryder Cheshire Foundation and with the Books in Homes program," Julian said.

Books in Homes is a charitable foundation that provides books to children living in remote, disadvantaged and low socio-economic circumstances, ensuring crucial early literacy engagement and the development of reading skills required for lifelong achievement.

As a member of the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier, Julian played a crucial role in establishing the Books in Homes program in Mount Gambier in 2015. From June 2019, Rotary decided to stop sponsoring the program and since then, Julian has personally donated more than \$16,000 to keep the program running locally in conjunction with the Mount Gambier Library, providing 2,504 books to 678 families.

"I have been passionate about books since I was a child. In the words of Billy Connolly, 'Books are your ticket to the whole world,'" Julian said.

"I got my phone out and looked at the calendar, it wasn't the first of April. Quite frankly I was stunned and shocked to hear that I had received this award."

Active Citizenship Award recipient Julian Mattay

As part of the initiative, each child selects nine new books they would like to have at home, creating a personalised library of their own.

"Reading books takes children away from screens and playing games. They can read the books to their parents and their parents can read books to them, it's a bit of a bonding exercise as well."

Julian is involved in the program in a variety of ways, in addition to his financial contribution.

"Julian has attended school and kindergarten sites to meet with and read to the children. When the books are ordered and dispatched, Julian is first to put his hand up to offer to help pack the books into backpacks, ready to be given to the children," Library Children and Youth Services Officer Bec Coates said.

Julian is driven by a strong desire to help those in the community who need both moral and material support, whether it be young children, the aged, or those who are economically and socially disadvantaged. The 78-year-old provides about \$26,000 in donations to the local causes he supports each year.

When told that he was to be awarded the Active Citizenship Award for his ongoing community contributions, Julian was surprised and delighted.

The 2024 City of Mount Gambier Active Citizenship Award was presented to Julian Mattay.



Community Events

In 2023/2024 Council sponsored and supported more than 60 community events.

The aim of the City of Mount Gambier's event sponsorship program is to:

- Support the development of vibrant, creative, and innovative events that enhance the economic, social, and cultural life of Mount Gambier,
- Increase tourist visitation and deliver measurable economic benefits to the city,
- Facilitate community involvement in events and activities,
- Attract new and diverse events to the city, and
- Support events that build and reinforce the unique and positive attributes of Mount Gambier.

Blue Lake Carols.



AAM TIMBER MOUNT GAMBIER CHRISTMAS PARADE

The AAM Timber Mount Gambier Christmas Parade kicked off the festive season in Mount Gambier on Saturday 18 November 2023, with thousands of people lining Commercial Street for the event.

“We would like to thank the schools, businesses, community and sporting groups and the many volunteers who helped bring this magical event to life this year,” Community Events Officer Liana Golubic said.

“It was incredible to see the spirit and creativity of our community, sparking smiles and laughter from all watching along Commercial Street.”

Entries competed for prizes judged on energy and engagement, creativity, and effort. Judges scored the floats in the various categories, with the following floats receiving awards. All prize money is donated by AAM Timber.

2023 CATEGORY WINNERS

MOST OUTSTANDING ENTRY - \$750

Building our Lives on Jesus by St Martins Lutheran College

BEST CHRISTMAS THEME - \$500

The Joy of Christmas by Tenison Woods College

BEST SCHOOL ENTRY - \$500

An Aussie Christmas by Compton Primary School

BEST CLUB OR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION ENTRY - \$250

Winter Wonderland by Tonique Studio

OPEN CATEGORY - \$250

An Aussie Truckin’ Christmas by the Mt Gambier Truck Show

BEST THEMED BAND - \$250

Creswick Brass Band

ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD - \$250

A French Christmas by Mulga Street Primary School

BEST NON-CITY ENTRY - \$250

The Mil-Lel Christmas Minions by Mil Lel Primary School

BEST RECYCLED RESOURCES ENTRY - \$250

What did you spy at the beach today? by Ocean Drifters Family Day Care







Working together with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the City of Mount Gambier has the following vision for reconciliation:

- A society free of racism and prejudice where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples feel a strong sense of belonging and are able to participate fully in the life of our community.
- A city which supports expressions of cultural identity, where cultural practices, traditional sites and significant places are acknowledged, celebrated and preserved.
- A community characterised by social justice which advocates for enriching the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The City of Mount Gambier's inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) focuses on strengthening positive relationships, acknowledging and respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and providing opportunities to ensure that our First Nations peoples have the same life opportunities as other Australians.

The RAP is titled Yerkalalpata which means 'Leading the Way' in Bunganditj (the reclaimed language of the Boandik people). It incorporates more than 70 direct actions that strengthen our capacity as an organisation to deliver our vision for reconciliation.

A key focus was to put the foundations in place to support cultural safety and engagement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our workplace.

Uncle Doug Nicholls conducted a Smoking Ceremony at the Cave Garden/Thugi for NAIDOC Week 2023.

NAIDOC WEEK

City of Mount Gambier acknowledged and celebrated the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community during NAIDOC Week from 2 to 9 July 2023.

The NAIDOC Week 2023 theme was 'For Our Elders' acknowledging the significant role that our Elders have played, and continue to play, in our community.

"Our Elders are the holders of wisdom and knowledge, the custodians of an ancient culture, and their leadership in our community in both direct and indirect ways, is truly significant," Mayor Martin said.

"Through my role as Mayor, I have been privileged to meet, learn from and work alongside many of our Elders. I've admired their influence, their knowledge and passion, their long-held connection to this country and their strong, unwavering commitment to our community."

Council collaborated with Pangula Mannamurna Aboriginal Corporation, Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal Family Services to host a Mayoral Reception and deliver cultural activities such as a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and a flag raising ceremony. This event was followed by the return of the community march down Commercial Street West to Pangula Mannamurna for the

annual NAIDOC Awards and community barbecue.

"It was wonderful to see the return of these important cultural activities after a hiatus in recent years due to COVID," the Mayor said.

"It was made even more special to hold the activities at Cave Garden/Thugi, one of six sites of cultural significance here in Mount Gambier/Berrin that have been officially reunited with their Bunganditj names."

NAIDOC week programs were also held at the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre and the Mount Gambier Library.

Community members and schools were invited to watch the first live performance of 'Craitbul' performed by Reidy Park Primary School Year 3 and 4 students. Playwright by Boandik Elder Aunty Michelle, co-directed by Reidy Park Primary School teacher Brooke Winterfield.

Council also provided in-kind support for a special luncheon for Elders, hosted by local agencies held at Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre on Friday 7 July 2023.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

In acknowledgement of National Reconciliation Week, City of Mount Gambier hosted a program of events from Monday 27 May to Monday 3 June 2024.

Events were held at the Mount Gambier Library and The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre under the 2024 theme of 'Now More Than Ever'.

Local artist Belinda Bonney was joined by her sister Anne Bonney for live painting in the foyer of the Riddoch on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Visitors were encouraged to interact with the artists and participate in the creation of the artwork, which was later displayed in various community spaces.

The Mount Gambier Library hosted a themed Storytime featuring the book 'Finding our Heart' by Thomas Mayo on Tuesday 28 May followed by a collaborative art activity.

The Last Daughter was screened at The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre on Monday 3 June. This event was in partnership with ac.care and the Limestone Coast Local Health Network .



Mayor Martin and Aunty Val Brennan participate in the community march down Commercial Street.



Aunty Val Brennan (centre) and Uncle Jack Sailor (right) raised the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags alongside the Australian flag with Mayor Martin.

Belinda and Anne Bonney.



Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre

Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre is a state-of-the-art multi-purpose sport, aquatic and conference facility in Mount Gambier.

Wulanda, meaning 'enjoy or cherish' in Bunganditj language, is a gathering place for all to participate in sports, recreation, community activities and events.

Opened in December 2022, the facility boasts a 25-metre lap pool, learn-to-swim pool, warm water program pool, and children's splash pad and an updated outdoor 50-metre pool. In addition, six multi-purpose courts, change rooms and amenities, a gym and allied services provide ample opportunity to participate in sports and recreation.

Whether it is basketball, netball, futsal, volleyball, tennis, roller skating, badminton, or dance, Wulanda is the place to be. The health club provides opportunities for all ages to maintain fitness, create social connections, and increase general wellness.

More than 1,000 people can attend conferences, events, and performances making Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre the hub of community leisure activities in Mount Gambier.

Key events hosted at Wulanda include:

- Adelaide 36ers Basketball game - 1,700 spectators,
- Basketball Mount Gambier Junior Basketball Tournament – 2,000+ attendees,
- Blue Lake City Custom Classic Bike and Car Show – 1,000+ attendees,
- Team Nilsson Fitness and Boxing Fight Night,
- Riot City Wrestling,
- Limestone Coast Jobs and Skills Showcase,
- Rotary District 9780 Conference, and
- Men's Shed Cluster Gathering.

Key user groups include:

- Mount Gambier Swimming Club,
- Blue Lake Amateur Swim Club,
- Mount Gambier Pioneers,
- Football Association of SA,
- Mount Gambier Netball Association,
- Blue Lake Aero Modellers,
- Kyokushin Karate,
- Walking Netball,
- Special Olympics,
- School Sport South Australia South East Zone (Secondary School Competitions),
- Community Living Australia, and
- Four allied health professionals utilising consulting suites and associated equipment.



167,991

Attendees in 2023/2024

597

Health and wellness members*

869

GOSwim participants*

\$13,730

Total venue sponsorship

478

Aquatic members*

*As at 30 June 2024.

WULANDA WINS AWARD FOR PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE

Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre was recognised at the 2023 Australian Institute of Architecture SA Awards for public architecture and sustainability.

DesignInc, architect for Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre received the Public Architecture Award at the ceremony held on 7 July 2023 at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

“We are particularly proud to have the design recognised for its focused response to the community needs and providing inclusive design throughout the centre, as well as the integrated technical responses to environmental and social sustainability,” DesignInc Associate Director Ben Luppino said.

“Spatial and sensory considerations are seamlessly incorporated, enabling dignified participation for all levels of physical ability and health, and enhancing the overall user experience.” - Jury citation.

Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre also received a commendation for sustainable architecture, recognising the environmentally sustainable design using exposed structural timber and a 720 kilowatt solar system.

“Wulanda exemplifies the positive impact of architecture on community, while balancing environmental essentials.” – Jury citation.

“This is the second award win for Wulanda, and we could not be more thrilled to see DesignInc receive recognition for the design of our wonderful community centre,” Mayor Martin said.

“We are pleased that the recognition showcases the region, and thank the City of Mount Gambier for the opportunity to be able to contribute on such a significant project,” Mr Luppino said.

“Wulanda exemplifies the positive impact of architecture on community, while balancing environmental essentials.”

Jury citation



General Inspector Statistics

Dog expiations	194
Dog complaints	249
Dog impoundments	31
Dogs returned to owners	146
Dog attack reports	18
Parking offences	427
Fire permits	95
Cattle impoundments (sheep and cows)	0
Vehicle impoundments	0
Dog registrations	5,806
Cat registrations	2,019
Dog registration fees	\$184,257



Dog and Cat Management Plan

In January 2024 Council endorsed a new Dog and Cat Management Plan as required under legislation. The Dog and Cat Management Plan 2024-2028 incorporates extensive feedback provided during two rounds of community consultation and encourages responsible dog and cat ownership throughout the city.

“The plan addresses challenges identified during the consultation process including dog faeces management, cat management, dogs being off leash when they shouldn’t be and dog behaviour,” General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services Jane Fetherstonhaugh said.

In conjunction with their endorsement of the plan, Council has determined that the provisions in By-Law - No.5 Dogs 2018 regarding dog prohibited areas now apply to all sporting fields and ovals at Blue Lake Sports Park. This follows feedback from the sporting and recreation clubs that use the facilities at this location.

“Unfortunately, we had reports of ongoing issues with people not picking up after their dogs on the sporting fields within Blue Lake Sports Park, so dogs are no longer permitted in those areas. Dog owners can still walk their dogs in the park surrounding the playing fields.”

“This is in addition to the continuing by-law requirement for dogs to be on leash at any park or reserve during times when sport is being played and prohibited from all playgrounds.”

“Dog owners are reminded that it is an offence to not carry waste bags when walking their dog, and to not pick up after them.”

Dogs under effective control may be exercised off leash in other areas throughout the city including:

- Marist Park,
- Botanic Park,
- Hastings Cunningham Reserve,
- Northumberland Reserve,
- Frew Park,
- Blue Lake Sports Park (excluding sporting fields and ovals),
- Don McDonnell Reserve, and
- Corriedale Park.

“Under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and Council By-Law, dogs must be under effective control in all public places throughout the city. Either through physical restraint (on-leash up to two metres long) or by command, in proximity, and able to be seen by the controller.”

The plan emphasises the importance of responsible pet ownership.

“Dogs and cats must be microchipped and desexed in accordance with the regulations under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*. In addition, every dog over three months of age must be registered. We will focus on community education as part of implementation of the plan.”



REHOMING PARTNERSHIPS

In March 2024, City of Mount Gambier and South East Animal Welfare League (SEAWL) signed a rehoming partnership agreement for Council to transfer unclaimed impounded dogs after the mandatory 72-hour holding period to SEAWL for rehoming.

Council has four rehoming partnerships currently in place, including Wet Noses Animal Rescue, Dusty Paws Dog Rescue, Southern Grampians Shire Council and SEAWL.

“Council approached SEAWL to provide rehoming services for unclaimed dogs after the holding period,” General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services Jane Fetherstonhaugh said.

“Council’s priority is the welfare of the dogs in our care and we are pleased to work in collaboration with SEAWL as one of our rehoming partners to help abandoned dogs find a new home.”

“We are united in looking after the health and wellbeing of the city’s dogs and rehoming the unwanted, forgotten and neglected animals in our community,” South East Animal Welfare League President Trevor Twilley said.

All dogs receive a veterinary check, microchip and vaccination prior to transfer, in accordance with Council’s Unclaimed Dog Policy.

In addition to providing our own short-stay holding facilities, Council’s preferred operating model for pound and rehoming services is to work in partnership with volunteer-run animal rescue organisations that utilise foster carers to care for the animals



until they are ready for adoption, private pet boarding operators and other local councils that have established rehoming programs.

Wet Noses Animal Rescue Directors Maxine Spence (left) and Marie Dukalskis with stray puppy ‘Hector’ who was transferred to foster care prior to adoption.

ECONOMY, STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT



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VISITOR SERVICING



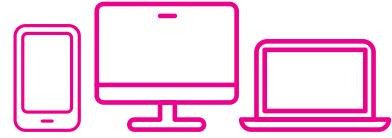
IN PERSON

- Mount Gambier Visitor Centre
- Blue Lake Welcome Centre



PRINT

- Mount Gambier map
- Mount Gambier Regional Guide
- In-centre experience guides



ONLINE

- discovermountgambier.com.au
- Social media - Facebook and Instagram

IN-PERSON

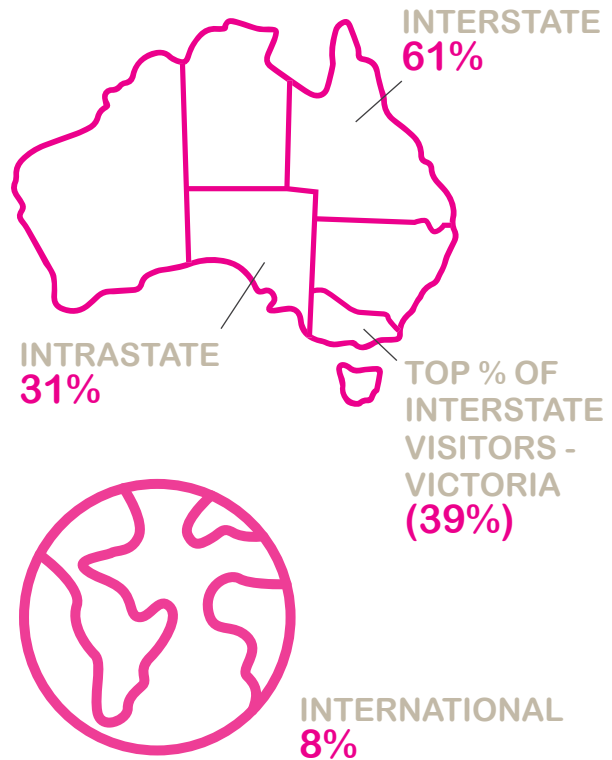
TOTAL VISITORS
TO SITES

42,194



Mount Gambier Visitor Centre **30,245**
Blue Lake Welcome Centre **11,949**

OUR VISITORS WERE FROM



WEBSITE

UNIQUE WEBSITE
USERS

49,413



discovermountgambier.com.au

TOP PERFORMING PAGE
GEOLOGICAL WONDERS

SOCIAL MEDIA

@mountgambiervisitorcentre

FACEBOOK

5,710

INSTAGRAM

1,384

@visitmountgambier

FACEBOOK

9,260

INSTAGRAM

7,908

Summer on Watson

‘Summer on Watson’ is a program of events developed in consultation with Council, local businesses and community interest groups to activate the CBD on weekends from Sunday 26 November until 28 January 2024 on a trial basis.

“We want to encourage collaboration and partnerships and the CBD activation will bring together existing and supported events and activities over a 10-week period, including markets, live music, food and wine and yoga in the park,” Mayor Martin said.

Council aimed to generate energy and vibrancy within the CBD as a place for people to gather.

“We want people to move around and encourage street life including indoor/outdoor dining and lively civic spaces. Fairy lights were hung in the Cave Garden/Thugi to create atmosphere with Council providing a stage, marquee and power to host entertainment.”

The activation program is in accordance with Council’s CBD Guiding principles and follows a Motion of Notice proposed by Councillor Max Bruins at the August 2023 Council meeting.

The program included a Family Friendly New Year’s Eve Celebration following a last minute cancellation of the tradition New Year’s Eve Festival organised by Mount Gambier Community Events Management Inc.

Hundreds of families gathered to celebrate the new year with live entertainment, food stalls, jumping castles, face painting, balloon sculptures and giant games.

Approximately 7,500 people attended events in the CBD throughout the 10 week period with 15 events delivered by community groups, individuals, businesses and Council.

2023 New Year’s Eve Celebrations in the Cave Garden/Thugi formed part of Summer on Watson.



Before the Bounce

Mount Gambier had footy fever leading into AFL Gather Round with 'Before the Bounce' community activities held from Saturday 23 March 2024 to Sunday 7 April 2024.

Approximately 40,000 people are said to have travelled through Mount Gambier on the way to the Gather Round in Adelaide. Before the Bounce encompassed a program of footy based events and activities held throughout the city designed to capitalise on the influx of visitors.

"We are a proud sporting city with a particular love for Australian Rules Football. We are a destination in our own right and we welcome visitors who are making the pilgrimage to Adelaide for the Gather Round to kick start their footy weekend, play and stay in our city," Mayor Martin said.

"Before the Bounce leverages the timing of school holidays and coinciding events such as Fringe Mount Gambier. We aim to maximise visitor participation and boost the local economy

while celebrating our city's vibrant sporting culture and the essence of Australian Rules Football," Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement Biddie Shearing said.

