



City of
Mount Gambier



Annual Report
2017/2018

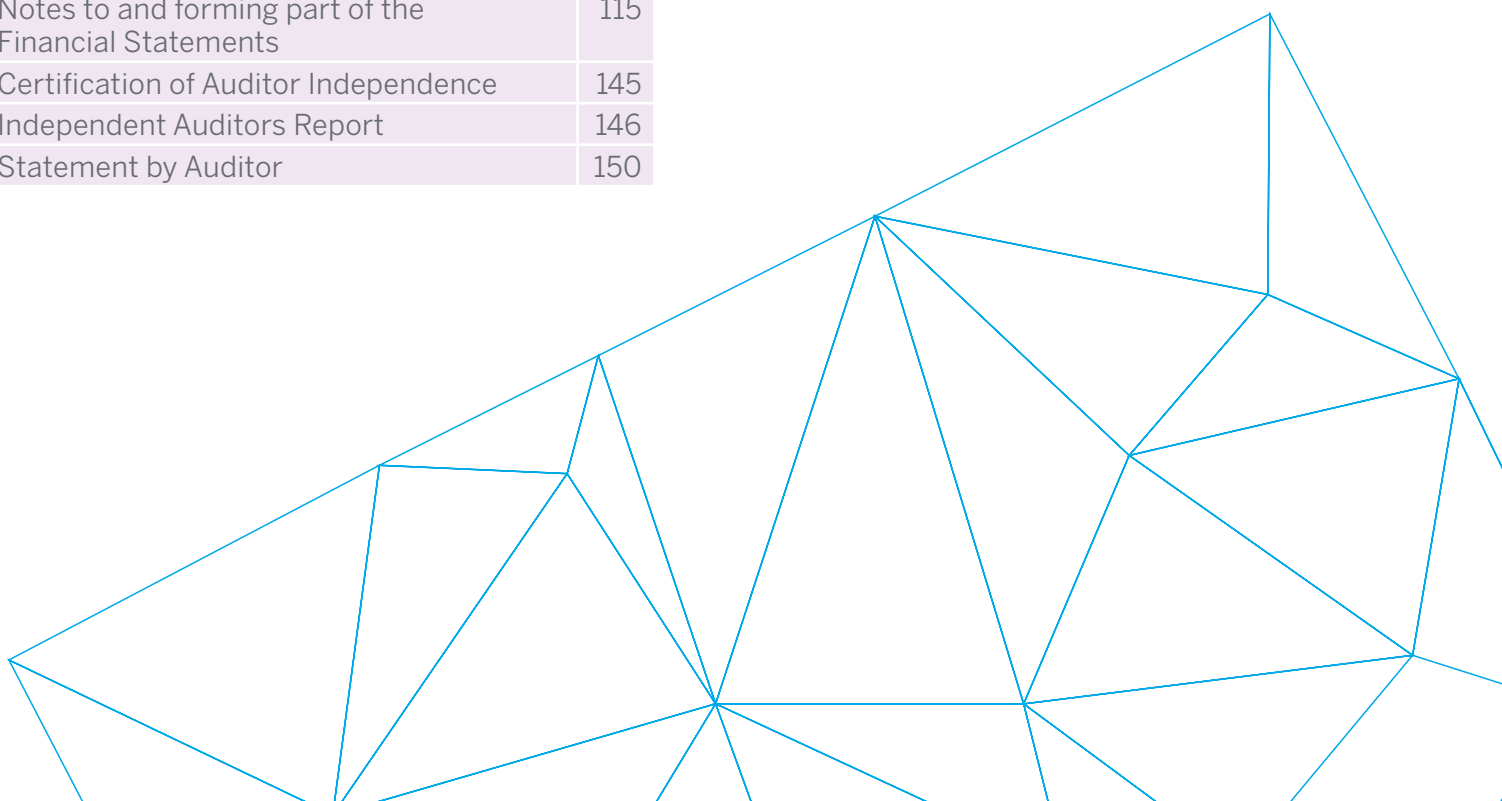
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Welcome to the City of Mount Gambier 2017/2018 Annual Report

The Annual Report enables the City of Mount Gambier to inform the community of its operations, activities and achievements during the 2017/2018 financial year and fulfils Council's legislative requirements.

The Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of how Council is responding to the challenges of a growing and evolving regional City and region. It also reflects our strong commitment to maintaining the highest standards of good governance and our participation in reviews and benchmarking projects to monitor Council's financial and service performance.

The format of this Annual Report is presented under the following headings:

- ▴ Community,
- ▴ Environment,
- ▴ Infrastructure,
- ▴ Tourism and Economic Development,
- ▴ Governance, and
- ▴ Finance.

Each year, Council delivers many initiatives to help improve the quality of life for our community.

This report is made available to keep you better informed and we hope you find it reflective of the dynamic structure of our beautiful City.

Mayor's Message

It is with great pleasure that I present the City of Mount Gambier Annual Report for the 2017/2018 financial year.

Once again it has been a busy, productive year for Council. We have worked diligently with the community always our priority.

All members of our community matter and throughout the year I've had the opportunity to meet so many people who are the quiet achievers, the people who never expect recognition. Many work behind the scenes, some caring for people and some working for organisations that care for people. Along with the support of volunteers who assist in numerous community events and activities each year, Council relies on the input from representatives of the community who serve on various Council Committees and provide support and expertise to our Advisory Groups. On behalf of Elected Members and Council employees I would like to acknowledge the collective contribution of all of these worthy citizens.

Council can be proud of many accomplishments during the year, which will be reported on in more detail throughout this report. However I would like to reference what I believe has been a great achievement, the launch of the New Venture Institute (NVI) Business Innovation Hub. Council has a commitment to growing and diversifying our City and regional economy. Our Community Plan is supported by a range of focus areas including digital strategy, tourism and city growth and provides specific outcomes to be delivered by the Council and/or in collaboration with other tiers of government and organisations.

Identified in our Digital and City Growth Strategies was support for small business growth via the establishment of a business incubator in Mount Gambier. In partnership with NVI Flinders, Department of State Development and the Federal Government we have delivered on this action and special thanks must be extended to Member for Barker Mr Tony Pasin MP for his contribution to the success of this project.



Mount Gambier will have the first non-metropolitan innovation hub linked to the GigCity project, providing significant opportunities for small business development and commercialisation. Mount Gambier will now provide a focal point for those in our community with creative ideas, who are innovative while still needing support to grow into a viable business.

Council is delivering innovative projects including public access Wi-Fi, investment in tourism, economic development, new signage program, youth and arts, culture and heritage projects, sustainability projects, while also maintaining our City's award winning amenities. As a Council we can take pride in our prudent financial management that we have remained in a strong financial position, with balanced budgets in the last four years and zero borrowings.

I am grateful for the support of my fellow Elected Members throughout the year and during the term of this Council. Mount Gambier's reputation for its beautiful amenities and facilities and the positive vibe of the City is in no small part due to the tremendous effort and commitment of all Council employees and it is reassuring to know what a strong, reliable team our community has working for them.

I hope you will find this Annual Report an informative record of Council's wide range of activities and a reflection of our progressive, beautiful City.

**Andrew LEE
MAYOR**

Elected Member Information

The Council is comprised of a Mayor and 10 Councillors, elected at large. The next four year term Local Government Elections will be held in November 2018.



Council 2014-2018 (L-R)

Cr Sonya Meziniec, Cr Steven Perryman, Mayor Andrew Lee, Cr Josh Lynagh, Cr Des Mutton, Cr Mark Lovett, Cr Christian Greco, Cr Ian Von Stanke, Cr Penny Richardson, Cr Frank Morello, Cr Hanna Persello (Deputy Mayor).

Meeting Attendance

The following is the recorded attendance (or apologies) of Elected Members at the 12 Ordinary Council Meetings and the six Special Council Meetings held during the 2017/2018 year.

Council Meetings - July 2017 to June 2018

Elected Member	Meetings Attended	Apologies	Absent without Apology	Leave of Absence
Mayor Lee	17	1	0	
Cr Greco	15	2	1	
Cr Lovett	12	5	1	
Cr Lynagh	15	3	0	
Cr Meziniec	14	2	0	2
Cr Morello	17	1	0	
Cr Mutton	11	6	1	
Cr Perryman	12	6	0	
Cr Persello	13	5	0	
Cr Richardson	15	2	1	
Cr Von Stanke	16	2	0	

Council and Committees (as at June 2018)

**His Worship
The Mayor
Mr Andrew Lee**

**Council Committee
Position**

- CEO Review Committee (Presiding Member)

Ex Officio

- Strategic Standing Committee
- Operational Standing Committee
- Audit Committee
- Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee
- Heritage Sub-Committee
- Junior Sports Assistance Fund
- Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Committee

Other Positions

- Limestone Coast Local Government Association
- Local Government Association



**Cr Hanna Persello
Deputy Mayor**

**Council Committee
Position**

- Strategic Standing Committee
- Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee (Presiding Member)
- CEO Review Committee (as Deputy Mayor)
- Junior Sports Assistance Fund (Presiding Member)
- Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Committee

Other Positions

- Community Mental Health Network
- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Advisory Group
- Limestone Coast Local Government Association (proxy – as Deputy Mayor)
- Local Government Association (proxy – as Deputy Mayor)



Cr Penny Richardson

**Council Committee
Position**

- Strategic Standing Committee
- Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee
- Heritage Sub-Committee (Presiding Member)

Other Positions

- Mount Gambier Heritage Advisory Group
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Reference Group
- Riddoch Art Gallery Inc



Cr Ian Von Stanke

**Council Committee
Position**

- Building Fire Safety Committee (Presiding Member)
- Operational Standing Committee
- Council Assessment Panel
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee
- Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Committee (Presiding Member)

Other Positions

- Group Training Employment
- Limestone Coast Zone Emergency Management Committee
- Riddoch Art Gallery Inc (proxy)



Cr Josh Lynagh

Council Committee

Position

- Strategic Standing Committee

Other Positions

- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel Advisory Group
- Australia Day Celebrations Advisory Group
- Mount Gambier Youth Advisory Group
- Tourism Mount Gambier



Cr Des Mutton

Council Committee

Position

- Operational Standing Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee (Presiding Member)

Other Positions

- Queen Elizabeth Park Trust
- Mount Gambier and Districts Airport (DC Grant s41) Committee
- LCLGA Regional Waste Management Steering Committee



Cr Sonya Meziniec

Council Committee

Position

- Strategic Standing Committee
- Audit Committee (Presiding Member)
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee
- Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Committee

Other Positions

- Seniors Month Advisory Group
- Tourism Mount Gambier (proxy)



Cr Mark Lovett

Council Committee

Position

- Operational Standing Committee (Presiding Member)
- CEO Review Committee (as Presiding Member Operational Standing Committee)
- Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee
- Heritage Sub-Committee

Other Positions

- Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre Advisory Group



Cr Christian Greco

Council Committee

Position

- Operational Standing Committee

Other Positions

- Limestone Coast Violence Against Women Collaboration
- Joint Boundary Roads (with DC Grant) Advisory Group
- Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal Advisory Group



Cr Frank Morello

Council Committee

Position

- Strategic Standing Committee (Presiding Member)
- CEO Review Committee (as Presiding Member Strategic Standing Committee)
- Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Committee

Other Positions

- Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health



Cr Steven Perryman

Council Committee

Position

- Operational Standing Committee



Strategic Management Plan Framework

The Community Plan and the Futures Paper are Council's key strategic documents, supported by the Long Term Financial Plan, the Asset and Infrastructure Management Plan and the Annual Business Plan and Budget. These plans identify the direction, services and facilities that Council wishes to provide for the community during the next four years and beyond.

A Futures Paper for City Development

The City Development Framework Project

The City Development Framework Project was fundamental in the development of the Futures Paper. This project commenced to ensure Council has a robust and planned approach to meet the current and future challenges facing the City. The project involved the development of overall strategies incorporating economic, social, environmental and community opportunities and aspirations.

The Futures Paper looks forward and focuses on two key questions:

1. Is what we have done in the past going to sustain our community and economy into the future?
2. What do we need to change or introduce to ensure that our community and economy are sustainable into the future?

The Futures Paper was developed entirely on the aspirations and issues raised and identified by people within the community and was based on sound academic research that identified four key characteristics of successful cities:

- Home to a highly skilled population,
- Centrally located, at the heart of a rich market and/or well positioned for trade with expanding markets,
- A diversified economy with a significant proportion of high order services, and
- Boasts a climate and/or natural setting superior to most other cities in the nation.

Using the Futures Paper as a guiding strategy for the long term development of the City, Council is able to develop policies and align and allocate resources where the most benefit can be achieved.

The Community Plan

The Community Plan represents the vision, aspirations and priorities of the community now and into the future. It describes the community's values, how we work together and outlines the strategic initiatives to achieve ongoing sustainability and prosperity. The Community Plan was endorsed by Council at its meeting in May 2016.

The Community Plan was prepared by Council in partnership with the community to guide decision making over a four year period. The plan identifies the outcomes we seek to achieve and the strategies we will put in place to deliver them.

The Community Plan will be reviewed following the 2018 Local Government elections.

Our Vision

An inclusive city where people lead fulfilling lives.

The richness and diversity of:

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

are what makes Mount Gambier the thriving and successful place that people are proud to call home.

These elements will contribute to the future growth and development of the City and form the goals of Council's Community Plan - The Futures Paper 2016-2020.

Council strives to create vibrancy, promote our identity and build a reputation for the City as a place to live, work, visit and invest. To provide a future for our people we need sustained economic growth and employment as well as recreational and educational opportunities.

Through the development of corporate Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), Council undertakes quarterly reporting on the achievement of the strategies contained in the Community Plan which are available on Council's website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au



Photo credit:
Ockert le Roux.

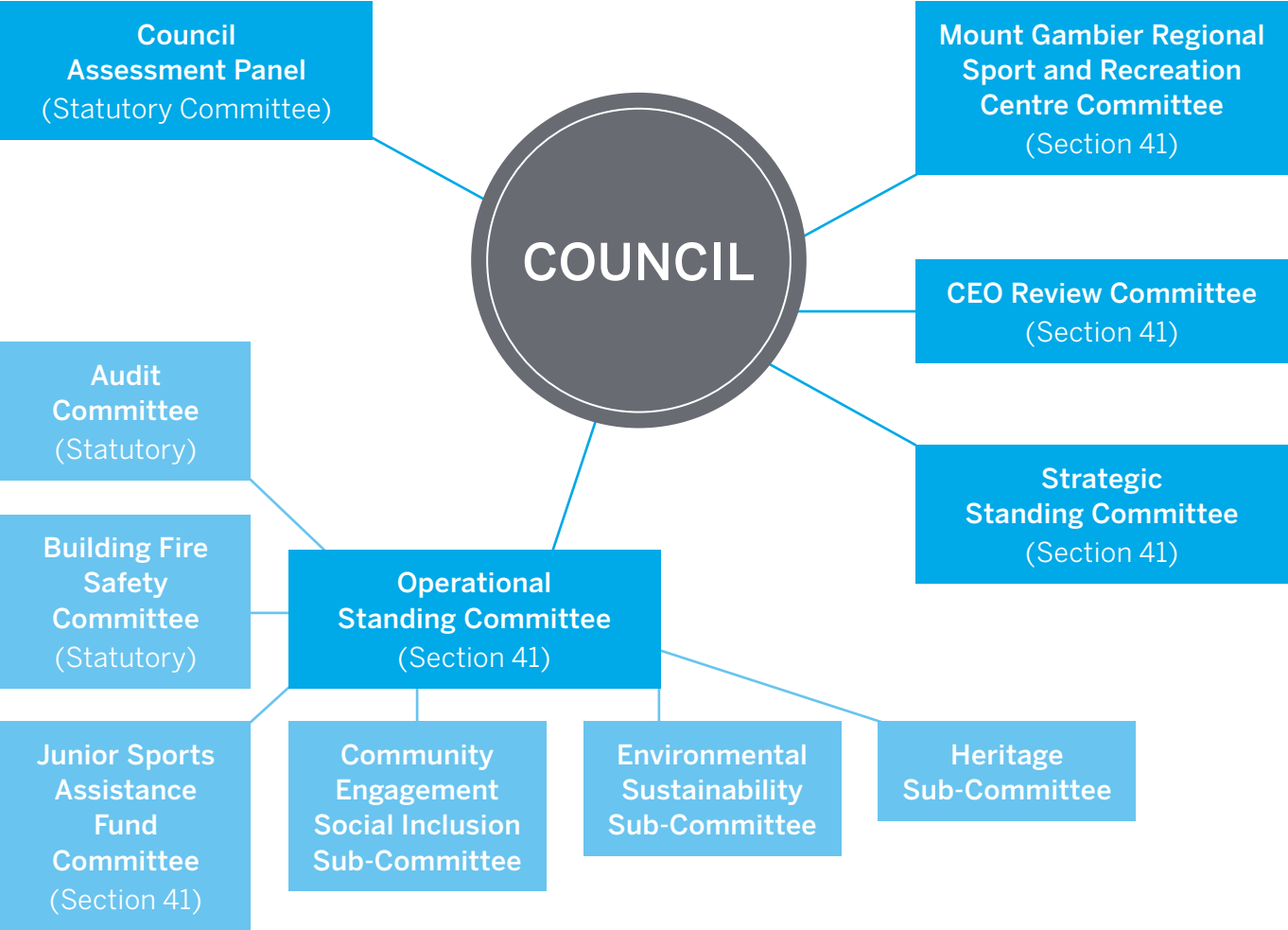
Decision Making

Structure of Council

Council has adopted the following structure to facilitate good governance and informed decision making processes.

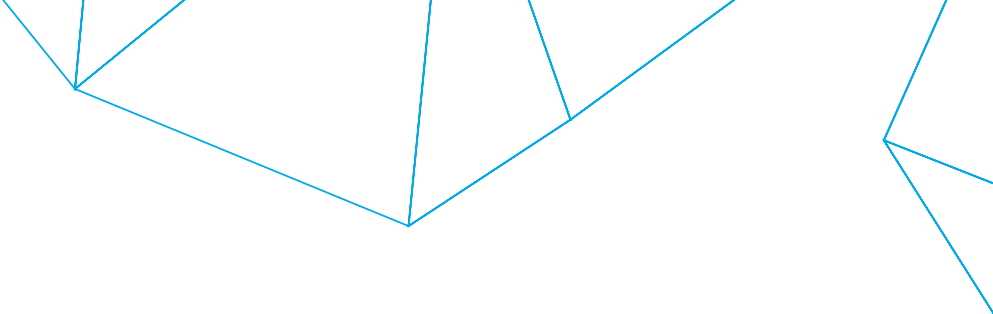
Committee Structure

Council's Committee structure is set out below (as at June 2018).



Advisory Groups

- Joint Boundary Roads
- Mount Gambier Youth
- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel
- Australia Day Breakfast
- Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre
- Seniors Month
- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade
- Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal



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.

Standing Committee meetings are held the week preceding Council meetings as follows (unless otherwise amended or altered by Council or the relevant Standing Committee):

Strategic Standing Committee - normally second Monday of each month commencing at 5:30pm.

Operational Standing Committee - normally second Tuesday of each month commencing at 7:30am.

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

While members of the public are not normally permitted to speak at Council meetings, individuals may be invited to address the relevant Committee meetings.

Any person wishing to have a matter considered by Council should communicate in writing to the Chief Executive Officer for presentation to the relevant Council and Committee meetings. Agenda closing dates apply. Please check with Council for timeframes and the date/times of relevant meetings.

Agendas of all meetings are placed on public display not less than three clear days prior to the meeting. Minutes of Council meetings are placed on display within five days of a meeting. Agendas and minutes are also published on the Council website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au

In addition to the abovementioned Standing Committees, Council also convenes a range of Statutory Committees, Sub-Committees and Advisory Groups which meet as and when required.

Delegations

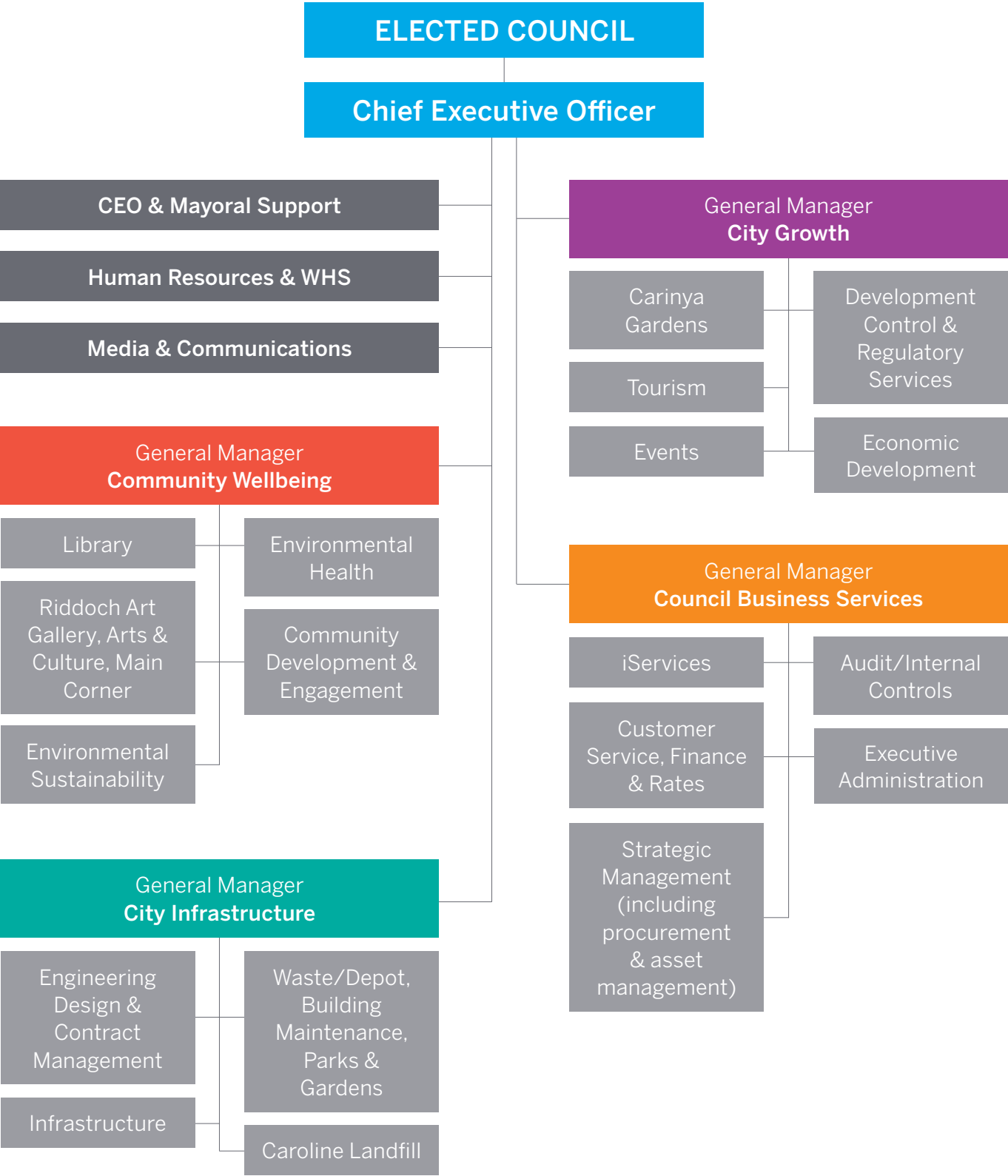
To ensure the efficient performance of Council operations and activities, Council delegates certain powers and functions to the Chief Executive Officer. These delegations are reviewed annually by Council.

The current delegations were reviewed and adopted by Council on 20 February 2018 and are available for public inspection at the principal office of the Council and may be purchased.

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

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

Organisational Chart



CEO's Message

Long term planning for communities is a major role of all levels of government and councils in particular as they are very much embedded within the communities they serve. With the immediacy of the modern world in part driven by media, social media and the pace of life, we must reinforce Council's role in shaping Mount Gambier for the next 50 years and beyond.

Council is now delivering on a raft of actions associated with the Futures Paper, our high level aspirational plan developed through extensive community engagement. Broadly our focus is our economy; our community; our location; arts, culture, heritage and environment. Specific actions include:

- Significant investment in the visitor economy partnering with the industry group Tourism Mount Gambier, including public access Wi-Fi, tourism signage and a digital tourism presence,
- Establishing a ReUse Market providing an opportunity for the community to reuse materials and reduce material going to landfill,
- The Rail Trail across the City providing a safe environment to benefit walkers, runners and those learning to ride, promoting exercise and family activity,
- Partnering with other agencies to promote Mount Gambier as a place to live and work. Our population, particularly working age, needs to grow to ensure a skilled labour force into the future,
- Direct support to community groups, sporting clubs and local events to create a lively, involved community. Council allocates several hundred thousand dollars in direct support every year for community groups and events, and
- Advocating for Mount Gambier to maintain state services; to attract grant funds and to ensure the City and region receive its share of resources.



The needs of our community are continually shifting, meaning that we are often providing new services. Finding the right balance and mix of services is challenging and relies on feedback from and engagement with the community.

With service demand shifting and increasing, how is Council going? We are delivering a wide range of services, some new and others ongoing. Our social media presence provides very timely and exact feedback along with our other engagement activities. Council's finances are sound, featuring balanced budgets over the past four years with small surpluses and very small loan borrowings. We are in excellent financial shape for the future, particularly noting major projects completed over the past 10 years.

Council must be balanced, delivering services needed today while ensuring we look forward and plan for our community's future needs. Getting the right mix is challenging but not planning now for the future means we will be ill-equipped to meet the demands of our community in decades to come.

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

Mark McSHANE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Senior Executive Officers

For the purposes of the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1999, the Senior Executive Officers (SEO's) of Council are defined as:

- Chief Executive Officer, and
- Four General Managers.

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

The General Manager portfolios are as follows:

General Manager City Infrastructure

Nick Serle

Incorporating:

- Engineering and Contract Management,
- Infrastructure,
- Waste Depot, Building Maintenance, Parks and Gardens, and
- Caroline Landfill.

General Manager City Growth

Dr Judy Nagy

Incorporating:

- Tourism,
- Carinya Gardens,
- Development Control and Regulatory Services,
- Events, and
- Economic Development.

▲ General Manager City Infrastructure Nick Serle (left), General Manager City Growth Dr Judy Nagy, General Manager Community Wellbeing Barbara Cernovskis, General Manager Council Business Services Pamela Lee and Chief Executive Officer Mark McShane

General Manager Council Business Services

Pamela Lee

Incorporating:

- Finance,
- Rates,
- Internal Audit,
- IT and Records Management,
- Executive Administration,
- Customer Service, and
- Governance and Strategy.

General Manager Community Wellbeing

Barbara Cernovskis

Incorporating:

- Library,
- Environmental Sustainability,
- Environmental Health,
- Riddoch Art Gallery, Arts and Culture, Main Corner,
- Community Development and Engagement, and
- Heritage.



City of Mount Gambier Staff

Portfolio	Males	Females	Total
Office of the CEO	1	5	6
Community Wellbeing	7	25	32
Council Business Services	4	26	30
City Growth	5	17	22
City Infrastructure	60	3	63
Totals	77	76	153

Total Number Employees: 153

Full Time Equivalents*: 132

*including trainees

Equal Employment Opportunity

The Equal Opportunity and Discrimination Administrative Procedure was developed to:

- Facilitate an all-inclusive culture of tolerance, fairness, equity and diversity in the work environment,
- Ensure that all employees are aware of inappropriate workplace behaviours and how to prevent them from occurring,
- Ensure the best person for each job is selected based on merit,
- Promote an understanding among all employees of the particular considerations and benefits of different diversity groups in the workplace,
- To provide and maintain so far as is reasonably practicable, a working environment and system of work that is safe and without risk to health,
- Ensure legislative compliance with a view to preventing all forms of discrimination, harassment and bullying, and
- Mitigate any employment-related disadvantage for all employees and particularly those from different groups.

Principles

Council is committed to achieving fair and equitable employment practices including:

- Merit-based recruitment, selection and promotion,
- Access for all employees to appropriate training, development and employee assistance programs, and
- Grievance handling procedures.

Responsibilities

All Council employees will treat everyone with respect and courtesy, and without harassment, bullying or discrimination. All employees will at all times behave in a way that upholds the City of Mount Gambier's values and the integrity and good reputation of the Council.

The City of Mount Gambier will:

- Demonstrate commitment to equal opportunity and diversity through its actions and decision making,
- Demonstrate and embrace the principles of equal opportunity, workplace diversity and the employee code of conduct, and
- Facilitate a culture of inclusiveness.



► Left: Elly Bachmann (left), Brendan Bachmann, Elizabeth Durbidge, Sarah Harden and Shekinah Horsburgh getting excited about Youth Week.

► Below: Dancers from Tonique Studio on the Hansel and Gretel float taking part in the 2017 Christmas Parade.



► Above: Library volunteers enjoyed a morning tea to celebrate National Volunteer Week.

