

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER MID-TERM REPORT MARCH 2021



FROM THE MAYOR



City of Mount Gambier is now more than halfway through the Council term for 2018 – 2022. As we begin working earnestly in 2021, I look back over the first two years and particularly 2020 and the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the past two years, staff and Elected Members have spent many hours preparing for meetings in order to make decisions for our community that we believe will assist to grow our economy and maintain Mount Gambier’s position as the second largest city in South Australia.

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

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

During the next two years of Council’s term, Elected Members will focus on delivering some of the goals associated with the plan, including:

- Further development of linkages to the Rail Trail path across the city.

- Development of the respective Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy and Crater Lakes Masterplans.
- Advocating for improved public transport in the City of Mount Gambier.

Council is also managing the construction of the City’s largest infrastructure project, the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre which is underway at Olympic Park on Margaret Street. The centre is due to be completed in 2022 and will contribute to regional resilience by building capacity through improved productivity, liveability and connectivity, whilst providing economic benefits in the form of sport, event and conference tourism to Mount Gambier.

As Mayor, it is important to me that when this Council term finishes, we have placed our City in a better position than it was four years ago in order for it to grow and prosper in the future.

There is still much to achieve in the remaining two years of this Council term and along with my Elected Members, I look forward to continuing to work with our community.

**Lynette Martin OAM
MAYOR**



KEY HIGHLIGHTS DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS

COVID-19 Action Plan

Council endorsed a multifaceted strategy focused on supporting the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It included the following initiatives:

- Community rent waived.
- Tourism and commercial rent waived.
- Community Development Fund.
- Sponsorship for cancelled events honoured.
- Rate relief for local businesses.
- Big, Small – Support Us All campaign.

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

Council endorsed the inaugural RAP in February 2020.



The plan defines Council's shared vision towards reconciliation, that we lead by example, acknowledge, respect and celebrate the important contribution that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples have played and continue to play in our community.

Changing Places

The construction of a Changing Places disability toilet and change facility was completed in Mount Gambier in 2019 as part of a \$1.7 million State Government program aimed at increasing access for people living with disability.



Rail Trail Extension

The Mount Gambier Rail Trail now covers the city from the East to West boundary and completes the conversion of the entire former railway line. The shared path for cyclists and pedestrians totals 12.4 kilometres in length.



Pump Tracks

Construction on the Melaleuca Reserve Neighbourhood Pump Track located on the corner of Douglas Street and Pressey Street was completed in January 2021. The \$60,000 project complements the larger Mount Gambier Pump Track.

The Mount Gambier Pump Track was constructed at Hastings Cunningham Reserve in 2019.

Swiss based company Velosolutions worked with Council to deliver the \$150,000 project as the first Velosolutions Red Bull Pump Track in Australia.



Mount Gambier Visitor Centre 'pop-up' visitor servicing program

A mobile visitor servicing unit has provided pop-up information to more than 5000 people visiting Mount Gambier since 2019. The team set up at tourist hotspots including the Blue Lake, Valley Lake, Mount Gambier Farmers Market and other events.



Keep Australia Beautiful 2020 Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards

Mount Gambier was awarded the Resource Recovery and Waste Management category having been crowned the 2019 KESAB Sustainable Communities (Tidy Towns) winner.

Railway Station Building Refurbishment

The heritage listed Railway Station building exterior underwent a significant facelift in 2020 to restore many of the original features to the 102-year-old icon.



Kerbside Bulky Waste Trial

A kerbside bulky waste trial was introduced during COVID-19 with more than 1,900 collections, equating to over 450 tonnes of items and materials, the majority of which have been recycled or re-used. Only five per cent of the materials collected went to landfill.

Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre

Construction of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre is well underway. The multi-purpose community facility will provide year round indoor facilities for all ages and abilities and is due to be completed in 2022.

