



City of  
Mount Gambier

# Annual Report 2014/2015

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# INTRODUCTION

## **Welcome to the City of Mount Gambier 2014/2015 Annual Report.**

The Annual Report fulfils Council's legislative requirements, but more importantly allows the opportunity for Council to inform the community of its operations, activities and achievements for the year under review.

Communicating Council's activities in an open and transparent way is one of our highest priorities. We ensure that the information access and distribution is timely, relevant, respectful and acknowledges the diversity of the community.

This Annual Report details the performance and achievements for the 2014/2015 year and is intended as a point of reference to inform the reader of Council's desire to be accountable for its outcomes.

In addition, this Annual Report is a historical record for future reference.

The Annual Report offers the reader the opportunity to step back and see a 'big picture' view of how Council is responding to the challenges of a growing and evolving Provincial City.

It also reflects our strong commitment to maintain the highest standards of good governance and to participate in all available reviews and benchmark projects for the purposes of the continual monitoring of Council's own financial and service performance.

The format of this Annual Report is presented with each key reporting statement for the year being placed under one of the following broad functional headings:

- Governance
- Corporate
- Compliance
- Community
- Infrastructure
- Economic and Regional
- Environment

Each year, Council delivers many initiatives to help improve the quality of life for its 26,246 residents. Much of our effort is focused on the immediate needs of our community.

This Annual Report is made available to keep you better informed and we hope you find it useful, informative and reflective of the dynamic structure of our beautiful City.



# OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES

## OUR VISION

In developing its Strategic Plan - Beyond 2015, Council describes its vision as:

*"To serve the people who live and visit our City by working with our community's to ensure safety, access, equity and continuous improvement in infrastructure, planning, services and governance."*

The vision governing the Strategic Plan is an expression of the Mount Gambier community's shared vision for the future. It informs and guides all aspects of the Council's work, through its goals, strategic objectives, operational planning and implementation, with a horizon Beyond 2015.

The Vision has been developed in consultation with residents, businesses and community groups. It is informed by the following key aspirations for the Mount Gambier community:

1. A healthy, safe, engaged and connected community;
2. Sustainable natural and built environments;
3. A prosperous and vibrant economy;
4. Well managed and maintained community infrastructure; and
5. Open, effective and efficient governance.

The Strategic Plan focuses on those areas that will be crucial to the achievement of this Vision through maintaining high quality services and facilities.

## OUR MISSION

*"To serve the people who live and visit our City by working with our community's to ensure safety, access, equity and continuous improvement in infrastructure, planning, services and governance."*

The Mission is a broad but focused statement which describes how Council intends to achieve the Vision. It is Council's core operational response to the expectations of its stakeholders.

The Values statement presents our commitment to the way in which we will accomplish the Mission and work towards the Vision. It is a commitment to uphold, in all our work, values and qualities that are regarded as central in our society and community.

## OUR VALUES

The Values statement presents our commitment to the way in which we will accomplish the Mission and work towards the Vision. It is a commitment to uphold, in all our work, values and qualities that are regarded as central in our society and community.

The Values of Council are:

**Respect:** In working with each person in our diverse communities, we act with respect for our people and ourselves.

**Service:** Our core commitment is to serve our people, and support welcoming and personal relationships. We are genuine in our desire to meet and exceed the expectations of the community.

**Decision Making:** Our decision making is participative and exhibits courage, determination and integrity. We are accountable to the community and to ourselves for the outcomes of our decisions and actions.

**Future Orientation:** We are forward looking and positive, and creative and innovative in developing new initiatives to meet new challenges.

**Leadership:** We are committed to fulfilling our responsibilities to other Councils within the region, and to being a role model to our community in the quality of our actions.

**Teamwork:** We are committed to the shared goals and strategies of this Strategic Plan. We take collective responsibility for the outcomes of our decisions and actions including the health and safety of our community and our employees.

**Equity:** We recognise the cultural, economic and social differences in our community and ensure we are inclusive, fair and socially just.

**Collaboration:** We will collaborate with other bodies to achieve the aspirations of our community and of our people.

**Continuous Improvement:** We will strive for continuous improvement in all that we do.



# MAYOR'S REPORT

## **It gives me great pleasure on behalf of Council to present the City of Mount Gambier Annual Report for the 2014/2015 Financial Year for the first time as Mayor.**

Local Government Elections were held in November 2014 resulting in five new Elected Members, who are all keen to work with returned Members to progress our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support and on their behalf recognise the commitment and contribution of the previous Council.

This document details Council's activities over the past 12 months and I would like to touch on some great community initiatives that have come to fruition this year.

One of my first civic duties as Mayor was to officially launch the Park & Stride program, that works towards improving health and the environment by encouraging people to park in an off-street car park within the Mount Gambier City Centre and complete small shopping trips by walking.

2014 saw the public launch of The Mount Gambier Charter for Children, a set of nine aspirational principles that aim to enhance the developmental experiences of the City's youngest citizens. The progressive community charter encourages the whole City's involvement in assisting children to thrive and is the first of its kind for a Local Government Authority in South Australia and one of a few nationally. It is the result of collaborative efforts of community

volunteers, Elected Members and Council staff involved with Council's Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee – in consultation and partnership with the community. You may have noticed our local newspaper now dedicates a section each week to include opinions from our children.

Council is continually seeking new opportunities for diversification and broader economic growth to ensure our City and region prospers into the future. In March, Premier Jay Weatherill and Minister Geoff Brock came to Mount Gambier to join the celebrations marking the official opening of the James Morrison Academy of Music @ UniSA. The establishment of the Academy is a great example of joint collaboration with the Academy, State and Local Government and UniSA.

The former Prime Minister of Australia, Tony Abbott, met with members of our community at an informal morning tea during a visit to our City in March. I was fortunate to have a private meeting to discuss issues of concern to the community. Within weeks of his visit, the announcement was made of an MRI Licence being issued for Mount Gambier. I am grateful for the support from the State Government, the Member for Barker and the Member for Mount Gambier on this issue.

In the last financial year, 85 people participated in Council-convened citizenship ceremonies and were welcomed into our community. The ceremonies are very uplifting, and are a reminder of how diverse and multicultural our community has become. It is interesting



to note that statistics suggest that more than 10 per cent of our local population was born overseas. Through the efforts of the Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee, the City of Mount Gambier has now signed a declaration to be formally acknowledged as a Refugee Welcome Zone. The declaration recognises the journeys of refugees and the contribution they make to enrich the social fabric of our society and is supported and endorsed by the Refugee Council of Australia.

In May, The City of Mount Gambier participated in the State-led delegation to Shandong Province in China. We were fortunate to be joined by representatives from three local businesses, and Council is working on developing a plan to explore more opportunities for our City and region including inward investment, export and tourism.

Our community overwhelmingly supported the recent ICE Drug Forums across the region and Council will continue to work with SAPOL and members of the Limestone Coast Drug Action Team to keep the community informed of this issue.



It is important to acknowledge the contribution of all Council employees. I see firsthand how committed they are and they can take pride in the reputation Mount Gambier has gained for its beautiful amenities and facilities and the positive impression of the City, that is so often reported back to Council. Thanks must also be extended to community members who serve on Council Committees and provide support and expertise to our Advisory Groups. Input from representatives of the community is essential to keeping a balanced perspective during the decision making process of Council. Council also relies on the support of many volunteers to assist in the numerous community events and activities throughout the year.

The value of the thousands of hours that volunteers selflessly give to our community is never overlooked, and I know I speak on behalf of Elected Members and all Council employees in thanking them for their contribution.

I hope you will find this Annual Report an informative record of Council's wide-ranging activities and that it reflects the progressive, dynamic nature of our beautiful City.



**Andrew Lee**  
**MAYOR**  
**City of Mount Gambier**



## MEMBER INFORMATION



The Council comprises a Mayor and ten 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  
(Deputy Mayor)  
Cr Frank Morello  
Cr Hanna Persello





# ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

## ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The following is the recorded attendance (or apologies) of Elected Members at the twelve (12) Ordinary Council Meetings and the five (5) Special Council Meetings held during the 2014/2015 year.

Local Government Elections were held in November 2014.

### Council Meetings – July 2014 to October 2014

ELECTED MEMBER	COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD	MEETINGS ATTENDED	APOLOGIES	NOT IN ATTENDANCE
Mayor Perryman	6	6	0	0
Cr Lee	6	5	1	0
Cr Maher	6	5	1	0
Cr Mutton	6	5	1	0
Cr Persello	6	6	0	0
Cr Richardson	6	6	0	0
Cr Smith	6	6	0	0
Cr Shearing	6	6	0	0
Cr Von Stanke	6	6	0	0
Cr White	6	6	0	0

### Council Meetings – November 2014 to June 2015

ELECTED MEMBER	COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD	MEETINGS ATTENDED	APOLOGIES	NOT IN ATTENDANCE
Mayor Lee	11	10	1	0
Cr Greco	11	11	0	0
Cr Lovett	11	9	2	0
Cr Lynagh	11	10	1	0
Cr Meziniec	11	11	0	0
Cr Morello	11	10	1	0
Cr Mutton	11	8	3	0
Cr Perryman	11	10	1	0
Cr Persello	11	9	2	0
Cr Richardson	11	8	3	0
Cr Von Stanke	11	10	1	0

# COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES 2014 - 2018 (FROM NOVEMBER 2014)



**HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR**  
**MR ANDREW LEE**

## **Ex Officio**

- Operational Services Standing Committee
- Corporate and Community Services Standing Committee
- Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee
- Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee
- Rail Lands Development and Management Committee
- Building Fire Safety Committee
- Audit Committee

## **SELGA / External Positions**

- South East Local Government Association Board
- Local Government Association Board (Nominee)
- South East Local Government Association
- Provincial Cities Association



**CR PENNY RICHARDSON**  
**DEPUTY MAYOR**

- Deputy Mayor ( to November 2016)
- Operational Services Standing Committee
- Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee
- Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee (Presiding Member)
- City Development Framework Sub-Committee

## **SELGA / External Positions**

- South East Local Government Association (proxy – as Deputy Mayor)
- Provincial Cities Association (proxy – as Deputy Mayor)
- Riddoch Art Gallery Board
- Mount Gambier Heritage Advisory Group Representative
- Mount Gambier & District Health Advisory Council Nominee (Presiding Member from October 2015)



**CR CHRISTIAN GRECO**

- Operational Services Standing Committee
- Rail Lands Development and Management Committee (Presiding Member)
- Council Development Assessment Panel
- Joint Boundary Roads (with DC Grant) Advisory Group Representative
- Mayor's Christmas Appeal Advisory Group Representative



## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES 2014 - 2018 (FROM NOVEMBER 2014)



CR MARK LOVETT

- Corporate and Community Services Standing Committee
- Rail Lands Development and Management Committee
- Council Development Assessment Panel
- Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee
- City Development Framework Sub-Committee
- Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust
- Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre Advisory Group representative
- Garden Square Advisory Group representative

### SELGA / External Positions

- Limestone Coast Strategic Youth Coalition nominee



CR JOSH LYNAGH

- Corporate and Community Services Standing Committee
- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel Advisory Group Representative
- Australia Day Celebrations Advisory Group Representative
- Mount Gambier Youth (YAG) Advisory Group representative



CR SONYA MEZINEC

- Corporate and Community Services Standing Committee
- Audit Committee
- Rail Lands Development and Management Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee
- Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee (Presiding Member)
- Seniors Month Advisory Group Representative

### SELGA / External Positions

- South East Zone Emergency Management Committee Nominee

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES 2014 - 2018 (FROM NOVEMBER 2014)



CR FRANK MORELLO

- Operational Services Standing Committee
- Rail Lands Development and Management Committee
- City Development Framework Sub-Committee (Presiding Member)

### SELGA / External Positions

- Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health Nominee
- Queen Elizabeth Park Trust (QEPT)



CR DES MUTTON

- Operational Services Standing Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee

### SELGA / External Positions

- SELGA Regional Waste Management Steering Committee Nominee
- SELGA Limestone Coast and Coorong Coastal Management Committee Nominee
- Queen Elizabeth Park Trust (QEPT)
- Mount Gambier and Districts Airport (DC Grant s41) Committee



CR STEVEN PERRYMAN

- Corporate & Community Services Standing Committee (Presiding Member)
- Rail Lands Development and Management Committee
- City Development Framework Sub-Committee

### SELGA / External Positions

- SELGA Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Group Nominee





## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES 2014 - 2018 (FROM NOVEMBER 2014)



CR HANNA PERELLO

- Corporate and Community Services Standing Committee
- Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Committee (Presiding Member)
- Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee
- Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee (Presiding Member)
- Mount Gambier & District Road Safety Group representative
- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Advisory Group Representative
- City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee

### SELGA / External Positions

- Community Mental Health Network Nominee
- Limestone Coast Community Services Round Table nominee



CR IAN VON STANKE

- Operational Services Standing Committee (Presiding Member)
- Council Development Assessment Panel
- Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee
- Council Building Fire Safety Committee (Chairperson)

### SELGA / External Positions

- SELGA Roads & Transport Working Group Nominee
- SELGA Development Assessment Panel Working Party Nominee
- Green Triangle Freight Action Plan – Implementation Management Group Nominee
- Group Training Employment Nominee
- SELGA Building Fire Safety Committee Nominee
- Riddoch Art Gallery Board (proxy)

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



## **Regional cities across Australia face increasing challenges and Mount Gambier is no exception.**

Community discussion, interest groups and the media often focus on our economic future and prosperity, social and community concerns, health, future opportunities for our youth, marginalised groups and a belief that our distance from Adelaide's decision makers creates further challenges.

Gathering momentum is the belief that the City has a critical role in crafting our own future by becoming masters of our own

destiny rather than waiting for issues and events to simply occur. Leadership in this regard is not just centered on Council; there are a whole range of community groups, business people and many individuals who are not only passionate about Mount Gambier, but are playing a critical role in its future successes. Leadership is about making a difference and gaining support for improvements and innovation and it can be found right across our community.

To assist in plotting the City's future direction, Council embarked on developing a Futures Paper seeking input from a broad cross-section of the community. The core focus was resilience; what makes some cities wither and fade while others are sustainable, prosper and grow? And how do we harness that crucial community and economic growth? The comprehensive public feedback has helped to highlight

where our energies need to be focused so that Mount Gambier develops resilience and is able to meet challenges in order for the community to continue to enjoy living in a prosperous City.

The resulting document: "Strategies for a Prosperous and Resilient Mount Gambier – A Futures Paper for City Development" provides guidance for greater leadership, and importantly, was developed with comprehensive community support. Resilience stems from and builds upon our people, our location in the heart of a large region, our diverse economy and, finally, our natural resources, climate and heritage. Collectively, our focus and energies will be directed at maximising the outcomes for the community in each of these four areas, and the Futures Paper will guide shorter term targets and outcomes in our strategic plan.



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The establishment of a China Engagement framework and our participation in the May 2015 Business, State and Local Government Trade Delegation to China is a strong example of Council's continued focus on resilience. Opportunities from this tour of Shandong Province and the networks forged highlight our region's capacity for high quality agricultural produce, investment and tourism. The engagement strategy will encourage trade visits by Chinese government and business people and promote our region as the place to do business and invest. By promoting a regional approach involving regional councils, businesses and stakeholders, we achieve critical mass and unified direction in business dealings with China.

Promoting our City and region, whether for business investment or tourism, requires distinct branding, a unified focus and identified points of difference. A new Council logo, promotional material, social media and a revised and expanded website have been developed in response to the need to stand out from other regions in a highly competitive marketplace. They are all tools focused on promoting Mount Gambier, reflecting pride in the City, the community and its capacity.

The City must be a great place to live, where people are proud to say "I live in Mount Gambier". Our parks and gardens, roads, heritage buildings, lack of graffiti and general appearance have a huge impact on residents and visitors and Council receives many

compliments. We continue to work on projects such as the rail lands, rail trail corridor access, central business district and many green open spaces. These facilities, in conjunction with a well-connected community, a focus on major events and a great environment, will ensure that the City is attractive to residents, potential residents and an increasing number of tourists.

The Council strives towards a resilient and vibrant City supported by residents and leadership provided by many people in both formal and informal ways. Working collaboratively we can all assist and share in the benefits of a vibrant City - a place that you are proud to call home.

