



City of
Mount Gambier

2020/2021 Annual Report





Contents

2	Mayor's Message
4	CEO's Message
7	Our Organisation
27	Community
87	Environment
101	Infrastructure
129	Tourism and Economic Development
137	Governance
149	Finance

The City of Mount Gambier acknowledges the Boandik peoples as the traditional custodians of the land Mount Gambier sits upon today. We respect their spiritual relationship with the land and recognise the deep feelings of attachment our First Nations Peoples have with the land.



Mayor's Message

There is now only one year remaining of the current council term, 2018 - 2022. The 2020/2021 financial year has been busy for Elected Members and Council administration as the construction of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre proceeds.

Strong governance is required throughout the build of the largest infrastructure project Mount Gambier has ever seen and I thank Elected Members, Council administration, the Community Reference Group and in particular the Project Control Group for the roles they play in overseeing the build.

Mount Gambier and the Limestone Coast have been fortunate in that we have remained safe and COVID free at this point in time. As we learn to live with COVID-19, I encourage the community to remain vigilant, practise social distancing, wear a mask in public places and consider getting vaccinated.

Council adopted the Strategic Plan 2020-2024 during the year, which serves as a blueprint to build a progressive, knowledge-based city that embraces new technologies, culture and sustainable living.

Four key themes are at the heart of the Strategic Plan – Our People, Our Location, Our Diverse Economy, and Our Climate, Natural Resources, Art, Culture and Heritage.

I am pleased to note that the heritage listed Railway Station building exterior underwent a significant facelift to restore many of the original features to the 102-year-old icon, and it now sits majestically alongside the wonderful Rail Trail which traverses our city from east to west for 12.4 kilometres.

In line with Council's aspirations to build a sustainable community, a kerbside bulky waste trial was conducted during 2020. Council picked up more than 1,900 collections, equating to more than 450 tonnes of items and materials, the majority of which have been recycled or re-used. Only five percent of the materials collected went to landfill, saving our community a significant amount of money.

In 2021 Council prepared to implement a separate Waste Service Charge (WSC) to highlight the cost of waste management on rates notices from the 2021/2022 financial year. The introduction of a WSC is an environmental decision to make waste management costs visible and clear to ratepayers by highlighting the waste fee for each property on the rates notice.

Priorities for the remainder of this council term include developing strategic plans for our tourism assets, the Crater Lakes

precinct and our sport, recreation and open space areas, informed by community consultation which will guide Council in the use of these most important assets for the future benefit of our residents.

In reading the Annual Report you will see Council did not apply a blanket rate increase in 2020/2021 in order to support the community during COVID-19. Other initiatives are outlined on pages 32 to 35.

I thank Elected Members for their work throughout the year and all Council employees for their role in making Mount Gambier a wonderful place to live, work and play.

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2020/2021 City of Mount Gambier Annual Report.



**Lynette Martin OAM
MAYOR**



CEO's Message

I am thrilled to have started in the position of CEO at the City of Mount Gambier in June 2021.

It is a homecoming for me, as I grew up in this beautiful city and had my start in local government at Council in the Civic Centre back in 1992, initially as a Records Officer and then as Chief Librarian until 2000.

I return with more than 15 years executive leadership experience within state and local government sectors and as the former CEO at Mildura Rural City Council in Victoria.

I acknowledge that our community endured another challenging year in 2020/2021 due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the city has been safe and COVID free at this point in time, the threat of the infectious disease created a tumultuous time of uncertainty for many businesses and residents, and I commend everyone for diligently following health regulations and activity guidelines so we are able to move forward and embrace a new way of life.

In my short time at the helm of Council, I am already impressed by the dedication of Elected Members and Council staff who endeavour to make our city the best it can be for our residents. The pandemic hasn't stopped Council from maintaining services that you already use and value, albeit sometimes in different ways due to COVID, as well as delivering other major projects.

We have seen significant progress on Council's largest ever infrastructure project, the \$57.3 million Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre. The building contract was executed in August 2020 with BADGE Constructions appointed as head contractor. A site handover event was held with Boandik Elders before demolition and site preparation works began at Olympic Park.

Council endorsed a new name for the building (formerly known as the Community and Recreation Hub) and branding for the centre following extensive community consultation for name suggestions and a public vote. Council really wanted to honour the cultural significance of the word 'wulanda' meaning 'to cherish or enjoy' in Bunganditj, and respectfully acknowledge the spiritual connection of our Boandik Peoples to the land and water that Mount Gambier sits upon today. Council also commissioned local First Nations artist Belinda Bonney to create artwork to be incorporated within the centre's brand identity. In June 2021, the longest single glulam timber beams ever imported to Australia – spanning up to 42 metres – were transported via trucks to the construction site for erection over the pool hall within the development, creating quite the public spectacle.

Council's financial position remains strong at the end of June 2021, and more than \$243 million worth of assets are responsibly managed on behalf of our community each year. 3,200 tonnes of food and organic matter was collected in FOGO (green waste) bins throughout the city and diverted from landfill during the financial year and 263 trees were planted as part of the 2020/2021 street tree program.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the leadership shown by City of Mount Gambier staff and Elected Members. Elected Members work tirelessly to advocate for community issues and concerns and make important strategic decisions in the Chamber on behalf of our residents. This work is vital to ensure that our community receives the best possible recognition and services from all levels of government. My thanks also to our community members who have helped make this a wonderful community through their efforts in business, volunteering and participation in an active life.

My key focus for Council in the coming year is on how we can add value to the organisation for the benefit of the community. It is my firm belief that it is critical to think about the community in every decision that is made. We will continue to listen to our residents to plan, prepare and respond to whatever the forthcoming year brings.

I will be out and about as much as possible in the coming months and I look forward to meeting you to discuss Council and the future of our city.



Sarah Philpott
CEO





Our Organisation

Elected Member Information	8
Council and Committees	9
Elected Member Attendance	12
Elected Member Allowances	13
Elected Member Training and Development	14
Strategic Plan 2020 - 2024	16
Decision Making Structure of Council	18
Our People	20
Community and Economic Profile	25

Elected Member Information

Following the 2018 Local Government Elections the Council is comprised of a Mayor and eight Councillors, elected at large.



Council 2018-2022 (left to right)

Cr Kate Amoroso, Cr Frank Morello, Cr Ben Hood, Mayor Lynette Martin OAM, Cr Paul Jenner, Cr Sonya Meziniec, Cr Max Bruins, Cr Christian Greco (Deputy Mayor), Cr Steven Perryman.

Photo: Louise Agnew Photography.

Council and Committees (as at June 2021)



**Her Worship the Mayor
Mrs Lynette Martin OAM**

Council committee positions

- CEO Performance Review Committee (Presiding Member)
- CEO Selection Panel (Presiding Member)

Ex officio

- People and Place Committee
- Economic and Environment Committee
- Audit Committee
- Junior Sports Assistance Fund
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee*

Other positions

- Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA)
- Local Government Association
- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel Advisory Committee
- Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal Advisory Committee



Cr Christian Greco
(Deputy Mayor from December 2020)

Council committee positions

- Economic and Environment Committee (Presiding Member)
- People and Place Committee
- Junior Sports Assistance Fund (Presiding Member)
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee*
- CEO Performance Review Committee

Other positions

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

Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Councillor Christian Greco was appointed Deputy Mayor at the December 2020 Council meeting.

The appointment of a Deputy Mayor assists to ensure that Council is adequately and appropriately represented at all times when the Mayor is unavailable. At the first Council meeting of the term in 2018, Council decided to fill the position for a period of two years. Council extends its thanks and appreciation to Cr Sonya Meziniec for her work as Deputy Mayor from 2018 to 2020. Cr Greco will hold the position until the Local Government Elections in 2022.



Cr Sonya Meziniec
(Deputy Mayor to December 2020)

Council committee positions

- People and Place Committee
- Economic and Environment Committee
- CEO Performance Review Committee (to Dec 2020)
- CEO Selection Panel
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee*
- Audit Committee (Presiding Member)

Other positions

- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Advisory Group

* Formerly the Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Committee

Council and Committees (as at June 2021)



Cr Kate Amoroso



Cr Max Bruins



Cr Ben Hood

Council committee positions

- People and Place Committee
- Economic and Environment Committee
- Junior Sports Assistance Fund
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee*

Other positions

- Limestone Coast Violence Against Women Collaboration
- LCLGA Regional Sport and Recreation Advisory Group

Council committee positions

- People and Place Committee
- Economic and Environment Committee
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee*

Other positions

- Queen Elizabeth Park Trust Board Member

Council committee positions

- People and Place Committee
- Economic and Environment Committee
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee* (Presiding Member)

Other positions

- Mount Gambier and District Airport Committee (DC Grant s41)
- Limestone Coast Zone Emergency Centre Committee (Local Government Deputy Controller)
- Mount Gambier Youth Advisory Group

* Formerly the Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Committee



Cr Paul Jenner

Council committee positions

- Economic and Environment Committee
- People and Place Committee
- Council Assessment Panel
- CEO Selection Panel
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee*
- Building Fire Safety Committee (Presiding Member)

Other positions

- Joint Boundary Roads Advisory Group (with DC Grant)
- LCLGA Limestone Coast Climate Adaptation Committee
- LCLGA Regional Waste Management Steering Committee
- LCLGA Roads and Transport Management Group
- Seniors Month Advisory Group



Cr Frank Morello

Council committee positions

- People and Place Committee (Presiding Member)
- Economic and Environment Committee
- CEO Performance Review Committee
- CEO Selection Panel
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee*

Other positions

- Limestone Coast Economic Development Reference Group
- Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre Advisory Group



Cr Steven Perryman

Council committee positions

- Economic and Environment Committee
- People and Place Committee
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee* (until 18/05/2021)

Other positions

- Tourism Mount Gambier Board
- Australia Day Celebrations Advisory Group

Elected Member Attendance

The following is the recorded attendance (or apologies) of Elected Members at Ordinary and Special Council and Committee meetings and Designated Informal Gatherings/Workshops during the 2020/2021 year.

		Meetings held	Mayor Martin	Cr Meziniec	Cr Bruins	Cr Greco	Cr Hood	Cr Jenner	Cr Morello	Cr Perryman	Cr Amoroso
Council meetings	Meetings attended	12	12 ^P	11	12	11	10	12	11	10	8
	Apologies		-	1	-	1	2	-	1	1	1
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
	Leave of absence		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Council	Meetings attended	8	8 ^P	6	8	6	7	8	8	4	4
	Apologies		-	2	-	2	1	-	-	3	4
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Economic and Environment Committee	Meetings attended	4	4 [*]	4	4	4 ^P	1	4	4	2	1
	Apologies		-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	2
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
People and Place Committee	Meetings attended	5	5 [*]	4	4	4	3	3	5 ^P	2	3
	Apologies		-	1	1	1	2	2	-	1	1
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee [^]	Meetings attended	8	7 [*]	7	8	5	8 ^P	7	8	4	3
	Apologies		1	1	-	3	-	-	-	2	4
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Audit Committee	Meetings attended	3	1 [*]	3 ^P							
	Apologies		1	-							
Council Assessment Panel	Meetings attended	11						8			
	Apologies							2			
	Absent (no apology)							1			
Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee	Meetings attended	4	1 [*]			3 ^P					-
	Apologies		-			1					-
	Absent (no apology)		-			-					4
CEO Selection Panel	Meetings attended	4	4 ^P	4				3	4		
	Apologies		-	-				1	-		
Designated Informal Gatherings/ Workshops	Meetings attended	40 [~]	36	37	32	27	24	26	33	15	13
	Apologies		4	3	5	10	13	10	5	13	23
	Absent (no apology)		-	-	-	-	-	2	-	9	1

* Ex Officio

~ Includes Informal Gatherings where attendance by all Elected Members not required.

[^] Council on 16 February 2021 endorsed the renaming of the Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Committee to the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee.

At its meeting held 18 May 2021 Council resolved that the membership of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee be amended to 'up to eight Councillors'.

Member not appointed to committee

P Presiding Member

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,
- 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.

Elected Member allowances for the City of Mount Gambier as from 9 November 2020 are:

Council	Group 2 classification base of \$18,100
Mayoral allowance	4 x \$18,100 or \$72,400
Deputy Mayoral allowance, Presiding Member of prescribed committee	1.25 x \$18,100 or \$22,625
Members	\$18,100

Council has also approved *Policy M405 Members Allowances and Benefits* providing reimbursement of member expenses in accordance with Section 77 of the Act, including travel expenses (outside of council area only), child/dependent care expenses and the annual mobile/computing device and data plan allowance. The Mayor is provided with office and executive assistance and a motor vehicle.

Council determined reimbursements for mobile/computing devices and data plans up to \$1,500 per council term and an allowance for data of \$600 per annum.

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

The allowances set out in the Remuneration Tribunal Determination are adjusted annually on the first, second and third anniversaries of the 2018 Local Government Elections to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index as defined at 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. Accordingly, the sitting fee for the Presiding Member of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre from 9 November 2020 is \$179 per meeting limited to an aggregate amount of \$1,069 per annum.

Sitting fees for independent members of the Audit Committee are:

- \$100 per meeting or \$50 for any special meeting,
- \$150 per meeting or \$100 for any special meeting for an independent Presiding Member of the Audit Committee.

An Elected Member on the Audit Committee receives no sitting fee, except as 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,
- Legal responsibilities,
- Council and committee meeting procedures, and
- Financial management and reporting.

The 2020/2021 budget allocation for Elected Member training and development was \$12,000 and an amount of \$1,851 was expended.

During 2020/2021, Elected Members were provided opportunities to participate in a varied range of training programs and briefings, several of which were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Below is a record of the training and briefings which were attended/undertaken in 2020/2021.

Mayor Lynette Martin OAM

E-Planning Demonstration and Briefing – Phase 3 councils (virtual)

2020 LGA Conference and AGM (Adelaide)

LGRS Elected Member Roles and Responsibilities

LCLGA Workshop and Meeting (Tatiara)

Mayor's Forum – Lead Through Coaching (Adelaide)

LGA Ordinary General Meeting (Adelaide)

SAROC Meeting – Attracting Workers to SA Regions Forum (Adelaide)

Ministerial Meeting with General Manager City Growth (Adelaide)

Tourism Awards (Adelaide)

Cr Kate Amoroso

LGRS Elected Member Roles and Responsibilities

Cr Paul Jenner

E-Planning Demonstration and Briefing – Phase 3 councils (virtual)

LGRS Elected Member Roles and Responsibilities

Cr Sonya Meziniec

LGRS Elected Member Roles and Responsibilities

Cr Frank Morello

LGRS Elected Member Roles and Responsibilities

Cr Steven Perryman

LGRS Elected Member Roles and Responsibilities

Elected Members were also provided with the opportunity to attend 40 Workshops, Briefings and Designated Informal Gatherings in 2020/2021 on matters relating to:

- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre procurement
- Riddoch Arts and Cultural Trust
- Wehl Street Theatre
- Council's role in Tourism
- Alignment of Council objectives and CEO KRA's and KPI's for 2020/2021
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre (3)
- Limestone Coast Local Government Association Briefing
- Reuse, recycling and waste
- Substance Misuse Limestone Coast
- Advertising and Signage Policy
- Media update
- Budget Review 1 – 2020/2021
- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund second tranche
- Consultant discussion – CEO Selection Panel
- Audit Committee Information Session
- Public Bus Service Review
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Country Arts SA Masterplan
- Mount Gambier Private Hospital
- Budget Review 2
- Council Policy C410
- OneFortyOne presentation
- Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre – Local Government Finance Authority
- Public Transport Review
- Annual Budget Preparation (3)
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre branding (2)
- Effects on the timber industry – China ban – Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub (GTFIH)
- Strategic matters
- External Audit tender
- Outcomes of Employee Survey
- Strategic waste management
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre operating model
- Introductory meeting with Chief Executive Officer
- Rateable commercial properties – occupancy.





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

An additional area *Our Commitment* has been included in the plan, outlining the principles that underpin our business and services to the community.

The strategies and actions featured in the plan will guide Council over the next four years and serve as a blueprint to build a progressive, knowledge-based city that embraces new technologies, culture and sustainable living.

Our Commitment

The City of Mount Gambier will be:

**Sustainable
Transparent
Responsive
Involving
Values based
Effective**

GOAL 1 OUR PEOPLE

This goal brings together five key themes that affect our people – whether they live, work, study or visit the city of Mount Gambier. We seek to grow the city and the communities from which it is comprised. Steady growth in the city of Mount Gambier will enable sustainable growth and will help us achieve a size where services are more viable. Research and comparisons between cities with a reliance on a low skilled workforce and those with an approach to earning and learning has shown how much improved the quality of life and economy is in 'earning and learning' cities. With a TAFE and universities in the city, tertiary opportunities need to be exploited.

GOAL 2 OUR LOCATION

Situated halfway between Adelaide and Melbourne, Mount Gambier is close to the coast and surrounded by great natural features and opportunities to enjoy great food and wine. The city does not exist in isolation; the region helps cater for the diverse needs of around 65,000 people. Being the regional centre provides both opportunities and responsibilities. A prospectus will help us tell our story to a wider audience – whether it is those who want to visit, or relocate their business, or their family.

GOAL 3 OUR DIVERSE ECONOMY

A diverse economy provides a greater range of opportunities and helps provide a degree of resilience during economic downturns. There is a need to increase diversity into a number of professional service sectors where it is currently difficult to recruit or provide services, but which through the growth of the city will become more attractive. Council will work in partnership with representative groups including the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Mount Gambier.

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

We have an amazing natural and semi-natural environment in our region, which provides the setting for many of our keynote activities. We are reliant on our environment for our water and for many of our jobs. The challenges of climate change are yet to be fully understood, but our region has many inherent advantages in a world and country that is trending to be hotter and drier.

Our setting has been an inspiration from time immemorial to the Boandik people and since colonisation, to a range of newer residents. The ability to share our stories and to portray them in various creative media is another route to display our points of difference. An active CBD and city, including a range of innovative public art also helps build skills, creativity and potentially entrepreneurial skills within the community. Our newest migrants bring their stories with them and our welcoming, inclusive approach helps embrace the creativity that they too bring with them. This goal is all about those things that tell our story and help improve our quality of life, by giving us a sense of place and a clean, green, creative environment. A creative environment can help bring forward entrepreneurial skills and when coupled with educational offerings, coaching, mentoring and opportunity, it can make the difference between somewhere to pass through or somewhere to stay. Selling what we achieve through this theme, will be an important factor in celebrating our city.

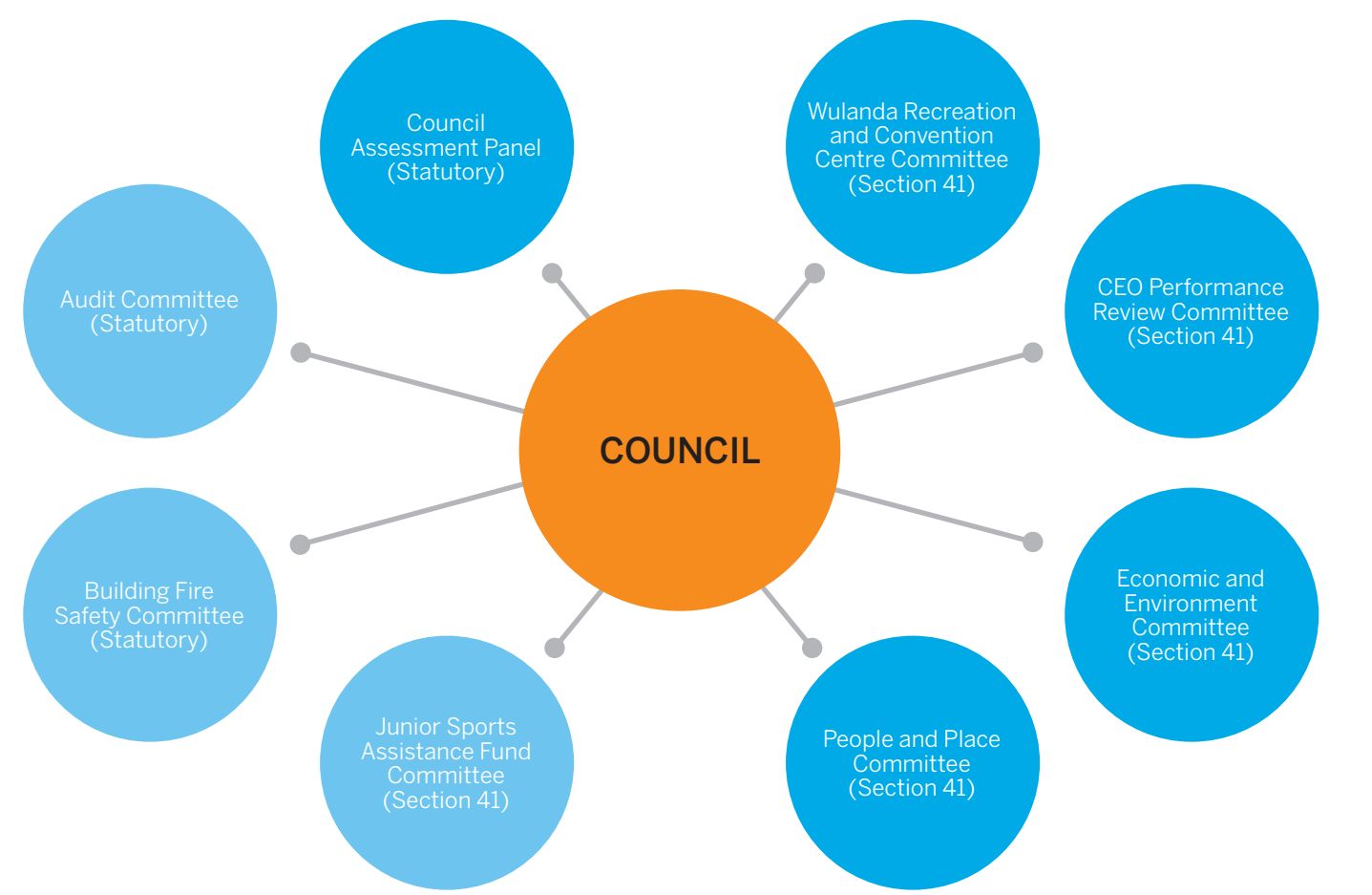
GOAL 5 OUR COMMITMENT

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 our strategic planning, processes, service delivery and the management of assets.

Being more effective will enable Council to focus its spending on the delivery of services and what you have told us, and continue to tell us, is important to you. Council has challenging times ahead with a change in funding likely from both the State and Federal Governments and continued pressure to take on services formerly run by others or to improve existing services.

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 at 30 June 2021 is set out 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.

Economic and Environment Committee and People and Place Committee meetings are held on the first Monday of each alternate month commencing at 5:30pm.

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 may be invited to make a deputation.

Any person wishing to have a matter considered by Council should make a request in writing to the Chief Executive Officer 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.

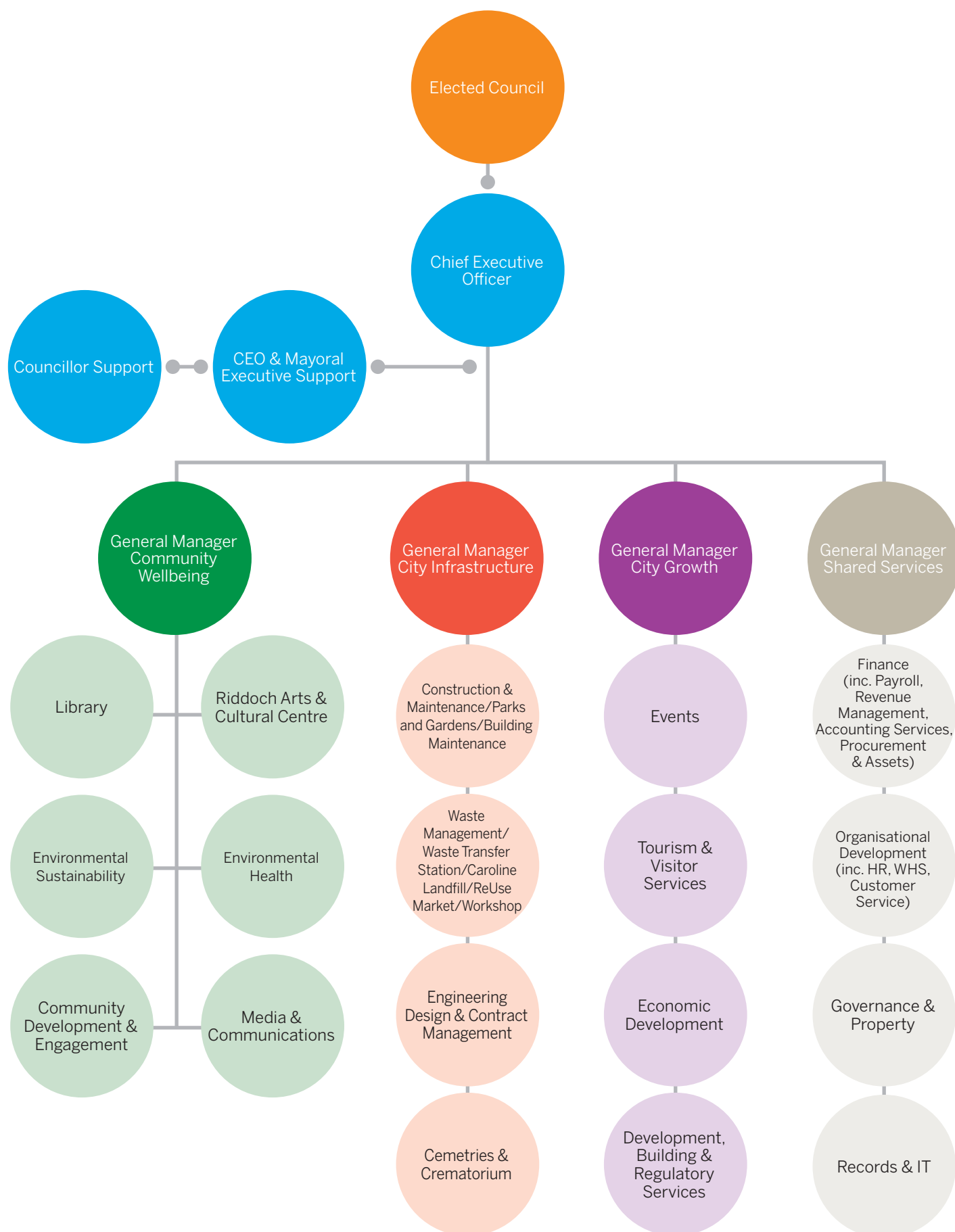
Delegations

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 as necessary to specified officer positions.

The delegation instruments reference which legislative powers are delegated/sub-delegated and any limitations or conditions that are applicable to those (sub) delegations.

Delegations and sub-delegations are available for public inspection at the Council office and are also published on Council's website.

Organisational Chart



Our People

Senior Executive Officers

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

- Chief Executive Officer, and
- Four General Managers.

The remuneration and benefits of the Senior Executive Officers are detailed in Council's Salary Register available by request at the Council office. Remuneration includes salary, superannuation and a vehicle or salary equivalent. Each Senior Executive Officer is employed on a five-year fixed term contract of employment.

The Senior Executive Officers at as 30 June 2021 were as follows:

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Sarah Philpott

Sarah commenced in the role on 15 June 2021 following the resignation of Andrew Meddle in November 2020. General Manager Community Wellbeing Barbara Cernovskis held the position of Acting CEO from November 2020 to June 2021.

General Manager City Infrastructure

Ms Barbara Cernovskis

Former General Manager City Infrastructure Nick Serle resigned from Council in February 2021.

Following Nick's departure, Manager Waste and ReUse Mark McDonald acted in the role from February to May 2021, following which Barbara commenced in the role.

General Manager City Growth

Mr Tim Coote

Tim commenced in the role on 20 February 2021 following the retirement of Judy Nagy in late 2020.

General Manager Shared Services

Mr Darren Barber

Darren commenced in the role on 11 January 2021.

Acting General Manager Community Wellbeing

Mrs Georgina Davison

Barbara Cernovskis held the role of General Manager Community Wellbeing prior to stints as Acting CEO and General Manager City Infrastructure. Georgina has been acting in the role since May 2021.



Executive team: General Manager Shared Services Darren Barber (left), Acting General Manager Community Wellbeing Georgina Davison, General Manager City Infrastructure Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager City Growth Tim Coote and CEO Sarah Philpott.



Mayor Martin and CEO Andrew Meddle on his final day at the City of Mount Gambier.

Resignation of CEO Andrew Meddle

After 18 months at Council, CEO Andrew Meddle tendered his resignation in October 2020 to return to Murray Bridge to be closer to his family having accepted a position with the Department of Environment and Water.

"On behalf of Council I thank Andrew for his contribution to our city. Andrew provided strong leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to assist our residents and businesses and encourage a firm recovery. He was instrumental in enabling Council to achieve and execute a fixed price contract for the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre project and has set Council up for success to build the largest infrastructure project ever undertaken in Mount Gambier," Mayor Martin said.

Mr Meddle said his decision to resign from the role was a difficult one.

"The team I have had the honour and privilege to lead have been a warm and welcoming one, who have given me more support than I had expected or deserved. The decision to leave was therefore immensely difficult."

"Had I been able to relocate my family, this would have been a long term, multi-contract role. Although this was not to be, I am proud to have served this community in challenging times and to have helped prepare it for a successful future."

"Having assembled a great team, now is as good a time as any to move forward personally and use the skills and experience I have learned here in a new environment," Mr Meddle said.

Andrew's last day with Council was Monday 2 November 2020 and General Manager Community Wellbeing Barbara Cernovskis was appointed as Acting CEO until Sarah Philpott commenced in June 2021.

Sarah Philpott Appointed as CEO

In March 2021, Council appointed former Mount Gambier woman Sarah Philpott as the new Chief Executive Officer.

Sarah grew up in Mount Gambier and returns to the city with more than 15 years executive leadership experience within state and local government sectors.

"I have worked across many areas of local government services over the years, including urban planning and design, asset management, economic development, community development, health, wellbeing and safety, libraries, theatres, cultural centres and the arts, environmental planning and projects, and major project delivery and implementation," Ms Philpott said.

"I am pleased to be making my way back home to use my skillset in the role of CEO and I hope to positively impact the quality of life of Mount Gambier residents, local businesses and visitors."

Mayor Martin said Sarah is passionate about local government and highly regarded within the sector.

"With such vast experience Sarah is skilled in stakeholder engagement, project management and delivery, economic development, financial management, governance and community infrastructure services and strategy," Mayor Martin said.

Sarah officially started in the role on 15 June 2021.



CEO Sarah Philpott and Mayor Martin on Sarah's first day in the role.

Our People

General Manager Shared Services appointed

Darren Barber commenced at Council as General Manager Shared Services on 11 January 2021, following his most recent role as Manager Organisational Development at Southern Grampians Shire.

Former Acting CEO Barbara Cernovskis welcomed Darren to the team.

“Following an extensive search, we are very pleased to have Darren onboard,” Ms Cernovskis said.

“Darren brings with him a depth of experience in a variety of roles in Local Government at Southern Grampians Shire and Warrnambool City Council.”

“He also has consultancy experience with both local government and private enterprise.”

Having relocated to Mount Gambier from Hamilton, Darren is enjoying spending more time in the city having visited regularly as a consultant.

“I am passionate about the region and believe Mount Gambier has a lot to offer in the way of regional leadership in the Limestone Coast and Western Victoria.”
– Darren Barber

“It’s an exciting period of change and I believe I can add value to the organisation through my background by assisting in developing the foundations for future growth and prosperity.”

New General Manager City Growth appointed

Council welcomed Tim Coote to the role of General Manager City Growth in February 2021.

Tim’s most recent position was with the South Australian State Government as Regional Manager International Markets, Trade and Regions – Eyre and Western, Far North, Yorke and Mid North and Barossa with the Department for Trade and Investment and previous to that role as Regional Manager, Eyre and Western with the Department for Industry and Skills.

His background in economic development, stakeholder engagement and partnerships will assist him to lead Council’s City Growth portfolio which includes tourism, community events, development services, general inspectorate and strategy, development and research.

“I think Mount Gambier presents the most exciting potential in the state, it is perfectly placed to really go to a different phase of its life and that’s what attracted me to come here.” – Tim Coote

Employees by portfolio

Portfolio	Males	Females	Total
Office of the CEO	0	5	5
Community Wellbeing	7	29	36
Shared Services	4	23	27
City Growth	7	13	20
City Infrastructure	62	3	65
Totals	80	73	153

Total number of employees: 153*

Full time equivalents*: 128.55

*including trainees

Diversity and Inclusion

Council believes it is important to maintain a diverse and inclusive culture that allows us to understand and meet our community needs and facilitate services.

Through our Reconciliation Action Plan and Equal Opportunity and Discrimination Administrative Procedure, Council remains committed to achieving fair and equitable employment practices, workplace diversity and facilitating a culture of inclusiveness.



City of Mount Gambier staff David Hurley (left), Xarnia Keding, Daryl Ferguson and Hayden Cook are congratulated by Mayor Martin (centre) on their award-winning Work Health Safety initiative.

Local Government Workers Compensation Scheme Best Practice Regional Winner

City of Mount Gambier won the Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme Work Health Safety Best Practice Regional Major Award following the implementation of a banner erection system that eliminates working at heights risks throughout the city.

Putting up banners at entry points on busy highways is now safer thanks to the system which enables banners to be raised and lowered quickly and easily by one person from the ground.

This initiative was a successful collaboration of ideas and research between Council's Events and City Infrastructure teams to eliminate a high risk 'Working at Heights' task that is completed by Council staff on a monthly basis.

The 2020 LGA Scheme Award winners were officially announced at the Local Government Association AGM in Adelaide on Friday 30 April 2021. The awards acknowledge excellence by South Australian councils in implementing risk management programs, processes, systems or developments.

Our People

Training and Development

Council employees are provided access to relevant training and development opportunities.

In addition to occupation-specific training, staff are required to undertake mental health first aid training, Maybo conflict and behaviour management training and cultural safety and racism awareness training. This year has also seen the development of a new performance review and development check-in process and the creation of values to inform the culture within the organisation and how we work together.

Volunteers

Council is fortunate to have volunteers offering support across multiple locations 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 Conservation Park, Visitor Centre and providing assistance in the delivery of community events and through the Youth Advisory Group.

Some of our valued volunteers are featured on pages 62 and 63.

Workplace Safety

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

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, thus providing a safe and supportive work environment.

Australasian Management Challenge

Council entered a team to compete at the Local Government Professionals Australasian Management Challenge held in Adelaide at Morphettville Racecourse on 29 April 2021.

The challenge is a key leadership development program and involved a pre-challenge task and a series of high pressure, real-life scenarios at the event, with the state winner qualifying to compete at the national challenge.

The cross-divisional team was comprised of Sara Gray, Leanne Little, Jeremy Thomas, Heather Reilly, Terasa Nearmy and Daniel Pearson.



City of Mount Gambier Australasian Management Challenge team Heather Reilly (left), Leanne Little, Jeremy Thomas, Daniel Pearson, Terasa Nearmy and Sara Gray.

Community and Economic Profile

[profile.id](#) provides a comprehensive socio-demographic profile of the city of Mount Gambier.

Demographic change across Australia is recorded by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in the Census collections every five years.

Population experts analyse and convert these raw figures into stories of place to inform Council staff, community groups, investors, business, students and the general public.

[profile.id](#) uses Census data to tell an important story about the demographic characteristics of communities, how they are changing and how they compare to other areas.

The profile is updated with population estimates when the ABS releases new figures such as the annual Estimated Resident Population (ERP).

The below statistics about the Mount Gambier community have been sourced from www.profile.id.com.au/mount-gambier and Council encourages the use of this extensive online resource.

[economy.id](#) combines 11 different datasets to build a cohesive story of the local economy, how it is changing and how it compares to other areas.

The city of Mount Gambier's economic profile presents economic information that enables you to describe the area's role within the broader economy, explore options for economic development and promote the area's strengths. The information presented is derived from official sources of information (Australian Bureau of Statistics) as well as Australia's leading economic modellers (NIEIR).

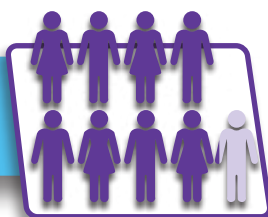
27,433

Estimated Resident Population in 2020

Gross Regional Product estimated at

\$1.43 billion

Population density of 8.10 persons per hectare



14,213

Local jobs

34km²

Land area

Largest industry – Health Care and Social Assistance



Median resident age

40

2,065

Local businesses





Community

Digital Garden	28
Christmas Themed AR	29
Playground Deputation	29
Homelessness Advocacy	30
Public Transport Survey and Submission	31
COVID-19 Initiatives	32
Community Consultations	37
Financial Support for Community Groups, Services and Initiatives	39
Sport and Recreation Capital Works Program	39
Junior Sports Assistance Fund	40
Australian Citizenship Ceremonies	42
Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal	44
Mount Gambier Library	47
The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre	51
Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants	58
Disability Access and Inclusion Plan	59
Public Health Plan	60
Community and Environmental Health	61
National Volunteer Week	62
Australia Day Awards 2021	65
Community Events	73
Reconciliation	79
Youth Activities	82
General Inspector Statistics	84
Dog and Cat Management Plan	85

Cave Garden Illuminated – Digital Garden by Illuminate Adelaide

The Cave Garden was brought to life in the evenings during June 2021 with Council coordinating a program of events to complement the South Australian Tourism Commission's installation - Digital Garden by Illuminate Adelaide.

Officially opened by South Australian Tourism Commission Chief Executive Rodney Harrex and Mayor Lynette Martin on 9 June 2021, the Digital Garden installation ran from 6:00pm to 10:00pm each evening until Sunday 4 July 2021.

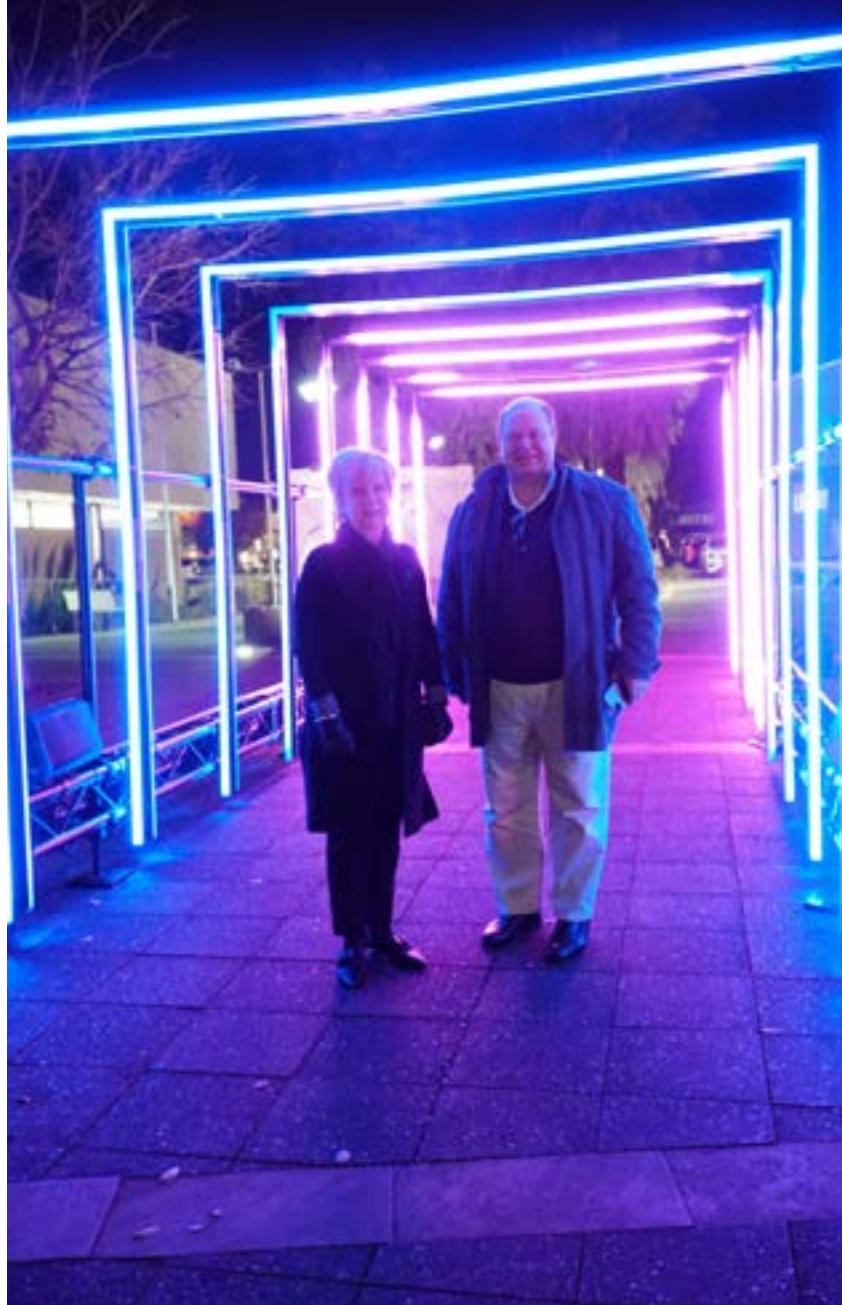
The Cave Garden spectacle was the first regional event of its kind in the state and incorporated a series of works from renowned international companies, including neon characters, flowers and imagery, a field of moving fireflies and an interactive light archway and projections.