Visitors and locals flocked to The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre who lead the charge with a creative space called '*Straight to the Pool Room!*'

The exhibition paid homage to collections and stories and offered activities for all ages, including a sample of football guernseys from local Andy Munro's 500+ personal collection, a design your own guernsey competition for kids, a scrapbook of local news articles about regional football behind the scenes legends, a display of local trophies, footy cards, and VHS match tapes, a commentary booth to practice your favourite calls from and a digital footy card that put you as the football star for team Berrin.

"This immersive experience focused on the fans and families of regional football and featured Naracoorte resident Andy Munro's extensive football guernsey collection and activities tailored for every age group," Riddoch Arts and Culture Centre Director Ashleigh Whatling said.

The Riddoch also hosted a film screening of the beloved 1980s football classic, 'The Club' presented by Mount Gambier's own Drag King Loveit Murray on Wednesday 27 March 2024.

Visitors to the exhibition were impressed with plenty of positive feedback left in the visitor book at The Riddoch.

"I would like for there to be another footy room, I loved it," an attendee wrote.

The Mount Gambier Library leant into the footy flashback theme, reflecting on some of the local legends within our community and stories from days gone by.



SANFL and 2024 AFL Premiership cups on display in Mount Gambier.



The Riddoch hosted a film screening of the beloved 1980s football classic, 'The Club' presented by Mount Gambier's own Drag King Loveit Murray as part of the Straight to the Pool Room! exhibition.



Mayor Martin with local footy fans Harry (left), Ted, Demi, Bo, Eden and Piper in readiness for Before the Bounce activities.

"We also hosted a pom pom craft activity and find the football competition with an AFL football signed by former local and Geelong Cats player Brad Close which was well received by the community," Manager Library and Community Development Georgina Davison said.

SANFL hosted a free junior footy clinic facilitated by SANFL game development staff and former AFLW champion Erin Phillips at Frew Park on Thursday 28 March 2024 including a special display featuring the SANFL and 2024 AFL Premiership cups.

Erin also joined an intimate audience at the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre for a Q&A session about her decorated career.

Businesses and the community were encouraged to 'wear your colours' on the Friday of the Gather Round - Friday 5 April 2024.

Council worked closely with South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC), AFL and SANFL to bring Before the Bounce activities to the community.

"Council staff have done a fabulous job to pull together this event program for our residents and visitors to enjoy," Mayor Martin said.



AFLW Premiership player Erin Phillips hosted a free junior footy clinic at Frew Park as part of the Before the Bounce program.

Partnership Priorities and Advocacy

Council endorsed the Partnership Priorities and Advocacy 2024 – 2025 strategic working document in February 2024, outlining initiatives to help to facilitate the growth and prosperity of the local community, the Limestone Coast and South Australia.

The document is an important tool for keeping our stakeholders informed of our community's challenges, concerns and strategic direction. This is the second Partnership Priorities and Advocacy document for Council. The first edition, from November/December 2021, guided many conversations and promoted issues of importance with our partners. The second edition builds on what has been achieved for our community because of partnership and investment by all levels of government.

Other key partnership and advocacy activities and initiatives, which Council have undertaken in the 2023-2024 financial year, include:

- Before the Bounce activation in the lead up to AFL Gather Round,
- Mount Gambier 2035,
- Limestone Coast Local Government Association's Regional Growth Strategy,
- Mount Gambier's public bus service and Regional Public Transport Review,
- Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability,

- Continuing to advocate with State and Federal Government on various issues of importance to our community, including:
 - Homelessness and housing,
 - Public transport,
 - Tourism,
 - Radiation therapy and cancer treatment,
 - Mount Gambier Urgent Care Clinic, and
 - Opportunities to encourage skilled migration to the region.

The Partnership Priorities and Advocacy document can be viewed on Council's website.



Mayor Lynette Martin and CEO Sarah Philpott met with SA Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Tom Koutsantonis in Adelaide in March 2024 to discuss Mount Gambier's public bus service.



Mayor Lynette Martin and Council CEO Sarah Philpott met with SA Minister for Primary Industries, Regional Development and Forestry Clare Scriven in April 2024 to provide an update on the Mount Gambier 2035 strategic planning project, the Limestone Coast Local Government Association's Regional Growth Strategy and Before the Bounce activities.



Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre provided the perfect backdrop for Mayor Lynette Martin to discuss opportunities for sport and recreation with SA Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing Katrine Hildyard MP in November 2023.



Mayor Lynette Martin and CEO Sarah Philpott met with SA Deputy Premier Susan Close in October 2023 to discuss Crater Lakes activation, trails and Mount Gambier's unique natural environment.



Mayor Lynette Martin met with SA Minister for Tourism and Multicultural Affairs Zoe Bettison in September 2023 to discuss events, attraction, tourism and the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre.

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas looked through the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre with CEO Sarah Philpott and Deputy Mayor Max Bruins in July 2023.



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 2023/2024 Council consulted with the community and sought feedback on the following matters:

- Dog and Cat Management Plan 2024-2028,
- Local Affordable Housing Plan,
- Use of St Martins Drive Reserve,
- Crater Lakes Trails Plan,
- Mount Gambier Library Strategic Plan,
- Volunteer Management Plan,
- Communications Survey,
- Shared Path Master Plan,
- Mount Gambier 2035 – a Community Vision for our Regional Capital,

- Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024-2025,
- Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034,
- Draft Asset Management Plans 2025-2034, and
- Section 92 Code of Practice for Access to Meetings and Documents.

Council also maintained a series of community reference groups including:

- Mount Gambier 2035 Community Panel,
- Mount Gambier Youth Activation Group,
- Yerkalalpata Reconciliation Action Plan Community Reference Group,
- Mount Gambier Housing Alliance,
- 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.

Manager Library and Community Development Georgina Davison (back left), General Manager City Infrastructure Barbara Cernovskis, Manager Economy, Strategy and Engagement Biddie Shearing and Councillors Frank Morello, Sonya Meziniec and Paul Jenner at Party in the Park at the Cave Garden/Thugi in 2023 to discuss Mount Gambier 2035 with the community.



ENVIRONMENT



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Crater Lakes Mountain Trail Reopened

Felling of large burnt pine trees along the Crater Lakes rim was completed in December 2023 following a fire that ravaged the area in January 2022.

The stairs and crater rim path to Centenary Tower were reopened to the public following the work, enabling walkers and runners to complete a full loop of the Mountain Trail once again.

“We hope that our active community members will enjoy climbing the stairs and the beautiful scenic walk along the crater to Centenary Tower once again,” General Manager City Infrastructure Barbara Cernovskis said.

“It has been a long process to fell the first three tiers of trees as the Crater Lakes precinct is a State Heritage area which requires Development Application approval to undertake work of this type.”

Approximately 11.3 hectares of pine trees were destroyed in the area during the fires and 960 trees require removal. Landscape architects Oxigen prepared a bushfire rehabilitation plan to assist with the restoration of the fire affected area on the south western slopes of the Crater Lakes.

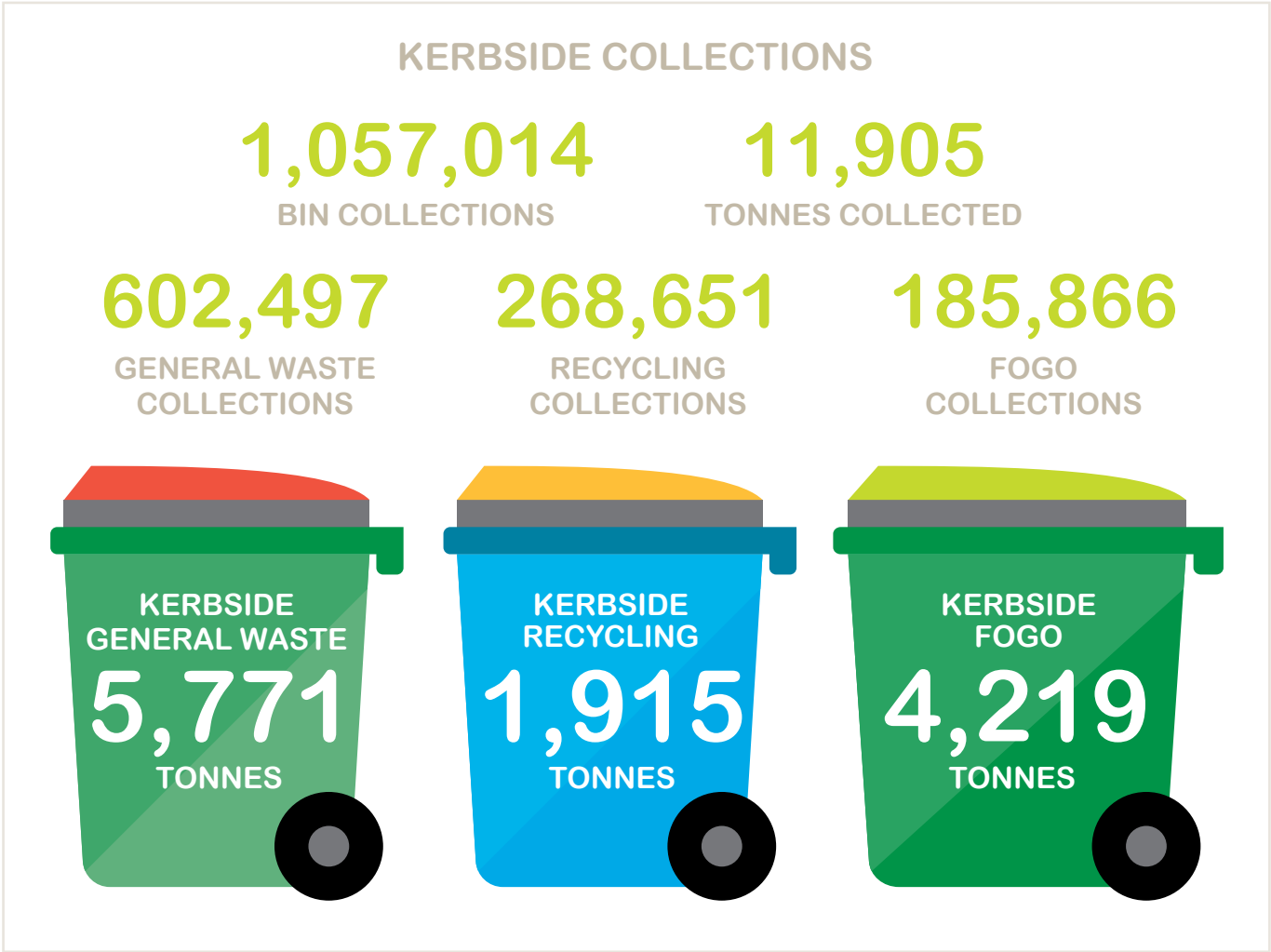
“The report was developed in collaboration with a governance steering committee to investigate the history of the area, its cultural significance, the local ecology, revegetation plant selections, methodology on the removal of the trees and an overall implementation strategy,” Ms Cernovskis said.

Council and Oxigen will consult with surrounding landowners, residents and property owners, the First Nations community, key users and staff involved in the management of the site to seek feedback on the rehabilitation plan.

A final report will be presented to Council to consider the feedback received from the key stakeholders throughout the engagement process. The report will also include reforestation and replanting considerations regarding the fire affected Bluegum trees and will also outline a rehabilitation timeframe as part of the second stage of the project.

The stairs and crater rim path to Centenary Tower were reopened to the public in December 2023 following the Crater Lakes fire in January 2022.





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 www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/reusemarket

8,000

VISITORS TO THE
REUSE MARKET

161 TONNES

MATERIAL DIVERTED
FROM LANDFILL TO
REUSE MARKET

6,500

APPROX.
TRANSACTIONS

\$117,000

TOTAL SALES

Raylene Anderson volunteers her time at the Mount Gambier ReUse Market helping to prepare donated items for sale.



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 challenges, opportunities, and unique issues of managing waste.

The facility plays a vital administrative 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 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

11 TONNES
EXPANDED
POLYSTYRENE
PROCESSED FOR
RECYCLING ON SITE

128 TONNES
METAL
RECYCLING

5,500
APPROX.
TRANSACTIONS

23 TONNES
MATTRESS
RECYCLING

OTHER RECYCLING MATERIAL

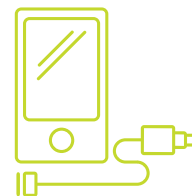
Cardboard, engine oil, cooking oil, globes, paint, batteries, x-rays, cables, lids, dental hygiene, masonry, tyres, fridges, bread tags, gas bottles, and couches.

CONTRACTOR'S
WASTE
13,484
TONNES

TOTAL TO
LANDFILL
27,579
TONNES



627
TONNES
WASTE
BINS



52
TONNES
E-WASTE



422
TONNES
GREEN WASTE
/ FOGO



Margaret Street Sinkhole

A portion of bitumen collapsed in the walkway between Margaret Street and the Railway Lands on 25 June 2023 following heavy rain.

Initially, an excavator was used to remove the rubble in the sinkhole that measured seven metres deep, 12 metres in length and four metres in width.

Council then partnered with local geoscientist Ian Lewis to investigate the sinkhole.

“It appears to be a naturally occurring cave that has collapsed,” Mr Lewis said.

“A drone was used to provide a closer look at what we are dealing with. I could see from the footage that there was at least 10.5 metres of volcanic soil and ash in the hole, not rock or limestone, all the way down into the bottom of the hole and out of sight. This could have been an indication that the hole was not stable,

therefore we didn’t want to take any risks and put a person in the hole if there was any risk of a soil collapse.”

Council’s engineers fitted a remote-control rover with a GoPro camera on top, to go down into the sinkhole to take measurements and provide detailed footage of the volcanic ash and soil profile to enable the investigation to go ahead safely. This investigation indicated that no limestone is visible in the walls of the sinkhole.

“It is most likely that an old cave has collapsed in the limestone deep down and all the heavy soil on top that has been piled up in that old sinkhole has sunk down about seven metres after it became wet following the heavy rain. It’s all ash - a soil type ash. Over thousands of years, that ash develops into soil. And that’s what we are seeing here,” Mr Lewis said.

An independent geotechnical investigation was then undertaken by engineering consultants which provided recommendations to fill the void that had a footprint of about 30 square metres.

“Following independent advice, we filled the cavity with stabilised sand, a mixture of soil and four to six per cent concrete,” City Infrastructure General Manager Barbara Cernovskis said.

The thoroughfare was reopened in February 2024 following monitoring for movement at the site. Remediation work costs for the project totalled approximately \$160,000.

Council engaged a local concreter to fill the sinkhole.



Limestone Coast Bushfire Management Plan

The Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 requires each of the nine South Australian Bushfire Management Committees to prepare and maintain a Bushfire Management Area Plan.

Each Bushfire Management Committee will adopt a Bushfire Management Area Plan that will:

- Identify existing or potential risks to valuables from bushfire within the bushfire management area,
- Outline coordinated and cooperative bushfire prevention and mitigation strategies to achieve appropriate hazard reduction associated with bushfire management within its area,
- Identify asset or land custodians responsible for the implementation of the bushfire risk mitigation treatments, and
- Use or establish principles and standards to guide or measure the success of the bushfire management strategies and initiatives.

The Limestone Coast Bushfire Management Area Plan is available to view on the State Bushfire Coordination Committee website - sbcc.sa.gov.au

Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act

Council is responsible for managing local nuisance and litter control matters within the Council boundary.

Allowing or contributing to local nuisance or litter is a crime and can result in costly penalties being applied. Some common complaints of nuisance Council becomes involved in 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 2024 Council had not made any prosecutions under this Act.

In 2023/2024 Council issued one Nuisance Abatement Notice in respect to a local nuisance matter.



New Rubbish Truck to Hit City Streets

A new rubbish truck hit the road in August 2023, helping to alleviate bin collection service setbacks after ongoing fleet maintenance requirements.

After an extensive wait, a new Isuzu FVY 240–300, ordered in December 2021, finally arrived to join the fleet on the streets in August 2023.

“There have been challenges regarding the global availability of this specialist technology within the transport industry since before COVID, which only made the wait longer,” Manager Waste, ReUse and Environment Jeremy Martin said.

Council encourages residents to download the ‘My Local Services’ phone application to receive reminders about which bin to put out each week.

Manager Waste, ReUse and Environment Jeremy Martin with Council's new refuse compactor.



INFRASTRUCTURE



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New Amenities at Valley Lake/Ketla Malpi

New public amenities at the Valley Lake/Ketla Malpi opened in November 2023.

The design incorporates timber and limestone look tiles in keeping with the state heritage area and facilities include hot running water, six cubicles, an access toilet, parents room and a urinal room.

The project was designed by Troppo Architects and constructed by building contractors Kennett.

“The new building includes much improved facilities for families and individuals who visit the beautiful Valley Lake/Ketla Malpi area,” Mayor Martin said.

The \$750,000 project was funded by the Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Member for Barker Tony Pasin MP said the program was unique in

that it responded to expressed local needs via local government.

“I’m incredibly proud of the support provided to communities through the LRCI Program because it’s projects like this that ensure our vibrant region remains strong, resilient and prosperous in the long term,” Mr Pasin said.

“Valley Lakes precinct is a much-loved recreation area for local residents and visitors. Ensuring facilities are updated and up to modern standards is ensuring the precinct remains attractive for events, tourism and local residents. It’s just another example of how the former Coalition Government invested in the future of our region, in partnership with the City of Mount Gambier, ensuring it remains a great place to live, work and raise a family,” he said.

City of Mount Gambier Project Engineer Andrew Thompson oversaw the development and said that the location of the new facilities directly adjacent to the playground, provides safer access for families.

“The old toilets are located across from the roadway and car park, which posed a traffic risk to pedestrians, particularly children,” Mr Thompson said.

“A path now leads from the playground gate to the amenities with wheelchair access to the facilities via a ramp.”

The two old toilet blocks across from the playground car park and Freemans Landing were demolished in December 2023.

Kennett representatives Caolan Buckley (left) and Bryce Allen (right) with Mayor Martin and Council Project Engineer Andrew Thompson at the newly opened Valley Lake/Ketla Malpi public toilets.



Blue Lake Sports Park Master Plan

Council endorsed the Blue Lake Sports Park Master Plan in July 2023. The high level document provides a road map for future development at the site, informed by the Sport, Recreation and Open Spaces Strategy (SROSS), current and future participation trends, sporting compliance and feedback from the community and key stakeholders.

Blue Lake Sports Park is a significant multipurpose site for sport and recreation in Mount Gambier. Council worked with Outerspace Landscape Architects and InsideEDGE Sport and Leisure Planning to develop a master plan for the area in consultation with site users and the community.

“Mount Gambier has a strong sport and recreation culture, and this plan aims to future proof the facilities, deliver environmentally sustainable outcomes and develop the park as a destination that the wider community can engage with,” General Manager City Infrastructure Barbara Cernovskis said.

“We received 65 submissions as part of the community consultation process for the plan and the overwhelming majority indicated a preference for option 2, a ‘community precinct’ which considers the park’s holistic role in the provision of open space and sporting infrastructure in the city and its important role for our community.”