► Left: Steven Kennedy and Isabella Leane enjoy the Chill and Chat event at Metro for Youth Week.





Community

Junior Sports Assistance Fund

Membership of the Junior Sports Assistance Fund is comprised of the City of Mount Gambier and the District Council of Grant and a number of sporting organisations who have agreed to become financial members.

The fund provides financial support for junior sports people who have achieved state selection or better in a specific sport. The financial transactions and financial position of the fund in 2017/2018 is as follows:

2017/2018 Financial Position	\$
Assistance to juniors	13,450
Support for special coaching clinics	5,000
Members' contributions	8,835
Councils' contributions	12,000
Bank interest earned	1,152
Donations received	1,500
Sponsorship of programs received	6,340
Cash at bank, 30 June 2017	86,049

For the 33 years of the fund's operations, the consolidated transactions to 30 June 2018 are as follows:

Fund History	\$
Assistance to juniors	464,200
Support for special coaching clinics	85,383
Assistance to disadvantaged juniors	12,450
Members' contributions	171,782
Councils' contributions	320,500
Bank interest earned	69,910
Donations received	44,586
Sponsorship of programs received	38,440
Other expenses	300
Government and bank charges	1,326

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 and funding for disadvantaged juniors did not commence until July 2012.



► Brock Keding at the 2018 Senior League National Championship Under 17 Charter Team Adelaide Titans in Lismore.

The City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund congratulates Brock Keding on his participation in two national baseball tournaments in May 2018.

Brock competed in the 2018 Senior League National Championship Under 17 Charter Team Adelaide Titans in Lismore, against New South Wales and won silver.

Brock also represented South Australia in the National Open School boys Baseball tournament in Adelaide. South Australia finished with a silver medal, just missing out on gold to New South Wales.

The fund made a donation of \$450 to help Brock participate in these events.

The major considerations and/or achievements for the year included:

- 19 sporting organisations/clubs as members of the fund,
- Generous donation of \$2,500 from Commercial Club Inc.,
- The Mount Gambier and District Bendigo Community Bank generously provided its final sponsorship to the fund's annual coaching clinic program of \$5,000, and
- The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes approached the fund to administer a program to support/assist financially disadvantaged juniors of our 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.

Youth Strategy and Culture and Heritage Plan

Councillors met at a workshop in February 2018 to prioritise recommendations from the landmark Youth Engagement Strategy and the Culture and Heritage Plan.

The Youth Engagement Strategy and the Culture and Heritage Plan deliver on key initiatives of the Community Plan – The Futures Paper 2016 – 2020, Council’s overarching strategic plan.

The Youth Engagement Strategy is the first of its kind for the City and recognises and responds to the fundamental role that young people between the age of 12 and 25 play as citizens and valued members of the community.

“Initially led by City Youth, Council’s Youth Advisory Group, the strategy reflects Council’s commitment to ensure that young people have input into future planning in Mount Gambier,” Cr Josh Lynagh said.

“From the outset we were thrilled to receive feedback from more than 430 students at the launch of the engagement process at the Limestone Coast Careers Expo in August 2017. Throughout the four month process, we engaged with a total of 694 young people across 16 separate events and activities, including the very successful Student Leaders Roundtable.”

University of South Australia final year Social Work student Julie Baum completed a placement with Council and engaged with 60 young people to explore the indicators, impacts and perceptions of social exclusion in Mount Gambier.

“As a result of the consultation, we’ve now got 17 recommendations to assess and prioritise. The high level key issues include: fit for purpose recreational facilities, engaging with public space, an accessible, welcoming and engaging CBD for young people and creating a sustainable, vibrant and visual youth culture,” he said.

“Youth want to be able to access high quality Wi-Fi, engage with activities in the CBD and participate in public art projects.”

Under the guidance of Artistic Director Rachel Healy, Council explored cultural values and aspirations within the Mount Gambier community to develop another groundbreaking strategic blueprint, the Culture and Heritage Plan.

“Between May and September 2017, more than 500 people provided input into 31 individual consultation activities which included visioning workshops, surveys, chalk boards, roundtable sessions, targeted engagement interviews, door knocking, community barbecues and industry group meetings,” Cr Frank Morello said.

The engagement process highlighted key themes, including the preservation and celebration of our natural, cultural and heritage assets, a focus on increasing engagement and participation within cultural activities, further activation within the CBD, the need to identify and celebrate what makes Mount Gambier unique and a recommendation to address the lack of fit for purpose creative spaces, performance venues and cultural infrastructure.

“There’s 28 individual recommendations to consider and prioritise within the plan. This document will lead to meaningful social and economic change and is a great step forward in investing in arts and culture bringing many benefits to the community including building the economy,” Cr Morello said.



▲ Artistic Director Rachel Healy (centre) facilitated cultural workshops at the Main Corner.



Australian Citizenship Ceremonies

Six citizenship ceremonies were conducted during the 2017/2018 financial year, with a total of 27 people receiving Australian Citizenship. The ceremonies are conducted in compliance with the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code.

New citizens were welcomed to the City from Britain, Germany, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Philippines, Scotland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

The Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia provides complimentary tickets to the Royal Adelaide Show as a special gift for each person who receives Australian Citizenship in South Australia during the year.

Representatives from Soroptimist International of Mount Gambier also attend the ceremonies and present a gift to every participant.

For each public ceremony, Council invites an individual or group to attend and lead in the singing of the national anthem.

- Top: Two year old Prabhkirat Singh.
- Chelsea Atkins, Mayor Andrew Lee and Valentine Wangul.
- Ellyana Sims singing the Australian National Anthem.
- Native flowers gifted by Soroptimists International Mount Gambier.



The Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal

Council wishes to thank everyone who generously donated to the Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal in 2017, and the volunteers who continue to support this initiative.

More than 50 individuals and organisations contributed to the appeal raising a total of \$19,424.94.

Each year, the appeal plays an important role in ensuring that a range of vulnerable or isolated people in our City are able to experience the joy of Christmas.

The appeal directly assisted more than 440 different families - including 652 children and young people through the provision of Christmas hampers, vouchers or gifts.

The Men's Shed donated 100 handcrafted toys which were made available to families with small children and will surely be cherished for years to come.

"I sincerely thank everyone who supported the cause. I'm particularly thankful for the ongoing support of Mount Gambier Central and the Men's Shed for its donation," Mayor Andrew Lee said.

"I also praise the general community for providing their spare change to support the appeal at the Mount Gambier Christmas Parade and Carols by Candlelight."

Donations to the appeal were distributed through the Christmas Cheer Program delivered by the following agencies:

- Uniting Care,
- ac.care,
- Lifeline SE,
- St Vincent De Paul Society, and
- The Salvation Army.

Additional coordination support was once again offered through the Department for Child Protection and Mount Gambier Central.



- Top: Mayor Lee is pictured with ac.care Manager of Homeless Services Trish Spark with some of the Christmas hampers which were distributed within the community just before Christmas.
- Middle: Left to right: John D'Souza (St Vincent de Paul), Suzanne Roberts (Department for Child Protection), Laura Kilsby (Uniting Care), Mayor Andrew Lee, Trish Spark (ac care), Bronwyn Martin (Lifeline SE), Ria Wehrmann (Salvation Army).
- Bottom: David Burt of Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West presents a cheque for the appeal to Mayor Andrew Lee.

To donate, or to find out more information about the appeal, please visit www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/christmasappeal

ZestFest – celebrating contributions older people make to the community

Mount Gambier celebrates the contributions older people make to the community at the annual Seniors Festival. In 2017 the celebration was called ZestFest, a Festival for Modern Ageing based on three key themes: celebrate, connect and challenge.

The 12 day event kicked off on Sunday 22 October 2017 with a free Mount Gambier City Band concert. The concert featured performances from a James Morrison Jazz Academy ensemble and a vocal performance at the City Band Hall.

City of Mount Gambier Community Development Officer Alison Brash said the ZestFest 2017 program featured a range of arts events and learning programs, including workshops focused on European languages, Seishikan Karate and finance.

“One of the highlights of the event was 60+ Moments, a digital photography project creating new images and expectations of our older years, boldly reframing the way we age,” Ms Brash said.

Below: Illuminart projected large scale images taken by local older people onto the exterior of the Main Corner.

As part of the project, one of Australia's leading arts companies Illuminart projected large scale images taken by local older people onto the exterior of the Main Corner on Saturday 28 October 2017 at 7:45pm.

“It challenged perceptions of older people, their creative voice and capacity to contribute and provide an opportunity for individuals to express what's personally important to them in a changing world.”



Seniors Awards

A dedicated local volunteer and history group were recognised at the Seniors Awards presentation at the Civic Centre in November following the 2017 ZestFest.

The Mount Gambier Senior of the Year Award was awarded to Maxine Maney in acknowledgement of her achievements and service within the community.

“An honorary member of Rotary Lakes, Maxine has spent years championing local causes. This includes volunteering with St Vincent de Paul, providing Meals on Wheels deliveries and cooking with others at the Sunset Community Kitchen, a cause she has supported since its inception as a food coordinator,” City of Mount Gambier Community Development Officer Alison Brash said.

The selection panel chose to recognise Maxine for her commitment to making Mount Gambier a better place and her willingness to roll up her sleeves and get things done.

“Maxine played an important role in the ‘Save Our Palliative Care’ campaign and she has helped out with many events including Relay for Life, Generations in Jazz, Carols by Candlelight and many other community building initiatives including providing practical support to people with vision impairment.”

Maxine has also spent years supporting the Castec Rural Pioneers and local football, netball and cricket teams.

“Maxine is a very quiet achiever, committing herself to volunteering for many years. Her help to others is never ending. She is a totally committed community person who will quietly put herself in the front line to volunteer, investing so much time cost free to the community,” nominator Susan Blackall said.

The Mount Gambier History Group was presented with the Mount Gambier Senior Recreation Award for its work on the Fidler and Webb exhibition held at the Main Corner in October 2017.

“Committee members Aileen Clarke and Margaret Brown researched and collected material for the exhibition over a two year period. Their tireless research and dedication resulted in a fantastic community event showcasing the department store’s 150 year history,” Ms Brash said.

The duo were thrilled to accept the award on behalf of the hardworking group of volunteers.

“It’s a real honour and recognition of all the hard work and the thousands of hours that everyone within the group gave to make sure the exhibition was a success” Ms Clarke said.

“The opening night alone attracted more than 250 people and over 1000 others visited during the 13 day exhibition, including many former employees, customers and ancestors of the Fidler and Webb family.”



▲ Mount Gambier History Group member Aileen Clarke (left), Lions Club of Mount Gambier member Ross Parkinson, Mount Gambier History Group member Margaret Brown, Mayor Andrew Lee, Mount Gambier Senior of the Year Award recipient Maxine Maney and Gambier City Lions President Wilf Nitschke.

Mount Gambier Library

The Mount Gambier Library is a place for creativity, innovation, recreation, information, meeting and working and is the hub of the local community. People from all walks of life from across the region, nation and the globe use the Library for these and many other purposes.

Libraries have transformed themselves into many things for many different people to support and be adaptive to the ever changing needs of their communities – Mount Gambier is a leader in this space. Offering more than 1,200 programs ranging from Baby Bounce to Tech Savvy Seniors, craft to robotics, the Mount Gambier Library has something to offer everyone. We value the importance of life-long learning and support our community to ensure they remain educated and actively involved in community life.



NUMBER OF
ITEMS **54,551**



NUMBER OF
LOANS **426,644**

NUMBER
OF VISITORS



368,413

Throughout this year, the library has delivered its regular programs including:

Baby Bounce, Move and Groove, Storytime, Minecraft Club, Robotics Club, LEGO Fan Club, 3D printing, Wacom tablets, Bookwell, local and family history help, computer lessons, Crochet Club, Chinese language lessons, Tuesday help desk, JP service, reading group, Tech Savvy Seniors, school holiday programs and other special events including guest speakers, author talks and the celebration of significant days, weeks and months.



13,510
ACTIVE
MEMBERS

1,242
TOTAL
PROGRAMS

Living Book with Aunty Val - NAIDOC WEEK

To celebrate NAIDOC Week 2017 the Library hosted a 'Living Book' event with South East Elder, Aunty Val Brennan.

A living book aims to bring people together through conversation and face-to-face interaction – the perfect complement for the 2017 theme 'Our Language Matters', to emphasise the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity.

The setting was styled as an intimate morning tea as though participants were sitting in a family member's home. Aunty Val shared chapters of her life, stories about her culture, growing up, intimate family moments, both happy and sad. A tender event with laughter and tears was enjoyed by the full house of participants.

▀ Aunty Val Brennan





National Simultaneous Storytime Creative storytelling with live performance

More than 240 school children were entertained by the Mount Gambier Library's theatrical performance of 'Hickory Dickory Dash' at City Hall as part of National Simultaneous Storytime in May 2018.

Every year, a picture book written and illustrated by an Australian author is read simultaneously across the nation on the same day at the same time, in kindergartens, schools, bookshops and libraries.

With the stage full of props and library staff in costumes, this year's book 'Hickory Dickory Dash' written by Tony Wilson had children yelling and cheering along with their favourite characters from the book.

By bringing the story and characters to life, children went on a journey with the characters who delivered a subtle message of determination and courage.

The live performance was filmed and streamed on social media for all to enjoy.



PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
ADULTS 9,404
CHILDREN 9,102
TOTAL 18,506



Books in Homes

The Mount Gambier Library, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier and the Department of Education and Child Development, partnered with 'Books In Homes', a charitable organisation that promotes children's literacy and enables children to select and own their own books.



Children's Services Development Coordinator Kelly Lynch with Julian Mattay of Rotary Club of Mount Gambier and Crawford and Ryan from Acacia Kindergarten.

This year each child from Acacia Kindergarten was able to choose nine brand new books which were hand delivered at book giving ceremonies held at the Library. This meant that a total of 548 books are now in homes that otherwise may not have had access to such items.

The final book giving ceremony for 2017 was held on 22 November at a special event with children, parents, Rotary members and staff in attendance. The event included local identities who read to the children and a barbecue provided by Rotary.

After three years of delivering the program and just under \$13,000 in funding, the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier has placed 1,688 books into homes to enable families to share the enjoyment and pleasure of reading.

New Library Manager

On 5 February 2018, Council welcomed new Library Manager Georgina Davison who has 26 years' experience in public libraries in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Georgina is extremely passionate about the role libraries play within their communities and was a participant in the highly successful International Network of Emerging Library Innovators (INELI), a project of the Global Libraries initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which provided emerging library leaders with opportunities to connect and learn from each other, as well as explore new ideas and experiment with new services.

Council welcomed Library Manager Georgina Davison (left) to the team in February 2018.

The Main Corner and Riddoch Art Gallery

Carve, Cut and Polish

Limestone Coast Sculptors Kamunde Sadiki, Ivo Tadic, and Mark de Nys presented limestone, metal and wood in abstract and figurative forms in the Carve, Cut, Polish exhibition which was on show at the Riddoch Art Gallery from Friday 23 February until Sunday 11 March 2018.

Bosnian born and Mount Gambier based Ivo Tadic is an artist who likes to explore the big picture. His eye-catching sculptures created during 2017 and 2018 have a strong conceptual research element.

"Tadic's works always provide for a stimulating conversation about the origin and nature of form, materiality and spatiality, which includes thinking about the three-dimensional space his sculptures occupy," Riddoch Art Gallery Director Dr Melentie Pandilovski said.

Mount Gambier based Mark de Nys creates sculptures made from industrial materials such as metal. De Nys works in a minimalist fashion, presenting simplified and reduced geometric forms, referencing both the Dada and Assemblage techniques as well as using junk as a sculptural material.

"He uses objects he has found such as a clock mechanism and a hospital bedpan, in an unmistakable Duchampian style. Exceptional treatment of shadow, light, and reflection, all play a part in the work which de Nys terms 'Additive Sculpture', putting an emphasis on the materiality of the works by smashing together different components in order to create a new and unique art-form," Dr Pandilovski said.

Congo-born Kamunde Sadiki arrived in Australia in 2015, after spending 13 years in a refugee camp in Zambia. Sadiki was inspired by the spiritual and artistic traditions of the African continent, as well the historical and contemporary political realities of Africa. Sadiki sculpts in a figurative fashion and uses diverse materials ranging from wood to limestone.



► Ivo Tadic Aspiration (above) and Paisley Fractal (left), 2017, Limestone, image courtesy of the artist.

► Kamunde Sadiki, Village Life (below), installation view, 2017-2018, Ebony wood, image courtesy of the artist.



► Kamunde Sadiki, Untitled 4 (above), 2017-2018, Redwood, image courtesy of the artist.



► Mark deNys, Emerge (right), 2010, stainless steel, image courtesy of the artist.





► A landscape image taken by Ockert Le Roux.

Through The Lens of Ockert Le Roux

Through the Lens of Ockert Le Roux, a collection of landscape images was launched at the Riddoch Art Gallery in Mount Gambier on Friday 14 July 2017.

Fourteen of Ockert Le Roux's most popular landscape images were on exhibition in the Cathleen Edkins gallery until Sunday 20 August 2017.

"For the past two years Ockert has focussed his time and energy on documenting the natural beauty of the Limestone Coast region in all its glory," Riddoch Art Gallery Director Dr Melentie Pandilovski said.

To promote photography as an art form, Mr Le Roux hosted a dinner auction in the Main Corner foyer in collaboration with local chef Kirby Shearing on Friday 11 August 2017.

"The high end, limited edition work, printed on metallic paper and mounted on acrylic plates was auctioned over a four-course meal where Ockert and Kirby enlightened the audience as to the connection and relationship between the images and the different courses," he said.



► Participants take part in the exclusive preview of virtual reality work, *Collisions* at the Main Corner.

Collisions Virtual Reality launch

Emmy award winning production *Collisions* debuted as the first virtual reality exhibition to be featured at the Main Corner and Riddoch Art Gallery, with an exclusive preview on Thursday 18 January 2018.

Arts and Culture Development Officer Serena Wong encouraged the community to put on a headset for an exclusive preview of Lynette Wallworth's virtual reality work, *Collisions*.

"It is a collision of culture, technology and storytelling which takes us on a virtual reality journey to the homeland of indigenous elder Nyarri Morgan and the Martu tribe in remote Western Australian Pilbara desert and his first, devastating introduction to the Western world," Ms Wong said.

The story outlined Nyarri's first taste of Western civilisation during Australia's first atomic tests in the 1950s.

"It offered us a view to what he saw, and in reflecting on this extraordinary event, Nyarri shared his perspective on the Martu way to care for the planet."

Collisions ran until 9 February 2018.

The Main Corner and Riddoch Art Gallery

Women at Work, Black Ships and The Thing Worn – A Collection of Kimonos

Three exhibitions by female artists featured at the Riddoch Art Gallery from Friday 25 August until Sunday 24 September 2017.

The exhibition Women At Work, curated by Dr Linda Marie Walker featured in the Main Gallery, including work from Kerrie Stratford, Diana Wiseman, Mary Daily, Jean McArthur, Jo Fife, Francesca da Rimini and Yoko Kajio. The artists used a range of mediums including painting, textiles, prints, pottery, collage, installation and performance.

“By responding in personal and skillful ways to cultural and environmental issues, including landscape, water, family, travel, freedom, hope and domestic crafts, their works revealed different and specific practices that result from tireless dedication to the production of beautiful and thoughtful artefacts,” Riddoch Art Gallery Director Dr Melentie Pandilovski said.

Women At Work is part of FRAN FEST, a month long festival commemorating the 40th anniversary of The Women’s Show held in Adelaide in 1977. The festival reflects upon and

celebrates the history and achievements of women’s artistic practices throughout the state.

Direct from the Centre of Contemporary Photography in Melbourne, Black Ships, the solo exhibition from Melbourne artist Jane Brown was on show in the Cathleen Edkins Gallery. The title is a translation of the Japanese word kurofune, an expression used by the Japanese for Western vessels approaching their shores. The term became a symbol of the end of Japan’s isolationist policies and the modernisation that began in the mid-19th century.

“Presented as a travelogue that interrogates the mechanics of history, Black Ships embodies surreal aspects of culture and landscape,” Dr Pandilovski said.

In the Margaret Scott Gallery, The Thing Worn – A Collection of Kimonos showcased the personal collection of Japanese expatriate Chiaki Owen, highlighting the rich history of Japanese textiles and culture.

“Featured in this collection was a range of women’s, men’s and children’s kimonos with accompanying obi’s, combs, pins and other hair ornaments.”



► Jean McArthur,
Field workers, Thailand

Ripley Arcade Public Art Project

The blank walls on James Street were transformed into a nature scene by two talented interstate artists as part of the Ripley Arcade Public Art Project.

To enhance the cultural integrity and visual appeal in the heart of the CBD, Council sought expressions of interest from artists in September 2017 to develop contemporary public art works for the blank walls on James Street near Ripley Arcade.

Rythmicolour Collective, a multi-disciplined mural based arts group from the Sunshine Coast, Queensland was selected by a panel to take on the project as a result of their portfolio of work including public and private murals throughout the country and the delivery of community workshops and education based interaction.

The artists worked on the mural over a few days as part of stage one of a two part project.

“We are going for a natural element, a macro of a micro nature scene, with moths, snails, tree branches and interpretive design elements running through it so it shows that there is a fluidity and energy that runs through things that is often overlooked within the environment,” artist EJ Zyla said.



► Rythmicolour
artist EJ Zyla.

Percy Street Public Art Project

An award winning team of artists, engineers and scientists from Victoria University installed 29 three-dimensional butterflies on the light posts of Percy Street as part of the second installation of the Ripley Arcade and Percy Street Public Art projects.

Skunk Control combines art, science and design and collaborated with local schools to merge creativity and science into public art works for Mount Gambier. Unpacking the science behind light, Skunk Control asked the students to create coloured designs to be incorporated within the project.

“Bringing together the school designs with a special dichromatic material that refracts different colours as the butterflies move in the wind, the installation has added a burst of life to Percy Street,” City of Mount Gambier Arts and Culture Development Officer Serena Wong said.

Each light post reflects designs from local schools including Mulga Street Primary School, Melaleuca Park Primary School, Reidy Park Primary School, McDonald Park School and Mount Gambier North Primary School.

Nick Athanasiou from Skunk Control said the team was thrilled to be able to facilitate outreach programs in regional areas and include the community in their work.

“Working with schools represents an important part of what we do and we are excited to work with school kids to make something that not only they can have ownership over, but will also enliven and add colour to the city,” Mr Athanasiou said.

“Art and science are often thought of as two completely different things, but we are pleased that Skunk Control are merging these two areas of creativity and bringing along our schools for the journey. We like to think of it as the science of art,” Ms Wong said.



Art Installations Highlight Local History

Large-scale black and white photographs from the Les Hill photographic collection were installed on the empty walls of four buildings in the heart of the city in October 2017 as part of a project supported by the City of Mount Gambier Creative City Cultural Fund.

Jessica Elise Designs artist Jess Tucker secured \$12,000 in March 2017 to erect four photographic murals through the fund which provides funding to artists, community groups and non-profit community based organisations for projects responding to local needs and issues.

“I sourced images from the Les Hill photographic collection at the Mount Gambier Library to relate to the locations that were accepted. The final locations of the photographic murals were the Railway Lands, the alley wall alongside Canopy Interiors, the car park wall on the Gavin McEachern building and the wall facing Macs Hotel on the Elders building,” Ms Tucker said.

The murals add to Mount Gambier’s profile as a vibrant and culturally diverse destination and celebrate the city’s distinct arts, culture and heritage.

“Often photos are just left online now, on people’s phones or hidden away in people’s photo albums. We have such a rich history in Mount Gambier and an amazing collection of old photographs taken by Les Hill. I think this is so special, and I wanted people to be able to appreciate them in the locations they were taken.”

The talented local artist aimed to highlight local history to inform tourists about the heart of town and remind locals of yesteryear.

“It will hopefully stir memories in people, and encourage the curiosity of younger generations. Collections like these often get forgotten, so I wanted to make sure that it doesn’t. We need to make sure that we not only keep our history alive, but also remember to continue to capture our city in the present.”

▲ Artist Jess Tucker (below) with a mural on Bay Road that shows the Cave Garden in 1917.



Tertiary Health Education Grants Program

The Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Grant program continued for the 12th year in 2018, providing local students who live away from the area or travel, with a \$2,000 grant to help complete their tertiary studies within the health field.

The program responds to the ongoing challenge faced by regional communities to attract and retain skilled health workers.

Grant committee chairperson Ken Stafford said the program had grown from offering five grants in 2007, to providing up to 14 grants per annum in recent years.

"Over the past 12 years the grants have helped 118 students who had to leave home for studies in health skill areas," Mr Stafford said.

It's hoped that the grant recipients will return to the region at some point after graduation to boost the number of health professionals within the South East.

During the launch of the 2018 grant round in January, Mayor Andrew Lee spoke highly of the value of the program.

"The grant is the farewell gift that continues to give. It's a reminder to our young people that they come from a community that values and cares for its people, a community that will always be a place worth returning to," Mayor Lee said.

Previous grant recipient Sam Sinclair spoke about the support that the grant provided him in completing an Honours program in Psychology through the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales.

"As part of my study, I have to attend mandatory intensives at the campus in Armidale. There's quite a cost involved in attending week long intensives, and there are three of them over two years," Mr Sinclair said.

The 28 year old used his tertiary health education grant to assist with travel costs for study.



► Tertiary Health Education Grants Committee Chairperson Ken Stafford (left) former grant recipient Sam Sinclair and Mayor Andrew Lee.

"I would have had to have chosen between travelling to Mackay to go to my sister's wedding last year, or go to intensive school, so the grant meant that I could do both," he said.

Funding for the grant program was provided by:

- City of Mount Gambier,
- District Council of Grant,
- Ken and Carol Stafford,
- UFS Chemist,
- Flinders Rural Health SA,
- Mount Gambier & District Community Bank
- Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes, and
- Private benefactors who wish to remain anonymous.

The 2018 recipients were:

Health Science/ Occupational Therapy	Jacqueline Widdison
Medical Radiation Science	Tillie Saxon
Medicine/Surgery	Vimbiso Chiodze
Applied Science/Speech Pathology	Maddison McDonald
Physiotherapy	Lauren Pike
Exercise Science/Clinical Exercise Physiology	Brenna McKay
Pharmacy	Emily Frost
Nursing/Midwifery	Alice Telford
Psychology	Eilish McKay
Paramedic Science	Tegan Modra
Medical Science	Sarah Hayman

Broken Windows Children's Art Presentation

The Mount Gambier Child Care Centre made a special presentation of images to Mayor Andrew Lee in September 2017 as part of the Broken Windows project.

A series of three creative images were developed by children reflecting on their interpretation of the old Mount Gambier Hospital building which stood abandoned with many broken windows for years, until it was finally demolished in 2013.

"The building was gold for children's imaginations, and many children throughout Mount Gambier used to visit the old site and share their own creative ideas of what existed in there and why the windows were broken," City of Mount Gambier Community Development Officer Alison Brash said.

The Broken Windows project was one of several Children's Perspectives of our City projects that local early child education groups participated in.

Mount Gambier Child Care Centre Director Fiona Paltridge has been a strong advocate in ensuring the perspectives of children within the community are heard and encouraged.

"It was clear to us at the centre that the building was important to the children. Their drawings immortalise the building as a commemorative art piece in memory of the old hospital. We thank the Stand Like Stone Foundation for helping us with the project," Ms Paltridge said.

The project aligns with the Mount Gambier Charter for Children, which encourages the community to listen and respond to the many voices of children.

"It's important that our children feel they belong, and are valued citizens of Mount Gambier. It has now been years since the old hospital disappeared from the landscape and the City of Mount Gambier is very pleased to accept these creative works reflecting on the history of the City," Mayor Andrew Lee said.

The works are available for the public to view at the Mount Gambier Library.



► Mayor Andrew Lee receives the Mount Gambier Child Care Centre commemorative art piece 'Broken Windows'. He's pictured with Library Children's Services Coordinator Kelly Lynch, Mount Gambier Child Care Centre Director Fiona Paltridge and children Savannah and Harlow.

Australia Day Awards

The City of Mount Gambier recognised outstanding community members at the annual Australia Day breakfast held at the Mount Gambier Railway Lands on Friday 26 January 2018.

Citizens of the Year

Lois Bayre

During the past 19 years Lois Bayre has provided a significant contribution to the Cancer Council of South Australia by hosting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea events.

From humble beginnings, Lois initially invited 26 people to her house for her first morning tea fundraiser. Responding to initial interest, she moved the event to St Paul's Hall and attracted 120 people to her first event, raising \$920.

With the assistance of a band of 12 volunteers and contributions from local businesses, Lois' event now attracts 300 people each year. As a result of this work, Lois has stimulated well over \$100,000 in donations during the past 19 years. A significant achievement and testament to her leadership and commitment.