“Digital Garden transformed our iconic Cave Garden into a wonderland of light and creativity as we embraced winter, and I thank Rodney and the SATC for shining a light on Mount Gambier.”
– Mayor Martin

Various events were programmed around the installation period with The Riddoch hosting a Winter Solstice Artisan Market featuring the wares of more than 20 artists on Saturday 19 June 2021.

“We had such an overwhelming response from our artist community, to the point of filling our stalls and having to create a wait list,” Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Programming Officer Emma Telford said.

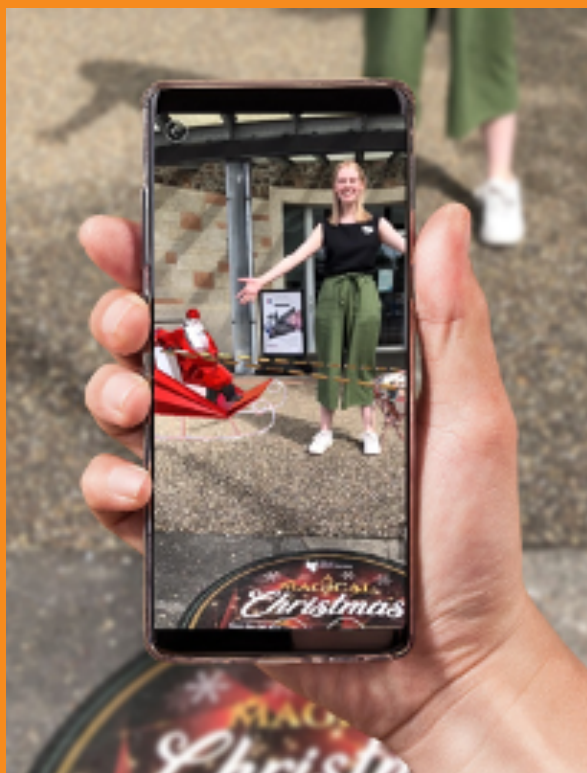
Estimates indicate that more than 10,000 people enjoyed the free installation over the month-long period.



Mayor Martin and South Australian Tourism Commission Chief Executive Rodney Harrex opened the Digital Garden at the Cave Garden.

People of all ages enjoyed the snow machine at the Winter Solstice Artisan Markets as part of the Digital Garden programming.





Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Customer Service Officer Lily Higgs demonstrates one of the Christmas theme AR animations.

Christmas Themed Augmented Reality

Six Christmas themed Augmented Reality (AR) animations popped up around the city in the lead up to Christmas in 2020 with the community able to enjoy three trails viewable via smart phone.

The festive animations were available at iconic tourist locations such as the Visitor Centre, Valley Lakes and Umpherston Sinkhole, the city centre and throughout the Railway Lands.

"With COVID-19 restrictions constantly changing we wanted to provide a Christmas experience for the community that wouldn't rely on large crowds and was something we haven't had in Mount Gambier before," The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Coordinator Talie Teakle said.

"Augmented reality through your phone is a fun way to bring some Christmas cheer in a new, innovative and COVID safe way."

Large stickers were placed around the city featuring QR codes that directed users to download a free app called 'Eyejack' to launch the AR experience and view the magical Christmas animations.

"You could even point your phone at your friends and film them interacting with Santa or reindeers, falling presents and snowglobes," Ms Teakle said.

Playground Deputation to Council

Stuart Court residents 10-year-old Imogen and six year old Olivia confidently fronted Council at the April 2021 meeting to present a deputation encouraging elected members to consider establishing a playground at the Matthew Flinders Way reserve.

"Playgrounds are an essential tool in our development. They are so much more than fun and games. Families gather, children climb, slide, swing, laugh, shout and the benefits will continue to improve our lives," Olivia said.

"A playground builds self-confidence, self-esteem and relationships."
– Imogen

Mayor Martin and Councillors were impressed with the presentation.

"It is wonderful to see young people in our community taking such an interest in our community and coming forth in this venue and having such passion in your argument... You have provided us with a very compelling case," Mayor Martin said.

Council officers will meet with the girls to hear more about what they would like to see developed in the reserve as part of the Mount Gambier Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy community consultation.



Imogen and Olivia with Mayor Martin following a deputation encouraging elected members to consider establishing a playground at the Matthew Flinders Way reserve.

Addressing Homelessness in Mount Gambier

Council began liaising with local homelessness sector services in March 2021 to advocate for increasing the availability of social and community housing in the city and the surrounding area.

It follows a motion regarding homelessness in Mount Gambier presented by Councillor Sonya Meziniec at the February 2021 Council meeting.

“While Council is not a housing provider or a funder, we do have a role to advocate on behalf of the community, for those vulnerable people in our community to see if governments can increase the stock of social and community housing which has declined over a period of many years. We are now in the situation where we have increasing pressures in terms of housing affordability and the fact that more and more people are facing homelessness in our city,” Cr Sonya Meziniec said.

“I thank Councillor Meziniec for bringing this issue to Council and for highlighting the difficult situation many people in our community are currently facing,” Mayor Martin said.

“Elected Members unanimously supported this motion as we see the need for social and community housing has been exacerbated by COVID-19. Mount Gambier is seen as an attractive and safe place for people to relocate and purchase property, resulting in a perfect storm with the stock of public and private housing reducing and rent increasing, in a decreasing rental market.”

Council resolved to write to the State and Federal governments and

individual parliamentarians to lobby for increased funding to expand the stock of social and community housing available in Mount Gambier and throughout the Limestone Coast.

Mayor Martin met with ac.care CEO Shane Maddocks, Manager Homelessness Services Trish Spark and Marketing and Communications Manager Jason Wallace to discuss how to address the growing issue of homelessness in the community and seek innovative solutions.

“The issues we are increasingly seeing with rent stress and housing affordability pushing people to the brink of homelessness require a whole of community approach to advocate for greater attention from government and development of long-term solutions to increase support and housing availability for vulnerable people in regional South Australia,” Mr Maddocks said.

“The health and wellbeing of our community is very important to Council and we will be looking at how Council can provide tangible assistance to ac.care to address the need in our community.”
– Mayor Martin

“As an example, in Murray Bridge, the council partnered with the community and non-profit organisation Habitat for Humanity to remodel a vacant community housing duplex to create four units for young people at risk of homelessness. These are the types of projects I would like to see Council consider supporting.”

Council also plans to put the issue of homelessness on the agenda for discussion at the Local Government Association SA Annual General Meeting in October 2021.



ac.care Manager Homelessness Services Trish Spark (left), Mayor Martin and ac.care CEO Shane Maddocks.

Public Transport Submission Highlights Inadequacies

Council submitted a report outlining the inadequacies of the local public bus service to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) to form part of the South Australian Public Transport Authority's (SAPTA) Regional Public Transport Review in April 2021.

Council undertook a review of the Mount Gambier public bus service to inform the State Government, which highlighted the importance of community access to effective public transport services in and around the city and called for major change to the government funded service.

"The current service delivery model for mass passenger transport in Mount Gambier has historically been, and remains, underfunded. There is significant inequity in bus service funding between metropolitan and regional South Australia, with Adelaide receiving a \$234 per capita spend, compared with only \$11 per capita in regional areas," then City of Mount Gambier Acting CEO Barbara Cernovskis said.

"It is important to note that the findings of the review are not a reflection on the local service provider BuslinkSA, this is a State Government funding issue that needs to be rectified. While Council does not directly provide local transport services, it is a key player as a provider of infrastructure and an advocate to encourage holistic strategic planning which considers the current and future needs of our city."

The review found that the current service model sits at less than the lowest benchmark outlined in the Bus Industry Confederation's (BIC) Population benchmarks for regional town public transport service.

"The current bus service does not meet the service provision benchmark for a town that has a population of 3,000 to 6,000 people, let alone a population of more 27,000 people here in Mount Gambier. - This is very concerning," Ms Cernovskis said.

"The review also found that the current service doesn't allow people to access employment and/or education facilities given its restricted hours of operation, does not adequately service facilities such as the Mount Gambier Hospital, has lengthy wait times for servicing stops along each route and is lacking service to residential growth areas."



"A large percentage of passengers rely on the bus service to access medical and welfare services, shopping and education and some people are required to walk up to a kilometre to access the service. Some rely on mobility aids; therefore, safe accessibility both to and while using the public bus service is vital," Ms Cernovskis said.

The review revealed deficiencies within Mount Gambier's public transport system that contribute to greater levels of inequality and social isolation within the community.

"Many of the people who participated in the review expressed feelings of exclusion from community spaces and events, particularly on evenings and weekends or in accessing locations outside of the existing bus routes."

"We need a strong public transport system to reduce disadvantage and connect people with employment, education and health care."
– Barbara Cernovskis

In the submission to SAPTA, Council highlighted the lack of inter-town public transport services in the Lower South East and noted that a bus service is not provided from the city to the Mount Gambier Airport.

"Consideration should be given to review the suitability of the 'dial a ride' (or similar) as a service that could support the existing fixed route public bus service."

"At the very least, the review recommends an expansion of the current bus service routes and timetables to include areas such as Carinya Gardens Cemetery, Pinehall Medical Centre, Foodbank, Dimjalla Skate Park, the Crater Lakes precinct and all residential areas."

"There should also be a review of more efficient services provided to the Mount Gambier Hospital and education facilities such as TAFE and UniSA and the CBD."

Council will continue to work collaboratively with local community groups, public transport service providers and relevant State Government departments to advocate for and improve accessibility to public transport services within Mount Gambier.

Our City. Our Response - COVID-19 Initiatives Continue

In early 2020, Council took swift action to develop a multifaceted plan focusing on *Our People, Our Economy and Our Recovery* to assist the community with the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these initiatives continued in 2020/2021.



RDA Limestone Coast Chief Executive David Wheaton (left), RDA Limestone Coast Business and Workforce Development Manager Rachael Ashmann, Women in Business and Regional Development Chair Jacinta Jones, Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce President Hayley Neumann, and Mayor Martin.

Business Networking Event – ‘Reconnect to Recover’

City of Mount Gambier, in conjunction with the Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce, Women in Business and Regional Development and Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast hosted a business networking event on Friday 24 July 2020 at City Hall.

The event, titled ‘Reconnect to Recover’, was held to bring business owners back together and gather information in an informal context about how COVID-19 has and continues to impact on their operation.

Mayor Martin opened the event and spoke about the many ways Council has been working to assist the community during this time.

The event was a joint collaboration as part of Council’s ‘Our City, Our Response’ COVID-19 strategy and follows on from the business survey conducted at the height of the pandemic,” Mayor Martin said.

More than 70 people attended the event emceed by RDA Limestone Coast Chief Executive David Wheaton. Organisers ensured the event was compliant with the venue’s COVID safe plan with coloured spots on the floor to outline appropriate physical distancing between attendees.

Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce President Hayley Neumann and Women in Business and Regional Development Chair Jacinta Jones closed the event and spoke about the importance of working together and staying connected during challenging times.

“Over the past few months the local business community has shown resilience and innovation in the face of adversity. We have all supported each other to make sure that our local community has been safe and now we need to reconnect and work together to hopefully come out stronger and better than before,” Ms Neumann said.

COVID Support Packages Encourage Events

Council supported eligible community event organisers with signage and cleaning packages to the value of \$1,000 to continue to host events during the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with SA Health guidelines.

For any activity where more than 1,000 people will gather, SA Health requires that a COVID Management plan be submitted and approved by the department. For an activity where less than 1,000 people will be present, a COVID safe plan outlining measures to keep staff and patrons safe and minimise the risk of spreading infectious diseases must be lodged.

“While these plans are necessary in this climate, additional financial requirements to provide appropriate signage, cleaning and hygiene products can discourage small groups and clubs from running their annual events,” City of Mount Gambier Events Team Leader Xarnia Keding said.

The contents of each support package varies in accordance with specific event requirements.

“Council will provide corflute signs and vinyl banners reminding people to socially distance, practice good hygiene and wash their hands. These will be reused at each event.”

“The packs can also include portable toilets, automatic hand sanitiser dispensers, masks, wipes, hand towels, bin liners, gloves and soap,” Ms Keding said.

The BMX SA 2020 Championships was held at the Blue Lake BMX Club from 24 to 27 September 2020, with more than 350 riders and about 1,000 people converging on the track.

“We had been working on hosting the championship for the last 18 months but with the COVID outbreak it was beginning to look very difficult,” Blue Lake BMX Club President Stephen Jones said.

“The Council event package has really been the difference between running the event and not running the event. The Blue Lake BMX Club is a not for profit organisation and the cost of extra signage, toilets, sanitising and cleaning equipment would simply mean the money made from the event to help the club grow would simply be lost in trying to purchase extra equipment.”

The Inside Line Downhill Mountain Bike Club also made use of an event support package at its

State Series event which was held at the Crater Lakes on 3 and 4 October 2020.

“It’s great to know the City of Mount Gambier is committed to helping us deliver a safe event. It is a generous and valuable package,” Inside Line Downhill Mountain Bike Club committee member Carrie Parton said.

Council’s support for local events is aligned to the three pillars of the ‘Our City, Our Response’ COVID-19 action plan. The event support packages follow Council’s decision in April 2020 to endorse the payment of part or all sponsorship funding for events where a commitment was made before the pandemic.



Blue Lake BMX President Stephen Jones with the event support package corflute signs placed around the track for the BMX SA 2020 Championships.

Junior Sports Assistance Fund Fees Waived

The City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund waived membership fees for member organisations in 2020/2021 to provide financial relief and help local sporting clubs to focus on rebuilding after COVID-19 hindered activity.

Affiliated sporting organisations contribute annually to the Junior Sports Assistance Fund based on a formula determined by the committee and adopted at the Annual General Meeting to apply for the ensuing financial year. To assist the sporting community, the committee endorsed a recommendation to waive member contributions for the 2020/2021 financial year totalling \$8,500.

“It has been a very challenging year for many of our sporting groups and the fund is pleased to reduce some of the financial burden these clubs are carrying due to reduced or no activity.”
– City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund Presiding Member
Christian Greco

“The implications associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the tiered shutdown of activities has had an immediate impact on our sporting community.”

The move has been well received by the sporting community, with Basketball Mount Gambier writing to the fund to express its appreciation.

“This is a considerate gesture and we appreciate the committee thinking of sporting clubs that have struggled in this trying time,” Basketball Mount Gambier Administration Officer Teresa Stewart said.

The fund currently has 17 sporting organisations as formal members and has distributed more than \$490,000 to junior sports persons and coaching clinics since its inception in 1988.

“We are thankful to our member organisations for their ongoing support in growing the fund to assist local athletes and we hope this gesture assists clubs to move forward successfully,” Cr Greco said.



Junior Sports Assistance Fund committee member Jeanette Elliott and Presiding Member Councillor Christian Greco.



Customer Service Officers Sarah Durbidge and Ashlyn Savin ready to assist with Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Assistance to Community Services

City of Mount Gambier employees provided assistance throughout the pandemic to various community service organisations. In the interests of maintaining the safety, health and wellbeing of those most vulnerable in our community, Council committed to ensuring minimal disruption to the delivery of essential community services such as Meals on Wheels, Foodbank and Spare Ya Change 4 Kids.

The initiative involved Council employees being redeployed to assist with meal deliveries for Meals on Wheels and Spare Ya Change 4 Kids and warehouse and food hub assistance at Foodbank.

"Reflecting on the success of this initiative and the reality there will continue to be periodic gaps in the capacity of these essential community services, Council sought to embed the Corporate Volunteering program as an ongoing initiative to support essential community services as and when the need arises," former CEO Andrew Meddle said.

As a result, Council continues to extend assistance to Meals on Wheels through an ongoing commitment to undertake a fortnightly delivery round. This involves a team of two staff for up to three hours to deliver meals.

"Feedback from staff involved in this initiative has been extremely positive, with many finding it a very rewarding experience and providing staff with the opportunity to build their internal networks as well as create a greater connection with the community."

– Andrew Meddle

Statewide COVID-19 'Circuit Breaker'

Premier Stephen Marshall announced the entire state of South Australia would enter a full lockdown for six days from midnight on Thursday 19 November 2020 following a COVID-19 outbreak in Adelaide.

"We have been asked to stay at home, with one person per household allowed out once per day for the purpose of medical, food and essentials only," Mayor Martin said.

"Exercise can only be in your own home and it is essential to wear a mask or face covering outside your home and I ask that you respect these restrictions."

The State Government subsequently announced on Friday 21 November 2020 that the lockdown would be reduced to just three days and ended at midnight on Saturday 22 November 2020 after the risk was re-assessed.



Community Consultation

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 2020/2021 Council consulted with the community and sought feedback on the following matters:

- Recycling and waste to inform a waste education campaign,
- Melaleuca Reserve Pump Track,
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan,
- 2021/2022 Annual Business Plan and Budget and proposed Waste Service Charge,
- Mount Gambier City Bus Service Review,
- Sport, Recreation and Open Spaces Strategy,
- Caroline Landfill – Draft Community Land Management Plan and revocation of community land classification,
- Naming for the Community and Recreation Hub (Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre),
- Draft Regional Public Health Plan 2021-2026,
- Proposal to lease community land – Old Mount Gambier Gaol,
- Road closing - Portion of O'Dea Road, Suttontown,
- Reconciliation Action Plan,
- Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Stage 3 Community Reference Group,
- Our City, Our Recovery – Community services and business sector COVID-19 engagement and support,
- Our City, Our Stories – Collation of COVID-19 experiences,
- Mount Gambier Pump Track Open Day, and
- Library programming and service delivery surveys.

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 at www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au



Financial Support for Community Groups, Services and Initiatives

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

Care Ring Telephone Service (Lifeline SE)	\$2,000	In addition to other contributions that may be referenced in this Annual Report, other direct financial support was provided by Council in 2020/2021, including:		
Youth Advisory Group and projects	\$1,300			
Mount Gambier City Band	\$7,000			
Mount Gambier Toy Library	\$2,000			
Local Heritage Restoration Fund	\$20,000			
Stand Like Stone Foundation	\$8,000			
The Junction	\$1,500			
			Suicide Bereavement Support Group	\$3,000
			General community donations	\$4,300
			Seniors activities	\$1,350
			Syringe Disposal Service (including installation of sharps bin outside Civic Centre)	\$4,700
			The Riddoch/City Hall hire subsidies	\$26,300
			Wehl Street Theatre	\$2,000
			Citizenship ceremonies	\$1,750
			Tertiary Health Education Grants	\$16,000
			Women in Business and Regional Development	\$2,900
			Pioneers Basketball	\$25,000
			Sport and Recreation Major Capital Works Program	\$100,000
			Creative Arts Fund	\$44,000

Sport and Recreation Major Capital Works Program

The City of Mount Gambier Sport and Recreation Capital Works Program aims to foster and assist in the development and capital renewal of sport and recreation infrastructure within the city.

In 2020/2021, \$100,000 was granted to local sporting clubs for the following projects:

North Gambier Football/Netball Club	Netball changeroom and shelter facility	\$10,000
Apollo Football Club	Pitch lighting upgrade	\$35,000
Mount Gambier Bowls Club	Convert existing toilet to an accessible toilet	\$14,000
Mount Gambier RSL & District Bowling Club	Community bowling clubhouse upgrade	\$12,000
Mount Gambier Harness Racing Club	Construct recording platform and new access	\$14,000
Blue Lake BMX Club	Construct a track perimeter fence	\$12,000
Mount Gambier Golf Club	Repairs to clubhouse entry and lighting upgrade	\$3,000

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 have agreed to become financial members.

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

The major considerations and achievements for the year included:

- 17 sporting organisations/clubs as members of the fund,
- Generous donation of \$2,500 from Commercial Club Inc. with \$1,000 of this donation supporting the Exceptional Junior Program, and
- The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes provided generous support to the fund enabling a program to support financially disadvantaged juniors of member organisations. The funding provided is up to \$3,000, dependent on applications, and is part of the surplus from the Blue Lake Fun Run event.

The financial transactions and financial position of the fund in 2020/2021 is as follows:

2020/2021 financial position	\$
Assistance to juniors	2,550
Support for special coaching clinics	14,300
Assistance to disadvantaged juniors	1,500
Exceptional Junior funding	1,000
Member contributions (waived due to COVID)	0
Council contributions	16,000
Bank interest earned	376
Donations received	1,500
Sponsorship of programs received	2,500
Cash at bank - 30 June 2021	106,867

For the 35 years of the fund's operations, the consolidated transactions to 30 June 2021 are as follows:

Fund history*	\$
Assistance to juniors	497,095
Support for special coaching clinics	104,683
Assistance to disadvantaged juniors	17,400
Exceptional Junior Program	10,000
Member contributions	188,520
Council contributions	372,500
Bank interest earned	71,764
Donations received	44,586
Sponsorship of programs received	45,550
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, 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.

Junior Sports Assistance Fund Awards Cycling Star

The Junior Sports Assistance Fund named talented cyclist Tess Wight as the 2019 Exceptional Junior. Sponsored by the Mount Gambier Commercial Club, the \$1,000 cash prize is awarded annually to celebrate and acknowledge a junior who demonstrates exceptional commitment and skills to achieve excellence in their chosen sport.

Tess has consistently represented South Australia at state and national level at various cycling events in recent years and as an active member of the Mount Gambier Cycling Club she assists with club activities and mentors junior cyclists.

“The Junior Sports Assistance Fund congratulates Tess on her achievements. Not only is she a talented athlete but she gives back to her sport and club.”
– Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee Presiding Member Cr Christian Greco

With COVID-19 disrupting sporting seasons and events around the region, the Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee opted to postpone the application process until sports activities resumed later in 2020.

The Mount Gambier Commercial Club committed a further \$2,500 enabling the fund to proceed with the application process for the 2020 Exceptional Junior Program.

“The fund is very grateful for the ongoing support from the Commercial Club. Thanks to this partnership, we have seen a total of \$41,000 donated to local junior sportspeople over 19 years,” Cr Greco said.



Mount Gambier Cycling Club Junior Tess Wight (second from left) was named the 2019 Junior Sports Assistance Fund (JSAF) Exceptional Junior. Tess is pictured with JSAF Committee Presiding Member Cr Christian Greco (left) and Commercial Club Inc. President Graham Dent and Secretary Phil Bliss (right).

Australian Citizenship Ceremonies

Four Citizenship Ceremonies were conducted by Council during 2020/2021, with a total of 84 people receiving Australian Citizenship.

Mayor Martin welcomed new residents to the city from Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Philippines, Cyprus, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, Iraq, Ireland, Malawi, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Netherlands, Peru, Belgium, Zaire, Kenya, Bangladesh and Burundi.

“Due to COVID-19 restrictions during 2020, two ceremonies were conducted virtually and the one thing that was most evident, despite the lack of physical interaction was the sense of excitement and pride in attaining Australian Citizenship,” Mayor Martin said.

As directed by the Federal Government, face-to-face ceremonies recommenced on Australia Day 2021. There were 52 conferees in the ceremony, which was held at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

Salima Mossi moved to Mount Gambier from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2016 and said it was the best decision she has ever made.

“Australian Citizenship is very important to me as Australia has been my home for the past eight years. It gave me hope again, changed my life and story and I’m forever grateful for this great opportunity,” Salima said.

Pauline Beach and Adam Jones moved from the United Kingdom to Mount Gambier with their daughter Lauren in 2014 for a two-year work contract.

“We intended to fulfill the contract and then move to a city, but the community feel is what made us stay, it’s a great, safe place to raise our daughter,” Pauline said.

“Since I was a little girl I wanted to visit Australia as my Auntie emigrated as a ‘ten pound pom’ before I was born. I never really thought I would, but here I am now a citizen.”

“I love the community spirit of Mount Gambier, everyone looks out for each other and are so friendly,” Adam said.

Representatives from Soroptimist International of Mount Gambier attended the face-to-face ceremonies and presented a gift to each participant.

“I’m so excited and emotional, today is the best day of my life and it is an honour becoming a citizen of a great country like Australia.”

– Salima Massi



Mayor Martin and Salima Mossi at the Citizenship Ceremony held on Australia Day 2021. Photo: Frank Monger



Pauline Beach, Lauren and Adam Jones.



Mayor Martin with Smithu Babu, and family, who was conferred as an Australian Citizens on Australia Day 2021.

Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal

Record Donations for 2020 Appeal

The local community raised a record amount of more than \$40,000 for the 2020 Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal. Donations flooded in throughout November and December to support local agencies to provide food hampers, vouchers and gifts.

Mayor Martin praised the local community for providing generous support to the annual appeal despite the challenges many experienced throughout 2020.

"Each year I am overwhelmed by those who donate so generously to the appeal but given the circumstances this year, the total of \$40,211.30 really has exceeded all expectations and I thank all community groups, individuals and businesses who have helped those in need in our community to experience some of the joys of Christmas," Mayor Martin said.

"I was particularly impressed by 10 year old Jacob Halleday who donated his savings of \$209 to the appeal to help others during the festive period. This kind of generosity is lovely to see at such a young age."

– Mayor Martin

Local timber company NF McDonnell and Sons donated \$5000 to the cause to assist people within the community who may have faced additional challenges throughout the year.

"I think we can all recognise that 2020 has presented us with many new challenges, and as a result a number of people within our community may be struggling. The Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal continues to raise much needed funds to assist those in need. We felt that now, more than ever, additional support was needed and were pleased to be able to donate to the 2020 appeal," NF McDonnell and Sons CEO Craig Nisbet said.



Mayor of the City of Mount Gambier Lynette Martin OAM wishes to thank and acknowledge the community groups, businesses and individuals who supported the 2020 Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal.

Thanks to this generous support, the appeal raised a record **\$40,211.30** in 2020.

Mayor Martin also acknowledges the important work of Lifeline, 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.



Allen Listen & Co
Allen Woodham
Andrew and Angela Turner
Barney McCusker
Bay Blue Espresso Bar
Baxter Hire
Blue Lake Carobs/Oatmill Cinema
Blue Lake Golf Club ladies
Carleen Laslett
Chapmans Newsagency
Cheryl Bird
City of Mount Gambier employees
Dan Dowdell
David & Kay Turnbull
David & Shelley Chant
David Sullivan
De Bruin Group
DIY Fencing
Don & Besty Bowden
Exchange Printers
F45 Mount Gambier
Gambier Earth Movers
Gambier Electronics
Gramac Solutions
Green Triangle Electronics
Green Triangle Forest Products
Group Training Employment

Jacob Halleday
Jeremy Vaughan
Jim Jackway
John Williamson
Julian Mattay
Julienne Feast
K&S Freighters

Les Clode
Linley McDonald
Lioness Club of Mount Gambier
Lions Club of Gambier City
Margaret Kaethner
Margaret Riquier
Matthew Dixon

Michelle Moore
MJ & EJ Donovan
Mount Gambier & District Bendigo Community Bank
Mount Gambier Men's Shed
Mount Gambier Central
Mount Gambier Isuzu & Iveco
Mount Gambier Ladies Probuss Club
Mount Glass & Glazing
NF McDonnell & Sons
Noel & Margaret Doody
OG Roberts & Co
OneFortyOne
People's Choice Credit Union
PR & L Hopgood
Queen Elizabeth Park Trust
Rose Manser
Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West Inc.
Santa's Boulevard donations
Soroptimist International
Spencer & Sharon Buck
St Martin's Lutheran College
Stuckey Electrical Contractors
T McCracken
Tony Pasin MP
UFS Chemist
We Care Lawn Spraying
Zena & Legh Winsor

Thank you



Through the provision of hampers, vouchers and gifts, local agencies Lifeline, Uniting Care, a.c care, Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul collectively supported approximately 700 adults and more than 620 children and teenagers using funds donated to the appeal.

"The appeal's ability to assist those in need relies greatly on the support of the local agencies and I'm very thankful for the commitment of these organisations and their staff in ensuring that Christmas is a special celebration for as many people in our community as possible," Mayor Martin said.

Mount Gambier Central provided an additional donation of \$2000 to the appeal as a contribution from each Santa photo purchase, further to an initial donation of \$800 raised through the collection and recycling of cans and bottles in the centre.

"Each year Jane and the team at Mount Gambier Central go to great lengths to support the appeal and we are incredibly grateful for not only the generous donations in 2020 but for the ongoing commitment over many years," Mayor Martin said.

Donations to the appeal are accepted all year round through the following channels:

- Call Council on (08) 8721 2555 with your credit card details on hand. Staff can email you a tax invoice.
- In person at Council's 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.



10 year old Jacob Halleday (right) donated his savings of \$209 to the appeal to help others during the festive period.



NF McDonnell and Sons CEO Craig Nisbet (left), Mayor Martin and NF McDonnell & Sons Director Shaun McDonnell.

Christmas Cheer Program

The Salvation Army distributed vouchers, hampers and toys to 450 local people as part of the 2020 Christmas Cheer program.

Donations to the Mayor's Community Christmas Appeal provide Uniting Care, ac.care, Lifeline SE, St Vincent de Paul and The Salvation Army with funds to support the needy within the community during the Christmas season each year.

"The money from the Mayor's Community Christmas Appeal provides gift vouchers to enable people to go and do their shopping and gift vouchers for the older children," The Salvation Army Captain Judy Shaw said.

"While people don't get to choose their toys as they normally would, age appropriate gifts have been specifically chosen for each child."

The Salvation Army received more than 100 additional requests for assistance over the festive period in 2020.

"The Community Access Network which includes representatives from all of the local agencies worked together to provide support to our community on Christmas Day."

Lifeline's Christmas Cheer program was buoyed by the donation of toys from local man Paul Sundstrom.

Having recently graduated from the Limestone Coast Regional Gambling Help Service, Mr Sundstrom was inspired to direct the savings he had made from ceasing problematic gambling towards helping the less fortunate at Christmas.

"Lifeline have helped me over the past six months and so I wanted to give something back," Mr Sundstrom said.

"I have been going out each week to buy toys to donate because it is important that children have a present to open at Christmas."

Mayor Martin is appreciative of the work local service agencies provide to the community.

"Our service agencies work hard throughout the year and during the busy Christmas period to bring some festive spirit into the lives of local people who may be finding things a little difficult. Their input into our community is truly special and I know so many people are grateful for their work," Mayor Martin said.



Mayor Martin and Lifeline CEO Leah Griffin (right) were blown away with the donation of toys to Lifeline's Christmas Cheer program from graduate of the Limestone Coast Regional Gambling Help Service Paul Sundstrom (centre).

Mount Gambier Library

With the pandemic forcing many community members into isolation, Mount Gambier Library staff have been instrumental in connecting family and friends during times when border closures restricted physical visitations.

In offering one-on-one and group IT support both at the Library and at aged care facilities, the Library has helped people learn how to use messaging apps and make live video calls to connect with loved ones, share in precious family moments such as a birthday, a graduation, to hear a child's laugh or enable a Nanna to read a bedtime story to her grandchildren.

Through the 'Be Connected' Australian Government grant the Library purchased and loaned iPads to those who have no devices or means of acquiring one. The stories from participants have been heart-warming and rewarding for staff to know they truly make a difference.

The Library provided both virtual and live events, workshops and programs; Live Streaming Adelaide and Sydney Writers Festival, participated in the Fringe Festival, taught crochet and ukulele, celebrated history month, engaged with leading authors to provide events and writers workshops, hosted a program of events for Adult Learners Week, educated parents and children in e-safety, created fun and interactive historical CBD story walks, along with the usual school holiday programs, under 5s sessions, after school clubs, local and family history help, promoted conversation through memories in the Bookwell program, maintained the home delivery service of library materials and above all, remained a source of knowledge, sense of community and stability during the challenges of both 2020 and 2021.

Number of visitors **204,700**



Number of items
= 44,699

Program participants **Total 12,482**

Children
4,224

Youth
1,731

Adults
4,207

Seniors
2,320

Active members
= 12,291



210,013 Number of loans

Total programs **914**

Mount Gambier Library

***Don't Overdue It* - Library Releases Debut Podcast**

The theme behind Library and Information Week 2021 'adventures in space and time', was the driving force behind the launch of the Mount Gambier Library podcast series *Don't Overdue It* in April 2021.

Don't Overdue It is a monthly podcast that delves into the past to create knowledge for future generations and offers a chance for the community to learn more about the Library and its place within the community. It's storytelling using today's popular podcast platform allowing people to listen from home, work, school or even on the road.

Episode one uncovered the story of one of Mount Gambier's oldest but lesser known cemeteries, Meischel Park. Situated on the corner of Warren and Griffiths Street, the park was formally known as the Boandik Lutheran Cemetery.

"Today there are no headstones, no walking paths worn into the grass to signify rows between the gravesites – but what we do see is a small memorial with a plaque listing the names of those buried at the site and the groups who completed the memorial," Mount Gambier Library Programming Officer Ricky Koopman said.

"Some of the surnames will be familiar to locals and are still well known in the area today."

"But who are the people of Meischel Park and why did their cemetery all but disappear? To hear about the early settlement of the Lutherans in the 1850s you will have to listen to the podcast," Mr Koopman said.

In episode two physicist, explosives engineer, soldier, stand-up comedian, science advisor, cave driver, author and astronaut candidate for a one way trip to Mars, Josh Richards captured the imagination of more than 100 school children during this year's National Simultaneous Storytime event with the focus on 'Space'. After tackling the hard questions from the children, Josh stuck around to chat with the Library staff.

The June 2021 episode 'Uke Can Do It!' features the familiar voices of a handful of the Mount Gambier Library Lukulele Club. If you have ever visited the Library on a Sunday morning, the joyful strums of a ukulele choir would be a familiar soundtrack. The episode discusses the humble beginnings of the group, the music, the friendships and the appeal of learning the little four string instrument and how it has created a community in its own right at the Library and beyond.

Don't Overdue It is available to listen to via Spotify, Apple Podcasts and most podcasting apps with monthly short stories scheduled on a wide range of topics.



Library History Officer Danni Reade (left) and Library Programming Officer Ricky Koopman are the voices behind the Mount Gambier Library's debut podcast, uncovering the story of one of Mount Gambier's oldest but lesser known cemeteries, Meischel Park.

Immersive Storytelling – Turning History into Reality

The Mount Gambier Library Immersive Storytelling program officially launched at City Hall on Monday 15 February 2021. It combines the use of Virtual Reality (VR) technology, oral history recordings and photographs from the Les Hill Historic Collection to create customised local content, and aims to promote mental, social and emotional wellbeing for those in aged care.

With Virtual Reality becoming more accessible to the general public, the creation of local content and the overlay of oral stories from residents within the community enables aged care residents to recall significant events and how things around the city once looked, while sharing their own memories and experiences.

“Not only is this a unique collection of local history and potential tourism promotion, Immersive Storytelling also benefits the wellbeing of residents with a disability or in aged care.”

– Mount Gambier Library Programming Officer Ricky Koopman

Immersive stories have been created on the Valley Lakes, the Queen's visit to Mount Gambier, Commercial Street traders and the Leg of Mutton.

“Many of Mount Gambier's popular attractions are either at the bottom of a sinkhole or at the top of a volcanic crater, meaning they are inaccessible to those with mobility issues, age or disability,” Mr Koopman said.

“Not only are we ensuring history is collected now, but this initiative also gives people a chance to revisit these areas.”

“Participants were thrilled to be involved with the opportunity to share fond memories and to watch the final project come to life.”

The initiative is supported by the Office for Ageing Well thanks to a \$16,900 Age Friendly SA Grant received by Mount Gambier Library in 2019. The project was one of eight successful initiatives chosen from across the state, however the rollout was postponed due to COVID-19.



Mount Gambier resident Noela Hellyer experiencing local stories in VR thanks to the Library's Immersive Storytelling project.



The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

The Riddoch's commitment to supporting and developing creativity within the community is unmatched. The opportunities to engage with and celebrate diverse cultural and creative practices are at the core of what The Riddoch strives to provide and is reflected in the programming including exhibitions, workshops, film screenings, events and online content.

Like other community facilities, The Riddoch endured many challenges throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including closure, restricted capacity and adapting to alternative forms of delivering services, from online content, to special projects designed to engage the community which resulted in continuous service under challenging conditions.

Regular programs and services include:

- Visual art exhibitions and workshops,
- Creative media technology workshops, including regular Studio Saturday sessions in the Media & VR Studio,
- Junior creative workshops during school holidays,
- Jewellery making, print making, 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.

The Riddoch is also home to a retail outlet supporting local artists and supplying quality artistic materials.

Annual visitors

27,196

Number of
exhibitions = 13

Number of
programs/events
= 115

Number of program
and event attendees
= 3,634

The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

International Limestone Coast Video Art Festival

The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre hosted the second International Limestone Coast Video Art Festival in Mount Gambier from 6 November to 6 December 2020. The festival theme was 'Video art during and after the pandemic' and showcased innovative works created by 37 local, Australian and international video artists.

The biennial event celebrated video art and placed an emphasis on innovative and ground-breaking artworks. The 2020 festival focused on how the global COVID-19 pandemic is impacting on humanity, as expressed by the artists.

"The artists created videos that make sense of the new normal, with many artists around the globe in lockdown or quarantine, facing physical, psychological and emotional effects," Riddoch Art Gallery Director Melentie Pandilovski said.

"Video art is a versatile medium expanding across new platforms and is a definitive centre-stage of today's culture. It is proving to be the perfect medium for conveying various narratives framed around the current pandemic, including the story of the survival of humanity."

The program included open call and curated selections, an exhibition, live telematic event, online screening and workshops.

Dr Pandilovski invited seven selected artists to create new work in response to the theme in the curated selection, while open call entrants submitted one original work produced between January and August 2020.

"Many of the video art stories witnessed addressed various anxieties, worries and economic strains, however, there are also optimistic stories filled with

humour, electing to present entertainment in the face of catastrophe, deep contemplation, solidarity, community mindfulness, risk-taking, compassion, and cheerfulness amid self-revelation," Dr Pandilovski said.

From more than 1800 open call entries, 29 videos that explored isolation, fear, new cycles, repetition and boredom were selected for the festival by a judging panel of six.

"We are especially pleased to present video artworks from our region, including Luke Pellen, John Baseley and Mostyn Jacob who are all from Mount Gambier."
– Melentie Pandilovski

The winning entrants were announced on the opening night held on Friday 6 November 2020. The winners were:

- \$3000 grand prize – Adelaide based artist Cynthia Schwertsik with the work 'Double Check',
- \$1500 Best Limestone Coast Based Video Art – John Baseley with the work 'Virus', and
- \$1500 Best Limestone Coast Based Video Art for young up-and-coming artists (under 26 years) – Mostyn Jacobs with 'Floating through the Metaverse'.

On Saturday 7 November 2020 telematic video artist Paul Sermon, who is based in Bristol, UK, connected with participants in the Media and VR Studio at The Riddoch and artists based in Singapore, London and Sao Paulo, Brazil for a live online performance to tell stories of self-isolation.

The second workshop, 'Generative Art' with Vladimir Todorovic on Saturday 21 and Saturday 28 November 2020 was so popular that it was fully booked.