As Chief Executive Officer, I am supported by fantastic and dedicated staff with strong local connections. They live, work and enjoy the City and take great pride in their contribution to Mount Gambier. I acknowledge and thank them for their contribution.

**Mark McShane**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



# Governance Statement

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# Governance Statement

## BY-LAWS

Council has adopted the following By-laws:

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

These By-laws will expire on 1st January 2019, unless revoked or amended prior to that date.

## 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 2014/2015 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	9	5	1	-	2	-	-	1		2	-	1	2	-

### 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 2014
8	20*	9^

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

^ Includes 4 operative Orders from previous financial years

# Governance Statement

## CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

Meeting Dates, Subject, S90(3) Grounds and Status of S91(7) Orders associated with the use of confidentiality provisions

Date of Meeting	Subject of S90(2) Order	S90(3) Grounds	S91(7) Order Status
10-Mar-15	Development Control - Illegal Development - Demolition of a Contributory Place	(a) & (i)	Current
10-Feb-15	Development Control - Regulating - Local Heritage and Lakes Zone Development Plan Amendment	(m)	Expired
20-Jan-15	Development Control - Illegal Development - Demolition of a Contributory Place	(a) & (i)	Current
16-Dec-14	Application to Alter Memorial Plaque	(a)	Current
16-Sep-14	Leasing - Main Corner	(a) & (g)	Expired
16-Sep-14	Review of in-Confidence Items	(m)	N/A
19-Aug-14	Chief Executive Officer Interim Performance Review – Discussion regarding Draft Report received from AME Recruitment	(a)	Expired
27-Aug-14	Economic Development – Business Enterprise	(b & d)	Expired
15-Jul-14	Annual Business Plan – Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre 2014/2015	(d)(i)(ii) & (k)	Expired

## COMMUNITY LANDS

Council is required to have Community Land Management Plans in place for all land that has been classified as “Community Land” in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act.

Council 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.

Council 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

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

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

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



## Governance Statement

### LAND ACQUISITIONS

Council did not purchase any land during the 2014/2015 financial year.

On 12 September 2014, Council settled a sales contract made 18 March 2014 for the sale of the following property:

- 38 & 40 James Street (CT5798/19 & CT5588/811) for consideration of \$612,500.00 + GST to give effect to Council resolution dated 18 June 2013 – Item 21 CCS Report 23/2013.

Council did not sell or otherwise dispose of any other land during the 2014/2015 financial year.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATIONS AND STATEMENT

The City of Mount Gambier determined two Freedom of Information applications during the 2014/2015 financial year.

Inquiries or requests for information under the Act should be forwarded to:

Manager - Governance & Property  
City of Mount Gambier  
PO Box 56  
Mount Gambier SA 5290

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

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

Number of applications	2
Number of Applications carried over from 2012/13	0
Full access granted	2
Access refused	0
Fees not paid	0
Documents otherwise available	0
Incomplete (as at 30 June 2014)	0
Applications for Internal Review	0
Decision confirmed	0

# Governance Statement

## COUNCIL POLICIES, REGISTERS AND CODES

### COUNCIL POLICIES

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

The following Policy Index lists all current Council Policies as at 30 June 2015.

In the Policy Index:

("^") denotes those Policies that are required by legislation

("\*") denotes those Policies superseded by C410 Conduct of Meetings (s92 Code of Practice)

All Council Policies and a range of other Council Registers and Documents as required by legislation are available for viewing on the Council website and/or at the principle office of the Council.

## POLICY MANUAL INDEX

### CORPORATE SERVICES

#### ADMINISTRATION

C200	Complaint/Compliment Policy
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E115	Elections - Council Entitlement to Vote
------	---

F140	Flags - Flying of
------	-------------------

P155	Privacy Policy
------	----------------

R180	Records Management
------	--------------------

R200	Community Land (Reserves) - Lease/Licence/Rental Arrangements
------	---

R300	Risk Management Policy
------	------------------------

S140	Street Numbering
------	------------------

#### COMMUNITY

A270	Australia Day Awards
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C140	Main Corner Complex - Hire
------	----------------------------

H120	Historical Matters - Collection of
------	------------------------------------

H125	Historical Matters - Copyright - 'The Les Hill Photographic Collection'
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L190	Library - Opening Hours
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#### COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

C160	Coat of Arms
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C190	Community Identity
------	--------------------

C265	Communication of Council Committees
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C275*	Access to Council Meetings
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C280*	Appointment of Members to serve on Council Committees
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C285*	Appointment of Independent Members
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C290^	Internal Review of Councils Decisions
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# Governance Statement

## POLICY MANUAL INDEX

### CORPORATE SERVICES cont.

C300*	Protocol for Common Items
C305	Caretaker Policy
C310*	Presentation of Recommendations
C315*	Voting En-Bloc
C320	Council Chamber and Reception Area - Use of
C410^	Conduct of Meetings (s92 Code of Practice)
F130	Flag - Mount Gambier
F225	Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy
M130	Media - Statements on behalf of Council
M170	Members - Conferences, Courses and Seminars
M190*	Members - Deputy Mayor
M205	Members - Mayor - Anniversary Messages
M210	Members - Newly Elected Members
M225	Members - Service Recognition
M240	Members - Access to Information
M250^	Members - Training and Development
M255	Members - Council Induction Policy
M260	Members - Use of Council Letterhead
M265	Council and Committees - Members - Complaint Handling
M270	Members - Mayor Seeking Legal Advice
M405	Members – Allowances, Re-imbursements, Benefits & Facilities
P195^	Community Consultation and Engagement Policy
P415^	Prudential Management
P420^	Procurement and Disposal of Land and Assets
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# Governance Statement

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D230	Donations - Authority to Approve Requests
I105^	Internal Controls
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# Governance Statement

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C355	Council Land - Irrigation
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## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Monitoring and measuring performance is important in order to ensure that our objectives are achieved and to ensure delivery of services to our community.

Council monitors financial performance through a range of financial reports including monthly financial statements, regular comprehensive budget reviews and the presentation of audited financial statements each year as required under the Local Government Act. These financial

reports also take account of the principles of financial sustainability adopted by Council along with the three (3) key financial sustainability indicators. To provide advice and recommendations on financial and governance matters, Council has appointed an Audit Committee that includes two independent members with qualifications and experience in related disciplines and an Elected Member experienced in Council's operations.

The City of Mount Gambier also utilises data provided by

independent sources such as the SA Local Government Grants Commission to provide comparative reports on a regular basis.

# Governance Statement

## DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL

The Council has adopted the following structure to facilitate good governance and expedite decision-making processes:

### COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Council's Committee structure is set out below (as at 30th June 2015).





# Governance Statement

## DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL

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):-

- Corporate and Community Services Committee - normally 2nd Monday of each month commencing at 5.30pm.
- Operational Services Committee – normally 2nd Tuesday of each month commencing at 7.30am.

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

Whilst 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. These matters are first considered by the relevant Council Committee or Sub-Committee, and closing dates apply for agendas for matters to be considered by a Council Committee. Please check with Council for timeframes and the date/times of Committee and Sub-Committee meetings.

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

In addition to the above Standing Committees, Council has also appointed a range of Statutory Committees, (Sub)Committees and Advisory Groups which meet as and when required. Council's Decision Making Structure is detailed in the diagram on the preceding page.

### 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 schedule of delegations was reviewed and adopted by Council on 21st April 2015 and is available for public inspection free of charge and for purchase.

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

The annual review and delegation adoption process and report references which legislative powers are being delegated and any limitations and/or conditions that are applicable to those delegations.



# Governance Statement

## INTERNAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS

Council has adopted a formal policy and procedure 'C290 Council & Committees – Internal Review of Council's Decisions' in accordance with the requirements of Section 270 of the Local Government Act.

The policy and procedure is reviewed during the term of each Council, and is next due for review in August 2015, having last been reviewed in August 2011.

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; and
- The kinds of matters to which the applications relate; and
- The outcome of applications.

On 21 July 2015, Corporate and Community Services Report 38/2015 reported that during the 2014/2015 Financial Year, one (1) formal application was received in relation to Section 270 of the Act or Council's Internal Review of Council's Decisions Policy.

Internal Review – Tender AF14/155

An application for review of Tender AF14/155 for the Design, Supply and Installation of Pedestrian Solar Lighting around the Blue Lake expressed concerns relating to the tender process, and more particularly concerns with:

- The consideration of tenders by Council in open Council
- Transparency & Probity in the tender process
- Further (Council authorised) discussion with a preferred tenderer prior to final awarding of the tender
- 'Reclassification' of tender specification after the closing of tenders (a reference to a State Heritage addendum provided to all prospective tenderers)

The applicant also referred to discussions the applicant (a tenderer) had with an Elected Member during the live tender process.

The outcome of the internal review did not support the applicant's claims with regard to the tender process, but did identify the applicant's (a tenderer) own contact with an Elected Member during the live tender period as being inappropriate and sufficiently concerning to warrant the tender process being set aside with a new tender re-issued.

Council has since adopted a replacement Procurement Policy and template tender documentation has been updated such that prospective tenderers who contact any staff member (other than the superintendent or specified persons) or an Elected Member before the tender has been awarded by Council are now aware they will be immediately disqualified from consideration for the tender.



# Governance Statement

## 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. 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 council's area;
- The size, population and revenue of the Council and any relevant economic, social, demographic and regional factors in the Council area;
- Such an allowance is not intended to amount to a salary for a Member;
- Such an allowance should reflect the nature of a Member's office; and
- The Act's provisions to provide for reimbursement of Member's expenses.

Section 76 further provides for allowances to be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the consumer price index. Elected Members allowance determination for the City of Mount Gambier from July 2014 (determination 7 of 2014 made on 28th July, 2014) is as follows:

Council	Group 2 Classification (Out Of 5 Groups)
Group 2	Base is \$15,900
Mayoral Allowance	4 times the \$15,900 = \$63,600
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	1.25 times the \$15,900 = \$19,875
Presiding Member	As for Deputy Mayoral Allowance \$19,875
Members	\$15,900

### NOTE

- All Member Allowances are paid monthly (2 weeks in advance/2 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 of Allowances and Benefits.
- The Allowances set out in the Determination will be 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.

### ADDITIONAL REIMBURSEMENTS & SUPPORT

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

- Travelling Expense reimbursement (outside of Council area only);
- Child/Dependent Care Expense reimbursement;
- Mobile Telephone Expense reimbursement (Mayor only);
- Computing Facilities Expenses;
- Seminar/Training Expense reimbursement.

Full details (including limitations and conditions associated with the Council approved expense reimbursements) are included in Council Policy M405 – Members – Allowances, Re-imbursements, Benefits and Facilities adopted by Council following the November 2014 Local Government Election, available from Council's website.

# Governance Statement

## MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Local Government Act 1999 and Regulations require mandatory training in accordance with the Local Government Association Training Standards under the following headings:

- **Introduction to Local Government**

Australian System of Government

Roles and Functions of Local Government

Elected/Staff Structures

Services provided by Councils

- **Legal Responsibilities**

Role of a Council Member

Delegations

General Duties

Code of Conduct for Council Members

Conflict of Interest

Register of Interests

Responsibilities concerning the provision of support and resources

Legal Protections for Council Members

External Oversight

- **Council & Committee Meeting Procedures**

- **Financial Management and Reporting**

Overview of financial governance responsibilities of individual elected members and the elected body.

Long term financial planning

Long term asset management planning

Audit Committees

Rating

Budgets and Annual business plans

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 Policies and Training Plan are due for review in the latter half of 2015, to address training requirements for the remainder of the 2014-2018 Council term.



# Governance Statement

## MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

During 2014/2015, Elected Members also participated in a varied program of informal workshops and briefings including:

### Member Workshops for all Members covering:

UniSA Workshop	Riddoch Art Gallery
Education and Child Development	SAPOL
OPAL	Draft 2015/2016 Budget
Regional Public Health Plan	Long Term Financial Plan
Member for Mount Gambier Mr Troy Bell, MP	Regional Public Health Plan
Federal Member for Barker, Mr Tony Pasin, MP	Draft 2015/2016 Business Plan
ICAN Headspace	Budget Strategic Planning
Mount Gambier Hospital	SELGA Subscriptions
Council Website and Branding	Strategic Planning
China Engagement Strategy	Unity Website Update
Planning Reform	Great South Coast Tour
Federal Government Grant Application	Chamber of Commerce
Representation on Outside Committees	Member for Mount Gambier
SELGA Terms of Reference and Grant Funding	Members IT facilities / arrangements
SENRM Board Members	IT and System Access Issues
RDA Board Members	Strategic Planning
Railway Lands	China Engagement Strategy Tour
LGA 2015 Showcase & Ordinary General Meeting	Australian Local Government Women Association 2015 Biennial Conference
LGA 2014 Annual General Meeting	Suicide Prevention Inaugural Network of Networks
Rotary Club of Unley – Awards Presentation	Civil Contractors Federation 2014 Earth Awards
New Council Member Residential Seminar	Trade Delegation Shandong Province China
Provincial Cities Association Meeting & Ministers Meeting	Department of Premier & Cabinet Meeting
2015 National Galleries Summit	Windows & Office IT Training
Australian Local Government Women Association 2015 Biennial Conference	



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# Compliance Statement

## ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Schedule 4 of the Local Government Act requires Council to publish in its Annual Report a statement of:

- i. the Council's representation quota; and
- ii. the average representation quota for Councils of a similar size and type (taking into account various factors prescribed by the regulations); and
- iii. when the Council next intends to conduct a review under Chapter 3 Part 1 Division 2; and
- iv. the procedures that are available under Chapter 3 for electors to make submissions on representation under this Act.

The following is the required statements.

### Select Outer Metropolitan & Regional Councils Composition & Elector Ratio (as at February 2015)

Council	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio
Pirie Regional	10	12,361	1:1236
Barossa	12	16,803	1:1400
Victor Harbor	10	11,714	1:1171
Murray Bridge	10	13,447	1:1344
Mount Gambier	11	18,485	1:1680
Whyalla	10	14,832	1:1483
Mount Barker	11	21,864	1:1987
Alexandrina	12	18,887	1:1573
Adelaide Hills	13	29,094	1:2238
Port Augusta	10	9,244	1:924
Port Lincoln	11	9,946	1:904

Section 12(4) of the said Act provides that a Council must ensure that all aspects of the composition of the Council are comprehensively reviewed at least once in every eight years.

Council last conducted a Elector Representation Review in the 2008/09 year and the State Electoral Office approved the following Council composition applicable from the November 2010 Local Government Elections:

- The Mayor continue to be the principal member of Council, elected "at large" by the community
- Wards be abolished, thereby requiring the "area Councillors" to be elected by the community to represent the whole of the City
- The Council constitute ten (10) area Councillors

Council's next representation review will be conducted during the current Council Term between April 2016 - April 2017. Council will give public notice of the preparation of a representation options paper and subsequent report responding to the options paper, and will invite written submissions on each document at the relevant time.

# Compliance Statement

## EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS – PROVISIONS

Council's liability for employee entitlements is as follows:-

Year End	Current \$'000			Non-current \$'000		
	Annual Leave	LSL	Total	Annual Leave	LSL	Total
2011	\$987	\$749	\$1,736	NIL	\$251	\$251
2012	\$979	\$856	\$1,835	NIL	\$235	\$235
2013	\$811	\$911	\$1,722	NIL	\$257	\$257
2014	\$836	\$883	\$1,719	NIL	\$252	\$252
2015	\$974	\$1,050	\$2,024	NIL	\$232	\$232

"Current" is defined as:

LSL assumes that all LSL falling due after 10 years service will be taken in the following 12 months.

AL all accrued annual leave is treated as current.

The average age of all employees is 43.95 years (male 46.66 and female 41.04).

The average years of service for all employees is 9.49 years (male 12.30 and female 6.46).



# Compliance Statement

## ENTERPRISE AGREEMENTS

Council's Enterprise Agreements aim to develop, support and enhance a flexible workforce and management structure committed to productivity and efficiency improvement within the changing nature of Local Government. New Agreements for Council's AWU and ASU employees were brought into effect on 1st January 2015 and will apply for a period of three years.

During the negotiation process, Council and employee representatives obtained a range of independent advice and guidance regarding enterprise bargaining trends in the public and private sector including agreement length, improvement clauses, and employer of choice strategies.