The plan incorporates and balances the recommendations of SROSS with the needs and desires of existing tenants and key users, while addressing the current constraints and shortfalls identified at the site.



The strategic direction for the Blue Lake Sports Park has been set following the endorsement of the Blue Lake Sports Park Master Plan. Mount Gambier Cycling Club’s Damien Buckley, West Gambier Hockey Club’s Brayden Burston and Dana Jones, Mount Gambier Softball League’s Di Humphries and South Gambier Football Club’s Darren Sims are pictured at the park.

“We want to make sure our spaces are fit for purpose and flexible in their use. We need better connections between sporting activities and off field activities in the park and would like to encourage wider engagement in the area.”

An implementation planning process is in progress which will include the development of a shared funding plan so that grant funding opportunities for the development of the Blue Lake Sports Park can be pursued in the future.

“Having this master plan prepared for the area means that we are ready to progress when a funding opportunity presents itself,” Ms Cernovskis said.



Road Construction and Maintenance

Council is committed to maintaining its road network to a high standard. In 2023/2024 Council invested \$3,876,788 as part of the Capital Works Program.

The following works were undertaken as part of this spend.

ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Council contribution - \$1,349,768.

Roads to Recovery funding - \$430,396.

- Grevillea Street (entire length),
- Hammer Court (entire length),
- Walter Street (entire length),
- Crouch Street South (John Watson Drive to Lake Terrace East), and
- Wehl Street South (James Street to Commercial Street West).
- Roads to Recovery projects:
 - Strangways Street (entire length),
 - Stone Avenue (entire length), and

- Wireless Road East (Kennedy Avenue to Attamurra Road) - shoulder reconstruction and partial kerbing.

Other projects:

- Retaining wall renewal - Lake Terrace West (Hay Drive to Wallace Street), and
- Guard rail renewals on Harrald Street and Kennedy Avenue.

RESEAL PROGRAM

Road reseal program - \$516,953.

Intersection asphalt overlays - \$71,777.

Roundabout renewal program - \$31,036.

- Helen Street/Gray Street roundabout.

TRAFFIC LIGHT RENEWAL - \$80,545

- Commercial Street East/ Ferrers Street/Mitchell Street intersection,
- Commercial Street West/Wehl Street intersection, and
- O'Halloran Terrace school crossing.

CARPARK RESURFACING - \$48,955

- Council Works Depot, and
- Pick Avenue information bay.

FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION

In 2023/2024 Council invested \$159,074 in its footpath program.

The projects that were included in the program were:

- Ferrers Street car park footpath renewal,
- O'Halloran Terrace/Bay Road PLEC remediation, and
- Construction of a new concrete footpath on O'Leary Road from Jubilee Highway to Calula Drive.



Building Fire Safety Committee

FOOTPATH ASPHALT OVERLAY PROGRAM - \$74,260

- Davison Street (Commercial Street to John Street) – both sides,
- Sturt Street (Compton Street to Crouch Street South) – south side,
- North Terrace (Crouch Street to Livingston Street) – north side, and
- Compton Street (Sturt Street to Commercial Street) – east side.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Council's 2023/2024 capital drainage works comprised of the installation of a new system on Dohle Road to the total value of \$49,408.

The works included the construction of the following new infrastructure:

- Bore,
- Silt pit,
- Headwalls, and
- Grates and associated pipe network.

BOUNDARY ROADS - \$1,064,615

Works on the O'Leary Road and Pinehall Avenue intersection have been completed delivering a major upgrade to a heavy vehicle traffic route.

Upgrades between the road segment between this intersection and Sunnybrae Road have commenced and will be partially carried over to 2024/2025.

Both projects are funded by Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) and equal contribution from City of Mount Gambier and District Council of Grant.

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 2023/2024 the Building Fire Safety Committee met once to discuss an item of concern.

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 development applications 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.

Crime Prevention Strategies

Council supports crime prevention and anti-social mitigation measures including:

MOUNT GAMBIER LICENSING ACCORD

A regular forum coordinated by Council involving the Liquor and Gaming Commissioner, SAPOL, hotel and club licensees and other key stakeholders.

MOUNT GAMBIER DRY AREAS

Council maintains five State Government approved dry areas within the City of Mount Gambier.

The proclaimed dry areas are:

- Mount Gambier city centre (Area 1),
- Vansittart Park garden (Area 2),
- Vansittart Park oval (Area 3),
- Dimjalla Park (Area 4), and
- AF Sutton Memorial Park (Area 5).

CCTV SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

There are more than 30 surveillance cameras at various locations within the city centre.

CCTV is a useful tool to decrease anti-social behaviour and increase public safety. Council continues to work with SAPOL to determine areas that require the presence of increased surveillance and will continue to expand on the number of cameras installed to improve public safety. The cameras are monitored by the Mount Gambier Police Station and this has proven to be an effective initiative.



Development Services - Building and Planning

Throughout 2023/2024 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 now 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.

	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020
Dwellings	80	206	149	210	72
Dwelling additions	12	76	19	17	22
Outbuildings	61	279	208	263	148
Commercial	13	42	33	31	28
Industrial	5	10	2	15	8
Signage	14	17	3	12	5
Wastewater	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
Other	199	229	27	86	80
Total number of development applications	384	859	441	634	363
Estimated total development expenditure	\$78,340,029	\$177,079,518	\$68,495,083	\$162,682,216	\$70,013,622



The Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 requires all councils in South Australia to establish a Council Assessment Panel (CAP) 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 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 were:

- Mr Mark Teakle (Presiding Member),
- Ms Lamorna Alexander,
- Ms Meg Redman,
- Mr Ian Von Stanke, and
- Ms Cheryle Pedler.

Mr Carlin McNeil was also appointed as a Deputy Member of the RAP and attended meetings when other members were unable to attend,

During 2023/2024 the RAP considered 27 development applications.

RAP meetings were held on the third Thursday of each month commencing at 5:00pm.

The gardens, chapel and surrounds of Carinya Gardens provide a peaceful ambience for bereavement services.

Great pride is taken in the quality of services offered to the community at Carinya Gardens, particularly to families in a time of need.

There were 499 services conducted at the cemetery during the 2023/2024 year, compared with 516 in the previous year.

The cemetery undertook 112 burials compared with 108 the previous year, and a total of 387 cremations were performed compared to 408 in 2022/2023.



Shared Path Master Plan

Council endorsed the Shared Path Master Plan, a framework highlighting future improvements to the quality, connectivity and safety of shared paths throughout the city at its April 2024 meeting.

The master plan provides a roadmap for the development of shared paths and outlines prioritised actions to create a safer, more connected and inclusive community for all residents.

“The master plan will be used to guide the roll out of active transport infrastructure across Mount Gambier,” General Manager City Infrastructure Barbara Cernovskis said.

“It not only considers shared paths, but also footpaths and dedicated cycling paths for use by a variety of active transport users such as pedestrians, cyclists, people with mobility restrictions and scooters.”

To identify the community’s current and future needs, Council sought input from residents, stakeholder groups and visitors to inform the Shared Path Master Plan.

More than 95 per cent of the people who provided feedback on the draft masterplan were in support of the document.

“We have considered all the feedback provided and incorporated the suggestions into the final version,” Ms Cernovskis said.

The action plan within the master plan outlines a phased priority list for implementation during the short term (the next three years), medium term (three to five years) and long term (five to 10 years and beyond).

“Some of the short term priorities identified include implementing a learn to ride facility, the consideration of speed reductions, identifying

and adopting a functional cycling and walking hierarchy, the prioritisation of identified primary and secondary intersections with a focus on cycling safety improvements and investigation of pedestrian improvements at high demand and high traffic volume locations.”

The Shared Path Master Plan was developed in conjunction with Tonkin Engineering and will inform the infrastructure design methodology within Council’s Asset Management Plans.

“These plans sequence the delivery of the initiatives through forward works programs that can be delivered within Council’s resourcing capacity.”

Council endorsed a framework highlighting future improvements to the quality, connectivity and safety of shared paths throughout the city.



GOVERNANCE

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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 were no applications for a Section 270 Internal Review of a Council Decision received in 2023/2024.

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.

A Community Land Register and Community Land Management Plan extracts are published on Council's website.

Council Policies, Registers and Codes

Council has adopted a wide 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 remain 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 2024.

A515	Animal Control Dogs
A520	Animal Control
	Animal Management - Unclaimed Dogs
A240	Assemblies and Events on Streets and other Council Land
	Asset Accounting
A900	Asset Management
	Behavioural Management
D150	Building and Swimming Pool Inspections
B150	Building - Sewer Connections, Waste Management Control and the Provision of Toilet Facilities
B300	Budget Framework
C120	Cemeteries - Carinya Gardens and Lake Terrace Cemetery

	Citizen of the Year Awards (formerly A270 Australia Day Awards)
F125	City Burning
P195	Community Consultation and Engagement
R200	Community Land (Reserves) Lease/Licence/Rental Arrangements
C700	Corporate Branding and Identity
C320	Council Chamber and Reception Area - Use of
	Council Determined Meeting Procedures
	Council Election Caretaker Policy
C355	Council Land - Irrigation
	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 - Council Resolution 2023/253 - 12/12/2023)
E135	Encroachments - Protection of Public during Building and Maintenance Works
	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 and Benefits
M205	Members - Mayor - Anniversary Messages
M270	Members - Mayor Seeking Legal Advice
M500	Members - Training and Development
	Memorials
O110	Order Making



P135	Planning - Entertainment Venues
	Political Neutrality and Government Relations
P155	Privacy
	Procurement
P415	Prudential Management
P910	Provision of Loans or Guarantees to Community Groups <i>(Temporarily suspended - Council Resolution 2023/253 12/12/2023)</i>
P900	Public Interest Disclosure
R105	Rates - Rating
R155	Rates - Rate Rebate
R105	Rates - Rating
R180	Records Management
C200	Request for Service and Complaint
	Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre - Hire
	Risk Management
R270	Road - Pavement Excavation and Reinstatement of
S92	Code of Practice for Access to Meetings and Documents
S135	Streets - Naming of
S140	Street Numbering
S120	Street Signs - Directional, Tourist and other Scenic Facility Signs
S400	Supplementary Elections
T150	Treasury Management
T120	Tree Policy

	Unreasonable Conduct
U900	Unsolicited Proposals
V140	Volunteer Management
W125	Waste Management - Kerbside Refuse Collection
W115	Waste Management - Reveal 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 had the following by-laws in operation during the 2023/2024 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.

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	13,092	1:1309
Victor Harbor	10	13,639	1:1,363
Whyalla	10	15,947	1:1,594
Murray Bridge	10	16,015	1:1,601
State average			1:1912
Mount Gambier	9	20,420	1:2,268
Alexandrina	10	23,134	1:2,313
Adelaide Hills	12	30,881	1:2,375
Mount Barker	11	29,999	1:2,727

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 last conducted an Elector Representation Review during 2016/2017 with an amended composition applying from the November 2018 Local Government Elections.

The following composition applied to the City of Mount Gambier from the November 2018 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 from April 2024 to April 2025. Chapter 3 of the *Local Government Act 1999* prescribes the procedures that are available for electors to make submissions on representation under this Act.

Freedom of Information

The City of Mount Gambier received and determined applications under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* during the 2023/2024 year as follows:

Number of applications	9
Number of applications carried over from 2022/2023	0
Full access granted	2
Partial access granted	4
Access refused	2
Withdrawn	0
Fees not paid	1
Documents otherwise available	4
Incomplete (at 30 June 2024)	1
Applications for internal review	2
Decision confirmed	0

Enquiries or requests for information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* should be forwarded to:

Manager Governance and Property

City of Mount Gambier
PO Box 56
Mount Gambier SA 5290
city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

An information statement in accordance with the requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* is published by the City of Mount Gambier and is available to view on Council's website.



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 2023/2024 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	37 [#]	13	17	-	15	1	2	12	1	3	2	6	-	-	-

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 that expired, ceased to apply or were revoked during the 2023/2024 year	No. of S91(7) Orders remaining operative at 30 June 2024
37	26 [*]	145 [^]

[#] 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 expired, ceased and revoked Orders from previous financial years.

[^] 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 2023/2024 year, and that remained operative at 30 June 2024.

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2024)
18/06/2024	Item 23.3 Late Item - Update on Legal Matter – Report No. AR24/42920	(f) (g) and (i)	Current
20/06/2023	Unsolicited Proposal - Tenison Woods College – Report No. AR23/32053	(b)	Current
18/06/2024	Item 23.2 Visitor Servicing Model - Update – Report No. AR24/31997	(b) and (d)	Current

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2024)
18/06/2024	Item 23.1 AF24/171 Tender - Procurement - Supply and Delivery of Premixed Concrete – Report No. AR24/40482	(k)	Current
21/05/2024	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	Item 23.2 - AF24/16 Tender - Procurement - Supply, Delivery and Placement of Asphalt – Report No. AR24/31855	(k)	Partially Released
21/05/2024	Item 23.1 - AF24/15 Tender - Procurement - Supply and Placement of Bitumen – Report No. AR24/31841	(a) and (k)	Partially Released
21/05/2024	Item 22.2 - Independent Specialist Support Selection – Report No. AR24/24508	(b) and (d)	Partially Released
16/04/2024	Item 23.2 - Question with Notice - Regional Waste – Report No. AR24/24863	(b) (d) and (g)	Current
16/04/2024	Item 23.1 - Visitor Servicing Model - Update – Report No. AR24/23696	(b) and (d)	Current
19/03/2024	Item 23.7 - Status Report - Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre – Report No. AR24/16660	(b)(d) and (g)	Current
19/03/2024	Item 23.6 - Strategic Property Management – Report No. AR24/15120	(b) and (d)	Partially Released
19/03/2024	Items 23.5 - Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR24/17620	(a)	Current
19/03/2024	Item 23.4 - Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR24/17614	(a)	Current
19/03/2024	Item 23.3 - Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR24/17606	(a)	Current
19/03/2024	Item 23.2 - Crater Lakes Unsolicited Proposal Report No. AR24/19114	(b) (d) and (g)	Current
19/03/2024	Item 23.1 - Visitor Servicing Model – Report No. AR24/18981	(b) and (d)	Current
20/02/2024	Item 23.2 - Question with Notice - Unsolicited Proposal - Property Third Party Proposal – Report No. AR24/6186	(a), (b) and (d)	Current
20/02/2024	Item 23.1 - Question with Notice - Crater Lakes Unsolicited Proposal – Report No. AR24/6182	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
23/01/2024	Item 23.2 Audit and Risk Committee - Independent Member Appointment - Report No. AR24/1084	(a)	Partially Released
23/01/2024	Item 23.1 RAA EV Charging Station Project - Report No. AR24/26360	(b), (d) and (g)	Partially Released
12/12/2023	Item 23.2 AF23/431 Tender - Procurement - Reconstruction of Four Road Segments - Report No. AR23/84680	(k)	Current

Confidentiality Provisions

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2024)
12/12/2023	Item 23.1 Riddoch Arts and Cultural Trust - Board Member Appointment - Report No. AR23/83171	(a)	Partially Released
21/11/2023	Item 23.7 Question with Notice - Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre - Strategic Status Update – Report No. AR23/78853	(b)	Current
21/11/2023	Item 23.6 Af23/254 Tender - Procurement - Tender for Civic Centre Lift Upgrade – Report No. AR23/79137	(k)	Partially Released
21/11/2023	Item 23.5 Crater Lakes Unsolicited Proposal – Report No. AR23/78247	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
21/11/2023	Item 23.4 Update on Telstra Co-Investment Proposal for Mobile Blackspots – Report No. AR23/76480	(b), (d), (g) and (j)	Current
21/11/2023	Item 23.3 Sale of Land For Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR23/74290	(a)	Current
21/11/2023	Item 23.2 Sale of Land For Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR23/74289	(a)	Current
21/11/2023	Item 23.1 Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR23/74286	(a)	Current
17/10/2023	Item 23.2 Unsolicited Proposal - Property Third Party Proposal - Report No. AR23/68865	(a), (b) and (d)	Partially Released to Proponent only
17/10/2023	Item 23.1 Update on Legal Matter - Report No. AR23/68588	(f), (g), (h) and (i)	Current
19/09/2023	Item 23.2 Contracted Cleaning Services – Report No. AR23/63952	(b) and (i)	Current
19/09/2023	Item 23.1 Crater Lakes Unsolicited Proposal – Report No. AR23/61873	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
15/08/2023	Item 23.1 Event Sponsorship Request – Report No. AR23/54583	(g) and (j)	Partially Released
15/08/2023	Item 22.2 Phriendly Phishing Report – Report No. AR23/36674	(e)	Current
18/07/2023	Item 22.2 Independent Review of Chief Executive Officer and Remuneration Review - Report No. AR23/34047	(a) and (g)	Partially Released
20/06/2023	Item 23.3 Notice of Motion - Strategic Property Management – Report No. AR23/32078	(b) and (d)	Partially Released
20/06/2023	Item 23.2 Unsolicited Proposal - Tenison Woods College – Report No. AR23/32053	(b)	Current
20/06/2023	Item 23.1 RAA EV Charging Station Project – Report No. AR23/30191	(b), (d) and (g)	Partially Released

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2024)
20/06/2023	Item 22.2 Chief Executive Officer - 12 Month Performance Update – Report No. AR23/31872	(a)	Current
16/05/2023	Item 23.2 AF23/54 Tender - Procurement - Tender for Construction of Caroline Cell 4A – Report No. AR23/27593	(k)	Partially Released
16/05/2023	Item - 23.1 Telstra Co-Investment Proposal for Mobile Blackspots – Report No. AR23/28946	(b), (d), (g) and (j)	Partially Released
16/05/2023	Item 22.2 Request for Quotes - Independent Specialist Support - Report No. AR23/22334	(a), (b), (d) and (k)	Partially Released
18/04/2023	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	Item 23.3 Update on Legal Matter – Report No. AR23/21104	(g), (h), (i) and (j)	Current
21/03/2023	Item - 23.1 Library Cafe - Expressions of Interest – Report No. AR23/15719	(b)	Current
21/02/2023	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	Item 23.1 Section 270 Internal Review - Mitchell Street Trees - Legal Advice – Report No. AR23/10258	(g) and (h)	Partially Released
13/12/2022	Item 23.3 Section 270 - Internal Review – Report No. AR22/77592	(g) and (h)	Partially Released
13/12/2022	Item 23.2 AF22/295 Tender - Procurement - Tender for Valley Lakes Amenities Upgrade – Report No. AR22/83421	(k)	Partially Released
13/12/2022	Item 23.1 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report #23 and #24 - As at 06/12/2022 – Report No. AR22/83941	(b), (d), (g) and (h)	Current
18/10/2022	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	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	Item 4.2 Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre - Contractual and Financial Matters – Report No. AR22/56817	(b) and (d)	Partially Released
23/08/2022	Item 4.1 Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre - Operational Matters – Report No. AR22/56796	(b), (d) and (g)	Partially Released
16/08/2022	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	Item 26.3 Tender - Supply Contracts for City Infrastructure Works – Report No. AR22/46711	(b), (d) and (k)	Partially Released
19/07/2022	Item 26.2 Tender AF21/283 - Design, Supply and Installation of Solar Lighting on Rail Trail – Report No. AR22/45083	(b), (d) and (k)	Partially Released