"Under the guidance of Western Australian based artist and filmmaker Vladimir Todorovic, participants worked with 3D animation and gaming software 'Blender' to create systems which can automatically generate images and animated sequences."

UniSA Creative pledged a \$10,000 in-kind commitment to support the festival for the delivery of public workshops and to mentor the young artist awardee.



Video Art Festival prize winners Mostyn Jacobs and Cynthia Schwertsik with Riddoch Art Gallery Director Melentie Pandilovski.



SA Premier Steven Marshall and Mayor Martin during his visit to the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre.

Premier Visits Gallery

South Australian Premier Steven Marshall stopped by The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre on 4 August 2020 with a tour provided by Mayor Lynette Martin, Riddoch Art Gallery Director and City of Mount Gambier Manager Arts and Culture Melentie Pandilovski and Thumbprint Inc member Ruth Schubert.

The Premier enjoyed exhibitions including *Beautiful Enemies* by Thumbprint Inc, *Inside/Out*, curated from The Riddoch Collection and the interactive Cleverman display in Kings Floor.



Thumbprint Inc member Ruth Schubert provides SA Premier Steven Marshall with a tour of the *Beautiful Enemies* exhibition at the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre during his visit to the city.

"This is an amazing opportunity to bring one of my designs to life and really bring some visual impact to the space to empower women."
— Aileen Costales-Clarke



Aileen Costales-Clarke on site at Ripley Arcade.
Photo: Kate Hill Creative

Creative Arts Fund

The public art landscape within Mount Gambier continues to expand with four new projects funded under the 2020/2021 City of Mount Gambier Creative Arts Fund totalling more than \$44,000.

Project	Artist	Grant
Art in the Community	Pariya Ziakas	\$4,800
To Celebrate with Dance	Pariya Ziakas and Ruth Stephenson	\$6,432.80
Beauty Empowerment	Aileen Costales-Clarke	\$8,500
Commerce Place mural	Scott Coleman	\$24,300

Beauty Empowerment – Aileen Costales-Clarke

A blank wall at the back of Ripley Arcade has undergone a colourful transformation with local artist Aileen Costales-Clarke completing her mural 'Beauty Empowerment' as part of the City of Mount Gambier Creative Arts Fund program.

The former fashion designer enjoys illustrating as a side hobby and has painted one of her unique and modern creations in life size on the plain wall.

"This is an amazing opportunity to bring one of my designs to life and really bring some visual impact to the space to empower women," Aileen said.

"I remember going on a graffiti artwork tour in Melbourne many years ago now, and that's where I first saw fashion style graffiti artworks. It really inspired me and I am so thrilled to be redefining what is typically seen as graffiti art here in Mount Gambier."

With assistance from her husband and fellow artist Justin Clarke, Aileen completed the outline of the design to ensure correct proportions and hand painted the base colours as a foundation.

Using the experience she gained when designing and painting a similar mural at Mount Gambier Marketplace, Aileen aims to beautify the central business district with a striking, modern artwork to create interest for the local community and visitors.

"I really would love to inspire the young ones that haven't been exposed to city art. I'd love for them to see that a local artist can do this well and hit them with the beauty of the fashion design," Aileen said.



Aileen Costales-Clarke on site at Ripley Arcade.

Commerce Place Mural – Scott Coleman

Artist Scott Coleman, otherwise known as KAB101, transformed the blank 20 metre space in Commerce Arcade into a unique mural.

KAB101 began his artistic career as a teenager in the 1980s working with the Riddoch Art Gallery on street art projects to activate laneways in Mount Gambier. His work included a series of murals at Odeon Plaza and the laneway between Commercial Street and Caldwell Street.

“One of Council’s aims for the Creative Arts Fund is to facilitate a city brought to life with public art, so to have KAB101 return to Mount Gambier to create one of his signature murals is very exciting,” City of Mount Gambier Arts and Culture Development Officer Serena Wong said.

“KAB101 is well-known across South Australia, and nationally, for his large scale murals featuring his trademark calligraphic style, and we are pleased to have our own piece right here in the city. Seeing artists return to their beginnings and bring their skill and connection back to the region is very special.”

The colours of the Blue Lake, geographical layers, flowing winds and the change of seasons are the inspiration behind the mural. KAB101 hopes his latest creation will enhance the space and bring life to the area.



Scott Coleman, aka KAB101 on site at Commerce Place.

“I just want this painting to be appreciated for its vibrancy to the area,” KAB101 said.

“Public art is good for the soul, it keeps areas vibrant and allows a connection to the area, it creates communication and opens ideas.” – Scott Coleman

To Celebrate with Dance – Ripley Arcade

The internal walls of Ripley Arcade have sprung to life courtesy of the work of local artists Pariya Ziakas and Ruth Stephenson. Celebrating the vibrant dance culture in Mount Gambier, hence the name ‘To Celebrate with Dance’, the artwork also pays homage to some of the previous uses of the arcade.

“My concept for this one was dance. I thought about Ripley Arcade having (former nightclub) Ripples in it, there’s also a huge dance culture in Mount Gambier – dance is a sport here. My own children all did dance and it’s a phenomenon. We wanted to do something that was family friendly and had a lot of brightness and brought some cheerfulness to the space,” Ruth said.

The artwork incorporates a bright blue background referencing the Blue Lake, coloured swirls signifying twirling ribbons and silhouettes representing local performers.



Local artists Ruth Stephenson (left) and Pariya Ziakas on site at Ripley Arcade working on their collaboration ‘To Celebrate with Dance’. Photo: Kate Hill.

“We actually made contact with local dance studios here in Mount Gambier seeking permission to use photographs of local dancers. The idea was to use the figures and turn them into silhouettes, to create those really fine lines and that movement,” Pariya said.

The pair, who are good friends, worked on the project over a three-week period, completing it at the end of January 2021.

“I felt Ripley Arcade was a vacant space without a lot of life. We really wanted to bring that colour and life into this space which is why we decided to stretch it across the entire wall and work in the poles as well. When we started, just the colours and the blue was already making such a significant difference and the positive feedback from people walking past has just been amazing,” Pariya said.

“We’re looking for this mural to bring some life back into the space and actually encourage the community to come into it.” – Pariya Ziakas

The shops just aren’t on the main street – there are businesses down this area that can be explored and it’s about creating those connections within our CBD.”

The Riddoch Animates Live Action VR Video Clip

The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre team experimented with artistic applications of virtual reality to film and animate a music video for local band Chelsea Manor. The clip was nominated for the Best Innovation Award at the South Australian Music Awards.

Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre staff members Melissa Horton and Daniel Pearson and UniSA media graduate Mostyn Jacob used Google Tilt Brush in the Media and VR Studio, to combine live action video footage and VR animation to create a video clip for the band's new single 'Breathe'. The video was filmed at the old Molony's building on Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier.

"We hadn't done anything like this before. We'd used Tilt Brush, we'd used the cameras, but we hadn't combined them together to make something like this," Riddoch Technical Officer Daniel Pearson said.

"Most of the work happened in the studio, as the team developed story boards and used Tilt Brush to hand paint each set in virtual reality, defining camera paths and finishing the final edit of the project using Adobe Premiere," Riddoch Marketing Officer Melissa Horton said.

Chelsea Manor was pleased to be part of the collaborative project and impressed with the final result.

"We are so proud to be a part of such an incredible project, it was a whole new experience for us as a band. From seeing some of Mount Gambier's heritage and performing in the building, working with the team

and experiencing virtual reality first hand, we got to experience so many things we may not have had the opportunity to experience otherwise," Chelsea Manor singer Bianca Hendy said.

The project was completed in early September, just in time for the 2020 South Australian Music Awards where the film clip is nominated in the new category for innovation.

"We're really proud to push boundaries when it comes to creativity at the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre," Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre Coordinator Talie Teakle said.

"When we were asked by Music SA if anyone else had ever tried this as they'd never heard of a combination of live action and VR, we knew we were on to something special."

"We can't thank Bianca, Ivan and Michael from Chelsea Manor enough for letting us experiment with them. The best part was seeing the journey our team took to improve their skills, and knowing that this is now a new form of art we can apply to other projects in the future."



"We are so proud to be a part of such an incredible project, it was a whole new experience for us as a band."
– Chelsea Manor

Filming the Chelsea Manor 'Breathe' VR music clip on location at the old Molony's Building.

Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants

The Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants program provided eight financial grants to local health students in 2021.

The program is in its 15th year and supports city and district residents who are required to leave the region to undertake university studies in identified health skill shortage areas within the community.

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

“We provide these grants to students to encourage them to return to our region once they are qualified, if they are able to,” Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants Program Chairman Rodney Summers said.

“The grant is available for those students commencing or continuing university studies in identified skills shortage areas such as medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, allied health, chiropractic, midwifery, psychology, paramedicine and mental health nursing.”

Grants are provided to support a broad range of student needs including university fees, medical uniforms, equipment, books, travel and living expenses.

2020 grant recipient Mitchell Hunter said the financial support he received assisted him to meet the costs associated with his first year of study at Flinders University.

“I am studying a Bachelor of Paramedic Science and hope to become a paramedic. There are a lot of financial outlays associated with the course such as a uniform and placement costs and the grant enabled me to buy my own stethoscope,” Mitch said.

“I am so grateful that I was awarded this grant, it really makes a big difference as there are a lot of costs involved with degrees in the health area. I’d encourage anyone thinking about tertiary study in the health area to apply.”
– Mitch Hunter

The 20 year old will complete his studies in 2022 and plans to return to the area to live and work in the long term.

“I know quite a few paramedics in Mount Gambier and many of them are the reason I decided to pursue this career path. If I was given the opportunity I’d love to come back, that’s the goal.”

The grant 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.

Since 2007 the program has awarded 148 grants to students at a total cost of \$296,000.

“We are always looking for additional financial contributors to the program so that we can continue to support local students undertaking tertiary studies within the health field,” Mr Summers said.



2020 Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grant recipients Sarah Riddoch (left) and Mitch Hunter with Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants Program Chairman Rodney Summers.

The 2021 recipients were:	
Charlotte Foote	Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours)
Adam Black	Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours)
Sophie Charlton	Bachelor of Health and Medical Sciences
Emma Greenfield	Bachelor of Medical Science/ Doctor of Medicine
Emily Close	Bachelor of Health Science/ Masters of Physiotherapy
Emily Brown	Bachelor of Psychological Science
Jennieva Burn	Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours)
Sarah Domaschenz	Bachelor of Medical Imaging

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020 – 2024

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020 – 2024 is a first of its kind for the City of Mount Gambier and outlines how Council proposes to provide equal access to services for all members of the community, regardless of ability.

Twelve priorities were identified under four themes: inclusive communities for all, leadership and collaboration, accessible communities, learning and employment, in line with the Inclusive SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019 – 2023.

“People living with disability within our community may have difficulties using our footpaths and ramps, accessing our public buildings, amenities and parks, accessing and reading information including on our website or hearing at a public meeting or at a customer service counter,” City of Mount Gambier General Manager Community Wellbeing Barbara Cernovskis said.

Council is committed to the continuous review and development of information, services and facilities to ensure equitable access and inclusion in our city.

Action items for Council to deliver over the four-year period include ensuring community events meet diverse access needs, collaborating with local organisations to deliver training about disability, access and inclusion and developing a policy that ensures planned community consultations to enable people of all abilities to respond.

“The plan suggests Council provide information in multiple formats which could include Easyread, Auslan, pictorial forms, large font, audible options, Braille, captions, VoiceOver and dyslexia-friendly fonts.”
– Barbara Cernovskis

The plan was developed in consultation with stakeholders and groups that connect with and support people with disability living in the community, including Mission Australia’s Limestone Coast Inclusion Reference Group and local aged care and disability care provider Boandik Lodge.

“This plan is a great opportunity to enhance accessibility and inclusion in our community and will help ensure that people with disability can experience and connect within our community as fully as possible. By offering more opportunities for community access and connection, this will help increase the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of people with disability in our community,” Mission Australia Community Engagement Facilitator Belinda Anderson said.

The plan was endorsed at the September 2020 Council meeting and will be reviewed and updated as community needs change.



Mission Australia Community Engagement Facilitator Belinda Anderson (left) and City of Mount Gambier Community Wellbeing General Manager Barbara Cernovskis with the draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020 – 2024.



Regional Public Health Plan 2021 – 2026

The City of Mount Gambier Regional Public Health Plan 2021 - 2026 was endorsed by SA Deputy Chief Health Officer Dr Chris Lease in June 2021.

The plan was developed in accordance with the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* and outlines how Council will address key public health issues within the city.

Under the Act, Council is delegated functions to take action to promote, protect, prevent and progress public health within its boundaries. The plan aligns with the State Public Health Plan 2019 - 2024 and highlights twelve focus areas for the local community which Council will endeavour to target throughout the life of the five year plan.

The focus areas include:

- Poor Nutrition and Diet,
- Obesity & Overweight,
- Physical Inactivity,
- Potentially Avoidable Hospital Admissions,
- Degenerative & Mobility for the Aged,
- Substance Abuse (tobacco, illicit drugs and alcohol),
- Mental Health,
- Suicide Prevention,
- Domestic Violence,
- Delayed Early Childhood Development,
- Environmental Sustainability, and
- Accessibility (Disability Access & Inclusion).

“The priority areas acknowledged in the plan specifically impact residents of our community and have been identified using statistical research and local knowledge of the population profile, burden of disease and social determinants of health in the community.”

– General Manager Community Wellbeing
Barbara Cernovskis

Council will work to create and maintain strong partnerships with relevant local and state stakeholders to implement the actions outlined within the plan.

Community and Environmental Health

Total food businesses
registered

457

Online non-accredited food
safety training users

1,644



Registered hair,
beauty and
skin penetration
businesses

216kg

Hazardous waste (sharps)
collected at the Civic Centre

Food Safety		Public Health		Communicable Disease Control Branch mandatory notifications	
Total food businesses currently registered	457	Registered high risk manufactured water systems	62	Influenza notifications (July - February data only)	0
Facilities which require food safety audits	10	Public accessible swimming pool and spa inspections	6	Food borne related illnesses - Campylobacter and Salmonella (July - February data only)	33
P1 (highest) risk classified food businesses	131	Registered hair, beauty and skin penetration businesses	96	COVID-19 customer enquiries	29
P2 (high) risk classified food businesses	211	Onsite wastewater treatment system applications	5	Community Health	
P3 (medium) risk classified food businesses	96	Complaints received by Council		Hazardous waste (sharps) collected at Civic Centre	216kg
P4 (low) risk classified food businesses	19	Accommodation standards	4		
Complaints received by Council		Air pollution/odours	5		
Alleged food poisoning	2	Discharge of wastes/waste control	4		
Food unsafe due to foreign matter	2	General health complaint or enquiry/other	9		
Poor personal hygiene or poor food handling practices	6	Hoarding and squalor	14		
Food unsuitable/unsafe due to microbial contamination/growth	0	Infectious disease/notifiable disease	1		
Unclean premises	5	Mould	0		
Food recall notifications received	51	Public swimming pools and spa pools	0		
Food safety education		Sanitary facilities	1		
TAFE accredited food safety short courses	0	Supported residential facilities	4		
'I'm Alert' online non-accredited food safety training users	1644	Vermin (including birds, rats & mice)	16		
Food business food safety newsletters	3	Water quality (other than public swimming pools and spa pools)	3		

National Volunteer Week

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, Council held a morning tea on 18 May 2021 to thank and recognise the important role volunteers play throughout our organisation.

The theme for National Volunteer Week 2021 was Recognise. Reconnect. Reimagine. As a Council we RECOGNISE, celebrate and thank volunteers for the vital role they play in our community. Following a year when many experienced increased loneliness or isolation, we RECONNECTED with our volunteers and now we REIMAGINE how we can support them and the many ways in which they assist, not just in our organisation but across the city.



Allan and Sandra Woodham.



Rosemary Carter (left) and Wynne Turner.



Events staff and volunteers Xarnia Keding (left), Sandra and Allen Woodham, Sandy O'Donnell, Nick Wilson, Kristine Mibus, Ken Sanders, Tom and Helen Telford and Daryl Ferguson.



Shirley Chuck (left) and Annette Clark.



Riddoch Art Gallery Director Melentie Pandilovski (left) and Riddoch volunteers Lee Dart, Lucy Richards and Maree Thompson.



Mayor Martin with Library volunteers Margie Gogel, Marie Pedlar, Val Milner, Marian Thompson, Cheryl Tilley and Kelvin Mahoney.



Volunteers Wynne Turner (left), Rita Johnston, Sue Parkinson, Rosemary Carter and Library Assistant Susan Briffa.



Mayor Martin and Conservation Park volunteers Alex Joukoff, Graeme Paschke and Phil Richards.



Wynne Turner (left), Cr Sonya Meziniec and Tarryn Smith.



Australia Day Awards 2021

Two local lymphoedema advocates, a scout leader, a young humanitarian, a volunteer mental health and wellbeing coordinator and a recycled clothing event were among the 2021 City of Mount Gambier Australia Day Award winners.

Mayor Martin said the awards recognise individuals and organisations that have made a noteworthy contribution during the past year, and/or provided outstanding service over many years, to the local community.

"It is so important to recognise the members of our community who go above and beyond normal employment duties and dedicate their precious personal time to give back to our city in a myriad of ways," Mayor Martin said.



The Award for Active Citizenship was presented to Nel Jans on Australia Day.

Award for Active Citizenship – Nel Jans

"For the first time this year we introduce the Award for Active Citizenship which recognises individuals who deliver outstanding work for the community. It was open to all, including non-Australian citizens and we have a very deserving winner for this honour, the volunteer Coordinator of the South East Junction Mental Health Activity and Resource Centre Nel Jans," Mayor Martin said.

Nel Jans and her husband John immigrated to Australia from the Netherlands in 2008 and made Mount Gambier their home. Soon after, Nel began work with the Skilled Migrants Friendship group, formed as part of Lifeline. In 2010 she became the South East Junction Mental Health Activity and Resource Centre Coordinator. Country Health SA withdrew funding for this position in 2012 and Nel decided to continue in the role as a volunteer, providing up to 40 hours of her time each week to ensure her clients continued to receive much needed support.

Since then, Nel has been the main driver of the organisation which provides support to people with mental health issues.

"The Junction is a volunteer-run organisation made up of 20 volunteers that isn't funded, we totally rely on grants and donations," Nel said.

"We provide activities and support to people with mental health issues focusing on things like cooking, healthy living, exercise, positive psychology and mental wellbeing in Mount Gambier and Millicent. Lifeboat SE and Limestone Coast Meditation Community are affiliated with the Junction. Over the years we have forged many valuable partnerships."

Nel has a wealth of knowledge in the area of mental health and is dedicated to using her skills to help people manage mental health issues and live their best life.

"I've worked in the industry for more than 40 years across the whole spectrum as a homeopath, naturopath, mental health nurse, social worker, general nurse, so in that sense I've seen it all. I am good at reading people and I can easily see where their potential is and I try to empower them to give things a go and then it's up to them if they want to go for it or not."

"I had one woman who couldn't even go to the shop or even leave the house when she first came to the centre, and then she ended up becoming a volunteer for us, so I know it works."

The passionate mental health advocate believes that self-empowerment and instilling confidence in people are the keys to help people overcome mental health issues.

"We don't label people as their diagnosis; they are people and they are capable. I ask them to think about what they are good at. So many people have a lot of potential, and sometimes they need to acknowledge their potential and feel confident about it."

In her spare time, Nel set up a social group for Dutch residents living in the region and co-authored a book 'Dutch Odyssey' which contains stories related to Dutch migrant settlement in the South East of South Australia.

"Elly Anderson and I spent five years seeking out stories from first and second generation migrants for the book. The stories outline examples of courage, hardship, humour, determination and achievement," Nel said.

Nel said she was pleased that migrants can now be recognised for their contributions to the community within the Active Citizenship category as part of the Australia Day Awards.

"I feel very honoured for this acknowledgement of my work at the Junction and it's great that the Active Citizenship Award recognises non Australian citizens as many migrants go over and above within the community to fit in to their new communities and give back."

Australia Day Awards 2021



The Citizen of the Year Award was jointly awarded to Dulcie Hoggan (left) and the late Pamela Moulden pictured inset and represented by her husband Ian Moulden.

“The subsidy was Pam’s mission and I’m so proud of her. She would be proud too, but she didn’t ever think about the glory, she just went out and did it.”
– Ian Moulden



Australia Day Citizens of the Year – Dulcie Hoggan and Pamela Moulden (dec)

Over the past four years, local women Dulcie Hoggan and the late Pamela Moulden advocated to parliamentarians for a statewide lymphoedema compression garment subsidy after developing the debilitating condition in their arms during treatment for breast cancer.

“Lymphoedema is caused by an accumulation of fluid in parts of the body. If it’s not looked after using specially fitted compression garments that can cost thousands of dollars each year, it becomes a chronic disease which can cause serious complications if left untreated,” Dulcie said.

“I have experienced ill-fitting sleeves which make my condition worse and the high cost means that I couldn’t replace them when needed. It’s something that happens and there is no discrimination of age, gender or whether or not you’ve got finances to support yourself.”

Both Dulcie and Pam saw the injustice that the garments were subsidised in other states, but not in South Australia. In conjunction with the Lymphoedema Support Group of South Australia and the Mount Gambier Breast Cancer Awareness Group, the pair lobbied tirelessly to help ease the huge financial burden for cancer patients.

“I undertook most of my treatment in Victoria and if I lived in Portland, I would have received the garments for nothing through the Medicare system. I thought, I’m going to go and talk to Member for Mount Gambier Troy Bell about this and so did Pam and he realised the extent of the problem.”

Pam’s husband of 48 years Ian Moulden said his late wife was determined to get the subsidy through parliament, even when she herself was ill and fighting the return of cancer.

“Pam worked so hard to push for it, she wrote lots of letters, she was like a dog with a bone if she got her teeth into something and she wouldn’t let go,” Ian said.

Pam bravely fought breast cancer for five years and sadly passed away on 13 April 2020.

As a result of both Dulcie and Pam’s efforts, Member for Mount Gambier Troy Bell campaigned for a subsidy to be introduced in South Australia, a motion which was given the go ahead in State Parliament in September 2018. In July 2020, the Federal and State Governments announced a joint commitment of \$4.5 million to boost current schemes to subsidise compression garments for lymphoedema and establish a scheme in South Australia with a focus on delivering better services closer to home.

“The subsidy was Pam’s mission and I’m so proud of her. She would be proud too, but she didn’t ever think about the glory, she just went out and did it,” Ian said.

“I Zoomed in on her behalf for the official announcement and the Health Minister brought it up in parliament and acknowledged how much Pam contributed to the decision, so she was recognised.”

The Lymphoedema Compression Garment Subsidy Scheme is now offered to South Australians and includes ongoing, sustainable access for eligible individuals to receive up to two sets of ready to wear custom made garments, every six months.

“This is a win for everybody, this is for the state. Both Pam and I had that same view of how important the subsidy is and now other people can have a better quality of life,” Dulcie said.

Dulcie is now in remission from cancer and enjoys a busy life with a job at Bunnings and her two children, their partners and three grandchildren.

Australia Day Awards 2021

Senior Citizen of the Year – Alan Warden

Alan 'Woody' Warden has been a Scout leader in Mount Gambier and Millicent for 34 years, acting as a role model and mentor to thousands of young people in the community.

"Originally it was something to do, but it grows on you and the kids grow on you too," Alan said.

"If I give a kid a piece of rope to tie a knot and they can't do it and if I sit there and show them how to do it and they end up doing it, the smile on their face is worth \$1 million. It's just a great feeling to have the privilege of helping someone learn."

Alan is known for his dedication to scouting and works tirelessly to ensure local youths have the best possible experience, often assisting other scout groups within the region as the need arises.

"I am now mentoring the children of previous youth members so I must have done something right to bring them back."

"When you see that the kids are doing well and achieving, it's nice to know that I had something to do with that."

The former boilermaker would often take unpaid leave from work to attend scouting jamborees in Sydney, Adelaide, Elmore and Special Needs Camp in Victoria.

"I am retired now, but I haven't got any time to do anything as I've been working for Scouts," he joked.

For the past 20 years Alan has organised scout participation in the annual ANZAC Day street march in conjunction with the RSL and assisted with local events and activities including the annual Christmas Parade, Generations in Jazz and the Fringe Festival.

"This is my town and I'm proud of it. Somebody has to do it, if you can't help, you can't sit there and complain about what is going on."
– Alan Warden

The 76-year-old also enjoys helping out on the gate at the Borderline Speedway.


"I do it because I want to do it, not because I have to."

Alan says he was shocked to learn that he had been awarded Senior Citizen of the Year, but was honoured to receive the award.

"I thought it was a joke and luckily I was sitting down. These sorts of things never happen to me, they happen to someone else. I'm not looking for recognition, but it's nice to get it."



The Senior Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Alan Warden on Australia Day. Photo: Frank Monger

A photograph of Faith Monger, a young woman with long blonde hair tied back, smiling and standing in a park. She is wearing a dark, speckled sweater and light blue jeans. The background shows a large tree on the left, a grassy area, and some trees with red flowers in the distance.

“You’ve got to ask, what can I do? How can I help? Then it’s very easy to get engaged rather than sit on the sidelines.”

– Faith Monger

The Young Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Faith Monger on Australia Day.

Young Citizen of the Year – Faith Monger

At just 19 years of age, Young Citizen of the Year Faith Monger embodies the spirit of humanitarian service to the local community.

“My parents Frank and Raelene have always contributed to our community, so I was always expected to join in,” Faith said.

“My earliest memory is painting the fence at the Lake Terrace Cemetery when I was about eight or nine years old.”

Since then, Faith has been involved with community groups and causes such as Variety Club for Kids donating 40 centimetres of her hair to the Hair with Heart program, the Australian Red Cross, Mil Lel Tennis Club and the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West.

As a result of her community mindset, Faith received an Order of Australia SA Branch Student Citizenship Award highly commended certificate and was the recipient of the Service Clubs Association of South Australia Allan Sloane Young Citizen Community Service award.

Nominator Ross Parkinson OAM describes Faith as a gifted musician with a passion for learning, performing and mentoring her peers in the art of music.

“Faith is part of the Mount Gambier City Concert Band, the Limestone Coast Symphony Orchestra and she has been involved in musical productions as a performer, sound engineer and musical score conductor,” Ross said.

Faith achieved Australian Music Examination Board piano sixth grade honours in 2020.

The former Grant High School student completed an administrative traineeship at the school during her gap year in 2020 and will soon move to Adelaide to study a Bachelor of Music at the Elder Conservatorium of Music.

“I don’t have an end goal at this point. I’d like to do some work in sound engineering, I’ve done a little bit of that. I’m not opposed to teaching, but not straight away,” Faith said.

Faith encourages young people to get involved in local groups and give back to the community.

“If you are involved in a community group, in a sporting club or organisation, you don’t just get to sit there and enjoy it, it’s usually run by volunteers or very few paid staff, so you can’t just sit on the sidelines and hope that things happen. You’ve got to get in there and do something, even if it’s only putting the chairs away afterwards, or cleaning the door handles on the way out to help other people so that everyone shares the load.”

“You’ve got to ask, what can I do? How can I help? Then it’s very easy to get engaged rather than sit on the sidelines,” Faith said.

Australia Day Awards 2021

Community Event of the Year Award – Recycled Runway

The Recycled Runway event was first held in 2013 at the Mount Gambier Library as a one-off event during Environment Month to highlight the issue of textile waste as one of the largest contributors to landfill.

“Over the past eight years, the event has grown to become one of the social events of the year delivering a message about the importance of sustainability and engaging with many facets of the community to raise funds for ac.care and the Uplift Project,” Recycled Runway committee member Leanne Dunn said.

A dedicated committee of volunteers ensures Recycled Runway continues to grow and educate the community on textile waste and sustainability.

“The event has evolved into a year-round affair incorporating a sustainable fashion scholarship, upcycling workshops, fashion parade and participation in the annual Christmas Parade.”
– Leanne Dunn

The event was key to Mount Gambier’s success in the Sustainable Communities Awards and formed part of City of Mount Gambier’s winning entry in the 2019 KESAB Sustainable Communities (Tidy Towns) awards.

“Following the success of the state awards, the Recycled Runway committee made a presentation to the national judges which was instrumental in the city taking out the national Resource Recovery and Waste Management category,” Leanne said.

Despite a year of uncertainty in 2020, the committee hosted a successful COVID-19 safe event Recycled Runway – Art Deco inspired by Agatha Christie which showcased local talent, encouraged recycling and raised a record amount of more than \$7,000 for ac.care and the Uplift Project.

“This year’s event really brought the community together. The design and construction phase of the competition gave participants something to focus on during lockdown.”

Entries came from further afield than in any other year and included entrants from as far away as Adelaide. Additional collaborative entries in newly modified categories of unmodelled, high school, novice, open and experienced were also received.

“A local mother collected a bag of clothes in the open category as a way of helping her daughter to learn to sew. She came back the next day as her other three children all wanted to take part as designers, sewers and models, it was a real family affair,” Leanne said.

The decision to proceed with an event during the COVID-19 pandemic presented its challenges, but the committee ensured the event adhered to all government requirements including COVID-19 marshal training and social distancing.

“Food was served in compostable containers and drinks were served to those who didn’t bring their own wine glasses, in glassware sourced from second hand stores. Despite having over 200 guests at a catered event, there was only one small garbage bag of waste that wasn’t compostable or recyclable.”





The Community Event of the Year Award was presented to Recycled Runway on Australia Day. Pictured are representatives of the Recycled Runway Committee. Photo: Frank Monger



Community Events

Mountain Bike Events – Valley Lake

The Valley Lake precinct is home to many events including the Legend of the Lakes Hillclimb, Disc Golf State and National Championships, Mother's Day Classic, drifting, tower runs, cycling and mountain bike events.

In June 2020 the first Gravity Enduro event was held at the Valley Lake. Gravity Enduro mountain bike racing is a competitive, gravity orientated cycle sport held on off-road terrain. Each rider begins at a high elevation and uses gravity to propel themselves downhill. The event had five timed stages.

More than 200 participants took part in the event, including a broad range of classes to encourage girls and women to race. The under 19 and under 17 male riders were nipping at the heels of the elite men winners for a podium position.

"We had feedback from participants that the bike trails are some of the best in the state. People love the location as a riding destination," Gravity Enduro SA President Greg Hutchinson said.



More than 150 spectators and 200 riders and families attended the Gravity Enduro event held at the Valley Lake. Photo: Fletcher Media.





In October 2020 Mount Gambier also hosted round six of the Inside Line State Downhill Mountain Bike series with more than 220 participants.

The series began at Centenary Tower from the shared walking trail heading north splitting out on to a purpose built single trail which winds its way down in twists and turns into the crater's forest, emerging over a series of jumps to the finish line near Brownes Lake.

The Downhill Mountain Bike Club has been racing in area for the last 26 years, firstly in the pine forest near the Bluff at Glencoe and then at the Valley Lake for the past three years.

"We are lucky enough to have the use of this area as our race village, which, after racing across Australia has to be the best location to host such an event and is a credit to the City of Mount Gambier," Inside Line Downhill Mountain Bike Club Vice President Joff Medder said.

"It was magnificent to walk through the area and see so many happy faces and hear the comradery between riders, I'm looking forward to assisting both clubs to facilitate events of this calibre in the future," City of Mount Gambier Community Events Team Leader Xarnia Keding said.



2020 Legend of the Lakes Hillclimb

The South Eastern Automobile Club of South Australia (SEAC) held its first Legend of the Lakes Hillclimb event in 2006. Each year the event has continued to grow in status and many drivers now claim that it is the best event of its type in the country due to its unique location at the Valley Lake and the club's management of the event. In 2019 the event won the South Australian motorsport event of the year.

The committee was determined to hold an event in some format during 2020 to comply with SA Health COVID-19 activity requirements. The club decided to limit spectators to a congregation point at the top of the Valley Lake.

"The committee was quite nervous about this, but as it turned out, it did not impact on the event at all. The event ran extremely smoothly with competitors getting more runs up the hill than other years, therefore several teams were very grateful to SEAC for persevering to make it one of the best events run to date," SEAC Hillclimb committee member Helen Telford said.

Despite changes to the format and COVID-19 restrictions preventing interstate travel, the event was still able to attract 143 competitors and their families from across South Australia for the three-day event.

"Due to the interstate restrictions 85 of the 143 cars were from Adelaide, so to get these guys staying in accommodation, eating in our restaurants and buying fuel and shopping at our local shops was a good boost to our town," SEAC public relations officer Kevin Raedel said.

The club live streamed the event for the first time, enabling those who couldn't attend to watch the event from home. Six cameras were placed along the climb to showcase the unique and beautiful location at the Valley Lake. More than 47,000 views were recorded, with many tuning in from Ireland and New Zealand.

"The event was a credit to SEAC and their dedicated volunteers, who really thought outside of the box to provide a first-class safe event with many challenges in 2020," City of Mount Gambier Events Team Leader Xarnia Keding said.



Hagen Zerk. Photo: Turn 8 Photography



Norm Goodall. Photo: Turn 8 Photography



Dan Day. Photo: Turn 8 Photography

Santa's Boulevard

The format of the annual NF McDonnell and Sons Christmas Parade was modified in 2020 due to COVID restrictions.

Instead of crowds gathering to see the traditional procession of floats down Commercial Street Mount Gambier, Council presented Santa's Boulevard, a drive through Christmas display at Blue Lake Sports Park on Friday 27 November 2020.

More than 800 cars streamed through the venue to see the static Christmas spectacle which included 15 floats, twinkling lights, decorations and Christmas music.

"Despite a snap statewide lockdown and some bad weather which meant we had to change our plans, Santa's Boulevard was a great success under a COVID-Safe Plan and a demonstration of commitment and innovation from volunteers and Council staff given the strict activity restrictions in place at the time," City of Mount Gambier Events Team Leader Xarnia Keding said.



Photos: Frank Monger





City of Mount Gambier Mayor Martin, NF McDonnell and Sons Director Ian McDonnell and outgoing City of Mount Gambier Community Events Team Leader Denise Richardson are pictured at Blue Lake Sports Park which was transformed into Santa's Boulevard, a drive-through Christmas display in place of the traditional Christmas Parade event. Denise retired from her role on 4 December 2020 and Council thanks Denise for more than 16 years of dedicated service.



Reconciliation

Vision for Reconciliation

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.

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

This included:

- A review of HR principles and procedures to identify any existing anti-discrimination provisions and future needs,
- Implementation of cultural safety and racism awareness training for leaders and staff,
- Support for staff to participate in cultural awareness and immersion activities as well as programs and events during National Reconciliation Week and National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week,
- Inclusion of the RAP and associated material as part of the staff and volunteer induction program, and
- Establishment of internal systems to identify workforce participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Reconciliation

2020 NAIDOC Week - 'Always Was, Always Will Be'

City of Mount Gambier joined Burrambies Aboriginal Corporation to acknowledge and celebrate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community with the launch of NAIDOC Week, 8 to 15 November 2020.

The theme 'Always Was, Always Will Be' recognises that First Nations peoples have occupied and cared for Australia for more 65,000 years. It acknowledges and celebrates that the first footprints on Australian soil were those of the First Nations people.

"NAIDOC Week 2020 encourages all Australians to embrace the true history of this country, a history which dates back thousands of generations," Mayor Lynette Martin said.

"In Mount Gambier and across the nation, NAIDOC Week is an opportunity to highlight the importance of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and celebrate our First Nations peoples."

— Mayor Martin

To launch NAIDOC Week, Mayor Martin joined in the annual flag raising ceremony and hosted a reception for Elders and community leaders at City Hall.

At the reception, Mayor Martin announced the members of the newly formed Yerkalalpata Reconciliation Action Plan Reference Group, to guide Council's ongoing delivery of the actions associated with the plan.

"The group will report to myself as Mayor and include Council's CEO and senior staff, the CEO or board members from both Pangula Mannamurna and Burrambies, Elders Aunty Penny Bonney, Aunty Val Brennan and Uncle Mikey Hartman and First Nations community members Michelle Jacquelin-Furr, Mark Lovett and Belinda Bonney."

"I would like to acknowledge the leadership of these community members and thank them for their commitment to our work on reconciliation. We are eager to lead by example in this space within our community," Mayor Martin said.

During NAIDOC Week Council also provided a screening of the multi-award winning film 'In My Blood it Runs' in the Dress Circle at the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre, and a themed Storytime session and activities at the Mount Gambier Library.



Aboriginal Elder Aunty Hilda Blessious and Mayor Martin.

Reconciliation Week

Council hosted a program of events from 27 May to 2 June 2021 to acknowledge National Reconciliation Week. Events were held at the Mount Gambier Library and Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre under the 2021 theme of 'More than a word. Reconciliation takes action'.

The week commenced with Aunty Michelle Jacquelin-Furr leading the collaborative art project; hand drawn local fauna and flora that took on a story of their own, as Aunty Michelle spoke fondly of their significance to the local indigenous community.

The canvas pieces were coloured by local children of various ages and then sewn together and professionally framed. The artwork is proudly on permanent display in the children's area, demonstrating the respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and culture and aims to create a conversation for those visiting.

"We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation and Mount Gambier Library is proud to work with local schools, the NUNGA playgroup, Burrandies homework centre and Aunty Michelle to facilitate a collaborative art experience which has seen this children-centred artwork come to fruition," Mount Gambier Library Manager Georgina Davison said.

The unveiling coincided with the dual naming of the Mount Gambier Library's Children's Cave – Yulangu Kanapinan. Council worked with the Community Reference Group and Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation

to translate 'Children's Cave' into Bunganditj – the language of the Boandik peoples.

Launched by Mayor Martin and local Elders Aunty Penny Bonney and Aunty Val Brennan, the event was attended by local leaders and members of the community.

"In playing our part we continue to build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures collectively."
– Mayor Martin

With a QR code on the signage providing a link to audio, people visiting the Mount Gambier Library can hear the correct pronunciation in Bunganditj.

The week-long program also included a screening of the documentary 'Backtrack Boys' at The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre. The observational documentary, filmed over two years, follows a group of troubled boys on a perilous course towards jail until they meet up with the rough talking, free-wheeling jackaroo Bernie Shakeshaft and hit the road with his legendary dog jumping team.



Aunty Val Brennan (left), Mayor Martin and Aunty Penny Bonney launch the dual naming of the Mount Gambier Library Children's Cave.

Scan the QR code below to hear the pronunciation for the Bunganditj translation of 'Children's Cave'.



Youth Activities

Due to COVID-19, Council adapted the Youth Week Program in 2020.

In lieu of the standard one-week program, a range of events and activities were delivered throughout the calendar year in collaboration with Mount Gambier Library, The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre and various community partners. These events and activities included:

Chill @ the Track

Chill @ the Track was held at the Mount Gambier Pump Track on 2 October 2020. This was not only a much-needed afternoon of entertainment following a challenging few months, but also an opportunity to connect with our young people and hear their thoughts about further developments to the Mount Pump Track.

More than 60 young people attended the event, enjoying live music from local youth band Skyline Haze, a sausage sizzle and the chance to try tie-dye.

Supported by the Mount Gambier Rotary Club and headspace Mount Gambier, the day also included games and helped to raise awareness of various youth programs and the support available through the Mount Gambier Library and other community services. The event demonstrated a great example of the community working together to support local youth.

Youth Month - January 2021

In a re-imagining of the cancelled SA Youth Week 2020 activities, a 'Youth Month' program was delivered providing young people with the chance to come together, try something new and express their creativity through a variety of activities in January 2021.

- Wonderland Realm Escape Room – working together to crack the codes that could save Wonderland!
- Mirror Mirror on the Wall – hands on construction of an Infinity Mirror with LED lights.
- Stencil Spray Art – creation of a stencil spray group artwork with local artist Anthony Hamilton.
- Basic Screen Printing – an afternoon of conversation and the creation of personalised screen printing artwork.
- Boil and Bubble Magic Potions – exploring the magic of chemical reactions.
- Movie screening of the much-loved Australian classic, Oddball.