Each of the parties tabled a range of matters for negotiation reflecting positive aspirations for both the employer and the employee. The Director – Operational Services and Manager Human Resources worked closely to ensure that the two Agreements were aligned as much as possible.

The development of both Agreements involved employee consultative groups meeting regularly with management over a period of five months and extensive consultation with the wider employee group and union representatives.

All parties recognised the importance of cultural change in the workplace as fundamental to improved service delivery and agreed to an integrated approach to achieving workplace objectives. Employees have agreed to actively promote an environment of trust, respect and empathy in working with each other, and to focus on a culture of employee relations in which consultation is an essential ingredient to workplace change.

The new Agreements demonstrate a significant emphasis on progressive cultural and operational changes while reinforcing improvements that have already been made. Much of the focus is on a stable, productive workforce with high skill levels and a commitment to delivering outcomes for the community. There is also a focus on driving Council's direction via strategic, corporate and business unit planning.

The Agreements contribute to the attraction and retention of a flexible, skilled and committed workforce and support Council's strategic vision: *Mount Gambier is the Most Liveable City in Australia, Where the People in the Community are Secure, Prosperous, Healthy and Valued. They also support its strategic mission: To Serve the People Who Live and Visit Our City By Working With Our Community's to Ensure Safety, Access, Equity and Continuous Improvement in Infrastructure, Planning, Services and Governance.* The Agreements also support the achievement of organisational objectives by:

- Building and maintaining a culture of trust between all employees, employees and Councillors, Council and community.
- Providing all employees with the skills, knowledge and capabilities to enable them to deliver quality services that are valued by our community;
- Facilitating optimum delivery of strategic and corporate objectives;
- Building and celebrating a culture of excellence in our services and programs;
- Ongoing productivity and efficiency improvement; and
- Increased job satisfaction and the provision of a sustainable level of job security, benefits and condition for employees.

Management has negotiated a wage adjustment of 3.5% for each year of the three-year Agreements. In reaching the salary adjustments, significant comparisons and reviews were conducted of Local Government workplace agreements in this region, other South Australian regional cities and Adelaide Councils.

Further consideration was given to national workplace adjustments and current and projected CPI movements. In summary, the outcomes of both agreements were deemed to be fair and reasonable with a focus on change and productivity, and a stable, committed and focused workforce.



# Compliance Statement

## SUBSIDIARIES

Council has not formed any single Council Subsidiary(s) pursuant to Section 42 of the Local Government Act, 1999.

Council, together with the six other Councils in the South East region, is a member of the South East Local Government Association (SELGA) which is a regional subsidiary established or existing pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

The Council Members of SELGA are:

- City of Mount Gambier
- District Council of Grant
- Wattle Range Council
- Naracoorte Lucindale Council
- District Council of Robe
- Kingston District Council
- Tatiara District Council

Council, together with five other Provincial Cities in the State, is a member of the Provincial Cities Association (PCA) which is a regional subsidiary established pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

The Council Members of the PCA are:

- City of Mount Gambier
- City of Port Augusta
- City of Port Lincoln
- City of Whyalla
- Port Pirie Regional Council
- Rural City of Murray Bridge

Clause 28 of Schedule 2 of the Act states:

“Reporting

28. (1) A regional subsidiary must, on or before a day determined by the constituent Councils, furnish to the constituent Councils a report on the work and operations of the subsidiary for the preceding financial year.

(2) A report under sub-clause (1) must:-

(a) incorporate the audited financial statements of the subsidiary for the relevant year; and

(b) contain any other information or report required by the Council or prescribed by the regulations.

(3) A report under sub-clause (1) must be incorporated into the annual report of each constituent Council.”

Council has received from the South East Local Government Association and from the Provincial Cities Association the following reports on the affairs of SELGA and the PCA.

- Independent audit reports and audited statements of income and expenditure for year ended 30th June 2015;
- Reports detailing the work and operations of the Associations for year ended 30th June 2015.



# Compliance Statement

## COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL

The Development Act 1993 requires all Councils in South Australia to establish a Council Development Assessment Panel (CDAP) to act as a delegate of Council in accordance with the Act; to provide advice and reports to Council, as it thinks fit in regard to trends, issues and other matters relating to planning and development that it has become evident as a result of performing its development assessment function; and to perform other functions assigned to the panel by the Council.

The CDAP's role is to make development decisions as a relevant planning authority pursuant to the Development Act 1993, having sole regard to the Council's authorised Development Plan and any referral advice to determine the merits of the proposal.

The Development Act 1993, has determined that all CDAPs must be comprised of one Independent Presiding Member, three Independent Members and three Elected Members. All Members of the CDAP have been appointed by Council. Current CDAP Members are:

- Ms Elizabeth Travers (Presiding Member)
- Ms Emily Finnigan
- Mr Peter Seeborn
- Ms Margaret Trotter
- Cr Christian Greco
- Cr Mark Lovett
- Cr Ian Von Stanke

Council cannot influence or overturn any decision made by the CDAP. It should be noted that all CDAP Members are to fulfill their duties in accordance with the CDAP Members Code of Conduct, as implemented by the Development Act 1993.

The Council Development Assessment Panel holds its meetings on the third Thursday of every month in the Operational Services Committee Room, Level 1, 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier, commencing at 5:45 p.m. (unless otherwise determined).

The agreed sitting fees are i.e.

### 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



# Compliance Statement

## COMPETITIVE TENDERING STATEMENT

During the 2014/2015 year, Council advertised and accepted the following competitive tenders for the provision of goods and services (all excluding GST) -

Item	Value
Redevelopment of Signal Box (Railway Lands)	\$52,591
Design, Supply and Installation of Playground (Blue Lake Sports Park)	\$35,000
Supply and Delivery of Vibratory Roller (Unit 36)	\$41,765*
Supply and Delivery of 4WD Tractor (Unit 52)	\$56,000*
Supply and Delivery of Vibratory Roller (Unit 35)	\$27,000*
Supply and Delivery of Out Front Deck Mower (Unit 74)	\$18,900*
Supply and Delivery of Vehicle	\$18,970.18*
Installation of Malseed Park Fire Hydrant	\$31,064.22*
Upgrade to Old Classroom (Wehl Street Theatre)	\$58,252.73
Supply and Delivery of Vehicle	Trade-in exceeded value of new vehicle by \$1,191.60*
Supply and Delivery of Vehicle	\$12,984.55*
Supply and Delivery of Vehicle	\$10,327.27*
Supply and Delivery of Two 4WD Wide Area Deck Mowers (Units 78 and 144)	\$158,963.64*
Council Building Maintenance	\$173,592.69
Supply and Delivery of Tandem Tip Truck (Unit 29)	\$84,481.90*
Supply and Delivery of Refuse Truck and Compactor (Unit 32)	\$254,488.45*
Supply and Delivery of Vehicle	\$6,817.09*
Supply and Delivery of Vehicle	\$6,606.36*
Design, Supply and Installation of Pedestrian Solar Lighting around the Blue Lake	\$351,690
Supply and Delivery of Concrete Pavers (Railway Lands)	\$66.00 per cubic metre
Supply of Road Surfacing Surfaces (July 2015 to June 2017)	Various prices for different products and sizes
Supply and Installation of a lease-to-own Photovoltaic System (Roof of Mount Gambier Public Library)	\$73,148
Supply and Delivery of Premixed Concrete (July 2015 to June 2017)	Various prices for different applications
Supply and Delivery of Graded Limestone Rubble (July 2015 to June 2017)	\$12.00 per cubic metre
Supply and Placement of Asphalt (Hotmix) (July 2015 to June 2017)	Various prices for different product mix
Supply and Delivery of Crushed Rock (July 2015 to June 2017)	Various prices for different products



# Compliance Statement

## COMPETITIVE TENDERING STATEMENT

Item	Value
Supply of New Tyres, Retreading and Repairs to Existing Tyres and Repairs (July 2015 to June 2017)	Various prices for different products
Nightly Closing of Council Properties (July 2015 to June 2017)	\$2,100 per month
Maintenance of Automatic Doors (July 2015 to June 2017)	Various prices for different locations
Maintenance of Air Conditioning Plant and Equipment (July 2015 to June 2017)	\$3,758.66 per month
Supply and Delivery of Fuels	Various prices for each type of fuel

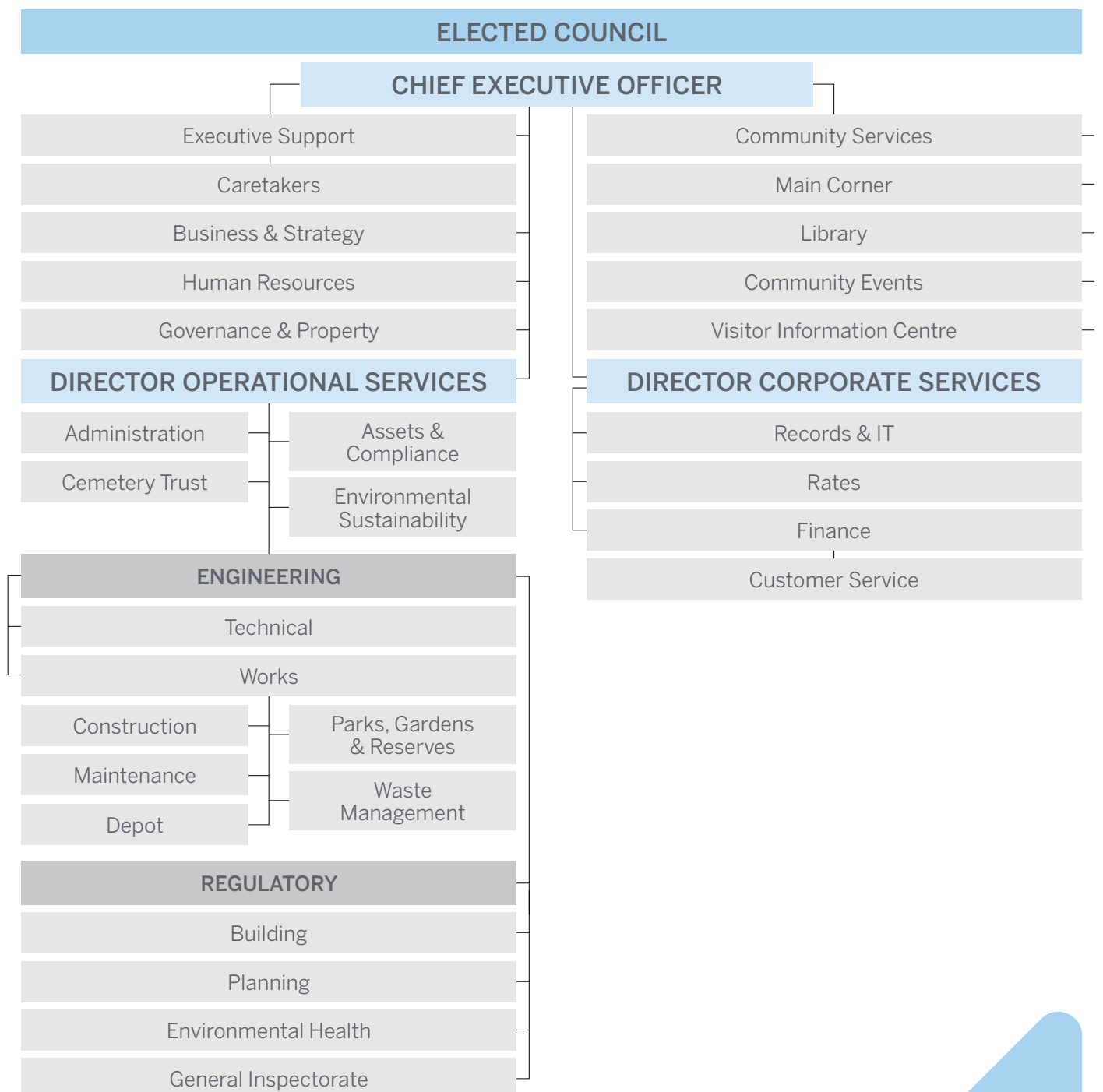
\*Excluding GST and after trade-in



# Compliance Statement

## ORGANISATIONAL CHART

**Organisational Chart** (138 Employees; 120.67 FTE)



## Compliance Statement

### BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Building Fire Safety Committee (BFSC) operates pursuant to the provisions of the Development Act 1993. Its primary function is to achieve:

- A reasonable standard of fire safety for building occupants
- Minimal spread of fire and smoke
- An acceptable fire fighting environment

The Committee is made up of one Council Member (in 2014/2015 this was Councillor Merv White up until November 2014 and Councillor Ian Von Stanke from November 2014, who is also the Chair of the Committee), a member of the Metropolitan Fire Service, Mr Grant Riches (Private Building Surveyor) and Mr Daryl Sexton (Director - Operational Services, City of Mount Gambier).

Motels, gymnasiums, commercial premises and residential complexes were the focus of the Committee over the past 12 months.

The BFSC generally meets every three (3) months.



# Compliance Statement

## WORKPLACE LOST TIME INJURY

With the appointment of a dedicated WHS Coordinator in mid-2014, Council has been able to consolidate many years of preparation and planning into the implementation of several targeted strategic and preventative actions. Council employees have fully embraced the desire to provide a safe work environment through a multi-faceted approach to sustainable cultural change and legislative compliance.

This is now starting to pay dividends as is evidenced by the outstanding results for 2014/2015 in the table below, with no time lost through injury during that period. Council receives significant bonus payments from the LGA Workers Compensation Scheme in acknowledgement of this achievement.

### City of Mount Gambier - Comparison with Group B Councils

Year End June	For	Number of LTI's	Number of LTI days	Number of Claims	Duration Rate	Freq. Rate	Incident Rate	Claims Greater 5 days
2009/2010	Council Groups	2 5	20 43	13 14	10.0 8.2	9.9 17.3	2.0 3.5	2 2
2010/2011	Council Groups	3 6	118 49	10 13	39.3 8.9	13.8 18.5	2.8 3.7	2 3
2011/2012	Council Groups	1 4	1 63	14 12	1.0 14.1	4.5 16.4	0.9 3.3	0 2
2012/2013	Council Groups	3 4	66 79	7 10	22.0 18.1	12.4 16.1	2.5 3.2	3 2
2013/2014	Council Groups	2 4	15 68	13 10	3.0 13.7	20.8 17.1	4.2 3.4	1 3
2014/2015	Council Groups	0 3	0 40	2 7	0.0 13.1	0.0 13.1	0.0 2.8	0 2

Group B Councils are those Councils with the number of employees (FTE) in the range of 100-199.

Incident Rate =  $(\text{LTI} \div \text{employees}) \times 100$  • Hours Worked = 500 per employee per quarter, or 2,000 per year •

Frequency Rate =  $\text{LTI} \div (\text{hours worked}) \times 1,000,000$  • Duration Rate =  $\text{LTI days} \div \text{LTI}$  • Number of Claims = all claims (that is primary and secondary claims reported during the period) • Lost Time Injuries as defined in Australian Standard 1885.1 = one complete shift or more of lost time, not cumulative

Note: figures depend on compensation reimbursement being claimed up to end of period.





# Compliance Statement

## SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Council has resolved that for the purposes of the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1999, the 'Senior Executive Officers' of Council are defined as including:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Director - Corporate Services
- Director - Operational Services

The remuneration of the Senior Executive Officers, the conditions and contract of employment are detailed in the Senior Officers Register and Remunerations - Salaries and Benefits, that is available for public inspection. The

summary of the benefits of Senior Executive Officers (SEO's) are as follows (as at June 2015):

- Award Salary - all SEO's
- Private use of a Council vehicle (conditions apply) - all SEO's
- Home telephone allowance (conditions apply) - all SEO's
- Fixed term contract of employment (with no automatic right of renewal clauses) - all SEO's
- Over Award Salary payment - all SEO's

Each Senior Executive Officer is on a five-year fixed term non-renewable Contract of Employment with conclusions as follows:

Director - Corporate Services -  
4th June 2017

Chief Executive Officer -  
30th November 2016

Director - Operational Services -  
11th September 2019



# Compliance Statement

## THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

As part of our commitment to corporate excellence, the organisational structure of Council was comprehensively reviewed in 2012 and will continue to be evaluated and developed to encourage the organisation to better deliver improved efficiencies and be totally accountable.