Confidentiality Provisions

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2024)
19/07/2022	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	Item 25.2 Independent Review of Chief Executive Officer and Remuneration Review – Report No. AR22/43771	(a) and (g)	Partially Released
21/06/2022	Item 26.3 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report #18 - As at 07/06/2022 – Report No. AR22/38086	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
21/06/2022	Item 26.1 Execution of Deed - First Right of Refusal – Report No. AR22/38437	(a), (b) and (d)	Current
17/05/2022	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	Item 25.3 - Performance Review Documentation Presentation - Report No. AR22/30546	(a)	Current
17/05/2022	Item 25.2 - Chief Executive Officer - 12 Month Performance Update - Report No. AR22/28319	(a)	Current
19/04/2022	Item 26.4 AF20/530 Tender - Procurement - Tender for Railway Station Building Toilets Refurbishment – Report No. AR22/24421	(k)	Partially Released
19/04/2022	Item 26.3 Property Management - Leasing - Report No. AR22/24354	(a), (b) and (d)	Current
19/04/2022	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	Item 26.1 Request for Internal Review of Council Decision – Report No. AR22/21802	(h)	Partially Released
15/03/2022	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	Item 26.4 Audit and Risk Committee Appointment of Independent Members – Report No. AR22/8463	(a)	Partially Released
15/02/2022	Item 26.3 Crater Lakes Project Proposal – Report No. AR22/8597	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
15/02/2022	Item 26.2 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report #14 - As At 01/02/2022 – Report No. AR22/7779	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
18/01/2022	Item 26.4 Queen Elizabeth Park Trust (QEPT) Update – Report No. AR21/83935	(a), (b) and (d)	Current
14/12/2021	Item 26.4 Micromobility Device Proposal – Report No. AR21/73765	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
14/12/2021	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	Item 26.3 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report #12 - As at 02/11/2021 – Report No. AR21/71837	(b), (d) and (g)	Current

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2024)
16/11/2021	Item 25.5 City of Mount Gambier - IT Entity Controls Review 2020/21 - Report No. AR21/71285	(b), (e) and (g)	Current
16/11/2021	Item 25.3 Chief Executive Officer Probationary Period - Report No. AR21/70965	(a)	Partially Released
16/11/2021	Item 25.2 Chief Executive Officer - Performance Update - Report No. AR21/71607	(a)	Current
19/10/2021	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	Item 25.4 Chief Executive Officer KPIs – Report No. AR21/59974	(a)	Current
19/10/2021	Item 25.2 Mount Gambier Health Presentation – Report No. AR21/62736	(g) and (j)	Current
21/09/2021	Item 27.7 Chief Executive Officer Employment Agreement Variation (Superannuation) – Report No. AR21/57924	(a)	Partially Released
21/09/2021	Item 27.6 Waste and Materials Recycling Options – Report No. AR21/59399	(a), (b), (d) and (g)	Current
21/09/2021	Item 27.5 Valley Lake Algal Control – Report No. AR21/47621	(k)	Current
21/09/2021	Item 27.4 Site Strategic Land Use Assessment – Report No. AR21/52780	(b), (d), (g) and (j)	Current
21/09/2021	Item 27.1 Legal Advice – Report No. AR21/58597	(g), (h), (i) and (j)	Current
21/09/2021	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	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	Item 26.2 Community Health Information - Report No. AR21/51525	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
17/08/2021	Item 26.2 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report #9 - As at 03/08/2021	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
20/07/2021	Item 27.3 Design Services - Construction and Defects Liability Period	(b), (d), (g) and (h)	Partially Released
20/07/2021	Item 27.2 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report #8 - As At 06/07/2021	(b) and (d)	Current
20/07/2021	Item 28.4 Tender AF21/209 Supply and Delivery of Premixed Concrete – Report No. AR21/43214	(k)	Partially Released
20/07/2021	Item 28.3 COVID-19 Tourism Tenancies – Report No. AR21/41157	(a), (b) and (d)	Current



Confidentiality Provisions

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2024)
20/07/2021	Item 28.2 Strategic Property Management - Land Valuations – Report No. AR21/38766	(b) and (d)	Current
20/07/2021	Item 28.1 Legal Advice - Report No. AR21/39325	(g), (h), (i) and (j)	Current
15/06/2021	Item 27.4 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - As at 01/06/2021 – Report No. AR21/32471	(b) and (d)	Current
15/06/2021	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) and (k)	Partially Released
15/06/2021	Item 28.1 Notice of Motion - Surplus Land Declaration – Report No. AR21/34745	(b)	Current
18/05/2021	Item 27.5 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - As at 02/05/2021 – Report No. AR21/26211	(b) and (d)	Current
20/04/2021	Item 28.1 Country Arts SA - Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre Master Plan – Report No. AR21/21895	(b), (d), (g) and (j)	Current
20/04/2021	Item 27.8 Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre - Stage 3 Community Reference Group - Membership Recommendations – Report No. AR21/16985	(a)	Partially Released
20/04/2021	Item 27.7 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - As at 05/04/2021 – Report No. AR21/20559	(b) and (d)	Current
23/03/2021	Item 4.1 Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Funding – Report No. AR21/17395	(b), (d) and (k)	Partially Released
16/03/2021	Item 28.2 Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre - Stage 3 - Community Reference Group - Member Selection - Report No. AR21/14861	(a)	Current
16/03/2021	Item 27.2 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - As at 01/03/2021 - Report No. AR21/11450	(b), (d) and (k)	Current
11/03/2021	Item 4.1 Chief Executive Officer - Contract of Employment – Report No. AR21/15086	(a) and (g)	Partially Released
3/03/2021	Item 5.2 Chief Executive Officer Recruitment - Report No. AR21/11473	(a), (b), (d) and (g)	Partially Released
3/03/2021	Item 5.1 Update on Chief Executive Officer Selection Process – Report No. AR21/12144	(a), (b), (d) and (g)	Current
16/02/2021	Item 27.2 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - As at 01/02/2021 – Report No. AR21/6521	(b), (d) and (k)	Current
20/01/2021	Item 5.1 Chief Executive Officer Recruitment – Report No. AR21/3669	(a), (b), (d) and (g)	Current
19/01/2021	Item 28.2 Notice of Motion - Independent Consultant Member of Chief Executive Officer Selection Panel – Report No. AR21/1800	(a), (b) and (d)	Partially Released

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2024)
19/01/2021	Item 28.1 Mount Gambier Private Hospital - Feasibility Study Stages 4-6 – Report No. AR21/1334	(d) and (g)	Current
22/12/2020	Item 4.1 Review of Information Provided by Recruitment Consultants, Morton Philips – Report No. AR20/85494	(a), (b), (d) and (g)	Current
15/12/2020	Item 28.1 Notice of Motion - Request for Information - Community and Recreation Hub – Report No. AR20/82569	(h)	Current
15/12/2020	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	Item 27.4 Mount Gambier Community and Recreation Hub Project Budget – Report No. AR20/73063	(b) and (d)	Partially Released
17/11/2020	Item 27.5 Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - As at 02/11/2020 – Report No. AR20/73679	(b) and (d)	Current
15/09/2020	Item 26.3 Viability of Establishing Material Recovery Facilities in the Limestone Coast Region – Report No. AR20/57874	(a), (b), (d), (g) and (j)	Current
15/09/2020	Item 26.2 Mount Gambier Private Hospital Feasibility Study – Report No. AR20/56996	(b), (d) and (g)	Current
21/07/2020	Item 27.1 Property Management - Expiry of Agreement – Report No. AR20/44292	(a), (b), (d) and (i)	Partially Released
21/07/2020	Item 26.2 Commercial Lease - Request for Extended Lease – Report No. AR20/38059	(a), (b) and (d)	Current
1/07/2020	Item 4.1 Community and Recreation Hub Procurement – Report No. AR20/39192	(b) and (k)	Partially Released
19/05/2020	Item 27.1 Proposal from Mount Gambier Private Hospital – Report No. AR20/30776	(d)	Current
5/05/2020	Our City. Our Economy - Business Survey – Report No. AR20/26987	(d) and (g)	Partially Released
17/03/2020	Item 26.2 Presentation by Beach Energy – Report No. AR20/8188	(d)	Current
18/02/2020	Item 26.2 Riddoch Art Gallery Crate Loader - Report No. AR19/62327	(b), (k), (d) and (g)	Partially Released
18/02/2020	Item 26.1 Bookmark Café - Expression of Interest - Report No. AR20/3205	(a), (b), (d) and (g)	Partially Released
15/10/2019	Item 25.2 Property - 9 Penola Road, 1-3 Lawrence Street – Report No. AR19/48305	(b)	Current
07/03/2019	Discussion with QEPT on the Wellplayed Report, the QEPT's response to the report and their proposed sub-leasing arrangement	(b), (c) and (g)	Partially Released
07/03/2019	Item 2.2 'QEPT Wellplayed Report And Documentation' - Report No. AR19/10346	(b), (c) and (g)	Partially Released
07/03/2019	Item 2.3 Documents Relating to the Management of the Crater Lakes Area - Report No. AR19/10304	(b), (c) and (g)	Partially Released



Confidentiality Provisions

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2024)
21/08/2018	Item 17.2 Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre 2018-19 Business Plan - Report No. AR18/30233	(g)	Current
17/04/2018	Item 17.2 Surplus Government Property Notice - Report No. AR18/12667	(j)	Current
21/11/2017	Item 17.5 Report No. AR17/47214 – Surplus Government Property Notice	(b)	Current
18/04/2017	Item 1 - CEO Report on Confidential Matters - Ref. AF11/1894	(g)	Current
31/01/2017	Allegations regarding Mayor Andrew Lee to be referred to ICAC – Ref. AF13/275	(g)	Current
18/08/2015	Property Management - Railway Lands - Expression of Interest - Management of Community Markets	(b)	Current
18/08/2015	Property Management - Railway Lands - Expression of Interest - Occupation and Use of Old Railway Station Building	(b)	Current
15/04/2014	Governance – Committees – City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund (Section 41) - Minutes of meeting held 02/04/2014 – Ref. AF11/725	(a)	Current
17/12/2013	Commercial Club Inc. - Donation to Exceptional Junior Sportsperson	(a)	Current
17/12/2013	Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes - Donations to Financially Disadvantaged Junior Sportspersons	(a)	Current
18/06/2013	Social, Cultural and Community Services - Committees - City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund (Section 41) Committee - Minutes of meeting held 22/05/2013 – Ref. AF11/725	(a)	Current

FINANCE

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Council’s 2023/2024 adjusted operating surplus ratio of (1.8%) is outside the local government target range of 0 - 10%, however, it is below the adopted budget of (6.7%). The unadjusted operating surplus ratio of (12.3%) is predominantly due to the timing of receipt of financial assistance grants.

Net financial liabilities (non-adjusted) have increased in 2023/2024 driven by a decrease in debtors due to corrections for accounting for open space development applications and also driven by an increase in borrowings post completion of construction of Wulanda and the first full financial year of operations. The current long term financial plan models debt to peak in 2024/2025 financial year. The ratio is lower than the adopted budget of 117% due to treasury management practices and timing of capital expenditure resulting in lower than budgeted borrowings.

The asset renewal funding ratio is lower than the local government target due to supply and manufacturing of large plant items and contractor ability to deliver outsourced works. This has impacted on the timing of the delivery of planned capital renewal expenditure beyond 30 June 2024. Of these projects, 63% are on track for completion by the first quarter of 2024/2025, with the remainder due to be completed by the end of the financial year.

Financial ratios	Local Government target	2023/2024 actual	2022/2023 actual
Operating surplus ratio	0% - 10%	(12.3%)	(4.1%)
Adjusted		(1.8%)	(7.5%)
Net financial liabilities ratio	0% - 100%	106%	95%
Adjusted		96%	109%
Asset renewal funding ratio	90% - 110%	61%	88%

Procurement and Competitive Tendering

City of Mount Gambier Procurement Policy complies with Section 49 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Council is committed to achieving value for money in procuring goods and services that benefit the community and supporting the city's economic, environmental, cultural, and social values.

Council's Procurement Policy was reviewed, updated, and endorsed in December 2023.

The Procurement Policy drives consistent, transparent processes and cultivates a competitive environment. 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.

The policy also seeks to advance good ethical practice and ensure an open, fair and competitive process that provides equal opportunities to participants. Consideration will vary with each procurement to determine local and regional opportunities. Tenders incorporate a local weighting as part of the procurement evaluation process.

The expenditure levels established within the Procurement Policy determine the appropriate purchase method.

Council undertook 21 formal requests for tender/quote processes during 2023/2024.

Credit Card Expenditure Summary

City of Mount Gambier has a corporate card facility provided by Westpac with an overall purchasing limit approved of \$30,000.

No cards are issued to Elected Members and there are 10 employees currently allocated limits within the corporate facility. For the financial period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 the total amount expended via credit cards totalled \$18,119.

Auditors

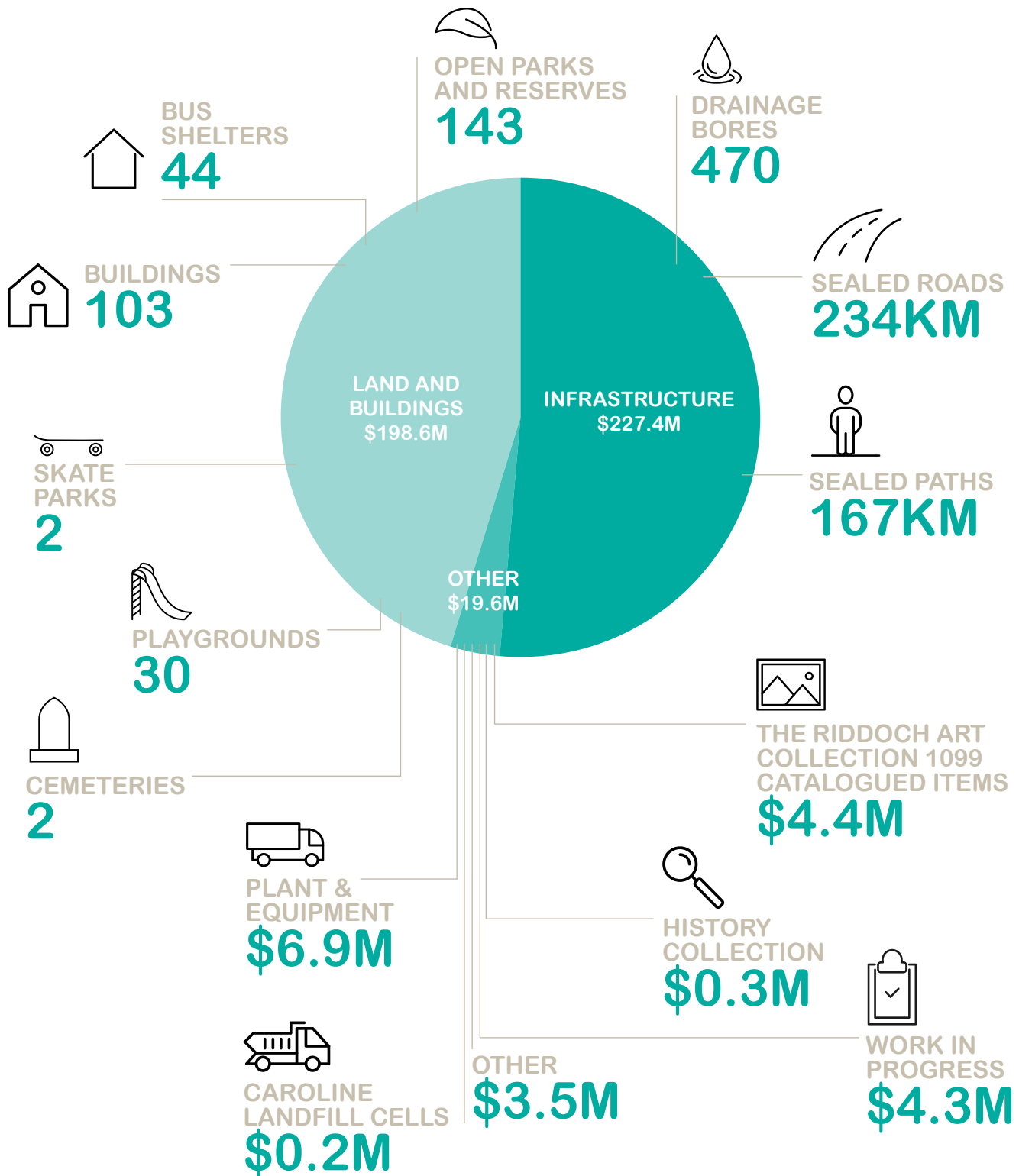
The City of Mount Gambier Annual Financial Statements for 2023/2024 were audited by Dean Newbery and Partners who were appointed as external auditors in May 2021 for a five year term pursuant to Section 128 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Remuneration paid or payable during 2023/2024 to the auditors for work performed for the annual audit of Council's financial statements pursuant to Section 128 of the Act was \$28,029.

An unmodified audit report was issued for the 2023/2024 financial year.



TOTAL ASSET VALUE \$445.6M



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 2023/2024 financial year Council adopted an increase in general rate revenue of 6.2% i.e. 5.53% plus assessment growth of 0.67%. In terms of residential rates, the average residential ratepayer paid \$1,441 (including the Waste Service Charge), an increase of \$67 compared with the 2022/2023 average.

WASTE SERVICE CHARGE

To highlight the cost of waste management Council adjusted its rating structure in 2021/2022 to remove the waste component from the general rates and introduce it as a separate fixed Waste Service Charge (WSC). The service charge of \$217.70 is intended to cover costs from kerbside bin collections through to treatment and disposal including maintaining, improving and replacing the services.

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 adopts valuations as supplied by The Office of the Valuer-General.

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 \$566.60 in 2023/2024 (\$532.60 in 2022/2023), applicable to every rateable property, raising approximately (37%) of Council's gross general rate revenue.

The variable rating component that raises the remaining 63% 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.



Rates

+



Fixed charge

=



Variable charge

(Property value x differential rate)



Waste Service Charge

+



Regional Landscape Levy
(Collected on behalf of Limestone Coast Landscape Board)

=



Total rates payable



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 introduction of an internal audit program, policy review and governance, and review of asset management plans, long term financial plan and annual budget.

MEETING ATTENDANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Seven ordinary meetings and one special meeting were held over the course of the 2023/2024 financial year. The special meeting was held on 11 September 2023 to review the infrastructure valuations and provide an update on the review of Council policies. The seven ordinary meetings were held across the year in July 2023, October 2023, November 2023, January 2024, February 2024, April 2024 and June 2024.

Audit and Risk Committee attendance was as follows:

Committee member	Meetings attended
Mr Paul Duka (Presiding Member)	8/8
Mayor Martin (Ex-officio)	6/8
Cr Paul Jenner (Council Member)	7/8
Mr Alexander Brown	8/8
Ms Belinda Johnson	7/8

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.