Peter Martin

Peter Martin has been described as a role model within the community. A retired diesel mechanic, Peter was nominated for the Citizen of the Year award for his community spirit, giving nature and tireless efforts to help others. Peter provides assistance to those in need, running errands, providing transport, assisting others to move house and picks up litter in the streets during his daily walks. He puts others first and is willing to drop anything to help someone else and without asking for anything in return.

As a selfless member of the community, Peter is acknowledged for his daily demonstration of the values attached to being a good citizen and is a very worthy recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award.





Young Citizen of the Year Laura Small

Laura is an incredibly talented musician who has made significant contributions to our community as a performer, mentor and teacher. Relocating to Mount Gambier from Port Macquarie for the purpose of tertiary study, Laura completed a Bachelor of Jazz Composition and is currently studying a Masters of Teaching through the University of South Australia.

Laura has embraced the Mount Gambier community and, over time, has inadvertently become an advocate for the region. She also gives her time freely to many community events including the Christmas parade, Carols by Candlelight, Blue Lake Fun Run, Mayfair Singers, Concert Band and City Band. She willingly shares her expertise to inspire and teach others within the community to improve their musical skills.



Community Event of the Year Fidler and Webb Exhibition - Members of the Mount Gambier History Group

The Fidler and Webb Exhibition was a culmination of artefacts, images and stories of the department store's 150 year history. The project involved at least two years of preparation by a passionate committee of volunteers committed to sharing the story about a local business that, for many years, played an integral role in the commercial fabric of Mount Gambier.

Committee members Aileen Clarke and Margaret Brown researched and collected material for the exhibition. Their work was part of thousands of hours contributed by the Mount Gambier History Group in the delivery of the event.

The opening night attracted more than 250 people and more than 1000 others visited during the 12 day exhibition, including many former employees, customers and ancestors of the Fidler and Webb families.



Mount Gambier Community Events

Australian Street Rod Federation hosts the Blue Lake Nationals 23 to 25 March 2018

Mount Gambier was alive with Hot Rods of all shapes, sizes and colours when an impressive 546 cars visited Mount Gambier for the Blue Lake Nationals.

Hundreds of members of the Australian Street Rod Federation came from around Australia to be part of this unique event, with many visitors from Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria, Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and from across the Limestone Coast.

This event was earmarked for Mount Gambier four years prior, as the Nationals are held every second year. Two local residents, who are committee members of the Australian Street Rod Federation Terry Sparrow and Rod Storan, dedicated a great deal of time to help make the event the huge success it was.

The event was held at the Mount Gambier Showgrounds, which enabled the public to get up close and personal with the display of cars. It also provided the community with an opportunity to speak with the owners of the hot rods, rat rods and custom cars and learn more about what it takes to build the unique cars and to experience the camaraderie among the club members.

Members dedicated many hours to ensure their cars were beautifully detailed, chrome plated and polished, with many featuring late model running gear and state of the art automotive engineering and technology. All cars were placed into different prize categories with 10 Excellence Awards up for grabs.

Tours were arranged for the visitors to take their cars to Penola and the Coonawarra wine region. They also visited many of the caves in and around Mount Gambier and the Blue Lake and surrounds. Feast's Classic Car Museum and Memorabilia near Port MacDonnell was a favourite stop for the visitors.

Feedback from the interstate organisers, spectators and exhibitors, sponsors and Mount Gambier residents was extremely positive.

Photo courtesy
Scott Johncock



City of Mount Gambier Australian Sprintcar Championship 25 to 27 January 2018

In 2016 the Borderline Speedway committee put in a bid to host the Australian Title in Mount Gambier. Two years later and after much preparation, the 56th Australian Sprintcar Championship was held at Borderline Speedway from 25 to 27 January 2018.

As the major supporter of the event City of Mount Gambier was awarded naming rights. The last time this event was held in Mount Gambier was in 1995 so the committee and local speedway community was thrilled with the opportunity to welcome this prestigious fixture back.

More than 130 of the best drivers in Australia (including locals Steve Lines, Glen Sutherland, Rory Button and Scott Enderl) signed on each night to race. The three nights of racing delivered plenty of excitement, with fast and furious action from the drivers, a few spills and plenty of thrills.

Kerry Madsen of St Mary's, NSW was again crowned Australian number one, winning his third Australian title in a row. Victorian based James McFadden came in second and South Australian driver Matt Egel came in third. Local driver Steven Lines finished in seventh, while Glen Sutherland finished in 11th position.

The three-night event saw crowds estimated at 15,000 in total, with the Saturday night alone attracting a crowd of 9,000 at the venue. Many visitors attended from interstate, giving a significant boost to the local economy, with many arriving a few days earlier to enjoy all that Mount Gambier has to offer.



► Matt Egel (third place), Kerry Madsen (first place), event Grand Marshal and Sprintcar champion Phillip March with second placegetter James McFadden (credit: SR Photos).

The event was live streamed, showcasing Mount Gambier and the Borderline Speedway to racing fans worldwide with many tuning in from the United States to witness all the action of the major event.

In preparation for the event, the hard working committee members and volunteers spent endless hours upgrading the track surface, signage, fences, seating, corporate boxes and the grassy banks that surround the entire circuit resulting in the venue ranking as one of the top three speedways in Australia.

Overall the committee felt the event was a huge success and something that won't be seen in the region again for some time to come.



► Mayor Andrew Lee with local sprintcar drivers Steve Lines (left), Rory Button, Scott Enderl and Glen Sutherland.

Mount Gambier Christmas Parade

Fifty seven Christmas inspired entries made their way down Commercial Street as part of the NF McDonnell and Sons Mount Gambier Christmas Parade held on Saturday 18 November 2017.

The Mount Gambier and District Health Service was named the most outstanding entry in the parade. The judges unanimously agreed that *Renal Christmas Bollywood Style* was a stand out.

"We were really impressed by the colour, enthusiasm and wow factor of this entry in the parade," parade judge Lynne Dowling said.

2017 Category Winners

Most Outstanding Entry \$750	Renal Christmas Bollywood Style Mount Gambier and District Health Service
Best Christmas Theme \$500	Jesus You're My Superhero St Martin's Lutheran College
Best School Entry \$500	At the Stable St Martin's Kindergarten
Best Club or Community Organisation Entry \$250	South East Animal Welfare League
Open Category \$250	Christmas on the Farm Treloar family
Best Themed Band \$250	Portland Citizen's Band
Encouragement Award \$250	48th Army Cadet Unit Drill Team
Best Non-City Entry \$500	Compton Primary School
Best Brass Band \$250	The Mount Gambier City Brass Band

Below: Most Outstanding Entry - *Renal Christmas Bollywood Style*, Mount Gambier and District Health Service.



In July 2017, the City of Mount Gambier proudly announced local timber processing company NF McDonnell and Sons as the naming rights sponsor for the Mount Gambier Christmas Parade.

The sponsorship deal over the next three years with an option to extend, will help support the annual event and provide prize money to reward the best community entries.

"The Christmas Parade is a great community event and I believe it really establishes the spirit of the Christmas season in the community," NF McDonnell and Sons Managing Director Ian McDonnell said. "Growing up we always looked forward to the parade, as did our children and I look forward to taking our grandchildren in the future, so we are thrilled to be involved."

The business was established at its Suttontown site in 1956 and is now operated by third and fourth generation family members. It currently employs 110 people.

"My late uncle Don McDonnell was heavily involved in the community as Mayor for 19 years and my father Les has been involved in a number of service and community organisations. As a family we would like to continue the tradition of being part of the community so this is a really good fit," he said.

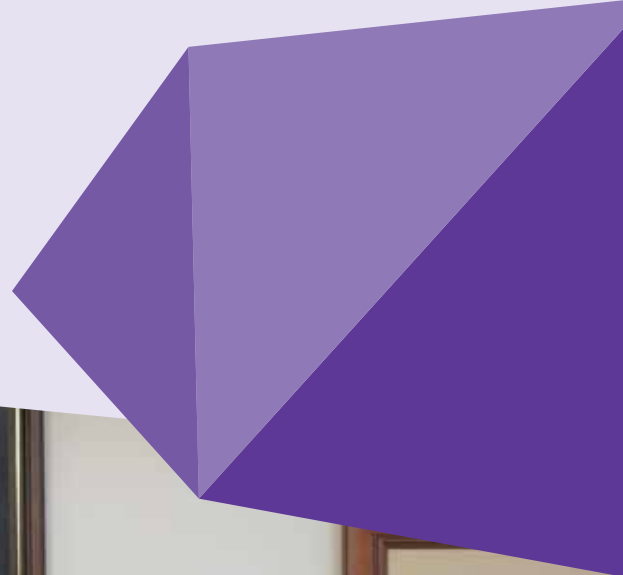
► Five generations of the McDonnell family, baby Ryan (left), Ian, Shaun and Harrison McDonnell standing before an image of Newman, Les and Don McDonnell.

City of Mount Gambier Deputy Mayor and Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Advisory Group Council representative Hanna Persello welcomes the local support shown by the McDonnell family.

"On behalf of the advisory group, I'd like to thank NF McDonnell and Sons for their generous contribution to the parade. It will go a long way towards ensuring the long running community event continues to thrive," Cr Persello said.

WIN Television continues to provide in-kind airtime promotion to the value of more than \$20,000 annually in support of the much loved community event.

"WIN Television is proud to have been involved in the Mount Gambier Christmas Parade since 1974 and we'll continue to support the parade for years to come," WIN Television Mount Gambier Manager Kevin Cook said.



Fringe Festival

Mount Gambier came alive during the Fringe Festival from 24 March to 2 April 2018 as 12,000 people flocked to various shows and performances, including the Liftoff Party and Showcase event.

The Liftoff event saw a street party vibe in Commercial Street East on Friday 24 March. The party centred around the Cave Garden which was filled with locals and visitors who were keen to celebrate arts, culture, music and great food from local eateries including Metro, Presto, Copenhagen and Jens Hotel.

“In the second year of Fringe Mount Gambier, we had record numbers attend the Street Party and Cave Garden Fringe Showcase. Ticketed shows were also well attended, and many were sold out which is a fantastic result,” Fringe Ambassador Louise Adams said.

The festivities continued on Saturday 25 March in the Cave Garden with a full program of activities curated by performers Louise Adams, Mark de Nys and Lewis Major which entertained locals in a family friendly atmosphere all day.

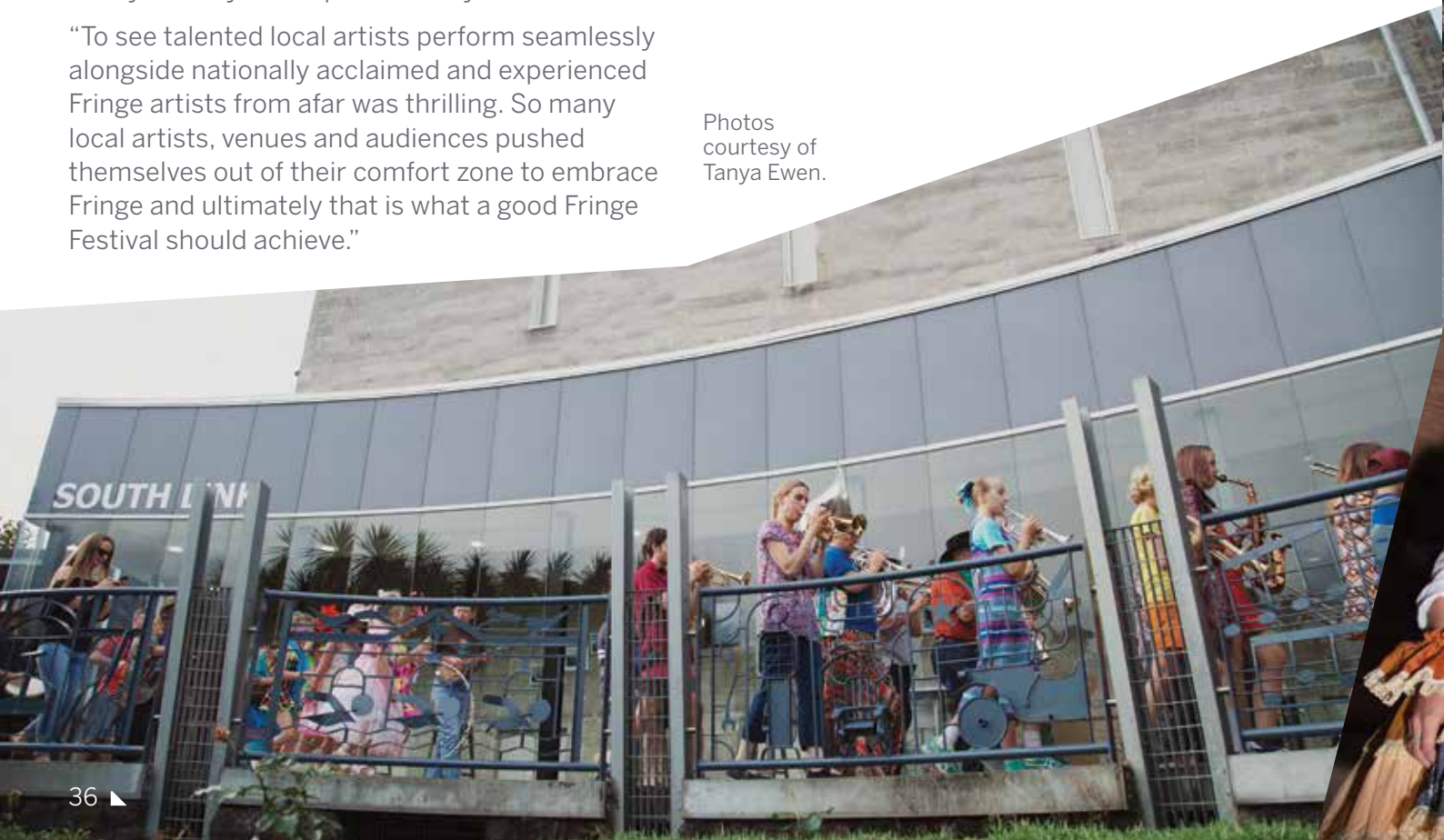
“To see talented local artists perform seamlessly alongside nationally acclaimed and experienced Fringe artists from afar was thrilling. So many local artists, venues and audiences pushed themselves out of their comfort zone to embrace Fringe and ultimately that is what a good Fringe Festival should achieve.”

“Seeing all our events, free or ticketed, have really strong attendances was wonderful - it certainly helps build confidence for artists, venues, local businesses and funding bodies which in turn will help spread the word that we are creating something special here in Mount Gambier,” Ms Adams said.

Fringe in Mount Gambier was a collaboration between City of Mount Gambier and Country Arts SA, along with local artists and musicians who came together to highlight Mount Gambier as a cultural destination and a community that embraces acceptance and diversity while presenting entertaining, edgy and quirky content.

“Events like Fringe Mount Gambier don't just happen, and it is a credit to everyone involved; audiences, local businesses, artists, Council, Country Arts, schools, Adelaide Fringe media and volunteers. The enthusiasm of all these people are the seeds needed to grow a sustainable and exciting Arts Festival for our region,” Ms Adams said.

Photos
courtesy of
Tanya Ewen.





National Volunteer Week

During National Volunteer Week 21 to 27 May 2018, the City of Mount Gambier acknowledged the generous contributions made by local volunteers. This year's theme 'give a little, change a lot' represented millions of volunteers nationally who make a profound impact within their respective communities.

Hundreds of volunteers and volunteer organisations including service clubs and community groups work together with Council throughout the year to deliver events, sustainability activities and beautify public spaces.

"I'm incredibly proud of the work provided by volunteers in the City and I offer a sincere thank you to all our volunteers for their contribution. It's also important to recognise the individuals who informally volunteer to keep Mount Gambier great, from the sporting, cultural and service clubs to the emergency volunteers and non-government organisations, each of which provide invaluable contributions to Mount Gambier as a resilient and robust City," Mayor Andrew Lee said.

Council volunteers contribute to various areas throughout the organisation including the Library, Riddoch Art Gallery, Main Corner and events. The Library has a large dedicated team of volunteers consisting of approximately 55 people who assist on a daily basis. This includes a group of Lioness' who deliver books to homes, the Friends of the Library and others who deliver to aged care facilities around Mount Gambier.

Kelvin Mahoney has volunteered his time at the Mount Gambier Library for over a decade and recalls volunteering at the Library prior to the move to the new facility in 2009. Kelvin initially became a volunteer to improve his computer skills and to learn new skills after 28 years working at a local saw mill.

"The best part about volunteering at the Library is meeting new people and making new friends. I assist four

afternoons each week with 3D printing, data entry and local history. I enjoy the diversity and the feeling that I'm doing something worthwhile and useful," Mr Mahoney said.

Mr Mahoney attributes volunteering to developing new self-confidence and has learned so much about 3D printing he is now able to teach others how to make their own creations.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from volunteering at the Library especially from teaching others new skills. It's also interesting to see what the imagination of others leads them to create."

Mat Wall has volunteered at the Library for about a year, assisting once a week with 3D printing, Wacom tablets and sphero robots. Mat uses volunteering as a means to challenge himself and meet new people.

"I enjoy working with all the fabulous people and learning and teaching about the diverse range of technology the Library has to offer. To anyone thinking about volunteering, just do it. There are plenty of areas in the community seeking volunteers and there is something for everyone," Mr Wall said.

▲ Library volunteers Mat Wall (left) and Kelvin Mahoney provide training on how to use the 3D digital printer.



Community Engagement and Social Inclusion

Council has a focussed Community Engagement & Social Inclusion Sub-committee comprising:

- Cr Hanna Persello (Presiding Member),
- Cr Mark Lovett,
- Cr Penny Richardson,
- Kate Amoroso (community),
- Judy Mc Kay (community),
- Dr Sue Mutton (community), and
- Mel Stephenson (community).

The Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee has been established to support Council's current and future community engagement and social inclusion activities that will:

- Identify and respond to community needs, strengths and aspirations,
- Review Council's current community engagement and social inclusion practices and policies,
- Develop community engagement and social inclusion strategy, and
- Embed engagement and social inclusion practices within Council's operations.

Throughout 2017/2018 the Sub-Committee has continued to formally acknowledge the traditional custodians of our land and build respectful partnerships with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) focus group.

Strong progress continues toward the development of a RAP for the City of Mount Gambier and a number of initiatives have been activated. At its meeting in December 2017, Council endorsed that the proposed tourism signage strategy include Bunganditj, the language of the Boandik, for sites of cultural significance as recommended by the Elders of the RAP focus group.

The focus group agreed to prioritise work with Burrandies and the Boandik Language group to confirm correct language and appropriate design elements to be presented for consideration. This work has been a collaborative approach that aligns with Council's endorsed concepts for the signage strategy to include:

- Welcome/entrance signage, and
- Locational signage for the Blue Lake, Leg of Mutton Lake and the entrance/grounds of the Valley Lakes.

It was agreed for the second interpretative stage of the signage strategy that Council work with Burrandies and the Boandik Language group to scope a project to undertake research to assist with collection, curation and content development for the interpretive signage.

Additionally, Council acknowledged the following important dates with programmed activities at both the Library and Main Corner/Riddoch Art Gallery:

- National Sorry Day (26 May) – Display of part of National Sorry Day speech, educational materials and collection,
- Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June) 'Don't Keep History a Mystery',
- 'Ted Talks and Soup' event and themed Bookwell program and Story Time sessions,
- Exhibition of the Gooch Collection curated to explore the theme,
- NAIDOC Week (8 July to 15 July),
- Cave Garden flag raising ceremony,
- Exclusive book launch 'Annie's Story - Growing Up Strong on Boandik country' by Auntie Michelle, and
- 'Carriberrie' – an Indigenous Australian song and dance 3D virtual reality experience from traditional ceremonial dance and song, toward intrinsically contemporary and modern expressions.

Youth Advisory Group (YAG)

In 2017/2018 Mount Gambier's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) continued to provide a fantastic sounding board for Council in responding to issues affecting young people in Mount Gambier.

The YAG organised and hosted various events throughout the year, including a comprehensive Youth Week program and collected almost \$3000 during the Christmas Parade for the Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal.

Members of YAG also represented the interests of young people in the region through a variety of consultations throughout the year. An example of this was a workshop with Commissioner for Children and Young People Helen Connolly, who sought input from young people in Mount Gambier as part of a submission to the Family Law Review.

Youth Engagement Strategy - #MyMTG

Members of YAG played a significant role in the delivery of consultation activities with the broader youth population in the development of a Youth Engagement Strategy for Council.

Members assisted in identifying and delivering consultation activities for the strategy which resulted in the collation of feedback and input from more than 600 young people. Consultation activity included:

- A launch and feedback booth at the Limestone Coast Careers Expo,
- Surveys - both online and handwritten,
- Feedback chalk boards at various locations throughout the city,
- A Student Leaders Roundtable held at City Hall,
- Feedback sessions at various parks and recreation facilities, and
- Small focus-group meetings with a range of groups and individuals across a variety of topics or interest areas.

▲ James Freemantle (left), Lexi McLellan, Sarah Harden and Elizabeth Durbidge celebrating Youth Week at the Chill and Chat event held at Metro Café.

YAG members were instrumental in ensuring that consultation activity was appropriate and considerate of the broad range of views and interests of young people across the city.

National Youth Week Mount Gambier 13 April - 22 April 2018

Each year the YAG is involved in developing and delivering activities as part of South Australian Youth Week. This year's theme was 'Your Future - Your Way'.

The program incorporated five key events in Mount Gambier, attracting the participation of more than 650 young people. These events included:

- Loud in the Library - featuring local musicians, games, activities and food,
- Chill and Chat at Metro - music, milkshakes and genuine chats for young people,
- Creative writing workshops - held at the Library, participants built their own story world,
- The Amazing Race - teams explored Mount Gambier, finding clues, completing challenges at pit stops, and
- Pop Culture Pursuit - pop culture movie night, cosplay, games, art and creativity.

Each event was delivered by young people, for young people, and in collaboration with local youth service providers and agencies. Special thanks to headspace for playing a significant role in the delivery of numerous events throughout the week.



City of Mount Gambier Community Profile

About the Community Profile

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.

The City of Mount Gambier Community Profile provides demographic analysis for the City and its suburbs based on results from the Census of Population and Housing. The profile is updated with population estimates when the ABS releases new figures such as the annual Estimated Resident Population (ERP).

Suburb boundaries and Census questions change over time, but the data is managed to ensure that there is an accurate time series provided for the current geographic boundaries.

Results for the City of Mount Gambier include population, age structure, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, income, qualifications, occupations, employment, unemployment, disability, disadvantage, volunteering, childcare, family structure, household structure, housing tenure, mortgage and rental payments, and the size and type of the dwellings people live in.

The Community Profile presents this information in maps, tables and charts with concise factual commentary to answer three important questions:

1. What are the characteristics of the people who live here?
2. How are they changing?
3. How do they compare to other areas?

This provides the basis for making evidence-based decisions about how to provide services for the community as it changes.

You can be confident about the quality of the information as it is derived from ABS data, analysed and presented by population experts. Funded by the City of Mount Gambier, the Community profile is available at: profile.id.com.au/mount_gambier/home

About the Economic Profile

The City of Mount Gambier Economic Profile provides economic analysis for the City of Mount Gambier by combining 11 different datasets to build a cohesive story of a local economy, how it is changing and how it compares to other areas.

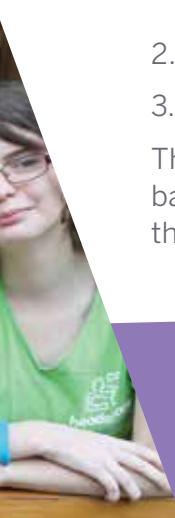
It is a public resource designed to be used by Council staff, community groups, investors, business people, students and the general public. You can be confident about the quality of the information as it is derived from official sources and the most robust economic modelling, analysed and presented by experts and funded by the City of Mount Gambier. Each data source is maintained with the latest series so you can be sure you are using the most up to date information.

Results for the City of Mount Gambier include Gross Regional Product, local jobs, local businesses, employment, unemployment, population, building approvals, industry structure, journey to work and much more.

Council encourages the use of this extensive on-line resource which is available at: profile.id.com.au/mount_gambier/home

ESTIMATE
RESIDENT
POPULATION
2017

27,036



Dog and Cat Management Plan 2018 - 2023

Council is required by law to implement the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act. Council's Dog and Cat Management Plan 2018 - 2023 was adopted on 15 August 2017.

Council's Dog and Cat Management Plan outlines a number of 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 allowed 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.

Dogs and Cats Online

Following changes to the Dog and Cat Management Act, all dogs and cats were required to be microchipped from 1 July 2018. All new generations of dogs and cats (born after 1 July 2018) must be desexed with exemptions to apply for working dogs and registered breeders.

"While the new desexing requirement only affects dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018, all dogs and cats had to be microchipped by this date," City of Mount Gambier General Inspector Derek Ferguson said.

Microchipping is a safe and permanent way to identify dogs and cats. The procedure is quick, with no ongoing discomfort and can only be carried out by a trained, authorised implanter.

"Registration and microchip details need to be entered into a new online portal designed streamline dog and cat management in South Australia, replacing the 68 individual Council registers from 1 July 2018," Mr Ferguson said.

The Dogs and Cats Online system is a one-stop online service for all registration payments, microchipping and breeder information and is accessible 24/7, including on mobile devices. It allows pet owners to instantly update registration or microchip details if they move house or change phone numbers, and pay annual Council registration fees.

"The changes are designed to increase the likelihood of lost or impounded dogs and cats being reunited with their owners, and reduce the number of unwanted and abandoned litters euthanised in pounds and shelters."

Visit www.dogsandcatsonline.com.au



General Inspector's Report

The following statistics are provided for the Division of Inspectorial and Dog Control for the 2017/2018 year.

Dog expiations	62
Dog complaints	543
Dog impoundments	95
Dog attack reports	6
Parking offences	222
Long grass notices	262
Fire permits	48
Cattle impoundments (sheep and cows)	0
Vehicle impoundments	1
Dog Registrations	4744
Payment to SEAWL (provision of pound services)	\$34,362
Dog registration fees	\$125,408

 **95**
DOG
IMPOUNDMENTS

 **222**
PARKING
OFFENCES

262
LONG GRASS
NOTICES 



Community, Services, Lifestyle, Welfare and Wellbeing

Council provides many direct and indirect services and support to its community and in particular, to the health, welfare, lifestyle and wellbeing of its citizens.

In addition to other contributions that may be referenced in this Annual Report, other direct financial support was provided by the Council in 2017/2018, including:

Care Ring telephone service (Lifeline SE)	\$2,000
Youth Advisory Group and projects	\$6,900
Mount Gambier City Band	\$7,000
Mount Gambier Toy Library	\$2,000
NAIDOC Week	\$1,000
Heritage Restoration Fund	\$17,300
Stand Like Stone Foundation	\$3,000
The Junction	\$1,000
Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West - Careers Expo	\$1,500
Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce Business Awards	\$1,000
New Year's Eve Celebrations (Mount Gambier Community Events)	\$10,000
Party in the Park (Rotary Mount Gambier West)	\$1,000
Blue Lake Fun Run	\$2,500

Eisteddfods (Backstage Inc.)	\$5,000
Australia Day Breakfast	\$5,900
Mount Gambier Gold Cup Races	\$3,000
Suicide Prevention Network	\$3,000
Cultural grants	\$25,000
General community donations	\$32,794
Seniors Month	\$3,100
Syringe Disposal Service	\$1,300
Main Corner / City Hall subsidies	\$49,500
Wehl Street Theatre	\$9,500
Citizenship	\$3,100
Christmas Parade	\$31,000
Christmas Decorations	\$19,500
Tertiary Health Education grants	\$22,000
Limestone Coast Substance Misuse	\$10,000
Fringe in Mount Gambier	\$20,000

Amounts are rounded up to the nearest \$100.



Environment

Clean Up Australia Day 2018

Clean Up Australia 2018 consisted of clean ups held on two days, Schools Clean Up Day on Friday 2 March and the Community Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 4 March 2018.

More than 1,000 students took part in Schools Clean Up Day, cleaning up their respective school grounds and surrounding areas. Participation in this national event helps to educate children to recycle and reduce the amount of rubbish going into landfill.

The Community Clean Up Australia Day event involved more than 30 volunteers, mainly focused on the Cave Gardens area and Umpherston Sinkhole. Volunteers collected a substantial amount of rubbish, consisting mostly of drink cans/bottles and take-away food packaging. The Community Clean Up day was supported by the Gambier City Lions Club, who provided a barbecue lunch for all volunteers on the day.



► Peter (left), Tom and Bethany take part in Clean Up Australia Day 2018.

Ride2Work Day

City of Mount Gambier locals were urged to join commuters across Australia and jump on their bikes to celebrate Ride2Work Day on Wednesday 18 October 2017.

City of Mount Gambier Library Technical Services Coordinator Patricia Ellis rides to work regularly and said Mount Gambier has never been more bike-friendly with the Rail Trail enhancing the area's connectivity with key destinations and attractions.