The management as at June 2015 is made up of:

### SENIOR EXECUTIVE



Mark McShane  
**Chief Executive Officer**



Grant Humphries  
**Director  
Corporate Services**



Daryl Sexton  
**Director  
Operational Services**



Barbara Cernovskis  
**Manager Community  
Services & Development**



Tracy Tzioutziouklaris  
**Manager Business &  
Strategic Planning**



Stacey Holder  
**Manager Human  
Resources**



Michael McCarthy  
**Manager Governance  
& Property**



Lynne Dowling  
**Team Leader  
Executive Support**

# Compliance Statement

## THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

### DIVISIONAL MANAGERS



Daryl Morgan  
**Engineering Manager**



Gary Button  
**Finance Manager**



Vicki Hutchinson  
**Library Manager**



Michael Silvy  
**Manager Regulatory Services**



Chris Mustart  
**Works Manager**



# Compliance Statement

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Council's Human Resources Strategy ensures strategic objectives are met by encapsulating the personnel elements of our Strategic and Corporate Plan. The 3-year strategy was implemented in 2012 with a view to building the capacity of our people to work within a strategic framework with a high level of engagement, motivation, and commitment to success. A new HR strategy will be developed to align with Council's strategic plan when implemented.

Because people ultimately determine our effectiveness, Council has focused on:

- Having the right people to achieve outcomes (recruitment/retention);
- A workforce with the skills to achieve these outcomes (training needs analysis/job role audit/appraisals);
- Employee understanding and demonstration of positive and appropriate behaviours (code of conduct, recognition/reward, organisation culture), and;
- Personnel being developed appropriately (performance evaluation/training/personal development).

### TRAINING

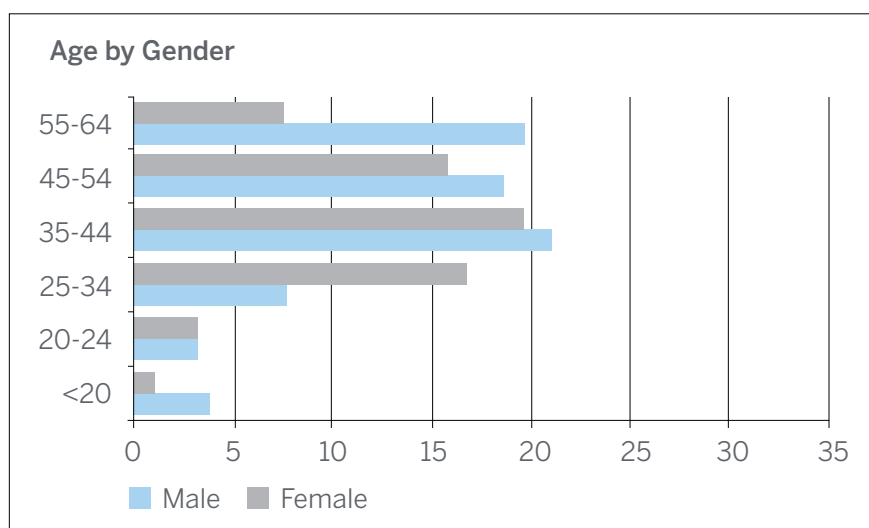
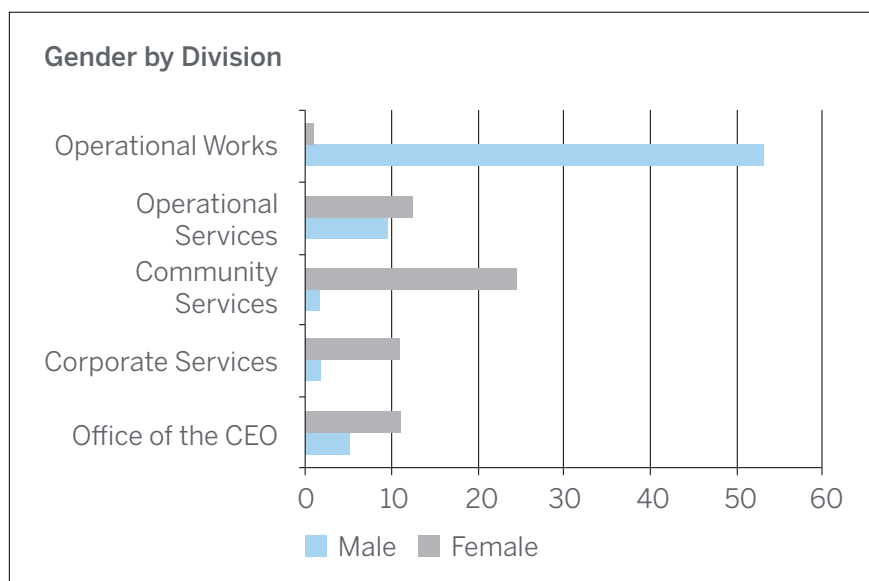
Council understands that employees must have the appropriate level of knowledge and skills in order to effectively contribute to a safe and efficient work environment. To this end, our commitment to employee training and development begins at induction and continues

throughout the working life of an employee.

Council's training plan is the foundation of our training management process. It defines objectives, sets priorities, plans resource allocations, ensures training funds are allocated appropriately, and evaluates the effectiveness of training programs. It is the guiding document providing direction for

planning training activities and managing training resources. The plan is managed and developed in accordance with our strategic business plans to provide for a skilled and competent workforce tailored to meeting Council's strategic goals. It provides the primary reference document to define training budgets and project current and future training needs.

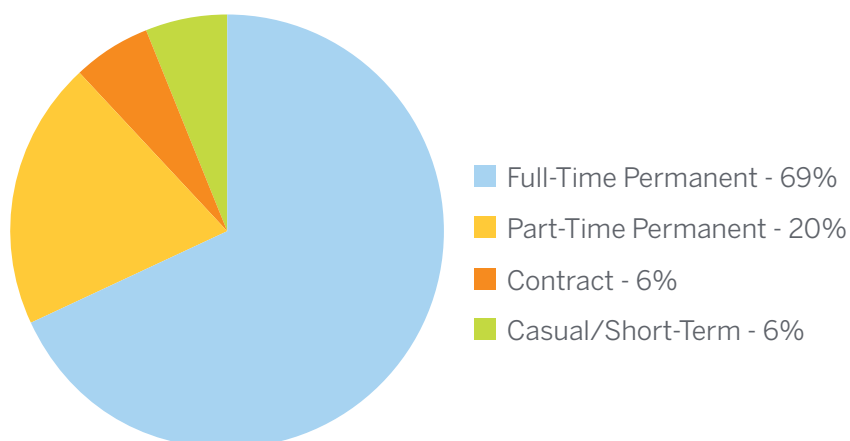
### CURRENT EMPLOYEE PROFILE



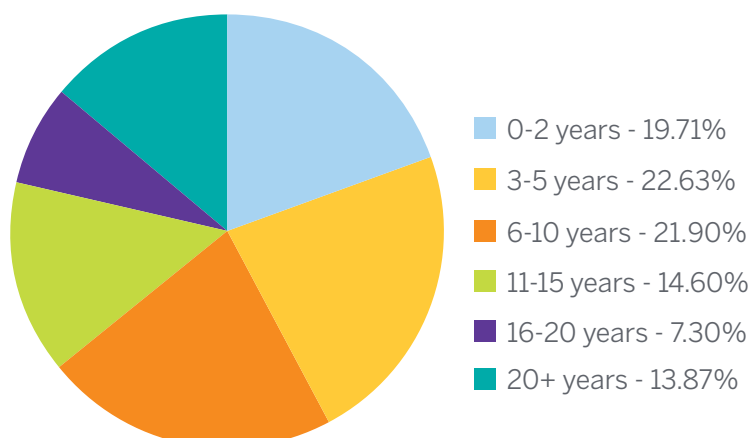
# Compliance Statement

## HUMAN RESOURCES

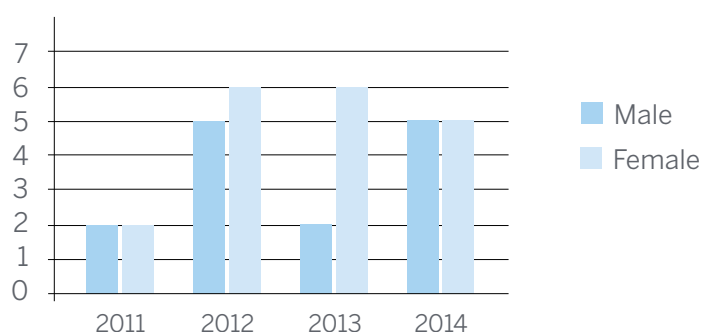
### Employment Status



### Employee Years of Service



### Employee Resignations/Retirements



### WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

The City of Mount Gambier's Work Health & Safety (WHS) Risk Management Plan aims to align effective risk management practices in the areas of work health and safety across the organisation within a common framework. The plan provides direction for Council to effectively manage WHS risk with the direct benefit of reducing insurance and associated claims costs, meeting legislative requirements and effectively managing the resources of Council.

This plan supports the strategic objectives of Council and the Local Government Association's Workers Compensation Scheme through a calculated approach to WHS risk management in the current organisational context. Council's WHS Risk Management Plan (containing specific WHS programs) allows the City of Mount Gambier to identify key deficiency areas and measure the success of systematic targets designed to improve performance and provide effective solutions within the scope of what is reasonably practicable.

Council works with the Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme to define key work health and safety priority programs based on deficiencies identified in KPI audits and WorkCover evaluation visits/audits. The objectives and measures set for Council's priority programs ensure WorkCover's Performance Standards for Self Insurers and WHS compliance are met.

Council's Work Health and



# Compliance Statement

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Safety Committee comprises management and employee representatives and monitors performance against the plan. In 2012, Council also implemented a Senior Management Team structure to drive and implement the improved work health and management system across the organisation. This group has undergone a period of evolution to the point that WHS remains a primary consideration but is now driven by management and workgroups as a critical element of all Council projects and planning.

Council's priority programs for 2014-2015 were:

1. Development and Administration of WHS Management Systems;
2. Hazard Identification, Assessment & Control;
3. Document Control and Record Management Systems; and
4. Training Systems.

As with the HR strategy, a new WHS Strategy will be developed to align with Council's strategic plan when implemented.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Council is committed to the provision of a workplace that values, supports and promotes equity and embraces the differences in every employee by encouraging diversity in our backgrounds, skills, talents and views to enrich our working environment and the quality of the work undertaken by Council.

In 2015, Council provided EO Contact Officer training to eight employees from all divisions to provide an advocacy and support role to all employees from all backgrounds. On completion of this training, the new Contact Officers worked with Human Resources to develop a new Equal Opportunity Policy and three new procedures: Recruitment & Selection, Bullying & Harassment, and Equal Opportunity and Discrimination, to consolidate

their learning and reinforce the organisational commitment to equity and diversity.

### POLICY

- The equal opportunity policy 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 the 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.



# Compliance Statement

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### 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.

### COMMITMENT

Council will ensure that:

- All policies, procedures and decisions are fair and equitable;
- All employees are valued and respected;
- All employees are aware of and understand the EO and diversity policy and procedures;
- All employees have equal access to employment opportunities;
- All Council operations are undertaken with minimal risk to staff and others at all times;
- All employees are treated fairly and with respect; and
- Groups recognised under equal opportunity legislation are provided opportunities and encouragement.

TEAM	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Office of the CEO	6	12	18
Corporate Services	2	12	14
Community Services	2	25	27
Operational Services	11	14	25
Operational Services - Works	53	1	54
<b>Totals</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Percentages</b>	<b>53.6%</b>	<b>46.4%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Total Number Employees: 138  
 Full Time Equivalents: 120.67  
 (all as at 30th June 2015)

# Corporate Statement

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# Corporate Statement

## COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS COMMISSION DATA

### GRANTS COMMISSION

The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission is an independent statutory authority established under the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Act 1992. The three members are appointed on a part-time basis by the Governor.

The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission makes recommendations to the Minister for State/Local Government Relations for the distribution of Commonwealth financial assistance grants.

Grants for local governing authorities in South Australia are distributed in accordance with National Principles set by the Commonwealth Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995.

All funds allocated by the Commonwealth are distributed to Councils. All of the Commission's costs are met by the State Government.

Grants distributed should compensate Councils for differences in the costs of providing services and differences in their revenue raising capacity.

Equalisation refers to the financial capacity of the Council; it does not mean that the level of service must be equal.

Councils may choose to have higher or lower levels of service according to their own priorities.

The Commission aims to equalise their financial capacity to provide a similar level of service to their communities.

The Grants are untied and may be spent according to community priorities.

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.

Relevant data from the Grants Commission reports has been extracted and assembled in the following formats;

- In 'Comparative' format – with other similarly classified South Australian Councils, under four (4) major headings;
  - Financial Comparison
  - Expenditure Comparison
  - Revenue Comparison
  - Rates Comparison
- In 'Time Series' format – key financial data relative to the City of Mount Gambier for the past five (5) financial years. The Time Series reports have been arranged under the following headings;
  - Employee/Operating
  - Assets
  - Financial
  - Rating



## FINANCIAL COMPARISON

Council	Total Assets (\$000)	Total Liabilities (\$000)	Total Equity (\$000)	Total Financial Assets (\$000)	Net Financial Liabilities (\$000)	Operating Surplus Ratio (%)	Net Financial Liabilities Ratio (%)	Asset Sustainability Ratio (%)
Alexandrina	418,339	35,780	382,559	5,768	30,012	(5)	83	41
Barossa	300,479	24,788	275,691	10,795	13,993	0	43	116
Gawler	207,980	16,579	191,403	5,880	10,697	(53)	49	119
Mount Gambier	197,640	9,418	188,222	2,459	6,959	(4)	31	244
Murray Bridge	264,970	16,016	248,954	8,387	7,629	(11)	26	(6)
Port Augusta	209,604	35,967	173,637	7,093	28,874	(42)	92	47
Port Lincoln	168,656	5,058	163,600	4,341	717	(2)	5	311
Victor Harbor	262,007	17,428	244,579	5,151	12,277	5	56	80
Whyalla	251,466	13,983	237,483	4,297	9,686	(16)	40	171

## EXPENDITURE COMPARISON

Council	Estimated Resident Population as 30 June 2014	Employee Costs (\$000)	Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses (\$000)	Finance Costs (\$000)	Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment (\$000)	Total Operating Expenses (\$000)	Operating Surplus / (Deficit) (\$000)
Alexandrina	25,136	11,873	15,738	1,576	9,257	38,461	(1,549)
Barossa	22,964	10,913	13,990	1,277	6,534	32,719	76
Gawler	22,219	8,211	9,626	811	12,237	30,919	(8,914)
Mount Gambier	26,246	8,772	8,467	262	5,907	23,408	(668)
Murray Bridge	20,740	13,480	11,202	618	6,080	31,477	(1,976)
Port Augusta	14,557	16,236	14,475	1,113	5,942	37,766	(6,176)
Port Lincoln	14,888	3,799	8,886	12	2,784	15,481	(192)
Victor Harbor	14,938	7,899	7,788	869	4,995	21,551	875
Whyalla	22,754	9,395	12,253	169	5,993	27,810	(2,694)

# Corporate Statement COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - LG GRANTS COMMISSION DATA



# Corporate Statement

## COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE -

### LG GRANTS COMMISSION DATA

Local Government Grants Commission Database Comparative Reports 2013/2014

#### REVENUE COMPARISON

Council	Total Rates (\$'000)	Statutory Charges (\$'000)	User Charges (\$'000)	Grants Subsidies & Contributions (\$'000)	Investment Income (\$'000)	Reimburse-ments (%)	Other Revenues (%)	Total Operating Revenue (%)
Alexandrina	31,065	833	2,260	1,724	77	407	506	36,912
Barossa	25,157	583	2,365	2,624	304	953	792	32,795
Gawler	17,166	648	1,396	2,061	161	366	53	22,005
Mount Gambier	16,826	378	3,530	1,278	32	229	467	22,740
Murray Bridge	18,613	587	2,277	6,949	145	313	617	29,501
Port Augusta	15,110	314	4,624	9,302	232	365	1,643	31,950
Port Lincoln	10,942	264	1,163	1,120	171	582	1,047	15,289
Victor Harbor	17,468	426	2,086	1,203	178	591	434	22,426
Whyalla	17,188	494	3,405	2,729	60	108	1,132	25,116