Four workshops were held:

- 30 October 2023 - Audit and Risk Committee Update and Budget Review 1,
- 27 November 2023 - Audit and Risk Committee Update, Cyber Security and LGRS update,
- 26 February 2024 - Audit and Risk Committee update, and
- 8 April 2024 - Audit and Risk Committee update.

SELF ASSESSMENT EVALUATION

Self-assessment is completed annually by the committee which covers 10 broad areas for performance review. The last review was completed 27 November 2023 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.

REVISED ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM

	Jan	Feb	Apr	Jun	Jul	Oct	Nov
Meeting date	29/1	26/2	8/4	3/6	29/7	28/10	25/11
Recommendations to Council	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun	Aug	Nov	Dec
Financial Reporting & Management							
Review statutory financial statements							
Comparison of actual performance to budget as at year-end							
Review performance of investments and borrowings							
Audit & Risk Committee self-assessment and annual report							
Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems							
Internal Financial Controls self-assessment update							
Strategic Risk Register							
Review of insurances							
Work Health Safety update							
Internal Audit							
Internal audit - quarterly reports							
Progress on internal audits							
Annual review of Internal Audit Program							
Internal Audit – CEO Annual Report							
External Audit							
Review annual audit plan							
Meeting with auditors to review audit findings							
Review audit management report and management's response							
Review any management representation letter before sign off							
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 (BR1, BR2, BR3) – Included in ABP and LTFP							



REVISED ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM

	Jan	Feb	Apr	Jun	Jul	Oct	Nov
Meeting date	29/1	26/2	8/4	3/6	29/7	28/10	25/11
Policy Reviews							
Asset Accounting Policy (annual review)							
Half yearly report – Council policy update							
Any other policies as required							
Other							
Review annual work program							
Review Terms of Reference							
Half Yearly Report – Leases and Licences update							

COMMITTEE DECISION MAKING

Date	Report	Work Program Category
31/07/2023	Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Management	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Risk Management Report June 2023	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Review of Council Policies - Update	Policy Reviews
	Confidential Item	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
11/09/2023	Review of Council Policies - Update	Policy Reviews
	Infrastructure Valuation	Financial Reporting and Management
30/10/2023	Draft 2022/2023 Financial Statements	Financial Reporting and Management
	Comparison of Actual to Budget for the year ending 30 June 2023	Financial Reporting and Management
27/11/2023	External Audit Management Report	External Audit
	Review of Council Policies and Leases/ Licenses update	Policy Reviews/Other
	Policy Review - F225 Fraud, Corruption, Misconduct and Maladministration Prevention Policy and Internal Audit Policy	Policy Reviews
	Policy Review - Procurement and Disposal of Land and Assets Policies	Policy Reviews
	Council Investments and Borrowings	Financial Reporting and Management
	Self-assessment of Performance Audit and Risk Committee	Financial Reporting and Management
	Audit and Risk Committee Work Program and Meeting Schedule 2024	Other
	Internal Audit Program	Internal Audit
	Risk Management Report September 2023	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Management	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report	Other
29/01/2024	Correspondence Received	Other
	Quarterly Internal Audit Update Report	Internal Audit
	Unaudited Buildings and Structures Valuation - As at 1 July 2023	Financial Reporting and Management
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report	Other

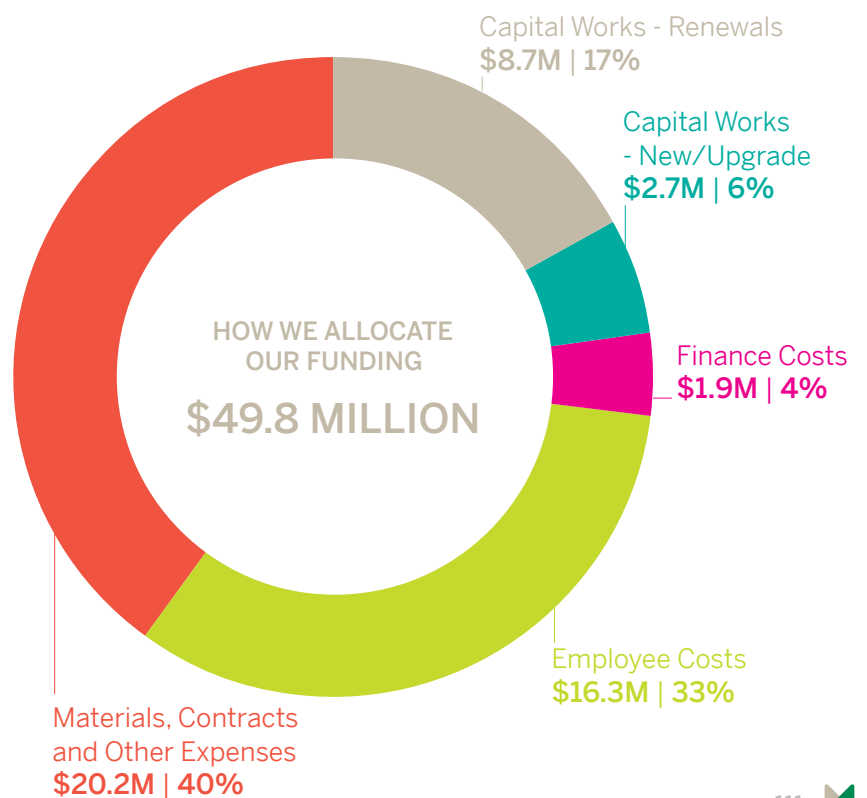
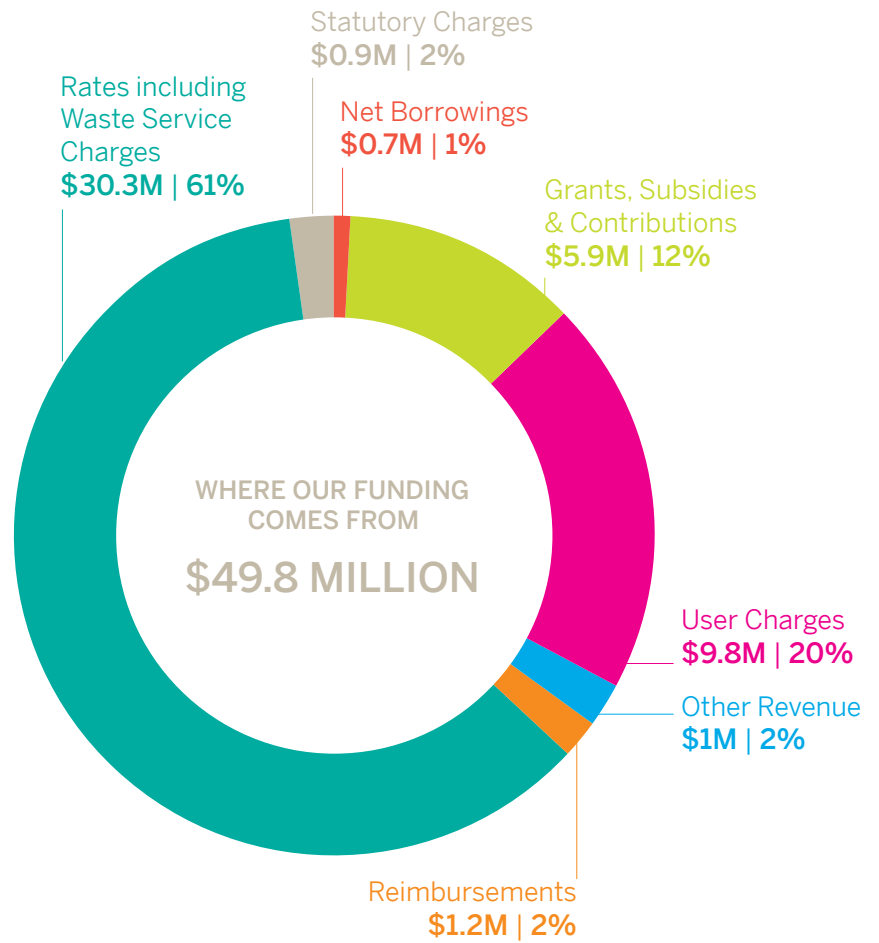


Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report

Date	Report	Work Program Category
26/02/2024	<i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> Post Implementation Internal Audit	Internal Audit
	Payroll and Remuneration Internal Audit	Internal Audit
	External Audit Management Report	External Audit
	Risk Management Report October - December 2023	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Work Health Safety (WHS) and Wellbeing Quarterly Report - October - December 2023	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Presiding Member Nomination	Other
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report	Other
8/04/2024	Lease and Licence Update	Other
	Council Policy Update	Policy Reviews
	Financing Arrangements	Financial Reporting and Management
	Review of Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference	Other
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report	Other
3/06/2024	2024/2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget	Review of Strategic Management and Business Plans
	Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034	Review of Strategic Management and Business Plans
	Draft Asset Management Plans (AMPs) 2025-2034	Review of Strategic Management and Business Plans
	Unaudited Infrastructure Valuation as at 1 July 2023	Financial Reporting and Management
	Policy Review - Asset Accounting	Policy Reviews
	Policy Review - Risk Management	Policy Reviews
	Risk Management Report January - March 2024	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Work Health Safety (WHS) and Wellbeing Quarterly Report - January - March 2024	Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems
	Quarterly Internal Audit Update Report	Internal Audit
	Draft Revised Internal Audit Program	Internal Audit
	External Audit Management Report	External Audit
	Review of 2024 Audit and Risk Program	Other
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report	Other

Projections and Target for 2024/2025 Financial Year

The City of Mount Gambier 2024/2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget outlines the services, programs and activities Council plans to deliver over the next 12 months. The objectives and key initiatives outlined in the plan are guided by the vision and goals set out in the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, 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 2024

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City of Mount Gambier

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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 2024 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.



Sarah Philpott
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 19/11/2024



Lynette Martin
MAYOR

Date: 19/11/2024



City of Mount Gambier

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	Restated 2023
Income			
Rates	2a	26,488	24,893
Statutory charges	2b	781	731
User charges	2c	9,179	6,947
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	2g	559	1,071
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	2g	1,102	6,402
Investment income	2d	54	49
Reimbursements	2e	1,230	755
Other income	2f	2,668	551
Total income		<u>42,061</u>	<u>41,399</u>
Expenses			
Employee costs	3a	15,292	14,365
Materials, contracts and other expenses	3b	19,320	17,460
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	3c	10,795	10,176
Finance costs	3d	1,822	1,094
Total expenses		<u>47,229</u>	<u>43,095</u>
Operating surplus / (deficit)		<u>(5,168)</u>	<u>(1,696)</u>
Physical resources received free of charge	2i	2,053	1,054
Asset disposal and fair value adjustments	4	(1,475)	(364)
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2g	216	5,808
Net surplus / (deficit)		<u>(4,374)</u>	<u>4,802</u>
Other comprehensive income			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result			
Changes in revaluation surplus - I,PP&E	8a	45,425	90,897
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve	8a	(177)	(575)
Total amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result		<u>45,248</u>	<u>90,322</u>
Total other comprehensive income		<u>45,248</u>	<u>90,322</u>
Total comprehensive income		<u>40,874</u>	<u>95,124</u>

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 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	Restated 2023
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalent assets	5a	270	76
Trade and other receivables	5b	2,531	3,443
Inventories	5c	76	67
Subtotal		<u>2,877</u>	<u>3,586</u>
Non-current assets held for sale	17	335	–
Total current assets		<u>3,212</u>	<u>3,586</u>
Non-current assets			
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	6	445,641	399,756
Total non-current assets		<u>445,641</u>	<u>399,756</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>448,853</u>	<u>403,342</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7a	5,317	4,801
Borrowings	7b	9,986	7,088
Provisions	7c	3,561	3,011
Total current liabilities		<u>18,864</u>	<u>14,900</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	7b	27,079	24,519
Provisions	7c	1,608	3,495
Total non-current liabilities		<u>28,687</u>	<u>28,014</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>47,551</u>	<u>42,914</u>
Net assets		<u>401,302</u>	<u>360,428</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		87,287	87,644
Asset revaluation reserves	8a	312,693	271,174
Other reserves	8b	1,322	1,610
Total equity		<u>401,302</u>	<u>360,428</u>

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 2024

\$ '000	Notes	Accumulated surplus	Asset revaluation reserve	Other reserves	Total equity
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)
Other comprehensive income		–	45,248	–	45,248
Total comprehensive income		(4,374)	45,248	–	40,874
Transfers between reserves	8b	288	–	(288)	–
Transfer between ARR and Accumulated surplus		3,729	(3,729)	–	–
Balance at the end of period		87,287	312,693	1,322	401,302

\$ '000	Notes	Accumulated surplus Restated	Asset revaluation reserve	Other reserves Restated	Total equity Restated
2023					
Balance as at 1 July		83,080	180,852	1,372	265,304
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		4,802	–	–	4,802
Other comprehensive income					
Gain (loss) on revaluation of IPP&E	6a	–	90,897	–	90,897
IPP&E impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to ARR	6a	–	(575)	–	(575)
Other comprehensive income		–	90,322	–	90,322
Total comprehensive income		4,802	90,322	–	95,124
Transfers between reserves	8b	(238)	–	238	–
Transfer between ARR and Accumulated surplus		–	–	–	–
Balance at the end of period		87,644	271,174	1,610	360,428

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 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Cash flows from operating activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Rates receipts		26,501	24,803
Statutory charges		781	731
User charges		9,179	6,947
Grants, subsidies and contributions		1,102	6,419
Investment receipts		54	49
Reimbursements		1,230	755
Other receipts		1,349	50
<u>Payments</u>			
Payments to employees		(14,663)	(14,081)
Payments for materials, contracts and other expenses		(19,843)	(15,666)
Finance payments		(1,719)	(720)
Net cash provided by (or used in) operating activities	9b	3,971	9,287
Cash flows from investing activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Grants utilised for capital purposes		307	1,071
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		216	5,142
Sale of replaced assets		110	40
Sale of surplus assets		-	20
<u>Payments</u>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(3,528)	(5,370)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(6,188)	(18,216)
Net cash provided (or used in) investing activities		(9,083)	(17,313)
Cash flows from financing activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Proceeds from loans		8,374	10,000
Proceeds from bonds and deposits		64	22
<u>Payments</u>			
Repayments of loans		(2,930)	(1,905)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(202)	(265)
Net cash provided by (or used in) financing activities		5,306	7,852
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		194	(174)
plus: cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period		76	250
<u>Cash and cash equivalents held at end of period</u>	9a	270	76

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 2024

Contents of the Notes accompanying the General Purpose Financial Statements

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City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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 2024

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

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 13 has also been calculated after adjusting for the distortions resulting from the differences between the actual grants received and the grants entitlements allocated.

Construction contracts

Construction works undertaken by Council for third parties are generally on an agency basis where the third party reimburses Council for actual costs incurred, and usually do not extend beyond the reporting period. Reimbursements not received are recognised as receivables and reimbursements received in advance are recognised as "payments received in advance".

(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 11.

(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.

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 2024

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 reclassified to current liabilities. \$3.92M has been reclassified to current from non-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 4.00% (2023, 3.85%)

Weighted avg. settlement period 1 year (2023, 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 16.

(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 has adjusted the methodology in calculating the net present value of future restoration costs over the life of the landfill site. This has resulted in an impact to other income of \$2,155,237 and subsequent reduction to the future restoration provision, liability recorded.

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 management strategic plan which will be used as the basis for the waste master plan and 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 the review of the landfill capping and closure estimates is completed in line with the adoption of the waste master plan. 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.

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, as follows:

Office 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 which are yet effective and have determined that there is no expected material impact on the reported financial position or performance.

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Income

\$ '000	2024	2023
(a) Rates		
General rates		
General rates	22,164	20,874
Less: mandatory rebates	(269)	(240)
Less: discretionary rebates, remissions and write-offs	(17)	(18)
Total general rates	21,878	20,616
Other rates (including service charges)		
Landscape levy	1,352	1,240
Waste collection	3,097	2,916
Total other rates (including service charges)	4,449	4,156
Other charges		
Penalties for late payment	122	93
Legal and other costs recovered	39	28
Total other charges	161	121
Total rates	26,488	24,893
(b) Statutory charges		
Development fees	189	200
Town planning fees	250	171
Animal registration fees and fines	223	245
Parking fines / expiation fees	42	44
Other licences, fees and fines	77	71
Total statutory charges	781	731
(c) User charges		
Cemetery/crematoria fees	911	834
Hall and equipment hire	14	19
Property lease	298	256
Sales - general	76	164
Sundry	36	49
Wulanda	2,726	1,310
Green Waste Collection	35	35
Landfill Charges	4,711	3,930
Sales - Waste Transfer Station	372	350
Total user charges	9,179	6,947
(d) Investment income		
Local Government Finance Authority	53	48
- Banks and other	1	1
Total investment income	54	49

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Income (continued)

\$ '000	2024	2023
(e) Reimbursements		
Private works	19	9
Wulanda	975	649
Other	236	97
<u>Total reimbursements</u>	<u>1,230</u>	<u>755</u>

\$ '000	2024	2023 Restated
(f) Other income		
Insurance and other recoupments - infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	80	95
Sundry	361	285
Donations	72	64
Open Space Contributions	–	107
Caroline Landfill	2,155	–
<u>Total other income</u>	<u>2,668</u>	<u>551</u>

\$ '000	2024	2023
(g) Grants, subsidies and contributions		
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	216	5,808
Total amounts received for new or upgraded assets	<u>216</u>	<u>5,808</u>
Other grants, subsidies and contributions - capital		
Untied - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	509	904
Boundary Roads Contributions	50	167
Total Other grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	<u>559</u>	<u>1,071</u>
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions		
Regional Transport Subsidy Program	134	159
Untied - Financial Assistance Grant	263	5,542
Roads to Recovery	430	421
Library and communications	165	165
Sundry	110	115
Other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	<u>1,102</u>	<u>6,402</u>
Total other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	<u>1,102</u>	<u>6,402</u>
<u>Total grants, subsidies and contributions</u>	<u>1,877</u>	<u>13,281</u>



City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Income (continued)

\$ '000	2024	2023
(i) Sources of grants		
Commonwealth Government	950	6,267
State Government	793	6,771
Other	134	243
Total	1,877	13,281

(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	294	435
Less:		
<i>Expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods</i>		
Pine Hall / O'Leary Road	(12)	(363)
Tertiary Education	(30)	(16)
State Bicycle	(7)	(19)
Pinehall Avenue (O'Leary Road to Sunnybrae Road)	(208)	–
Margaret Worth Exhibition	(25)	–
Subtotal	(282)	(398)
Plus:		
<i>Amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>		
Tertiary Education	22	24
Pinehall Avenue (O'Leary Road to Sunnybrae Road)	–	208
Margaret Worth Exhibition	–	25
Subtotal	22	257
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period	34	294
Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period	(260)	(141)

(i) Physical resources received free of charge

Land and improvements	23	60
Roads	1,231	707
Stormwater drainage	508	–
Footpaths & Kerbing	291	287
Total physical resources received free of charge	2,053	1,054