"Riding to work is a great way for people to get active, de-stress and save money on petrol and car costs," Ms Ellis said.

"Mount Gambier is the perfect place to take part in Ride2Work Day, especially along the Rail Trail. It warms my heart to see so many people and families using it together."

Mayor Andrew Lee encourages residents to put the wheels in motion and experience the cost savings produced by pedal power.

"The RAA estimates that it costs up to \$17,000 a year to run some vehicles, but it costs next to nothing for a bike, with the added bonus that this gentle form of incidental exercise is very good for your health," Mayor Lee said.

► City of Mount Gambier Library Technical Services Coordinator Patricia Ellis (left) and Mayor Andrew Lee gear up for Ride2Work Day.



Environmental Sustainability Highlights

Council Solar Power Projects

As part of its strong support for environmental sustainability Council now has over 171 kW of solar panels across five of its sites:

- Aquatic Centre - 68.5 kW
- Carinya Gardens - 10.4 kW
- Works Depot - 29.9 kW
- Library - 57.5 kW
- Waste Transfer Station - 5.2 kW

Together they have produced a total of over 387,000 kWh of renewable electricity since the first system was switched on. That is equivalent to running an average sized South Australian home for more than 60 years, and equates to over 190 tonnes of carbon emissions.

These solar power projects have been undertaken to continue to reduce Council's reliance on grid electricity, deliver long-term savings on electricity costs, foster local renewable energy, reduce Council's environmental impact and emissions.

Environmental Events

During 2017 and 2018 Council again participated in many environmental events:

Earth Hour

Lights were switched off at the Main Corner, City Hall, Library, Vansittart Park, Lady Nelson Brig, the Railway Lands and the Centenary Tower between 8:30pm and 9:30pm on Saturday 24 March 2018. A number of short films were also shown at the Library and Main Corner - 'Adapting to Climate Change', 'Appetite for Change: A Journey from Planet to Plate', film 'Kids React to Climate Change' and 'Tomorrow' (Demain).

Carpathon

Council supported the Department for Environment and Water to run the free Carpathon fishing competition at the Valley Lake. Attendance was strong, with approximately 200 registered participants. This event was held in early 2018 to increase the chances for catching carp.

Waste and Recycling Activities

The City of Mount Gambier undertook many activities during the past year designed to assist the community to reduce waste and do the right thing:

- Purchased an additional 4,500 kitchen caddies and compostable bags to give to green waste subscribers to increase the rate of food waste being diverted from landfill,
- Ran tours of Caroline Landfill for school groups,
- Waste and recycling talks at schools and community groups with interactive activities,
- Clean outs of Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) in front of school groups, highlighting the litter that is caught by the traps,
- Conducted waste audits and bin tagging of household bins in order to let the community know what they are doing well and where they can improve, and
- Setting up the 'ReUse Market' which will open in late 2018. The ReUse Market will be a place where the community can get second hand bargains on a wide variety of items. Unwanted good quality items can be donated through the Waste Transfer Station, to be sold at the ReUse Market.

▶ Peter, Margot Dunne and Bethany playing cards by candlelight during Earth Hour.



Valley Lake Conservation Park display garden opens

More than 42 rare and endangered plant species are growing in the City of Mount Gambier Valley Lake Conservation Park display garden which was officially opened to the public in August 2017.

The development of the garden has been a labour of love since the idea was first pitched by Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) in 2013.

"The area selected for the park contains bush sand, rocks and a suitable soil type for the rare coastal plants. It was fenced off to stop kangaroos getting in, with the assistance of unemployed young people with a disability in 2013," City of Mount Gambier Conservation Park contractor Orazio Cultreri said.

Planting followed in Spring 2015, with the help of volunteers and NGT staff.

"The volunteers and I watered all through a hot summer and it was a real challenge given many of the plants were tiny, but the hard work paid off and we had a 90 per cent survival rate," Mr Cultreri said.

Many of the plants grown in the garden are on the vulnerable and endangered list. Signage has been installed to provide details about the scientific and common names of the plants and their habitat and conservation status.

"One of the key varieties of species is the Jumping Jack Acacia which is endangered throughout Australia. I regard the garden as a refuge, it provides protection for our vulnerable plants and a place where we can easily access genetic material such as seed or cuttings for future propagation."

It's hoped the garden will continue to evolve with additional plant varieties.

"It's all part of the whole plan for the Conservation Park, I'm hoping that down the track it becomes an educational opportunity for students and schools," he said.

Native fish at the Railway Lands

In April 2017 Natural Resources South East (NRSE) and City of Mount Gambier translocated 200 Southern Pygmy Perch (*Nannoperca australis*) from Pick Swamp at Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park to the large water catchment area at the Railway Lands.

NRSE Wetlands Conservation Ecologist Steve Clarke said the project aimed to take a sterile pond and make it function as a native ecological system.

"Using suitable native fish and aquatic plants was a big part of this process. NRSE provided suitable plants, which were then nurtured over a year until they were ready to go into the pond," Mr Clarke said.

"Meanwhile, Council staff constructed special cages that attach to the sides of the pond to hold native aquatic vegetation which the fish need for habitat," City of Mount Gambier Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard said.

Once the habitat was in place, the Southern Pygmy Perch were caught at Pick Swamp and released in the Railway Lands pond.

"We are happy to report that more than a year later the fish are thriving and breeding in their new habitat, which is a great outcome," Mr Izzard said.

Both parties believe the project has been an important step in the right direction to create a new home for the protected species of fish.

"One of the bonuses of having fish in the pond is that they will control mosquitos," Mr Clarke said.

"This project has been a great partnership between Council and NRSE," Mr Izzard said.

The City of Mount Gambier acknowledges Steve Clarke's contribution to this project. Council was saddened to learn of Steve's passing in August 2018.

▲ Left: City of Mount Gambier Conservation Park contractor Orazio Cultreri (left) and volunteers Graeme Paschke and Wayne Moritz at the Valley Lake Conservation Park display garden.

▲ Below: Pygmy Perch thriving at the Railway Lands.



Waste Snapshot

Waste Transfer Station



Kerbside Bins



Contractors Waste
16,971 tonnes

Total to Landfill
24,606 tonnes

What is in
Mount Gambier's
rubbish bins?

Remember: you can put food
scraps in your green organics bin

Environmental Health

Food Safety

Total food businesses currently registered	514
Facilities which require food safety audits	10
P1 (highest) Risk classified food businesses	137
P2 (high) Risk classified food businesses	150
P3 (medium) Risk classified food businesses	159
P4 (low) Risk classified food businesses	58
Complaints received by Council	
Alleged food poisoning	4
Food unsafe due to foreign matter	2
Poor personal hygiene or poor food handling practices	2
Food unsuitable/unsafe due to microbial contamination/growth	2
Unclean premises	2
Food recall notifications received	27
Food safety education	
TAFE accredited food safety short courses	4
I'm Alert online non-accredited food safety training - users	292



514
REGISTERED
FOOD
BUSINESSES



292

NON-ACCREDITED FOOD
SAFETY TRAINING USERS



REGISTERED HAIR,
BEAUTY & SKIN
PENETRATION
BUSINESSES

84

Public Health

Registered high risk manufactured water systems	65
Public accessible Swimming Pool and Spa Inspections	7
Registered Hair, Beauty and Skin Penetration Businesses	84
2017/2018 Onsite wastewater treatment system applications	2
Complaints received by Council	
Accommodation standards	1
Air pollution / odours	3
Discharge of wastes / waste control	5
General health complaint or enquiry / other	4
Hoarding and squalor	3
Infectious disease / notifiable disease	1
Mould	3
Public swimming pools and spa pools	2
Sanitary facilities	1
Supported residential facilities	1
Vermin (including birds)	7
Water quality (other than public swimming pools and spa pools)	1
Communicable Disease Control Branch mandatory notifications	
Highest month for Influenza - October	43

Community Health

Hazardous waste (sharps) collected at Civic Centre	183 kg
----------------------------------------------------	--------



183KG
SHARPS COLLECTED

Claret Ash Tree in Cave Garden

An 80 year old Claret Ash tree in the Cave Garden succumbed to wind gusts of more than 70 kilometres an hour on 18 March 2018 following a storm the previous evening.

The tree, which once stood 20 metres high, was much loved by the community and provided shade on sunny days for individuals and families to enjoy picnics within the Cave Garden precinct.

“Council has done everything it possibly can to retain this tree over the years. The tree has always been found to be structurally sound and healthy, however, due to its size and age, cable bracing was added to its limbs about 12 years ago to provide additional support between multiple branches of the tree as an additional safety precaution,” City of Mount Gambier City Infrastructure General Manager Nick Serle said.

In recognition of the historic value of the tree, Council retained the larger tree limbs during the clean up process for potential saw milling.

“We plan to save as much of the timber as we can to potentially reuse in the Cave Garden or elsewhere. The smaller branches left over will be mulched and used around the city.”



Acacia Kindy Landfill Visit

In August 2017, Acacia Kindergarten children stopped the rubbish truck driver during the weekly pick up with signs that read ‘Stop! Where is the landfill?’ and ‘Are we allowed to visit the landfill?’ The driver put the kindergarten in touch with Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard who visited the students to answer their questions and took them on a site visit to the Caroline Landfill.

“The young people saw for themselves what happens when we live a wasteful lifestyle, we end up with a mountain of rubbish that really shouldn’t be there,” Mr Izzard said.

“Our children are becoming more aware of the importance of recycling to reduce what is thrown into the landfill bin so that we can slow down the growing rubbish mountains. They are sharing this powerful message with their families,” an Acacia Kindergarten representative said.



- ▲ Above: Acacia Kindergarten students Tayla and Jaxon play with their mock landfill space at the kindergarten.
- ▲ Left: Mayor Andrew Lee (centre) is pictured with former Cave Garden caretaker Fred Robinson (right), current caretaker Jamie Pearson (left) and Harlow and Harrison from the Mount Gambier Child Care Centre who helped to plant another Claret Ash tree in the Cave Garden to replace the tree that fell.

Stormwater Management

The City of Mount Gambier budgeted \$90,000 towards stormwater management in 2017/2018, primarily to improve stormwater infrastructure in order to reduce flooding and increase the quality of water being discharged back into the underground aquifer.

Some of the improvement projects involved the construction of additional settlement pits and drainage bores, while other projects involved the reconstruction and cleanout of existing drainage infrastructure to restore the system to full working condition.

2017/2018 improvement works occurred at the following locations:

- Jane Street,
- Elizabeth Street,
- Heriot Street, and
- Bridges Street.

Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act

The Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 was phased in during 2017, making Council the relevant authority for local nuisance and litter control in its Council area. Allowing or contributing to local nuisance or litter is a crime and has 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. To date Council has not made any prosecutions under this Act.

Limestone Coast Bushfire Management Plan

The Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (FES Act 2005) requires each of the nine South Australian Bushfire Management Committees (BMC's) to prepare and maintain a Bushfire Management Area Plan (BMAP). Each BMC will adopt a BMAP that will:

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

The Limestone Coast BMAP has been approved and is available to view on the CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Sid's Lid Removal

A huge crane lifted 'Sid's Lid' to open the Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) and empty the giant rubbish filter in the Cave Garden on 22 May 2018.

Mil Lel Primary School students watched the whole spectacle with interest, while Council staff explained groundwater and drainage systems.





Infrastructure

Street Trees

Street trees are a fundamental component of an urban environment, and in general are greatly appreciated by the community.

The benefits that they 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 our air quality. These characteristics support a number of objectives outlined in Council's Community Plan.

The following table provides a list of the Street Tree Plantings that were undertaken in 2018:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Street Name	Trees Being Retained	Proposed Removals	Proposed Plantings	Net Gain
Blackwood	<i>Acacia Melanoxylon</i>	Griffiths Street	0	0	39	39
Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon viminalis 'Harkness'</i>	Vansittart Road	0	6	46	40
Euky Dwarf	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. 'Euky Dwarf'</i>	Allawah Street	0	5	32	27
Euky Dwarf	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. 'Euky Dwarf'</i>	Boucat Street	0	0	10	10
Flowering Ash	<i>Fraxinus ornus 'Meczek' TM</i>	Finch Street	0	0	15	15
Flowering Ash	<i>Fraxinus ornus 'Meczek' TM</i>	Kowine Court	0	0	16	16
Purple Leaf Cherryplum	<i>Prunus Cerasifera 'Niagra'</i>	Harrald Street (South Side)	2	3	51	48
Designer Cherry	<i>Prunus fruticosa "Globasa" TM</i>	Playford Street (East Side)	0	6	21	15
Capital Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana 'Capital'</i>	Playford Street (West Side)	0	3	25	22
Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana 'Glen's Form' Chanticleer</i>	Ash Court	0	0	20	20
Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana 'Glen's Form' Chanticleer</i>	Mountain Court	0	0	13	13
Linden	<i>Tilia Cordata 'Shamrock' TM</i>	Gilmore Close	0	0	25	25
Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia 'Todd'</i>	Harrald Street (North Side)	0	6	47	41
Total			2	29	360	331



► City of Mount Gambier employees Matthew Bell (left), Rick Karsten and Amechai Bawden plant a Crepe Myrtle tree on Crouch Street South Mount Gambier.

The old Willow Myrtle trees that lined the street were removed to allow for a road and footpath upgrade. Council resolved to replace the trees with a more suitable species of tree that aligns with the requirements of SA Power Networks and SA Water's tree planting guidelines.

In keeping with Council's Street Tree Policy (T120), Council replaces street trees (where practically possible) that have been removed with a more suitable species of tree as part of its street scaping upgrade works. An example of this was the City Centre Redevelopment Infrastructure Project which included the upgrade of Crouch Street South between Commercial Street East and Sturt Street. In order to carry out these works, the removal of 13 mature Willow Myrtle (*Agonis flexuosa*) trees along this section of the footpath was required.

The urban renewal of Mount Gambier city centre streets continued in December 2017 as 14 Crepe Myrtle trees were planted on Crouch Street South as part of city centre redevelopment works.

"Local businesses were included in the selection of the Crepe Myrtle tree as a street tree for this area and Council is extremely pleased with this selection as it will add tremendous value to the urban landscape once the trees grow over future years," City of Mount Gambier Manager Engineering, Design and Contracts Daryl Morgan said.

The trees will flower from mid-summer to early autumn in an abundance of pale pink flowers.

"The Crepe Myrtle tree is a tough small tree of about five metres by four metres and grows in a vase shape with a symmetrical canopy. It is best suited to the site due to the narrow footpath, existing powerlines and infrastructure within the footpath," City of Mount Gambier Engineering Technical Officer Sinaway Georgiou said.

Council staff also installed new pavers on the Crouch Street South footpath area as part of the renewal process.

Infrastructure Works

The City of Mount Gambier is committed to maintaining its road network to a high standard. Approximately \$3.1 million was spent on road infrastructure upgrades in 2017/2018 that involved projects such as:

- Road resealing works,
- Road patching works,
- Reconstruction of sections of Commercial Street West and East,
- Reconstruction of sections of North Terrace,
- Reconstruction of sections of Crouch Street North,
- Reconstruction of sections of Webber Street,
- Reconstruction of Doughty Street,
- Reconstruction of sections of Bailey Street,
- Reconstruction of Caldwell Street,
- Reconstruction of sections of Elizabeth Street,
- Reconstruction of Railway Terrace,
- CBD works such as Helen Street and Crouch Street South paving works,
- Reconstruction of sections of Sturt Street, and
- Construction of Blackall Laneway.

Building Fire Safety Committee

The Building Fire Safety Committee (BFSC) operates pursuant to the provisions of the Development Act 1993 and 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 fire fighting environment.

The BFSC is made up of one Council Member Councillor Ian Von Stanke, who is also Chairperson, a member of the Metropolitan Fire Service, Andrew Sharrad, Grant Riches, Level 1 Accredited Building Surveyor, Christopher Tully, City of Mount Gambier Building Officer (until the end of 2017), and now Tania Hassan, City of Mount Gambier Building Officer (2018 until present).

The focus of the BFSC over the past 12 months was motels, gymnasiums, commercial premises and residential complexes.

The BFSC generally meets every three months or as required.

\$3.1 MILLION
ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE
UPGRADES



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.

In 2017/2018, each Council contributed \$30,000 to the boundary roads program to allow for maintenance works to the road network.

Works completed as part of the 2017/2018 boundary roads program Included the following:

- Wireless Road / Wandilo Road intersection shoulder widening,
- Hawkins Road / Jubilee Highway sealing of drainage swale,
- McCormick Road shoulder repairs and intersection patching,
- Attamurra Road / Houston Drive asphalt patching / pavement repairs, and
- Grant Avenue asphalt patching / pavement repairs.

Penola Road Traffic Count Data

Traffic flow travelling south on Penola Road has increased by almost 40 per cent since traffic lights were installed and switched on at the Penola and Wireless Road intersection in April 2016.

Traffic count data taken in February 2017, shows that the average annual daily traffic travelling north on Penola Road has increased by 25 per cent, traffic travelling west on Wireless Road has increased by 27 per cent and traffic travelling east on Wireless Road has increased by 13 per cent against data collected in 2011, prior to the installation of traffic signals.

City of Mount Gambier Manager Engineering, Design and Contracts Daryl Morgan said a portion of the traffic increase can be attributed to urban growth, but much of the increase is due to the traffic lights.

"The majority of that growth is due to the traffic signals providing safer travel paths, particularly for vehicles on Wireless Road crossing Penola Road and also for vehicles turning right from Penola Road into Wireless Road," Mr Morgan said.

"It has gone from a risky intersection that people used to avoid where possible due to restricted sight distance, to an intersection that motorists feel is easier and safer to navigate. These statistics are proof that the long awaited project was worthwhile."

In late 2015, the City of Mount Gambier was informed that the Australian Federal Government had made available \$800,000 to assist with the installation of traffic signals at the Penola and Wireless Road intersection. Combined with a \$200,000 State Government contribution and a \$50,000 contribution from the City of Mount Gambier, the \$1.05M was subsequently used to install the long awaited traffic signals at this intersection.

"The City of Mount Gambier is proud to have been involved in a three way funding partnership with other spheres of government which has resulted in a fantastic outcome that has been long awaited by the community," Mr Morgan said.



Rail Trail Funding Boost

In February 2018, Council welcomed a \$250,000 State Government funding boost to complete stage three of the Rail Trail project.

South Australian Planning Minister Hon John Rau approved a Planning and Development Fund grant to enable Council to complete the entire project over the next two financial years.

"The shared walking and cycling path will extend the trail from Jubilee Highway West to Wandilo Road and past Pick Avenue to Jubilee Highway East, to link with a walking track at Blue Lake Sports Park, a total of 2.6 kilometres of extra path as part of stage three of the project," Mayor Andrew Lee said.

"Council will match the State Government contribution of \$250,000 in the 2018/2019 financial year's budget and we're very happy that we will soon complete the project and enable people to walk or ride through the city."

Council also received \$40,000 as part of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) State Government Bicycle Funding program to assist with providing linkages to the existing rail trail through to Hastings Cunningham Reserve/ Shepherdson Road area.

"These linkages will be completed as part of stage two of the project."

Crime Prevention Strategies

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

Mount Gambier Licensing Accord

A regular forum coordinated by Council involving Liquor and Gaming Commissioner, SAPOL, Hotel / 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) and 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 Mount Gambier's City Centre. SAPOL has increased its detection and prevention capabilities using the latest technology. SAPOL identified a number of busy locations that should be under surveillance, and where anti-social behaviour occurred regularly. Council has installed internet based technology and cameras in these locations with the network capable of being expanded in the future.

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 accordingly, will continue to expand on the number of cameras installed within the city to improve public safety.

The cameras are monitored by the Mount Gambier Police and it has proven to be an effective initiative.

Concrete Footpath Construction

The City of Mount Gambier spent \$350,000 on the construction of an additional 2.4 kilometres of concrete paths throughout the city, in addition to the maintenance of paved areas. These projects form part of Council's 10 year rolling footpath program which is designed to take into account the following:

- Urban growth,
- Change in land use,
- Requests from ratepayers, and
- Deterioration of existing path network.

The projects that made up the 2017/2018 program were:

- Wireless Road West (Wehl Street to Perriam Street),
- John Street (Crouch Street to Anthony Street),
- Ferrers Street (Lansell Street to Lake Terrace),
- Alexander Street (Crouch Street to Hedley Street), and
- Wireless Road East (Kensen Court to Aramanta Drive).

In addition to the concrete paths, Council also installed approximately 20 new pram openings to assist with the safer crossing of roads by the disabled and the elderly and also spent approximately \$70,000 on resurfacing existing bitumen footpaths.

**2.4KM OF ADDITIONAL
CONCRETE PATHS COSTING
\$350,000**

**20 NEW PRAM
OPENINGS
TO ASSIST ELDERLY
AND DISABLED**



Mount Gambier ReUse Market

Construction began at the Mount Gambier ReUse Market site located at 3 and 5 Eucalypt Drive, the former salvage yard site next to the Waste Transfer Station in January 2018.

Thomson Bilt constructed the offloading and storage shed.

“The \$150,000 shed is 15 metres by 30 metres and the undercover loading area is 30 metres by 11 metres,” City of Mount Gambier Manager Engineering, Design and Contracts Daryl Morgan said.

Signage will direct people into the appropriate lane within the undercover loading area to drop off any material that can be sorted and stored for reuse or resale or to be recycled.

“Material that has no reuse value will be deposited into the waste bins at the existing Waste Transfer Station by those dropping it off, so it is important that people sort their material prior to arrival so it is easier to offload either at the ReUse Market facility or the Waste Transfer Station,” Mr Morgan said.

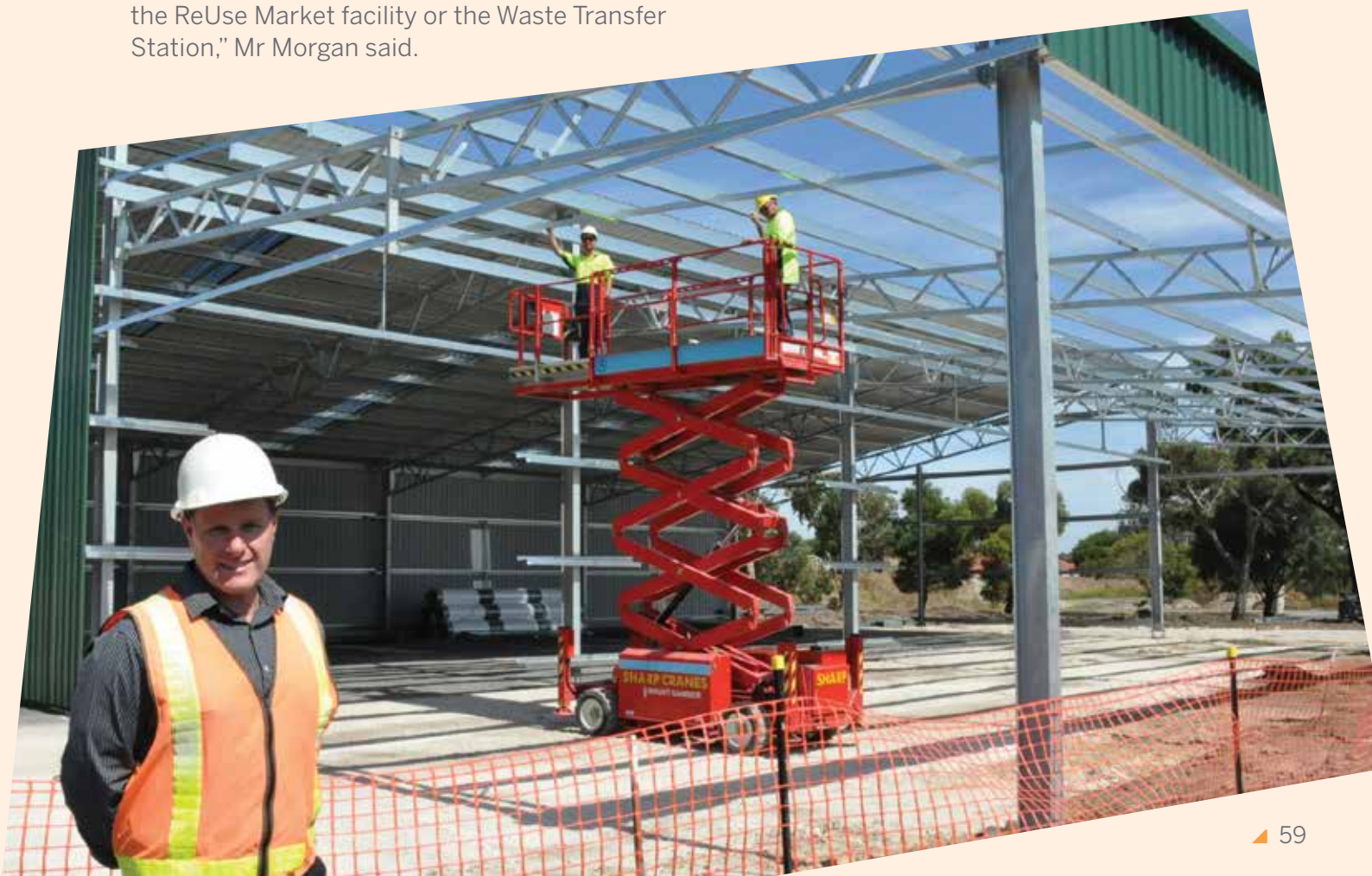
The offloading and storage shed and associated earthworks were completed in April 2018.

City of Mount Gambier Environmental Sustainability Officer Aaron Izzard said while the primary purpose of the ReUse Market facility is to sell items for reuse, the initiative plays an important role in meeting Council’s sustainability goals and work with the community to reduce unnecessary waste going to landfill.

“Donating items to the ReUse Market through the Waste Transfer Station will reduce waste to landfill and support local jobs,” Mr Izzard said.

Council endorsed design plans and cost estimates for the \$560,000 Mount Gambier Reuse Market facility at the Council meeting in August 2017. The facility is on track to be operational by October 2018.

► City of Mount Gambier Manager Engineering, Design and Contracts Daryl Morgan with Thomson Bilt’s Craig Martinella and Anthony Pollifrone.



Carinya Gardens Cemetery

The gardens, chapel and surrounds of Carinya Gardens continues to provide a peaceful ambience for bereavement services. We take pride in the quality of services provided to the community at Carinya Gardens.

There were 480 services conducted at the cemetery during the 2017/2018 year, compared with 465 for the same period in the previous year.

The cemetery undertook 114 burials compared with 125 the previous year, and a total of 366 cremations were performed compared to 340 the previous year.



Building Division

Throughout the past financial year, Council's building division has continued to support local builders and professionals to deliver its core range of services including:

- Building rules certification of proposed development,
- On-site audit-based inspection of construction activities,
- Approval of occupation of commercial premises,
- Project management of Council building construction works,
- Council building asset management activities,
- Maintenance of Asbestos and 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 and the National Construction Code. Council's building division records statistics regarding activities within the local construction industry as follows:

	2017/2018	2016/2017	2015/2016	2014/2015
Dwellings	102	87	85	101
Dwelling additions	24	24	18	31
Outbuildings	160	155	172	181
Commercial	32	22	22	26
Industrial	4	21	13	6
Signage	15	9	9	16
Wastewater	2	2	2	0
Other	52	78	61	56
Total number of development applications	391	398	382	417
Estimated total development expenditure	\$47,052,940	\$39,254,506	\$32,562,828	\$43,093,104

Bus Shelter Upgrades

In January 2018, Council installed two new bus shelters located in James Street and Allison Street Mount Gambier at a total cost of \$30,000.

- Right: Outdoor staff Sean Horrigan (left) and Sam Egan are pictured working on the shelter in James Street.



State and National Planning Awards for the Railway Lands

The Mount Gambier Railway Lands took home three prestigious awards at the Planning Institute Australia (PIA) South Australia Awards for Excellence 2017 in Adelaide on Friday 17 November 2017.

City of Mount Gambier representatives accepted the coveted overall Planning Minister's Award and also won the Plan to Place and Great Place Awards for the planning and development of the community project.

The annual PIA Awards for Planning Excellence demonstrate leading practice, leadership and achievement in planning. The Minister's Award is given to the overall winner of the South Australian Awards for Planning Excellence, judged by South Australian Minister for Planning Hon John Rau.

"Minister Rau recognised the initiative, innovation and process involved in the Railway Lands project and its contribution to sustainability and the enhancement of the liveability within our community," Mayor Andrew Lee said.

The Plan to Place Award recognises the implementation of a plan into a successful place. It was awarded to the City of Mount Gambier for the evolution of the project and achievement in accomplishing positive changes as a result of planning.

"We were commended for engaging with the community throughout the planning, design and implementation phases of the project as well as the ongoing use of the Railway Lands," City of Mount Gambier Planning Officer Jess Porter said.

The Great Place award recognises a great place, street or neighbourhood. The City of Mount

► Mayor Andrew Lee celebrates the national Planning Institute Australia (PIA) From Plan to Place award win for the Mount Gambier Railway Lands.