#### RATES COMPARISON

Council	Estimated Resident Population 30th June 2014	Number of Rateable Properties January 2014	Capital Value January 2014 (\$Mil)	Total Rates (\$'000)	Number of Rateable Residential Properties as at January 2013	Total Residential Rates (\$'000)	Total Residential Rates per rateable residential property (\$)	Total Rate Revenue % Increase/ Decrease
Alexandrina	25,136	18,145	6,386	31,065	11,854	19,056	1,608	6.7 %
Barossa	22,964	12,477	4,338	25,157	8,084	12,514	1,548	4.9%
Gawler	22,219	10,746	3,106	17,166	8,419	12,794	1,520	7.0 %
Mount Gambier	26,246	14,145	3,170	16,826	11,457	12,596	1,099	6.7%
Murray Bridge	20,740	11,688	2,703	18,613	7,539	11,242	1,491	4.8%
Port Augusta	14,557	7,556	1,613	15,110	6,253	9,301	1,487	6.4%
Port Lincoln	14,888	8,393	2,358	10,942	6,349	8,498	1,338	5.6%
Victor Harbor	14,938	10,719	3,748	17,468	7,673	13,431	1,750	8.1%
Whyalla	22,754	12,095	2,402	17,188	10,617	13,949	1,314	10.8%

**RATING**

Year	Estimated Population	Ratable Properties	Capital Value of Rateable Properties	Total Rates	No. of Residential Properties	Total Residential Rates	Total Res Rates per Property
2009/10	26,128	13,441	2,879,000	12,689,000	10,760	9,206,000	856
2010/11	26,206	13,801	3,171,000	13,872,000	11,276	10,157,000	901
2011/12	25,911	13,937	3,209,000	14,881,000	11,276	11,474,000	1,018
2012/13	26,092	14,037	3,127,000	15,772,000	11,317	11,688,000	1,033
2013/14	26,246	14,145	3,170,000	16,826,000	11,457	12,596,000	1,099

**EMPLOYEE / OPERATING**

Year	Employees FTE	Employee Costs	Operating Expenditure	Operating Revenue	Operating Surplus / (Deficit)
2009/10	107	6,610,000	18,459,000	18,733,000	274,000
2010/11	110	7,286,000	20,742,000	19,632,000	(1,110,000)
2011/12	112	7,983,000	23,038,000	22,455,000	(583,000)
2012/13	116	8,318,000	22,153,000	22,452,000	299,000
2013/14	118	8,772,000	23,408,000	22,740,000	(668,000)

**FINANCIAL**

Year	Total Liabilities	Total Financial Assets	Net Financial Liabilities	Total Equity	% Operating Surplus Ratio	Net Financial Liability Ratio %	Asset Sustainability Ratio %
2009/10	9,059,000	11,334,000	(2,275,000)	133,317,000	2	(12)	55
2010/11	12,534,000	10,818,000	1,716,000	135,289,000	(8)	9	51
2011/12	8,432,000	2,451,000	5,981,000	211,612,000	(4)	27	52
2012/13	7,070,000	2,072,000	4,998,000	189,053,000	2	23	85
2013/14	9,418,000	2,459,000	6,959,000	188,222,000	(4)	31	244

# Corporate Statement

## COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE -

### LG GRANTS COMMISSION DATA

#### ASSETS

Year	Cash / Cash Equivalent	Other Receivables	Inventories	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant, Equipment	Other Assets	Total Assets
2009/10	9,696,000	1,638,000	44,000	28,012,000	53,120,000	43,618,000	4,842,000	1,406,000	142,376,000
2010/11	8,298,000	2,520,000	35,000	28,363,000	56,215,000	45,263,000	4,704,000	2,425,000	135,289,000
2011/12	981,000	1,470,000	47,000	41,026,000	112,109,000	56,625,000	4,840,000	2,946,000	220,044,000
2012/13	675,000	1,397,000	40,000	41,188,000	87,340,000	58,186,000	4,627,000	2,670,000	196,123,000
2013/14	1,173,000	1,286,000	37,000	40,858,000	86,810,000	60,343,000	4,749,000	2,384,000	197,690,000



# Corporate Statement

## 2014/2015 BUDGET ANALYSIS

The City of Mount Gambier's Annual Business Plan is a statement of the intended program and outcomes for the financial year and has been developed with reference to our Strategic Plan, Long Term Financial and Asset Management Frameworks.

The development of our Business Plan is an important part of our planning. It links our Strategic Goals with our budget planning process to ensure that we secure the best possible mix of services, infrastructure and facilities.

The Business Plan defines our objectives for the year, the activities required to deliver these objectives, and the methods used to monitor and measure our performance. In addition, it contains a summary of revenue and expenditure required to deliver our programs, developed within the context of our commitment to financial sustainability and longer term financial planning. Importantly, it also describes the impact on rates and the implications for our ratepayers.

Key aspects of the 2014/2015 Business Plan and Budget included:

- Continued focus on achieving the vision expressed in Council's adopted Strategic Plan;
- Continued investment to promote Mount Gambier as a visitor destination, a regional retail and commercial hub as well as a quality destination for the hosting of specialist major events and conferences;
- Continued development of Council's infrastructure and asset management framework;
- Capital infrastructure program of approximately \$8.433m (new and renewal)
- Maintaining our extensive public realm assets and infrastructure and the programs that directly support our community;
- Maintaining support for community-based programs and initiatives including environmental sustainability, lifelong learning, community events and social inclusion;
- Retaining and developing Council's workforce to ensure capacity in service delivery.

### BUDGET

2014/2015 Budgeted Expenditure consisted of:

- Operating Expenditure \$23,161,000
- Non-Operating Expenditure \$726,000
- Capital Expenditure \$8,433,000

The 2014/2015 budget proposed to spend a total of \$31.5m (operating and capital) on the delivery of all Council services and programs, maintenance of assets and the development of new or upgraded assets.

2014/2015 Budgeted Revenue, to fund Council's Budgeted Expenditure, consisted of:

- Operating Revenue \$23,117,000
- Non-Operating Revenue \$9,118,000

### OPERATING RESULT

Operating Expenditure was budgeted to increase by \$386,000 or 3.5% on 2013/2014. In comparison, Operating Revenue decreased by \$445,000 or 7% principally attributed to the loss of Grants Commission Revenue. Council has budgeted for a deficit of \$44,000.

When factoring in non-operating and capital revenues and expenditures, Council proposed to record an overall minor cash deficit of \$85,000.





# Corporate Statement

## 2014/2015 BUDGET ANALYSIS

### 2014/2015 BUDGET INITIATIVES

Key components within Council's 2014/2015 Budget include:

Function/Activity	\$'000 Expenditure			\$'000 Revenue
	Operating	Depreciation	Capital	
Administration				
Rates				17,183
Grants Commission				
General Purpose Grant				2,038
Road Grants				376
2014 General Election	80			
Civic Centre GRC Panels		120		
Support Services				
Periodic IT Infrastructure Upgrade			90	
Community Services				
General Community Support/Donations	150			
Community Celebrations	55			
Public Conveniences	200	22		
Main Corner Operating	393	247		70
Men's Shed - Establishment			80	
Cultural Services				
Library Services	1,341	718	133	208
Wehl Street Theatre – Remove Asbestos			50	
Economic				
Education Investment Fund – Initial Contribution	100			
Tourism – Major Event Support	143			
Tourism – Visitor Information	834	89		384
Environment				
Waste Management				
Refuse collection	1,138		30	295
Building renovations			100	
Waste transfer/landfill	1,153	65		1,441
Stormwater drainage	175	119	83	
Street Cleaning/Sweeping	320			
Street Lighting	497			
Street Trees	169		38	
Recreation				
Parks, Gardens, Reserves	1,017	260	65	
Crater Lakes	339			
Sporting Reserves	294	181	108	
Aquatic Centre	252	121		
Sporting grants/ support	109			
Blue Lake – lighting of walking path			450	
Dog Park at Hastings Cunningham Reserve			35	



# Corporate Statement

## 2014/2015 BUDGET ANALYSIS

Function/Activity	\$'000 Expenditure			\$'000 Revenue
	Operating	Depreciation	Capital	
Railway Lands Development			2,000	
Former Hospital Site			500	
Regulatory				
Development Control (Planning/Building)	668		220	186
Health Services	167			-
Dog/Parking Control	282		189	168
Transport				
Plant and Machinery replacement program			1,079	
Footpath / Kerbing	343	172		
Maintenance				
Annual Program (inc bikeways)			289	
Road infrastructure – maintenance	446	1,736		
Annual capital program, includes:			2,685	
CBD renewal - \$300				
Reseal program - \$488				
Boundary Roads - \$246 (Wireless west)				
Roads to Recovery - \$270				
Special Local Roads				
Graham Road - \$350				
Roads Reconstruction Program \$1,086				
Major projects: Webb Street				
Gray Street				
Wehl Street North				
Edward Street				
Grantville Place				
Shelton Street				
North Terrace				
Lake Terrace East				
Commercial Street East				
Bailey Street				
Non-Operating				
Annual Borrowing Program				
(funding major capital works – CBD, Old Hospital, Rail Lands)				1,096
Work in Progress – Grant Funding – Rail lands				1,000
Depreciation charged – written back				6,096



# Corporate Statement

## 2014/2015 BUDGET ANALYSIS

### IMPLICATIONS FOR RATES

In order to deliver Council's services and programs in 2014/2015, Council determined that it required an increase in the overall general gross rate revenue equivalent to 4.8% over the general gross rate revenue raised last financial year.

This overall percentage increase is offset by the effect of "growth" i.e. new developments, new assessments that have occurred during the past year. This "growth" is estimated to be equivalent to a 0.9% benefit in general rate revenue which will provide a "cushion" to the full extent of the 4.8% rate rise.

For the average residential ratepayer, this equated to an estimated \$37 per annum (71¢ per week) increase in Council rates, bringing the average annual residential rates to \$1,021.00 to assist in funding the 2014/2015 Budget.

At this level, Council's residential rating effort continues to be well below the average residential rates for South Australian Councils.

## REBATES ON COUNCIL RATES

Council is required by Sections 159 to 166 of the Local Government Act 1999 to grant certain statutory or discretionary rebates on rates.

A total of \$165,999 was provided by Council for statutory or discretionary rebates on Council rates as follows:

	2014/2015	Previous Year
Statutory	\$152,644	\$147,214
Discretionary	\$10,049	\$9,755
Boundary Adjustment	\$3,306	\$6,171

All rebates are reviewed on an annual basis.

State Government legislation has significantly increased the amount of rate rebates Council is now required to provide to the Community Housing sector.

This in turn has implications for all other ratepayers who are increasingly required to 'pick up' this shortfall in rate revenue.

# Corporate Statement

## 2014/2015 RATING AND VALUATION SUMMARY

Rating Component	2013/2014	2014/2015
<b>1 FIXED CHARGE</b>	\$544.80	\$565.50
Amount Total Collection	\$7,378,226	\$7,729,820
% of Total Rates	45%	45%
<b>2 DIFFERENTIAL RATES</b>		
Residential	.21167	.21980
Commercial - Shop	.57151 (+170%)	.59346
Commercial - Office	.57151 (+170%)	.59346
Commercial - Other	.57151 (+170%)	.59346
Industry - Light	.57151 (+170%)	.59346
Industry - Other	.57151 (+170%)	.59346
Primary Production	.21167	.21980
Vacant Land	.57151 (+170%)	.59346
Other	.21167	.21980
<b>3 VALUATION</b>		
Rateable Land	\$3,167,914,030	\$3,202,252,530
Non Rateable Land	\$199,262,010	\$203,617,310
All Land	\$3,367,176,040	\$3,405,869,840
<b>4 RATE REVENUE</b>		
Gross General Rates	\$16,396,000	\$17,183,000
% Increase on Previous Year	6.1%	4.8%
<b>5 SEPARATE RATE</b>		
Catchment Board Contribution	\$544,445	\$554,609
Catchment/NRM Levy	\$40.60	\$40.90
<b>6 AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL RATES CALCULATIONS (GROWTH EXCLUDED)</b>		
Average Residential Rates	\$984	\$1,021
<b>Average dollar increase</b>	\$57	\$37
<b>Average Percentage Increase</b>	6.1%	3.8%



# Corporate Statement

## 2014/2015 RATING AND VALUATION SUMMARY

### 7 Valuation comparison

Land Use Category	2013/2014		2014/2015		% Increase
	Properties	Assessed Value \$	Fixed Charge	Differential Rates	
1 Residential	11,782	2,456,321,080	11,939	2,488,244,085	1.30%
2 Commercial	1,026	471,547,185	1,018	473,287,243	0.37%
3 Industry	222	115,131,058	220	117,080,486	1.69%
4 Primary Production	66	24,451,511	60	23,359,500	-4.47%
5 Vacant Land	430	55,937,396	417	56,051,946	0.20%
6 Other	58	44,525,800	56	44,229,270	-0.67%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13,584</b>	<b>3,167,914,030</b>	<b>13,710</b>	<b>3,202,252,530</b>	<b>1.08%</b>

### 8 Rating comparison

Land Use Category	2013/2014			2014/2015			% Increase
	Fixed Charge	Differential Rates	Total Rates	Fixed Charge	Differential Rates	Total Rates	
1 Residential	6,396,496	5,199,123	11,595,619	6,728,319	5,469,160	12,197,479	5.2%
2 Commercial	558,965	2,694,939	3,253,904	575,679	2,808,771	3,384,450	4.0%
3 Industry	120,946	657,986	778,932	124,410	694,826	819,236	5.2%
4 Primary Production	35,957	51,757	87,714	33,930	51,344	85,274	-2.9%
5 Vacant Land	234,264	319,688	553,952	235,814	332,646	568,460	2.6%
6 Other	31,598	94,248	125,846	31,668	97,216	128,884	2.4%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,378,226</b>	<b>9,017,741</b>	<b>16,395,967</b>	<b>7,729,820</b>	<b>9,453,963</b>	<b>17,183,783</b>	<b>4.8%</b>

# Corporate Statement

## LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A LTFP?

Whilst the development of Long Term Financial Plans is a requirement of Section 122(1) (a) of the Local Government Act, 1999, the purpose is to translate the objectives and strategies of the Council's Strategic Plan into financial terms and to guide the direction of Council in a financially sustainable manner.

Council's Long Term Financial Plan (reviewed annually) will act as a reference point in the formulation of future Annual Business Plans and Budgets.

### WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE LTFP?

The LTFP is driven by Council's Strategic Management Plan and includes Council's future revenue and expenditure estimates particularly focusing on the financing and scheduling of major projects, loan indebtedness, rating level, asset replacement/renewal and impact on operating expenditure.

Council's LTFP assumes:

- The continuation of existing services at current service standards;
- No internal changes to services or investment in new or upgraded assets other than what is already resolved and planned.

Council's financial projections over the long term planning horizon are not meant to be a prediction of financial position or performance, but rather an indication of direction and financial capacity.

### WHAT DOES THE LTFP TELL US?

Council is meeting its financial targets over the term of the plan and has the financial capacity to continue meeting our community's service demands plus the flexibility to respond to changing circumstances.

The projections indicate that, based on current assumptions, Council is in a sound financial position with a favourable outlook over the term of the Plan. Given the recent major capital infrastructure projects completed by Council and the associated loan borrowings to fund those projects, the next four (4) years projected operating indicates some deficit returns however the following years of the plan return Council to surplus.

Council's LTFP is reviewed annually, most recently in December 2013 and is available from the Council website [www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au](http://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au).





# Corporate Statement

## ELECTRONIC RATE PAYMENTS

Legislative amendments to the Local Government Act in 2001 resulted in the introduction of quarterly rate billing as a mandatory requirement for all Councils.

Since that time, Council has been tracking statistics in terms of changes in cash flow, but also in terms of the use of electronic payment facilities that are established to assist with the quarterly billing process and to provide ratepayers with more flexible payment methods.

### CASH FLOW

Council continues to receive the largest proportion of rate revenue at the time of the first instalment (September) - for 2014/2015, this was 34% of rate revenue.

Although this figure has remained reasonably stable over past years, initial predictions were that this figure would decrease more than it currently has, meaning that a large number of ratepayers still prefer to pay their annual rate account up front, rather than by instalments.