- The program also included three unique activities delivered through a partnership with Life Without Barriers, that captured the experiences of youth through 2020.
- LA in the Mount – exploring the best of Mount Gambier through a mixture of art, music and multimedia.
- Your Piece in the Community Puzzle – creation of a community puzzle that expressed the experiences of young people in the past year and their future aspirations for their community.
- Corona Chronicles Digital Storytelling Project – capturing the experiences of young people and how they navigated the challenges of COVID-19 through the creation of animated or live action short films.

Youth Month – April 2021

Following the success of the initial Youth Month program, SA Youth Week 2021 was celebrated with a program of activities throughout the month of April, including:

- Polymer Earring Making – design and creation of one-of-a-kind earrings,
- Tween Crochet Wrist Bands – learning the basic skill of crocheting creating a funky wrist band,
- Outdoor Living Room – a chill out space where young people came together to showcase their skills and talent with a youth market stall and busking,
- Youth Screen Printing – learning a new skill and creating a t-shirt or bag, and
- Posca Art with Jeremy levins – creation of personalised surfboard, skateboard, shoes or clothing using posca pens guided by local artist Jeremy levins.

Nextwave Youth Week Film Festival

On 6 May 2021 The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre hosted the Nextwave Regional Youth Film Program, showcasing 20 of the best short films made by young regional Australian filmmakers. Nextwave is Australia's largest regional youth short film competition open to all young creatives aged from 10 to 25, living outside of a metropolitan area.

It is anticipated that this will become a key annual event in the City of Mount Gambier's youth program and will be extended to include a series of workshops and tips to support young people to explore and develop their film making skills.





General Inspector Statistics

Dog expiations	224
Dog complaints	315
Dog impoundments	61
Dog attack reports	7
Parking offences	168
Fire permits	103
Cattle impoundments (sheep and cows)	0
Vehicle impoundments	0
Dog registrations	5,124
Payment to SEAWL (provision of pound services)	\$46,356
Dog registration fees	\$154,941



Dog and Cat Management Plan 2018 – 2023

Council is required by legislation to implement the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act. Council's Dog and Cat Management Plan 2018 - 2023 was adopted in August 2017.

Council's Dog and Cat Management Plan outlines areas where residents can let their dogs off the leash for healthy exercise.

These 'off leash' areas are:

- Hastings Cunningham Reserve,
- Corriedale Park,
- Don McDonnell Reserve,
- Blue Lake Sports Park,
- Northumberland Avenue, and
- Frew Park.

In all other public areas/places in the city, dogs must be kept on a leash.

Council encourages all dog owners to act responsibly and ensure their pet is not permitted to wander at large or cause a nuisance to neighbours.

Dogs typically get scared during storms and fireworks and dog owners should make arrangements to secure their pets when storms and/or fireworks are predicted or publicised.







Environment

National Tidy Towns Category Award	88
Bike Maintenance Station along Rail Trail	89
Landscape Board Grassroots Grant – Weed Control	90
Bulky Waste Collection Trial	91
Small Scale Recycling	91
Waste Transfer Station	92
Waste Snapshot	93
Mount Gambier ReUse Market	95
Green Waste Tags Scrapped	96
Street Tree Program	97
Limestone Coast Bushfire Management Plan	99
Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act	99

City Takes Out National Tidy Towns Category Award

Keep Australia Beautiful announced the winners of the 2020 Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards on Wednesday 14 October 2020 via an online ceremony. Mount Gambier was awarded the Resource Recovery and Waste Management category having been crowned the 2019 KESAB Sustainable Communities (Tidy Towns) winner in December.

Running nationally since 1990, the Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards have evolved to encompass projects and initiatives with a focus on environmental sustainability and resource management to reflect a growing awareness of the importance of community-led environmental action.

The Mount Gambier entry showcased many sustainability initiatives including Council projects such as the Mount Gambier ReUse Market, and community events and programs including 'Recycled Runway', volunteer work in the Valley Lakes Conservation Park and initiatives in schools to tackle waste.

Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns judge Gail Langley congratulated Mount Gambier on establishing several inspiring enterprises which enabled the town to recycle effectively and reduce waste.

"The annual 'Recycled Runway' event and the newly established second-hand market give the community an opportunity to breathe new life into used items, diverting them from landfill," Ms Langley explained.

"Additional waste reduction efforts such as diverting food waste from landfill and the development of education programs for schools and

the community, empowers Mount Gambier residents to make well informed choices in their endeavour to reduce waste."

The award ceremony was set to take place in Alice Springs, however due to COVID-19 the event was conducted online via Zoom with community representatives invited to attend a socially distanced event at the Civic Centre.

"We are very excited to represent South Australia at the national awards and Council congratulate and thank the various community groups whose fantastic initiatives contribute to making Mount Gambier a sustainable city," City of Mount



"We are very excited to represent South Australia at the national awards and Council congratulate and thank the various community groups whose fantastic initiatives contribute to making Mount Gambier a sustainable city."
– Aaron Izzard

Mayor Martin and Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard were joined by representatives from various community sustainability initiatives for the online 2020 Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards Ceremony.

Gambier Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard said.

The awards set out to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by individuals and groups in rural and regional communities and share the best practices and ideas to improve towns and cities around Australia with nine category awards followed by an overall national winner.

Keep Australia Beautiful Chief Executive Val Southam commended all the finalists in this year's awards.

"Entrants in the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns competition, who are largely volunteers, are some of the most dedicated and passionate people we are fortunate enough to be involved with," Ms Southam said.

"Every year, we are inspired by the high calibre of entries demonstrating enormous community pride and environmental action. This year, under such challenging circumstances, this dedication, community spirit and commitment truly shone through."

The initiatives that formed Mount Gambier's submission include:

- Recycled Runway,
- Precious Plastic at Tenison Woods College,
- Bunganditj (Boandik) Language Revival,
- Valley Lake Conservation Park,
- Community Action for Sustainability (CAS) film nights,
- CAS ShineHub solar bulk buy,
- Walking the SE Seasons with Nature in Mind,
- ReUse Market,
- Polystyrene recycling machine at the Waste Transfer Station,
- Pest fish eradication at the Railway Lands water catchment,
- Mount Gambier Rail Trail,
- Clean Up Australia Day,
- Food business organic waste trial,
- Kitchen caddy program,
- Compost Revolution subscription,
- Useful Indigenous Plants of the South East guide,
- South East Heritage Advisory Service,
- Major retrofitting of the lighting to LED at the Mount Gambier Visitor Centre and Civic Centre, and
- Mount Gambier Library Bookwell Program.

Bike Maintenance Station Installed along Rail Trail

A bike pump and maintenance station has been installed at the Mount Gambier Railway Lands, enabling cyclists to undertake maintenance and repairs at a central and convenient location along the popular Rail Trail shared path.

The station is the first of its kind in Mount Gambier and includes retractable tools such as hex keys, screwdrivers, wrenches and tyre levers. It also features a bike stand which conveniently holds the bike above ground level allowing the pedals and wheels to spin freely while repairs are undertaken.

"Cyclists of all ages and abilities are regularly using the Rail Trail and this station now allows bike riders to easily complete repairs or maintenance on the go at any time of the day," Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard said.

The station includes an instructional label demonstrating how the maintenance station can be used and includes a QR code that links to online bike maintenance videos.

"Whether your tyres are a little flat, or your chain has dislodged, there is a multitude of tools available to assist people to get back on their bikes and keep moving along the Rail Trail," Mr Izzard said.

The bike pump and maintenance station are located along the Rail Trail approximately halfway between the Railway Station building and Bay Road.

The installation was made possible by the Vibrant Mount Gambier initiative.



Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard shows the various tools available to perform bike repairs and maintenance.

Landscape Board Grassroots Grant – Weed Control

Council received more than \$30,000 in funds through the inaugural Limestone Coast Landscape Board Grassroots Grants 2020/2021 program to undertake weed control measures in the vicinity of the Crater Lakes area.

The funds will assist Council to achieve the objectives within the Crater Lakes Conservation Management Plan.

“Council aims to recognise and protect all of the heritage values of the Crater Lakes area by identifying and implementing actions to help restore, enhance and protect the heritage landscape in the area,” City of Mount Gambier Engineering Technical Officer Sinaway Georgiou said.

Self-pollinating wild pines have become an issue along the Valley Lake crater rim areas and the slopes of the saddle.

“Clearing the wild pines along the Valley Lake crater rim near the Centenary Tower will enable the site to be clearly interpreted as a volcanic landscape feature as it once was,” Mr Georgiou said.

“The wild pines are hard to control, and it is envisioned that Council will eradicate as many as possible to help reduce their numbers over time.”
– Sinaway Georgiou

Council engaged a local contractor to use manual felling practices to remove the larger wild pines.

“Given the severity of the slopes, each tree will need to be removed using abseiling techniques,” Mr Georgiou said.

Under the guidance of Crater Lakes Conservation Park contractor Orazio Cultreri, Millicent High School students used cut and swab techniques to remove the smaller self-sown wild pines located along the slopes of the saddle.

“As part of attaining their Horticulture certificate, the flexible learning students are required to complete a weeds and chemical handling component. The students worked with Orazio to treat the wild pines in the area.”

Cape Wattle weed has been found throughout the sloping face of the Valley Lake area along the Keegan Drive car park lookout and will also be eradicated as part of the weed control program.

“This area will be sprayed using a drone as it is inaccessible using conventional eradication methods.”

“In addition, to help reduce the spread of pest weeds and plants, weeds botanist from the State Herbarium of SA Chris Brodie will be engaged to help identify what should be removed and what should be preserved within the Crater Lakes precinct,” Mr Georgiou said.



Limestone Coast Landscape Board Officer Tony Bullock (left) and City of Mount Gambier Engineering Technical Officer Sinaway Georgiou at the Valley Lake.

Bulky Waste Trial

As part of Council's 'Our City, Our Response' COVID-19 initiatives each residential property was invited to access one free bulky waste collection by appointment between the period of July and December 2020.

Hailing the initiative as a success, City of Mount Gambier Manager Waste and ReUse Mark McDonald said Council is now evaluating the data to identify how the service may be delivered beyond the trial.

"The initiative has been well received by the community and we thank those who took the opportunity to dispose of hard waste responsibly," Mr McDonald said.

More than 1,900 residents took up the service, equating to almost 2,500 large items weighing around 450 tonnes with the trial costing approximately \$200,000.

"Of the materials collected, we have been able to recycle or reuse as much as 95 per cent, with only five per cent ending up in landfill which is an excellent result."

"The trial was well subscribed, and we will now review the information we were able to obtain through the process to plan the next steps from here," Mr McDonald said.

More information about future provision of the service will be available upon completion of a full evaluation.



City of Mount Gambier Waste and ReUse Attendant Michael Satterley assists with a residential bulky waste collection during the trial period.



Small Scale Recycling Introduced at Civic Centre

Council introduced a small scale recycling system in the Civic Centre foyer to enable residents to drop off items that are unable to be recycled through the kerbside bins such as bread tags, plastic bottle lids, used toothbrushes and empty toothpaste tubes for recycling.

The items can be dropped off in the designated bins during business hours where they will be collected and sent off to be recycled locally.

"Many people want to recycle as much as they can and through this system Council is offering a convenient location to dispose of these items that are otherwise difficult to save from landfill given they are too small to put in your recycling bin at home," Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard said.

Plastic bottle lids labelled with a number two or four in the triangle recycling symbol will be recycled locally through Tenison Woods College's 'Precious Plastic' program.

"It is particularly exciting that we are now able to collect the bread tags and plastic lids as they are being turned into new products right here on the Limestone Coast."

– Aaron Izzard

"The lids collected at the Civic Centre will be passed on to the College where students will shred and melt them down and turn them into new items like stencils and tiles."

The bread tags will be provided to St Martins Lutheran College to be recycled through the Aussie Bread Tags for Wheelchairs program.

"Once the bread tags have been sorted into various colours by the St Martins students, they will be taken to Transmutation at Robe where they will be turned into new products like their unique bread tag bowls."

The toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes will be sent off for specialised recycling through TerraCycle's oral care recycling program.

The bins are located in the foyer area at the Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace Mount Gambier and can be accessed from 9:00am to 5:00pm on weekdays.

Waste Transfer Station

The Waste Transfer Station is an important link in our community's total waste management system that understands the challenges, opportunities and unique issues of managing waste.

This facility receives, disposes of and administrates all waste streams including commercial contractors, residents and community members.

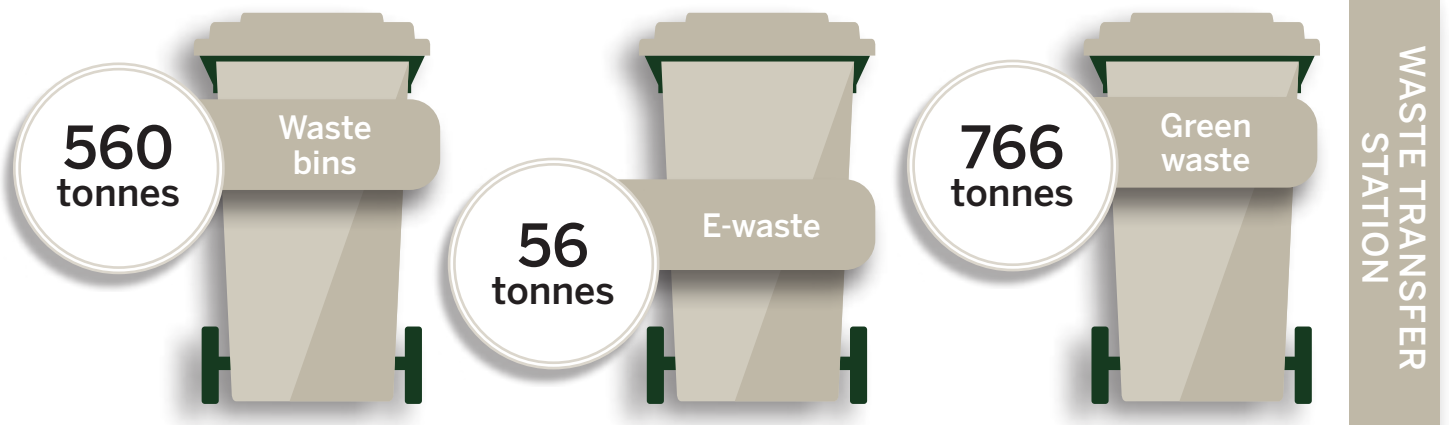
Material taken through the transfer station from domestic customers is separated prior to going to landfill to ensure maximum resource recovery.

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.

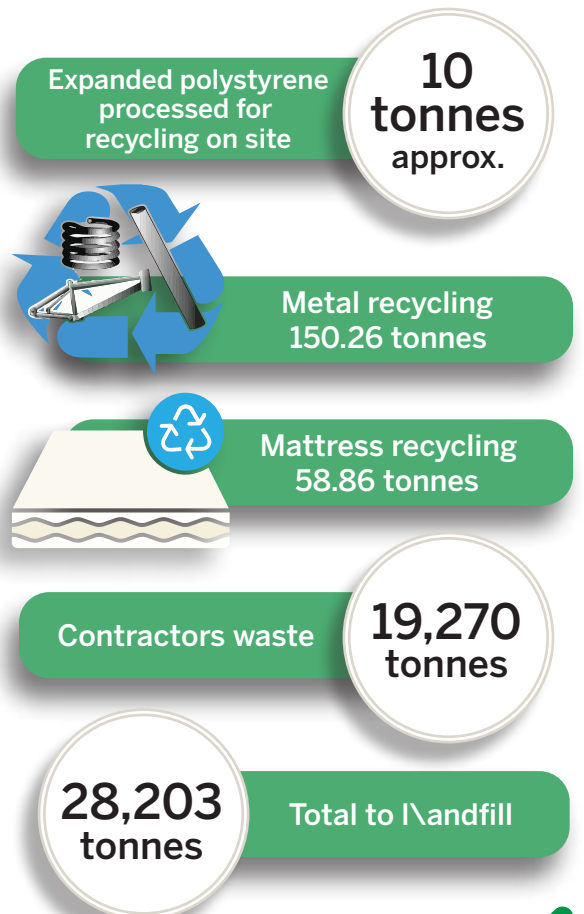


Waste Transfer Station and ReUse Market Attendants Michael Satterley (left) and Tanis Alexander (middle) with Waste Transfer Station and ReUse Market Coordinator Rebecca Mobbs.

Waste Snapshot



What is in Mount Gambier's rubbish bins?





ReUse Market customer Rebecca Yoannidis ready to do some upcycling with her market haul.



ReUse Market volunteers Shirley Chuck (left), Kerren Whitehead and Raelene Justice.

Mount Gambier ReUse Market

The Mount Gambier ReUse Market, located at 3 Eucalypt Drive, aims to reduce landfill by reusing and upcycling useful items donated via the Waste Transfer Station. It is a place where you can get anything and everything second hand from building materials, to bikes and sports gear, garden equipment, spare parts, 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 Mount Gambier ReUse Market has built a number of partnerships within the community, including volunteers and students from the Independent Learning Centre, 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





Green Waste Bin Tags Scrapped

From 1 July 2020, City of Mount Gambier residents were no longer required to pay an additional fee to subscribe to the kerbside FOGO (food organics/garden organics) bin service after Elected Members endorsed a plan to absorb the cost of the service into general rates for residential properties.

Previously the service was provided by Council on an 'opt in' basis whereby residents subscribe through an annual payment of \$85.00. Under the change residents are now only required to pay an initial fee to cover the cost of the official green organics bin, if they do not already have one.

The most recent kerbside bin audit conducted by Council staff indicated that on average 45 per cent of household waste going to landfill is organic matter that could be diverted and recycled through composting.

All new subscribers who opt in to the service by purchasing the bin also receive a kitchen caddy with compostable liners to assist in diverting food scraps away from landfill.

"The kitchen caddy is an easy way for residents to sort their waste at the sink which will mean less organic matter entering landfill via the general waste bin," former City of Mount Gambier General Manager City Infrastructure Nick Serle said.

"Organic matter is a big contaminant of general waste bins and happens to be integral to the process of bio-organically breaking down other green matter to turn it into compost."

With almost 1,000 households currently subscribed to the service and the number set to increase, it is forecast the change will represent a loss of more than \$500,000 from Council's operating revenue that will be absorbed through rate revenue. The loss will be offset slightly with Council recently receiving \$32,954 towards the initiative via the State Government Kerbside Performance Plus (Food Organics) Incentives Program.

"This is a large investment however we are confident the savings and environmental benefits that will result from less organic matter entering and contaminating landfill will far outweigh the initial loss of income," Mr Serle said.

It is much more cost effective for Council to dispose of organic matter to a commercial composting operation than it is for it to end up in landfill where it decreases the life of each cell and increases the emission of harmful greenhouse gases."

Council voted unanimously in favour of the initiative that will be backed up by a waste education campaign currently in development which aims to assist residents to dispose of household waste correctly through the various streams.

"This is a really positive step in line with our overall goal of reducing waste to landfill," Mayor Martin said.

It is anticipated that by reducing the barriers to accessing the FOGO service that residents will be able to experience first-hand how easily they can reduce their volume of general waste simply by sorting it into the appropriate stream.

"I really encourage our residents to take advantage of this opportunity to opt in if you do not already have a FOGO bin," Mayor Martin said.

"Just by utilising the kitchen caddy system I am confident our residents will see a big reduction in their general waste each week."
— Mayor Martin

"By working together, we can really make a difference towards responsible waste management which is so important for our future, both environmentally and financially."

Residents that already have an official green waste bin do not need to take any action to continue receiving the service as bin tags are no longer required. Residents who wish to opt in can contact Council to arrange payment and delivery of a green waste bin.

Residents are encouraged to ensure they only dispose of accepted matter through the green waste system to ensure the viability of the service.

"The technology installed on the waste trucks enable the contents of all bins to be closely monitored and residents are reminded to do the right thing so the service can continue to be provided to all households," Mr Serle said.



Parks and Gardens Coordinator Hayden Cook with one of the many street trees planted across the city in 2020/2021.

Street Tree Program

Street trees are a fundamental component of an urban environment and are generally appreciated by the community.

The benefits trees provide include environmental, social, health and wellbeing, economic and visual amenity. Trees also assist in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in an urban environment by providing habitat to bird life as well as improving air quality.

The following table provides a list of the street tree plantings that were undertaken in 2020/2021:

Common name	Botanical name	Street name	Trees retained	Proposed removals	Proposed plantings	Net gain
Australian Willow	Geijera parviflora	Tanglewood Crescent	0	0	41	41
Australian Willow	Geijera parviflora	North Terrace	0	8	8	0
Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	Callistemon viminalis 'Harkness'	Wireless Road West	0	0	71	71
Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	Callistemon viminalis 'Harkness'	Perriam Street	0	1	29	28
Purple Leaf Cherry Plum	Prunus cerasifera 'Nigra'	Lansell Street (north side)	2	8	15	7
Purple Leaf Cherry Plum	Prunus cerasifera 'Nigra'	Bertha Street (stage 1)	1	8	42	34
Southworth Dancer Pear	Pyrus betufoia 'Southworth Dancer'	Birkdale Court	0	0	47	47
Southworth Dancer Pear	Pyrus betufoia 'Southworth Dancer'	Coolum Close	0	0	10	10
Southworth Dancer Pear	Pyrus betufoia 'Southworth Dancer'	Carnoustie Court	0	0	14	14
Callery Pear	Pyrus calleryana 'Glen's Form' Chanticleer	Gemstone Court	0	0	11	11





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 CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act

Under the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016* Council is the relevant authority for local nuisance and litter control within the council boundary.

Allowing or contributing to local nuisance or litter is a crime with costly penalties. Some common complaints of nuisance are noise, smoke 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 however at 30 June 2021 Council had not made any prosecutions under this Act.





Infrastructure

Railway Station Exterior Renovation	103
Rail Trail Extension	104
Playground Donation to Timor	105
Melaleuca Reserve Pump Track	107
Infrastructure Works	108
Krupp Gun Restoration	110
Building Fire Safety Committee	111
Crime Prevention Strategies	111
Development Services – Building and Planning	113
Local Heritage Restoration Fund	114
Council Assessment Panel	115
Carinya Gardens Cemetery	115
Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre	116



“The Council has now taken the opportunity to restore this jewel and capitalise on the fantastic work they’ve done in the area.”
– Richard Woods

After: Mount Gambier Railway Station building after exterior renovations.



Before: Mount Gambier Railway Station building before exterior renovations.

Railway Station Exterior Returned to Former Glory

The heritage-listed Mount Gambier Railway Station building exterior has undergone a significant facelift to restore many of the original features of the 102-year-old icon.

Following the transfer of ownership from the State Government to the City of Mount Gambier, the building sat idle for many years while the redevelopment of the Railway Lands precinct occurred from 2013 to 2015.

“There was a strong connection in the design plans to preserve various historical elements that link the importance of railway history to the development of Mount Gambier. However, at the time no funds were allocated to the restoration of the building,” former City of Mount Gambier General Manager City Infrastructure Nick Serle said.

“The Railway Station building is one of the last remaining features of the Railway Lands for Council to restore. At the time of the first stage of the redevelopment, Council believed the project to be worthy of separate consideration,” Mr Serle said.

Council engaged architect and local heritage adviser Richard Woods who has in-depth knowledge on the preservation of Railway Station buildings.

“Thanks to Richard’s valuable knowledge and input, the iconic building has now been returned to its former glory,” Mr Serle said.

The restoration and adaptive re-use design report developed by Mr Woods provided the design framework for Council to restore the building while retaining the historical rail significance and consider any future use opportunities.

“With the change of responsibility for the site that occurred once the original use of the land was no longer, there was a lot of deferred maintenance,” Mr Woods said.

“Given the redevelopment of the surrounding site it became even more obvious that the station building was waiting for attention.”

“The Council has now taken the opportunity to restore this jewel and capitalise on the fantastic work they’ve done in the area,” Mr Woods said.

One of the standout features of the renovation is the reinstatement of the tiled roof, which required the installation of extra timber battens to support the weight. In its original state the gabled roof was covered with Eureka tiles from Ballarat as a unique design element, but in 1955 these were replaced with a metal roof decking.

“The federation-style tiled roof is quite a special feature and from an architect’s point of view it is quite complex,” Mr Woods said.

The renovation works have been undertaken over the past three years at a total cost of \$630,000.

The facelift also included roof, verandah and guttering replacements, an exterior repaint, significant waterproofing, basement and drainage repairs, new heritage-look chimneys, asbestos removal, structural repairs to walls, new metal louvres to gables and the replacement of windows and window sills.

“It has been a big project to return it to original condition and it is now clean and inviting from the exterior,” Mr Woods said.

The next steps in the makeover include refurbishment of the exterior toilets located within the building.

“Richard has developed some great plans for the exterior toilets and this portion of works will be considered as part of the 2021/2022 budget,” Mr Serle said.

Council is yet to identify any potential future uses for the site.

“Any plans for future use and interior renovations are yet to be considered by Council,” Mr Serle said.

The works were undertaken by Steplen Constructions, with assistance from sub-contractors G Weyers Painting Service, Associated Roof Tiling, Neil Stafford Plumbing, Graham Reilly Builders, Ben Miller Joinery, Kruger Engineering and Vivid Glass Windows and Doors.



Rail Trail Extended to Tollner Road

Stage four of the Mount Gambier Rail Trail was completed in early 2021 with the trail now covering the city from the east to west boundary and completing the conversion of the entire former railway line. The shared path for cyclists and pedestrians was extended 1.2 kilometres from White Avenue to the city boundary on Tollner Road.

“The high quality path is great for residents and visitors to Mount Gambier and it now covers all available rail line in Mount Gambier,” Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard said.

“It is hoped that the extension will assist with connecting users to a larger rail trail network across the region in the future.”
– Aaron Izzard

The \$221,000 project was supported by a grant from the State Government Bicycle Fund and brings the total length of the trail to 12.4 kilometres.

Construction took place over a five month period with City of Mount Gambier Depot staff and local contractor Gambier Earth Movers completing the works.

City of Mount Gambier Construction and Maintenance Coordinator Chris Habets said surrounding residents have praised the extension.

“Initial feedback during the final stages of construction is that the extension has been welcomed,

particularly from those who live in the western part of the city,” Mr Habets said.

Council has secured \$800,000 in State Government funding to extend the shared cycling/walking path from the Rail Trail and install solar lighting along the total length spanning 11.3 kilometres. Council will match the funding provided through the Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program in 2021/2022.



City of Mount Gambier Construction and Maintenance employees Corey Radford (left), Glen Lewis, Patrick Grubb, Chris Habets and Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard (centre) completed work on stage four of the Mount Gambier Rail Trail.



“We hope the Timor Leste community gets many years of enjoyment from the play set.”
– Mark McDonald

City of Mount Gambier City Infrastructure team members Rick Karsten (left) and Scott Radley with Youth Services Australia contractor Jason Cousins, prepare the Quarry Reserve site for the installation of playground equipment in Conroe Heights.

Playground Donated to Timor

Playground equipment formerly installed at Olympic Park was reconstructed at Quarry Reserve in Conroe Heights in May 2021, following the removal of the climbing structure and swing set at the reserve.

Council donated the former Quarry Reserve playground equipment to Lakes Rotary for a friendship initiative with Ryder Cheshire in Timor Leste.

“Council had deemed the playground equipment at Quarry Reserve as surplus to requirements, so we are happy to donate this playground to a worthy cause,” former Acting City Infrastructure General Manager Mark McDonald said.

The playground equipment was sent to the Klibur Domin Health Centre in East Timor.

“The Mount Gambier Ryder Cheshire support group appreciates the generosity of Council in donating the playground equipment,” Lakes

Rotary member John Kirby said.

“We regularly accommodate a number of children who accompany family members being treated for Tuberculosis, with disabilities and respite care, but currently have nothing to occupy them, apart from a soccer ball.”

“We hope the Timor Leste community gets many years of enjoyment from the play set. Council has also agreed to assist Lakes Rotary by contributing \$385.00 to transport the playground equipment to Melbourne for shipping to Timor Leste,” Mr McDonald said.

Council replaced the playground equipment at Quarry Reserve with the play set that was removed from Olympic Park prior to construction

on the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre.

“This play equipment was relatively new when it was removed from Olympic Park, so we are pleased to find a new home for it,” Mr McDonald said.

“It is an entry level track which allows for safer access for younger bike and scooter riders and is a good example of how these types of recreational facilities can be incorporated within neighbourhood parks and play spaces.”

– Nick Serle



City of Mount Gambier outdoor staff laying turf around the neighbourhood pump track.

Melaleuca Reserve Neighbourhood Pump Track

Construction on the Melaleuca Reserve Neighbourhood Pump Track located on the corner of Douglas Street and Pressey Street was completed in January 2021.

The new 91 metre looped neighbourhood pump track replaces the BMX dirt track formerly used at the reserve.

"The pump track is designed to primarily service the interests of the surrounding community and follows ongoing consultation with residents to improve the safety and usability of facilities in the space," former City of Mount Gambier City Infrastructure General Manager Nick Serle said.

The \$60,000 project was designed and constructed by Youth Services Australia and sealed with asphalt for all-weather use.

"It is an entry level track which allows for safer access for younger bike and scooter riders and is a good example of how these types of recreational facilities can be incorporated within neighbourhood parks and play spaces."

"The track has already been well received by people of all ages, with very young children out there enjoying it alongside older children. Families have been having picnics in the area and really making the most of the new development," Mr Serle said.

The Melaleuca Reserve Neighbourhood Pump Track complements the larger Mount Gambier Pump Track located at Hastings Cunningham Reserve.

"It was important to ensure that the design provided for a family-friendly facility for the Melaleuca neighbourhood, therefore it is smaller in comparison to the Mount Gambier Pump Track."



Mayor Martin takes a look at the pump track following completion.

Infrastructure Works



Road Construction and Maintenance

Council is committed to maintaining its road network to a high standard. In 2020/2021 Council invested \$3,456,819 as part of the Capital Works Program.

The following works were undertaken as part of this spend:

Reseal Program - \$455,183

Asphalt Roundabout Program - \$106,632

- Wehl Street North/ Allison Street
- Kennedy Avenue/ Wireless Road East
- Crouch Street North/ Saint Martin's Drive

Asphalt Intersection Program - \$36,370

- Calula Drive/Bodey Circuit
- Marara Street/ Suttontown Road
- Coolabah Street/ Suttontown Road

Road Reconstruction Program

Council contribution - \$2,214,755

Roads to Recovery funding - \$335,595

- Amor Street
- asphalt pavement works
- Cave Road
- kerb and channel, asphalt pavement works
- Corry Street
- kerb and channel, pavement reconstruction
- George Street
- kerb and channel, pavement reconstruction

- Peters Street
- kerb and channel, asphalt pavement works
- Rivoli Street
- kerb and channel, asphalt pavement works
- Wehl Street South
- asphalt pavement works
- Lewis Avenue
- pavement, shoulder construction
- Crouch Street North
- kerb and channel, asphalt pavement works
- Hay Drive and retainer wall
- pavement reconstruction
- Gladigau Road
- kerb and channel, pavement reconstruction
- Elizabeth Street
- asphalt pavement works

Carpark Renewal Program - \$45,964

- ReUse Market overflow carpark
- Percy Street
- Hoo-Hoo Lookout

Bus stop renewal - \$17,377

- Tumut Drive
- Ingleby Street

Hay Drive retainer wall construction - \$211,953

Davison Drive guard rail installation - \$32,990

\$3.5m

Invested in maintaining the city's roads



Footpath Construction

In 2020/2021 Council invested \$375,215 in concrete footpath construction, providing an additional 3.5 kilometres of concrete paths in the city.

The projects that were included in the 2020/2021 program were:

- Anthony Street
- Link Street to North Terrace
- North Terrace
- Crouch Street to Byrne Street
- Brilliant Street
- Pick Avenue to Ingleby Street
- Ingleby Street
- Brilliant Street to Miller Street
- Downer Street
- Bray Street to Morgan Street
- George Street
- Bertha Street to Wehl Street
- Graham Road
- Commercial Street to Jubilee Highway
- Pearce Crescent
- Pick Avenue to Newsham Avenue
- Pinehurst Drive
- Wireless Road East to existing path
- Umpherston Street
- West Street to Gordon Street
- Jubilee Highway West
- Willow Avenue to O'Leary Road

An additional \$306,820 was invested in the following projects:

Rail Trail stage four extension - 1100 metres

Footpath asphalt overlay program - 3055m²

- Jardine Street
- Hedley Street
- Jubilee Highway West
- Crouch Street South
- Wehl Street South
- Sturt Street

Invested in 3.5km
of new footpaths

\$375k



Stormwater Management

Council's 2020/2021 capital drainage works included the upgrade of existing drainage assets and installation of new infrastructure to the total value of \$82,580.

The works included:

- Bore clean outs
- Raising buried silt pits and lid replacement with certified lifting lugs
- Silt pit clean outs
- Retention basin/swale drain construction
- Side entry pit construction and road crossing installation

Drainage improvement works completed within the 2020/2021 budget included:

Commercial Street West:

- Commercial Street/Bertha Street
- Commercial Street/Shelton Street
- Commercial Street/Derrington Street
- Commercial Street/Milton Street
- Currawong Street/Heron Street
- Gladigau Road



Boundary Roads

The City of Mount Gambier and the District Council of Grant share responsibility for the upkeep and management of the roads that form the boundary between the two councils.

No works were undertaken on boundary roads in 2020/2021 therefore City of Mount Gambier did not make any financial contribution to the boundary roads program. Planning and design is underway for an upgrade to the Pinehall Avenue and O'Leary Road intersection set to take place in 2021/2022.

Krupp Gun Restoration

The 1917 Krupp field gun was returned to the Vansittart Park rotunda in June 2021 after undergoing months of restoration work by local man Murray Langford.

The German-made World War I memento is one of Mount Gambier's few remaining war relics, having been captured in 1918 by the 17th battalion of the Australian Imperial Force in France and has been in the city since 1922.

Council thanks Mr Langford for his work and asks the community to respect the important and valued piece of history.



Building Fire Safety Committee

The Building Fire Safety Committee (BFSC) operated pursuant to the provisions of the *Development Act 1993* until 18 March 2021. From 19 March 2021 the *Development Act 1993* was replaced by the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* which required Council to review and re-establish the Building Fire Safety Committee.

Its primary function 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 the City of Mount Gambier Senior Building Officer.

In 2020/2021 there were no BFSC meetings held as long-standing issues have been addressed in the previous financial year.

A focused program of compliance for buildings over 500m² has been ongoing since 2018. The level of return for Essential Safety Provisions documentation has increased considerably which indicates a raised awareness of owners and operators on 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, bringing 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 and managed 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 will continue 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 Mount Gambier Police and this has proven to be an effective initiative.



Development Services – Building and Planning

Throughout 2020/2021 Council's building division continued to support local builders and professionals to deliver a core range of services including:

- 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 to Council's Building Fire Safety Committee.

These duties are carried out under a series of regulations and statutory instruments adopted under the *Development Act 1993* (ceased on the 18 March 2021), the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act*

2016 (commenced from 19 March 2021) and the National Construction Code.

Council's building division records statistics regarding activities within the local construction industry which are as follows:

	2020/2021	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018	2016/2017
Dwellings	210	72	62	102	87
Dwelling additions	17	22	21	24	24
Outbuildings	263	148	145	160	155
Commercial	31	28	57	32	22
Industrial	15	8	11	4	21
Signage	12	5	3	15	9
Wastewater	0	0	2	2	2
Other	86	80	43	52	78
Total number of development applications	634	363	344	391	398
Estimated total development expenditure	\$162,682,216	\$70,013,622	\$34,190,596	\$47,052,940	\$39,254,506

The impact of COVID-19 and state and federal government grants initiated to stimulate the economy influenced a significant increase in City of Mount Gambier development applications in 2020/2021.



Changes to SA Planning System

South Australia's new planning system for large regional and metropolitan areas launched on 19 March 2021, allowing development applications to be submitted and tracked online via Australia's first state wide ePlanning platform.

The ePlanning platform brings together the PlanSA portal, the online Planning and Design Code, the South Australian Property and Planning Atlas and the electronic Development Application processing system.

The new planning system delivers clear and consistent planning policies across the entire state of South Australia that are easily accessible and widely available.

For more information visit www.plan.sa.gov.au

Local Heritage Restoration Fund



The owners of this heritage home received a grant through the Heritage Restoration Fund towards the cost of re-roofing and exterior painting, demolition of lean-to, and construction of dwelling additions.

The Local Heritage Restoration Fund was established by Council to assist owners of local heritage listed properties to undertake conservation work such as painting, repairs, extensions and re-roofing.

In 2020/2021 Council allocated \$20,000 for the Local Heritage Restoration Fund to 12 owners of local heritage listed properties within the city.

City of Mount Gambier is committed to protecting Mount Gambier's heritage and assisting heritage property owners to maintain their buildings and this is the 18th year that Council has offered grants as part of the Local Heritage Restoration Fund.

Applicants demonstrated potential conservation of their local heritage property and were offered funds through the grant program.

"It is important that local heritage buildings are preserved and by Council providing assistance this will ensure the character of these buildings is maintained for years to come," Manager Development Services Tracy Tzioutziouklaris said.

Council Assessment Panel

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.

In the assessment process the CAP has regard to Council's Development Plan and any advice from a referral body to determine the merits of each application.

Development applications that are referred to the CAP are those applications that are required to be publicly notified and have received representations objecting to the development as part of the public notification process.

The CAP can also provide advice and reports to Council regarding trends, issues and other matters relating to planning and development.

This advice can emerge as a result of performing its development assessment function and in performing other duties as assigned by the Council.

The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act* requires that the membership of the CAP must be no more than five members, only one of which may be an Elected Member. All members of the CAP are appointed by Council and must have experience and/or qualifications in town planning or a similar field of expertise.

The members of the CAP are:

- Mr Ian Von Stanke (Presiding Member),
- Mr Peter Seebohm,
- Mr Mark Teakle,
- Cr Paul Jenner.

During 2020/2021 there remained one vacancy on the CAP.

Every two years Council seeks nominations for people to form a new CAP. A review of the Council Assessment Panel is due in 2021 or with the transition to the *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

During 2020/2021 the CAP considered 41 development applications.

The CAP holds meetings on the third Thursday of each month commencing at 5:45pm.

In January 2020 the agreed sitting fees were increased by Council to:

- Presiding Member \$350 excluding GST,
- Other independent members \$300 excluding GST
- Council Member appointees \$300 excluding GST, for ordinary meetings.

And:

- Presiding Member \$60 excluding GST,
- Other independent members \$50 excluding GST,
- Elected Member appointees \$50 excluding GST, for special meetings.

Carinya Gardens Chapel and Cemetery

The gardens, chapel and surrounds of Carinya Gardens provides 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 418 services conducted at the cemetery during the 2020/2021 year, compared with 518 in the previous year.

The cemetery undertook 104 burials compared with 111 the previous year, and a total of 314 cremations were performed compared to 407 in 2019/2020.

Throughout 2020 and 2021 the team at Carinya have worked closely with funeral service providers to enable funerals to be held while adhering to COVID-19 restrictions and protocols.





Elements of local First Nationals artist Belinda Bonney's artwork are incorporated within the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre brand and will be featured throughout the centre.



Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre

Significant work on the largest infrastructure project Council has ever undertaken continued throughout 2020/2021.

Major milestones include the completion of a comprehensive and competitive tender process, appointment of the head building contractor and commencement of construction, along with the adoption of an official name and brand for the facility.



Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre

Head Contractor Appointed

South Australian-owned national builder BADGE Constructions was appointed as the head contractor for the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre in August 2020.

Mayor Martin said the signing of the contract is an important and exciting milestone towards the transformational project.

“With facilities that will cater for the entire community and provide a significant contribution to the economy, we are very pleased to have finalised the procurement process,” Mayor Martin said.

“Mount Gambier deserves this, it is going to be a game changer for our city and after 30 years of our community asking for a facility of this type, now is the right time to invest in this project and finally get it started.”

Following the competitive tender process, the contract value has been updated to \$57.3 million of which \$15 million will be funded by the Federal Government and \$10 million from the State Government. A minimum of \$22.9 million will be injected directly back into the local economy throughout the build.

Acknowledging the increase of the project price since the original estimate, Mayor Martin said \$39.1 million was based on the intermediate design in 2018.