Gambier was commended for its vision and ambition in tackling a socially, physically, culturally and environmentally challenged site.

"The Railway Lands project was deemed an exemplar of the characteristics of a great place, through the quality of its planning, design and construction. Most importantly, it demonstrates how great places help build great communities, providing new settings for new opportunities, that will continue to enhance the local way of life for years to come," Mayor Lee said.

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The Mount Gambier Railway Lands went on to win the National From Plan to Place Award at the Planning Institute Australia (PIA) National Awards for Planning Excellence 2018 held in Perth on Wednesday 9 May 2018. A PIA National Award is the highest accolade for urban and regional planners in Australia, demonstrating leading practice and achievement in planning.

"It is a great honour to win this award for our community," City of Mount Gambier Mayor Andrew Lee said.

Mayor Lee highlighted the vision of both current and previous Councillors in planning the project and for the design and delivery by Council staff including a focus on community engagement.

The project was also financially supported by the State Government to the tune of \$2million. Additional grants were received to include public art that has further enhanced the Railway Lands.

"This project has been recognised as best in class nationally and are all very proud of this achievement," he said.



► Cr Hanna Persello (left), Mayor Andrew Lee and Cr Penny Richardson with the three prestigious Planning Institute Australia (PIA) South Australia Awards for Excellence 2017.

Council Assessment Panel

The Development Act 1993 requires all Councils in South Australia to establish a Council Assessment Panel (CAP) (previously known as Development Assessment Panel) to act as a delegate of Council.

The CAP's role is to make development decisions as a relevant authority pursuant to the Act; the CAP has sole regard to Council's Development Plan and any referral advice to determine the merits of each proposal. During 2017 the Development Act requirements in relation to Assessment Panels changed.

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 Development Act requires that all CAPs must be comprised of one Independent Presiding Member, three Independent Members and three Elected Members. All Members of the CDAP are appointed by Council. During 2017 the Development Act was amended to require CAP's to have a maximum of five Members, with only one Member of Council on the Panel.

The CDAP ceased from 1 October 2017 when it was replaced by a new Council Assessment Panel (CAP) in accordance with the provisions of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (transitioning from the Development Act 1993).

The CAP Members for 2017/2018 were:

- Elizabeth Travers (Presiding Member),
- Emily Finnigan (resigned in November 2017),
- Peter Seeböhm,
- Margaret Trotter,
- Cr Christian Greco (until September 2017),
- Cr Mark Lovett (later replaced by Cr Des Mutton until September 2017), and
- Cr Ian Von Stanke.

The CAP holds its meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the Level 1 Committee Room, 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier, commencing at 5:45pm (unless otherwise determined).

The agreed sitting fees are:

(i) Ordinary Meetings:

- Presiding Member
\$250 excluding GST,
- Other Independent Members
\$200 excluding GST,
- Council Member Appointees
\$200 excluding GST.

(ii) Special Meetings:

- Presiding Member
\$60 excluding GST,
- Other Independent Members
\$50 excluding GST,
- Council Member Appointees
\$50 excluding GST.

(Mrs Travers is paid a travel allowance to attend meetings)

(iii) Where the meeting does not require the attendance of Members in person and can be undertaken by phone linkup due to a small agenda, the minor nature of items for discussion and lack of need for site inspections, the sitting fees be as follows:

- Presiding Member
\$60 excluding GST,
- Other Independent Members
\$50 excluding GST,
- Council Member Appointees
\$50 excluding GST.

Heritage Sub-Committee

The recently formed Heritage Sub-Committee has taken over the work carried out by the City of Mount Gambier Heritage Advisory Group. It plays an important role in advising Council on the development of policies to conserve and promote natural, built, cultural and indigenous heritage within the City of Mount Gambier.

The Heritage Sub-Committee and the former Heritage Advisory Group have been involved in the following activities during 2017/2018:

- Heritage projects (acknowledgement of historical milestones), heritage education and distribution of information to the public,
- Heritage walks brochures, and
- Local Heritage Restoration Fund.

The 2017/2018 Local Heritage Restoration Fund received 16 applications and Council endorsed the following 12 applications:

Work carried out	Recommended Value of Grant
Painting exterior of house and maintenance on front windows	\$795
Renovate to original state (dwelling)	\$2,000
Repair and replace barge boards, fascia, front door, portico.	\$2,000
Repair existing gable including new timberwork, repair window awnings, reinstate original balustrade etc.	\$2,000
Painting and repair internal woodwork, salt damp and general maintenance.	\$1,000
Repair windows and repair and repaint the window frames, new downpipes	\$2,000
Repair and repaint lounge room	\$500
Painting	\$700

Work carried out	Recommended Value of Grant
Repair plaster to ceiling and walls in passage and front bedroom, repainting and maintenance on rotten barge board and eaves	\$2,000
Remove moss build up on chimneys, repair wood rot and paint chimneys	\$300
Repair original double hung window and small bathroom window	\$2000
Reinstate verandah	\$2000
Total	\$17,295

The members of the Heritage Sub-Committee include:

- Brian Sims,
- Lynn Lowe,
- Brian Brooksby,
- David Burt,
- Alexandra Nicholson,
- Ken Jones,
- Cr Penny Richardson (Presiding Member),
- Cr Mark Lovett, and
- Richard Woods (South East Heritage Advisor).

Council continues to acknowledge the importance of heritage to the City of Mount Gambier and the contribution made by members of the Heritage Advisory Group. Council would also like to acknowledge the sad passing of Robert Miles who was a valued member of the City of Mount Gambier Heritage Advisory Group.

\$17,295 
GRANTED TO
RESTORATION PROJECTS

Mount Gambier Regional Sport and Recreation Centre Funding Proposal

Council accepted a petition signed by more than 10,000 community members in favour of the proposed \$40million Mount Gambier Regional Sport and Recreation Centre at a Special Council meeting on Tuesday 24 April 2018.

Community Engagement Steering Committee member Nathan Stratford presented the petition, and with fellow committee member Scott Martin, addressed Council and a full public gallery on behalf of the committee and the community.

"The signatures on this petition show that there is indeed support for the development of an indoor/outdoor sport and recreation centre for Mount Gambier and surrounds," Mr Stratford said.

"Mount Gambier and the region need this facility, it is so much more than just a pool. I have not seen the community so behind a project as they are with this one. People are very excited and supportive of what could possibly happen," Mr Martin said.

Following the deputations, Council unanimously endorsed the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) for \$20million under the Federal Government's Regional Growth Fund (RGF) for the proposed facility, which was due on Friday 27 April 2018.



▲ Mount Gambier Netball Association representative Scott Martin (left), Mayor Andrew Lee and Community Engagement Steering Committee member Nathan Stratford with a petition signed by more than 10,000 community members.

"Council wishes to progress this project for the community, it's a centre for everyone and we want to advocate for our local community members," Mayor Andrew Lee said.

"The proposed project will not proceed in its current form without external grant funding, so in addition to seeking Federal funds, Council will also lobby the State Government to contribute at least \$10million as a vital portion of funding for the construction of centre. Council will also provide \$10million to support the project."

The continued development of a full business case for the building and operation of the proposed community centre now begins.

"Council endorsed funding of \$80,000 to enable more detailed architectural design, project management, costings and associated work to be prepared to satisfy the criteria of a full business case submission," he said.

An invitation to progress to stage two of the application process by the Federal funding body is expected to be made in October 2018.

"In anticipation of a favourable outcome, the Councillor Working Party will continue and will engage with a broad range of stakeholders in developing the design and functionality of the proposed centre," Mayor Lee said.

▲ Mount Gambier Netball Association Secretary Cath Dycer (left), Mount Gambier and District Tennis Association President Matthew Charlton, Community Engagement Steering Committee member Nathan Stratford, Mount Gambier Netball Association representative Scott Martin, Mid South East Football League President Peter Mitchell and Mount Gambier Netball Association President Yvette Holmes with the initial concept plans developed by Simply Great Leisure (SGL) for the proposed Mount Gambier Regional Sport and Recreation Centre.



\$6.8million ALDI Development Approved

The City of Mount Gambier approved a \$6.8million development application from ALDI to construct a supermarket, four retail outlets and extended car park at 58 Commercial Street East Mount Gambier, the site formerly occupied by the Fidler and Webb shopping complex.

"The ALDI application has been assessed by Council using delegated authority as a Category 1 development and has now received development plan consent," Mayor Andrew Lee said.

The Fidler and Webb building will be demolished to develop a 6,944 square metre ALDI supermarket and four retail spaces with street frontage on Commercial Street East and a walkway through to a car park with 101 spaces.

"We're thrilled about this outcome and feel that it will revitalise the heart of the CBD. The old and tired building will be transformed into a new and contemporary space," Mayor Lee said.

"It's fantastic for economic development within Mount Gambier and we expect to see many additional visitors who'd like to shop at the renowned discount supermarket."



► Above: Mayor Andrew Lee with concept plans set to transform the derelict former Fidler and Webb shopping centre site on Commercial Street East, Mount Gambier.

► Below: ALDI's 3D concept plan for the former Fidler and Webb shopping centre site.





Tourism and Economic Development

Economic Development

Mount Gambier has a strong and diverse economy requiring skills, new business models, innovation and resilience to respond to emerging opportunities.

Using the following strategic reports:

- The City Growth Strategy,
- Tourism and Visitor Information Services Review,
- 2017 Mount Gambier Tourism Data Collection, and
- The City of Mount Gambier Signage Strategy,

Council endorsed an implementation framework identifying priorities and timelines for progressive action over the coming years. Though economic development benefits can be difficult to measure, the rewards contribute to a diverse industry base and encourage job growth across the community. Providing favourable conditions for economic development requires commitment over time and partnerships with other agencies and levels of government.

Council works collaboratively with the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) and the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Limestone Coast, Tourism Mount Gambier, the Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce, Country Arts SA and Councils in Western Victoria on various initiatives.

Projects that Council has made significant contributions to include:

- Continuing work with the Department of Industry and Skills to provide infrastructure for access to high speed internet,
- Establishment of the New Venture Institute (NVI) of Flinders University Innovation Hub to encourage skills development,
- Working with Tourism Mount Gambier to develop and promote tourism in the region particularly through the new Discover Mount Gambier website,
- Building digital skills through workshops with tourism operators,
- Sponsorship and support for many events that provide employment for local workers and which also enrich our community,
- Linking with the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) to promote destination and experience based marketing, and
- Ongoing development of initiatives that encourage touring routes from Adelaide through to Victoria.

Events and Contribution to Economic Development

A report presented to Council at its February 2018 meeting highlighted that for an annual investment of \$401,033 (financial and in-kind) to support local events, the return is conservatively estimated at \$13,880,000 in economic benefits to Mount Gambier.

City of Mount Gambier General Manager City Growth Dr Judy Nagy said Council has a solid history of supporting many community and special events that deliver both community and economic benefits, however, evidence of the outcomes can be difficult to quantify.

“The report shows an estimate of the number of people involved in any event, with a prediction of the percentage of visitors who would potentially stay overnight and utilises a standard dollar multiplier value for overnight stays,” Dr Nagy said.

Some of the Council sponsored events included in the analysis were: the Australian Sprintcar Championships, Red Hot Summer Tour, Australia Day Awards and Breakfast, Autofest, Limestone Coast Opera, Mount Gambier Fringe Festival, Generations in Jazz, 100 Mile Classic, Pedal Prix Carnival, Tour of the Great South Coast, Mount Gambier Christmas Parade, Brass Band Festival and the Blue Lake Fun Run.

The report summarises larger recurring annual events, or those that bring a higher number of visitors to Mount Gambier.

“Council’s contribution provides for significant returns that flow to the community, far in excess of the dollars and staffing resources allocated to events,” she said.

“Though it is not possible to determine some factors with complete accuracy, outcomes indicate that about half of the Council sponsored events attract visitors and the other half are staged for our local people. Events are not just about attracting visitors to the region with opportunities for the community to come together providing important contributions to wellbeing and social cohesion.”



Photo courtesy of Tanya Ewen

Mount Gambier City Growth Strategy

The Mount Gambier City Growth Strategy 2017 - 2027 will inform the development of an implementation strategy to lead, promote and facilitate economic development and support local people through the provision of employment, income and services during the next decade.

The ACIL Allen Consulting report lists 24 short, medium and longer term recommendations with 10 priority areas for consideration. The strategy was endorsed by Council on Tuesday 15 August 2017.

The report highlights three industry sectors likely to offer the greatest potential for future growth, including: tourism, events and the arts, agribusiness and clean green economy and health and community services.

“It’s expected there will be an increase in domestic and international tourism with a focus on food and wine tourism, arts, culture, events and natural assets. We also need to capitalise on the region’s natural resources, renewable energy, forestry, agriculture, cattle and seafood to add value, attract investment and build new businesses. Within the health and community services sector there will be growth in health and aged care and leverage opportunities from population ageing,” Mayor Andrew Lee said.

The report recognises that the Mount Gambier economy will be underpinned by the growth of existing and new small to medium sized businesses, including retail and professional services. To facilitate growth within these sectors, the city will focus on key enablers.

“Enablers include building human capital, such as skills, participation, entrepreneurship and innovation, supporting business and facilitating the growth of new innovative businesses to attract investment, investing in economic infrastructure.”



The 10 recommended priorities include:

Building Human Capital

- Implement a comprehensive migration strategy with a focus on increasing inter-State, intra-State and overseas migration.
- Investigate with the South Australian Government the opportunity to increase public sector employment in the City of Mount Gambier by 500 people over the next 10 years.

Role of Council and Infrastructure

- Develop a comprehensive and targeted China, India and ASEAN engagement strategy with the community, business, tourism and education sectors aimed at increasing trade, migration, investment and bilateral relations in culture and the arts.
- Develop a Mount Gambier Economic Development Fund to invest in key economic development projects and infrastructure over the next 10 years.

Supporting Business

- Work with the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Limestone Coast to undertake a skills profile of existing businesses and map the future skills needed for key growth sectors and develop a comprehensive workforce development plan to address the training, upskilling and future workforce development needs to support future growth in key sectors.
- Undertake a feasibility study on the costs, funding and business model for the establishment of a Mount Gambier Business Hub and leverage State and Federal support and services provided by universities.



► The City of Mount Gambier regularly hosts Chinese guests and delegations looking to invest in the region.

- Develop a comprehensive marketing campaign including prospectuses and materials to promote the competitive strengths of the City and opportunities for business, migration, tourism and future investment.
- Provide leadership and support to the implementation of the Tourism Mount Gambier Strategy.
- Implement the Digital Strategy and Action Plan for the City of Mount Gambier to better promote tourism opportunities in Mount Gambier, develop content and connectivity with key domestic and international markets.
- Continue to actively participate in and monitor developments in the South Australian energy policy, advocating for Mount Gambier as a potential incubator and pilot site for new ventures in renewables.

“In many ways there are no real surprises here. It’s pleasing to see that there are strong synergies with other recently completed reports including Council’s digital strategy and action plan, the Economic Scorecard, Futures Paper and Community Plan 2016-2020.”

Council recognises that it will need to play an increasingly important role in economic development in the future in order to implement the City Growth Strategy.

“However, it’s important to note that Council will not be able to fully implement the strategy on its own. Full implementation will require strong cooperation between key community stakeholders and those at a State and Federal level to deliver on a shared economic development vision,” Mayor Lee said.

Federal Government backs Flinders University Business Incubator Proposal

In October 2017 the Federal Government announced its commitment to provide \$500,000 to support the Flinders University New Venture Institute (NVI) proposal to the Australian Government’s Incubator Support Initiative at AusIndustry.

It followed Council’s decision in April 2017 to lead by example and endorse a commitment of \$100,000 to support the proposal to drive business and technology and foster regional development. The incubator project will provide the ability to link with global networks, experienced mentors and provide a springboard for co-working and business hub development to aid sustainability over the long term.

The incubator project is also supported by the South Australian Government including \$150,000 in funding committed by the Department of State Development to the NVI proposal for infrastructure costs via the GigCity project. \$500,000 has also been allocated to facilitate access to high speed internet in the Mount Gambier CBD to ensure that the business innovation hub has superior connectivity for research and development.

The eNVIision Incubator is a collaborative, co-working space connecting small business to a global network and expertise including startup and innovation programs to help entrepreneurs achieve their goals.

City of Mount Gambier is proud to support eNVIision Limestone Coast New Venture Institute. The local incubator was officially launched by Federal Minister for Small and Family Business, the Workplace and Deregulation Hon Craig Laundy at its location on James Street in Mount Gambier on 8 June 2018.

Business Tech Show Success

More than 50 local businesses and community members attended the first City of Mount Gambier Business Tech Show at the Main Corner, King's Floor on Friday 8 September 2017.

City of Mount Gambier Tourism and Economic Development Manager Donna Foster said the event provided local businesses with an opportunity to learn more about emerging technologies and connectivity with assistance from experts in the field.

"It was clear that local businesses are embracing the future of technology and what that might mean for their business," Ms Foster said

Polaris Business and Innovation Centre Digital Business Advisor Rhys Moults was on hand to provide specialised guidance and tech advice to interested businesses.

"I spoke to eight businesses who are very interested in progression within the digital space and are actively looking to engage," Mr Moults said.

Supported by the City of Mount Gambier, Mr Moults later returned to the region to conduct digital audits as part of the Digital Growth Program funded by the South Australian Government, Department of State Development.

The event also provided an opportunity for local businesses to show off their wares and promote their services.



► Bush Repair's Katrina Jones and Polaris Business and Innovation Centre Digital Business Advisor Rhys Moults discuss digital platforms at the Business Tech Show.

"We thank our special guest South Australian Minister for Science and Information Economy Hon Kyam Maher for being part of the event, as well as local businesses Optus, Telstra, GTE, TDRS, Harvey Norman, Di-Monty Training Solutions, Exchange Printers Office National, AusIndustry, Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce, Women in Business, Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast, Genesis Creative and Synet," Ms Foster said.



► Mayor Andrew Lee (left) and South Australian Minister for Science and Information Economy Hon Kyam Maher test out the virtual reality headsets at the Business Tech Show at the Main Corner, King's Floor.

Mount Gambier Visitor Centre

82,216

Total visitor enquiries 2017/2018



700

VISITORS

Busiest Day

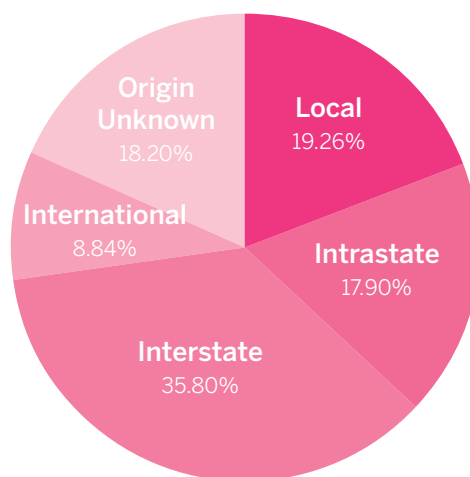
29 December 2017

68

VISITORS

Quietest Day

30 June 2018



2,486,717

Total Visitors
since opening



Christmas
Visitation

5,861

Easter
Visitation

1,427



8,237

Bus enquiries

7,211

Tickets sold

1,033

Information packs
prepared and distributed



3,190 Likes

@discovermountgambier

Tourism Mount Gambier Discover Website Launched

Tourism Mount Gambier's new visitor website went live in October 2017. The state of the art online space discovermountgambier.com.au is designed as a one-stop shop to attract visitors and showcase Mount Gambier and the surrounding area.

The website highlights the range of experiences a visitor can have in the area and features spectacular images taken by local photographer Ockert Le Roux.

"It's an outstanding website that is very evocative with a depth of information that we're convinced will encourage visitors to stay another day and further investigate the area," Tourism Mount Gambier Chair Kent Comley said.

The website aims to encourage visitors to make Mount Gambier their base during their stay and venture out to explore the region.

"The feed from the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse ensures there is access to all the information people might need to plan their holiday. The site also has integrated features that allow blogs and events to be written and submitted easily," he said.

The website is a key deliverable for the peak tourism industry body.

"It is an exciting time in Mount Gambier as we actively start to market our region and develop new visitor products and experiences. This website has been designed to showcase the region and is the first step in taking our message that Mount Gambier is a must visit destination to the world," Mr Comley said.

Tourism and Economic Development Manager Donna Foster said the website highlights experiences to draw people in.

"Mount Gambier is in a perfect spot, midway between Adelaide and Melbourne, with a depth of experiences within a short drive. Whether it is exploring the amazing geological wonders of the limestones caves, sinkholes and lakes or experiencing the award winning wines and dining experience across the region, including the Coonawarra wine district, we have it all and now we're sharing it," Ms Foster said.



New City Entrance Billboards

The four Mount Gambier entrance signs were rejuvenated with new imagery in November 2017. The signs highlight Umpherston Sinkhole on Jubilee Highway, the Cave Garden on Millicent Road, Centenary Tower on Nelson Road and the Blue Lake on Penola Road in line with Discover Mount Gambier tourism branding.

"The images were chosen to align with the look and feel of the website. We are proud of the fact that we have one location and unlimited experiences and the images reflect the beauty of our natural assets," Tourism and Economic Development Manager Donna Foster said.

"The old signs were erected in the early 2000s and were long overdue for replacement."

The new 4600mm by 2800mm aluminum composite panels feature full digital prints and protective UV laminate, installed by Hyland Fox Signs.

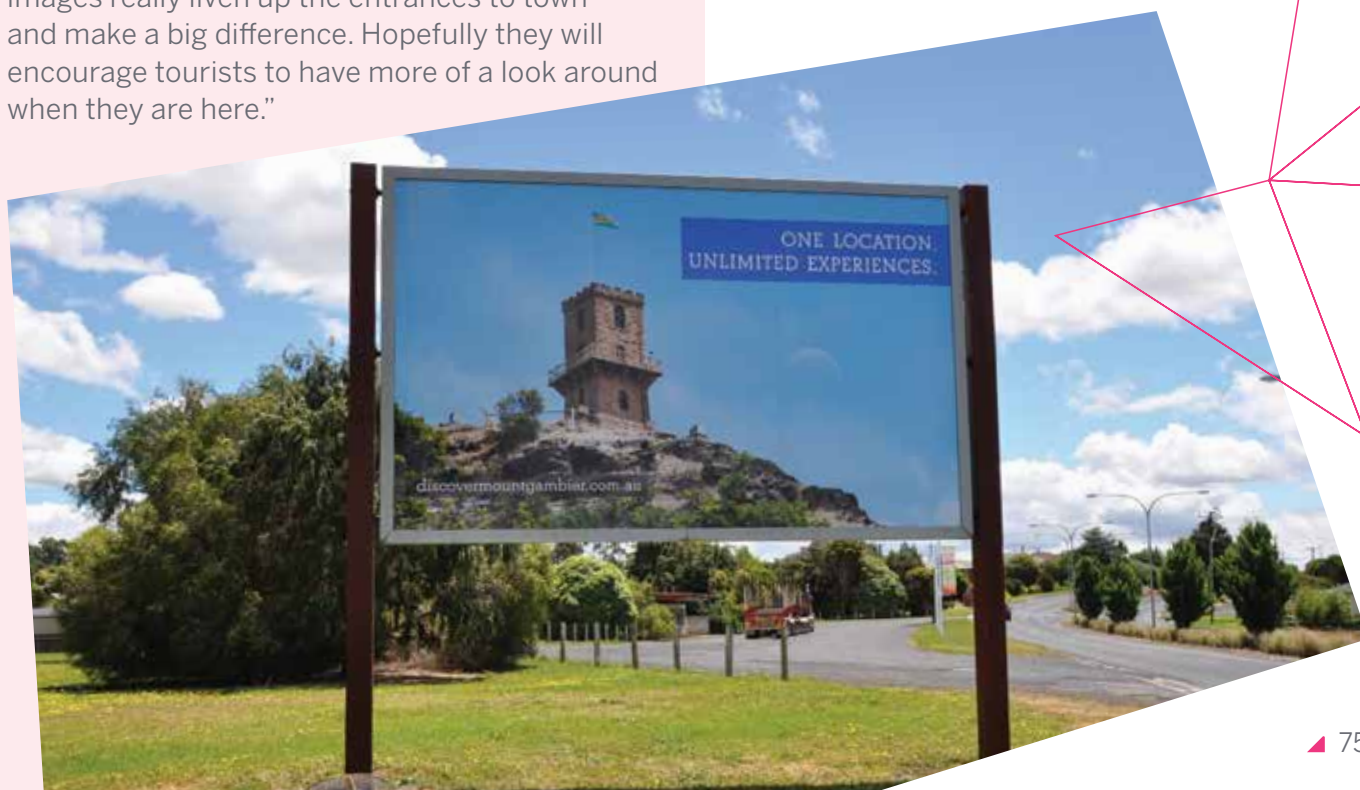
"The original frames are solid so we retained the post structure and replaced the skins with a high quality, durable and cost effective product," Hyland Fox owner David Fox said.

"It was exciting to be part of this project, the images really liven up the entrances to town and make a big difference. Hopefully they will encourage tourists to have more of a look around when they are here."



▲ Above: David Fox (left), Todd Wilson-Smith and Richard Horrigan put up the new billboard showcasing the iconic Blue Lake on Penola Road, Mount Gambier.

▲ Below: Centenary Tower entrance billboard located on Nelson Road.



Visitor Centre 'Pop Out' Brochure

Local tourism experiences come alive with the newly installed 'pop out' brochure on show at the Mount Gambier Visitor Centre, featuring works by local artist Mel Cecotti.

The 'pop out' brochure is a new installation at the Mount Gambier Visitor Centre to encourage fun and engaging interaction. The 'brochure in art' concept provides a taste of the region to encourage the visitor to explore the area.

"This exciting and fun display features caves, sinkholes, sea and vineyards and utilises vibrant colours and quirky materials for an

'off-canvas' experience. The combined artwork and display harness educational elements and encourage visits to various sites around Mount Gambier and the Limestone Coast," Tourism and Economic Development Manager Donna Foster said.

The quirky concept aims to take a different approach to sharing visitor information and encourages visitors to talk to the centre staff about what they want to see and do in the region.





There are multiple artworks by artist Mel Cecotti of Psycotti Art including 'Simo', 'Stevie the Scuba Diver' and 'Ducks'.

"Simo is a fun take on the extinct short faced kangaroo whose footprints lead out of the cave and cheekily 'photobombs' anyone who takes a selfie photo on the designated seat," Ms Cecotti said.

"The piece titled 'Ducks' encourages interaction with nature with a message about not feeding bread to ducks and wildlife while 'Stevie the Scuba Diver' prompts people to think about underwater activities including cave diving at sites like Kilsby Sinkhole," Ms Cecotti said.

"There is something for all ages and the display includes hidden gems that can be found throughout the art including the flowers of each of the Australian states," Ms Foster said.



▲ Artist Mel Cecotti (left), Ben Deering and Manager Tourism and Economic Development Donna Foster are 'photobombed' by 'Simo'.

Flag Flies Again Over Iconic Centenary Tower

The City of Mount Gambier flag flew over the iconic Centenary Tower once again on Australia Day 2018 as a new caretaker re-opened the historic building and tourism hot spot.

Centenary Tower was first opened in 1904, but was closed to the public in recent years as Council had struggled to find a suitable person interested in fulfilling the caretaker role.

Adelaide born mobile travel agent Ben Deering, a new Mount Gambier resident, was appointed caretaker for six months on a trial basis after initially being intrigued by the building for more than a decade when visiting the city regularly with family.

“My wife Tanya is originally from Mount Gambier and while visiting, I wondered why we hadn’t been able to look in the tower. Everyone told me that when the flag is flying you could go up there, and I said, ‘when is that? Who has a key to the Tower?’ Mr Deering said.

Now that he has the key and is living locally, he’s using his extensive experience in the tourism industry to rejuvenate the popular tourist spot.

“We have found the flag and weather permitting, we’re open three days a week and at least one day on the weekends.”

Mr Deering sees the historic building with fresh eyes and plans to make the most of the beautiful surrounding view by promoting the area to locals and tourists on social media.

“It comes back to perspective, you get blind to its beauty when you have something this pretty on your doorstep and all it takes is visiting the tower and you think, ‘this is pretty cool’.

“I’ve got a drone, so we’ll look at providing aerial portrait photos of people on the balcony of the tower as souvenirs. You used to buy a tea towel, or a pin, but now you get a photo or a selfie for Instagram and Facebook and tag it to share with others,” he said.

Centenary Tower is located 190 metres above sea level and provides the best views of the city, countryside and the volcanic landscape.

“On a clear day, you can see as far as 35 kilometres with a 360 degree view. You can see the Blue Lake, all the way down to Port MacDonnell and the view of farm land goes on for miles. There’s not much that makes people stop to take something in, but these views do.”

Council staff assisted Mr Deering to prepare for re-opening day on Friday 26 January 2018.