### PAYMENT STATISTICS

In addition to being able to pay in person or by post, the following revenue collection facilities are available for the convenience of ratepayers;

- Interactive voice response (IVR) over telephone
- Internet via Council secure site
- BPay (IVR and Internet) via your selected banking institution
- BPay View (Electronic Delivery of Rate Notices)
- Direct Debit
- Australia Post

Sixty-two (62) per cent of Council's total rate revenue collection is now collected via these facilities compared to fifty-six (56) per cent five years ago in the 2010/11 financial year.

### Statistics - 2014/2015

Service	No. of Payments	\$ Value
IVR (Phone)	1,763	604,537
Internet	1,318	438,292
BPay	32,326	7,354,860
Direct Bank Debits	2,383	274,846
Australia Post	6,432	1,940,746
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,222</b>	<b>10,613,281</b>

# Corporate Statement

## RESIDENTIAL RATES COMPARISON REPORT 2013/2014

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.

The above 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:

Council	ACLG	Population (ERP) 2014	Total Rates \$	Rates as % of revenue	Res Rates/ Res Prop \$
Mount Gambier	URS	26,246	16,826	74	1,099
Murray Bridge	URS	20,740	18,613	63	1,491
Port Augusta	URS	14,557	15,110	48	1,487
Port Lincoln	URS	14,888	10,942	72	1,338
Victor Harbour	URS	14,938	17,468	78	1,750
Whyalla	URS	22,754	17,188	68	1,314
Mount Barker	URM	31,950	28,632	78	1,657
Alexandrina	UFS	25,136	31,065	84	1,608
Barossa	UFS	22,964	26,157	77	1,548
Gawler	UFS	22,219	17,166	78	1,520
<b>State Average</b>				<b>73</b>	<b>1,368</b>
URS/URM/UFS Average				72	1,481

\*Source: SA Local Government Grants Commission database reports.

In 2013/2014, the City of Mount Gambier residential rates per rateable property (\$1099) were 80% of the State average (\$1,368) or 20% below the State average.

In the previous financial year (2012/2013), this figure was 79% of the State average or 21% below the State average.



## Corporate Statement

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Council's Audit Committee was initially established in November 2006, as required under Section 126 of the Local Government Act. The Committee comprises two persons independent of Council and one Council Member, and is supported by Council staff and Council's appointed external Auditor.

Council's Audit Committee meets on a quarterly basis but has the ability to schedule further meetings if required. The Committee met on four (4) occasions during the 2014/2015 financial year, with all Members present at all meetings.

Matters examined by the Audit Committee included:

#### Principal Issues Examined

Council	Members
External Auditor	2014 Interim Audit
External Auditor	2014 Statutory Audit
External Auditor	Meeting Attendance
Audit Committee	2014 Annual Report to Council
Policy Reviews	Fraud and Corruption framework Whistleblowers Policy Internal Control Policy Monitoring Budget Performance
Long Term Financial Plan	Review of Long Term Financial Plan
Risk Management	Policy review Business continuity
Financial Internal Controls	New legislation
Treasury Management	Annual Report Periodic Review
Council Annual Report	
Draft Business Plan- and Budget	
Budget Reviews (6 of)	
Information Reports	Various
Annual Financial Statements Financial Sustainability Asset Management	2014/2015 Key Financial Indicators Update of Plan

The Audit Committee activities follow its adopted Work Program 2007-2014, which incorporates annual reviews of the Committee's

Terms of Reference and a self-assessment of its own performance.

The Committee's Terms of Reference, Annual Report to Council and Work Program are available from Council's website.

# Corporate Statement

## EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Council is required under Section 128 of the South Australia Local Government Act 1999 to appoint a suitably qualified person as its external auditor. The external auditor reports to Council on the General Purpose and Special Purpose Financial Reports prepared annually in accordance with the Act. The external auditor is also required to report to Council on particular matters arising from the audit. The external auditor must specifically identify in the report any irregularity in the Council's accounting practices or the management of the Council's

financial affairs identified by the external auditor during the course of an audit.

Following a competitive tendering process, Council appointed the firm Galpins as Council's external Auditors for a five (5) year term from the 2011/2012 financial year to the 2015/2016 financial year.

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 in relation to the 2014/2015 audit:-

- The sum of \$7,700 (ex GST) was paid for the interim annual audit of the Council's internal controls;
- The sum of \$9,200 (ex GST) was paid for the annual audit of statutory financial records and related specific purpose statements.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### COUNCIL'S IT NETWORK - OVERVIEW

Council's entire network operates on a cloud platform managed by Council's Local Government software solution provider Civica Pty Ltd. Council's local government 'Authority' Software solution has been managed in a hosted environment since 2007 and is delivered via internet/citrix from a Sydney-based data centre.

Since 2010, all other corporate software solutions including mapping (Exponare), electronic document management (TRIM) and the MS Office suite of applications have also been established in the managed cloud environment.

Council has long recognised information technology is critical to Council's operations and therefore managed services presents the best opportunity to ensure business continuity. Council's corporate systems can now be accessed from a variety of hardware devices from any location provided you have access to the internet.

Council's relationship with Civica offers many significant benefits and advantages to help address challenges such as:

- Significantly mitigating our IT-related risk, especially in the case of a disaster;
- Increasing our IT infrastructure performance;

- Improving our ability to adopt new technology and keep our business applications current with regular updates;
- Providing access to an acknowledged team of IT specialists and industry experts within the Local Government Sector;
- Empowering staff to focus on our core business objectives
- Enabling connectivity to our remote sites and ensuring our remote sites: Depot, Visitor Information Centre, Cemetery, Main Corner and Library are supported through Managed Services provision.



# Corporate Statement

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Civica's managed services also provide Council with assured application and service delivery and the day-to-day running of supporting processes and systems to guaranteed levels and predictable costs.

Council's local area network is supported by local service provider, Green Triangle Electronics.

The network is progressively refreshed or renewed over a four (4) year finance/rental cycle, with the last major network refresh occurring in November 2014.

### SOFTWARE

Council operates the 'Authority' enterprise Local Government software solution developed and maintained by software vendor Civica Pty Ltd which is delivered via a Managed Service (Cloud) platform.

Council has over the past year introduced some significantly improved practices:

- Implementation of 'Authority' Performance Manager Software - a strategic planning and reporting tool designed specifically for the needs of Local Government. Performance Manager will be used across the organisation integrating Strategic, Corporate and Business Plans and reporting in both financial and non-financial terms.
- Implementation of 'Authority' Online Requisitioning designed to streamline Council purchasing.
- Introduction of 'Authority' On Line Leave application capability.
- Introduction of 'Trapeze', third party software to enable online lodgement, assessment and approval of development applications.
- 'Authority' version upgrade (to latest version of the software).

Council also retains membership of the SA Civica 'Authority' User Group and actively contributes to a range of special interest groups established to drive the ongoing development of the various applications within the "Authority" software suite.

### WEBSITE

A complete review of Council's web presence has resulted in:

- The purchase and installation of a new content management system (Unity)
- The merging of Council's two existing sites (Council and Tourism) and migration into the new content management system
- The redesign of Council's web presence in conjunction with the introduction of new corporate branding.





# Infrastructure Statement

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## Infrastructure Statement

### INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS

Council's continued commitment towards maintaining the road network to a high standard saw the reconstruction of various roads throughout the network. Around \$2M was spent on road infrastructure upgrades that involved projects such as:

- Road resealing works
- Road patching works
- Reconstruction of sections of Commercial Street West
- Reconstruction of sections of Webb Street
- Reconstruction of Edward Street
- Reconstruction of sections of North Terrace
- Reconstruction of sections of Bailey Street
- Reconstruction and widening of a section of Wireless Road East
- Construction and sealing of a section of Wireless Road West

## 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 2014/2015, each Council contributed \$82,000 to the

program. The major project completed in 2014/2015 was the upgrade and sealing of Wireless Road West, west of O'Leary Road. This new road complements the new residential land division being undertaken on the south side of Wireless Road West. The property

developer also made a significant financial contribution to the road upgrade. This project represents an excellent example of two Councils and a private developer sharing responsibility for infrastructure provision that benefits the wider community.

## CITY CENTRE URBAN DESIGN AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

The City Centre Urban Design & Traffic Management Plan (prepared in 2007) provided a set of guidelines for future development of the urban realm in the CBD. Since 2008, the City of Mount Gambier has embarked on a number of urban upgrade projects including James Street, Engelbrecht Lane, the New Library plaza and the Main Corner.

In the 2014/2015 Financial year, Council completed the Percy Street Walkway, Commerce Place Car Park redevelopment and the Commercial Street Urban renewal project which saw new paving, street furniture and landscaping works being placed on the main street between Wehl Street and Crouch Street. This project has revitalised the City Centre and

complements previous Urban renewal projects such as the Main Corner and Library Plaza areas.

More City Centre revitalisation projects are planned for completion in the 2015/2016 financial year in line with the Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

# Infrastructure Statement

## RAILWAY LANDS

The Railway Lands redevelopment project has been on Council's agenda for over 10 years, ever since Council took formal ownership of the land from State Government in May 2005. The Master Plan was developed over the last seven years, with the final design predominantly created internally by the City of Mount Gambier.

The Master Plan for the Railway Lands site (4.0 Ha site stretching between Wehl St South to Bay Rd) is based on an open green space and parklands theme. It is designed to offset the urban density of the adjacent City Centre, and will assist with balancing the carbon footprint of city development. The Master Plan also provides the flexibility to allow for the possible future development of other elements within the parcel of land associated with other land uses (if so desired by the community at a later date) and is in line with Council's sustainability principles, being;

- A need to conserve and reduce the quantity of water use and improve the quality of water entering our groundwater and lakes system.
- Protect and, where necessary, enhance the natural and built environment.

In mid 2012, Council was successful in gaining \$1m in State Government funding (of which Council has matched) through the 'Places for People' program, allowing Stage One to be achieved. This work commenced in late 2013 with site remediation, the shared path and basic landscaping. In early 2014, Council was again successful under the 'Places for People' program, adding another \$1m plus Council's \$1m contribution to the overall project.

With in excess of \$4m allocated to the project, Council is able to realise the vision of Stages 1 and 2 of the project including completion of the landscaping, wetlands and nature play space. Also included in the works is the refurbishment of the former signal box, solar lighting, extension of the existing platform, and the creation of a large paved central plaza area with feature palm avenue. Completion of the project is expected in November 2015.

## FORMER HOSPITAL

Demolition of the Former Hospital buildings was completed in January 2014 by an Adelaide-based company following an exhaustive tender process. The demolition included the retention of the former laundry building to be used as a feature shade structure within the park.

The second phase of this project has been focused on rejuvenating the former laundry building for public use, and completing landscaping works to the reclaimed park lands where the former hospital buildings once stood. It is expected that these works will be completed mid to late 2015.



# Infrastructure Statement

## STREET TREES

Common Name	Botanical Name	Street Name	Trees Being Retained	Proposed Removals	Proposed Plantings	Net Gain
Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon Viminalis</i> 'Harkness'	Jenkins Street	0	4	20	16
Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon Viminalis</i> 'Harkness'	Mark Street	2	2	25	23
Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon Viminalis</i> 'Harkness'	Shelley Crescent	1	4	58	54
Crepe Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> x <i>L. Faurei</i> 'Natchez'	Krummel Street (West side)	0	2	14	12
Purple Leaf Cherryplum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Nigra'	Lake Terrace East (North Side)	0	5	28	23
Purple Leaf Cherryplum 'Crimson Spire'	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Oakville Crimson Spire'	Lake Terrace East (South Side)	0	11	26	15
Southworth Dancer Pear	<i>Pyrus betufoia</i> 'Southworth Dancer'	Colonel Light Place	0	0	15	15
Southworth Dancer Pear	<i>Pyrus betufoia</i> 'Southworth Dancer'	Stuart Court	0	0	15	15
Southworth Dancer Pear	<i>Pyrus betufoia</i> 'Southworth Dancer'	Hill Crescent	0	0	14	14
Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Glensform' Chanticleer	Heathfield Way	0	0	20	20
Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Glensform' Chanticleer	Houston Drive	0	0	11	11
Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Glensform' Chanticleer	King Grove	0	1	36	35
Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Glensform' Chanticleer	Krummel Street (East side)	0	0	12	12
Greenvase Japanese Elm	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Greenvase'	Bodey Court	0	0	35	35
			3	29	329	300



# Infrastructure Statement

## JOHN POWELL RESERVE

The City of Mount Gambier has become increasingly aware of the health and wellbeing benefits of exploring and connecting with nature - particularly with regards to children, by way of learning and improved cognitive development.

Council identified an opportunity to develop the John Powell Reserve into a naturescape to both beautify the area and increase outdoor learning opportunities and engagement for local children and the community.

The Reserve is located on John Powell Drive, close to the Corner of Maxwell Street, and is accessible from the path which travels through

the rear car park of the Mulga Street Primary School. The original site featured minimal landscaping and a low-level limestone rock face wall which aids the site's primary function as a storm water collection area.

In order to develop the site as a naturescape, Council constructed a path network to connect with the existing school path, installed a small footbridge and provided features such as additional shade trees, a sandpit, climbing logs, rocks, a waterfall and stepping stones. Other projects planned for the future include a wooded area, flower garden, wetlands planting

and signage to encourage improved local engagement with the site.

In March 2015, the site was used for the 'Big PLAY Day Out', which featured a diverse range of hands-on creative play activities for babies, pre-schoolers and primary-aged children. The day was organised in response to the extensive work undertaken with the children of Mount Gambier and the wider community during the development of Mount Gambier's Charter for Children, and was hugely successful.

The Reserve continues to provide an important storm water collection role.



# Infrastructure Statement

## AQUATIC CENTRE

Innovative Leisure Management (ILM) have again completed a successful year at the Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre. Overall attendances were again excellent (see table) and the number of children utilising Learn to Swim programs is very encouraging.

As with previous years, independent facility audits have ensured that the Centre is maintained and presented to a very high standard. Centre Manager, Peter Collins, is to be complimented on the effort he and his staff put into the operation of the facility.

The new boiler (in its second year of operation) again proved to be very successful. Experience has now shown that woodchips of the correct size and moisture content are the key to consistent and high levels of performance from the new boiler.

The following statistics are provided for 2014/2015:

### INDIVIDUAL ADMISSIONS

Swimming - Adult	2,312
Swimming - Child	4,742
Swimming - Spectator	391
Swimming - Pensioner	217
Swimming - Family	184
Aquavoucher Return - Pensioner	47
Swim School - Preschool	3,612
Swim School - School age	3,968
Swim School - Adult	24
Season Pass – Laps	6,318
Season Pass – Swimming Lessons	2,807
Lap Swimming	2,402
VacSwim	1,890
Carnivals - General	35
Carnivals – School	1,741
Education Department - Primary	13,618
Education Department - Jnr Primary	6,786
Aquavoucher Return - Adult	125
Aquavoucher Return - Child	90
Fitness (aqua aerobics)	674
Swim Club	374
School Groups	1,478
<b>INDIVIDUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>65804</b>
<i>Comparison 2013/14</i>	<i>56439</i>
Royal Life Saving Society	137
<b>HIRE GROUP TOTAL</b>	<b>137</b>
<i>Comparison 2013/14</i>	<i>142</i>
No Charge Spectator	10706
Education Department - Teachers	1126
<b>COMPLIMENTARY TOTAL</b>	<b>11832</b>
<i>Comparison 2013/14</i>	<i>12783</i>
<b>TOTAL ATTENDANCES</b>	<b>77773</b>
<b>Comparison 2013/14</b>	<b>69364</b>

# Infrastructure Statement

## VALLEY LAKE CONSERVATION AREA

A series of upgrade activities within the Valley Lake Conservation Area were instigated in 2013 by members of the Lions Club and Council staff. Works included;

- Demolition of part of an existing lookout with the materials salvaged for re-use;
- Construction of a new lookout using the salvaged materials;
- Re-decking of the main boardwalk over the pond;
- Installation of an irrigation system to one of the fauna enclosures;
- Pathway repairs, weed control and widening of one of the small timber bridges;
- Spreading mulch to landscaped areas and the front entry garden

Council designed and built a new feature entrance to the area, with members of the Lions Club providing labour to assist in the construction of the dolomite feature walls, timber feature fence and modifications to the existing shelter and building.