“The market response to the tender process has now determined the true build cost based on the detailed design.

“We’ve listened to input from the community and included refinements that have improved the centre’s functionality, flexibility and that will reduce whole of life costs while staying true to the community’s needs and aspirations,” Mayor Martin said.

“Industry-wide changes have occurred since the estimated cost was established, including changes to the building code and building fire safety regulations and of course COVID-19 has significantly increased the risk profile of the project. The updated figure also includes the necessary refurbishment of the 50 metre outdoor pool.”

“We have made decisions to invest heavily in sustainability measures such as a fully electric heating and cooling system, supplied by solar power that, while increasing the capital cost, will reduce the whole of life costs - for example, the solar capacity will enable the electricity to be cost neutral within seven years of the expected 50 year lifespan of the facility.”



BADGE Constructions Managing Director Jim Whiting and former City of Mount Gambier CEO Andrew Meddle following the contract signing for construction of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre.

The additional cost will be funded by Council through borrowings at a low interest rate over a period of 20 years.

"Council is in a very good financial position to withstand the additional cost and service the loan, particularly with access to very low interest rates, and we remain committed to not increasing rates beyond the 4.5% outlined in the Long Term Financial Plan."

Former CEO Andrew Meddle said the build will provide a huge boost to the local economy with the head contractor committed to spending a large portion of the contract value locally.

"The robust procurement process ensured that Council not only secured the best value for money for the community but that the contract includes a large portion of local content, and this will provide a significant injection into the local economy at a time when it is needed most," Mr Meddle said.

"COVID-19 has placed an even stronger focus on our health and wellbeing and has highlighted the value of investing in community infrastructure."

"We have been fortunate to secure an unprecedented level of financial support from the State and Federal Government, an amount never seen before in our region, and it's now our turn to support their calls to help re-boot the economy."

"To prepare for a strong recovery from the current crisis, now is the time to invest in quality community infrastructure to strengthen our city as a regional centre and position ourselves to attract visitation and investment," Mr Meddle said.

Following several months of tender review and assessment and weeks of final negotiations, BADGE Constructions was selected as the preferred head contractor.

"This is a unique build that requires a company with suitable experience with complex infrastructure. We congratulate BADGE on their successful bid and look forward to working with the team towards making our community's aspirations a reality," Mr Meddle said.

BADGE have been building commercial construction projects in Mount Gambier for more than a decade including UniSA, the Mount Gambier Prison and Resthaven.

"It goes without saying that we are thrilled to be awarded this project," BADGE Managing Director Jim Whiting said.

"Delivering important regional infrastructure projects gives us real opportunity to contribute to the local economy during the course, and provide long-lasting community impact with a quality facility."



Councillors Frank Morello (left) and Sonya Mezinac, former CEO Andrew Meddle, Uncle Mikey Hartman, Uncle Doug Nicholls, Aunt Penny Bonney and Mayor Martin on site at Olympic Park following a Smoking Ceremony before work began on the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre.

Site Handover

The Olympic Park site on Margaret Street was handed over to project head contractor BADGE Constructions on Monday 28 September 2020. Council held a celebratory event on site in preparation for the milestone.

The event included a special Welcome to Country led by Aunt Penny Bonney and Uncle Mikey Hartman and a Smoking Ceremony to acknowledge the coming together of culture and people to promote the protection and wellbeing of all in its development, performed by Uncle Doug Nicholls.

"Today is an exciting day for our city. Following the completion of the tender process and the execution of the building contract for the project, work will soon begin on the largest infrastructure project the Council has ever undertaken," Mayor Martin said.

The City of Mount Gambier acknowledges the passing of Elder, Uncle Mikey Hartman in 2021. Uncle Mikey played a significant role in advising the development of the Yerkalalpatha Reconciliation Action Plan and advocated for a range of the activities within the plan. We acknowledge Uncle Mikey's leadership within our First Nations community and his commitment to our city. As an organisation, we pay our respects to Uncle Mikey and his family.

Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre

Construction Works Begin

Civil works and demolition began on site at Olympic Park on Margaret Street to prepare for the development and construction of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre in October 2020.

Fencing was erected around the perimeter of the site as heavy machinery undertook demolition work.

Turner & Townsend Associate Nick Argyros was appointed as Council's Project Manager for the project. Mr Argyros has more than 30 years of experience in the construction industry and has worked for architectural, construction, project management and development firms in Adelaide.

In recent years, Mr Argyros has project managed the City of Salisbury Council's \$35 million Community Hub project, as well as the City of Marion Council's City Services \$15 million Depot Redevelopment and performed the role of Superintendent for the Adelaide City Council's \$20 million Rundle Mall redevelopment.

"Nick has a wealth of experience in managing projects of this scale and is Council's advocate during the build and the contact point between the contractors, community and Council," former City of Mount Gambier CEO Andrew Meddle said.

"I look forward to working closely with the City of Mount Gambier, the greater community and DesignInc to deliver this iconic project," Mr Argyros said.

Mr Argyros will also liaise with the BADGE Constructions team including Senior Construction Manager Mark Wyatt and Site Manager Grenville Smith.

"Council is fortunate to have DesignInc Site Architect Ben McPherson, who was born and raised in Mount Gambier, living locally during the week throughout the build," Mr Meddle said.

Ben has 11 years experience and worked on the Osbourne Naval Shipbuilding Project, building the facilities for the Australian Government's \$35 billion Future Frigate Shipbuilding Program. He was also part of the HMAS Cerberus redevelopment in Victoria and the New Royal Adelaide Hospital.

"Working on the Mount Gambier hub in a leading role is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to such a significant project in my home town," Mr McPherson



BADGE Constructions Site Manager Grenville Smith (left), City of Mount Gambier Procurement Officer Lisa Hinton, former City of Mount Gambier City Infrastructure General Manager Nick Serle, BADGE Site Engineer Princi Tandel, Project Manager Nick Argyros, Design Inc Architect Ben McPherson and BADGE Constructions Senior Construction Manager Mark Wyatt.

Official Name Endorsed

Following community consultation in 2019 to find a name, the Community and Recreation Hub was officially named Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre after Council endorsed the name for the facility at its December 2020 meeting.

Wulanda means 'enjoy or cherish' in Bunganditj language, representing the Boandik community as the traditional owners of the land.

"The Bunganditj Language Reclamation committee feel that the choice, 'Wulanda' Recreation and Convention Centre is an excellent combination of Bunganditj and English," Bunganditj Language Reclamation Committee member Aunty Michelle Jacquelin-Furr said.

"In terms of reconciliation it is important to recognise the long association with country of First Nations people and to acknowledge their place in modern society. The inclusion of Bunganditj in the name contributes to the healing process for the First Nations people and acknowledges our place on country, here in Berrin."

Wulanda accounted for majority (44%) of the community vote during the consultation period from Friday 23 October 2020 to Friday 13 November 2020.

"Council received 143 submissions regarding the name for the building, with Wulanda the clear favourite, followed by Mount Gambier CoRe at 35% and Berrin at 21%," former City of Mount Gambier Acting CEO Barbara Cernovskis said.

Community preferences for the facility's extended title were also presented to Council for consideration and endorsement.

"The preferred extended title was for Community, Sport and Recreation Hub at 57%, Sport Recreation and Entertainment Centre at 22% and Convention and Recreation Centre receiving 21% of the preferences."

"After much deliberation Council decided that Recreation and Convention Centre was the best reflection of the social and economic benefits the facility will return to our community," Ms Cernovskis said.

Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre was chosen following a total of 162 name suggestions provided during two rounds of community consultation to find a name in 2019.

"Community input into the naming process has been invaluable and Council thanks residents for their interest and contributions to find a name for what will be the largest facility of its type in our region," Ms Cernovskis said.

"The Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre will feature state of the art aquatic fitness, sports, cultural, youth, café and creche facilities and Council is excited to take another important step towards bringing this project to life for our community."



Uncle Mikey Hartman (left), Cr Ben Hood, Mayor Lynette Martin, Cr Frank Morello, Belinda Bonney and Aunty Val Brennan.

Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre

New Brand Unveiled for Wulanda

As development continued on the major community facility, Council endorsed a new brand for the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre in May 2021.

"Council really wanted to honour the cultural significance of the name Wulanda meaning 'to cherish or enjoy' and respectfully acknowledge the spiritual connection of our Boandik peoples to the land and water that Mount Gambier sits upon today," Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Committee Presiding Member Councillor Ben Hood said.

Council commissioned local First Nations artist Belinda Bonney to create artwork to be incorporated

within the centre's brand identity. Adelaide Design Agency KWP worked with Ms Bonney to ensure design elements were incorporated respectfully within the logo and brand through culturally appropriate digital design elements.

"I'm really proud to be part of this process and to have my artwork, the symbol for waterways, included in the branding for the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre," First Nations artist Belinda Bonney said.

"If we keep our waterways strong and flourishing for the next generation, we'll be able to continue to meet, connect and enjoy being on Country, which is everything the centre will offer us when it is finished."

The logo takes inspiration from the rounded corners featured within the design of the building and the overlapping shapes reinforce the idea of connection.



Mayor Martin (left) and First Nations artist Belinda Bonney.



The intent behind the branding is to reflect the landmark nature of the facility, a space that will elevate and enhance community connection, wellbeing, culture and identity.

Stage 3 Community Reference Group Appointed

The Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Stage 3 Community Reference Group (CRG) met for the first time in June 2021 and will work with Council to provide input into the operational model and the activation of the major community centre.

Council sought broad representation from the community with 20 CRG representatives selected from: education, allied health, early childhood, retirement and aged care, first nations, disability, community services, sporting/recreation clubs, swimming, basketball, netball and music/performing arts/events industry sectors.

“The CRG provides the opportunity for community members to contribute to the future operational model for this facility,” former City of Mount Gambier Acting CEO Barbara Cernovskis said.

The Stage 3 CRG follows the work of the

Stage 1 and 2 CRG groups established in July 2018 to work with Council to provide advice to assist with the initial planning stages and then the intermediate design of the development.



Members of the CRG Nathan Stratford (left), Maree Thompson, Jess Magarey, Teresa Stewart, Phil Lowe, Peter Kartu, Robert Povey, Duncan Kirk, Shaun Dunford, Luke Riley, Yvette Holmes, Jamie Bignell, Terry Walters, Belinda McLaren, Scott Martin and Paul Manfrin met for the first time at the Civic Centre for an induction session.



Timber beams arrive on site. Photo credit: LC Aerial



Glulam Timber Beams Arrive for Facility

The longest single glulam timber beams ever shipped to Australia – spanning up to 42 metres – were loaded on to two trucks to make the journey from the wharf in Port Melbourne to the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre construction site on Margaret Street in Mount Gambier on Tuesday 22 June and Thursday 24 June 2021.

13 full length glued laminated timber beams measuring 42 metres and two segmented beams were produced by German timber engineering project specialist HESS TIMBER for the pool hall within the Wulanda development.

“Timber was chosen as a feature following a feasibility assessment and extensive architectural research,” City of Mount Gambier Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Project Sponsor Barbara Cernovskis said.

“Timber is resistant to corrosion in an aquatic environment, has whole of life benefits for health, maintenance and operational costs and aligns closely with the original architectural intent.”

The single large timber spans required for the roof meant the European Spruce product was sourced from overseas as the length was unable to be manufactured in Australia.

“Understanding the nature of the use of the facility, and what it means to the community over a number of generations, our priority was ensuring longevity of the build that would ultimately reduce long-term maintenance costs,” BADGE Senior Construction Manager Mark Wyatt said.

“This particular product was selected as it will not require joins, given its length will span the roof. Those joins are where moisture and chemicals from an aquatic environment can begin to damage structure over years of use, as would any plain timber product,” he said.

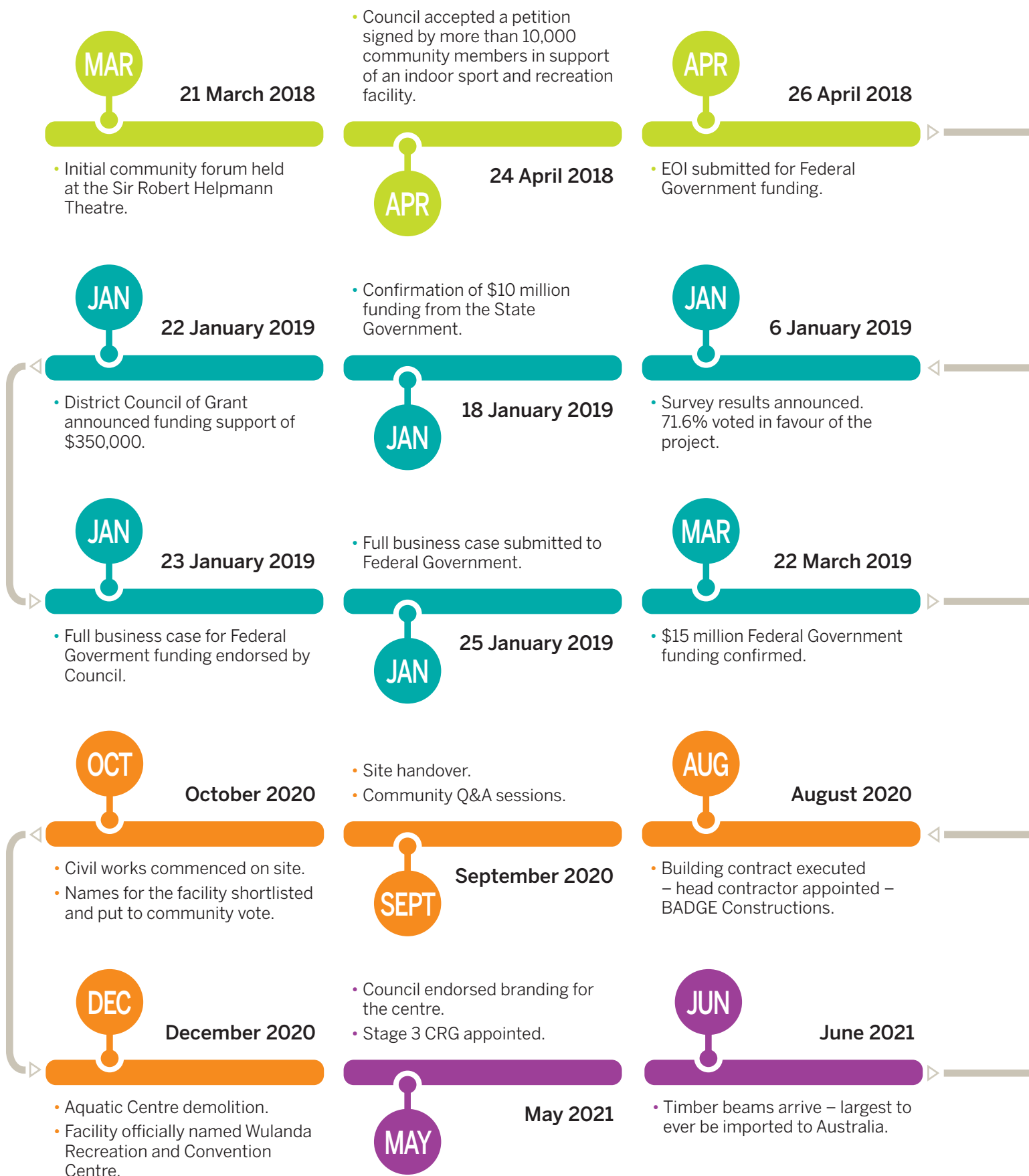
“There is a real opportunity for this project to be a catalyst to further expand the knowledge and technology of timber construction within Australia, showcase the benefits of timber construction and promote the timber industry,” DesignInc Architect Ben Luppino said.

The timber rafters were crafted at HESS TIMBER’s production facility in Kleinheubach, Germany. The beams departed from Zeebrugge Terminal in Belgium at the end of April and travelled approximately 25,000 kilometres via ocean to Australia as break-bulk-cargo, arriving at the wharf in Port Melbourne on Saturday 12 June 2021.

A specialist freight contractor used two mobile hydraulic cranes to unload the beams from the ocean freight platforms and on to each truck which carried three to four timber beams each over four loads.

Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre

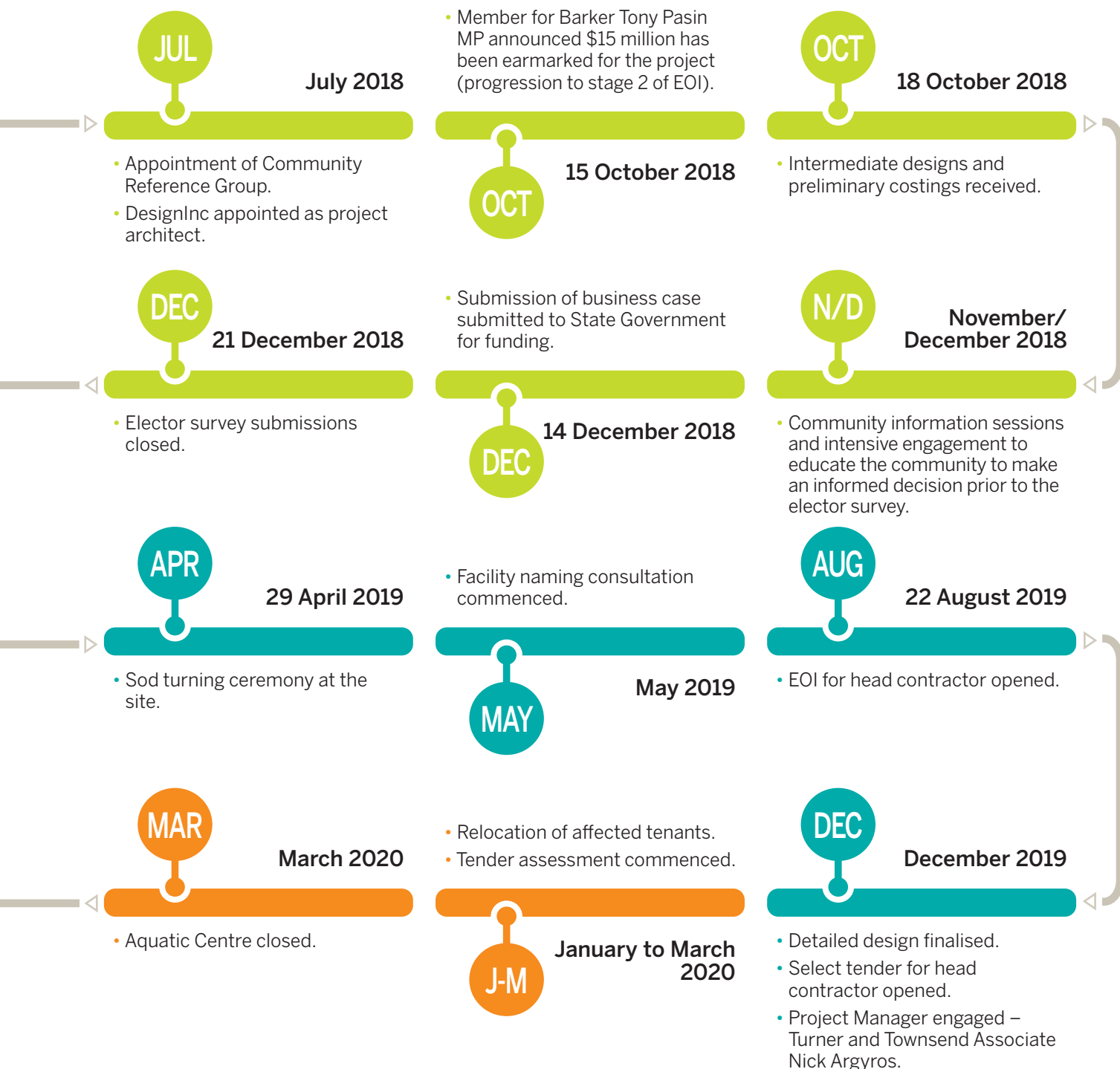
Project milestones to date



The Community and Recreation Hub project is supported by a \$15 million grant from the Australian Government Regional Growth Fund and a \$10 million grant from the South Australian Government Regional Growth Fund.

Infrastructure

To find out more about the project, visit www.haveyoursaymountgambier.com.au/wulanda



Still to come:

- Ongoing construction,
- Finalise contract negotiations with operator for the facility,
- Facility opening.





Tourism and Economic Development

Tourism and Visitor Services Snapshot	131
Mount Gambier Declared RV Friendly City	132
Mount Gambier Named SA Top Tourism Town Finalist	133
Mount Gambier Makes it on the MONOPOLY Board	134
Big, Small – Support Us All Campaign Launched	135



Tourism and Visitor Snapshot

Face-to-face Visitor Services

Visitors serviced at the Visitor Centre

18,944

2,397

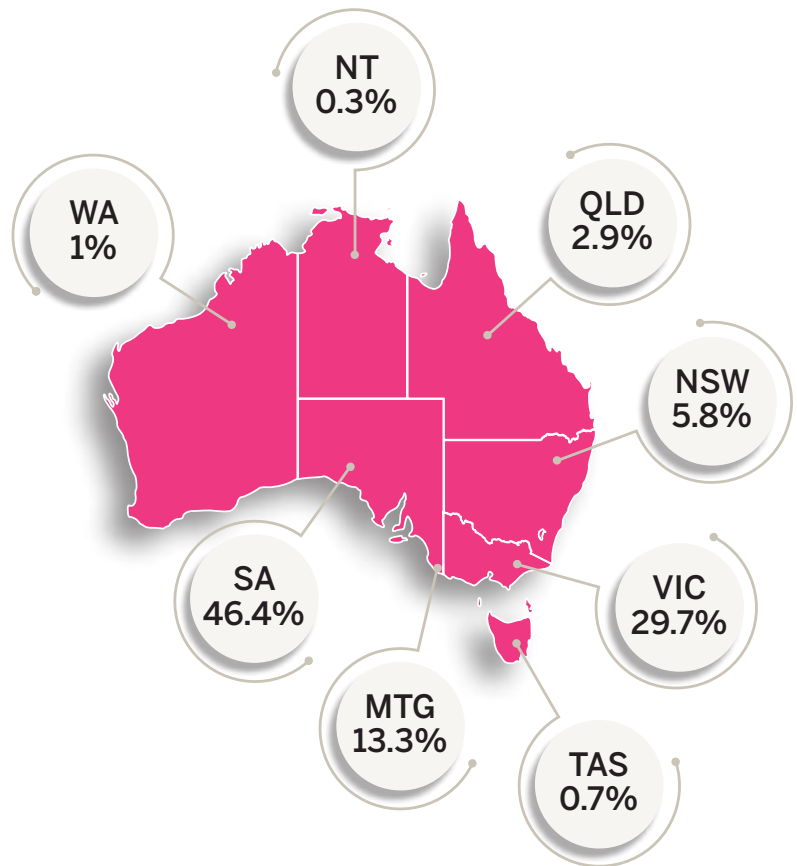
Visitors serviced at pop-ups

Visitors serviced via phone

1,124

22,837

Total visitors serviced



Digital - discovermountgambier.com.au



372 visitors serviced via LiveChat

Unique website users

66,574

83,404

Website sessions

Page views

151,772

TOP PERFORMING PAGES

Home (27,992)
 Geological Wonders (17,130)
 Product Details - Umpherston Sinkhole (17,130)
 Explore (4,796)
 Best Fishing Spots Near Mount Gambier - Blog (4,644)

TOP USERS BY CITY

Adelaide (47.76%)
 Melbourne (22.25%)
 Sydney (6.25%)
 Mount Gambier (3.37%)
 Brisbane (2.55%)



@mountgambiervisitorcentre
 4,078 followers
 143,930 people organically reached

@discovermountgambier
 8,704 followers
 581,513 people organically reached

Mount Gambier Declared RV Friendly City

In August 2020 Mount Gambier was declared a 'RV Friendly' city following an application made to The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA).

In order to qualify for the program, towns and cities must successfully meet the needs of self-contained RV travellers and satisfy key criteria including access to potable water and a free dump point.

Mayor Martin said Council had been encouraged by various organisations and individuals over a number of years to pursue 'RV friendly status' under the CMCA RV Friendly Town Program.

"This feedback helped to support the development of a recreational vehicle (RV) parking area and dump point at Frew Park which was completed in May 2019."

Other criteria Council was required to meet as part of the application to CMCA included demonstrated access to a general shopping area and provision of appropriate low

cost overnight parking.

"With these amenities in place, RV tourists can access any RV Friendly Town knowing they will be welcomed and well looked after," CMCA Chairman Kim Atkinson said.

In return for providing these facilities, CMCA supports all towns and cities with RV friendly status through promotion to CMCA members and the broader self-contained RV community.

"Joining the RV Friendly Town network will deliver direct benefits to the local business community as Mount Gambier will be promoted to RV travellers across Australia through the CMCA club magazine, website and social media channels," Mayor Martin said.

"With the self-contained RV tourism

market estimated to be worth more than \$2.5 billion annually and the number of registered RVs in Australia expected to grow to more than 700,000 this year, our city is now well-positioned to access this lucrative tourism market and we look forward to seeing an increased number of visitors."

CMCA says being classed an RV Friendly Town will assist to promote the region's attractions and capture a part of this large growth market.

"Through social media and word of mouth, RV tourists will quickly let their fellow travellers know what a great place Mount Gambier is to visit and experience what it is that makes the city so unique," Ms Atkinson said.

'RV Friendly Town' signs have been installed at the key entrances to the city.



"With the self-contained RV tourism market estimated to be worth more than \$2.5 billion annually and the number of registered RVs in Australia expected to grow to more than 700,000 this year, our city is now well-positioned to access this lucrative tourism market and we look forward to seeing an increased number of visitors." – Mayor Martin

Mayor Martin looks forward to welcoming an increased number of RV travellers to the city following a successful application for RV friendly status made to The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia.



Mount Gambier Visitor Services Ambassadors Sarah Norris (left) and Tracey Martin celebrate Mount Gambier's nomination as a finalist for the SA Top Tourism Town Award.

Mount Gambier Named SA Top Tourism Town Finalist

Mount Gambier was announced as a finalist for the SA Top Tourism Town Award in March 2021.

The inaugural Tourism Industry Council of South Australia (TICSA) program is designed to recognise both well-established and emerging towns in South Australia that deliver successful visitor experiences and are committed to growing visitation.

Mount Gambier joined 32 South Australian towns in the public voting stage of the program.

"I am thrilled that Mount Gambier is recognised as a finalist and a must-see destination to visit in South Australia," Mayor Martin said.

"The submission outlined an action packed four day itinerary for visitors to our city, including a visit to our beautiful

Blue Lake, Engelbrecht Cave, the Valley Lake, Crater Lakes Disc Golf Park and Umpherston Sinkhole to name a few, and also the opportunity to sample our great food and coffee at our hospitality venues. There really is something for everyone."

The winners for 2021 were announced at a Government House Reception on Thursday 20 May 2021 with Mount Gambier unfortunately missing out to Moonta, Clare and Robe.

The public vote made up 70 percent of the overall score, with the remaining 30 percent decided by tourism industry judges.

Mount Gambier Makes it on the MONOPOLY Board

Mount Gambier featured on the custom 2020 Australian Community Relief MONOPOLY game board to unite regional communities and raise much needed funds for the Australian Red Cross.

The Umpherston Sinkhole is one of 22 regional locations across Australia showcased on the board. The game has been created to highlight the community spirit and strength in regions impacted by various disasters in 2020 including bushfires, floods and COVID-19.

"I am so excited that our city has been included in the Australian version of this iconic family game," Mayor Martin said.

"This is wonderful recognition for our area, and I hope that people who play the game are interested to learn more about our beautiful city and feel compelled to come and visit."

\$5 per Australian Community Relief Edition MONOPOLY game and \$2 from each MONOPOLY Puzzle will be donated directly to the Australian Red Cross, to further assist these areas and people in need around Australia.



Mayor Martin with Mr Monopoly at Umpherston Sinkhole.

Big, Small – Support Us All Campaign Launched

City of Mount Gambier, the Chamber of Commerce, Women in Business and Regional Development (WiBRD) and Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast (RDALC) are encouraging residents to support local businesses in Mount Gambier with the 'Big, Small – Support Us All' campaign which launched on Friday 4 December 2020.

'Big, Small - Support Us All' references that both big and small businesses in Mount Gambier need support during challenging and uncertain times.

"Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our local businesses have taken a hit and we'd really love for our community to shop and support local in the lead up to Christmas more than ever before," Chamber of Commerce President Hayley Neumann said.

"These businesses are the back bone of our community, they are the ones that support our sports clubs, sponsor events, and keep

the community going, therefore we ask that everyone looks local first when purchasing any item including supporting the many local businesses that have invested in online purchasing to make your local purchase even easier. This campaign belongs to our community and therefore we need to embrace it," WiBRD Chair Jacinta Jones said.

The campaign launched with a competition which ran from Friday 4 December to Sunday 20 December 2020 with 10 \$100 vouchers provided as prizes. To enter the competition, participants were

required to like, share and tag three friends on the Big Small, Support Us All Facebook or Instagram pages and also 'like' the WiBRD and Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce Facebook and Instagram pages.

"We see that this campaign will provide our businesses with a much needed boost heading into Christmas. By choosing to buy from local businesses or using local services, we are keeping money circulating in the city," RDALC Business and Workforce Development Manager Rachael Ashman said.



RDALC Business and Workforce Development Manager Rachael Ashman (left), Chamber of Commerce President Hayley Neumann, Mayor Martin, WiBRD Chair Jacinta Jones and former City of Mount Gambier Acting CEO Barbara Cernovskis.





Governance

Community Land	139
Internal Review of Council Actions	139
Council Policies, Registers and Codes	140
Elector Representation Review	142
By-Laws	143
Freedom of Information	143
Confidentiality Provisions	144



Community Land

Under the *Local Government Act 1999* Council is required 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.

No Community Land Management Plans were adopted by Council in 2020/2021.

Community Land Management Plans are available for inspection at the Council office.

During 2020/2021 Council revoked the community land classification of a portion of two reserves for a land exchange associated with the Versace development at Wehl Street and Woodlands Drive. This land exchange was in the process of being finalised at 30 June 2021.

Council also commenced consultation on community land processes associated with the Caroline Landfill site. This process was underway at 30 June 2021.

Internal Review of Council Actions

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*.

The policy and procedure are reviewed during the term of each Council and was last reviewed in March 2017.

The 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(8) of the Act requires Council to initiate and consider on an annual basis, and to include in the Annual Report, a report that relates to:

- The number of applications received under the provisions of Section 270,
- The kinds of matters to which the applications relate, and
- The outcome of applications.

During the 2020/2021 financial year no formal applications were received in relation to Section 270 of the Act or the Internal Review of Council's Decisions Policy.

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 2021.

City Infrastructure

B150	Building - Sewer Connections, Waste Management Control and the Provision of Toilet Facilities
C355	Council Land - Irrigation
E135	Encroachments - Protection of Public during Building/Maintenance Work
F110	Fencing Costs - Contributions by Council
F175	Footways and Crossovers
F190	Footways - Paving in City Centre Zone
	Memorials
R270	Road Openings and Reinstatements
S115	Fencing and Stormwater Retention Basins
T120	Tree Policy
W115	Waste Management - Reveal of Waste - Caroline Landfill
W125	Waste Management - Refuse Collection

Shared Services

A900	Asset Management
B300	Budget Framework
C200	Request for Service and Complaint
C290	Internal Review of Council's Decisions
C375	Council Vehicles - Provision and Replacement of
F225	Fraud and Corruption Prevention
P155	Privacy
P415	Prudential Management
P420	Procurement and Disposal of Land and Assets
P910	Provision of Loans or Guarantees to Community Groups
R105	Rates - Rating
R130	Rates - General Matters
R155	Rates - Rate Rebate
R180	Records Management
	Risk Management
R200	Community Land (Reserves) Lease/Licence/ Rental Arrangements
S140	Street Numbering
T150	Treasury Management

City Growth

A240	Assemblies and Events on Streets and other Council Land
A515	Animal Control - Dog
A520	Animal Control
C120	Cemeteries - Carinya Gardens and Lake Terrace Cemetery
D140	Development Act - Delegations
D150	Development Act - Building Inspection
D160	Development Act - Inspection and Copying of Documents
E240	Expiation Notices - Cancellation or Waiver
F125	City Burning
F135	Flammable Undergrowth
F500	Footways and Council Land - Removal of Objects
F505	Footways and Council Land - Sales of Commodities
F510	Footways and Council Land - Fundraising and Promotion
L130	Land Divisions
L230	Licensed Premises
O110	Order Making
P135	Planning - Entertainment Venues
S120	Street Signs - Directional, Tourist and other Scenic Facility Signs
S135	Streets - Naming of

Community Wellbeing

A270	Australia Day Awards
C140	Main Corner Complex - Hire
D230	Donations - Authority to Approve Requests
H120	Historical Matters - Collection of
H125	Historical Matters - Copyright - 'The Les Hill Photographic Collection'
P195	Community Consultation and Engagement

Council and Committees

C305	Caretaker Policy
C320	Council Chamber and Reception Area - Use of
C410	Conduct of Meetings (Code of Practice for Access to Meetings & Documents, Meeting Procedures, Informal Gatherings)
E115	Elections - Council Entitlement to Vote
F140	Flag Protocol
M130	Media - Statements on behalf of Council
M205	Members - Mayor - Anniversary Messages
M225	Members - Service Recognition
M265	Members - Complaints Handling
M270	Members - Mayor Seeking Legal Advice
M405	Members - Allowances, Reimbursements, Benefits and Facilities
M500	Members - Training and Development
S400	Supplementary Elections
V140	Visits by Parliamentary/ Governmental Representatives

Chief Executive Officer

C700	Corporate Branding and Identity
	Emergency Management
E200	Employees –Service Awards - Gifts at Resignation or Retirement
P900	Public Interest Disclosure
S175	Safe Environment
	Unreasonable Conduct Policy
U900	Unsolicited Proposals

The following codes and registers are required in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*;

Section of Act

S68	Register of Interests (Members)
S79	Register of Allowances and Benefits
S105	Register of Remuneration, Salaries and Benefits
S116	Register of Interests (Officers)
S207	Community Land Register
S231	Public Road Register
S252	By-Law Register
S63	Code of Conduct for Members
S92	Code of Practice for Access to Meetings and Documents
S110	Code of Conduct for Employees

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,
- When the Council next intends to conduct a review under Chapter 3 Part 1 Division 2, and
- The procedures that are available under Chapter 3 for electors to make submissions on representation under this Act.

The following provides the required statements.

Select Outer Metropolitan and Regional Councils Composition and Elector Ratio (at February 2021)

Council	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio
Port Augusta	10	9,492	1:949
Port Lincoln	10	10,786	1:1079
Victor Harbor	10	12,844	1:1,284
Port Pirie	10	12,927	1:1,293
Murray Bridge	10	14,853	1:1,485
Barossa	12	18,118	1:1,510
Whyalla	10	15,618	1:1,562
Gawler	11	18,636	1:1,694
Alexandrina	12	21,150	1:1,763
Mount Gambier	9	19,935	1:2,215
Mount Barker	11	26,222	1:2,384
Adelaide Hills	13	29,442	1:2,265

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.

Prior to the November 2018 Local Government Elections, City of Mount Gambier comprised of 10 Area Councillors with no wards and a Mayor elected by the community.

The following composition applied 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 is scheduled to occur between April 2024 and April 2025.

By-Laws

Council had the following by-laws in operation during the 2020/2021 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 are available on Council's website.

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.

Freedom of Information

The City of Mount Gambier received and determined three applications under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* during the 2020/2021 year.

Number of applications	3
Number of applications carried over from 2019/2020	0
Full access granted	0
Access refused	3
Withdrawn	0
Fees not paid	0
Documents otherwise available	3
Incomplete (at 30 June 2020)	0
Applications for internal review	1
Decision confirmed	1

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 1996*.

The following tables provide the information required to be published for the 2020/2021 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
Totals	#48	20	32	-	31	1	-	11	2	4	3	8	-	-

Use of Section 91(7) orders to keep documents confidential

No. of S91(7) Orders made	No. of S91(7) Orders that expired, ceased to apply or were revoked	No. of S91(7) Orders remaining operative at 30 June 2021
47	*32	80^

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 36 Orders that remain operative from previous financial years.