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Expenses

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
(a) Employee costs			
Salaries and wages		12,429	11,755
Employee leave expense		1,617	1,405
Superannuation	16	1,512	1,352
Workers' compensation insurance		590	313
Other employee related costs		56	40
Less: capitalised and distributed costs		(912)	(500)
<u>Total operating employee costs</u>		<u>15,292</u>	<u>14,365</u>
Total number of employees (full time equivalent at end of reporting period)		143	135
 (b) Materials, contracts and other expenses			
(i) Prescribed expenses			
Auditor's remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		28	27
Elected members' expenses		243	218
Election expenses		10	166
Subtotal - prescribed expenses		<u>281</u>	<u>411</u>
(ii) Other materials, contracts and expenses			
Contractors		8,100	6,487
Energy		1,827	1,716
Legal expenses		219	193
Levies Paid to Government - Regional Landscape levy recovered		1,351	1,241
Sundry		189	806
Contributions/Donations		547	460
Insurance		635	378
Levies Paid to Government - EPA, ESL & Dog Levies		1,925	1,985
Materials		1,564	1,413
Training		133	178
Water		257	158
Communication		238	274
Consultants		722	519
Licences and Subscriptions		1,332	1,241
Subtotal - Other material, contracts and expenses		<u>19,039</u>	<u>17,049</u>
<u>Total materials, contracts and other expenses</u>		<u>19,320</u>	<u>17,460</u>



City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Expenses (continued)

\$ '000	2024	2023
(c) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		
(i) Depreciation and amortisation		
Buildings and other structures	4,560	3,525
Infrastructure		
Stormwater Drainage	319	125
Kerbing and Footpaths	1,603	1,238
Roads	2,400	2,020
Carparks	240	256
Right-of-use assets	217	196
Plant and equipment	775	692
Waste Management	345	1,754
Office Equipment	281	208
Other assets	49	47
Subtotal	10,789	10,061
(ii) Impairment		
Capital Work In Progress	6	58
Other Assets	–	57
Subtotal	6	115
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment	10,795	10,176
(d) Finance costs		
Interest on loans	1,706	1,079
Interest on leases	32	15
Unwinding of present value discounts	84	–
Total finance costs	1,822	1,094

Note 4. Asset disposal and fair value adjustments

\$ '000	2024	2023
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		
(i) Assets renewed or directly replaced		
Proceeds from disposal	110	40
Less: carrying amount of assets sold	(1,469)	(404)
Gain (loss) on disposal	(1,359)	(364)
(ii) Assets surplus to requirements		
Proceeds from disposal	–	20
Less: carrying amount of assets sold	(116)	(20)
Gain (loss) on disposal	(116)	–
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	(1,475)	(364)

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Current assets

\$ '000	2024	2023
(a) Cash and cash equivalent assets		
Cash on hand and at bank	270	76
<u>Total cash and cash equivalent assets</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>76</u>

\$ '000	2024	2023 Restated
(b) Trade and other receivables		
Rates - general and other	873	886
Accrued revenues	–	500
Debtors - general	1,333	1,891
GST recoupment	323	70
Prepayments	2	96
Subtotal	<u>2,531</u>	<u>3,443</u>
<u>Total trade and other receivables</u>	<u>2,531</u>	<u>3,443</u>

\$ '000	2024	2023
(c) Inventories		
Stores and materials	22	37
Trading stock	54	30
<u>Total inventories</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>67</u>



City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

Fair Value Level	as at 30/06/23										as at 30/06/24									
	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount	Asset Additions New/ Upgrade	Asset Additions Renewals	WDV of Asset Disposals	Depreciation Expense (Note 3)	Impairment Loss (recognised in P/L) (Note 3)	Impairment Loss (recognised in Equity) (Note 9)	WIP Transfers	Adjustments & Transfers	Adjustments	The Net(s) "held for Sale" category (Note 9)	Revaluation Increase/Decrease in Equity (ASR) (Note 9)	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount	
3	10,231	-	(9,841)	390	344	-	-	(345)	-	-	-	-	(232)	-	-	-	9,783	(9,626)	157	
2	18,039	2,362	-	2,362	3,612	678	-	-	(6)	(2,307)	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,339	-	4,339	
3	44,727	-	-	44,727	23	-	-	-	(25)	-	(18,039)	-	-	(335)	7,157	69,586	-	-	69,586	
3	4,356	4,206	(1,818)	2,388	-	29	(4)	(281)	-	59	-	-	-	-	-	4,356	4,110	(1,919)	2,191	
2	3,987	33	(2,232)	1,788	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,788)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,356	
3	101,198	64,300	(53,206)	112,292	1,515	203	(116)	(4,560)	(140)	1,609	2,646	-	-	-	15,625	103,052	852	(64,830)	129,074	
3	8,022	1,831	(2,596)	7,257	557	-	-	(319)	(12)	1	-	-	-	-	18,646	36,090	62	(10,022)	26,130	
3	95,653	-	(21,373)	74,280	340	524	(255)	(1,603)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95,545	675	(22,934)	73,286	
3	149,113	-	(34,156)	114,957	2,290	1,320	(1,056)	(2,300)	-	637	-	-	-	-	-	148,594	3,537	(36,283)	115,848	
	-	1,573	(24)	1,549	-	-	-	(55)	-	-	(858)	-	-	-	-	-	712	(56)	656	
	-	412	(15)	397	217	-	(46)	(65)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,932	5,471	358	(1,394)	4,435	
3	10,451	162	(3,378)	7,235	-	72	(4)	(240)	-	1	-	-	-	-	65	10,497	168	(3,536)	7,129	
	-	614	(337)	277	14	-	(217)	-	-	-	-	192	-	-	-	-	625	(359)	266	
	-	10,151	(3,966)	6,185	317	1,299	(147)	(775)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,272	(4,393)	6,879	
	-	1,590	(313)	1,277	81	-	-	(49)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,672	(363)	1,309	
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	445,777	87,234	(133,255)	399,756	9,296	4,139	(1,628)	(10,788)	(6)	(177)	-	(40)	(335)	45,425	563,191	38,165	(155,715)	445,641		
Comparatives	323,939	94,416	(117,184)	301,171	13,965	4,898	(424)	(10,061)	(115)	(575)	-	-	-	90,897	445,777	87,234	(133,255)	399,756		

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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 2024

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 construction/extensions	5,000
Park & Playground Furniture & Equipment	5,000
Road construction & reconstruction	5,000
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	5,000
Stormwater Drainage	5,000
Waste Management	5,000

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

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

<i>Other Assets</i>	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 2024 based on Valuer General valuations provided to Council.

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value/Site value, Land Valuation Act 1971
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2024
- 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. These assets and other historical collections are not depreciated.

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2023
- Valuer: Simon Storey Valuers

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 has been a 13% average increase in depreciation for buildings and structures as a result of the revaluation undertaken.

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value/Market Value/Current Gross Replacement Cost
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2023
- Valuer: AssetVal

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 has been a 59% average increase in depreciation for Other Infrastructure as a result of the revaluation undertaken.

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value/Current Gross Replacement Cost
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2023
- Valuer: iinSights Pty Ltd

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

Infrastructure - Public Lighting

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 useful lives.



City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. Liabilities

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non Current	2023 Current	2023 Non Current
(a) Trade and other payables				
Goods and services	3,804	–	2,477	–
Payments received in advance	472	–	435	–
- Grants and contributions - capital	–	–	252	–
- Other	37	–	43	–
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements	407	–	400	–
Accrued expenses - other	412	–	1,068	–
Deposits, retentions and bonds	172	–	108	–
Other	13	–	18	–
<u>Total trade and other payables</u>	<u>5,317</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>4,801</u>	<u>–</u>

(b) Borrowings

Loans	9,884	26,957	6,930	24,467
Lease liabilities	102	122	158	52
<u>Total Borrowings</u>	<u>9,986</u>	<u>27,079</u>	<u>7,088</u>	<u>24,519</u>

All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council

(c) Provisions

Employee entitlements (including oncosts)	3,561	239	3,011	167
Cell capping	–	1,200	–	783
Future restoration	–	169	–	2,545
<u>Total provisions</u>	<u>3,561</u>	<u>1,608</u>	<u>3,011</u>	<u>3,495</u>

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Reserves

\$ '000	as at 30/06/23		Transfers	Impairments	as at 30/06/24	
	Opening Balance	Increments (Decrements)			Closing Balance	
(a) Asset revaluation reserve						
Land	52,123	7,156	–	(25)	59,254	
Buildings and other structures	53,310	15,625	1,994	(140)	70,789	
Infrastructure	156,771	22,644	827	(12)	180,230	
Plant and equipment	770	–	(770)	–	–	
Minor Plant	34	–	(34)	–	–	
Waste Management	2,925	–	(2,925)	–	–	
Other assets	5,241	–	(2,821)	–	2,420	
Total asset revaluation reserve	271,174	45,425	(3,729)	(177)	312,693	
Comparatives	180,852	90,897	–	(575)	271,174	

\$ '000	as at 30/06/23		Tfrs to Reserve	Tfrs from Reserve	Other Movements	as at 30/06/24	
	Opening Balance Restated					Closing Balance	
(b) Other reserves							
Mount Gambier Cemetery	711	–	–	–	–	711	
Mayor Christmas Appeal	97	40	(65)	–	–	72	
Junior Sports Assistance Fund	128	24	(17)	–	–	135	
Waste Service Charge	270	–	(270)	–	–	–	
Open Space	404	–	–	–	–	404	
Total other reserves	1,610	64	(352)	–	–	1,322	
Comparatives	1,372	238	–	–	–	1,610	

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

The Mount Gambier Cemetery reserve represents funds that have been separated for any development works or projects that may be required at the Carinya Gardens Cemetery and crematorium.

Mayor Christmas Appeal

The Mayor Christmas Appeal represents bank funds and payables of the City of Mount Gambier related to the Mayor Christmas Appeal and to be used for that purpose.



City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Reserves (continued)

Junior Sports Assistance Fund

The Junior Sports Assistance Fund reserve represents bank funds and payables of the City of Mount Gambier related to the Junior Sporting Assistance Fund and to be used for that purpose.

Waste Management

Residual monies (income less expenses) from activities relating to waste collection.

Open Space

Monies held from creation of sub-divisions to be used for future open space projects.

Note 9. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
(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	270	76
Balances per Statement of Cash Flows		270	76

\$ '000	2024	2023 Restated
(b) Reconciliation of Operating Result		
Net surplus/(deficit)	(4,374)	4,802
Non-cash items in income statements		
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	10,795	10,176
Non-cash asset acquisitions	(2,053)	(1,054)
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as investing activity	(775)	(6,213)
Net (gain)/loss on disposals	1,475	364
Adjustment Caroline	(2,155)	–
	2,913	8,075
Add (less): changes in net current assets		
Net (increase)/decrease in receivables	912	(467)
Change in allowances for under-recovery of receivables	–	2
Net (increase)/decrease in inventories	(9)	(3)
Net (increase)/decrease in other assets	–	(4)
Net increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(467)	1,469
Net increase/(decrease) in unpaid employee benefits	622	215
Net cash provided by (or used in) operations	3,971	9,287

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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	21	2,053	1,054
Amounts recognised in income statement		2,053	1,054

Non-cash financing (other)

Leases		14	229
Total non-cash financing and investing activities		2,067	1,283

(d) Financing arrangements

Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit

(\$ '000):

Bank overdrafts	250	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.



City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 10(a). Functions

	Income, Expenses and Assets have been directly attributed to the following Functions / Activities. Details of these Functions/Activities are provided in Note 10(b).								
	OPERATING INCOME		OPERATING EXPENSES		OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		GRANTS INCLUDED IN OPERATING INCOME		TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT)
	2024	2023 Restated	2024	2023	2024	2023 Restated	2024	2023	
\$ '000									
Functions/Activities									
Administration / Support Services	26,025	29,541	464	8,634	25,561	20,907	263	5,542	9,933
Community Support	960	858	1,766	1,257	(806)	(399)	-	-	14,432
Culture	428	401	7,167	4,702	(6,739)	(4,301)	226	207	34,782
Economic Development	132	150	3,472	2,218	(3,340)	(2,068)	14	-	4,116
Environment	9,323	6,158	13,976	10,904	(4,653)	(4,746)	134	178	8,865
Recreation	4,480	3,128	12,941	7,950	(8,461)	(4,822)	544	957	130,286
Regulatory Services	790	827	2,004	1,253	(1,214)	(426)	-	-	8
Transport	515	624	4,869	3,809	(4,354)	(3,185)	480	589	189,666
Engineering / Indirect	(611)	(295)	541	2,351	(1,152)	(2,646)	-	-	9,696
Unclassified Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	19	7	29	17	(10)	(10)	-	-	4,981
Total Functions/Activities	42,061	41,399	47,229	43,095	(5,168)	(1,696)	1,661	7,473	448,853
									403,342

Revenues and expenses exclude net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets, amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets and physical resources received free of charge. The allocation methodology has changed with 2022 restated.

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 10(b). Components of functions

The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

Administration / Support Services

Governance, elected members, organisational, support services, accounting/finance, payroll, human resources, information technology, communication, rates administration, records, occupancy, customer service, other support services, revenues, separate and special rates.

Community Support

Public order and safety, crime prevention, emergency services, other fire protection, other public order and safety, health services, pest control – health, immunisation, preventive health services, other health services, community support, senior citizens facilities, children and youth services, community assistance, other community support, community amenities, bus shelters, cemeteries / crematoria, public conveniences, car parking – non-fee-paying and other community amenities.

Culture

Library services, other library services, cultural services, cultural venues, heritage, museums and art galleries and other cultural services.

Economic development

Regional development, tourism, visitor information and other economic development.

Environment

Animal/plant boards, waste management, domestic waste, green waste, recycling, transfer station, other waste management, other environment, stormwater and drainage, street cleaning, street lighting, street-scaping, Natural Resource Management levy, and other environment.

Recreation

Parks and gardens, sports facilities – indoor, sports facilities – outdoor, swimming centres – Outdoor, and other recreation.

Regulatory services

Dog and cat control, building control, town planning, clean air/pollution control, litter control, health inspection, parking control, and other regulatory services.

Transport

Footpaths and kerbing, roads – sealed, roads – formed, roads – natural formed, roads – unformed, traffic management and other transport.

Engineering / Indirect

Depot management, indirect and general plant cost not included in other functions.

Governance

Audit & Assurance, Planning and Performance, Legal Services and Major Projects.

Equity accounted Council businesses

Net Gain equity accounting Council businesses

Net Loss equity accounting Council businesses



City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 11. 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 are returning fixed interest rates between 4.30% and 4.55% (2023: 1.05% and 4.30%).

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - rates and associated 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:

Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 0.75% (2023: 0.48%). 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:

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.

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

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 4.75% and 5.07%, with fixed interest charged at 6.15%.

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - leases

Accounting Policy:

Accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 as stated in Note 15.



City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 11. 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					
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	5,302	–	–	5,302	4,461
Current borrowings	11,249	–	–	11,249	9,883
Lease liabilities	102	122	–	224	224
Total financial liabilities	16,653	22,518	9,470	48,641	41,526
Total financial assets and liabilities	19,451	22,518	9,470	51,439	44,325
2023					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	76	–	–	76	76
Receivables	2,766	–	–	2,766	3,347
Total financial assets	2,842	–	–	2,842	3,423
Financial liabilities					
Non-current borrowings	–	23,080	11,050	34,130	24,467
Payables	4,071	–	–	4,071	3,038
Current borrowings	12,409	–	–	12,409	6,930
Lease liabilities	158	52	–	210	210
Total financial liabilities	16,638	23,132	11,050	50,820	34,645
Total financial assets and liabilities	19,480	23,132	11,050	53,662	38,068

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

The following interest rates were applicable to Council's borrowings at balance date:

\$ '000	2024		2023	
	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value
Other variable rates	6.15%	13,920	5.51%	5,545
Fixed interest rates	4.91%	23,145	5.12%	26,062
		<u>37,065</u>		<u>31,607</u>

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

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 Management 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 12. Capital expenditure and investment property commitments

\$ '000	2024	2023
Capital commitments		
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Buildings & Other Structures	247	1,135
- Footpaths and Kerbing	51	-
- Roads	384	10
Plant and equipment	1,036	965
Waste	44	3,203
Other	69	-
	<u>1,831</u>	<u>5,313</u>
These expenditures are payable:		
Not later than one year	1,831	5,313
	<u>1,831</u>	<u>5,313</u>



City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 13. Financial indicators

\$ '000	Amounts	Indicator	Indicators	
	2024	2024	Restated 2023	2022
Financial Indicators overview				
<i>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.</i>				
1. Operating Surplus Ratio				
Operating surplus	(5,168)	(12.3)%	(4.1)%	5.4%
Total operating income	42,061			
<i>This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of total operating revenue.</i>				
2. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio				
Net financial liabilities	44,750	106%	95%	97%
Total operating income	42,061			
<i>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.</i>				
Adjustments to Ratios				
<i>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.</i>				
Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio				
Operating surplus	(813)	(1.8)%	(7.5)%	2.1%
Total operating income	46,416			
Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio				
Net financial liabilities	44,750	96%	109%	108%
Total operating income	46,416			
3. Asset Renewal Funding Ratio				
Asset renewals	3,528	61%	88%	79%
Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan required expenditure	5,762			
<i>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.</i>				

City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 14. Uniform presentation of finances

\$ '000	2024	2023 Restated
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.		
<u>Income</u>		
Rates	26,488	24,893
Statutory charges	781	731
User charges	9,179	6,947
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	559	1,071
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	1,102	6,402
Investment income	54	49
Reimbursements	1,230	755
Other income	2,668	551
Total Income	42,061	41,399
<u>Expenses</u>		
Employee costs	15,292	14,365
Materials, contracts and other expenses	19,320	17,460
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	10,795	10,176
Finance costs	1,822	1,094
Total Expenses	47,229	43,095
Operating surplus / (deficit)	(5,168)	(1,696)
Net timing adjustment for general purpose grant funding	(4,355)	1,315
Less: grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	(559)	(1,071)
Adjusted Operating surplus / (deficit)	(10,082)	(1,452)
Net outlays on existing assets		
Capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets	(3,528)	(5,370)
Add back depreciation, amortisation and impairment	10,795	10,176
Add back proceeds from sale of replaced assets	110	40
	7,377	4,846
Net outlays on new and upgraded assets		
Capital expenditure on new and upgraded assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	(6,188)	(18,216)
Add back grants, subsidies and contributions - capital new/upgraded	559	1,071
Add back amounts received specifically for new and upgraded assets	216	5,142
Add back proceeds from sale of surplus assets (including investment property, real estate developments and non-current assets held for resale)	-	20
	(5,413)	(11,983)
Annual net impact to financing activities (surplus/(deficit))	(8,118)	(8,589)



City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 15. 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 Property, Plant & Equipment.

(a) Right of use assets

\$ '000	Office	Other	Total
2024			
Opening balance	278	–	278
LTD Opening balance adjustments	164	27	191
Additions to right-of-use assets	–	14	14
Depreciation charge	(183)	(34)	(217)
Balance at 30 June	259	7	266
2023			
Opening balance	244	–	244
Additions to right-of-use assets	229	–	229
Depreciation charge	(195)	–	(195)
Balance at 30 June	278	–	278

(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	2024	2023
Balance at 1 July	210	231
LTD Opening balance adjustments	193	–
Additions	14	229
Accretion of interest	32	15
Payments	(225)	(265)
Balance at 30 June	224	210
Classified as:		
Current	102	158
Non-current	122	52

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities is included in Note 13.