A ceremony was held at the entrance of the Conservation Area on Wednesday 20th August, 2014, to recognise the 50th Anniversary (in 2013) of the Lions Club of Mount Gambier and also to recognise the Club's contribution to the redevelopment of the Area.

Since then, Council staff, along with members of the Lions Club and other volunteers, have concentrated their efforts on effective weed control and native re-vegetation of the area along with the construction of two new bird hides and linked walking tracks.

## CARINYA GARDENS CEMETERY

There were 419 services conducted at Carinya Gardens Cemetery during the 2014/2015 year, compared with 336 for the same period in the previous year.

The Trust conducted 140 burial services at Carinya Gardens Cemetery in 2014/2015, compared with 111 the previous year.

During 2014/2015, the Trust conducted 279 cremations compared to 225 the previous year.





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# Environment Statement

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

### HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014-2015

#### Park and Stride

The City of Mount Gambier launched the Park and Stride program in November 2014 to encourage people to park in an off-street car park within the city centre and walk to do small shopping trips. It is a unique and innovative way to achieve the multiple aims of improving the vibrancy of the city centre, improving the local economy, and improving people's health, whilst helping the environment.

The program utilises paid media, including print and radio, a website, survey, information posters, and a Facebook page to promote community engagement and participation. More than 15 local businesses have demonstrated their support by offering give-aways and discounts to those who make a public commitment to Park and Stride. Selected participants have received gift vouchers from local stores as well as Park & Stride EFTPOS cards valued at up to \$50.

#### Blue Lake Solar Pedestrian Lighting

Between November 2014 and June 2015, 90 solar powered lights were installed along the footpath around the Blue Lake, and in adjacent car parks. In addition, 12 mains-powered lights were installed in the vicinity of the Blue Lake Welcome Centre (café). The primary purpose of the lights is to enable the community to use the popular site in the evenings and early mornings, particularly in the cooler months of the year when the

days are much shorter. Solar lights were selected due to their minimal environmental impact, and as a visible demonstration of Council's commitment to the environment.

This is a nationally significant project located around a nationally significant site. It is one of the largest installations of recreational solar lights in the country.

#### Environmental Commitment and the Natural Step Framework

Dr Steb Fisher of the Pathfinder Network ran a session on the Natural Step Framework and sustainability for councillors and Council staff in June 2015. This session encouraged participants to consider sustainability issues such as resource restraints, global warming and discontinuous change in a local context.

Council has a proud history of strong support for Environmental Sustainability, and is planning another seminar with Dr Fisher in the future.

#### City of Mount Gambier – Natural Step Sustainability Objectives

The 'system conditions' of the natural Step Framework are as follows:

To reduce and eventually eliminate the City of Mount Gambier's contribution to:

1. Putting substances into the environment that cannot be broken down faster than they are contributed e.g. fossil fuel-derived substances like greenhouse gas emissions and plastics.
2. Damaging the environment - physically or by contributing substances that could damage the environment and/or people e.g. air, water or soil pollution.
3. Undermining the ability of people to meet their fundamental human needs\* e.g. provide safe working and living conditions.

\*As defined by Manfred Max-Neef ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fundamental\\_human\\_needs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fundamental_human_needs)).





# Environment Statement

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

For more information on the Natural Step see: <http://www.naturalstep.org/en/faq>

### Environment Sustainability Business Award

The City of Mount Gambier continued its sponsorship of the Environment & Sustainability Award category at the 2014 Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business Awards. The award received numerous nominations with Bush Repair the overall winner. The Environment & Sustainability Award category is a great way of showcasing the sustainability achievements of local leaders and inspiring the broader Mount Gambier business community.

### Water Week

During October 2014, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), together with the City of Mount Gambier, hosted a range of community events to celebrate

and emphasise Water Week at the local level. There were free water-themed presentations at a number of primary schools in the region, which included “Water Quality Testing” and “Waterbug Detectives”. One of the main events involved opening one of the gross pollutant traps (GPT) in the Cave Gardens and cleaning it out in front of eager local school children. This display was followed by a tour of the water sensitive urban design (WSUD) features of the Library car park.

The continued support for the free Carpathon Fishing Competition at the Valley Lakes was strong, with approximately 140 registered participants.

During the week, the library story time sessions included a Water Week theme and craft activities. A public session on “Two’s Company, Three’s a Cloud – An Evening with the Weather Experts” was also held in the Main Corner. This was an interesting night of weather information from experts.

### Sustainable Communities / Tidy Towns Awards

Mount Gambier won the Best Large Town Award and the South East Regional Award in the 2014 KESAB Sustainable Communities program. In addition, the Mount Gambier Library and the City of Mount Gambier Youth Advisory Group won the Leadership & Youth Award. Opal Mount Gambier won the Health & Wellbeing Award and Café Melzar received the Environmental Sustainability Award. These awards recognise the exceptional work these organisations had been doing in and/or for the community.

### Library Solar Power

Between December 2014 and May 2015, a 57kW solar power system was installed on the roof of the Mount Gambier Library. The library is the perfect site for a commercial solar system as it is open virtually every day of the year, and occupied during the day, so the solar electricity being generated can be used directly in the building. The system will supply 25-30% of the library’s overall electricity usage. The project was undertaken in order to reduce Council’s reliance on external electricity, deliver long-term savings on electricity costs, foster local renewable energy, reduce Council’s environmental impact, and reduce its emissions.

### Earth Hour

In March, Council participated in Earth Hour 2015, ‘For the Future of Aussie Food and Farming’ to support and promote the environmental issue of climate change. The City of Mount Gambier turned off the lights for one hour at major attractions around the city including the Main Corner, City Hall, Vansittart Park, the Library, the Centenary Tower, and the Lady Nelson Brig. Additionally, screenings of the Earth Hour documentary “Where Does My Food Come From?” were held at the Main Corner before and after the event, while the library created an Earth Hour theme for its story time sessions.

### Talks for Schools and Community Groups

City of Mount Gambier environmental sustainability staff delivered a number of talks



# Environment Statement

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

and presentations to schools and community groups covering a wide variety of topics relating to environmental sustainability. The purpose of these talks is to encourage the community to live more sustainably and talk about smarter ways to live in the 21st century. Always popular with primary schools was the talk using the model water catchment, "Enviroscape".

### Valley Lake Conservation Park

A comprehensive program of restoration works at the Valley Lake Conservation Park has improved habitat for the reintroduction of native fauna that have disappeared from the region by establishing endemic flora and native vegetation. This has been a collaboration between a number of community groups, schools and agencies. Work that has been undertaken in the last twelve (12) months includes:

- Community planting days involving Scouts, Girl Guides, Lions Club and general public.
- Continuation of works program with Gordon Education Centre - revegetation, mulching, weeding general works around the park.
- Continuation of program for Youth Correctional Services - pathway maintenance and construction.
- November 2014 Kimberly-Clark Australia wanted a program to do environmental work for their staff as part of their volunteer program. They helped remove blackberries and other weeds from the island in pond 1.

- Rotary Mt Gambier donated \$600 towards wall timbers to construct 1 bird / animal hide. Second bird hide constructed from all recycled timbers and iron roof sheeting. The hides were constructed with assistance of public volunteers and Rotary.
- The Nature Glenelg Trust has grown 1400 plants for the display garden. A planting day in June had three volunteers plus 15 kids from Home Schooling program.
- Birth of the first koala in captivity.

### The City of Mount Gambier Waste & Recycling Activities

Council has undertaken a number of activities in the past 12 months designed to assist the community to reduce waste and do the right thing:

- Introduced a recycling bin for unwanted X-ray films from private individuals at the City of Mount Gambier Library

- Delivered an educational waste collection calendar to all residences.
- Updated the What to Recycle Where Guide – An A-Z guide for product recycling or disposal.
- Waste and recycling talks at schools – with interactive activities.
- Clean outs of Gross Pollutant Traps in front of school groups, highlighting the litter that is caught by the traps.
- Clean Up Australia Day.
- Participated in the National Garage Sale Trail for the first time.
- Conducted waste audits of household bins in order to let the community know what they are doing well and where they can improve.





# Environment Statement

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

### Fruit & Nut Trees

In March 2015, Council put out an Expression of Interest to partner with local residents to plant fruit and nut trees in local reserves. One of the requirements of the EOI was that local residents agree to work with their neighbours to help look after the trees - including watering over summer - and to make sure that the fruit and nuts get eaten. Residents from Limestone Court put together a strong submission to have fruit and nut trees planted in their local reserve.

On 2nd July 2015, local residents came out to help plant lemon, orange, mandarin, apple, avocado, pear and walnut trees in the reserve.

Council hopes the project will lead to greater interaction between residents, while also promoting fresh, healthy eating and the benefits of growing food locally.

### Smart Living Community Profiles

Sustainable living is smart living. Learn how to save money, improve your health and wellbeing, and tread lighter on our environment by learning from people in our community who are already doing it. Council environmental sustainability staff have compiled a number of inspiring stories that not only teach you how to live the life you want, but demonstrate that local people are already taking action ... and it's not that hard!

Smart Living profiles of local community members can be found on the "Environmental" section of the City of Mount Gambier website, located under "Sustainable Living".

### Ride 2 Work Day

On Wednesday 15th October 2014 Council hosted a free community breakfast at Mount Gambier City Hall for Ride 2 Work Day. Over 30 people dropped in throughout the morning to share breakfast and meet other riders. Mount Gambier is a very cycleable city, with almost the entire urban area being within 4-5km of the city centre by road (within 3-kilometres as the crow flies).



# Environment Statement

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

### FOOD SAFETY

#### Food Premises Inspections

Council conducts regular inspections of food premises within the Council area. A food business is defined as being any business, enterprise or activity that involves the sale of food or handling of food intended for sale. In 2014/2015, Council administered and/or conducted 276 food premise inspections using the new SA Health Food Business Risk Classification System. The food business risk classification is determined by the menu (type of

food), and the inspection frequency is based upon the type of business, the businesses client base and the history of compliance. Some foods require particular care to handle them safely; also some groups of people have greater susceptibility to food poisoning. Where an inspection reveals poor food safety practices, a follow up inspection is carried out to assess compliance. Council can impose penalties for non-compliance, including expiation fees, notices and orders to restrict the operations of a food business.

#### Administration of the Food Act 2001, During the Financial Year 2013/14

Routine inspections undertaken	163
Follow up inspections undertaken	89
Incident triggered inspections	9
Vulnerable population audit/inspections (Standard 3.2.1)	15
Total number of audits/inspections conducted under the Food Act 2001	276
Number of reasons/issues resulting in a written warning	33
Number of reasons/issues resulting in the issue of orders/notices under Food Act 2001	13
Number of reasons/issues resulting in an expiation notices issued under Food Act 2001	6
Number of alleged food poisoning complaints received	3
Number of confirmed food poisoning cases received	1

#### Food Safety Education

Council takes a pro-active approach to food safety education, providing educational opportunities for local school students, community groups and businesses. SA Health food business and community group information packs are distributed during inspections and training courses. Council's successful partnership with TAFE SA has resulted in approximately 76 food handlers attending the nationally accredited food

safety training courses held in Mount Gambier during the year. Council's Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) attend the training sessions to provide advice and to build relationships with food business owners and food handlers. Council believes food safety education is important as it positively encourages compliance and breaks down the barriers between the EHO's and food handlers. A food business food safety newsletter is distributed

twice per year and provides general advice and updates. The use of the newsletter as a free training tool for food handlers is encouraged and is also available on Council's website.

Council also subscribes to the I'm Alert online food safety training program, which is free when accessed via Council's website, with 635 individual users in the 2014/2015 period. A number of volunteer community groups have completed the training as a group using the computer room in the



## Environment Statement

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Mount Gambier Library. A CD Rom of the I'm Alert Food Safety Training is also available from the Mount Gambier Library for those food handlers who do not have internet access.

During Food Safety Week in November, a display and a hand wash demonstration for toddlers and parents was held in the Library. SA Health provided giveaways for the week, with the theme being "Temperature Danger Zone".

#### HEALTH PROMOTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

##### Disease Prevention

Council's authorised officers administer and regulate the South Australian (SA) Public Health Act 2011 and associated Regulations

for disease prevention. This includes wastewater systems, public swimming pools and spas, hairdressing, beauty and skin penetration premises, high risk manufactured water systems (Legionella) and domestic squalor. Public health web links, fact sheets

and videos have been added to Council's web site for access by industry and community members. During the year, the following complaints were administered and scheduled inspections were conducted:

#### Administration of the SA Public Health Act 2011, during the Financial Year 2013/14

Public swimming pools and spas	17
Wastewater systems	19
Domestic squalor or rodent activity	18
Hair, beauty, skin penetration premises	39
High risk manufactured water systems	4
Other	14

## COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION

The City of Mount Gambier is committed to encouraging and supporting residents to lead an active and healthy lifestyle with access to high quality local health services. The Community Health Division of Council supports the promotion of preventative and public health topics, supports the public immunisation program and provides a community sharps disposal program for residents.

#### REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN

The first draft of the City of Mount Gambier Regional Public Health Plan 2015-2020 was released for public consultation in May-June 2015. This was the community's

first glance at the Health Plan, that will help to target Council's actions over the next five years to improve the community's health status. The following 11 priorities were released for the City of Mount Gambier after the completion of a number of workshops and research:

- Poor Nutrition and Diet
- Obesity & Overweight
- Physical Inactivity
- Potentially Avoidable
- Hospital Admissions
- Degenerative & Mobility for the Aged

- Substance Abuse (tobacco, illicit drugs and alcohol)
- Mental Health
- Suicide Prevention
- Domestic Violence
- Delayed Early Childhood Development (incl. immunisations, learning, socialising)
- Dental Health

After receiving positive feedback and expressions of interest from local services to partner with Council to implement actions for priority areas, the Draft City of Mount Gambier Regional Public



# Environment Statement

## COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION

Health Plan 2015-2020 will be presented to Council in July 2015 for endorsement.

### HASTINGS CUNNINGHAM RESERVE DOG PARK

The Hastings Cunningham Reserve Dog Park is a unique facility to Mount Gambier providing a safe, secure and engaging outdoor environment for dog owners to socialise and exercise their pets off-leash. The project was launched in February 2015 attracting positive comments from the community during public consultation over the potential design and location. At the commencement of the project, there were 4,441 registered dogs in the City Council area.

The park has been designed with two separate enclosures; one recommended for smaller dogs and the other for larger dogs. Each enclosure incorporates animal exercise equipment along a walking circuit to encourage owners to exercise with their dog, whilst following them to maintain effective control of their pet. Equipment includes ramps, tunnels and jumps that have all been constructed using local recycled materials. Doggy bags, bins, drinking water for people and dogs, seating, air-lock entry/exit gates and signage are also provided.

The dog park facility was constructed through a community build in June 2015. Exercise equipment was installed onsite by the Lions Club of Mount Gambier, Mount Gambier Men's Shed, Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes and volunteering Council staff. The dog park was opened to the public

and formally named the Hastings Cunningham Reserve Dog Park in June 2015.

### IMMUNISATIONS

During the 2014/2015 financial year, Council continued to support the South East Regional Community Health Service in the provision of the Public Immunisation Sessions to assist in maintaining appropriate immunisation rates and health within our community. Public immunisation sessions are held twice a day on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, and provide for the vaccination of children in accordance with the Australian Immunisation Schedule. Adults can also be vaccinated under a user pays system. Council increased its promotion of flu and whooping cough (pertussis) vaccinations this year for children by providing additional resources in the Parenting Room in the Mount Gambier Library.

### COMMUNITY SHARPS DISPOSAL PROGRAM

The Community Sharps Disposal Program allows residents to purchase approved sharps containers and to dispose of them responsibly free of charge. The City of Mount Gambier has had 375 people register for the program since it began in 2004, with 94 sharps containers purchased over the past 12 months.

'Community sharps' is the collective term given to needles, syringes and lancets used by members of the community for the administration of medication. The increasing impact of chronic illness such as diabetes in the community and the home management of these conditions highlights the need for a safe disposal method of community sharps. Council stocks environmentally friendly fibre board sharps containers in a number of sizes. Sharps containers purchased elsewhere can also be disposed of as part of this program. Council also arranges the provision and collection of wall safe sharps containers in public toilets located in the City area.