“Council staff have done a phenomenal job with the maintenance and getting the tower up to scratch for opening day, I’m very appreciative of their help,” he said.

“It’s a great time, everyone wants Mount Gambier to take it up a notch and we all care about showcasing our city at its best.”

► Centenary Tower caretaker Ben Deering.



International Teacher Exchange Program Mooted

Following strengthening relationships with Chinese Friendship Cities Baotou, Inner Mongolia and Lu'an Anhui Province, the City of Mount Gambier facilitated a series of meetings in 2017 with the local education sector to explore potential teacher exchanges.

Early in 2017, Tenison Woods College hosted a group of 20 teachers as part of an inbound delegation from Baotou. The college provided a range of education based experiences including classroom observation, teaching and learning methodology and also tours around the region.

"The college is very excited about teacher exchanges and the intercultural and pedagogical learnings which evolve. Bringing together educators from our two countries has been a highlight of the college year, and paves the way for strong relationships between our two cities," Tenison Woods College Principal David Meziniec said.

Following the success of the teacher delegation, additional opportunities to cooperate with international exchange programs were discussed during Council's delegation to Baotou and Lu'an in March 2017 and also during the business delegation to China in October 2017 attended by Tenison Woods College International Student Coordinator Annie Clifford and Enrolment Registrar Tracey Davey.

"These exchanges are critical for our region, adding to our cultural competence and benefitting our innovation and trade opportunities," Mr Meziniec said.

City of Mount Gambier Mayor Andrew Lee said while discussions are still preliminary, there is a general consensus that inbound teacher delegations can be effectively handled across the entire Limestone Coast education system collaboratively, between private and public schools.

"This diversifies the experience for the delegation and spreads the workload across more schools," Mayor Andrew Lee said.

Department for Education and Child Development Education Director Adam Box said the schools and kindergartens throughout the Limestone Coast are fortunate to have positive and effective working relationships with Council, leading to improved outcomes for local children.

"The schools within the Blue Lake partnership are very keen to explore the possible options further in regards to hosting a visit from a Chinese delegation. We are confident that this delegation would lead to a rich experience for our educators, parents, schools and most importantly our children," Mr Box said.

As discussions continue, there may also be an opportunity for local teachers to visit Baotou and Lu'an to gain an appreciation of the Chinese education system and provide opportunities for English Language teaching.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to foster deep mutual relationships. The more we can develop relationships that are based on student, teacher and even parent exchanges, the better it will be for the outcomes of our endeavours and the type of globally astute young people we develop," Mr Meziniec said.



► The Mongolian teachers cultural study group visit the Civic Centre.

Regional Business Delegation in China

The City of Mount Gambier continues to build on Friendship Agreements established with Baotou, Inner Mongolia and Lu'an, Anhui Province in 2016 for potential cooperation within the areas of agriculture, innovation and education.

During a 13 day Regional Business Delegation to China in October 2017, the focus shifted from just product export and distribution to include the delivery of services, including sheep and cattle genetics, livestock and fodder management, dairy training, technology transfer, premium food distribution and education.

The delegation was supported by the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA), representing the seven councils throughout the region and Regional Development Australia (RDA). The simple philosophy is that what is good for the region is good for Mount Gambier and vice versa.

Led by City of Mount Gambier CEO Mark McShane and Manager Investment Attraction and International Engagement Bruce Rodda, it included agriculturalists and mixed farming property owners George Beck and Sam Croser, sheep geneticist Colin Earl, Bully's Meat CEO Chris Bullen, Tenison Woods College International Student Coordinator Annie Clifford and Enrolment Registrar Tracey Davey. The delegation was also supported by education and agricultural import agents in China.

"The China Engagement Strategy is working for us and we're gaining traction. We have been recruiting a 'coalition of the willing' throughout the region who are using the bridge that we've built with our Friendship City relations that are continuing to strengthen. Baotou and Lu'an have got the message that we are there to do business," Mr Rodda said.

In a major coup, Keppel Logistics one of the largest warehouse managers in the world, has offered to act as an agent and broker for Limestone Coast businesses to get their products into its major distribution centre in Lu'an.

"An arrangement that assists with the reduction in import duty in line with the CHAFTA treaty and acts as a highly credible clearing agency will provide confidence for our local red meat producers to venture into the Lu'an region."

"The next step is to start talking to our local red meat producers and abattoirs that have an interest in the China market. One local Lu'an meat wholesaler imports 40 containers per year, and expressed interest in looking to Australian beef as an option for at least half these imports," Mr Rodda said.

Naracoorte based sheep geneticist Doctor Colin Earl has supplied genetics to China during the past ten years and took part in the delegation to further expand his business opportunities.

"China is truly a country on the move and we must endeavour to be part of this. I believe the trip will open up new opportunities for me as business in China always involves both government and private entities and I was able to meet both sectors," Dr Earl said.

Dr Earl plans to return to China to assist with flock improvement.

"This is a major outcome as it will see us assisting Baotou to lift the quality of genetics in their flocks of sheep and eventually lead to live export for genetics and flock improvement, flown out of Melbourne as a monthly order," Mr Rodda said.

The delegation further strengthened executive to executive relationships with government officials present at all delegation visits, including the Baotou City Modern Agricultural and Husbandry Science Innovation Service Centre, the Inner Mongolia Little Lamb Company Logistic Facility and the Inner Mongolia Knight Dairy Company.

"Lu'an's dairy industry wishes to work with TAFE SA to offer a customised dairy education rural certificate, offering a great opportunity we'll continue to explore in the coming months."

The first Mount Gambier based Grow Systems Australia moving gully system will be installed in Hefei 40 minutes from Lu'an and will serve as a demonstration plant.

"There is real interest from a company in Lu'an to replicate this in the future as they wish to grow high quality herbs," Mr Rodda said.

Crop improvement and fodder management for livestock is an opportunity the Limestone Coast could capitalise on in the near future.

"China has difficulty in growing enough fodder for their large dairies and currently still source large quantities of hay from the USA. There's an opportunity for assistance with fodder conservation and soil remediation."

"What is encouraging about this visit, our second for the year, is the governments of both cities strong support for our engagement program. By shifting the focus to the delivery of services that will ultimately lift their agricultural output, we are assisting them to address a major regional problem. This visit developed a new level of cooperation and was a real win for us," Mr Rodda said.

Tenison Woods College took part in the delegation to explore the possibility of short term teacher study tours throughout the Limestone Coast, in addition to short term student study tours and exchanges and full time international student enrolments.

"It provided an inside look at how middle schools operate as well as their expectations and teaching methods when it comes to the English language. We will be hosting students from Baotou in February 2018 and there is also interest in teacher/student exchanges," Tenison Woods College International Student Coordinator Annie Clifford said.

► George Beck (left), Mark McShane, Colin Earl, Annie Clifford, Bruce Rodda and Sam Croser in Lu'an as part of the Regional Business Delegation.



Ghost Mushrooms

Throughout the month of May 2018, the Mount Gambier Visitor Centre was open after dark to host a display of glowing Ghost Mushrooms, providing a taste of Ghost Mushroom Lane in the pine forest near Glencoe.

Ghost Mushrooms (*Omphalotus nidiformis*) were discovered locally by Ockert Le Roux, whose curiosity led him to work with ForestrySA and One Forty One Plantations to create a unique tourism opportunity.

In 2017 18,000 people visited the inaugural forest trail initiative leading to the glowing mushrooms. This year the concept has expanded to include organised tours in the forest and an inside display at the Mount Gambier Visitor Centre.

“The success of the Ghost Mushroom program in its first year was astounding and this indoor display provides an opportunity for those less mobile and unable to walk in the dark forest the chance to see this phenomenon up close,” Tourism and Economic Development Manager Donna Foster said.

The Ghost Mushrooms are seasonal, first appearing in early May and finishing by mid-June. Their soft green glow can only be seen at night in a dark environment. The indoor display has been carefully created to provide a forestry environment, with a narrative played to provide the audience with background and biological information on the mushroom. Each week fresh mushrooms were harvested and delivered to the Visitor Centre by Forestry SA.

The Ghost Mushroom display is a joint initiative between the Visitor Centre, Forestry SA and Tourism Mount Gambier.

18,000 
**PEOPLE VISITED GHOST
MUSHROOM LANE IN 2017**

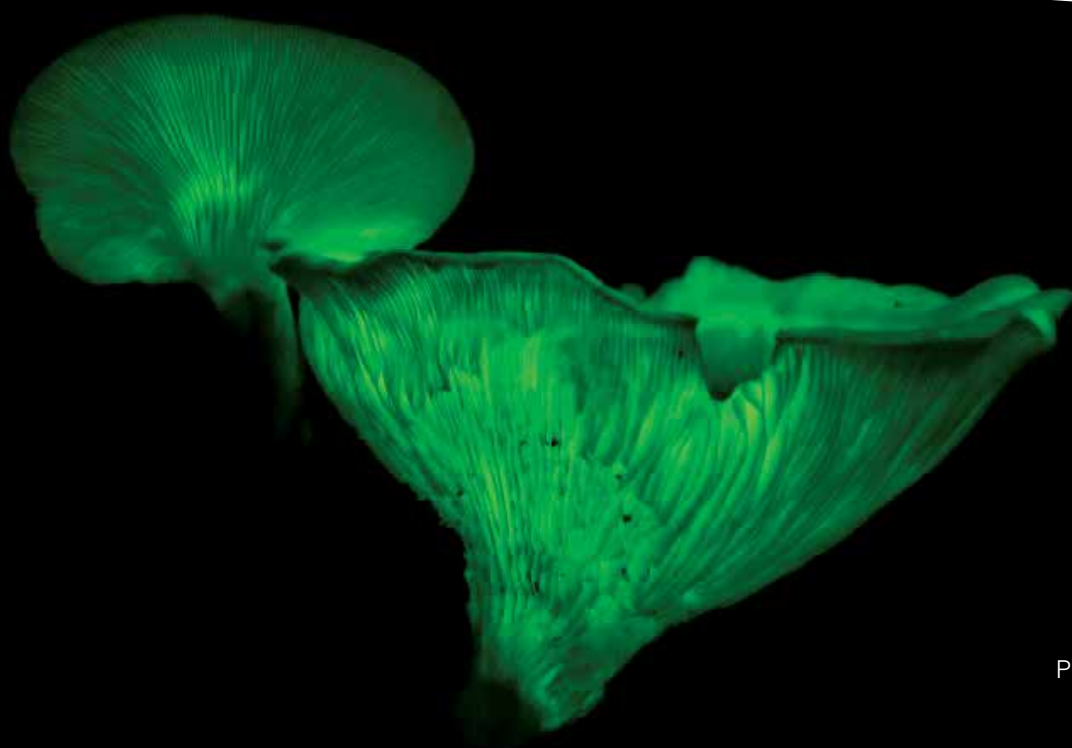


Photo courtesy
of ForestrySA



Governance

Community Land

Council:

- Is required to have in place Community Land Management Plans for all of its land that has been classified as 'Community Land' in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999,
- Receives land from new subdivisions (usually in the form of reserves, screening reserves, drainage reserves and roads). Roads are excluded from the definition of Community Land, and
- Periodically prepares and adopts Community Land Management Plans for new community land parcels and reviews its existing Management Plans for community land parcels as the need arises.

Also, any land acquired by Council (eg. by direct purchase) is classified as Community Land unless excluded prior to acquisition. Typically, any land purchased or held for operational purposes (eg. car parking, depots) is excluded from the Community Land classification.

When Council receives new Community Land it undertakes public consultation, in accordance with the Local Government Act, prior to adopting a Management Plan.

There were no Community Land Management Plans adopted by Council during the 2017/2018 financial year.

Council's Community Land Management Plans are available for inspection at the Council Office.

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 was reviewed by Council 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 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,
- Kinds of matters to which the applications relate, and
- Outcome of applications.

On 21 August 2018, Strategic Standing Committee Report No. AR18/29829 reported that during the 2017/2018 Financial Year no formal applications were received in relation to Section 270 of the Act or Council's Internal Review of Council's Decisions Policy.

Council Policies

Council has adopted a wide range of Policies to assist in its administrative decision making processes.

The following Policy Index lists all current Council Policies as at 30 June 2018.

Council Policies and Registers are periodically reviewed over the term of the Council to ensure they remain up to date with legislative requirements, Council and community expectation and emerging practices in local government.

Current Council Policies and a range of other registers and documents required by legislation are available on the Council website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au and at the Council Office.

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
E500	Provision of Council Resources to Support the Emergency Services in Emergencies
F110	Fencing Costs - Contributions by Council
F175	Footways and Crossovers
F190	Footways - Paving in City Centre Zone
R270	Road Openings and Reinstatments
S115	Fencing and Stormwater Retention Basins
T120	Tree Policy
W115	Waste Management - Receiving of Waste - Caroline Landfill
W125	Waste Management - Refuse Collection
Council Business Services	
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
R105	Rates - Rating
R130	Rates - General Matters

Council Policies

Council Business Services (continued)	
R155	Rates - Rate Rebate
R180	Records Management
R200	Community Land (Reserves) Lease/Licence/Rental Arrangements
R305	Risk Management Framework
S140	Street Numbering
T150	Treasury Management
City Growth	
A170	Advertising and Signage
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 Policy
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
T110	Taxi Regulation
Community Wellbeing	
A270	Australia Day Awards
C140	Main Corner Complex - Hire
D230	Donations - Authority to Approve Requests

Council Policies

Community Wellbeing (continued)

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 (s92 Code of Practice s90(8a))
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
M240	Members - Access to Information
M265	Members - Complaint 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
E200	Employees - Service Awards - Gifts at Resignation or Retirement
S175	Safe Environment
W150	Whistleblowers Protection

Freedom of Information Statement

By-Laws

Council had the following By-laws in operation during the 2017/2018 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-law No. 6	Taxi Regulation

By-laws are available on the Council website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au

A review of By-laws was conducted during the 2017/2018 financial year. Replacement By-laws numbered 1-5 were adopted on 19 June 2018 and commence in operation from 5 November 2018.

By-law No. 6 Taxi Regulation will expire on 1 January, 2019 with Council unable to make a replacement By-law following changes to state legislation. Taxis will operate under state jurisdiction from 1 January 2019.

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 www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au

Freedom of Information Applications

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

Manager Executive Administration
City of Mount Gambier
PO Box 56
Mount Gambier SA 5290

The City of Mount Gambier received and determined two applications under the Freedom of Information Act 1991 during the 2017/2018

Number of applications	2
Number of Applications carried over from 2016/2017	0
Full access granted	1
Access refused	1
Fees not paid	0
Documents otherwise available	0
Incomplete (as at 30 June 2018)	0
Applications for Internal Review	0
Decision confirmed	0

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 (taking into account various factors prescribed by the regulations),
- 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 & Regional Councils Composition & Elector Ratio (as at February 2018)

Council	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio
Murray Bridge	10	14,372	1:1,437
Barossa	12	17,555	1:1,462
Whyalla	10	15,247	1:1,524
Gawler	11	17,495	1:1,590
Mount Gambier	11	19,466	1:1,769
Port Lincoln	11	10,445	1:949
Port Augusta	10	9,507	1:957
Mount Barker	11	24,228	1:2,202
Adelaide Hills	13	29,582	1:2,275

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 the 2016/2017 year with the following Council composition to apply from the November 2018 Local Government Elections:

- The principal member of Council continue to be a Mayor elected by the community,
- The Council area not be divided into wards (i.e. retain the existing 'no wards' structure), and

- The future elected body of Council comprise eight Area Councillors and the Mayor.

The new Council composition from November 2018 comprising 9 Members will provide an elector ratio of 1:2,163.

The next scheduled representation review for the City of Mount Gambier is expected to be around 2024/2025.

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.

The following tables provide the information required to be published for the 2017/2018 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	19	12	3	-	2	-	5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

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 30th June 2015
19	16*	29^

* Includes expired, ceased and revoked Orders from previous financial years.

^ Includes 13 Orders that remain operative from previous financial years.

Confidentiality Provisions

Council Meeting Dates, Subject, s90(3) Grounds and Status (as at 30 June 2018) of s91(7) Orders associated with the use of confidentiality provisions during the 2017/2018 financial year.

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status (as at 30th June 2018)
19-Jun-18	Item 17.11 Architectural Expression of Interest for the Mount Gambier Regional Sport and Recreation Centre - Report No. AR18/23408	(b)	Current
19-Jun-18	Item 17.8 Council update on recycling Contract Variation – June 2018 - Report No. AR18/23145	(d)	Expired
19-Jun-18	Item 17.5 Illegal Development – Cessation of the Storage of Scrap Items, Goods and Materials on the Subject Property No. AR18/21507	(a) & (f)	Current
19-Jun-18	Item 17.2 Illegal Development - Report No. AR18/21607	(a) & (f)	Current
15-May-18	Council Update on Recycling Issues and Options - May 2018 - Report No. AR18/16676	(d)	Expired
15-May-18	Item 17.2 Illegal Development - Development constructed at variance to the Development Approval - Report No. AR18/16548	(a) & (f)	Current
17-Apr-18	Item 17.11 Illegal Development and Intervention Order - Report No. AR18/12877	(a) & (f)	Current
17-Apr-18	Item 17.8 Condition of Property - Report No. AR18/12359	(a) & (f)	Current
17-Apr-18	Item 17.5 Sale of land for non-payment of Rates - Report No. PR18/2387	(a)	Current
17-Apr-18	Item 17.2 Surplus Government Property Notice - Report No. AR18/12667	(j)	Current
21-Feb-18	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW – Discussion regarding Chief Executive Officer's KPI's for 2018 - Ref. PERS	(a)	Current
16-Jan-18	Item 18 Discussion regarding Draft Report received from AME Recruitment KPI's	(a)	Current
16-Jan-18	Item 19 Discussion regarding Chief Executive Officer KPI's	(a)	Current
21-Nov-17	Item 17.5 Report No. AR17/47214 – Surplus Government Property Notice	(b)	Current
21-Nov-17	Item 17.2 Legal Action - 1/29 Willow Avenue, Mount Gambier - EMT Holdings Pty Ltd - Report No. AR17/44088	(i)	Current
17-Oct-17	7 Eucalypt Drive - Commercial Lease - Report No. AR17/37588	(b)	Expired
19-Sep-17	Item 7.8 Sale of Land for non-payment of Rates - Report No. AR17/31763	(a)	Current
19-Sep-17	Item 7.5 Sale of Land for non-payment of Rates - Report No. AR17/31762	(a)	Current
19-Sep-17	Item 7.2 Sale of Land for non-payment of Rates - Report No. AR17/31728	(a)	Current

Member Allowances and Reimbursements

Since the 2010 Local Government general elections, Elected Member allowances have been determined by an 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 expenses of Members.

Section 76 further provides for allowances to be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the consumer price index. Elected Members allowances for the City of Mount Gambier from 15 November 2017 are as follows:

Council	Group 2 Classification (out of 5 groups)
Group 2	Base is \$16,576
Mayoral Allowance	4 times \$16,576 = \$65,304
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	1.25 times the \$16,576 = \$20,720
Presiding Member of Prescribed Committee	As for Deputy Mayoral Allowance \$20,720
Members	\$16,576

Council also approved various other reimbursements of expenses and support to Members in accordance with Section 77 of the Act which includes:

- Travelling expenses (outside of Council area only),
- Child/dependent care expenses,
- Conference/seminar/training expense,
- Business cards,
- Mobile computing devices,
- Mobile data plan,
- Corporate attire,
- Mobile phone (Mayor only),
- Office and executive assistance (Mayor only), and
- Motor vehicle (Mayor only).

For details including limitations and conditions associated with Council approved expense reimbursements refer to Council Policy M405 – Members – Allowances, Re-imbursements, Benefits and Facilities adopted by Council following the November 2014 Local Government Election. The Policy is available from Council's website.

Note:

- Sitting fees for the Audit Committee:
- An Independent person on the Audit Committee receives \$100 per meeting or \$50 for any special meeting,
- An Independent Presiding Member of the Audit Committee receives \$150 per meeting or \$100 for any special meeting, and
- Council Elected Members on the Audit Committee receive no sitting fee.
- All Member Allowances are paid monthly (two weeks in advance/two weeks in arrears). For efficiency, allowances are via Electronic Funds Transfer direct to the Elected Member's bank account.
- A Council Member is entitled to decline payment of the allowance (see Section 76 (7) of the Act), but it must still be recorded in the Register.
- The Allowances set out in the Remuneration Tribunal Determination are adjusted annually on the first, second and third anniversaries of the 2014 Local Government elections to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index as defined at section 76 (15) of the Local Government Act 1999.

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.

Following the 2014 Local Government Elections, Council conducted a comprehensive Elected Member Development Program for the newly-elected Council that addressed the mandatory training requirements.

Council's Elected Member Training and Development Policies were reviewed during the 2015 year and a replacement Elected Member Training and Development Policy M500 was adopted by Council in December 2015.

The replacement policy introduced three training/development categories (Local Training, SA Local Government Association Training, Conferences and Meetings (Adelaide based), and Other Training) and an Application and Evaluation Pro-Forma to enable Elected Members to make application to attend and to report on the nature, benefits and feedback on LGA and other training attendances.

During 2017/2018, Elected Members were provided with the opportunity to participate in a varied program of training programs, workshops and briefings covering the following subject matter:

Commercial Kitchen and Chief Executive Officer KPI's	Limestone Coast Local Government Association Presentation
City Growth Strategy and Dog and Cat Management Board	Heritage Sub Committee
City Growth Development	City Growth and Fund My Neighbourhood
Federal Government Select Committee and Recreation Centre	Tennis SA Presentation
Bentley Effect	SAPOL/Tourism Mount Gambier Quarterly Update/ Signage Presentation
Community Engagement and Social Inclusion	Limestone Coast Protection Alliance / Beach Energy
Youth Engagement Strategy and Culture and Heritage Plan	Stand Like Stone Foundation / Planning Reforms / By-Law Review
2018/2019 Budget	Second Youth Engagement Strategy and Culture and Heritage Plan
Fires - Clean Air Burning on Domestic and Non Domestic Premises / Cats By-Law and GIG City and NVI Update	Mobile Food Vendors Amendment Act 2017 / Budget Workshop
Signage Strategy	LCLGA 2018/2019 Business Plan and Draft Budget
Regional Sporting and Recreation Centre (Two briefings)	NVI Update and Integrated Strategies

Member Training and Development

LGA General Meetings and various sessions/ conferences attended:

Mayor/Chairperson Joint Forum	SEGRA Forum - National Economic Development Conference
2017 LGA Conference and AGM	Members Strategy Review Session
2018 Council Next Practice Showcase and LGA OGM	Indoor Sport and Recreation Facility Site Visits
2018 ALGA National General Assembly	2018 Waste Management Summit

The 2017/2018 Budget allocation for Elected Member Training and Development was \$17,000 and an amount of \$9253.71 was expended for this purpose.



Finance

Financial Performance - South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Data

Grants Commission

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 members are appointed on a part-time basis by the Governor.

The SALGGC makes recommendations to the Minister for State/Local Government Relations for the distribution of Commonwealth financial assistance grants.

All funds allocated by the Commonwealth are distributed to councils. Grants distributed should 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 Commission 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 South Australian Local Government Grants Commission prepares and distributes a range of comparative data on each council, commonly referred to as the Grants Commission database reports.

A sample of relevant data from the Grants Commission reports has been extracted and assembled in 'Time Series' format and includes financial data relative to the City of Mount Gambier for the past five financial years. The Time Series reports have been arranged under the following headings:

- Employee/Operating,
- Financial, and
- Assets.

The SA Local Government Grants Commission website includes other database reports for the Local Government sector for the 2016/2017 financial year. Refer to www.dpti.sa.gov.au/local_govt/LGGC

Financial Performance - South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Data

SA Local Government Grants Commission database time series reports

Employee / Operating

Year	Employees full time employment	Employee costs \$'000	Operating expenditure \$'000	Operating revenue \$'000	Operating surplus (deficit) \$'000
2012/2013	116	8,318	22,153	22,452	299
2013/2014	118	8,772	23,408	22,740	(668)
2014/2015	116	9,197	25,065	26,110	1,045
2015/2016	122	10,066	25,961	25,411	(550)
2016/2017	123	10,728	28,496	30,347	1,851

Financial

Year	Total liabilities \$'000	Total financial assets \$'000	Net financial liabilities \$'000	Total equity \$'000	Operating surplus ratio (%)	Net financial liability ratio (%)	Asset sustainability ratio (%)
2012/2013	7,070	2,072	4,998	189,053	2	23	85
2013/2014	9,418	2,459	6,959	188,222	(4)	31	107
2014/2015	9,453	2,645	6,808	223,581	(2)	27	53
2015/2016	8,650	2,217	6,433	228,028	(2.2)	25	57
2016/2017	12,834	4,417	8,417	219,872	6.1	28	62

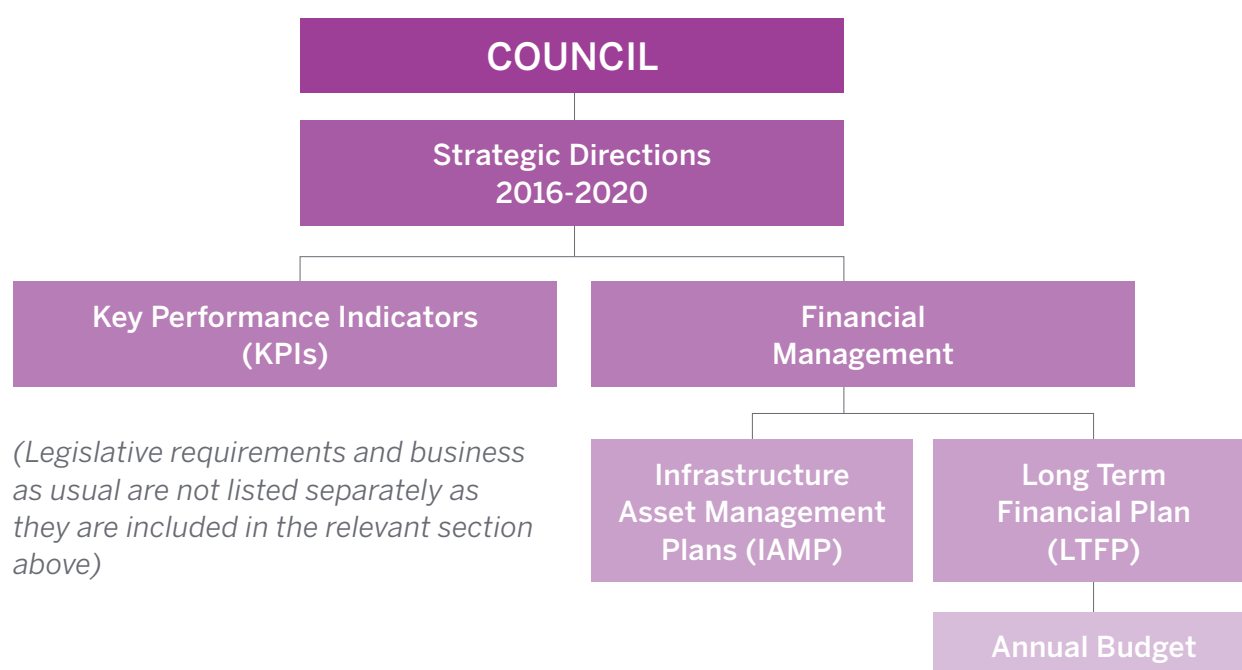
Assets

Year	Cash / cash equivalent \$'000	Other receivables \$'000	Inventories \$'000	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Plant / equipment \$'000	Other assets \$'000	Total assets \$'000
2012/2013	675	1,397	40	41,188	87,340	58,186	4,627	2,670	196,123
2013/2014	1,173	1,286	37	40,858	86,810	60,343	4,749	2,384	197,690
2014/2015	969	1,676	40	40,818	87,891	94,772	4,648	2,220	233,034
2015/2016	991	1,22	39	41,617	88,005	97,906	5,158	1,736	235,678
2016/2017	3,028	1,389	32	51,780	67,967	99,188	5,540	3,782	232,706

Strategic Financial Management and Sustainability

Our focus has been on the development of an Integrated Planning and Budgeting Framework. A holistic approach to ensure Council's functions, services and programs are aligned to meet the needs and expectations of Council and our community as articulated in the Community Plan 2016-2020 and related strategies and initiatives.

The following represents a summary of the Framework:



This integrated approach ensures that our 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 ten years. The Long Term Financial Plan provides a comprehensive understanding of the impacts decisions made today have on our future.

Key Indicators 2017/2018

	Local Govt. target %	LTFP target for 2017/2018 %	2017/2018 Budget target %	2017/2018 Financial statements (actual) %
Operating Surplus Ratio (OSR)	0 - 10	0	0	6
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio (NFLR)	0 - 100	27	33	17
Asset Sustainability Ratio (ASR)	90 - 110	71	74	72

Strategic Financial Management and Sustainability

Council has maintained strategic financial discipline with the 2017/2018 budget being prepared and materially reflective of the financial indicators in line with the Long Term Financial Plan.