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	217	195
Interest expense on lease liabilities	32	15
Total amount recognised in profit or loss	249	210

Note 15. 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 16. 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 (11.00% in 2023/24; 10.50% in 2022/23) and enterprise bargaining agreement (1% in 2024 and 2023). 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 2022/23) 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.



Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 17. Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations

Non-current assets held for sale

Council has decided to sell two vacant parcels of land as surplus to requirements. These parcels of land are not being actively used by Council and have not been identified as required for any strategic purposes in the future. Real estate sales agency agreements have been entered. Council's intention is to sell the properties within 12 months and remains committed to it's plan. Following the end of the reporting period but before the authorisation of these financial statements, new sales agreements have been entered to continue sales progression. The properties are recognised at the lesser of the carrying value and fair value less costs to sell. An impairment loss of \$25,177 has been recognised for one vacant land parcel.

\$ '000	2024	2023
(ii). Carrying amounts of assets and liabilities		
Assets		
Land	335	–
Total assets	335	–
Net assets	335	–

Note 18. 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 233.7 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 2024

Note 18. Contingencies and assets/liabilities not recognised in the balance sheet

4. Landfill

Cells incorporated at the Caroline Landfill site are depreciated based on capacity in use until the cell reaches conceptual height and is considered full. During 2024 an open cell reached conceptual height and continued to receive waste as agreed by the Environmental Protection Authority until a new cell was constructed. Construction of the new cell was completed on 29 August 2024.

At the time of preparing these statements, it is unknown what course of action is required for all or part of the waste that is considered overfilled. Due to this, no liability can reliably be estimated for the quantity or amount of waste that may need to be reallocated to the newly built cell, including amortisation and costs to physically move the waste.

Note 19. 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	2024	2023
The compensation paid to key management personnel comprises:		
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	917	1,327
Post-employment benefits	88	119
Long-term benefits	–	41
Total	1,005	1,487

Key management personnel and/or relatives of key management personnel own retail businesses from which various supplies were purchased as required either for cash or on 30 day account. These purchases were made on normal commercial terms on an arm's length basis. No individual purchases from these businesses exceeded \$275.00 with the total cumulative spend for 2023/24 being \$2,586.67.

One key management personnel and/or relatives of key management personnel are members in a community based not-for-profit organisation that Council engage for contractual labour hire services including apprentices and trainees.

One key management personnel and/or relatives of key management personnel are advisory members in a community based not-for-profit organisation that supports charitable projects, organisations and educational scholarships.

Note 20. Equity - retained earnings and revaluation reserves adjustments

Correction of errors relating to a previous reporting period

Council have restated the Open Space contributions income previously recognised in 2022/2023. Open Space contributions were incorrectly recognised when a development application was received. Open Space contributions are not due and payable until request for land clearance is sought by the developer and relevant conditions met. Open Space contributions totalling \$819,197 was recognised as income, however only \$106,887 was current for that year. A restatement of \$712,310 was required reducing other income, debtors general and equity other reserves.

Adjustments are detailed below and all impacted areas have been identified through the reports with the header of "restated", including relevant notes and updated calculations for financial indicators. Prior to the restatements, operating surplus was reported at (\$984,000) and after the restatement is (\$1,696,000).



City of Mount Gambier

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 20. Equity - retained earnings and revaluation reserves adjustments (continued)

Adjustments to the comparative figures for the year ended 30 June 2023

Statement of Financial Position

\$ '000	Original Balance 30 June, 2023	Impact Increase/ (decrease)	Restated Balance 30 June, 2023
Other Reserves	2,322	(712)	1,610
Change to equity	2,322	(712)	1,610

Statement of Comprehensive Income

\$ '000	Original Balance 30 June, 2023	Impact Increase/ (decrease)	Restated Balance 30 June, 2023
Other Income	1,263	(712)	551
Change to Other comprehensive income	1,263	(712)	551

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 2024, 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 2024, 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

21 November 2024

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 2023 to 30 June 2024.

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 2023 to 30 June 2024 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

21 November 2024

City of Mount Gambier

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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*.



Sarah Philpott
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Paul Duka
PRESIDING MEMBER, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Date: 13/11/2024

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Dean Newbery
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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 2024, 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

21 November 2024



City of
Mount Gambier



10 Watson Terrace
(PO Box 56)
Mount Gambier
South Australia
5290
mountgambier.sa.gov.au

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

The Obelisk, Robe Benjamin Goode



The past year has been marked by both progress and change for the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA).

Our Board, currently comprising Mayors Liz Goosens (Vice President), Kylie Boston, Jeff Pope, Patrick Ross, Lisa Ruffell and myself, has continued to work to address the region's key challenges and opportunities.

Mayor Des Noll resigned from the Board in May 2024, at which time Wattle Range Council did not appoint another representative to the Board.

Our strategic priorities have included waste management, housing and infrastructure needs, coastal management through the development of a regional coastal plan and enhancing regional connectivity, including work on the Green Triangle Freight Action Plan and continuing work through the Limestone Coast Destination Development Strategy.

We have also partnered with Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast in resetting the Regional Economic Growth Strategy.

The Connected and Active Communities Project, developed with the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, remains a significant achievement, fostering increased community engagement and participation.

The support provided to our young athletes in the region through the Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy continues to play an important role in our communities.

This year saw the historic investment for mobile phone coverage in the Limestone Coast with the Federal Government providing \$15 million, the SA State Government \$5.5 million, along with funding from the South Australian Forest Products Association and member Councils of the Limestone Coast to provide 27 new mobile base stations across the Limestone Coast, which will make us the most connected region in South Australia. This project is an outstanding example of collaboration between the three levels of Government and stakeholders.

During this past year, we experienced several changes within our leadership. Following the departure of Interim Executive Officer, Colin Byles, Adrian Maywald was appointed as Executive Officer but stepped down in June. Deb Brokenshire then stepped in as Interim

Executive Officer while the Board reviews its future strategic direction. I am grateful to all those who have supported the Association during this transition period.

Our collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of South Australia, the South Australian Tourism Commission, Government Ministers and Departments and our member Councils, continues to be the cornerstone of our efforts to build stronger communities across the Limestone Coast.

We also acknowledge the strong 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.

As mentioned previously, the LCLGA has been through significant change this year and I acknowledge and thank the staff for their support and commitment throughout this time.

I also extend sincere thanks to my fellow Mayors, Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers for their ongoing support and commitment to make the 'Limestone Coast Better Together' and to enhance the liveability and economic sustainability of our region.

On behalf of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association, I am pleased to present the 2023/24 Annual Report which highlights our achievements, and the value delivered to our members and communities throughout the year.

Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM)

President LCLGA



This document is the Annual Report of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) Inc. for the period 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024 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 seven 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
7. Wattle Range 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



The LCLGA Board

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 Max Bruins
Tatiara District Council	Vice President Mayor Liz Goossens	Deputy Mayor Lynton MacKenzie
District Council of Grant	Mayor Kylie Boston	Cr Bruce Bain
Kingston District Council	Mayor Jeff Pope	Deputy Mayor Jamie Parkins
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	Mayor Partick Ross	Deputy Mayor Monique Crossling
District Council of Robe	Mayor Lisa Ruffell	Deputy Mayor Nick Brown
Wattle Range Council	Mayor Des Noll	Deputy Mayor Peter Dunnicliff

The Board held six ordinary bi-monthly General Meetings, and The Annual General Meeting during 2023-2024. Meetings are hosted by Constituent Councils on a rotational basis.



Bool Lagoon Mish and Kirk

Office Bearers 2022-2023

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 2024, 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 2023-2024, Colin Byles was appointed interim Executive Officer from 1st July 2023 to 1st December 2023. Adrian Maywald was appointed Executive Officer from 4th December 2023 to 5th June 2024. Deb Brokenshire was appointed interim Executive Officer from 18th June 2024 onwards.

Dean Newbery and Partners are the appointed Auditor.

LCLGA Staff

During 2023-2024, LCLGA engaged the following staff to deliver regional programs:

Position	Staff Member	Period
Interim Executive Officer	Colin Byles	1st July 2023 – 1 December 2023
Executive Officer	Adrian Maywald	4 December 2023 – 5th June 2024
Interim Executive Officer	Deb Brokenshire	18th June 2024 – Onwards
Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Co-ordinator	Adrian Maywald	1st July 2023 – 1 December 2023
Connected & Active Communities Officer	Tony Elletson	Ongoing
Destination Development Manager	Kate Napper	Ongoing
Destination Development Co-ordinator	Emma Herring	Ongoing
Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Administrator	Rhiannon Zammit	27 November 2023 - Ongoing
Corporate Services Officer	Paul Manfrin	Ongoing

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.



Bordertown Recreation Lake Seanna Ward

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 2023-2024.

Representatives as of 30th June 2024

LCLGA Roads and Transport Management Group

Current Appointment	Council
Mr Abdulah Muhmud Ms Barbara Cernovskis	City of Mount Gambier
Mr Adrian Schutz	District Council of Grant
Mr Brett Holmes Mr Colin Barnett	Kingston District Council
Mr Daniel Willsmore	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
Mr Dave Worthley	District Council of Robe
Mr Aaron Hillier Mr Rob Farrah	Tatiara District Council
Mr Peter Halton	Wattle Range Council
Ms Deb Brokenshire (Interim CEO)	LCLGA

LCLGA Regional Waste Management Steering Committee

Current Appointment	Council
Ms Barbara Cernovskis	City of Mount Gambier
Mr Aaron Price	District Council of Grant
Mr Brett Holmes	Kingston District Council
Mr Daniel Willsmore	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
Mr Dave Worthley	District Council of Robe
Mr Aaron Hillier	Tatiara District Council
Mr Peter Halton - Chair	Wattle Range Council
Ms Deb Brokenshire (Interim CEO)	LCLGA

Tourism Management Group

Current Appointment	Council
Ms Biddie Shearing Ms Amanda Stevens	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 Caroline Hill Ms Emma Clay	Wattle Range Council
Ms Kate Napper Ms Emma Herring	LCLGA

LCLGA Executive Officer Remuneration Committee

Current Appointment	Council
Mayor Lynette Martin	City of Mount Gambier
Ms Sarah Philpott	City of Mount Gambier

LCLGA Audit & Risk Committee

Current Appointment	Council
Mayor Lynette Martin (Chair)	City of Mount Gambier
Ms Sarah Philpott (CEO)	City of Mount Gambier
Mr Paul Duka	Wattle Range Council
Ms Deb Brokenshire (Interim CEO)	LCLGA

Limestone Coast Economic Development Group (LCEDG)

Current Appointment	Council
Cr Frank Morello	City of Mount Gambier
Ms Rebecca Perkin Mr Darryl Whicker (CEO) - Proxy	District Council of Grant
Mr Ian Hart (CEO)	Kingston District Council
Mr Trevor Smart (CEO)	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
Ms Nat Traeger (CEO)	District Council of Robe
Mayor Liz Goossens Ms Anne Champness (CEO)	Tatiara District Council
Ms Emma Clay	Wattle Range Council
Mayor Lynette Martin OAM (President) Ms Deb Brokenshire (Interim EO)	LCLGA

Association Representation – Outside Organisations

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 2023-2024, LCLGA made or continued the following appointments to other organisations.

Limestone Coast Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC)

Current Appointment	Council
Ms Barbara Cernovskis	City of Mount Gambier
Mr Darryl Whicker (CEO) - Chair	District Council of Grant

Limestone Coast Bushfire Management Committee (LCBMC)

Current Appointment	Council
Mr Tim Wilson	Wattle Range Council

South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance (SACCA)

Current Appointment	Council
Mayor Kylie Boston	District Council of Grant

LCLGA Charter

The LCLGA Charter was reviewed, amended in 2023 with the Board adopting the updated document at its December 2023 meeting. The review process led to minor amendments to ensure the Charter remains up-to-date, relevant and reflective of the LCLGA's current operational environment and strategic direction.

The review process involved consulting with member Councils, stakeholders and legal advisors to assess the Charter's alignment with current legislative requirements and governance practices. An evaluation of the Charter was conducted to identify areas needing refinement, focusing on clarifying language and updating provisions to better reflect the current practices of the Association. Following this evaluation minor changes were made that enhance the document's clarity and usability without altering the fundamental governance or strategic intent of the Charter.

The Charter is to be furnished to the Minister and notice of the amendments published in the Gazette. Additionally, all CEOs of the constituent Council's have determined that the Charter is to be published on the LCLGA website.

www.lclga.sa.gov.au



The Granites, Kingston SE Lachlan Swan Photography

DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT



Destination Development is an important Limestone Coast Local Government (LCLGA) function that focuses on growing a sustainable tourism ecosystem for the Limestone Coast region.

As the Limestone Coasts appointed Regional Tourism Organisation, the LCLGA is responsible for coordinating, advocating, and representing regional tourism on behalf of its Constituent Councils and the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC).

The full-time Destination Development Manager and part-time Destination Development Coordinator are dedicated to delivering the Destination Development activities outlined in the successful Destination Development Strategy 2025. Despite the limitations posed by available funding, we continue to make significant progress in marketing, strengthening industry collaboration, and supporting industry capability. Our regular engagement with member Councils, including bi-monthly Tourism Management Group meetings, is a testament to our commitment to driving outcomes.

The value of the Limestone Coast visitor economy is performing well against the key performance indicators in the Strategy. As of December 2023, visitor expenditure in the Region had grown to \$520 million (up from \$337M in Dec 2018), which is well ahead of the 2025 goal of \$479 million* and positions Limestone Coast as the fourth-strongest visitor economy in the state while reinforcing the value of tourism and the importance of the Constituent councils working together in this way.

Destination Development's investment in a digital marketing strategy focused on regional storytelling has sought to enhance the appeal of the Limestone Coast to high-yield visitor personas and niche interest travellers throughout their whole travel purchase journey focused on driving demand, increasing regional visitor dispersal and length of stay. The strategic management of the destination website visitlimestonecoast.com.au and [@limestonecoast](https://www.instagram.com/limestonecoast) social media accounts has been instrumental in this success. The website serves as a central information hub and shares regional event, operator, and experience listings from the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse, all in line with the marketing initiatives outlined in the Destination Development Strategy.

This continued marketing effort again proved to be highly effective, with strong social media engagement across Instagram and Facebook with an organic reach of 1.4 million, with many of the Limestone Coast social media posts reshared by amplifier accounts, including SATC and other South Australian media channels seen by a massive potential audience of over 19 million†. Limestone Coast was also highlighted as a top-performing destination on SATC's social media channels in 2023. This enormous shift in SATC's positive promotion for the Region directly correlates to the consistent, ongoing investment in digital storytelling via LCLGA at a regional level with significant share of the best-performing Limestone Coast and general South Australia content on SATC's Instagram and Facebook channels being directly attributed to the high-quality activity on the Limestone Coast's social media platforms.

* SATC RVS Progress Snapshot 1 January - December 31 2023

† Visit Limestone Coast Digital Marketing Reports
1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024 by The Tourism Collective



The Limestone Coast destination website visitlimestonecoast.com.au has seen continued audience growth, with over 131,000 page views and over 62,000 unique visitors[‡]. This website continues to serve as a central information hub, sharing regional event, operator, and experience listings from the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse. Its ongoing management per the marketing priorities outlined in the Destination Development Strategy makes it an essential asset in the Limestone Coast’s marketing toolkit.

A focus on local industry collaboration saw the delivery of a key industry gathering held in Penola hosted by LCLGA in cooperation with the Tourism Industry Council SA, the South Australian Tourism Commission and the Australian Tourism Export Council, allowing operators to refamiliarise themselves with the tourism ecosystem and industry stakeholders. Destination Development also supported and facilitated the delivery of a Cruise Information Session in Robe, industry roundtable events with The Hon. Zoe Bettison, MP Minister for Tourism, operator engagement within SATC’s Experience Development Program, leveraging the Gather Round regional engagement program, a content overhaul of the official Limestone Coast Visitor Guide and more. The Destination Development Manager also represented the Limestone Coast at various state and national tourism gatherings including Destination Australia hosted by Tourism Australia and the Australian Regional Tourism Conference.

Communication with industry was strengthened by introducing a bi-monthly tourism industry updates e-newsletter while the Limestone Coast closed group tourism industry Facebook platform continues to grow in members and remains a vital tool for communicating updates and industry news. Investment in regional data access also permitted the supply of a tourism snapshot report prepared by Localis analytics company. The monthly report delivers a ‘state of play’ for tourism and visitation to the Region. It conveys key metrics, including the number of overnight visitors, occupancy, length of stay and average daily rate, with comparisons against neighbouring regions for context on Limestone Coast performance. Reports have been made available for download on the LCLGA website.

While Destination Development activities continued, it is necessary to acknowledge the operating environment throughout this financial year, which sometimes impacted project momentum. The Destination Development Manager facilitated a comprehensive funding review at the request of the LCLGA Board throughout April-June 2024; however, a longer-term funding commitment to the project continues to be considered. The South Australian Tourism Commission delivered its Regional Tourism Review Recommendations Report, and the LCLGA is navigating the proposed phased approach to the rollout of Regional Tourism Review outcomes.

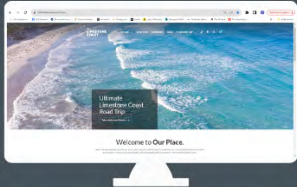
[‡] [Visitlimestonecoast.com.au](https://visitlimestonecoast.com.au) Google Analytics Insights Dashboard



LCLGA co-hosts a Limestone Coast Tourism Industry Networking Event in Penola with Tourism Industry Council SA and representatives from the South Australian Tourism Commission and Australian Tourism Export Council alongside local businesses.

Program Engagement

Destination Website



visitlimestonecoast.com.au

131,000+

Page views


62,328

Unique visitors


4 CONSUMER DIRECT E-NEWSLETTERS to potential visitors

3,800 LEADS to Limestone Coast businesses via Australian Tourism Data Warehouse

Social Media



@limestonecoast






505 posts shared


1.4 MILLION+ SOCIAL MEDIA REACH ORGANIC

AMPLIFIED TO A FURTHER 19.5 MILLION+

#visitlimestonecoast 2,245 X

Local hashtag engagement



Limestone Coast highlighted as top performing destination on SATC's social media channels in 2023.
*SATC RVS Progress Snapshot Jan 1 - Dec 31 2023 | Limestone Coast

LITTLE BLUE LAKE LIMESTONE COAST

RVS PROGRESS SNAPSHOT

JAN 1 - DEC 31 2023 | LIMESTONE COAST

LIMESTONE COAST PRIORITY

The priority for the Limestone Coast is to increase overnight visitor volumes from international and domestic markets and convert some existing day-trippers to linger longer and stay overnight. Being a predominantly self-drive visitor market, leveraging existing touring routes and promoting and developing hero tourism experiences and events that reflect the region's uniqueness is the key to success. For more details refer to the Regional Visitor Strategy (RVS) 2025 at tourism.sa.gov.au.