Council meeting dates, subject, S90(3) grounds and status (at 30 June 2021) of S91(7) orders associated with the use of confidentiality provisions during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2021)
15/06/2021	Road Opening Process - Pinehall Avenue – Report No. AR21/28521	(a), (b), (d) and (i)	Current
15/06/2021	Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - At 01/06/2021 – Report No. AR21/32471	(b) & (d)	Current
15/06/2021	Request for Expressions of Interest - Management and Operation of Mount Gambier Community and Recreation Hub – Report No. AR21/34712	(b) & (k)	Current
15/06/2021	Notice of Motion - Surplus Land Declaration – Report No. AR21/34745	(b)	Current
18/05/2021	Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - At 02/05/2021 – Report No. AR21/26211	(b) & (d)	Current
18/05/2021	Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR21/13122	(a)	Current

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2021)
18/05/2021	Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR21/12850	(a)	Current
20/04/2021	Country Arts SA - Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre Master Plan – Report No. AR21/21895	(b), (d), (g) & (j)	Current
20/04/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre - Stage 3 Community Reference Group - Membership Recommendations – Report No. AR21/16985	(a)	Partially Released
20/04/2021	Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - At 05/04/2021 – Report No. AR21/20559	(b) & (d)	Current
20/04/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Branding – Report No. AR21/19990	(b) & (d)	Current
20/04/2021	Tender for External Audit Services for FY2022 to FY2025 – Report No. AR21/20765	(k)	Current
20/04/2021	Road Opening Process - Pinehall Avenue – Report No. AR21/12277	(a), (b), (d) & (i)	Current
23/03/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Funding – Report No. AR21/17395	(b), (d) & (k)	Current
16/03/2021	Blue Lake Golf Club - December 2020 Quarterly KPI Report – Report No. AR21/8520	(d)	Current
16/03/2021	Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre - Stage 3 - Community Reference Group - Member Selection - Report No. AR21/14861	(a)	Current
16/03/2021	Question with Notice - Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre Funding - Report No. AR21/14681	(b), (d), (g) & (j)	Current
16/03/2021	Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - At 01/03/2021 - Report No. AR21/11450	(b), (d) & (k)	Current
11/03/2021	Chief Executive Officer - Contract of Employment – Report No. AR21/15086	(a) & (g)	Partially Released
03/03/2021	Chief Executive Officer Recruitment - Report No. AR21/11473	(a), (b), (d) & (g)	Partially Released
03/03/2021	Update on the Chief Executive Officer Selection Process – Report No. AR21/12144	(a), (b), (d) & (g)	Current
16/02/2021	Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - At 01/02/2021 – Report No. AR21/6521	(b), (d) & (k)	Current
20/01/2021	Chief Executive Officer Recruitment – Report No. AR21/3669	(a), (b), (d) & (g)	Current
19/01/2021	Notice of Motion - Independent Consultant Member of Chief Executive Officer Selection Panel – Report No. AR21/1800	(a), (b) & (d)	Partially Released
19/01/2021	Mount Gambier Private Hospital - Feasibility Study Stages 4-6 – Report No. AR21/1334	(d) & (g)	Current
22/12/2020	Review of Information provided by Recruitment Consultants, Morton Philips – Report No. AR20/85494	(a), (b), (d) & (g)	Current
15/12/2020	Notice of Motion - Request for Information - Community and Recreation Hub – Report No. AR20/82569	(h)	Current
15/12/2020	Strategic Property Management - 12 White Avenue – Report No. AR20/82411	(b) & (g)	n/a
15/12/2020	Blue Lake Golf Club - September 2020 Quarterly KPI Report – Report No. AR20/78759	(d)	Current
15/12/2020	Bookmark Cafe Update – Report No. AR20/79583	(b) & (d)	Current
15/12/2020	Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - At 29/11/2020 – Report No. AR20/80910	(b), (d), (k)	Current

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2021)
17/11/2020	Chief Executive Officer – Recruitment Consultancy Selection – Report No. AR20/74663	(b) & (d)	Partially Released
17/11/2020	Funding of Mount Gambier Community and Recreation Hub Project – Report No. AR20/73196	(b) & (d)	Current
17/11/2020	Mount Gambier Community and Recreation Hub Project Budget – Report No. AR20/73063	(b) & (d)	Current
17/11/2020	Project Control Group (PCG) Progress Report - At 02/11/2020 – Report No. AR20/73679	(b) & (d)	Current
17/11/2020	Blue Lake Golf Club June 2020 Quarterly Report – Report No. AR20/71756	(d)	Current
20/10/2020	Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR20/61722	(a)	Current
20/10/2020	Notice of Motion - Strategic Property Management	(b)	Released
20/10/2020	Confidential Question with Notice	(a), (e), (h) & (i)	Current
13/10/2020	Chief Executive Officer - Resignation and Recruitment – Report No. AR20/67276	(a), (b) & (k)	Partially Released
15/09/2020	Viability of Establishing Material Recovery Facilities in the Limestone Coast Region – Report No. AR20/57874	(a), (b), (d), (g) & (j)	Current
15/09/2020	Mount Gambier Private Hospital Feasibility Study – Report No. AR20/56996	(b), (d), & (g)	Current
18/08/2020	Blue Lake Golf Club - Quarterly KPI Report to 31 March 2020 – Report No. AR20/39363	(d)	Current
21/07/2020	Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Results and KPI's – Report No. AR20/41809	(a)	Released
21/07/2020	Notice of Motion - Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators – Report No. AR20/44464	(a)	Released
21/07/2020	Property Management - Expiry of Agreement – Report No. AR20/44292	(a), (b), (d) & (i)	Partially Released
21/07/2020	Commercial Lease - Request for Extended Lease – Report No. AR20/38059	(a), (b) & (d)	Current
01/07/2020	Community and Recreation Hub Procurement – Report No. AR20/39192	(b) & (k)	Partially Released
19/05/2020	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) & (g)	Partially Released
31/03/2020	COVID-19 - Council Action Plan - Discussion – Report No. AR20/20732	(b) & (e)	Current
17/03/2020	Selection of Professional Support for the Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review – Report No. AR20/9109	(b) & (k)	Partially Released
17/03/2020	Blue Lake Golf Club - KPI Report December Quarter 2019 – Report No. AR20/15109	(d) & (g)	Partially Released
17/03/2020	Presentation by Beach Energy – Report No. AR20/8188	(d)	Current
18/02/2020	Riddoch Art Gallery Crate Loader - Report No. AR19/62327	(b) & (k)	Current
18/02/2020	Bookmark Café - Expression of Interest - Report No. AR20/3205	(a), (b), (d) & (g)	Partially Released
17/12/2019	Condition of the Property - Report No. AR19/62472	(g), (h) & (i)	Current

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30 June 2021)
21/11/2019	Chief Executive Officer Probationary Period – Report No. AR19/59690	(a)	Current
19/11/2019	Bookmark Cafe - Expressions of Interest and Request – Report No. AR19/58946	(b) & (d)	Current
19/11/2019	Blue Lake Holiday Park - Property Matters – Report No. AR19/54537	(b) & (d)	Partially Released
19/11/2019	Operating Model Scenarios – Report No. AR19/60159	(d)	Current
19/11/2019	Condition and Use of the Property – Report No. AR19/56339	(g), (h) & (i)	Current
15/10/2019	Property - 9 Penola Road, 1-3 Lawrence Street – Report No. AR19/48305	(b)	Current
17/09/2019	Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR19/45899	(a)	Current
17/09/2019	Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR19/43265	(a)	Current
17/09/2019	Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates – Report No. AR19/41851	(a)	Current
18/06/2019	Property Management - Licence Expiry Review – Report No. AR19/26427	(b) & (d)	Partially Released
07/03/2019	Discussion with QEPT on the Wellplayed Report, The QEPT's response to the report and their proposed sub-leasing arrangements	(b), (c) & (g)	Partially Released
07/03/2019	QEPT Wellplayed Report and Documentation - Report No. AR19/10346	(b), (c) & (g)	Partially Released
07/03/2019	Documents Relating to the Management of the Crater Lakes Area - Report No. AR19/10304	(b), (c) & (g)	Partially Released
18/12/2018	Property Management	(b)(d)(g)	Current
21/08/2018	Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre 2018/2019 Business Plan - Report No. AR18/30233	(g)	Current
17/04/2018	Condition of Property - Report No. AR18/12359	(a) & (f)	Current
17/04/2018	Surplus Government Property Notice - Report No. AR18/12667	(j)	Current
21/11/2017	Surplus Government Property Notice - Report No. AR17/47214	(b)	Current
18/04/2017	CEO Report on Confidential Matters - Ref. AF11/1894	(g)	Current
21/02/2017	Development Control - Illegal Development - Operation of a Storage Yard - Ref. AF11/304	(a) (i)	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

Annual Business Plan and Budget	150
Limestone Coast Local Government Association Annual Report	150
Strategic Financial Management and Sustainability	151
Budget Analysis	152
Procurement and Competitive Tendering	152
Fixed Asset Snapshot	153
Rates	154
External Auditors and Audit Committee	155
South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Data	155
Projections and Target for 2021/2022 Financial Year	156
Annual Financial Statements	157



Annual Business Plan and Budget

The City of Mount Gambier Annual Business Plan and Budget are statements of the planned strategies, programs and financial outcomes for the financial year and were developed with reference to Council's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and Asset Management Plan.

Development of the Annual Business Plan and Budget is a fundamental component within the integrated planning and budgeting framework. The framework links Council's strategic suite of documents with the budgeting process ensuring alignment and an optimal mix of services, programs, infrastructure and facilities are delivered within the LTFP and budget parameters.

The Annual Business Plan and Budget defines the objectives for the financial year, the services, programs and activities required to deliver these objectives and how performance will be monitored and measured.

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 2020/2021 Annual Report can be found at www.lclga.sa.gov.au and is incorporated into the electronic version of the City of Mount Gambier Annual Report, available on Council's website.

Strategic Financial Management and Sustainability

Council's financial management and sustainability focus has been based on the implementation of an integrated planning and budgeting framework. This is a holistic approach to ensure Council's functions, services and programs are aligned to meet the needs and expectations of Council and the community as articulated in Council's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and related strategies and initiatives.

This integrated approach ensures that Council's strategic directions can be translated and cascaded into financial terms and guide the direction of Council in a financially sustainable manner over a period of at least 10 years.

The Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) provides a comprehensive understanding of the impacts that decisions made today have on the future.

The Asset Management Plan (AMP) focuses on future expenditure for new assets and the renewal of existing assets over a period of at least 10 years. It also encompasses planned and reactive maintenance of our assets and significantly influences the LTFP.



Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan

The Long Term Financial Plan anticipates and plans for fiscal challenges and opportunities and aligns with the Strategic Plan and Asset Management Plan to ensure that Council can achieve its objectives and maintain its financial sustainability in the medium to long term.



2020-2024 Strategic Plan

Represents Council's vision, aspirations and priorities for the community now and into the future. It describes Council's values, how we work together and outlines the strategic initiatives to achieve ongoing sustainability and prosperity.

It is integrated with Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan.



Annual Business Plan

The Annual Business Plan sets the annual work program and budget and is informed by the Strategic Plan.

Council's 2020/2021 operating surplus ratio sits outside the local government target range of 0 - 10%, however, it is broadly in line with the budget and Long Term Financial Plan of (4.8%).

Financial liabilities have increased in 2020/2021 as the development of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre has commenced. The asset renewal funding ratio is lower than the local government target where the capital expenditure carried forward to 2021/2022 has exceeded the amount carried forward from 2019/2020.

Financial ratios	Local Govt target	2020/2021 actual	2019/2020 actual
Operating surplus ratio	0% - 10%	(5.2%)	(1.7%)
Net financial liabilities ratio	0% - 100%	62%	18%
Asset renewal funding ratio	90% - 110%	84%	105%

Budget Analysis

Council's financial statements include an operating deficit of (\$1,747,000) for 2020/2021 (2019/2020: deficit of (\$550,000)).

This compares to the adopted budget operating deficit of (\$1,593,000) representing an unfavourable variance of (\$154,000) or 0.4% of total operational expenses for the year, including the following:

Operating revenue – \$50,000 or 0.2% higher than the adopted budget (favourable variance), including the following significant variances:

- **Statutory charges \$312,000 favourable variance** - higher than the adopted budget where the budgeted Development Assessment and Planning fees had been significantly reduced in the budget in consideration of the State Government e-portal development.
- **User charges (\$474,000) unfavourable variance** - mainly due to lower than budgeted landfill charges (\$0.3 million) and lower rent and lease income (\$0.1 million), and lower Waste Transfer Station revenue (\$0.1 million), partly as a result of the bulky waste trial.
- **Grants (\$175,000) unfavourable variance** - lower than the adopted budget mainly due to timing of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Phase 1 grant (\$0.2 million) where the budget had assumed that the project would be delivered in full with the total grant received.
- **Other income \$394,000 favourable variance** – mainly driven by \$0.2 million for revenue from land divisions, and \$0.1 million including revenue from land transfers.

Operating expenditure – (\$204,000) or (0.6%) higher than the adopted budget (unfavourable variance) mainly due to the following:

- **Depreciation (\$542,000) unfavourable variance** - mainly due to the impact of buildings and structures and infrastructure assets revaluation and asset lives change completed as part of the 2019/2020 year-end.

Procurement and Competitive Tendering

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

Council's Procurement team help administer the policy, providing staff with guidance on open, transparent and equitable procurement of goods and services.

Fair and equitable procurement is essential to the organisation to ensure that Council not only obtain value for money, but that we identify and manage any risks that may arise, consider the impact, including economic and environmental, on our community, and ensure that contracts are managed and delivered to a high standard.

City of Mount Gambier is committed to supporting local businesses including the use of local goods and services in alignment with the Procurement Policy, applying favorable weightings when evaluating quotations and tenders.



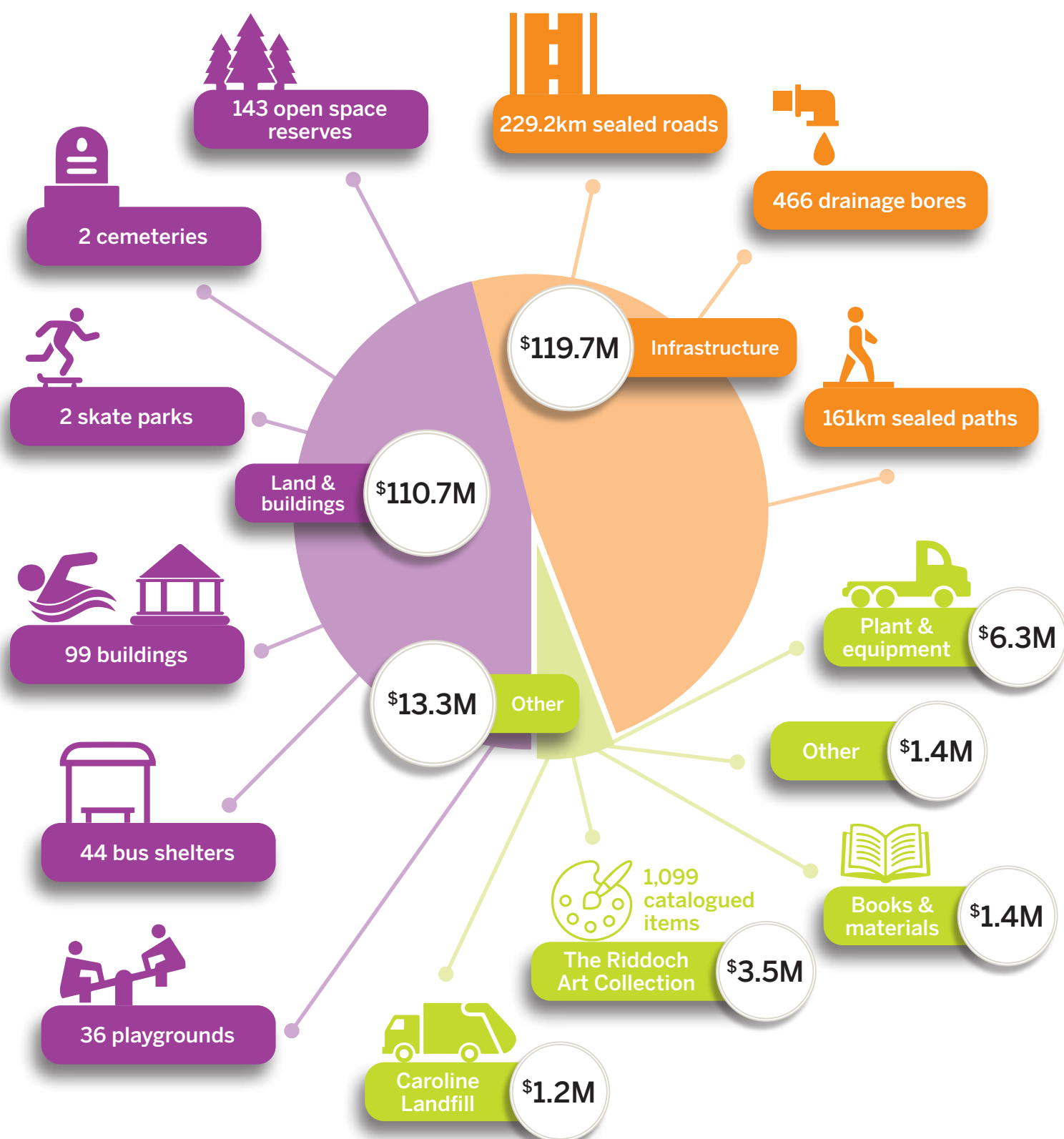
National Competition Policy

Principles of competitive neutrality are designed to neutralise any net competitive advantage that a government or local government agency engaged in significant business activities would otherwise have, by virtue of its control by the government or local government, over private businesses operating in the same market.

Council has a complaints mechanism in place and in 2020/2021 no complaints were received with regard to competitive neutrality.

Fixed Asset Snapshot

TOTAL ASSET VALUE \$243.7M



Rates

In response to COVID-19 Council did not apply a blanket rate increase for 2020/2021 however some ratepayers may have experienced an increase due to what is known as the growth benefit. The growth benefit is influenced by property values which is determined by the Valuer-General, new developments and new assessments.

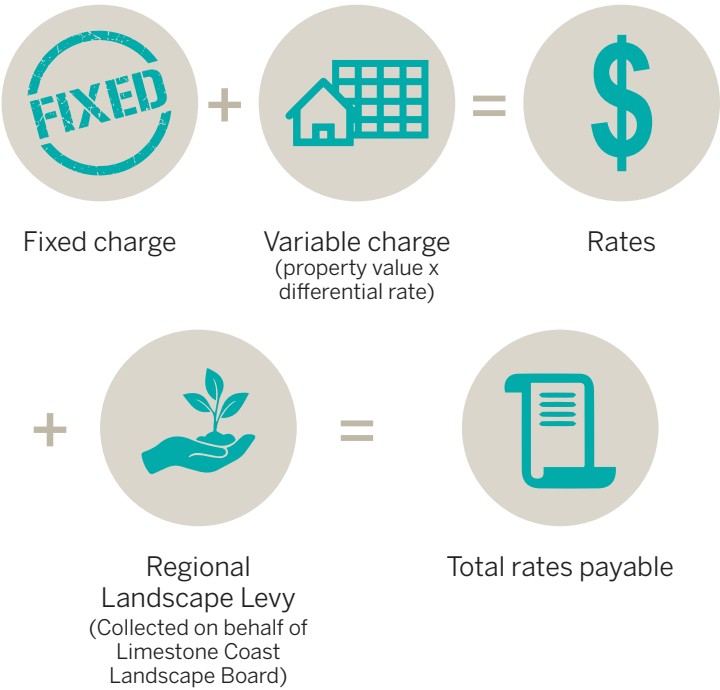
In terms of residential rates, the average residential ratepayer paid \$1,247, an increase of \$9.00 (0.7%) compared with the 2019/2020 average, due to the growth benefit.

Average rates	2020/2021
SA metro councils	\$1,662
SA rural councils	\$1,471
City of Mount Gambier	\$1,247

Based on the Local Government of South Australia rates survey City of Mount Gambier ratepayers paid on average \$224 less in residential rates in comparison to other regional cities in South Australia in 2020/2021.

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.



City of Mount Gambier uses valuations from the Office of the Valuer-General. The rate in the dollar determines how much is payable according to how much the property is worth. The fixed charge component was \$682.70 in 2020/2021 (2019/2020: \$682.70), applicable to every rateable property, raising approximately (45%) of Council's gross general rate revenue. The variable rating component that raises the remaining 55% 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.

Auditors and Audit Committee

The City of Mount Gambier Annual Financial Statements for 2020/2021 were audited by Galpins Accountants Auditors and Business Consultants who were appointed as external auditors in August 2016 for a five year term pursuant to Section 128 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Remuneration paid or payable during 2020/2021 to the auditors for work performed for the annual audit of Council's financial statements pursuant to Section 128 of the Act was \$20,750.

Council's Audit Committee held three meetings in 2020/2021, one of which was attended by Galpins' audit partner.

The Audit Committee established an annual works program including the review of:

- Terms of Reference,
- Internal Controls, Risks and Improvement Plans,
- Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans and Asset Management Strategy,
- Long Term Financial Plan,
- Annual Business Plan and Budget,
- External Audit - interim review and management letter/statutory external audit and report on financial results/external auditors' performance and overall effectiveness,
- Annual Financial Statements,
- Quarterly budget reviews,
- Crisis management arrangements,
- Policy reviews,
- Audit Committee self-assessment, and
- Other relevant items, including COVID-19.

Audit Committee member attendance was as follows:

Committee member	Attendance
Presiding Member: Cr Sonya Meziniec	3/3
Ms Angela Kain	3/3
Mr Paul Duka	3/3

Information regarding sitting fees for the Audit Committee can be found under 'Members Allowances and Reimbursements' on page 13.

South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Data

The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission (SALGGC) is an independent statutory authority established under the *South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Act 1992*.

The SALGGC makes recommendations to the Minister for Local Government on the distribution of untied Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to local governing authorities in South Australia.

Grants distributed aim to compensate councils for differences between the costs of

providing services and revenue raising capacity. Grants for local governing authorities (councils) in South Australia are distributed in accordance with national principles set by the *Commonwealth Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*. Councils may choose to have higher or lower levels of service according to their own priorities. The grants are untied and may be spent according to community priorities.

The SALGGC aims to equalise councils' financial capacity to provide a similar level of service to their communities. Equalisation refers to the financial capacity of the council, it does not mean that the

level of service must be equal.

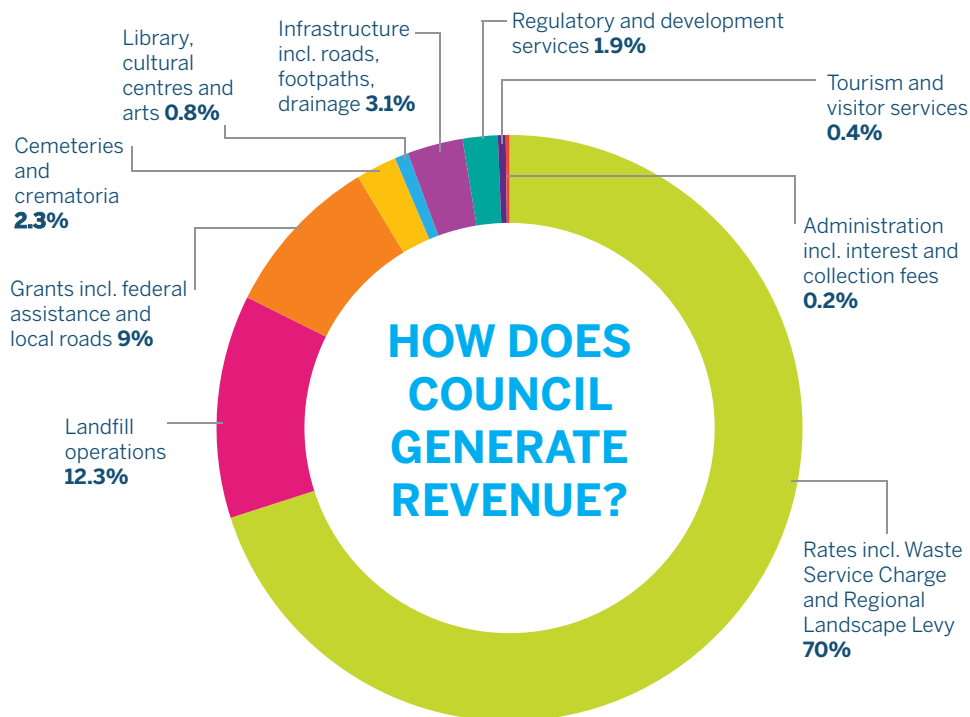
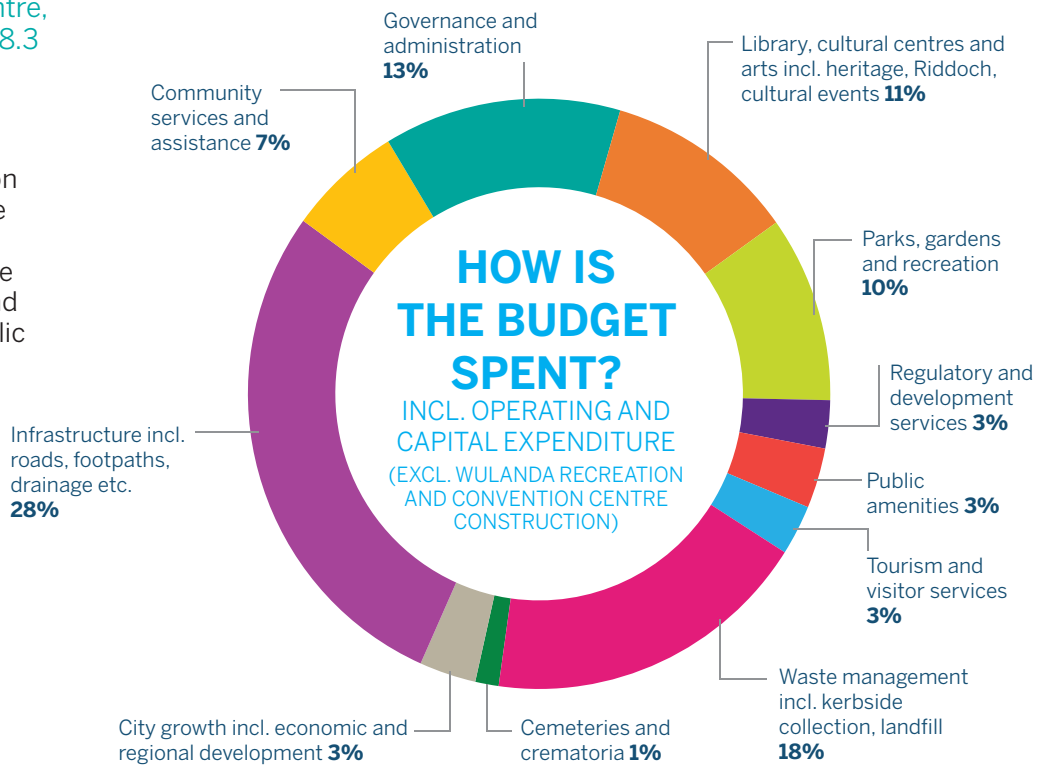
Pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, all South Australian councils are required to submit an annual information return along with their audited annual financial statements to the Commission. From this information the SALGGC prepares and distributes comparative data on each council, commonly referred to as the Grants Commission database reports.

The SALGGC website includes other database reports for the Local Government sector. Refer to dpti.sa.gov.au/local_govt/LGGC

Projections and Target for 2021/2022 Financial Year

The Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2021/2022 includes \$34.5 million operating expenditure, \$10.6 million capital expenditure, \$45.2 million for partial construction of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre, \$33.9 million in revenue and \$18.3 million in capital revenue.

The core services include \$3.1 million for maintenance of parks, gardens and reserves, \$8.2 million for roads, footpaths and drainage construction and maintenance program, \$2.4 million for kerbside waste and recycling collection and disposal and \$4.2 million for public amenities and streetscaping.



Annual Financial Statements

Council Certificate	158
Principal Financial Statements	
Statement of Comprehensive Income	159
Statement of Financial Position	160
Statement of Changes in Equity	161
Statement of Cash Flows	162
Notes to, and forming part of, the Principal Financial Statements	
Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies	163
Note 2 - Income	168
Note 3 - Expenses	171
Note 4 - Asset Disposal & Fair Value Adjustments	173
Note 5 - Current Assets	174
Note 6 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	175
Note 7 - Liabilities	179
Note 8 - Reserves	180
Note 9 - Reconciliation of Cash Flow Statement	181
Note 10 - Functions	182
Note 11 - Financial Instruments	184
Note 12 - Expenditure Commitments	186
Note 13 - Financial Indicators	187
Note 14 - Uniform Presentation of Finances	188
Note 15 - Leases	189
Note 16 - Superannuation	190
Note 17 - Contingent Assets & Contingent Liabilities	191
Note 18 - Related Party Transactions	192
Audit Report - Financial Statements	193
Audit Report - Internal Controls	195
Council Certificate of Audit Independence	197
Audit Certificate of Audit Independence	198


Certification of Financial Statements


**City of Mount Gambier
Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2021**

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 2021 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


.....
Lynette Martin
MAYOR

Date: 19/10/2021

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
INCOME			
Rates	2	22,769	22,138
Statutory charges	2	621	523
User charges	2	4,880	5,318
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2	4,505	4,227
Investment income	2	25	55
Reimbursements	2	60	38
Other income	2	635	439
Total Income		33,495	32,738
EXPENSES			
Employee costs	3	13,058	12,230
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3	14,018	13,263
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3	7,940	7,625
Finance costs	3	226	170
Total Expenses		35,242	33,288
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(1,747)	(550)
Asset disposal & fair value adjustments	4	(730)	(472)
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2	2,677	-
Physical resources received free of charge	2	1,230	737
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) (transferred to Equity Statement)		1,430	(285)
Other Comprehensive Income			
<i>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</i>			
Impairment (expense)/recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve	3	-	(327)
Total Other Comprehensive Income		-	(327)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		1,430	(612)

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	1,893	4,406
Trade & other receivables	5	4,181	2,034
Inventories	5	47	55
Total Current Assets		6,121	6,495
Non-current Assets			
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	6	263,422	246,843
Total Non-current Assets		263,422	246,843
Total Assets		269,543	253,338
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	7	5,765	2,849
Borrowings	7	447	558
Provisions	7	3,013	2,557
Total Current Liabilities		9,225	5,964
Non-current Liabilities			
Borrowings	7	13,502	2,189
Provisions	7	4,064	3,863
Total Non-current Liabilities		17,566	6,052
Total Liabilities		26,791	12,016
NET ASSETS		242,752	241,322
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		66,406	64,986
Asset Revaluation Reserves	8	175,462	175,462
Other Reserves	8	884	874
TOTAL EQUITY		242,752	241,322

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

	Notes	Acc'd Surplus \$'000	Asset Rev'n Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000	TOTAL EQUITY \$'000
2021					
Balance at end of previous reporting period		64,986	175,462	874	241,322
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		1,430	-	-	1,430
Other Comprehensive Income					
Transfers between reserves		(10)	-	10	-
Balance at end of period	8	66,406	175,462	884	242,752
2020		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at end of previous reporting period		65,609	175,458	860	241,927
Adjustment due to compliance with revised Accounting Standards		3	-	-	3
Restated opening balance		65,612	175,458	860	241,930
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(285)	-	-	(285)
Other Comprehensive Income					
Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		-	1,237	-	1,237
Impairment (expense)/recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve		(327)	(1,233)	-	(1,560)
Transfers between reserves		(14)		14	-
Balance at end of period	8	64,986	175,462	874	241,322

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts:			
Rates - general & other		22,978	21,957
Fees & other charges		621	524
User charges		5,214	5,696
Investment receipts		26	57
Grants utilised for operating purposes		5,210	4,227
Reimbursements		66	42
Other revenues		3,517	1,002
Payments:			
Employee costs		(13,005)	(11,915)
Materials, contracts & other expenses		(17,433)	(14,293)
Finance payments		(212)	(170)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities		6,982	7,127
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts:			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets		555	-
Sale of replaced assets		393	385
Sale of surplus assets		-	72
Repayments of loans by community groups		-	18
Payments:			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(5,326)	(5,627)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(16,298)	(3,813)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities		(20,676)	(8,965)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts:			
Proceeds from borrowings		11,550	-
Payments:			
Repayments of borrowings		(206)	175
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities		(163)	-
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities		11,181	175
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		(2,513)	(1,663)
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	9	4,406	6,069
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	9	1,893	4,406

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

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.

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.

1.3 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 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.

1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

1.5 Covid-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the 2020/21 financial statements, which may impact on the comparability of some line items and amounts reported in these financial statements and/or the notes. The financial impacts are a direct result of either Council's response to the pandemic or due to mandatory shutdowns as directed by the Australian Government and the advice from the Australian Government Department of Health and SA Health.

The impacts on the Council's financial performance and financial position are costs of approximately \$73,000 as a result of reduction in commercial rates and assistance with community programs.

It is expected that further financial impacts, though not significant to its financial position, will flow into the 2021/22 financial year.

Council has considered the consequences of COVID-19 and other events and conditions, and it has determined that they do not create a material uncertainty that casts significant doubt upon the Council's ability to continue as a going concern.

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

3.1 Revenue

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.

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont.)

3 Income recognition (cont.)

3.1 Revenue (cont.)

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:

	Cash Payment Received	Annual Allocation	Difference	
2018-19	\$3,952,000	\$3,303,000	+ / -	\$649,000
2019-20	\$3,384,000	\$3,546,000	+ / -	(\$162,000)
2020-21	\$3,410,267	\$3,381,972	+ / -	\$28,295

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.

3.2 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

4.1 Cash, Cash Equivalent Assets

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.

4.2 Other Financial Instruments

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 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont.)

6 Infrastructure, Property, Plant & 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.

Capital works still in progress at balance date are recognised as other non-current assets and transferred to infrastructure, property, plant & equipment when completed ready for use.

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 annually 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 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.

7.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts 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.

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont.)

8 Borrowings

Loans 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.

9 Provisions

9.1 Employee Benefits

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	0.36% (2020, 2.5%)
Weighted average settlement period	1 year (2020, 3 years)

9.2 Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Statewide 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.

9.2 Provisions for reinstatement, restoration, 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 which may change. Council's policy to maximise recycling is extending the operational life of these facilities, and significant uncertainty exists in the estimation of the future closure date.

10 Leases

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 3 – 5 years
- Land Improvements 4 years

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.

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont.)

10 Leases (cont.)

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 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.

13 New and amended standards and interpretations

The Council applied for the first-time certain standards and amendments, which are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020. New standards and amendments relevant to the Council are listed below. The Council has not early adopted any other standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective.

Amendments to AASB 101 and AASB 108 Definition of Material:

The amendments provide a new definition of material that states, "information is material if omitting, misstating or obscuring it could reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity." The amendments clarify that materiality will depend on the nature or magnitude of information, either individually or in combination with other information, in the context of the financial statements. A misstatement of information is material if it could reasonably be expected to influence decisions made by the primary users. These amendments had no impact on the financial statements of, nor is there expected to be any future impact to the Council.

Amendments to AASB 16 Covid-19 Related Rent Concessions:

In 2020, the AASB issued AASB 2020-4, Amendments to AASBs - Covid-19-Related Rent Concessions. The amendments provide relief to lessees from applying AASB 16 guidance on lease modification accounting for rent concessions arising as a direct consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a practical expedient, a lessee may elect not to assess whether a Covid-19 related rent concession from a lessor is a lease modification. A lessee that makes this election accounts for any change in lease payments resulting from the Covid-19 related rent concession the same way it would account for the change under IFRS 16 if the change were not a lease modification. The amendment applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 June 2020. This amendment had no impact on the financial statements of the Council.

Note 2 - Income

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
RATES REVENUES			
General Rates		21,773	21,313
Less: Mandatory rebates		(236)	(222)
Less: Discretionary rebates, remissions & write offs		(27)	(158)
		21,510	20,933
Other Rates (including service charges)			
Regional Landscape Levy		1,179	1,151
		1,179	1,151
Other Charges			
Penalties for late payment		57	18
Legal & other costs recovered		23	36
		80	54
		22,769	22,138
STATUTORY CHARGES			
Development Act fees		219	91
Town planning fees		160	162
Animal registration fees & fines		148	182
Parking fines / expiation fees		13	13
Other licences, fees, & fines		81	75
Library & Communications		621	523
USER CHARGES			
Cemetery/crematoria fees		771	820
Green waste collection		63	528
Landfill charges		3,537	3,044
Hall & equipment hire		11	241
Sales - general		64	104
Sales - Waste Transfer Station		284	426
Sundry		150	155
		4,880	5,318
INVESTMENT INCOME			
Interest on investments:		25	53
Local Government Finance Authority		-	2
Banks & other		25	55

Note 2 - Income (cont.)

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
REIMBURSEMENTS			
- for private works		16	33
- other		44	5
		60	38
OTHER INCOME			
Insurance & other recoupments - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		158	99
Donations		72	92
Sundry		405	248
		635	439
GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS			
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		2,677	-
Other grants, subsidies and contributions			
Untied - Financial Assistance Grant		3,539	3,593
Roads to Recovery		404	360
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure		243	-
Library & Communications		163	88
Sundry		156	186
		4,505	4,227
		7,182	4,227
<i>The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 10.</i>			
Sources of grants			
Commonwealth government		2,155	365
State government		4,770	3,681
Other		257	181
		7,182	4,227

Note 2 - Income (cont.)

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Conditions over grants & 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, are as follows:			
<i>Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period</i>		-	98
<i>Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods:</i>			
<i>Rail Trail</i>		-	(98)
<i>Subtotal</i>		-	(98)
<i>Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>			
<i>Pine Hall / O'Leary Road</i>		378	-
<i>Tertiary Education</i>		49	-
<i>Subtotal</i>		427	-
<i>Unexpended at the close of this reporting period</i>		427	-
<i>Net increase / (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period</i>		427	(98)
PHYSICAL RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE			
Land & Improvements		108	-
Footpaths & Kerbing		386	396
Roads		736	336
Riddoch Collection		-	5
TOTAL PHYSICAL RESOURCES RECEIVED		1,230	737

Note 3 - Expenses

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
EMPLOYEE COSTS			
Salaries and Wages		10,005	9,689
Employee leave expense		1,508	1,144
Superannuation	16	1,205	1,106
Workers' Compensation Insurance		282	262
Other		58	29
Total Operating Employee Costs		13,058	12,230
Total Number of Employees		129	132
<i>(Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)</i>			
MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER EXPENSES			
Prescribed Expenses			
Auditor's Remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		13	26
Bad and Doubtful Debts		73	79
Elected members' expenses		236	231
Election expenses		10	9
Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses		332	345
Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses			
Contractors		3,495	3,179
Contributions / Donations		508	1,370
Energy		864	729
Maintenance		940	1,129
Insurance		335	325
Levies paid to government - Regional Landscape Levy		1,173	1,142
Levies paid to government - EPA, ESL & Dog Levies		2,040	1,650
Materials		797	895
Training		188	173
Water		149	137
Communication		114	276
Consultants		888	383
Licences and Subscriptions		630	275
Sundry		1,565	1,255
Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses		13,686	12,918
		14,018	13,263

Note 3 - Expenses (cont.)

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION & IMPAIRMENT			
Depreciation			
Buildings & Other Structures		2,630	2,353
Waste Management		795	698
Infrastructure			
- Stormwater Drainage		115	103
- Kerbing and Footpaths		1,157	1,111
- Roads		1,861	1,767
- Carparks		257	259
Plant and Equipment		724	709
Office Equipment		114	166
Other		122	316
Right of Use Assets		165	143
Impairment			
Derecognised Assets		-	327
		7,940	7,952
Less: Impairment expense offset to asset revaluation reserve	8	-	(327)
		7,940	7,625
FINANCE COSTS			
Interest on Loans		194	170
Interest on Leases		18	13
Unwinding of present value discounts		14	(13)
		226	170

Note 4 - Asset Disposals and Fair Value Adjustments

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT			
<i>Assets renewed or directly replaced</i>			
Proceeds from disposal		393	385
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		(1,123)	(266)
Gain (Loss) on disposal		(730)	119
<i>Assets surplus to requirements</i>			
Proceeds from disposal		-	72
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		-	(144)
Gain (Loss) on disposal		-	(72)
FAIR VALUE ADJUSTMENTS			
Impairment of disposed assets		-	(519)
		-	(519)
NET GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OR REVALUATION OF ASSETS		(730)	(472)

Note 5 - Current Assets

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
CASH & EQUIVALENT ASSETS			
Cash on Hand and at Bank		95	760
Deposits at Call		1,798	3,604
Short Term Deposits & Bills, etc		-	42
		1,893	4,406
TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES			
Rates - General & Other		803	932
Accrued Revenues		2,500	1
Debtors - general		1,007	1,058
Prepayments		27	138
Total		4,337	2,129
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Debts		(156)	(95)
		4,181	2,034
INVENTORIES			
Stores & Materials		35	44
Trading Stock		12	11
		47	55

Note 6 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (IPP&E)

	Fair Value Level	2020 \$'000				2021 \$'000			
		Fair Value	Cost	Acc' Dep'n	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Cost	Acc' Dep'n	Carrying Amount
Land - Level 2	2	15,601	-	-	15,601	15,601	-	-	15,601
Land - Level 3	3	37,683	-	-	37,683	37,683	108	-	37,791
Buildings & Other Structures - Level 2	2	2,025	-	-	2,025	3,987	-	(2,018)	1,969
Buildings & Other Structures - Level 3	3	106,325	-	(49,505)	56,820	109,546	1,061	(55,304)	55,303
Waste Management	3	9,930	-	(8,125)	1,805	9,930	151	(8,920)	1,161
Infrastructure									
- Stormwater Drainage	3	8,022	-	(2,239)	5,783	8,022	88	(2,353)	5,757
- Kerbing and Footpaths	3	74,206	-	(18,672)	55,534	74,206	1,696	(19,807)	56,095
- Roads	3	67,385	-	(18,474)	48,911	67,385	3,072	(20,216)	50,241
- Carparks	3	10,451	-	(2,608)	7,843	10,451	45	(2,865)	7,631
Plant and Equipment		-	8,609	(2,569)	6,040	-	8,997	(2,707)	6,290
Office Equipment		-	2,019	(1,398)	621	-	2,064	(1,499)	565
Riddoch Collection	3	3,515	-	-	3,515	3,515	-	-	3,515
Other		-	3,946	(2,237)	1,709	-	4,175	(2,358)	1,817
WIP		-	2,581	-	2,581	-	19,458	-	19,458
Right of Use Assets		-	515	(143)	372	-	568	(340)	228
Total IPP&E		335,143	17,670	(105,970)	246,843	340,326	41,483	(118,387)	263,422
Comparatives		310,936	21,864	(88,048)	244,752	335,143	17,670	(105,970)	246,843

This Note continues on the following pages.

Note 6 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

	2020 \$'000	Additions					Transfers			2021 \$'000
	Carrying Amount	New / Upgrade	Renewals	Disposals	Dep'n	Impair't	In	Out	Net Reval'n	Carrying Amount
Land - Level 2	15,601	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,601
Land - Level 3	37,683	108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,791
Buildings & Other Structures - Level 2	2,025	-	-	-	(90)	-	34	-	-	1,969
Buildings & Other Structures - Level 3	56,820	182	670	(4)	(2,540)	-	209	(34)	-	55,303
Waste Management	1,805	151	-	-	(795)	-	-	-	-	1,161
Infrastructure										
- Stormwater Drainage	5,783	24	48	-	(115)	-	17	-	-	5,757
- Kerbing and Footpaths	55,534	1,228	310	(108)	(1,157)	-	288	-	-	56,095
- Roads	48,911	778	2,585	(522)	(1,861)	-	350	-	-	50,241
- Carparks	7,843	21	24	-	(257)	-	-	-	-	7,631
Plant and Equipment	6,040	327	1,040	(393)	(724)	-	-	-	-	6,290
Office Equipment	621	19	126	(93)	(114)	-	6	-	-	565
Riddoch Collection	3,515	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,515
Other	1,709	48	185	(3)	(122)	-	-	-	-	1,817
WIP	2,581	17,409	338	-	-	-	-	(870)	-	19,458
Right of Use Assets	372	-	21	-	(165)	-	-	-	-	228
Total IPP&E	246,843	20,295	5,347	(1,123)	(7,940)	-	904	(904)	-	263,422
Comparatives	244,752	5,596	5,373	(930)	(7,625)	(1,560)	12,024	(12,024)	1,237	246,843

This note continues on the following pages.