Council's OSR sits within the Local Government target range of 0 – 10%. As shown by the NFLR, Council has very low level of financial liabilities (borrowings). The actual ASR for the financial year of 72% is materially consistent with Council's budget target of 74%. Council is working towards its actual ASR sitting within the Local Government target range by embarking on a robust review of its Asset Management Framework.

Council operates within a philosophy of continuous improvement including service reviews, process improvements and project management disciplines. This philosophy assists with managing, operating and sustaining Council's finances in a complex and dynamic economic, political and fiscal environment. Looking forward 12 months, Council plans to complete a robust review and refinement of its:

- Asset Management Framework – managing assets through capability and knowledge, and
- Long Term Financial Plan – targeted financial sustainability through alignment and understanding.

This will underpin and assist Council to be optimally placed and ensure we deliver on our strategic and long term financial objectives.

Our IAMP significantly influences the LTFP.

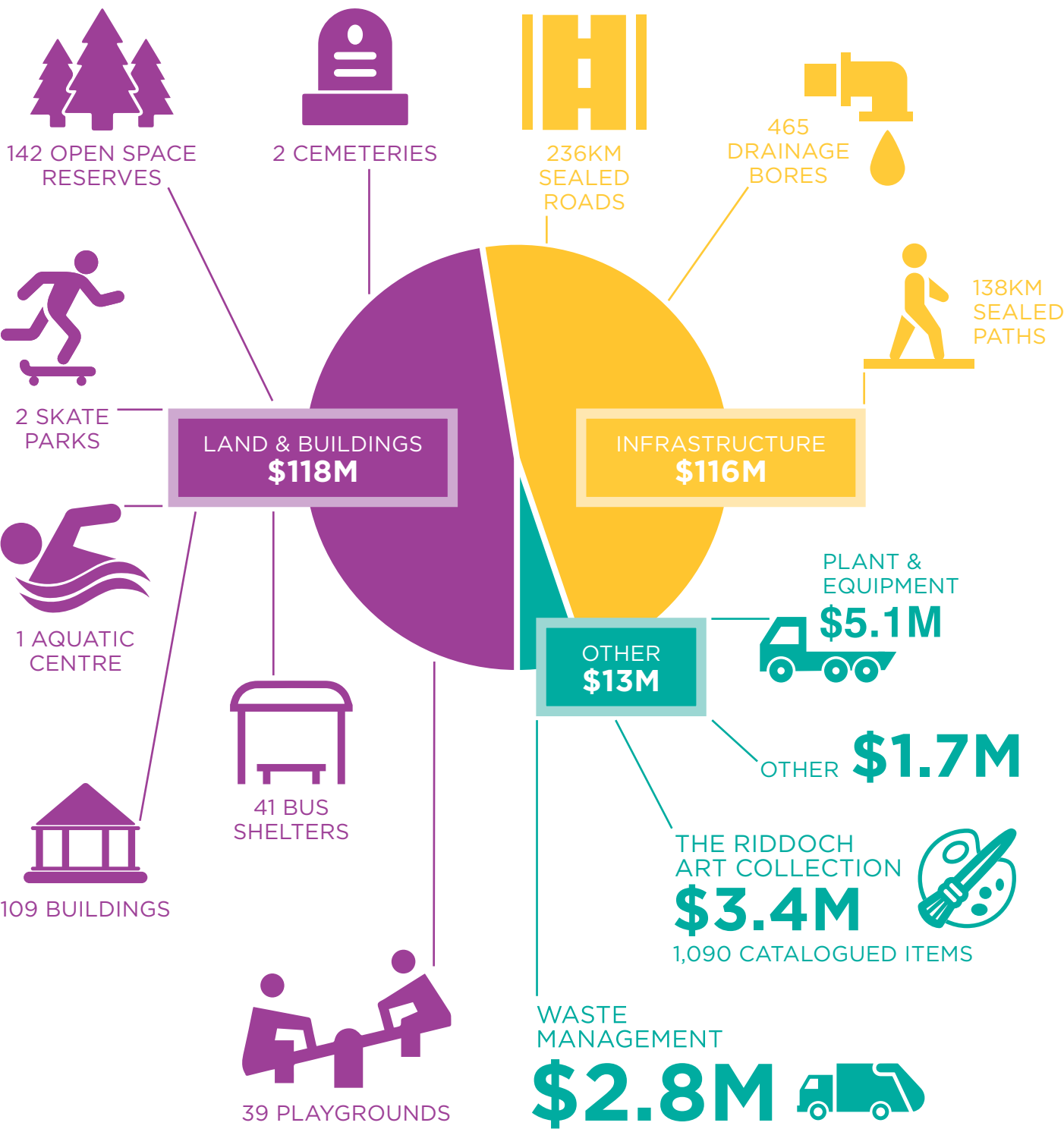
The IAMP focuses on future expenditure for new assets and the renewal of existing assets over a period of at least 10 years. It also encompasses planned and reactive maintenance of our assets.

Council's LTFP and IAMP are reviewed periodically in accordance with legislative requirements and are available from Council's website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au

Fixed Asset Snapshot

TOTAL ASSET VALUE \$247M





Budget Analysis

The City of Mount Gambier's Annual Business Plan and Budget (ABP&B) includes statements of the planned strategies, program and financial outcomes for the financial year and are developed with reference to the Council's:

- Community (Strategic) Plan,
- Long Term Financial Plan, and
- Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan.

Development of our ABP&B is a fundamental component within our Integrated Planning and Budgeting Framework. The framework links Council's strategic suite of documents including the strategies, plans and initiatives with our budgeting process ensuring alignment and an optimal mix of services, programs, infrastructure and facilities are delivered with the LTFP and budget parameters.

The ABP&B defines our objectives for the financial year, the services, programs and activities required to deliver these objectives, and how we will monitor and measure our performance. The ABP&B contains a summary of known revenue and expenses required to deliver the services, programs and activities and is developed within our commitment to financial sustainability and longer term financial planning. It describes the impact on rates and the implications for our ratepayers.

Key aspects of the 2017/2018 ABP&B included:

- Continued focus on achieving the vision expressed in Council's adopted Community Plan 2016-2020,
- Major focus on economic development including tourism, innovation hub, regional commercial hub,
- Supporting the hosting of specialist major events and conferences,
- Continued development of Council's infrastructure and assets,
- Capital infrastructure program of approximately \$4.26 million (new and renewal),
- Maintaining our extensive public realm assets and infrastructure,

- Maintaining support for community based programs and initiatives, and
- Retaining and developing Council's workforce to ensure they have the skills, knowledge and capacity to deliver on Council's plans.

Budget

2017/2018 budgeted expenditure consisted of:

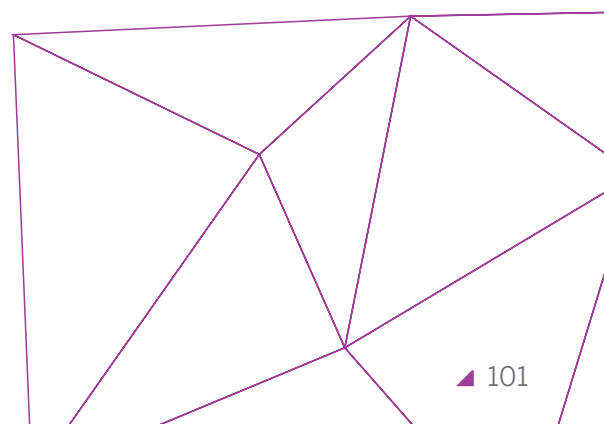
Operating Expenditure	\$26,690,000
Non-Operating Expenditure	\$690,000
Capital Expenditure	\$6,883,000

The 2017/2018 budget proposed to spend a total of \$33.6 million (made up of operating and capital) on the delivery of all Council services and programs, maintenance of assets and the development of new or upgraded assets.

2017/2018 budgeted revenue, to fund Council's budgeted expenditure, consisted of:

Operating Revenue	\$27,023,000
Non-Operating Revenue	\$7,080,000

Operating expenditure budgeted increase was \$689,000 or 2.65% on 2016/2017. In comparison, operating revenue increased by \$1,101,000 or 4.25% resulting in a minor budgeted operating surplus of \$333,000. With non-operating and capital revenues and expenses included, Council's overall cash surplus was budgeted at \$409,000.



Budget Analysis

2017/2018 Budget initiatives

Key components within Council's 2017/2018 budget are summarised in the following table.

Function/Activity	Expenditure \$'000		Revenue \$ '000
	Operating	Capital	
Administration			
Rates (General and NRM levy)	-	-	20,685
Grants Commission			
General Purpose Grant	-	-	2,251
Road Grants	-	-	393
Community Services			
General community support and donations	153	-	-
Public conveniences	260	-	-
Community amenities (including the Main Corner)	578	50	85
Cultural Services			
Library operating	1,955	1360	212
Cultural venues	373	115	120
Heritage	496	10	24
Art Gallery	377	-	200
Community celebrations, parades and programs	176	-	-
Economic			
Regional development	548	-	-
Tourism – development, events and promotion	693	-	-
Tourism – Visitor Information Centre	766	-	313
Environment			
Waste management	3,099	-	2,760
Storm water drainage	120	90	
Street cleaning / sweeping	353	-	50
Street lighting	525	-	-
Streetscaping	192	40	-
Environmental sustainability initiatives	157	50	-
Recreation			
Parks, gardens, reserves	1,352	765	82
Sport facilities - indoor and outdoor	267	26	67
Aquatic Centre	255	26	-

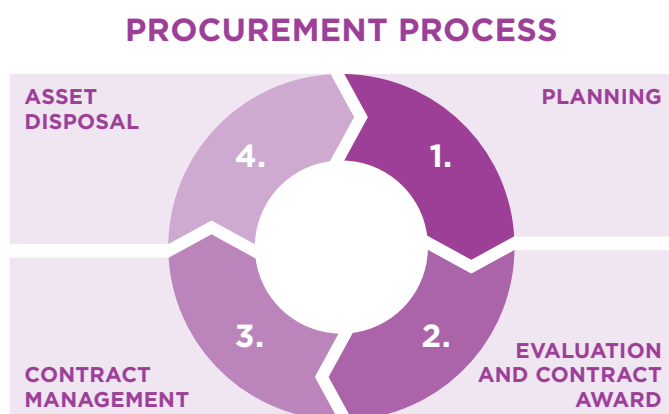
Budget Analysis

Function/Activity	Expenditure \$'000		Revenue \$ '000
	Operating	Capital	
Recreation (continued)			
Parks, gardens, reserves	1,352	765	82
Sport facilities - indoor and outdoor	267	26	67
Aquatic Centre	255	26	-
Regulatory			
Dog control	307	-	152
Building control	295	-	90
City planning	298	-	105
Health and parking control	229	-	31
Transport/Engineering			
Plant and machinery (replacement and operating)	1,005	1,369	-
Footpath / curbing - annual maintenance program	340	848	-
Road infrastructure	258	2,157	-
Unclassified			
Property Maintenance Program	150	347	-
Finance charges – interest on loan(s)	372	-	-
Asset disposal (i.e. trade ins)	-	-	274
Grant funding	-	-	295
Non-operating	Non - Operating		Non - Operating
Annual borrowing program	-	-	-I
Loan repayment - principal	690	-	-
Asset disposal (i.e. trade-ins)	-	-	309
Grant funding	-	-	130

Note: Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget is available from Council's website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au

Procurement Policy and Process

Council's Procurement and Disposal of Land and Assets Policy (P420) complies with section 49 of the Local Government Act 1999. The principles of the policy are consistent with state and national codes and standards for procurement. Review of the policy is completed every two years unless the need arises earlier to maintain currency and in line with best practice.



Effective management of the procurement lifecycle is fundamental to Council achieving and delivering outcomes that are on time, within budget and in accordance with specifications.

We undertake procurement activities in a way that:

- Encourages openness and fairness,
- Ensures probity, accountability and transparency,
- Obtains value for money (not measured by price alone),
- Supports environmentally safe and sustainable practices,
- Appropriately manages risks,
- Complies with all relevant legislation,
- Promotes efficient purchasing practices and continuous improvement,
- Encourages the use of local goods and services, and
- Aligns with our strategic asset management plan, long term financial plan and budget.

The procurement process for tenders, expression of interests and formal quotes assists Council to achieve the best available outcome for our Community.

Procurement Snapshot

12 NEW  CONTRACTS

22
COMPETITIVE
TENDERS OF WHICH
70%
WERE
AWARDED
LOCALLY 

REQUESTS FOR **4**
EXPRESSION
OF INTEREST

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 control by the government or local government, over private business operating in the same market. During the financial year Council did not:

- Commence or cease any significant business activities.
- Receive any complaints alleging a breach of competitive neutrality.

Residential Rates Comparison

The Australian Classification of Local Governments (ACLG) categorises councils using the population, population density and the proportion of the population that is classified as urban for the council.

All Local Governments who receive general purpose financial assistance grants via the Grants Commission are classified according to ACLG categories. These categories are defined as:

URS: Urban Regional Small

URM: Urban Regional Medium

UFS: Urban Fringe Small

The majority of other SA councils are classified in 'Rural' or 'Urban' large (metro) categories.

SA councils categorised as 'Urban' (regional or fringe) have been used in the table below for comparative purposes.

In 2016/2017 the City of Mount Gambier residential rates per rateable property (\$1,197) was equivalent to 84.4% of the State average (\$1,417), 15.6% below the State average.

In the previous financial year (2015/2016) this figure was 79% of the State average or 21% below the State average.

Council	ACLG	Population (ERP) 2017	Total Rates \$'000	Rates as % of Revenue	Residential Rates/ Residential Property \$
Alexandrina	UFS	26,775	36,719	84	1,790
Barossa	UFS	24,544	28,365	75	1,629
Gawler	UFS	23,547	20,593	77	1,773
Mount Barker	URM	34,643	35,264	80	1,826
Mount Gambier	URS	27,012	19,672	65	1,197
Murray Bridge	URS	21,770	22,802	61	1,648
Port Augusta	URS	14,284	18,085	45	1,736
Port Lincoln	URS	14,650	13,416	67	1,543
Victor Harbor	URS	15,180	19,935	76	1,821
Whyalla	URS	21,997	19,863	61	1,479

Residential Rates Comparison

Implications for Rates

Total income from rates

	\$	Amount paid electronically	% paid electronically
2017/2018	19,608m	\$16,265m	83%
2016/2017	18.764m	\$13,560m	72%

To deliver its infrastructure, services, programs and activities in 2017/2018, Council approved an increase in the overall general gross rate revenue equivalent to 4.5% over the general gross rate revenue raised in the preceding financial year.

This overall percentage increase is offset by the effect of 'growth' (i.e. new developments, new assessments) that occurred during the previous year. This growth is estimated to be equivalent to a 0.48% benefit in general rate revenue which will provide a cushioning offset to the 4.5% rate rise.

Ratepayers experienced an average 4.02% increase in rates, subject to individual ratable property assessment details. For the average residential ratepayer, this equated to an estimated \$44 per annum (84c per week) increase in Council rates, bringing the average annual residential rates to \$1,145 to assist in funding the 2017/2018 budget.

Council’s residential rating effort continues to be below the average residential rates for South Australian councils as indicated in comparative data provided by the SA Local Government Association Rates Data Report (2016/2017):



TOTAL RATEPAYERS REGISTERED TO RECEIVE RATES NOTICES ELECTRONICALLY

2017/2018	3,009
2016/2017	940
2015/2016	480

Average for SA metro councils	\$1,548
Average for SA rural councils	\$1,306
Average for City of Mount Gambier	\$1,145

RATES OUTSTANDING AS AT JUNE 30

2018	2017	2016	2015
2.21%	2.47%	2.48%	2.69%



Auditor and Audit Committee

Council is required under Section 128 of the Local Government Act 1999 to appoint a suitably qualified person as its external auditor. The auditor will be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Council's Audit Committee and must be a:

- (a) Registered company auditor, or
- (b) Firm comprising at least one registered company auditor.

The auditor of Council must undertake an audit of the:

- (a) Council's financial statements within a reasonable time after the statements are referred to the auditor for the audit (and, in any event, unless there is good reason for a longer period, within 2 months after the referral), and
- (b) Controls exercised by the Council during the relevant financial year in relation to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities.

The auditor must provide to the Council an:

- (a) Audit opinion with respect to the financial statements, and
- (b) Audit opinion as to whether the controls audited are sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that the financial transactions of the council have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

The auditor will provide the opinions to the:

- (a) Principal Member of the Council, and
- (b) Council's Audit Committee.

Following a competitive tendering process, Council appointed the firm Galpins as Council's external auditors for a five year term from the financial year 2016/2017 to 2020/2021 inclusive.

Pursuant to Section 128(9) of the Local Government Act 1999, Council must include in its Annual Report details of the remuneration paid to its external auditor for work performed during the review year.

In compliance with Section 128(9), Council advises that during the 2017/2018 financial year:

- The sum of \$6,000 (ex GST) was paid for the interim annual audit of the Council's internal controls, and
- The sum of \$12,100 (ex GST) was paid for the annual audit of statutory financial records and related specific purpose statements for the 2016/2017 financial year audit.

Council's Audit Committee held four meetings during the 2017/2018 financial year, two of which were attended by Galpins assigned Audit Partner.

Selected General Statistics

Area	3,388 ha or 34 km²
Length of Roads	229 km
Number of Properties coded Residential	12,147
Population Density	7.97 persons per hectare
Median Age	40
Unemployment (March 2018)	6.7%
Capital Value (June 2018)	\$3,259,233,035
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	\$1.44 billion

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Electors on the House of Assembly Role	18,379	18,345	18,874	19,408	19,270

Population Change

The population of Mount Gambier City over the years:

Year	Population	Year	Population
1961	15,388	2006	23,922
1966	17,146	2011	25,257
1971	17,934	2013	26,092 (ABS – ERP)
1976	19,292	2014	26,246 (ABS – ERP)
1991	19,880	2015	26,348 (ABS – ERP)
1992	20,813	2016	26,993 (ABS – ERP)
2001	22,720	2017	27,036 (ABS – ERP)

ABS: Australian Bureau of Statistics
ERP: Estimated Resident Population

How you can help

What you can do as a public minded citizen to make your City a better place:

- Keep any overhanging branches from your property over the footpath neatly trimmed to a minimum height of 2.2m above the footpath.
- Report street trees that require trimming for safe sight distance and safe to walk under.
- Care for your own street footpath. Some residents are unable to. Can you assist them?

- Report to Council or the Police any acts of vandalism, graffiti or damage to any public or private property. Remember you are a 'shareholder' in your City.
- Report to Council any dangerous pot holes in roads or footpaths.
- Take your visitors for a walk through our parks, gardens, the Crater Lakes area, Cave Garden, Umpherston Sinkhole, around the Blue Lake and public facilities such as the Main Corner, Library and Mount Gambier Visitor Centre. Show them that you are proud of your City.
- If you see any of Council's road works safety signs down, please stand them up or report to Council.
- Report to SA Power Networks at www.sapowernetworks.com.au on 13 12 61 or to Council, any street lights which are not working.

You have a duty to yourself and the community to keep your property clean and tidy at all times. The simple commitment to the presentation of your property will make you a good neighbour and a good citizen.

We owe it to our community to play our part in making Mount Gambier the tidiest and friendliest City in Australia.

 **12,147** PROPERTIES
CODED RESIDENTIAL

229km LENGTH OF ROADS

General Purpose Financial Reports

for the year ended 30 June 2018

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City of Mount Gambier

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018


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 2018 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.



.....
Mark McShane
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



.....
Andrew Lee
MAYOR

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
INCOME			
Rates	2	20,597	19,672
Statutory charges	2	447	421
User charges	2	4,484	4,515
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2	3,906	4,858
Investment income	2	62	35
Reimbursements	2	83	196
Other income	2	522	650
Total income		30,101	30,347
EXPENSES			
Employee costs	3	11,033	10,728
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3	10,023	10,168
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3	7,004	7,331
Finance costs	3	236	269
Total expenses		28,296	28,496
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		1,805	1,851
Asset disposal & fair value adjustments	4	(243)	48
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2	445	2,189
Physical resources received free of charge	2	463	1,213
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)			
transferred to Equity Statement		2,470	5,301
Other comprehensive income			
<i>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</i>			
Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	9	21,108	(13,457)
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve	9	(1,215)	-
Total other comprehensive income		19,893	(13,457)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		22,363	(8,156)

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	4,587	3,028
Trade & other receivables	5	1,524	1,354
Inventories	5	304	32
Total current assets		6,415	4,414
Non-current assets			
Financial assets	6	-	35
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	7	246,964	228,257
Total non-current assets		246,964	228,292
Total assets		253,379	232,706
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade & other payables	8	2,429	2,951
Borrowings	8	218	206
Provisions	8	2,332	3,288
Total current liabilities		4,979	6,445
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	8	2,572	2,790
Provisions	8	3,593	3,599
Total non-current liabilities		6,165	6,389
Total liabilities		11,144	12,834
NET ASSETS		242,235	219,872
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		65,986	61,333
Asset revaluation reserves	9	175,402	155,509
Other reserves	9	847	3,030
TOTAL EQUITY		242,235	219,872

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	Accumulated surplus \$'000	Asset revaluation reserve \$'000	Other reserves \$'000	Total equity \$'000
2018					
Balance at end of previous reporting period		61,333	155,509	3,030	219,872
Net surplus / (deficit) for the year		2,470			2,470
Other Comprehensive Income					
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	9		21,108		21,108
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve			(1,215)		(1,215)
Transfers between reserves		2,183		(2,183)	-
Balance at end of period		65,986	175,402	847	242,235
2017					
Balance at end of previous reporting period		54,680	168,966	4,382	228,028
Net surplus / (deficit) for the year		5,301			5,301
Other Comprehensive Income					
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	9		(13,457)		(13,457)
Transfers between reserves	9	1,352		(1,352)	-
Balance at end of period		61,333	155,509	3,030	219,872

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Rates - general & other		19,522	19,682
Fees & other charges		447	454
User charges		4,343	4,752
Investment receipts		62	33
Grants utilised for operating purposes		3,906	5,222
Reimbursements		61	216
Other revenues		597	4,034
Payments			
Employee costs		(11,715)	(10,692)
Materials, contracts & other expenses		(9,816)	(13,711)
Finance payments		(172)	(201)
Net cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities		7,235	9,789
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets		445	2,189
Sale of replaced assets		146	407
Sale of surplus assets		71	105
Repayments of loans by community groups		35	40
Payments			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(4,053)	(3,253)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(2,114)	(6,322)
Net cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities		(5,470)	(6,834)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Repayments of borrowings		(206)	(874)
Net cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities		(206)	(874)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		1,559	2,081
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	10	3,028	947
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	10	4,587	3,028

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

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 on a going concern basis using the historical cost convention 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 by Council for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* dated 16 October 2018.

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 these Notes.

1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

2 The Local Government reporting entity

City of Mount Gambier is incorporated under the SA Local Government Act 1999 and has its principal place of business at 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier. These 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

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Income is recognised when the Council obtains control over the assets comprising the income, or when the amount due constitutes an enforceable debt, whichever first occurs.

Where grants, contributions and donations recognised as incomes during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the reporting date, the amounts subject to those undischarged conditions are disclosed in these notes. Also disclosed is the amount of grants, contributions and receivables recognised as incomes in a previous reporting period which were obtained in respect of the Council's operations for the current reporting period.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 1 - Significant accounting policies (continued)

In recent years the payment of untied financial assistance grants has varied from the annual allocation as shown in the table below.

	Cash payment received	Annual allocation		Difference
2015/2016	\$1,435,554	\$2,752,676	-	\$1,317,122
2016/2017	\$3,907,937	\$2,580,055	+	\$1,327,882
2017/2018	\$3,171,660	\$3,017,871	-	\$153,789

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.

The actual amounts of untied grants received during the reporting periods (including the advance allocations) are disclosed in note 2.

3.1 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. As there is no profit component, such works are treated as 100% completed. Reimbursements not received are recognised as receivables and reimbursements received in advance are recognised as "payments received in advance".

4 Cash, cash equivalents and other financial instruments

Cash Assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments forms part of note 12.

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. For the reporting year inventories include work in progress, where in the comparison year these were capitalised within the non-current fixed assets.

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.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 1 - Significant accounting policies (continued)

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 7. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

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. For infrastructure and other asset classes where no active market exists, fair value is determined to be the current replacement cost of an asset less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired future economic benefits of the asset. Further detail of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 7.

6.4 Depreciation of non-current assets

Other than land, 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.

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 7. 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 that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to depreciation and are reviewed annually for impairment. Assets carried at fair value 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 assessed for impairment.

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 outflows 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.

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".

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 1 - Significant accounting policies (continued)

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 Employee benefits

9.1 Salaries, wages & compensated absences

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based oncosts) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based oncosts) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

Weighted average discount rate	1.94% (2017, 1.63%)
Weighted average settlement period	1 year (2017, 1 year)

No accrual is made for non-vesting sick leave as Council 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. Council does not make payment for untaken non-vesting sick leave.

An accrual is made for vesting sick leave and Council does make payment for vesting sick leave in accordance with the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement for AWU employees.

9.2 Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. The Scheme has two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. No changes

in accounting policy have occurred during either the current or previous reporting periods. Details of the accounting policies applied and Council's involvement with the schemes are reported in Note 16.

10 Provisions for reinstatement, restoration, rehabilitation, etc.

Capping and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure, the removal of residual materials and the remediation and rehabilitation of disturbed areas. Estimated close capping 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.

11 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, and;
- amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

12 New accounting standards

Certain new accounting standards and UIG interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2017 reporting period and have not been used in preparing these reports.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 1 - Significant accounting policies (continued)

AASB 7	Financial Instruments – Disclosures
AASB 9	Financial Instruments
AASB 15	Revenue from Contracts with Customers
AASB 16	Leases
AASB 1058	Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

Standards containing consequential amendments to other standards and Interpretations arising from the above - AASB 2010-7, AASB 2014-1, AASB 2014-3, AASB 2014-7, AASB 2014-8, AASB 2014-10, AASB 2015-1, AASB 2015-2, AASB 2015-3, AASB 2015-4, AASB 2015-8, AASB 2015-10, AASB 2016-7 and AASB 2016-8.

(Standards not affecting local government have been excluded from the above list.)

Council is of the view that other than AASB 16 and AASB 1058, none of the above new standards or interpretations will affect any of the amounts recognised in the financial statements, but that they may impact certain information otherwise disclosed.

Accounting Standard AASB 16 *Leases* may have a material effect on the amounts disclosed in these reports, particularly in relation to infrastructure, property, plant & equipment. Accounting Standard AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* may have a material effect on the amounts disclosed in these reports, particularly in revenues from grants and subsidies. Neither of these standards commence until the 2019/2020 financial period and it is not Council's intention to adopt this standard early.



Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 2 - Income

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
RATES REVENUES			
General Rates		19,593	18,755
Less: Discretionary rebates, remissions & write offs		(221)	(197)
Other Rates (including service charges)			
Natural Resource Management levy		1,079	1,038
Other Charges			
Penalties for late payment		79	76
Legal & other costs recovered		67	-
Total rates revenue		20,597	19,672
STATUTORY CHARGES			
Development Act fees		95	88
Town planning fees		110	97
Health & septic tank inspection fees		21	-
Animal registration fees & fines		143	152
Parking fines / expiation fees		18	32
Other licences, fees, & fines		60	52
Total statutory charges		447	421
USER CHARGES			
Cemetery/crematoria fees		795	969
Green waste collection		472	460
Landfill charges		2,112	1,949
Hall & equipment hire		279	334
Recycling		132	131
Sales - general		441	289
Bus ticketing		242	274
Sales - sundry		11	109
Total user charges		4,484	4,515
INVESTMENT INCOME			
Interest on investments			
Local Government Finance Authority		49	34
Banks & other		13	1
Total investment income		62	35
REIMBURSEMENTS			
Reimbursements - roadworks		14	44
Reimbursements - private works		63	98
Reimbursements - other		6	54
Total reimbursements		83	196
OTHER INCOME			
Insurance & other recoupments (infrastructure, property, plant & equipment)		148	473
Donations		57	28
Other income - sundry		317	149
Total other income		522	650

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 2 - Income (continued)

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS			
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		445	2,189
Other grants, subsidies and contributions			
Untied - Financial Assistance Grant		3,172	3,908
Roads to Recovery		564	763
Library & Communications		148	179
Grants, subsidies, contributions - sundry		22	8
Subtotal - other grants, subsidies and contributions		3,906	4,858
Total grants, subsidies, contributions		4,351	7,047
<i>The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 11.</i>			
Sources of grants			
Commonwealth government		564	763
State government		3,787	6,284
		4,351	7,047
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:			
Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period		130	-
Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods			
Bicycle Funding Program		(40)	-
Salvage Yard		(90)	
Subtotal		(130)	-
Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions			
Bicycle Funding Program		-	40
Salvage Yard		-	90
Rail Trail - Stage 3		250	-
Subtotal		250	130
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period		250	130
Net increase / (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period		120	130
PHYSICAL RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE			
Land - free of charge		188	127
Roads & footpaths - free of charge		269	1,086
Art - free of charge		6	-
Total physical resources received free of charge		463	1,213

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 3 - Expenses

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
EMPLOYEE COSTS			
Salaries and wages		9,024	9,493
Employee leave expense		944	146
Superannuation	16	997	966
Workers' compensation insurance		262	420
Operating employee costs - other		45	61
Less: Capitalised and distributed costs		(239)	(358)
Total operating employee costs		11,033	10,728
<i>Total number of employees expressed in full time equivalents</i>		125	123
MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER EXPENSES			
Prescribed expenses			
Audit fees			
Auditing the financial reports		33	21
Bad and doubtful debts		23	-
Elected members' expenses		459	310
Election expenses		14	8
Subtotal - Prescribed expenses		529	339
Other materials, contracts & expenses			
Contractors		1,890	3,074
Repairs & maintenance		575	-
Contributions / donations		581	763
Individually significant items			
Energy		835	718
Insurance		282	324
Levies paid to government - EPA, ESL & dog levies		1,114	987
NRM levy expense		1,079	1,041
Materials		1,722	1,345
Training		193	195
Water		132	70
Communication		281	225
Sundry expenses		810	1,087
Subtotal - Other materials, contracts & expenses		9,494	9,829
		10,023	10,168

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 3 - Expenses (continued)

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION & IMPAIRMENT			
Depreciation			
Buildings & other structures		2,363	2,873
Infrastructure			
Waste management		623	581
Stormwater drainage		99	99
Bridges		3	3
Footpaths & kerbing		702	669
Roads		1,826	1,753
Carparks		249	248
Plant & equipment		701	699
Office equipment		158	143
Other		280	263
Impairment of derecognised assets		1,215	-
		8,219	7,331
Less: Impairment expense offset to asset revaluation reserve	9	(1,215)	-
		7,004	7,331
FINANCE COSTS			
Interest on overdraft and short-term drawdown		-	19
Interest on loans		172	182
Unwinding of present value discounts		64	68
		236	269

Note 4 - Gain / (Loss) on asset disposal

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT			
Assets renewed or directly replaced			
Proceeds from disposal		146	407
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		100	403
Gain / (loss) on disposal		46	4
Asset surplus to requirements			
Proceeds from disposal		71	105
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		85	61
Gain / (loss) on disposal		(14)	44
Impairment of disposed assets		(275)	-
		(275)	-
Net gain/(loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets		(243)	48

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 5 - Current assets

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
CASH & EQUIVALENT ASSETS			
Cash on hand and at bank		327	152
Deposits at call		3,522	2,876
Short term deposits & bills, etc		738	-
		4,587	3,028
Trade & other receivables			
Rates - General & other		430	433
Accrued revenues		11	6
Debtors - general		883	761
GST recoupment		155	141
Prepayments		53	-
Loans to community organisations		35	33
Total		1,567	1,374
Less: Allowance for doubtful debts		43	20
		1,524	1,354
Inventories			
Stores & materials		20	18
Trading stock		10	14
Work in progress		274	-
		304	32

Note 6 - Non-current assets

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
FINANCIAL ASSETS			
Receivables			
Loans to community organisations		-	35
Total financial assets		-	35

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 7 - Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment

	Fair value level	2017 \$'000				2018 \$'000			
		At fair value	At cost	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying amount	At fair value	At cost	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying amount
Land	2	10,063	-	-	10,063	10,063	-	-	10,063
Land	3	41,589	128	-	41,717	41,590	361	-	41,951
Buildings & other structures	2	1,009	9	-	1,018	1,009	9	-	1,018
Buildings & other structures	3	98,446	1,123	(32,620)	66,949	96,041	2,227	(33,793)	64,475
Waste Management	3	7,678	1,169	(5,446)	3,401	7,678	1,198	(6,068)	2,808
Infrastructure		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stormwater drainage	3	6,953	96	(1,887)	5,162	7,185	-	(1,986)	5,199
Bridges	3	164	-	(70)	94	164	-	(73)	91
Footpaths & kerbing	3	14,755	1,247	(2,348)	13,654	70,928	-	(16,556)	54,372
Roads	3	90,998	2,239	(24,045)	69,192	63,332	-	(15,194)	48,138
Carparks	3	9,955	29	(2,299)	7,685	10,230	-	(2,092)	8,138
Plant & equipment		-	7,030	(1,909)	5,121	(118)	7,743	(2,492)	5,133
Office equipment		-	1,909	(1,490)	419	-	2,060	(1,648)	412
Ridloch collection	3	-	2,059	-	2,059	3,434	-	-	3,434
Other		-	2,944	(1,221)	1,723	-	3,232	(1,500)	1,732
Total infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		281,610	19,982	(73,335)	228,257	311,536	16,830	(81,402)	246,964
Comparatives		293,353	16,497	(75,428)	234,422	281,610	19,982	(73,335)	228,257

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 7 - Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment (continued)

	2017 \$'000	Carrying amount movements during year \$'000								2018 \$'000
	Carrying amount	Additions		Disposals	Depreciation	Impairment	Transfers		Net revaluation	Carrying amount
		New/ upgrade	Renewals				In	Out		
Land	10,063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,063
Land	41,717	234	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41,951
Buildings & other structures	1,018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,018
Buildings & other structures	66,949	399	705	-	(2,363)	(1,215)	-	-	-	64,475
Waste Management	3,401	(102)	-	-	(623)	-	-	-	132	2,808
Infrastructure										
Stormwater drainage	5,162	4	132	-	(99)	-	-	-	-	5,199
Bridges	94	-	-	-	(3)	-	-	-	-	91
Footpaths & kerbing	13,654	1,021	459	(29)	(702)	-	21,290	-	18,679	54,372
Roads	69,192	252	1,782	(245)	(1,826)	-	-	(21,290)	273	48,138
Carparks	7,685	47	-	-	(249)	-	-	-	655	8,138
Plant & equipment	5,121	3	895	(185)	(701)	-	-	-	-	5,133
Office equipment	419	15	136	-	(158)	-	-	-	-	412
Riddoch collection	2,059	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,369	3,434
Other	1,723	236	53	-	(280)	-	-	-	-	1,732
	228,257	2,115	4,162	(459)	(7,004)	(1,215)	21,290	(21,290)	21,108	246,964
Comparatives	234,422	10,621	4,466	(464)	(7,331)	-	-	-	3,932	228,257

Council has reviewed the allocation of infrastructure assets between Footpaths & kerbing and Roads, and determined a revised, more accurate allocation. This is shown above as a transfer between classes.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 7 - Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment (continued)

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, revaluations and additions are recorded per the Valuer General's valuation.

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.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 7 - Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment (continued)

Valuation of Assets (continued)

Capitalisation thresholds used by Council for a representative range of assets are shown below. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Office furniture & equipment	\$5,000
Other plant & equipment	\$5,000
Buildings - new construction/extensions	\$5,000
Park & playground furniture & equipment	\$5,000
Road construction & reconstruction	\$5,000
Paving & footpaths, kerb & gutter	\$5,000
Stormwater & drainage	\$5,000
Artworks	\$5,000

These thresholds are indicative only and where an asset is material by its nature rather than value, the capitalisation threshold may be a lesser amount.

Estimated useful lives

Useful lives are estimated for each individual asset. In estimating useful lives, regard is given 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. The useful life represents Council's expected availability for use and is in line with Council's planned replacement schedules.

Land	indefinite
Furniture & equipment	
Office equipment & software	3 to 25 years
Office furniture	10 years
Plant & machinery	
Staff vehicles	2 years
Trucks	5 to 25 years
Rollers, loaders, graders & tractors	10 to 25 years
Sundry plant	2 to 15 years
Building & other structures	
Buildings - structure	50 to 100 years
Buildings - roofing	40 years
Buildings - services	40 to 60 years
Buildings - fit-out	15 to 25 years
Park shelters & other structures	20 to 30 years
Playground equipment	20 to 30 years
Benches, seats, etc.	10 to 20 years
Infrastructure	
Sealed roads - seal	12 to 40 years
Sealed roads - pavements	30 to 75 years
Sealed roads - sub pavements	120 to 150 years
Unsealed roads	10 to 20 years
Bridges - concrete	50 years
Footpaths	10 to 70 years
Kerbing & channels	40 to 70 years
Stormwater drainage	70 years
Landfill assets	6 to 12 years
Other assets	
Library books	10 to 15 years
Artworks	indefinite

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 7 - Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment (continued)

Land

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 Improvements

Land improvements, including bulk earthworks with an assessed unlimited useful life, are recognised on the cost basis, originally deriving from a valuation at 30 June 1997 at current replacement cost. Additions are recognised at cost.

Buildings & other structures

Buildings and other structures were revalued as at 1 July 2016 by Richard Wood, AAPI CPV, of Opteon Property Group. Additions are recognised at cost.

Infrastructure

Transportation 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 periods ended 30 June 2018. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

Stormwater drainage infrastructure was valued by Council officers as at 30 June 2018 at depreciated current replacement cost, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2018.

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.

Plant, furniture & equipment

These assets are recognised at historical cost.

All other assets

These assets are recognised at historical cost. Library books and other lending materials are capitalised in bulk each year and written off when fully depreciated.

The Riddoch art collection was revalued as at 30 June 2018 by Simon Storey Art and Cultural Collection Valuers. These assets are not depreciated.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 8 - Liabilities

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES			
Goods & services		1,519	2,066
Payments received in advance		153	163
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements		361	292
Accrued expenses - other		247	9
Deposits, retentions & bonds		88	249
Other payables		61	172
Total trade & other payables		2,429	2,951
BORROWINGS Current			
Loans current		218	206
Total borrowings current		218	206
<i>All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council.</i>			
BORROWINGS Non-current			
Loans non-current		2,572	2,790
Total borrowings non-current		2,572	2,790
PROVISIONS Current			
Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		2,332	2,288
Future reinstatement / restoration, etc.		-	1,000
Total provisions current		2,332	3,288
PROVISIONS Non-current			
Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		161	232
Future reinstatement / restoration, etc.		3,432	3,367
Total provisions non-current		3,593	3,599

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 9 - Reserves

	Opening \$'000	Net Increments (Decrements) \$'000	Transfers, Impairments \$'000	Closing \$'000
Land	41,311	-	-	41,311
Buildings & structures	57,606	-	(1,215)	56,391
Infrastructure	52,172	19,607	(2,776)	69,003
Waste management	-	132	2,776	2,908
Plant & equipment	770	-	-	770
Minor plant	34	-	-	34
Other assets	3,616	1,369	-	4,985
Total	155,509	21,108	(1,215)	175,402
<i>Comparatives 30 June 2017</i>	<i>168,966</i>	<i>(13,457)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>155,509</i>

	Opening \$'000	Transfers to reserve \$'000	Transfers from reserve \$'000	Closing \$'000
Long service leave	724	-	(724)	-
Downstream drainage	219	-	(219)	-
Work in progress	1,314	-	(1,314)	-
Mount Gambier Cemetery	696	14	-	710
Mayor Christmas Appeal	-	38	-	38
Christmas Parade	-	13	-	13
Junior Sports Assistance Fund	77	9	-	86
Total	3,030	74	(2,257)	847
<i>Comparatives 30 June 2017</i>	<i>4,382</i>	<i>1,428</i>	<i>(2,780)</i>	<i>3,030</i>

Purpose 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.

Long Service Leave

The Long Service Leave reserve represented funds for the purpose of the City of Mount Gambier employee long service leave entitlements (2017). This reserve was discontinued in 2018 as these liabilities are separately accounted for under provisions in the Statement of Financial Position.

Downstream Drainage

The downstream drainage reserve represented funds recently contributed by developers and held by Council to complete drainage obligations and included interest received on the quarantined funds (2017). This reserve was discontinued in 2018 as these liabilities were considered part of the broader expectations of Council to maintain drainage, irrespective of funding.

Work in Progress

The work in progress reserve represents Council works and projects that are carried over from one budgetary year to the next. It represents work in progress expenditure not yet incurred at the end of the budget year. Transfers from the fund are made as and when required with works and projects normally completed in the year following. This reserve is discontinued from the reporting year onwards.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 9 - Reserves (continued)

Mount Gambier Cemetery

The Mount Gambier cemetery reserve represents funds that have been allocated for any development works or projects that may be required at the Carinya Gardens Cemetery and Crematorium. Transfers to the reserve include Cemetery interest received.

Mayor Christmas Appeal

The Mayor Christmas Appeal reserve 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 and to be used for that purpose.

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.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 10 - 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 Statement of Financial Position as follows:

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Total cash & equivalent assets	5	4,587	3,028
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		4,587	3,028

(b) Reconciliation of change in Net assets to Cash flows from Operating Activities

Net surplus / (deficit)		2,470	5,301
Non-cash items in Income Statement			
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3	7,004	7,331
Net increase / (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		42	36
Premiums & discounts recognised & unwound	3	64	68
Non-cash asset acquisitions	2	(463)	(1,213)
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as Investing Activity	2	(445)	(2,189)
Net (gain) / loss on disposals	4	243	(48)
		8,915	9,286
Add / (less): Changes in net current assets			
Net (increase) / decrease in receivables		(170)	(203)
Net (increase) / decrease in inventories		(272)	7
Net increase / (decrease) in trade & other payables		(589)	699
Net increase / (decrease) in other reserves		(649)	-
Net cash provided by (or used in) operations		7,235	9,789

(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities

Acquisition of assets by means of:			
Physical resources received free of charge	2	463	1,213

(d) Financing arrangements

Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:			
Bank overdrafts		250	250
Corporate credit cards		25	29
LGFA Cash Advance Debenture facility		10,000	10,000

The bank overdraft facilities may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 11 - Functions

	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)	
	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Administration / Support Services	23,768	23,580	2,489	6,724	21,279	16,856	3,172	3,908	57,360	12,846
Community Support	884	1,111	2,203	2,113	(1,319)	(1,002)	3	4	8,854	10,198
Culture	465	549	6,994	3,402	(6,529)	(2,853)	148	179	-	37,801
Economic Development	304	317	2,037	1,977	(1,733)	(1,660)	-	-	21	4,735
Environment	2,994	2,892	5,728	5,315	(2,734)	(2,423)	9	4	8,044	11,179
Recreation	115	73	3,151	2,837	(3,036)	(2,764)	-	-	769	54,361
Regulatory Services	398	430	1,202	1,036	(804)	(606)	-	-	-	-
Transport	578	807	3,014	3,439	(2,436)	(2,632)	564	763	102,769	90,662
Engineering / Indirect	-	-	1,164	1,230	(1,164)	(1,230)	-	-	75,561	7,524
Unclassified Activities	595	588	314	423	281	165	10	-	-	3,400
TOTALS	30,101	30,347	28,296	28,496	1,805	1,851	3,906	4,858	253,378	232,706

Revenues and expenses exclude net gain / (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets, amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets and physical resources received free of charge.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 11 - Functions (continued)

Components of functions

The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

Business undertakings

Private Works and Landfill Facility.

Community Services

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, Streetscaping, Natural Resource Management Levy, and Other Environment.

Recreation

Parks and Gardens, Sports Facilities – Indoor, Sports Facilities – Outdoor, Swimming Centres – Outdoor, and Other Recreation.

Regulatory Services

Dog and Cat Control, Building Control, Town Planning, Clean Air/Pollution Control, Litter Control, Health Inspection, Parking Control, and Other Regulatory Services.

Transport

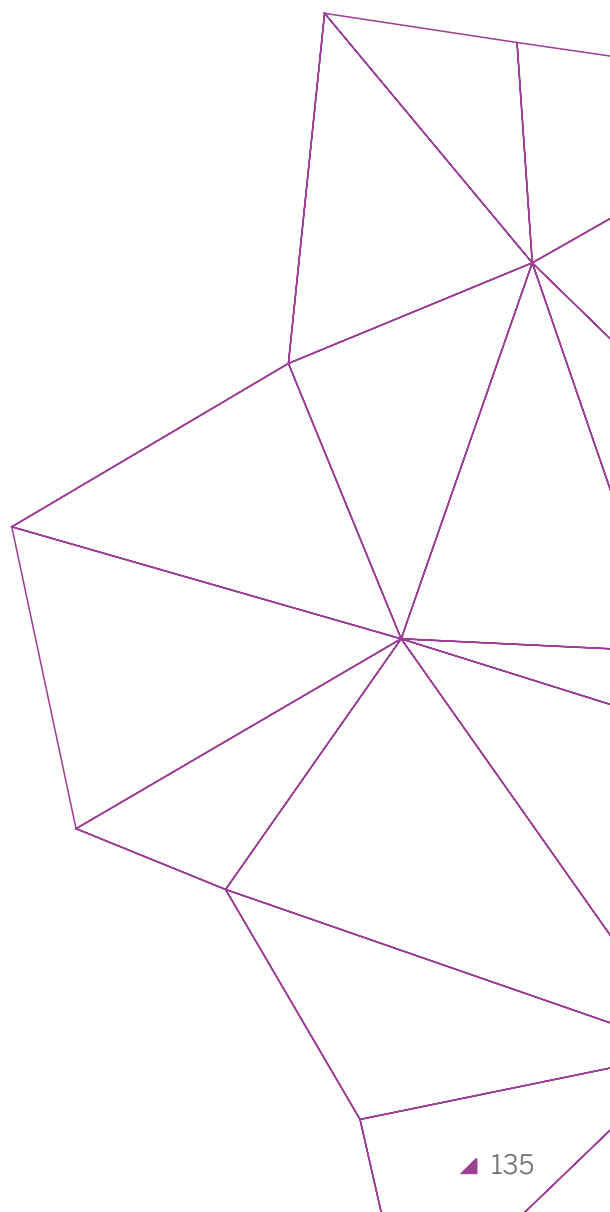
Bridges, Footpaths and Kerbing, Roads – sealed, Roads – formed, Roads – natural formed, Roads – unformed, Traffic Management and Other Transport.

Unclassified activities

Finance charges and investment revenue, private works and sundry property maintenance.

Council Administration

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.



Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 12 - 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: Carried at lower of cost and net realisable value; Interest is recognised when earned.

Terms & conditions: Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 1.5% and 2.15% (2017: 1.5% and 2.15%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 1 day and an average interest rates of 1.5% (2017: 1 day, 1.50%).

Carrying amount: approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - Rates & associated charges

(including legals & penalties for late payment)

Accounting policy: Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.

Terms & conditions: Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 5.5% (2017: 7%) 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: Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.

Terms & conditions: Unsecured, and do not bear interest. However, certain charges can be secured to a property where legislative criteria is met. Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council boundaries and Council properties immediately surrounding Council boundaries.

Carrying amount: approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - other levels of government

Accounting Policy: Carried at nominal value.

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 or in line with the specific terms and conditions of the supplier.

Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

Liabilities - Interest Bearing Borrowings

Accounting policy: Carried at the principal amounts. Interest is charged as an expense as it accrues.

Terms & conditions: secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable (2 repayments per year with fixed terms of 10 and 15 years); interest is charged at fixed (or variable 3.75% as at 30 June 2018) rates between 5.05% and 5.97% (2017: 5.05% and 5.97%).

Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

Liabilities - Finance leases

Accounting policy: accounted for in accordance with AASB 117.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 12 - Financial instruments (continued)

Liquidity analysis

	Due < 1 year \$'000	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years \$'000	Due > 5 years \$'000	Total contractual cash flows \$'000	Carrying values \$'000
2018					
Financial assets					
Cash & equivalents	4,587	-	-	4,587	4,587
Receivables	883	-	-	883	883
Other financial assets	35	-	-	35	35
Total	5,505	-	-	5,505	5,505
Financial liabilities					
Payables	2,429	-	-	2,429	2,429
Current borrowings	218	-	-	218	218
Non-current borrowings	-	852	1,720	2,572	2,572
Total	2,647	852	1,720	5,219	5,219

2017					
Financial assets					
Cash & equivalents	3,028	-	-	3,028	3,028
Receivables	767	-	-	767	767
Other financial assets	33	35	-	68	68
Total	3,828	35	-	3,863	3,863
Financial liabilities					
Payables	2,605	-	-	2,605	2,605
Current borrowings	206	-	-	206	206
Non-current borrowings	-	838	1,952	2,790	2,790
Total	2,811	838	1,952	5,601	5,601

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

	30 June 2018		30 June 2017	
	Weighted average interest rate %	Carrying value \$'000	Weighted average interest rate %	Carrying value \$'000
Fixed interest rates	5.96%	2,790	5.51	2,996
		2,790		2,996

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 12 - Financial instruments (continued)

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.

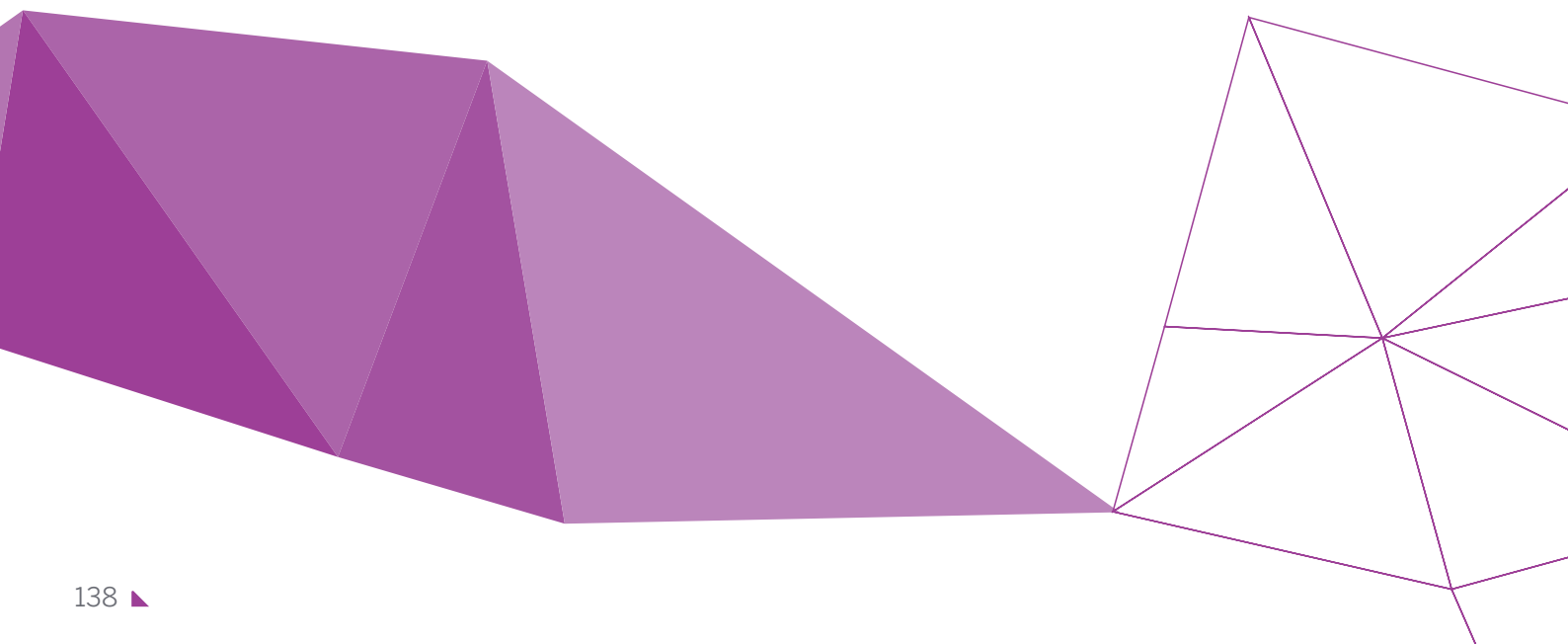
Risk exposures

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 allowance for doubtful debts. 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 and 6 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor currency risk apply.

Liquidity risk is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. Council also has available a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing facilities that it can access.

Interest rate risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.



Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 13 - Financial indicators

These financial indicators have been calculated in accordance with Information Paper 9 - Local Government Financial Indicators prepared as part of the LGA Financial Sustainability Program for the Local Government Association of South Australia. Detailed methods of calculation are set out in the SA Model Statements.

The Information Paper was revised in May 2015 and the financial indicators for previous years have been re-calculated in accordance with the revised formulas.

	2018	2017	2016
Operating Surplus Ratio			
Operating surplus	6.0%	6.0%	(2.0%)
Total operating revenue			

This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of total operating revenue.

Net financial liabilities ratio			
Net financial liabilities	17%	28%	25%
Total operating revenue			

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. The adjusted operating surplus ratio adjusts for the resulting distortion in the disclosed operating result for each year.

Adjusted operating surplus ratio	5.5%	2.0%	3.0%
Net financial liabilities ratio			
Net asset renewals	72%	62%	57%
Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan required expenditure			

Net asset renewals expenditure is defined as net capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets, and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

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.

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Income	30,101	30,347
less Expenses	28,296	28,496
Operating surplus / (deficit)	1,805	1,851
less Net outlays on existing assets		
Capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets	4,193	3,253
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(7,004)	(7,331)
Proceeds from sale of replaced assets	(146)	(407)
	(2,957)	(4,485)
less Net outlays on new and upgraded assets		
Capital expenditure on new and upgraded assets (including investment property & real estate developments)	2,247	6,322
Amounts received specifically for new and upgraded assets	(445)	(2,189)
Proceeds from sale of surplus assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	(71)	(105)
	1,731	4,028
Net lending / (borrowing) for financial year	3,031	2,308

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 15 - Operating leases

Lease payment commitments of Council

Council has entered into non-cancellable operating leases for various items of computer and other plant and equipment.

No lease imposes any additional restrictions on Council in relation to additional debt or further leasing.

Leases in relation to computer and office equipment permit Council, at expiry of the lease, to elect to re-lease, return or acquire the equipment leased

No lease contains any escalation clause.

Commitments under non-cancellable operating leases that have not been recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Not later than one year	28	86
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	18	45
Later than 5 years	-	-
	46	131

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 16 - Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the superannuation scheme selected by the employee. The default Superannuation Fund is 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 2017/2018 and 2016/2017) and enterprise bargaining agreement (1% in 2017/2018 and 2016/2017). 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 2016/2017) 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 119.32(b), Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

The most recent actuarial investigation was conducted by the Fund's actuary, Willis Towers Watson as at 30 June 2017. The Trustee has determined that the current funding arrangements are adequate for the expected Salarylink liabilities. However, future financial and economic circumstances may require changes to Council's contribution rates at some future time.

Contributions to other superannuation schemes

Council also makes contributions to other superannuation schemes selected by employees under the "choice of fund" legislation. All such schemes are of the accumulation type, where the superannuation benefits accruing to the employee are represented by their share of the net assets of the scheme, and no further liability attaches to the Council.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

Note 17 - Contingencies & assets & liabilities not recognised in the balance sheet

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Balance Sheet but knowledge of those items is considered relevant to users 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 228 kilometres of road reserves of average width 20 metres.

2. Potential insurance losses

Council is a multi-purpose organisation providing a large range of buildings, 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 \$110,000 (2017: \$110,000) at reporting date.

Council does not expect to incur any loss arising from these guarantees.

4. Legal expenses

Council is the relevant planning authority for its area pursuant to the Development Act 1993. Certain persons aggrieved by a planning decision of Council may appeal against the decision to the Environment, Resources and Development Court. It is normal practice as part of these proceedings 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.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

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, 17 persons were paid the following total compensation:

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	1,169	1,194
Post-employment benefits	96	-
Long term benefits	12	27
Termination benefits	148	-
Total	1,425	1,221

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 arms's length basis. No individual purchases from these businesses exceeded \$3,400 during the year.

No Key Management Personnel or close family member (including related parties) lodged a planning application during the year.

City of Mount Gambier

**Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2018**

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 2018, 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.



.....
Mark McShane
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



.....
Cr Sonya Meziniec
**ACTING PRESIDING MEMBER
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

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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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 2018, 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 2018, 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* (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

5 November 2018

David Chant CA, FCPA
Simon Smith CA, FCPA
David Sullivan CA, CPA
Jason Seidel CA
Renae Nicholson CA
Tim Muhlhausler CA
Aaron Coonan CA
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE INTERNAL CONTROLS

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 (the Council) 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 2017 to 30 June 2018 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 2017 to 30 June 2018.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our engagement in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagements on Controls*, issued by the 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 2017 to 30 June 2018. ASAE 3000 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 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagements on Controls*, 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 2017 to 30 June 2018. ASAE 3000 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

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 that for which it was prepared.

GALPINS ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

Tim Muhlhausler CA Registered Company Auditor
Partner

5 November 2018

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2018

STATEMENT BY AUDITOR

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of the City of Mount Gambier for the year ended 30 June 2018, 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 5th day of November 2018



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Mount Gambier

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