DAY TRIPS

800K

OVERNIGHT VISITORS

763K

NIGHTS

2.1M

NEW PRODUCTS / EXPERIENCES

10

ATDW LEADS TO BUSINESSES

98,555

VIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA.COM

EMPLOYMENT

2,000 DIRECT JOBS

900 INDIRECT JOBS

1 IN 14* DIRECT JOBS SUPPORTED BY TOURISM

800 TOURISM BUSINESSES

2023 ACTUAL

\$520M*

2025 TARGET

\$479M

PERCENTAGE OF 2025 TARGET MET

108%

SATC EXPERIENCE NATURE TOURISM FUND

2* SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

\$70,000 FUNDING AMOUNT

\$105,086 TOTAL PROJECT VALUE

REGIONAL EVENTS

261* NUMBER OF EVENTS

3 SATC FUNDED EVENTS


ACCOMMODATION


2,645 TOTAL ROOMS ATDW LISTED

71% OCCUPANCY STR DATA

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT

Limestone Coast was a top performing destination via SATC's social media channels in 2023. Regional content reached 7.9 million people, with 2 million video post plays on Instagram, and a Facebook post reach of 4.4 million people.

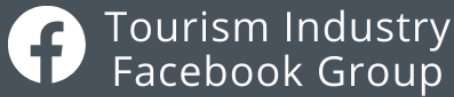




SOURCES: INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL VISITOR SURVEY, TOURISM RESEARCH AUSTRALIA YEAR END DECEMBER 2023, STP GLOBAL YEAR END DECEMBER 2023, AUSTRALIAN TOURISM DATA WAREHOUSE YEAR END DECEMBER 2023, AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS, *DATA CAPTURED FOR KPIs, NIGHTS AND EXPENDITURE IS FYO DEC 2023. *INCLUDES PROJECTS WHICH ENTER MULTIPLE REGIONS. *EVENTS ON AVERAGE OVER 12 MONTH PERIOD. *ON AVERAGE.

Program Engagement

Industry Collaboration



647+ MEMBERS

Representing approx. 80% operators in region



LCLGA sharing weekly updates

QUARTERLY WORKING GROUP MEETINGS with Councils



Launch of Limestone Coast Tourism Industry Updates E-News

Facilitated 5 Limestone Coast Industry Gatherings

📍 Robe, Penola, Mount Gambier, Port MacDonnell

130+ TOURISM OPERATORS & STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED



In partnership with SATC, TiCSA and the Minister for Tourism

4 Limestone Coast Visitor Servicing Network Gatherings



31% ATDW PROFILE GROWTH

in Limestone Coast listings on Australian Tourism Data Warehouse between July 2023-June 2024



Supporting Limestone Coast Experience Development Program participants (L-R) Dylan Beach, SATC Business Manager-Experience Development; Jamie Gilmour and Lola Makar, Stillwater Paddle and Drive Adventures; Natasha Dawson, Walk the Limestone Coast; Kirby Shearing, Elementary by Soul Co.; Matt Baldock, SATC Business Manager-Inbound & Experience Development; Alex Kemplay-Hill, Elementary by Soul Co.; Kate Napper, Limestone Coast Destination Development Manager.



Destination Development Manager facilitated a visit to Limestone Coast with The Hon. Zoe Bettison, MP Minister for Tourism, in June 2024 pictured here with Naracoorte Caves team and Nick McBride MP.



Destination Development Manager represents Limestone Coast at Destination Australia and Regional Tourism Organisation Forum hosted by Tourism Australia pictured with fellow regional tourism managers from Barossa, Adelaide, Fleurieu Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island regions.



LCLGA Tourism Management Group Meeting in Millicent with representatives from Wattle Range, Naracoorte Lucindale, City of Mount Gambier and Tatiara Councils pictured.

CONNECTED AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES



Valley Lake / Kettle Malpi City of Mount Gambier / Czech Aus Out

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;

- › Finalised an Inclusive Uniform Policy with Mid-South East Netball Association that we will hopefully use in other competition, allowing more participation and a welcoming environment for all participants. The ABC did a story on the Uniform Policy which was heard nation-wide, collecting more than 500,000 interactions on Social Media and radio.
- › The CAC Program delivered Grant Writing, Grant Readiness, Cultural Inclusivity and Food Safety Supervisor workshops across the region in the reporting period.
- › Supported the delivery of a Club Governance Workshop Day with the District Council of Grant.
- › The CAC Officer has worked with multiple clubs on a range of Funding Programs.
- › Developed a project based around soccer and migrants. CAC 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. CAC have supported Senior Soccer with equipment.
- › 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 a sport they choose to be involved in. Children and Sports have been selected; we are now just awaiting the go ahead from Department of Child Protection.
- › Worked with City of Mount Gambier on the Before the Bounce initiative, as part of the AFL's Gather Round roadshow. The CAC Officer was the host of a Question and Answer session with AFLW superstar Erin Phillips.
- › Worked with a young community member and council on a bike track in the District Council of Grant area. This is hoping to be continued with more funding opportunities and upgrades.
- › 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



Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy (LCRSA)

In partnership with the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) and the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (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 Academy is now in its seventh year. The Academy still has great partnerships with Hockey SA, Tennis SA, South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) Cycling, Swimming SA, Country Basketball SA and Athletics SA. This year has seen a new partnership with the Glenelg Football Club and this has allowed the Academy to start an AFLW program. Due to these partnerships with these sporting bodies, the Academy has been 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.

In February 2024, the Academy held our Induction evening at Wulanda and inducted 94 athletes. To date, the Academy has 73 athletes still participating in their scholarship.

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). This year saw the Academy in partnership with our Sports Nutritionist, hold a practical nutrition session in a kitchen setting. Athletes were provided ingredients to make snacks and meals beneficial to their sports nutrition. This session was highly enjoyed by all athletes that attended. 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. 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.

The LCRSA athletes have done the Academy and our region extremely proud, competing at State and National levels in the past year. Our AFLW Program Coach Fiona Young was awarded the SANFL Community Coach of the Year.

Three of our Hockey athletes were selected in the State Team to represent SA at National Championships. Our Academy swimmers had the opportunity to have two coaching sessions with National Swimming Coach, Grant Muller.

An Academy basketballer was offered and accepted a scholarship at the Black Hill State University in America.

Former Athlete of the Year Leila Croker won Silver at the National Athletic Championships in April.

Olympic Gold Medallist Natalie Cook OAM, presented to our athletes about her journey and provided wonderful insights on what it takes to make it at the elite level.

Our cycling program athletes continue to shine with two winning Gold at the National Championships and another winning Bronze.

There are plenty more success stories that can be seen on our Facebook page; www.facebook.com/LCRSA

All of our athletes have been great ambassadors for the program. We look forward to continue supporting our current and future LCRSA athletes in the coming years.





Olympic Gold Medallist Natalie Cook OAM with Academy athletes



Academy athletes attending a practical Sports Nutrition session.



Three of our Swimming program athletes, with National Swimming Coach Grant Muller, at a training session held in August 2024.



Former Academy athlete, Leila Croker, at the Australian Athletics Championships in April 2024.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORTS

30 JUNE 2024



**Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024**

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 2024 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.



Debra Brokenshire
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Mayor Lynette Martin
President

Date: 9 Aug 2024

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
INCOME			
Local Government Council Contributions	2	874,335	872,812
Other Contributions	2	40,000	40,000
Other Income	2	114,681	70,477
Project Income	2	378,368	378,478
Total Income		<u>1,407,384</u>	<u>1,361,767</u>
EXPENSES			
Operating Expenses	3	201,624	222,086
Employee Costs	3	638,542	504,459
Project Expenditure	3	625,676	698,544
Total Expenses		<u>1,465,842</u>	<u>1,425,088</u>
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		(58,458)	(63,321)
Other Comprehensive Income		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Other Comprehensive Income		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		<u>(58,458)</u>	<u>(63,321)</u>

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 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	636,311	779,029
Trade and Other Receivables	4	<u>9,201</u>	<u>11,329</u>
Total Assets		<u>645,512</u>	<u>790,358</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	5	70,923	42,461
Provisions	5	69,040	44,775
Other Liabilities	5	<u>252,405</u>	<u>392,569</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>392,368</u>	<u>479,805</u>
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	5	<u>1,707</u>	<u>658</u>
Total Non-current Liabilities		<u>1,707</u>	<u>658</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>394,075</u>	<u>480,463</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>251,437</u>	<u>309,895</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		<u>251,437</u>	<u>309,895</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>251,437</u>	<u>309,895</u>

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 2024

	Notes	Accumulated Surplus \$	TOTAL EQUITY \$
2024			
Balance at end of previous reporting period		<u>309,895</u>	<u>309,895</u>
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(58,458)	(58,458)
Other Comprehensive Income		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of period		251,437	251,437
2023			
Balance at end of previous reporting period		373,217	373,217
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(63,321)	(63,321)
Other Comprehensive Income		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of period		<u>309,895</u>	<u>309,895</u>

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 2024

		2024	2023
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		\$	\$
Receipts from Members	Notes	874,335	872,812
Other Receipts		395,012	523,958
Payments to Suppliers & Employees		<u>(1,412,066)</u>	<u>(1,266,101)</u>
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	6	(142,718)	130,669
 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		 <u> </u>	 <u> </u>
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities		-	-
 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		 <u> </u>	 <u> </u>
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities		-	-
 Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		 <u>(142,718)</u>	 <u>130,669</u>
 Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period		 <u>779,029</u>	 <u>648,360</u>
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	4	<u>636,311</u>	<u>779,029</u>

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT 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 2024

Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT 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	3.929% (2023 4.05%)
Weighted average settlement period	1 year (2023, 1 year)

No accrual is made for sick leave as Limestone Coast Local Government Associations 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 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
NOTE 2: INCOME			
Local Government Council Contributions			
City of Mount Gambier		241,162	236,678
District Council of Grant		107,456	108,865
Wattle Range Council		183,140	180,995
Naracoorte Lucindale Council		123,628	124,312
District Council of Robe		58,140	62,370
Tatiara District Council		104,890	99,635
Kingston District Council		55,919	59,957
Total		874,335	872,812
Other Contributions			
LGA SA		40,000	40,000
Total		40,000	40,000
Other Income			
Investment Income		42,894	24,094
Participant Contribution		26,027	25,019
Other		45,760	21,364
Total		114,681	70,477
Project Income			
Tourism (Includes SA Tourism Commission payments)		52,198	95,925
Connective Active Communities (Office of Sport and Rec payments)		155,000	-
Sports Academy & Connective Active Communities (Office of Sport and Rec payments)		100,000	128,000
SA Coastal Councils Alliance		71,170	88,546
Substance Misuse LC		-	66,006
Total		378,368	378,478

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
NOTE 3: Expenditure			
Operating Expenses			
Audit Fees		4,018	3,763
Accounting Fees		25,350	25,500
Computing and IT		27,108	28,759
Rent		20,824	21,224
Insurance		18,247	18,663
Vehicles		30,048	52,737
Chairperson Allowance		9,160	6,860
Travel, Accommodation and Meals		13,455	13,371
Other		53,415	51,209
Total		201,624	222,086
Employee Costs			
Salaries and Wages		540,561	450,543
Workcover		6,241	4,034
Superannuation		57,530	44,332
Leave Provision Movement		27,262	52
FBT		6,949	5,498
Total		638,542	504,459
Project Expenditure			
Tourism		102,126	207,854
Connective Active Communities		51,047	-
Sports Academy		158,063	151,064
SA Coastal Councils Alliance		79,577	91,879
Substance Misuse LC		-	29,752
Other		234,862	217,995
Total		625,676	698,544

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024**

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
NOTE 4: Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Cash at Bank		<u>636,311</u>	<u>779,029</u>
Total		636,311	779,029
Trade and Other Receivables			
Trade Debtors		10,220	8,463
Provision for Doubtful Debts		(2,980)	-
Accrued Interest		<u>1,961</u>	<u>2,866</u>
Total		9,201	11,329
NOTE 5: Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables			
Goods and Services		42,287	25,842
Accrued Expenses		26,159	14,906
Other		<u>2,476</u>	<u>1,713</u>
Total		70,923	42,461
Provisions - Current			
Employee Entitlements including On-Costs		<u>69,040</u>	<u>44,775</u>
Total		69,040	44,775
Provisions - Non-Current			
Employee Entitlements including On-Costs		<u>1,707</u>	<u>658</u>
Total		1,707	658
Other Liabilities			
LC Regional Sport Academy		100,000	200,000
Connected and Active Communities (CAC)		135,600	155,000
Substance Misuse LC		-	-
SA Coastal Councils Alliance		<u>16,805</u>	<u>37,569</u>
Total		252,405	392,569

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024**

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
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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	636,311	779,029
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		<u>636,311</u>	<u>779,029</u>

(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities

Net Surplus (Deficit)		(58,458)	(63,322)
Non-cash items in Income Statement			
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		<u>25,314</u>	<u>(47,276)</u>
		(33,144)	(110,598)
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets			
Net (increase) decrease in receivables		2,128	54,819
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables		28,462	(45,262)
Net increase (decrease) in other liabilities		<u>(140,164)</u>	231,710
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations		<u>(142,718)</u>	<u>130,669</u>

(c) Financing Arrangements

Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:

Corporate Credit Cards		11,024	11,024
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LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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	<p>Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, interest is recognised when earned</p> <p>Terms & conditions: Deposits are returning interest rates between 4.3% and 4.55% (2023: 0.10% and 4.3%).</p> <p>Carrying amount: approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.</p>
Receivables - Fees & other charges	<p>Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method</p> <p>Terms & conditions: Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Although the association is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure</p> <p>Carrying amount: approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).</p>
Receivables - other levels of government	<p>Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Carrying amount: approximates fair value.</p>
Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals	<p>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.</p> <p>Terms & conditions: Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.</p> <p>Carrying amount: approximates fair value.</p>

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7: Financial Instruments (Cont.)

Liquidity Analysis

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	54,525	-	-	54,525	54,525
Total	54,525	-	-	54,525	54,525

2023	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year < 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash & Equivalents	779,029	-	-	779,029	779,029
Receivables	11,329	-	-	11,329	11,329
Total	790,358	-	-	790,358	790,358
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	41,583	-	-	41,583	41,583
Total	41,583	-	-	41,583	41,583

The following interest rates were applicable to Limestone Coast LGA at balance date:

	30 June 2024	30 June 2023		
	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Carrying Value \$	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Carrying Value \$
At Call	4.55	636,311	4.3	779,029
Term Deposits		-		-
		636,311		779,029

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 2024

NOTE 8: Uniform Presentation of Financial Statements

		2024	2023
	Notes	\$	\$
Operating Revenues		1,407,384	1,361,767
Operating Expenses		<u>(1,465,842)</u>	<u>(1,425,088)</u>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)		(58,458)	(63,321)
Less Net Outlays in Existing Assets			
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets		-	-
Add Back Depreciation Amortisation and Impairment		-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
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		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
Annual net impact to financing activities (surplus / (deficit))		<u>(58,458)</u>	<u>(63,321)</u>

Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

At 30 June 2024, 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 2024, 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 2024 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 total remuneration paid to key management personnel of Limestone Coast Local Government Association Incorporated during the year was as follows;

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Short Term employee benefits inc allowances	169,689	186,771
Post Employment Benefits	15,875	9,007

Key management personnel above includes the executive and Board of Management.

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;

\$	2024	2023
Under \$50,000	1	1
\$50,000 to \$100,000	2	0
\$100,001 to \$150,000	0	0
\$150,001 to \$200,000	0	1

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.

Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 14 – Related Party Disclosure (Cont.)

There were no transactions with other related parties apart from;

- A relative of a KMP is a participant in the Sports Academy.
- A relative of a KMP is employed by Naracoorte Lucindale Council.

Related Party Entity	Amounts received from Related Party during the Financial Year
	2024
	\$
City of Mount Gambier	265,278
District Council of Grant	124,371
Wattle Range Council	205,751
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	146,991
District Council of Robe	68,575
Tatiara District Council	115,379
Kingston District Council	61,511
TOTAL	987,856

**Limestone Coast Local Government Association
Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024**

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 2024, 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*.

Deb Brokenshire

.....
Acting Executive Officer
LC Local Government Association

Lynette Martin

.....
Audit Committee Chairperson
LC Local Government Association

Lynette Martin

.....
President
LC Local Government Association

Darryl Whicker

.....
Chief Executive Officer
District Council of Grant

Sarah Philpott

.....
Chief Executive Officer
City of Mount Gambier

Ian Hart

.....
Chief Executive Officer
Kingston District Council

[Signature]

.....
Chief Executive Officer
Naracoorte Lucindale Council

Nat Traeger

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Chief Executive Officer
District Council of Robe

[Signature]

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Chief Executive Officer
Tatiara District Council

Ben Gower

.....
Chief Executive Officer
Wattle Range Council

Date:
14/9/24

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) extends its sincere appreciation to its Constituent Councils, including the City of Mount Gambier, District Council of Grant, Kingston District Council, Naracoorte Lucindale Council, District Council of Robe, Tatiara District Council and Wattle Range Council, for their support and collaboration throughout the 2023-2024 period.

We also acknowledge the valuable contributions of the Board Members: 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, Mayor Lisa Ruffell - District Council of Robe and Mayor Des Noll - Wattle Range Council.

During the year, we saw significant changes, including the resignation of Mayor Des Noll from the Board in May 2024 and the subsequent withdrawal of Wattle Range Council's membership from LCLGA. Although their future absence is felt, we remain committed to our regional objectives and the continued collaboration with our remaining councils.

LCLGA also saw significant changes within its leadership throughout 2023- 2024 with Colin Byles servicing as Interim Executive Officer from July 2023 to December 2023, Adrian Maywald, appointed as Executive Officer from December 2023 to June 2024, and Deb Brokenshire, serving as Interim Executive Officer from June 2024 for a three-month term whilst the strategic direction of the LCLGA is reestablished.

Our appreciation is extended to the LCLGA staff members Tony Elletson, Connected & Active Communities Officer; Kate Napper, Destination Development Manager; Emma Herring, Destination Development Coordinator; Rhiannon Zammit, Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Administrator (from November 2023); and Paul Manfrin, Corporate Services Officer who have shown resilience, ensuring stability and continuity of our operations during the leadership changes. Their efforts have been invaluable throughout this period of transition.

The LGA of SA and the Australian Local Government Association continue to provide support to LCLGA and its members, along with the contributions of SAROC members and LGA SA staff. Our strong working relationship with RDA board members and staff also remains a critical component in advancing the region's interests.

As we move forward, the LCLGA remains dedicated in its commitment to facilitating and coordinating regional initiatives, advocating on behalf of our member Councils, and driving the social, environmental and community development goals that may benefit our region. With a renewed focus on the strategic direction, the LCLGA is exploring new opportunities to enhance collaboration and deliver greater value to our Councils. This direction will bring new opportunities for growth, resilience and stronger community ties within the region, ensuring that the LCLGA continues to play a vital role in shaping and supporting the future of our region.

Deb Brokenshire

Interim Executive Officer