Note 6 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (cont.)

Valuation of Assets

General Valuation Principles

Accounting procedure: 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, fair value is taken to be the current replacement cost.

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.

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.

Fair value hierarchy level 2 valuations: Certain land, and the buildings and structures thereon, are shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 2 valuation inputs. They are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, with directly or indirectly observable adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset.

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 these assets and they 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.

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	\$1,000
Other Plant & Equipment	\$5,000
Buildings - new construction/extensions	\$5,000
Park & Playground Furniture & Equipment	\$1,000
Road construction & reconstruction	\$5,000
Paving & footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	\$5,000
Stormwater Drainage	\$5,000
Waste Management	\$5,000

Note 6 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (cont.)

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 Equip	2 to 25 years
Other Plant & Equipment	4 to 20 years
Building & Other Structures	
Buildings	15 to 100 years
Park Structures	20 to 30 years
Playground equipment	20 to 30 years
Benches, seats, etc	10 to 30 years
Infrastructure	
Sealed Roads – Surface	12 to 40 years
Sealed Roads – Structure	30 to 150 years
Unsealed Roads	40 to 75 years
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	10 to 70 years
Stormwater Drainage	50 to 70 years
Other Assets	
Library Books	7 to 10 years
Artworks	indefinite
Right-of-use assets (refer Note 15)	3 to 5 years

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 is revalued every second year (lastly in 2020) based on Valuer General's valuations provided to Council

Buildings & Other Structures

Buildings and other structures were revalued as at 30 June 2020 by Mitch Ekonomopoulos of AssetVal Pty Ltd. Revaluations occur every four years. All additions are initially recorded at cost.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure assets include stormwater drainage, footpath and kerbing, roads and carpark assets. Infrastructure assets were valued by Council officers at depreciated current replacement cost during the reporting period ended 30 June 2018, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2018. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

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. At the time of construction of a cell, Council includes the present value of estimated costs to cap and close the cell into the landfill 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.

Note 6 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (cont.)

Plant, Furniture & Equipment

These assets are recognised on the cost basis.

Riddoch Art Collection

The Riddoch Art Collection was revalued as at 30 June 2018 by Simon Storey Art and Cultural Collection valuers. These assets are not depreciated.

All other assets

These assets are recognised on the cost basis. Library books and other lending materials are capitalised in bulk, and written out when fully depreciated.

Note 7 - Liabilities

		2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES	Notes				
Goods & Services		1,946	-	1,846	-
Payments received in advance		798	-	291	-
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements		178	-	558	-
Accrued expenses - other		2,649	-	32	-
Deposits, Retentions & Bonds		148	-	21	-
Other Payables		46	-	101	-
		5,765	-	2,849	-
BORROWINGS					
Loans		219	13,502	206	2,171
Leases Liabilities	15	228	-	352	18
		447	13,502	558	2,189
<i>All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council.</i>					
PROVISIONS					
Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		3,013	168	2,557	191
Future reinstatement / restoration, etc		-	3,896	-	3,672
		3,013	4,064	2,557	3,863

Note 8 - Reserves

ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE		1/7/2020	Net Increments/ (Decrements)	Transfers, Impairments	30/6/2021
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land		42,801	-	-	42,801
Buildings and Structures		53,310	-	-	53,310
Waste Management		2,926	-	-	2,926
Infrastructure		70,636	-	-	70,636
Plant and Equipment		770	-	-	770
Minor Plant		34	-	-	34
Other Assets		4,985	-	-	4,985
TOTAL		175,462	-	-	175,462
Comparatives		175,458	1,237	(1,233)	175,462

OTHER RESERVES		1/7/2020	Transfers to Reserve	Transfers from Reserve	30/6/2021
Mount Gambier Cemetery		711	-	-	711
Mayor Christmas Appeal		57	12	-	69
Christmas Parade		-	-	(3)	(3)
Junior Sports Assistance Fund		106	1		107
TOTAL OTHER RESERVES		874	13	(3)	884
Comparatives		860	22	(8)	874

PURPOSES OF RESERVES

Asset Revaluation Reserve

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's Christmas Appeal

The Mayor's 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.

Christmas Parade

The Christmas Parade reserve represents bank funds and payables of the City of Mount Gambier related to the Christmas Parade to be used for that purpose. This is negative as a result of the cost of the 20/21 parade following COVID-19 Restrictions.

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.

Note 9 - Reconciliation to 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:

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Total cash & equivalent assets	5	1,893	4,406
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		1,893	4,406

(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities

Net Surplus (Deficit)		1,430	(285)
Non-cash items in Income Statement			
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment		7,940	7,625
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		53	315
Premiums & discounts recognised & unwound		14	(13)
Change in allowances for under-recovery		61	-
Non-cash asset acquisitions		(3,847)	(737)
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as Investing Activity		(555)	-
Net (Gain) Loss on Disposals		730	472
		5,826	7,377
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets			
Net (increase) decrease in receivables		(2,208)	(186)
Net (increase) decrease in inventories		8	(28)
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables		3,296	(269)
Net increase (decrease) in other provisions		60	219
Net increase (decrease) in other liabilities		-	14
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations		6,982	7,127

(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities

Acquisition of assets by means of:			
Physical resources received free of charge	2	1,230	737
Amounts recognised in Income Statement		1,230	737
Leases		21	-
Estimated future reinstatement etc. costs		210	-
		1,461	737

(d) Financing Arrangements

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

Bank Overdrafts		250	250
Corporate Credit Cards		30	30
LGFA Cash Advance Debenture facility		20,000	10,000

The bank overdraft facilities may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

INCOMES, EXPENSES AND ASSETS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES										
	INCOME		EXPENSES		OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME		TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Administration/ Support Services	25,156	24,718	6,380	6,018	18,776	18,700	3,410	3,395	20,824	21,621
Community Support	808	847	1,918	2,016	(1,110)	(1,169)	1	-	20,534	21,149
Culture	298	517	4,086	4,097	(3,788)	(3,580)	185	255	26,034	27,277
Economic Development	188	229	1,871	2,530	(1,683)	(2,301)	-	-	3,890	4,105
Environment	4,355	5,377	8,470	8,328	(4,115)	(2,951)	201	127	11,075	10,957
Recreation	1,397	93	5,160	4,277	(3,763)	(4,184)	31	-	74,411	56,741
Regulatory Services	736	520	1,232	1,285	(496)	(765)	-	-	18	19
Transport	728	455	3,817	3,504	(3,089)	(3,049)	677	450	103,715	103,115
Engineering/ Indirect	(171)	(46)	2,347	1,212	(2,518)	(1,258)	-	-	8,965	8,273
Unclassified Activities	-	28	(39)	21	39	7	-	-	77	81
TOTALS	33,495	32,738	35,242	33,288	(1,747)	(550)	4,505	4,227	269,543	253,338

Note 10 - Components of Functions (cont.)

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, Regional Landscape 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.

Unclassified activities

Finance charges and investment revenue, private works and sundry property maintenance.

Engineering/indirect

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

Note 11 - Financial Instruments

All financial instruments are categorised as *loans and receivables*.

Accounting Policies - Recognised Financial Instruments

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits

Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, interest is recognised when earned

Terms & conditions: Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 0.3% and 1.95% (2020: 1.95%).

Carrying amount: approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - Rates & Associated

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 0.43% (2020: 6.35%) Although 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 & other charges

Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method

Terms & conditions: Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.

Carrying amount: approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - other levels of government

Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms & conditions: Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments.

Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals

Accounting Policy: Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.

Terms & conditions: Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

Liabilities - Interest Bearing Borrowings

Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost, interest is charged as an expense using the effective interest rate

Terms & conditions: secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable; interest is charged at fixed or variable rates between 1.3% and 5.97% (2020: 5.97%)

Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

Liabilities - Finance Leases

Accounting Policy: accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 as stated in note 15

Note 11 - Financial Instruments (cont.)

Liquidity Analysis

2021	Due < 1 year \$'000	Due > 1 year < 5 years \$'000	Due > 5 years \$'000	Total Contractual Cash Flows \$'000	Carrying Values \$'000
Financial Assets					
Cash & Equivalents	1,893	-	-	1,893	1,893
Receivables	4,154	-	-	4,154	4,154
Total	6,047	-	-	6,047	6,047
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	2,938	-	-	2,938	2,938
Current Borrowings	11,895	-	-	11,895	219
Lease Liabilities	228	-	-	228	228
Non-Current Borrowings	-	2,164	-	2,164	13,502
Total	15,061	2,164	-	17,225	16,887

2020	Due < 1 year \$'000	Due > 1 year < 5 years \$'000	Due > 5 years \$'000	Total Contractual Cash Flows \$'000	Carrying Values \$'000
Financial Assets					
Cash & Equivalents	4,406	-	-	4,406	4,406
Receivables	1,058	-	-	1,058	1,058
Total	5,464	-	-	5,464	5,464
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	2,849	-	-	2,849	2,849
Current Borrowings	206	-	-	206	206
Lease Liabilities	352	18	-	370	370
Non-Current Borrowings	-	2,171	-	2,171	2,171
Total	3,407	2,189	-	5,596	5,596

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

	30 June 2021		30 June 2020	
	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Carrying Value \$'000	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Carrying Value \$'000
Other Variable Rates	1.79%	11,550	-	-
Fixed Interest Rates	5.97%	2,171	5.97%	2,747
		13,721		2,747

Note 11 - Financial Instruments (cont.)

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 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 - Commitments for Expenditure

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Capital Commitments			
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:			
Buildings & Other Structures		41,206	455
Infrastructure			
- Footpaths and Kerbing		-	2
- Roads		-	8
Plant & Equipment		369	440
Office Equipment		-	78
Other		-	1
		41,575	984
These expenditures are payable:			
Not later than one year		41,575	984
		41,575	984

Note 13 - Financial Indicators

	2021	2020	2019
Operating Surplus Ratio			
Operating Surplus	-5.2%	-1.7%	1.4%
Total Operating Income			
This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of total operating revenue.			
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio			
Net Financial Liabilities	62%	18%	11%
Total Operating Income			
Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets. These are expressed as a percentage of total operating revenue.			
Adjustments to Ratios			
In recent years the Federal Government has made advance payments prior to 30th June from future year allocations of financial assistance grants, as explained in Note 1. These Adjusted Ratios correct for the resulting distortion in key ratios for each year and provide a more accurate basis for comparison between years.			
Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio	-5.3%	-1.2%	-0.7%
Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	67%	17%	10%
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio			
Outlays on Existing Assets	84%	105%	68%
Asset Renewals - IAMP			

Asset renewals expenditure is defined as capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets, and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets.

Note 14 - Uniform Presentation of Finances

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

	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
Income		33,495		32,738
Expenses		(35,242)		(33,288)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,747)		(550)
Net Outlays on Existing Assets				
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	(5,326)		(5,627)	
Add back Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	7,940		7,625	
Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	393		385	
		3,007		2,383
Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets				
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets (including investment property & real estate developments)	(16,298)		(3,813)	
Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets	555		-	
Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	-		72	
		(15,743)		(3,741)
Net Lending/(Borrowing) for Financial Year		(14,483)		(1,908)

Note 15 - Leases

Council as a Lessee

Right of Use Asset

Council entered contracts as a lessee for various IT equipment, the Dimjalla skate park and RFID

Set out below are the carrying amounts (written down value) of right of use assets recognised within Infrastructure Property, Plant & Equipment

Carrying Value	Office	Other	Total
At 1 July 2020	350	22	372
Additions	21	-	21
Depreciation Charge	(155)	(10)	(165)
At 30 June 2021	216	12	228

Set out below are the carrying amounts of lease liabilities (including under interest bearing loans and borrowings) and the movements during the period:

	2021
Opening Balance 1 July 2020	370
Additions	21
Accretion of Interest	18
Payments	(181)
Closing Balance 30 June 2021	228
Current	228
Non Current	-
The maturity analysis of lease liabilities is included in note 11	

Council and its associated entities (the group) had total cash outflows for leases of **\$183,000**.

The following are amounts recognised on profit or loss:

Depreciation expense of right of use assets.	165
Interest expense on lease liabilities	18
Total amount recognised in profit and loss	183

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 Statewide Super (formerly Local Government Superannuation Scheme). 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 (9.50% in 2019-20; 9.50% in 2020-21) and enterprise bargaining agreement (1% in 2021 and 2020). 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 based on a formula determined by the member's contribution rate, number of years 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 2019-20) of "superannuation" salary.

In addition, Council makes a separate contribution of 3% of ordinary time earnings for Salarylink members to their Accumulation account plus an additional 1% per enterprise bargaining agreement. 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 2020. 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.

Note 17 - Contingent Assets and Contingent Liabilities

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position but knowledge of those items is considered relevant to user of the financial report in making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of scarce resources.

1. Land Under Roads

As reported elsewhere in these 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 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.

At reporting date, Council controlled 229 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 a deductible "insurance excess", 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. Bank Guarantees

Council has guaranteed certain loans and other banking facilities advanced to community organisations and sporting bodies, amounting to \$721,721 (2020: \$210,000) at reporting date.

Council does not expect to incur any loss arising from these guarantees.

4. 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.

5. Wulanda

On 24 August 2020 Council signed a contract with BADGE Constructions for a total of \$57.3 million, which commits Council to \$31.95 million toward the construction of the Community and Recreation Hub (Wulanda), the refurbishment of the existing outdoor pool and additional car parking and landscaping works at Olympic Park.

Prior to this Council signed a grant agreement with the Commonwealth Government that commits Council to capital spend of \$13.8 million on Wulanda. Through this agreement, Council secured funding and will be the recipient of \$15 million from the Federal Government and \$10 million from the State Government towards the build. Additionally, the District Council of Grant has committed to \$350,000 contribution towards the funding for this project.

Note 18 – Related Party Disclosures

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, 16 persons were paid the following total compensation:

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	974	1,122
Post-employment benefits	72	93
Long term benefits	41	-
TOTAL	1,087	1,215

PARTIES RELATED TO KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Two key management personnel and/or relatives of key management personnel are members in organisations that received Council support in the year, e.g. through sponsorship of community and sporting.

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 \$211.28 with the total cumulative spend for 20/21 being \$1,890.73.

No key management personnel or close family member (including related parties) lodged a planning application during the year.

David Chant CA, FCPA
Simon Smith CA, FCPA
David Sullivan CA, CPA
Jason Seidel CA
Renaë Nicholson CA
Tim Muhlhausler CA
Aaron Coonan CA
Luke Williams CA, CPA
Daniel Moon CA



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under Professional Standards Legislation

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, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Council Certificate of the City of Mount Gambier.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2021, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, *Local Government Act 1999* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described 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 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 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

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 that is 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 related 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 Responsibility 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 an audit conducted in accordance with 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 this financial report.

As part of an audit of the financial report in accordance with 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 of the financial report 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 management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of 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.

GALPINS ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS



Tim Muhlhausler CA Registered Company Auditor
Partner

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the City of Mount Gambier

Independent Assurance report on the Internal Controls of the City of Mount Gambier

Opinion

We have audited the compliance of the City of Mount Gambier with 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 2019 to 30 June 2021 have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

In our opinion, the City of Mount Gambier has complied, in all material respects, with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to Internal Controls established by the Council in relation 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 2019 to 30 June 2021 .

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our engagement in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3100 *Compliance Engagements*, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, in order to state whether, in all material respects, the Council has complied with Section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls specified above for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021 . ASAE 3100 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The Council's Responsibility for 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, 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 apply Auditing Standard ASQC 1 *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements* in undertaking this assurance engagement.

Auditor's responsibility

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. Our engagement has been conducted in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3100 Compliance Engagements, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, in order to state whether, in all material respects, the Council has complied with Section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls specified above for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021. ASAE 3100 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Our procedures included obtaining an understanding of controls in relation to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities, evaluating management's assessment of these controls, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and implementation of controls on a sample basis based on the assessed risks.

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 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.

Limitation of Use

This report has been prepared for the members of the Council in Accordance with Section 129 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 which it was prepared

GALPINS ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

Tim Muhlhausler CA, Registered Company Auditor
Partner

20 / 10 / 2021

Council Certificate of Audit Independence

**City of Mount Gambier
Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2021**

CERTIFICATION OF AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of the City of Mount Gambier for the year ended 30 June 2021, the Council's Auditor, Galpins Accountants, Auditors & Business Consultants, 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


.....
Cr Sonya Meziniec
PRESIDING MEMBER
AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: 20/09/2021

Audit Certificate of Audit Independence

**City of Mount Gambier
Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2021**

STATEMENT BY AUDITOR

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of City of Mount Gambier for the year ended 30 June 2021, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Section 290, 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*.



Tim Muhlhausler

Galpins Accountants, Auditors & Business Consultants

Dated this 20th day of October 2021



LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



WELCOME

2020/21 was a year that tested every aspect of our society as we responded to the challenge from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The pandemic is far from over and will continue to be a challenge for the world as we adapt to a new Covid-19 world norm.

For LCLGA the Pandemic meant flexibility in everything we did and innovation and agility in our program delivery during 2020/21.

I note that in 2020/21, there were over 400 South Australian, Victorian and Federal Government announcements on Covid-19. This demonstrates how rapidly our operating environment was changing and as a cross border community keeping track of these changes has been incredibly challenging.

Despite this challenge, LCLGA has successfully delivered the business plan.

We would like to extend a special thank you to those agencies that have partnered with us throughout 2020/21. Without your valuable contribution, advice, time and support, many of our projects would not go ahead, especially in the dynamic environment of the last twelve months. The South Australian Tourism Commission, Office for Recreation Sport and Racing, RDA Limestone Coast, Local Government Association of South Australia, Coastal Marine Board, State Government, the Victorian Cross Border Commissioner, the University of South Australia and the Australian Federal Government and finally our member Councils – your continued support is very much appreciated.

We acknowledge the tremendous efforts of Federal Member of Parliament Mr Tony Pasin MP and State Members Mr Troy Bell MP and Mr Nick McBride MP. Your assistance and support are not only valued but greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our dedicated staff over the past 12 months: Tony Wright, Michaela Bell, Tony Elletson, Biddie Shearing, Ali Auld, Sophie Bouchier, Mae Steele & Paul Manfrin.

The Annual Report includes an overview of the LCLGA's performance and what has been achieved in 2020/21.

I commend this years' Report to you and would like to acknowledge the continued support of the constituent council Mayors, elected members, Chief Executive Officers and Council staff.

Mayor Erika Vickery (OAM)

President LCLGA



INTRODUCTION

This document is the Annual Report of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) Inc. for the period 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. It has been prepared pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999 as a report to our Constituent Councils on the work and operations of the Association for the preceding financial year.

This Report details the activities of the Association to represent and serve our seven Constituent Councils and to advance the Limestone Coast communities through effective advocacy, facilitation and innovation.

Our Association

LCLGA was established as a regional body on 6th October 1885. We are a regional subsidiary representing our Constituent Councils in the Limestone Coast and is established under Section 43 of the Local Government Act 1999.

The Association is owned by the following Constituent Councils:

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

Under its Charter, LCLGA's objectives are to:

- Work in association with both the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA) and the Australian Local Government Association to assist in the achievement of their aims and objectives.
- 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.

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 2020-21

COUNCIL	DELEGATE	DEPUTY BOARD MEMBER/S
City of Mount Gambier	Mayor Lynette Martin (OAM)	Deputy Mayor Sonia Meziniec
District Council of Grant	Mayor Richard Sage	Cr Gillian Clayfield
Wattle Range Council	Mayor Des Noll	Deputy Mayor Moira Neagle Cr Dale Price
District Council of Robe	Mayor Alison Nunan	Cr David Laurie
Kingston District Council	Mayor Kay Rasheed	Cr Jodie Gluyas Cr Chris England
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	Mayor Erika Vickery (OAM)	Cr Scott McLachlan Cr Craig McGuire
Tatiara District Council	Mayor Graham Excell	Cr Robert Mock

The Board held six ordinary bi-monthly General Meetings, and The Annual General Meeting during 2020-2021. Meetings are hosted by Constituent Councils on a rotational basis.

Office Bearers 2020-2021

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 2021, Mayor Erika Vickery was again elected as LCLGA President, to serve in the position for a period of 12 months. Mayor Lynette Martin was elected as LCLGA Vice President and Major Richard Sage served as LCLGA Vice President from 2015 to February 2021.

During 2020-2021, the Executive Officer role was filled by Tony Wright.

Dean Newbery and Partners are the appointed Auditor.

During 2020-2021, LCLGA engaged the following staff to deliver regional programs:

STAFF MEMBER	ROLE
Tony Wright	Executive Officer
Michaela Bell	Program and Policy Coordinator
Tony Elletson	STARCLUB Field Officer - Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Coordinator
Biddie Shearing	Destination Development Manager
Ali Auld	Leadership Program
Sophie Bouchier	Substance Misuse Limestone Coast
Mae Steele (Until April 2021)	Executive Support Officer
Paul Manfrin (commenced June 28, 2021)	Corporate Services Officer

LCLGA WORKING PARTIES & COMMITTEES

Delegates to the Local Government Association of South Australia

Under the Constitution of the LGASA, regions are represented via appointed members to serve on the LGA Board and the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC).

	LC LGA REPRESENTATIVE
LGA Board	Mayor Erika Vickery
SAROC	Mayor Erika Vickery Mayor Richard Sage

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.

Association Committees and Working Parties

To undertake specific projects programs or fulfil areas of operational responsibility, LCLGA convenes a number of committees and working groups. LCLGA acknowledges the work of all who have contributed to the following committees and working groups throughout 2020-2021. *(The current appointments are listed, as of February 8, 2021)*

COMMITTEE / WORKING PARTY	REPRESENTATIVE	COUNCIL
LCLGA Roads and Transport Management Group	Cr Jamie Jackson (Presiding Member)	Tatiara District Council
	Mr Aaron Hillier	
	Cr Paul Jenner	City of Mount Gambier
	CEO or delegated staff member	
	Mr Daniel Willsmore	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Mr Dave Worthley	Kingston District Council
	Mr Peter Halton	Wattle Range Council
	Ms Lauren Oxlade (Proxy)	
Limestone Coast Economic Development Reference Group	Mr Adrian Schutz	District Council of Grant
	Mr Robert Noir	Robe District Council
	Cr Bob Bates (Proxy)	
	Mr Tony Wright	LCLGA
	Mrs Michaela Bell	
	Mr Trevor Smart	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Mayor Erika Vickery	
	Mayor Richard Sage	District Council of Grant
	CEO or delegated staff member (Proxy)	
	Ms Emma Clay	Wattle Range Council
	Mr Roger Balbolka	
	Cr Frank Morello	City of Mount Gambier
	CEO or delegated staff member	
	Mr James Holyman	District Council of Robe
	Ms Nat Traeger	Kingston District Council
	Mayor Graham Excell	Tatiara District Council
	Ms Anne Champness	
	Mr Tony Wright	LCLGA
	Mrs Michaela Bell	
	Mrs Biddie Shearing	

LCLGA WORKING PARTIES & COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE / WORKING PARTY	REPRESENTATIVE	COUNCIL
LCLGA Regional Waste Management Steering Committee	Mr Peter Halton (Chair) Ms Lauren Oxlade (Proxy)	Wattle Range Council
	Mr Dave Worthley	Kingston District Council
	Cr Paul Jenner CEO or delegated staff member	City of Mount Gambier
	Mr Leith McEvoy Mr Aaron Price	District Council of Grant
	Mr Robert Moir	Robe District Council
	Mr Aaron Hillier	Tatiara District Council
	Mr Tony Wright Mrs Michaela Bell	LCLGA
Tourism Management Group	Mr Mike Ryan (Proxy)	District Council of Grant
	Ms Camille Lehmann	District Council of Robe
	Ms Jayne Miller	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Ms Nat Traeger	Kingston District Council
	Ms Emma Clay Mr Roger Balbolka	Wattle Range Council
	CEO or delegate	City of Mount Gambier
	Mr Kingsley Green Ms Anne Champness	Tatiara District Council
	Mr Tony Wright Mrs Biddie Shearing	LCLGA
Regional Sport and Rec Advisory Group	Vacant - to be filled before next meeting	District Council of Grant
	Ms Heather Schinkel	Kingston District Council
	Mrs Jayne Miller	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Cr David Laurie Mayor Alison Nunan (Proxy)	District Council of Robe
	Ms Naomi Fallon	Tatiara District Council
	Ms Emma Clay	Wattle Range Council
	Cr Kate Amoroso	City Mount Gambier
	Mr Tony Wright Mr Tony Elletson	LCLGA
LCLGA Audit & Risk Committee	Mayor Richard Sage	District Council of Grant
	Mayor Erika Vickery	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Mr James Holyman	District Council of Robe
	Mr Paul Duka	Wattle Range Council
	Mr Tony Wright	LCLGA

LCLGA WORKING PARTIES & COMMITTEES

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 LC LGA to keep in touch with communities and have input to new and existing initiatives.

During 2020-2021, LCLGA made or continued the following appointments to other organisations.

(The current appointments are listed, as of February 8, 2021)

LCLGA APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT APPOINTMENTS	COUNCIL
South East Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC)	Ms Barbara Cernovskis	City of Mount Gambier
	Mr Daryl Whicker	District Council of Grant
Limestone Coast Zone Emergency Centre Committee (ZEST)	Mr Tony Wright (Local Government Controller)	LCLGA
	Mr Ben Hood (Local Government Deputy Controller)	City of Mount Gambier
Green Triangle Freight Action Plan - Implementation Management Group	Ms Barbara Cernovskis	City Mount Gambier
	Mr Tony Wright	LCLGA
Limestone Coast Community Services Roundtable	Mayor Erika Vickery	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Cr Moira Neagle	Wattle Range Council
Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast	Mayor Erika Vickery	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
Limestone Coast Bush Fire Management Committee	Mr David Hood	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Mr Roger Balbolka (Deputy)	Wattle Range Council
Southern Border Fire Coordination Association	Mr Roger Balbolka	Wattle Range Council
Local Government Association of SA - LGA Board	Mayor Erika Vickery (SAROC Chair)	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Mayor Richard Sage Proxy)	District Council of Grant
South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC)	Mayor Erika Vickery (SAROC Chair) Mayor Richard Sage LCLGA EO (Observer)	Naracoorte Lucindale Council District Council of Grant LCLGA
Group Training Employment	Cr Paul Jenner	City of Mount Gambier
AC Care	Mr Tony Wright	LCLGA

KEY RESULT AREAS

The Strategic Plan identifies three key result areas to focus and support our why of collectively building stronger communities. They are building:

1. Sustainable Communities 2. Stronger Economy 3. Member Capability

1. Building Sustainable Communities

A sustainable community has resilience, leadership, a healthy environment, optimistic mindset, community well-being, connected and inclusive with built environments where we want to live and those others want to join.

Over the 2020/21 year, building sustainable communities in a rapidly changing COVID-19 environment within a local government environment was the focus.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	OVERVIEW	KEY OUTCOMES
Our networks, members and stakeholders are connected and engaged	Engage with stakeholders	LGASA & SAROC	President of the LCLGA Mayor Erika Vickery and the LCLGA Executive Officer continue to attend SAROC meetings and have input into the many regional issues that are elevated to the LGASA Board for consideration.
		Regional Executive Officers	The Regional Executive Officers meet throughout the year to share information, coordinate regional activities and to support SAROC and LGASA.
		Green Triangle Freight Strategy	The GTFS is a reference group for the Vic and SA State Governments on the key freight issues that face the green triangle area. We are one of several stakeholders in this reference group.
		Local Members	As the peak Local Government body in the region, LCLGA continues to work closely with our local Members of Parliament, Federal Member for Barker Mr Tony Pasin, Member for Mount Gambier Mr Troy Bell, and Member for Mackillop Mr Nick McBride, and commends the work they do on behalf of our region. In addition to maintaining these close working relationships, we also maintain close contact with both the State and Federal Government and regularly meets with Ministers and senior agency staff on issues relevant to the Region.
		Key Stakeholders (SA Gov & Industry)	LCLGA continued to work with our key stakeholders on issues relevant to our members. Of note, due to the pandemic was an increased engagement with the Victorian Cross Border Commissioner with the Victorian State Government and Councils.
		Create a social media presence to share stories	The formation of the Limestone Coast Tourism Industry Network was invaluable in sharing information with one of the most impacted sectors from Covid-19 during 2020/21.

KEY RESULT AREAS

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	OVERVIEW	KEY OUTCOMES
The governance, effective management and capabilities of sporting clubs continues to improve	Star Club Program	Deliver the program to over 300 clubs in the Limestone Coast	The Star Club Program promotes involvement in recreation and sport by supporting all sporting and recreation clubs in the Limestone Coast in the areas of leadership, financial sustainability, compliance, planning and volunteer management. LCLGA hosts the Starclub Field Officer, who serves as an on-ground resource and a conduit between clubs, councils, associations and the Office of Recreation and Sport.
Incubator project outcomes are successful	Deliver incubator projects (Sports Academy, Leadership & SMLC)	<p>An incubator project is essentially an experiment to see if there is value in a project.</p> <p>The intent with incubator projects is they have a limited duration before transitioning to a more sustainable delivery model.</p>	<p>The LCLGA sponsors the delivery of the South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance</p> <p>The LCLGA continues to support the Substance Misuse Limestone Coast (SMLC) project, Sports Academy & LC Leadership Program. (Separate reports included)</p>
Regional Health Plan is approved	Develop a Regional Health Plan.	<p>Working with six of our members, we developed a new Regional Health Plan for the Limestone Coast (LCLGA & SA Health).</p> <p>This followed extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders.</p>	At the LCLGA General Meeting, 9 th April 2021, the Board adopted the 2021-2026 Limestone Coast Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Plan.
Our members and stakeholders are supported to access stimulus packages	Access funding for our region & members	We work with partners to develop proposals to access funding, particularly in Sports and Destination areas.	A funding & grant database was developed detailing available state, federal & local funding opportunities.
			Throughout the year our staff continually monitor the grants environment to assess opportunities as they arrive. In this past year we have been able to attract additional funding via ad-hoc grant programs and supported many businesses and sporting organisations in their endeavours to develop funding applications and seek grant funding.

KEY RESULT AREAS

2. Building Stronger Economy

A strong economy relies on human capital (skills, knowledge, and innovation), financial capital (investment), productivity (more from less), realising local competitive advantages, entrepreneurialism, value clusters, increased supply chain value capture from exports, capturing local value (buy local); and attracting spend from outside our area (investment and visitation).

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	OVERVIEW	KEY OUTCOMES
The Limestone Coast economy recovery plan is delivered	Implement and develop the Economic Growth Strategy (Covid 19)	A Recovery & Rebuilding Action Plan was created as a response to support our region during the initial impact from Covid-19	The Recovery & Rebuilding Action Plan outlined 34 actions under 5 key themes of Economic Sustainability, Advocacy & Leadership, Communication, Events and Planning.
		We continued to support the sharing of information under the economic growth strategy. The strategy will need to be reviewed as we progress into a more certain covid-19 environment.	We convened the Limestone Coast Economic Development Group and maintain the Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy. The LCLGA partners with RDA Limestone Coast as opportunities arise to assist economic development projects for the Region.
Destination marketing strategy is approved, and implementation commences	Destination Marketing Strategy	Develop a new Destination strategy. The plan was developed as Covid-19 emerged which means the final plan includes the impact of the pandemic in its strategies.	The new strategy was endorsed, ready to begin implementation in 2021/22. However, due to the pandemic, an interim plan was developed to support the Tourism industry,
Regional Roads Strategy is updated and approved	Review and update the Regional Transport Strategy and database	The Regional Transport Strategy and Database are critical to support regional priorities for grant funding for significant roads.	We completed the review and update of the Regional Routes, Road Action Plan and Regional Roads Database, with the support of HDS Australia. There has been an increase in the overall cost to implement all high priority upgrades from 19.8 million to 27.3 million.

KEY RESULT AREAS

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	OVERVIEW	KEY OUTCOMES
A preferred regional waste solution is identified		<p>Several studies have assessed the opportunity to develop an economically feasible regional Materials Recycling Facility in the Limestone Coast.</p> <p>All of them indicate it is only sustainable if the volumes of waste include waste from Western Victoria to achieve economies of scale.</p>	<p>The LCLGA Regional Waste Management Steering Committee was successful in securing funding from the LGASA research fund to undertake a study in partnership with the University of SA into the risks and feasibility of a regional MRF.</p> <p>The analysis shows that a low tech MRF is financially viable with the optimal solution providing a positive net present value of \$11.8m, assuming a capital cost of \$5.4m over 15 years of operations.</p> <p>The optimal option assumes the plant has access to waste volumes from the Limestone Coast and West Wimmera and Glenelg Council regions.</p> <p>An independent study by the Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recycling Group concluded that the most efficient resource recovery strategy for Western Victoria was for MRF to be developed in Geelong, Ballarat and Mount Gambier.</p> <p>The Board has provided resources in the 2021/22 budget to test the governance and risk allocation of a regional MRF.</p>
Collaboration opportunities on cross border projects are agreed	Cross Border Partnerships	Whilst significantly impacted by Covid-19 we have continued to work to develop cross border projects and partnership	<p>Joint projects and agreements have been developed in Tourism with cross border Councils.</p> <p>Cross border engagement between Sports Academies progressed to cross border competition (when travel permitted).</p> <p>Very frequent (almost weekly) engagement with the Victorian Cross Border Commissioner.</p> <p>Engagement on cross border waste opportunities and emergency management (including trials).</p>
Joint Planning Board is approved by the Minister and established	Establish the Joint Planning Board (JPB)	<p>Under the PDI Act a region can establish a JPB with agreement from the Minister.</p> <p>Where there is no JPB the State Government develops the Regional Plan.</p>	<p>Discussions with State Government and other regional Councils have highlighted a number of challenges to establishing a limited tenure (10 years) JPB.</p> <p>These issues and understanding the value proposition of forming a JPB are continuing to be worked through with our members and the State Government.</p>

KEY RESULT AREAS

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	OVERVIEW	KEY OUTCOMES
	RDALC Deliverables	The RDALC and LCLGA are important organisations for the Limestone Coast, and we work together to create opportunities for our community.	<p>The RDALC receive \$90k in funding from our members for the provision of Small Business Support services which they report on to Councils and to the LCLGA Board.</p> <p>These reports are included in our Board agendas.</p>
	Red Meat Cluster	The Red Meat industry is an important sector of the Limestone Coast Economy. We provide administrative support to help this group meet.	The LCLGA continues to provide support to the Red Meat Cluster by organising meetings on behalf of the Group.

KEY RESULT AREAS

3. Building Member Capability

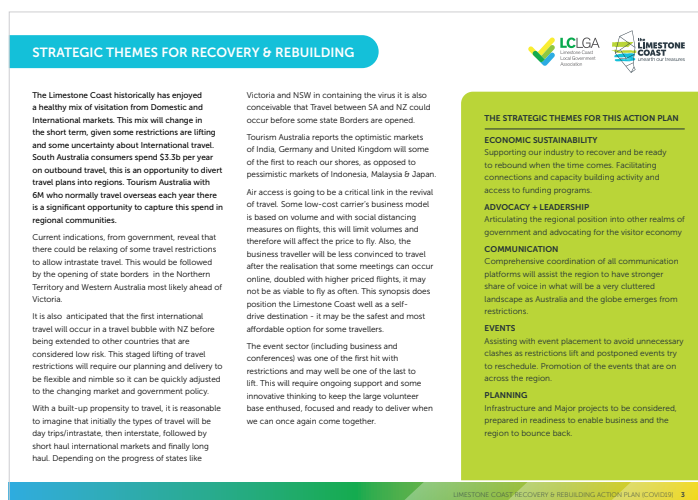
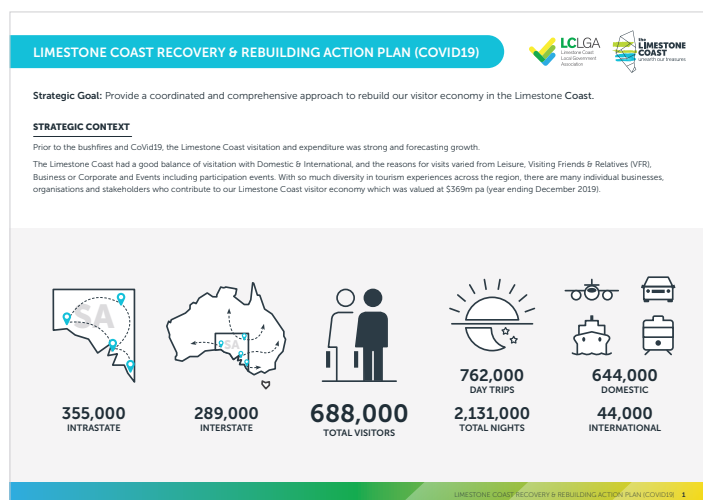
Building our capability focuses on increasing the availability and access to resources, reducing costs, improving performance, developing new skills and knowledge, leveraging our member's abilities for collective benefits; and developing and growing our employee's capabilities across our region.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	OVERVIEW	KEY OUTCOMES
Priority skills and resource sharing and funding arrangements (including grants) commenced and Shared procurement delivers improved value	Coordinate and implement models for shared and hard to source resources	Working together to sustain our local contact with our community whilst also leveraging economies of scale for our region is the balance sought under resource sharing.	<p>Whilst there is still more to be done to share our resources the following shared services were in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Developing the Regional Health & Wellbeing Plan. › Regional Roads Strategy › Joint Grant for Coastal Projects (auspiced by Wattle Range) › Regional Heritage Advisory Services › Joint activities in Destination marketing (including attending Camping Expo's) <p>Contract databases for waste have been developed to enable an assessment of opportunities as contracts expire.</p> <p>A review of a shared procurement on road sealing showed little gain due to requirements for local contractors and differing specifications.</p>
Elected members knowledge and engagement with each other is improved, and Members collaborate effectively through LCLGA forums, committees and working groups	Member's communications and dashboards; and member meetings and forums.	<p>A key part of the LCLGA value proposition is keeping our members informed and connected. This was even more pronounced in 2020/21 due to the pandemic.</p> <p>Our working groups are the engine room for the delivery of outcomes in our program areas</p>	<p>Engagement with members has continued, with a new initiative of weekly CEO and Mayor meetings which provided significant value in keeping our members connected during Covid-19.</p> <p>The dashboard is due for completion in December 2021.</p> <p>Our working groups in health, roads and waste continue to meet to implement their work plans and strategies.</p>
Our members are prepared for the impacts (if any) from the SA Productivity Commission review into local government	<p>We are keeping in contact with the required changes from the review.</p> <p>Provide analysis, advice & advocacy positions</p>	We are keeping engaged and aware of issues that impact our members, including developing submissions and position papers.	This continues to be a watching brief and, in particular, the impact from moving to economic, regulatory review of rates.

Destination Development Program

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) reshaped the regional tourism program into a broader Destination Development program to bring together regional branding and activities to grow the visitor economy and regional prosperity.

To assist in the delivery of this program, the LCLGA members increased their investment in the program to leverage our strategic partnership with the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) to securing additional funds. These funds were important as they helped deliver the Limestone Coast Recovery & Rebuilding Action Plan in response to the impact of Covid to support our regions tourism sector.



The Recovery & Rebuilding Action Plan outlined 34 actions under 5 key themes of Economic Sustainability, Advocacy & Leadership, Communication, Events and Planning.

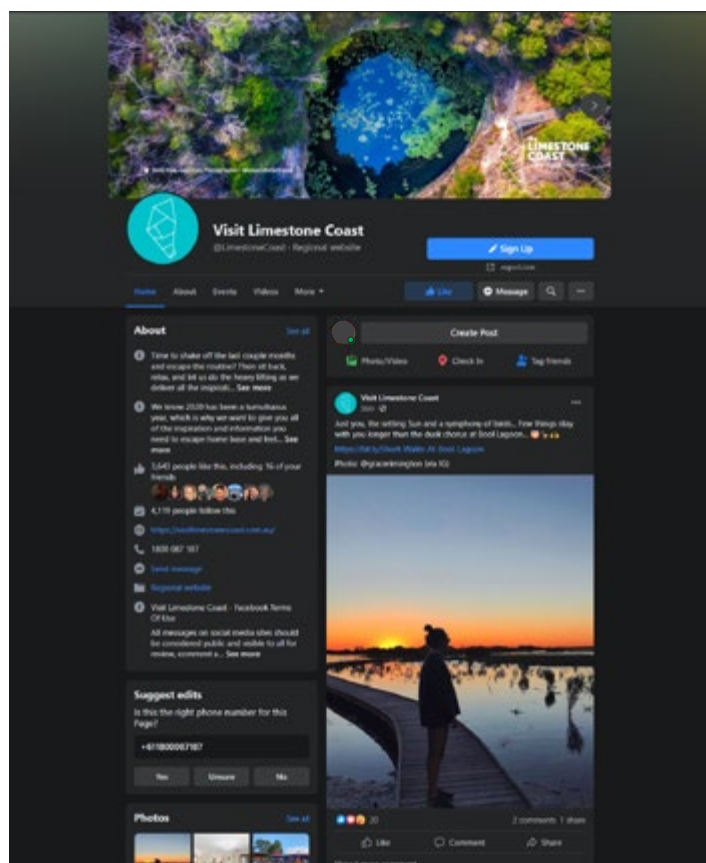
One of the critical actions was supporting the tourism industry to recover, be ready to rebound from Covid-19 restrictions and improve access to funding programs.

We also established a Closed Facebook Group called Limestone Coast Tourism Industry Network as a 2-way communication platform, with 432 businesses engaged as of 30th June 2021.

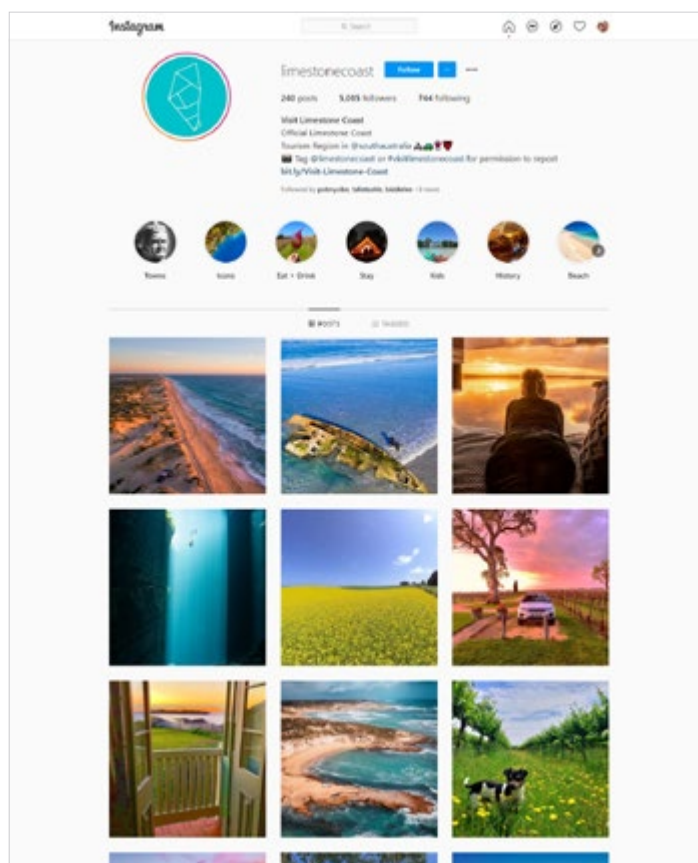
The Recovery & Rebuilding Action Plan was a bridging plan while the region developed a Destination Development Strategy. The new strategy was endorsed, ready to begin implementation in the FY 2021/22. However, due to the depth of the pandemic some actions were accelerated into 2020/21. These actions included improving our digital presence and storytelling.

DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Digital Storytelling commenced October 2020 with the establishment and optimization of our social media platforms on Facebook & Instagram, plus officially registered the hashtag #visitlimestonecoast which is now universally used. See below table for our online community growth + engagement, noting the Industry Standard for engagement for Instagram 4.35% and Facebook 0.45%



www.facebook.com/LimestoneCoast

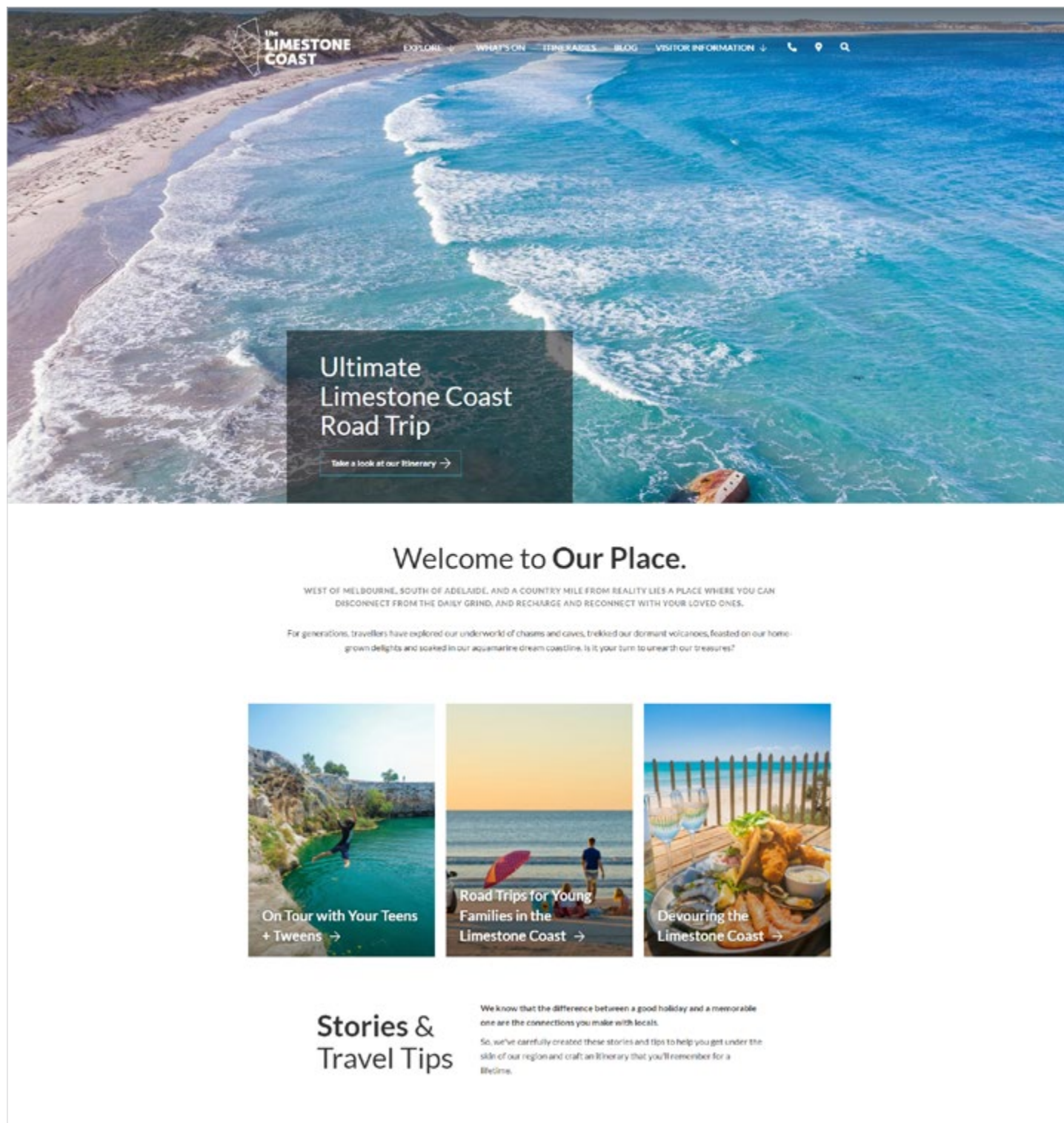


www.instagram.com/limestonecoast

	Instagram Reach	Instagram Engagement	Facebook Reach	Facebook Engagement	TOTAL Reach	Total Community
Nov 2020	36,145	16.92%	57,732	45%	93,877	2,665
Dec 2020	37,867	47.2%	57,902	17%	95,769	3,465
Jan 2021	40,889	25.16%	71,875	19%	112,764	4,230
Feb 2021	71,381	7.30%	103,705	4.29%	175,086	5,791
Mar 2021	80,365	7.40%	39,006	6.55%	119,371	6,433
Apr 2021	69,849	7.66%	100,700	6.85%	170,549	7,212
May 2021	79,240	8.92%	76,097	6.94%	155,337	7,739
Jun 2021	79,646	6.29%	48,060	5.3%	127,706	8,196
YTD TOTAL	495,382		555,077		1,050,057	8,196

DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The centrepiece to our digital infrastructure www.visitlimestonecoast.com.au was designed and built with a soft launch in June 2021. This included blogs, itineraries, and for the first time, the ability for consumers to 'sign-up' to our monthly e-newsletter - set to commence September 2021.



www.visitlimestonecoast.com.au

DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

With the uplift in domestic tourism, specifically self-drive, the Limestone Coast welcomed an official Regional Visitors Guide for the first time since 2016 with 55,000 copies produced. This has been placed in over 100 Adelaide Metropolitan Hotels and car hire locations.

The Guide was a useful resource when the region attended the Adelaide Caravan & Camping Show in February 2021 to engage with potential visitors to visit. This presence was well supported by the Limestone Coast councils by providing members from their visitor servicing teams to help on the site. Attendance at the event was higher than previous years with 31,244 people.

The Limestone Coast continued to work with the Adelaide Convention Bureau to attract and secure business events to the region. We participated in a trade event called Connect SAFE which saw a higher level of enquiry due to our regional location and proximity to both Adelaide & Melbourne, along with our open spaces and natural attractions.

limestonecoastvisitorguide.partica.online/limestone-coast-visitor-guide/limestone-coast-vg-2021/flipbook/FC/



As part of our strategic partnership with the SATC, the Destination Development Manager supported 8 applications in the Regional Events Fund. All 8 events received a level of funding to contribute towards their marketing efforts that could lead to increased visitation and expenditure in the region. This is the highest number of events that have been funded through this program since its inception.

While the international borders are closed, the region remained in contact with offshore agents (Wholesalers & Inbound Tour Operators) in a virtual capacity. This deliberate approach has positioned the region strongly for when the borders re-open. We also participated in virtual and face to face training for domestic travel agents. Events were facilitated by SATC or Tourism Australia (or both) including –

- › South Korea Agents – 166 agents
- › Australia Marketplace China, United Kingdom, Europe, North America – total of 160 appointments
- › Australia Tourism Exchange Live & Online – 211 appointments
- › Ocean to Outback – German Speaking Agents – 24 appointments
- › SATC Trade Webinars – 82 agents
- › Destination Australia – international market briefings.

DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Limestone Coast continues to be a financial member of the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) which enables the region to be viewed credibly when being represented internationally and domestically in the trade distribution system. The region also holds a position on the South Australian Branch Committee of ATEC, the Destination Development Manager, remains Chairperson which involves contributing to the national voice concerning inbound business and its sustainability.

Through this Association, the Limestone Coast participated in exclusive ATEC trade events that bring together the Inbound Tour Operators (ITO's), arguably the heart of the tourism supply chain and destinations and tourism operators. Events attended included -

- › South Australia B2B Event – 27 appointments
- › Virtual Australia Meeting Place – 26 appointments



The SATC's Tourism Industry Development Fund was embraced by Limestone Coast businesses, with over 60 businesses considering a submission with a known total investment in the pipeline of \$145m. While this created important stimulus for the region it also provided further opportunity for the destination development manager to engage and support industry. As 30th June 2021 the region has 8 successful applicants with an injection of \$744,865 into our economy.

The Destination Development Manager assisted with the acquittal for the \$450k Mixed Dozen Project which collaborated with 12 Funding Partners with a range of key outcomes and achievements included, but not limited to:

- › Itinerary planning website developed and launched www.limestonecoast.org.au
- › 6 new wine tourism itineraries.
- › 10 Experience Development Mentoring Program participants.
- › A wide range of Marketing collateral produced – print and digital.
- › Industry Toolkit developed and shared with stakeholders – 7 Fact Sheets on Wine Tourism Experience Development.
- › Overall NPS score improvement of 12 points from 63 to 75 over the project.
- › Increase in ATDW Listings by 9.6% for the Limestone Coast Region from October 2018 to April 2020.
- › Increase in Wine Tourism Experiences in the region from below 5 to over 65,

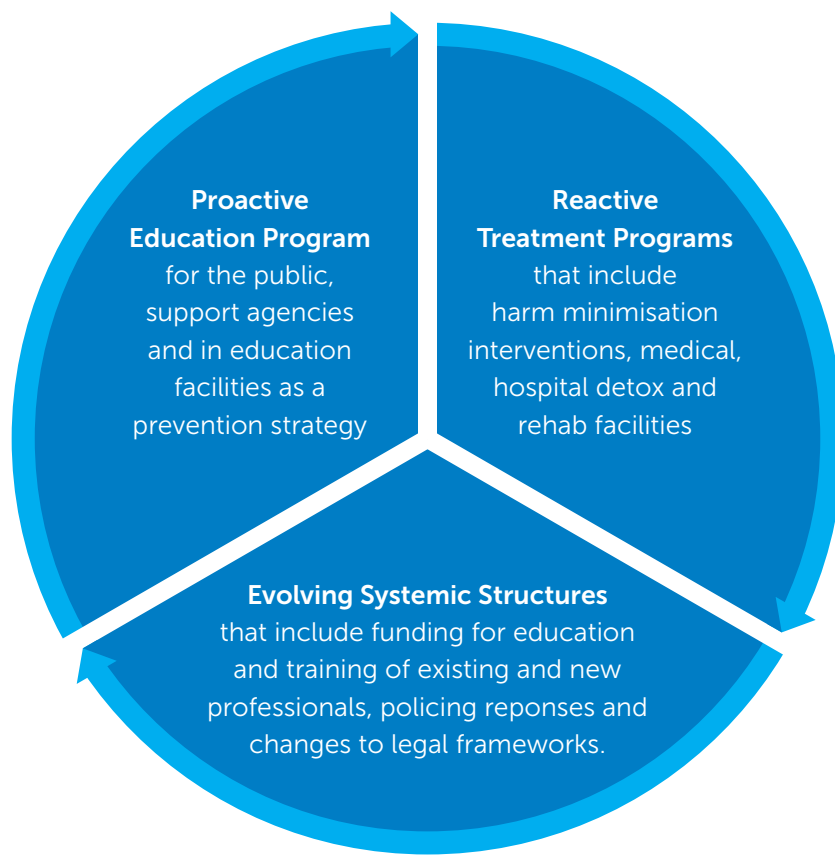
The pandemic and various internal domestic border closures have heightened the Limestone Coasts importance of cross-border collaboration. The LCLGA has broadened its cross-border formality with a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the Glenelg Shire Council in addition to the existing MoU with Wimmera Mallee Tourism. Extensive communication continues with Great Ocean Road Tourism & Southern Grampians Shire to complete the cross-border framework.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE LIMESTONE COAST

The work of SMLC is focused on research and evidence.

SMLC's origins are inspired by the work of the Western Region Alcohol and Drug Service and research by the Victorian Parliament's inquiry into the Supply and Use of Methamphetamines, and in their subsequent Ice Action Plan. While the issues and responses are complex, SMLC have focused on our objectives which match key elements of the Victorian Ice Action Plan and National and State Alcohol and Other Drug Strategies.

With 3-years funding from the Federal Department of Health, SMLC is progressing elements of these stages which are included in our objectives.



Objective: Supporting Limestone Coast schools embed evidence based AOD education into curriculum.

1. Climate Schools

Multiple school visits to 13 secondary schools in the Limestone Coast including non-government schools to promote Climate Schools as current best practice for secondary school Alcohol and other drug (AOD) education was undertaken during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Climate Schools is a sustainable, evidence based, on-line learning program, with research showing delayed uptake for alcohol and cannabis making it suitable for all secondary students from years 7-10.

SMLC negotiated with the Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use, University of Sydney, to reduce the cost of Climate Schools from \$900 to \$250 per annum to make the program accessible and potentially more appealing for smaller Limestone Coast Schools. In recognition of homeschooling during the Covid-19 Pandemic, Climate Schools is free for all secondary schools. This was widely promoted to all schools as the program is also suitable for teachers to manage via distance and at-home learning.

Eight secondary schools are registered to access Climate Schools, and the Mount Gambier Community Library has a current registration to enable Agencies who house, and case manage young people who are not attending schools, access to the program.

Approximately 426 Limestone Coast students have accessed Climate Schools.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE LIMESTONE COAST

Substance use and mental health issues are the leading cause of burden of disease for young people, causing incredible morbidity, behavioural problems, mental illness, loss of income to self and global economy. Mental illness and substance use disorders begin in adolescence & early adulthood 15-24 years and the delays to seek treatment is incredibly long with the median delay to seek treatment being 18 years for alcohol treatment (Gore et.al. 2011).

Climate Schools aims to change and strengthen the school climate around AOD education, and the modules provide curriculum-consistent health education courses proved to reduce harm and improve student well-being.

www.climateschools.com.au



2. Planet Youth

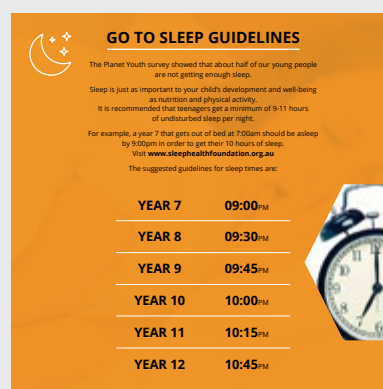
The Australian Planet Youth trial in the Limestone Coast:

Aligned with SMLC's proactive stance on school education, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) asked SMLC to coordinate the Planet Youth trial in the Limestone Coast starting with two Councils and four secondary schools. In 2019, the Limestone Coast became one of 5 Australian sites asked to be part of the Planet Youth trial. Planet Youth is an international evidence-based model to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors to reduce the incidence of AOD use in young people.



Data about local AOD use was collected during the Planet Youth school survey and used to promote Climate Schools as best practice for evidence based AOD school education.

SMLC has successfully advocated that every Government secondary school (12), in the Limestone Coast be included in the second round of the Planet Youth school survey and data collection in 2021.



Examples of Parent Guidelines inclusions.



Objective: To Build community awareness of addiction issues / Website / LinkedIn.

1. Agency Survey

The pandemic has significantly changed the landscape for access and service provision in the AOD and all other sectors with SMLC recognising the need for region specific evidence to inform future actions.

With input from the Limestone Coast Drug Action Team, SMLC designed a survey that was sent to government, non-government and private agencies across the Limestone Coast region gave us targeted insight to gain an informed understanding of where the current issues lie and what the future needs are for our community. SMLC is using the information from the 26 responding agencies to ensure drug and alcohol related issues in the region are accurately represented and is informing SMLC's planning for education, prevention, and harm reduction strategies.



SUBSTANCE MISUSE LIMESTONE COAST

The Impact of COVID-19 survey final report has been disseminated to all agencies in Limestone Coast Network meetings, LCLGA President Erika Vickery and Executive Officer Tony Wright, and a media release with the key findings was sent to all major media outlets.

Community education and awareness

Covid-19 limited SMLC's ability for community education forums and we adapted our strategies to educate and inform. SMLC has focussed on the rise of alcohol use at home during the pandemic. With more people working from home and reduced social gatherings, the "Time for Change" campaign focussed on how small increases in alcohol use at home can quickly become a new habit.

SMLC digital platforms for education and awareness

The importance of online resources was underscored during the pandemic and SMLC created a website to increase community awareness and provide information on alcohol and other drug issues.

The SMLC website www.smlc.org.au includes:

- › Services page Links to Limestone Coast & National services.
- › About Us Detailed information on Staff and Advisory Board.
- › Program page Highlights current programs SMLC is coordinating.
- › Campaign page Highlights community education, past and current.
- › Media page All media releases since 2019.

SMLC's LinkedIn page is at the following link:

www.linkedin.com/company/substance-misuse-limestone-coast/

Objective: Establish Community Partnerships

SMLC is a member of and regularly meets with the following National, State and Local networks:

- › Alcohol and Drug Foundation - Community Advisory Council (Chair)
- › Millicent Social Issues Team
- › Naracoorte Community Services Round Table
- › Limestone Coast Family Violence Action Group
- › Limestone Coast Community Services Round Table
- › Limestone Coast Drug Action Team
- › Aboriginal Community Connect – Advisory Reference Group
- › Planet Youth South Australia
- › South Australia Network of Drug & Alcohol Services
- › Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs
- › Mount Gambier Suicide Prevention Network

SMLC has positioned itself as an advocacy and point of focus for AOD issues across the region providing a strategic longer term evidence based perspective to action. We have a growing national and international presence and will continue to advocate for the region at regional, state and national forums.

Additionally, the Alcohol & Drug Foundation have highlighted SMLC's Project Officer, Sophie Bouchier in their story for International Women's Day, which they featured on their Website and LinkedIn posts;

community.adf.org.au/run-activities/stories/celebrate-women-ldat/

SUBSTANCE MISUSE LIMESTONE COAST

Objective: To establish a Board representing diverse community interests to build and champion the development of substance misuse infrastructure and a community-based collaborative model.

SMLC has become an Incorporated body with Charitable Status pending. SMLC has seven Advisory Board members, all experienced and professional people with a range of skills encompassing health, law, medicine, social work, financial management and governance. The Board has been instrumental in developing SMLC's Strategic Plan for 2021 and beyond, with an ongoing vision to reduce the impact and harm of alcohol and other drug use in the Limestone Coast.



STARCLUB PROGRAM

StarClub Program

Local Government recognises the importance of sporting and recreation clubs to regional communities, and is pleased to partner with the Office for Recreation and Sport to deliver the Star Club Program in the Limestone Coast.

The StarClub Program promotes involvement in recreation and sport by supporting all sporting and recreation clubs in the Limestone Coast in the areas of leadership, financial sustainability, compliance, planning and volunteer management. LCLGA hosts the Starclub Field Officer, who serves as an on-ground resource and a conduit between clubs, councils, associations and the Office of Recreation and Sport.

The long term goals of this program are:

- › To ensure clubs in the region are compliant with State and Federal Legislation,
- › Clubs are financially stable through prudent self-management and have access to appropriate funding
- › Maintain and build on membership, players and volunteers within the club.

The STARCLUB Field Officer provides support to clubs and associations in a number of areas:

Funding and Financial Stability

Awareness of grant availability and application support, increased eligibility through Starclub membership, and education and training regarding financial stability.

Volunteer Management

Sourcing and retaining volunteer support, running nationally-accredited training and education locally, information on education and training courses, providing templates for job descriptions for volunteers, Volunteer Management Policy assistance, ideas to involve, recognise and reward volunteers, and providing information on Succession Plans and complaints / conflict procedure.

Compliance

Occupational Work, Health and Safety for club staff and volunteers, Child Protection, constitutions - update, review or start from scratch, incorporation, affiliation with State or national bodies, compliance with the Discrimination Act, risk management and information on licensing requirements for clubs selling alcohol.

Planning

Long term maintenance of facilities, Strategic Planning, job descriptions, Codes of Conduct, Good Sports Program and Play by the Rules program.

The Starclub Field Officer is guided by the Regional Sport and Recreation Advisory Group, established with membership from all Constituent Councils. This Group provides direction and feedback for the Starclub Field Officer as well as determining issues for clubs and associations that can be dealt with on a regional level.

LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL SPORTING ACADEMY

Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy



In partnership with the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and the LCLGA, the Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy (LCRSA) inducted its first Inductees in October 2017 and commenced working with these Athletes in November, as part of a Pilot Program.

In June 2020 the LCLGA were successful in meeting certain requirements from the ORSR and obtained another \$70,000 to run the program for another 12 months. Once again the LCLGA partnered with the ORSR and the fourth year of the LCRSA was launched in October 2020. We were pleased to welcome back Hockey SA, Tennis SA, SASI Cycling and Athletics SA as official partners of the Academy, and were able to offer skill-based sessions for athletes in these sports and coaching development for local coaches as well. We were also excited to welcome two new sports to the program, Swimming and Basketball thanks to new partnerships formed with Swimming SA and the Mount Gambier Pioneers. We also continued to offer a Lonestar program for athletes from any sporting background.

We inducted 91 athletes into the Academy for the 2020/21 iteration. This was a rise of 19 from 2019/20

These athletes are provided with a 12-month Gym membership, a 12-month Elite Athlete Strength and Conditioning Program (2 sessions a week at the gym and an at home program), Coaching, Educational Sessions (Sports Psychology, Media Training, Coping with Pressure, Sporting Routines and Sports Nutrition), and High level testing at the University of SA's High Performance Centre in Adelaide. We are also able to live stream our Education sessions to athletes across the region who are unable to attend due to travel.

The program has given the athletes the chance to understand the training and preparation requirements to become an elite athlete, as well as improve their performances at school as well as on the field or track.

We also continued our partnership with Uni SA, who provide us with the venue for our Education sessions and Testing. The LCRSA is extremely pleased to also be supported by the M & G Hotel Group, who have provided us with 30 nights of free accommodation for athletes and families, as well as a reduced rate for athletes and families on an ongoing basis. We also welcomed the Commodore on the Park as a partner this year. The Commodore on the Park provide our visiting coaches and Educators with accommodation when they visit the region.





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. We have had two past Academy Alumni play for Glenelg in the SANFLW League Premiership side. One of these athletes was successful in being drafted by the Adelaide Crows and will begin training with them for the 2022 season soon.

We had an athlete win the 200m race at the Stawell Gift. Also one of our cyclists finished 3rd at the State titles after taking up the sport only 12 months ago. Our swimming athletes swam 88 personal best times in one event, (State Shortcourse Championships), with only 8 swimmers in the program this is a remarkable effort and comes about thanks to the international standard of coaching we have been able to bring into the program.

There are plenty more success stories that can be seen on our Facebook page. 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.



LIMESTONE COAST LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy

In its third year, the community capacity building program aims to develop people for Boards, Council, Community Leadership, Project Development and Governance, Industry and Business Associations and Sport, Recreation and Service Clubs. To stimulate and foster a diverse range of leaders in our region to support regional opportunities and address our challenges.



The program is delivered by the Leaders Institute of SA and includes the following topics:

- > Adaptive Leadership
- > Leadership Frameworks and Tools
- > Leading Change
- > Governance and Finance
- > Presentations and Public Speaking
- > Developing Teams and Motivating Others
- > Reactive v Creative Leadership



2021 Participants

Through the program participants are placed into working groups to undertake Community Action Projects, these projects address real regional issues.

Participants benefit through the journey, learning deeply about collaborative working and gaining valuable hands-on experience in complex fields and issues, while exploring the social and economic dynamics and issues across our region.

The projects being undertaken in 2021:

- > Future land use in the Limestone Coast
- > Adopt a Grandparent or Grand Friend
- > Can community leadership support Plant Youth trail?
- > Leadership Programs - how do you measure success for our communities?

LIMESTONE COAST LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Nick McBride, Member for MacKillop, Mayor Erika Vickery OAM together with LCLP partners Landscape Board Limestone Coasts, Kerry DeGaris and EML, General Manager Jessica Lyon took the opportunity to present to the 2021 group on Induction Day.

With the program delivered in each council area. Mayors were invited to present to the participants to share their unique or similar council areas issues, opportunities, and challenges together with their own leadership journey if desired.



LIMESTONE COAST LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Limestone Coast Leadership Program 2021 Partners



Limestone Coast Council areas provide in-kind venue and catering support to the program.

Participants for 2021

- > 15 (10 Female and 5 Male)
- > Representatives from migrant, disability, and from five of the seven Limestone Coast council areas

Participants are expected to: attend induction session, overnight workshops, monthly full day sessions and graduation event, in addition to out of session community action project work, substantial pre reading and research and written reflections.

Participants present an overview of their CAP reports at the Graduation Event. CAP reports are made available on the Limestone Coast Leadership program page of www.lclga.sa.gov.au

Alumni of the Limestone Coast Leadership Program are actively involved within the Limestone Coast region including but not limited to:

- > Gaining positions and/or joining boards and committees
- > Leading campaigns for additional services and/or advocating for change
- > Grant application to deliver community 'governance training'
- > Advocating in disability awareness and for disability services
- > Gaining employment in Limestone Coast councils

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LCLGA acknowledges the Constituent Council Mayors, Elected Members, Chief Executive Officers, Council staff and LCLGA staff for their support of the regional role of the Association.

During 2020-2021, the LCLGA Board engaged a small team to implement a diverse and comprehensive regional work plan: Tony Wright (Executive Officer), Michaela Bell (Program & Policy Coordinator), Tony Elletson (LCLGA Star Club Field Officer & Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy), Biddie Shearing (Destination Development Manager Manager), Ali Auld (Leadership Program), Sophie Bouchier (Substance Misuse Program). The Team farewelled Mae Steele (Executive Support Officer) and welcomed Paul Manfrin (Corporate Services Officer).

The Local Government Association SA has continued to provide strong support to LCLGA and its members throughout the year. LCLGA acknowledges the contributions of SAROC members, Chief Executive Officer Matt Pinnegar and the many LGA SAstaff that have supported LCLGA throughout the year.

LCLGA continues to enjoy a close working relationship with RDALC Board members and staff.

Tony Wright

Executive Officer



LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORTS

30 JUNE 2021



**Limestone Coast Local Government Association
Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2021**

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 2021 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.


Tony Wright
EXECUTIVE OFFICER


Mayor Erika Vickery
President

Date: 15/10/2021

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
INCOME			
Local Government Council Contributions	2	647,288	721,402
Other Contributions	2	73,091	314,020
Other Income	2	164,937	113,046
Project Income	2	496,762	340,137
Unbudgeted Project Income	2	12,864	1,761
Total Income		<u>1,394,944</u>	<u>1,490,367</u>
EXPENSES			
Operating Expenses	3	175,496	229,201
Employee Costs	3	619,225	768,221
Project Expenditure	3	734,196	632,151
Unbudgeted Project Expenditure	3	12,864	1,761
Total Expenses		<u>1,541,781</u>	<u>1,631,334</u>
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)			
transferred to Equity Statement		(146,837)	(140,967)
Other Comprehensive Income			
<i>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</i>			
Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		-	-
Total Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		<u>(146,837)</u>	<u>(140,967)</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 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	771,577	938,643
Trade and Other Receivables	4	81,556	64,550
Total Assets		<u>853,133</u>	<u>1,003,193</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	5	53,935	58,448
Provisions	5	60,313	48,883
Other Liabilities	5	253,467	244,694
Total Current Liabilities		<u>367,715</u>	<u>352,025</u>
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	5	13,734	32,647
Total Non-current Liabilities		<u>13,734</u>	<u>32,647</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>381,449</u>	<u>384,672</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>471,684</u>	<u>618,521</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		471,684	618,521
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>471,684</u>	<u>618,521</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 2021

		Accumulated Surplus	TOTAL EQUITY
2021	Notes	\$	\$
Balance at end of previous reporting period		<u>618,521</u>	<u>618,521</u>
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(146,837)	(146,837)
Other Comprehensive Income		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of period		471,684	471,684
2020			
Balance at end of previous reporting period		759,488	759,488
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(140,967)	(140,967)
Other Comprehensive Income		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of period		618,521	618,521

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 2021

		2021	2020
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	Notes		
Receipts from Members		647,288	721,402
Other Receipts		733,954	975,487
Payments		(1,548,308)	(1,627,401)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	6	<u>(167,066)</u>	<u>69,488</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		<u>(167,066)</u>	<u>69,488</u>
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period		938,643	869,155
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	4	<u>771,577</u>	<u>938,643</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 2021

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 thousand dollars (\$).

2 The Local Government Reporting Entity

Limestone Coast Local Government 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 Association's 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 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.

4 Cash, Cash Equivalents and other Financial Instruments

Cash Assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Limestone Coast Local Government Association's 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 2021

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	0.36% (2020 0.34%)
Weighted average settlement period	1 year (2020, 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 IIG 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.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
NOTE 2: INCOME			
Local Government Council Contributions			
City of Mount Gambier		181,118	217,695
District Council of Grant		80,329	86,159
Wattle Range Council		134,499	135,999
Naracoorte Lucindale Council		91,666	110,772
District Council of Robe		43,468	44,968
Tatiara District Council		75,874	83,874
Kingston District Council		40,436	41,936
Total		<u>647,288</u>	<u>721,402</u>
Other Contributions			
SA Tourism Commission		30,500	77,708
LGA SA		42,691	130,142
Other		-	106,170
Total		<u>73,091</u>	<u>314,020</u>
Other Income			
Interest		3,648	17,989
Sponsorship		64,364	37,388
Participant Contribution		87,127	10,468
Other		29,799	47,201
Total		<u>184,937</u>	<u>113,046</u>
Project Income			
Tourism		73,697	-
Leadership Program		38,276	14,614
Sports Academy		70,000	50,000
SACCA		104,806	54,530
SMLC		153,986	99,994
Star Club		56,000	56,000
Other		-	65,000
Total		<u>498,762</u>	<u>340,137</u>
Unbudgeted Project Income			
Unbudgeted Project Income		12,864	1,761
Total		<u>12,864</u>	<u>1,761</u>

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
NOTE 3: Expenditure			
Operating Expenses			
Accounting and Audit Fees		16,800	11,378
Computing and IT		18,302	16,197
Rent		20,824	22,797
Insurance		11,629	9,972
Vehicles		53,750	57,899
Chairperson Allowance		13,591	13,105
Trade Shows		-	15,131
Travel, Accommodation and Meals		10,763	23,726
Other		30,917	58,997
Total		176,496	229,201
Employee Costs			
Salaries and Wages		552,613	670,560
Workcover		7,720	6,399
Superannuation		52,821	63,327
Leave Provision Movement		(7,483)	25,042
FBT		13,554	2,893
Total		619,226	768,221
Project Expenditure			
Tourism		140,342	110,926
Leadership Program		128,802	65,482
Sports Academy		131,463	87,417
SACCA		98,936	67,587
SMLC		44,776	27,361
Star Club		1,912	3,072
Other		187,968	270,306
Total		734,196	632,151
Unbudgeted Project Expense			
Unbudgeted Project Expense		12,864	1,761
Total		12,864	1,761

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
NOTE 4: Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Petty Cash	-	250
Cash at Bank	318,664	228,917
Term Deposits	453,013	709,476
Total	<u>771,677</u>	<u>938,642</u>
Trade and Other Receivables		
Trade Debtors	78,193	64,550
Prepaid Wages	3,306	-
Accrued Interest	58	-
Total	<u>81,556</u>	<u>64,550</u>
NOTE 5: Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables		
Goods and Services	49,867	48,022
Accrued Expenses	2,747	8,831
Other	1,321	1,595
Total	<u>53,935</u>	<u>58,448</u>
Provisions - Current		
Employee Entitlements including On-Costs	60,313	48,883
Total	<u>60,313</u>	<u>48,883</u>
Provisions - Non-Current		
Employee Entitlements including On-Costs	13,734	32,647
Total	<u>13,734</u>	<u>32,647</u>
Other Liabilities		
Tourism	-	23,952
LC Regional Sport Academy	70,000	-
Limestone Coast Leadership Program	-	38,275
Substance Misuse LC	114,737	83,932
SA Coastal Councils Alliance	68,730	98,535
Total	<u>253,467</u>	<u>244,694</u>

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
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.

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
Total cash & equivalent assets	4	<u>771,577</u>	<u>938,643</u>
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		<u>771,577</u>	<u>938,643</u>

(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities

Net Surplus (Deficit)	(145,837)	(140,967)
Non-cash items in Income Statement		
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits	<u>(7,483)</u>	<u>25,042</u>
	(154,320)	(115,925)
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets		
Net (increase) decrease in receivables	<u>(17,006)</u>	44,773
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables	<u>(4,513)</u>	(6,599)
Net increase (decrease) in other liabilities	<u>8,773</u>	147,239
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations	<u>(167,066)</u>	<u>69,488</u>

(c) Financing Arrangements

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

Corporate Credit Cards	12,253	15,000
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LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

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 fixed interest rates between 0.05% and 1.30% (2020 1.3% and 2.3%).</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 2021

Note 7: Financial Instruments (Cont.)

Liquidity Analysis

2021	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash & Equivalents	771,577	-	-	771,577	771,577
Receivables	78,261	-	-	78,261	78,261
Total	849,828	-	-	849,828	849,828
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	50,630	-	-	50,630	50,630
Total	50,630	-	-	50,630	50,630

2020	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash & Equivalents	938,643	-	-	938,643	938,643
Receivables	64,550	-	-	64,550	64,550
Total	1,003,193	-	-	1,003,193	1,003,193
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	58,448	-	-	58,448	58,448
Total	58,448	-	-	58,448	58,448

The following interest rates were applicable to Limestone Coast LGA at balance date:

	30 June 2021		30 June 2020	
	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Carrying Value
	%	\$	%	\$
Term Deposits	0.1%	453,013	1.3%	709,476
		<u>453,013</u>		<u>709,476</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 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 Note 4 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 2021

NOTE 8: Uniform Presentation of Financial Statements

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
Operating Revenues		1,394,944	1,490,367
Operating Expenses		(1,541,781)	(1,631,334)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before Capital Amounts		(146,837)	(140,967)
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>
Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year		(146,837)	(140,967)

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 2021

Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

At 30 June 2021, 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 2021, 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

The entity has and continues to be affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic which has seen some impact on the ability to deliver programs and projects.

Subject to the impact from COVID-19 pandemic, the Board is not aware of any other events which have occurred subsequent to balance date which would materially affect the financial statements prepared for the year ended 30 June 2021.

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:

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Short Term employee benefits inc allowances	170,656	174,801
Post Employment Benefits	14,921	15,361

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:

\$	2021	2020
Under \$50,000	1	1
\$50,000 to \$100,000	0	0
\$100,001 to \$150,000	0	0
\$150,001 to \$200,000	1	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 2021

Note 14 -- Related Party Disclosure (Cont.)

There were no transactions with other related parties apart from:

- A relative of a KMP owns a business who contract's their services as required to Kingston District Council.

Related Party Entity	Amounts received from Related Party during the Financial Year	Amounts outstanding from Related Party at then end of the financial year
	2021	2021
	\$	\$
City of Mount Gambier	174,118	7,000
District Council of Grant	80,329	-
Wattle Range Council	134,499	-
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	91,565	-
District Council of Robe	43,468	-
Tatiara District Council	75,874	-
Kingston District Council	40,435	-
TOTAL	640,288	7,000

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (the Authority), which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statements of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and other explanatory information and the Certification of the Financial Statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2021, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 and the Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described as in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibility of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, and for such controls as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Management is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that the audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by those charged with governance.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DEAN NEWBERY



JIM KEOGH

Partner

Signed on the 26th day of October 2021,
at 214 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, South Australia 5006

**Limestone Coast Local Government Association
Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2021**

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 2021, the Association's Auditor, Dean Newberry & 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.



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President
LC Local Government Association



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Chief Executive Officer
District Council of Grant



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Chief Executive Officer
City of Mount Gambier



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Chief Executive Officer
Kingston District Council



.....
Chief Executive Officer
Naracoorte Lucindale Council



.....
Chief Executive Officer
District Council of Robe



.....
Chief Executive Officer
Tatlarra District Council



.....
Chief Executive Officer
Wattle Range Council

Date: 15/10/21

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Dean Newbery
ABN: 30 164 612 890

Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 22 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 to the Limestone Coast Local Government Association

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association for the year ended 30 June 2021, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Section 290, 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*.



JIM KEOGH
PARTNER

Signed on the 26th day of October 2021,
at 214 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, South Australia 5006