# Environment Statement

## PLANNING DIVISION

### LOCAL HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

After completing a review of the 1994 City of Mount Gambier Heritage Survey, Council has now commenced a Local Heritage Development Plan Amendment which incorporates the survey recommendations into the Development Plan.

Council-appointed project consultants Jensen Planning are now preparing the draft DPA on behalf of Council.

The Development Plan Amendment is currently awaiting authorisation from the Minister.

### URBAN BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

The boundary adjustment process between the District Council of Grant and the City of Mount Gambier was completed by 1st July 2010. The City of Mount Gambier is currently undertaking a Development Plan Amendment to:

- Review the zoning and policies of all of the land to be transferred from the District Council of Grant to the City of Mount Gambier;

- Consider and provide policies to implement the vision for the future direction of growth and development of the City of Mount Gambier;
- Consider and develop policies to implement the recommendations as contained within the Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan February 2008;
- Adopt 'best planning practice' to promote current trends;
- Adopt the format of the modules as contained within the Better Development Plan project; and
- Review and update the envisaged forms of development within the Light Industry Zone;

The Development Plan Amendment was authorised on 28th August 2014 by the Minister.

### GATEWAY PRECINCTS DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

The need for the Gateway Precincts DPA has evolved from the Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan (GMGMP), which was adopted on 28th February 2008. The GMGMP defined three 'gateway precincts' through which the majority of visitors enter Mount Gambier at the northern, western and eastern approaches. Based on

the premise that creating a clear sense of 'arrival' strengthens the character of cities, the GMGMP recommended that detailed design frameworks be developed to enhance the visual amenity for visitors entering the city at these gateways.

The City of Mount Gambier is currently undertaking a Development Plan Amendment to:

- Introduce new urban design principles relating to the Gateway Precincts in the Council-wide section;
- Rezone sections of the Deferred Urban (Northern Gateway) to the existing Rural Living Zone and to a new Commercial Zone;
- Rezone the primary industry land within the Western Gateway Precinct to a Rural Living Zone;
- Amend the existing Rural Living Zone to introduce gateway principles;
- Introduce a new Commercial Zone; and
- Introduce a landscaping schedule for the Gateway Precincts.

The Development Plan Amendment was authorised on 28th August 2014 by the Minister.

# Environment Statement

## BUILDING DIVISION

Throughout the past financial year's periods of fluctuating construction industry activity, Council's Building Division has continued to support local builders and professionals delivering its core range of services including;

- Building rules certification of proposed development;
- Onsite 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
- Contribution 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,

including principally the National Construction Code (previously Building Code of Australia). Council's building division has, throughout 2014/2015, recorded statistics regarding the progression and state of the local construction industry as presented below;

	2014/2015	2013/2014	2012/2013
Estimated Expenditure	\$43,093,104	\$46,225,552	\$31,961,666
Dwellings	101	112	75
Dwelling additions	31	15	29
Outbuildings	181	174	162
Commercial	26	29	46
Industrial	6	6	10
Signage	16	24	12
Wastewater	0	2	0
Other	56	56	43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>377</b>



# Environment Statement

## CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER HERITAGE ADVISORY GROUP

The City of Mount Gambier Heritage Committee was established in 1991, and has recently changed its name to 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 following heritage-related projects are examples of achievements in which the City of Mount Gambier Heritage Committee has been involved in over the past twelve months:

- Heritage education and distribution of information to the public
- Advice to Council regarding appropriate Heritage Bollards/ Walks/ Brochures
- Local Heritage Restoration Fund

The following are examples of projects, in which the City of Mount Gambier Heritage Committee may be involved with in the future:

- Applications for grants for heritage-related projects
- Promotion of built and environmental heritage as a tourism asset
- Future stages of the Heritage Bollard/ Walk (significant localities)

The current members of the City of Mount Gambier Heritage Committee are:

- Mr Stephen Dunn
- Mrs Lynn Lowe
- Mr Fred Aslin
- Mr Robert Miles
- Cr Biddie Shearing/ Cr Penny Richardson
- Mr Richard Woods (South East Heritage Advisor)
- Mr Simon Wiseman - Secretary (Senior Planner - City of Mount Gambier)

Council continues to acknowledge the importance of 'heritage' to the City of Mount Gambier.

## LOCAL HERITAGE RESTORATION FUND

The Local Heritage Restoration Fund was established by the City of Mount Gambier to assist owners of Local Heritage listed places to undertake conservation work such as painting, repairs, extensions, re-roofing of their buildings. In 2014/2015, Council allocated \$15,700 as part of the 2014 Local Heritage Restoration Fund to eight (8) owners of Local Heritage Places within the City on the recommendation of Council's Heritage Advisory Group.

This is the twelfth year that Council has offered grants as part of the Local Heritage Restoration Fund, and this year, Council's Heritage Advisory Group had a strong field of applicants making for difficult choices. All the applicants that showed a proposed conservation of their Local heritage property were offered funding, which is a reflection of how important the conservation of the City's heritage is considered by Council.

The grants offered as part of the Local Heritage Restoration Fund are normally available each financial year, with all owners of Local Heritage buildings being formally advised as to when they can apply for possible funding as part of the program.

The successful applicants are able to seek their approved grant from Council upon completion of the work.



# Environment Statement

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

### KERBSIDE RECYCLING

Kerbside recycling is a well-utilised service, and the recycling effort by the community has been sustained. Council encourages everyone to use the blue bin to its fullest potential.

Information stickers have now been placed on all bin lids to assist residents to maximise their recycling effort.

Businesses are encouraged to ensure recycling becomes part of their core business. Council has recently undertaken an extensive audit of waste entering the landfill, and business waste from across the entire region still contains a substantial amount of recyclable material. "Point source segregation" of waste in order to ensure disposal to the correct waste stream will be a Council focus in the coming years.

### ORGANIC RECYCLING

Organic recycling - although a voluntary, user pays service - continues to expand, with more residents taking up this service each year.



The total amount of Greenwaste generated for the City of Mount Gambier for 2014/2015 was 3483 tonnes.

2487 tonnes was collected from from kerbside pickup (Greenwaste service).

996 tonnes was from drop-off at the transfer station.

This is an excellent outcome, as every kilogram of material is used in the production of gardening supplies (Van Schaik's Bio Gro) and represents one less kilogram going to landfill.

Organics in landfills are major producers of greenhouse gases and leachate.

Items that can be put out for organic recycling include:

- Vegetable peelings
- Fruit peelings and stones
- Meat scraps, fat and all bones
- All cooked food leftovers
- Tea bags and coffee grindings
- Solidified cooking oil

Items that cannot be put in the organic/greenwaste bin include:

- Plastic bags
- Cans and metals
- Cardboard packaging
- Foil/biscuit containers etc
- Any inorganic material
- Newspaper (unless used to wrap food scraps)

There is significant potential for the community to increase the usage of the organic recycling service.

### EWASTE RECYCLING

Ewaste recycling has been embraced by the community. Any item that has batteries or an electrical cord should now be recycled. Council seeks to raise revenue through the gate fees that equal the cost of transportation and the recycling charges of the recycling company that receives the ewaste.

The introduction of a free dump off service for televisions, computer screens etc .has continued to be extremely successful.

### WASTE OIL

Waste oil in the home is also a problem and Council has a free recycling service at the Waste Transfer Centre on Eucalypt Drive. Residents only have to take the waste oil to the Centre and tip it in the recycling container. Plastic oil bottles are also recyclable. Waste oil does NOT include kitchen cooking oils or the like, or petrol products.

Opening hours for the Waste Transfer Centre are as follows:

- Monday to Friday  
7.30am to 12 noon
- Saturday and Sunday  
2pm to 5pm

### LANDFILL

Council also constructed it's third waste cell at the Caroline Landfill using local contractors Gambier Earth Movers. The total value of the contract, which includes placing a sealing cap over cells 1 and 2 is in the order of \$1.4m. The work is expected to be completed in the 2014/2015 summer period.



## Environment Statement

# STRATEGIC BUSHFIRE PREVENTION PLAN

The aim of the Strategic Bushfire Prevention Plan is:

- As far as practical prevent bushfires starting in or entering the City of Mount Gambier
- To protect life and reduce the impact of bushfires on land and properties throughout the City of Mount Gambier
- To provide community protection from bushfire whilst ensuring the proper land management principles are taken into account
- To educate the community in bushfire prevention
- The plan is regularly reviewed and Council consults regularly with the Metropolitan Fire Service on fire related issues
- The plan identifies works that Council should undertake to minimise risk of bushfire in the Council area.

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The City of Mount Gambier allocated approximately \$90,000 towards stormwater management in 2014/2015, 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, whilst other projects involved the construction of roadside drainage swales and retention basins.

2014/2015 improvement works occurred at the following locations:

- Wandaree Court
- Tolmie Street / Law Street
- Turnbull Drive
- Ambrose Court

## GRAFFITI REMOVAL

Timely removal of graffiti is a high priority for Council, and Bedford Gambier Contracts provided a rapid response to graffiti removal in the 2014/2015 financial year.

Every effort is made to ensure the graffiti is removed as soon as possible after it is reported.



# Environment Statement

## CRATER LAKES

The City of Mount Gambier oversees the care, control and management of the Crater Lakes complex (excluding the Blue Lake). This complex is of regional, state and national significance and is a major attraction for the region, with strong visitation from locals and tourists.

Work on the redevelopment of the Valley Lake Conservation Park (formerly known as the Wildlife Park) has continued, and Council extends its thanks and appreciation to the volunteers that continue to offer their time and substantial experience to this project. The

construction of the prominent new entrance complements all of the excellent works completed. The redevelopment works have reached the stage of practical completion for the foreseeable future. Efforts are now focused towards maintaining the new vegetation and wetlands.

A number of infected trees have been removed from the Freemans Landing area and replaced with new trees. This is a staged project, with Stage 2 and 3 now completed. Council also continued with its program to remove pest 'woody' plants, namely invasive Pine and Olive trees.

The community needs to be forever vigilant to ensure the Blue Lake water quality is not compromised in any way by human activity.



## Environment Statement

# DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013-2018

Council is required by law to implement the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act. The Act requires Council to regulate dogs (in accordance with the Act) and at present, Council has the option to regulate cats. To date, Council has not resolved to regulate cats. The Dog and Cat Management Plan 2013-2018 was adopted by the City of Mount Gambier on the 18th December 2012.

Dog owners are required to ensure that their dogs are registered with Council once they reach the age of three months.

Council's Dog and Cat Management Plan has established a number of areas (known as "off leash" 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
- Frew Park

In all other areas of the City, dogs in public places must be 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.

## GENERAL INSPECTORIAL INCLUDING DOG CONTROL

The following statistics are provided in respect of the Division of Inspectorial and Dog Control for the 2014/2015 year.

Dog expiations	80
Dog complaints	713
Dog impoundments	151
Dog attack report	4
Parking offences	610
Longrass notices	224
Fire permits	28
Cattle impoundments (sheep and cows)	0
Vehicle impoundments	2
Dog Registrations	4,834
Payment to SEAWL (Councils pound)	\$28,600
Dog expiation income	\$13,209.68
Dog registration fees	\$109,499.30



# Environment Statement

## BLUE LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Unfortunately the Blue Lake Management Committee (a formal Sub-Committee of the South East Natural Resources Management Board - SENRMB) was disbanded during 2014/2015 by resolution of the SENRMB.

The Committee had been active over several decades and was responsible for the production of the Blue Lake Management Plan.

It is yet to be confirmed whether a successor organisation evolves to continue this important work of understanding the Blue Lake and its environs, and sharing this information with the community.

There is still much to do and Council remains committed to any successor organisation.



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# Community Statement

## COMMUNITY, SERVICES, LIFESTYLE, WELFARE AND WELL BEING

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

In addition to other contributions that may be referenced in this Annual Report, Council provided the following direct financial support for 2014/2015:

Care Ring Telephone Service (Lifeline SE)	\$2,000
Crime Prevention initiatives (Security Foot Patrols, CCTV Cameras, Graffiti Control, Lighting)	\$17,036
General Community Donations	\$22,713
Lambert Village - supported residential facility (for capital improvements)	\$5,000
Life Education Centre	\$5,000
Senior Citizens' Centre (maintenance to building/other expenses)	\$5,705
Seniors' Month/Seniors Activities	\$2,436
Syringe Disposal Service	\$2,960
Youth Advisory Committee and projects	\$4,291
Reidy Park Centre	\$9,449
Mount Gambier City Band	\$6,000
Mount Gambier Toy Library	\$2,000
Main Corner Complex (incorporating City Hall and Institute) – subsidised hire charges to community groups (discounted value)	\$64,082
Wehl Street Theatre (Centrestage)	\$20,583
Community Events Support	\$26,189
Naidoc Week	\$1,000
Heritage Restoration Fund	\$17,500
Mount Gambier Christmas Parade	\$22,140
Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle (OPAL)(Net Cost)	\$47,700
Citizenship Ceremonies	\$9,662
Stand Like Stone Foundation	\$8,000
The Junction	\$1,000
Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West - Careers Expo	\$1,500
Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce Business Awards	\$1,000
Christmas Decorations - Purchase/Display Costs	\$41,046
Tertiary Education grants	\$28,000
New Years Eve Celebrations (Mount Gambier Community Events)	\$12,000
Party in the Park (Rotary Mount Gambier West)	\$1,000
Blue Lake Fun Run	\$2,500



## Community Statement

# COMMUNITY, SERVICES, LIFESTYLE, WELFARE AND WELL BEING

Eisteddfods (Backstage Inc.)	\$5,000
Australia Day Breakfast	\$5,000
Mount Gambier Gold Cup Races	\$2,000
Active Community Team Challenge	\$2,000
Suicide Prevention Network	\$3,000
	\$438,083

(Some incomes and/or grants may have been received to offset the costs of some of the above initiatives.)

## CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Council supports a number of crime prevention / anti-social measures including:

### MOUNT GAMBIER LICENSING ACCORD

A regular forum involving SAPOL, Liquor and Gaming Commissioner, Hotel / Club Licensees, Council and other key stakeholders.

### MOUNT GAMBIER DRY AREAS

Council maintains five (5) State Government-approved Dry Areas within the City of Mount Gambier.

The proclaimed Dry Areas are:

- Mount Gambier City Centre (Area 1)
- Vansittart Park Oval (Area 3) and Surrounding Areas (Area 2)
- Dimjalla Park (Area 4)
- AF Sutton Memorial Park (Area 5)

### CCTV SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

Council, in partnership with SAPOL, has cameras installed at various strategic locations within the City Centre.

The cameras are monitored by the Mount Gambier Police Station and have proved to be an effective initiative.

### UNDER VERANDAH LIGHTING

Lighting has been installed under verandahs with the assistance and co-operation of property owners in the City Centre area to assist in the prevention of anti-social behaviour.



# Community Statement

## CALL CENTRE

Council has an out-of-hours call service to ensure that customers are assured of personal contact on a 24/7 basis. Call centre services are provided by Well Done International, and the service provides a wide scope of information to out-of-hours callers, with any emergencies referred directly to key personnel.

Common out-of-hours calls include:

- Activated alarms on Council property
- Burning off
- Dog Issues
- Waste Management information
- Rates information
- Flooding
- Traffic/parking issues

The following statistics provide a brief overview of call centre operations over the past four financial years:

	Total Number of Calls 2011/12	Total Number of Call 2012/13	Total Number of Calls 2013/14	Total Number of Calls 2014/15
July	67	117	85	70
August	83	78	106	77
September	43	102	108	86
October	No call centre in operation	107	103	78
November	No call centre in operation	123	83	106
December	No call centre in operation	173	<b>222</b>	<b>216</b>
January	No call centre in operation	119	152	119
February	119	106	93	86
March	103	144	112	101
April	101	131	98	74
<b>May</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>1,114</b>



## Community Statement

### YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

The Mount Gambier City Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is made up of people aged 13 - 25 years, who meet monthly to plan events and discuss / consult on youth needs, issues and concerns. The YAG aims to promote a positive image of young people through interaction with Council as a 'youth voice', and through the design and facilitation of relevant, contemporary and diverse activities, events and forums.

During the year, YAG members participated in raising funds for local service providers for the Mayor's Christmas Appeal at the Mount Gambier Christmas Parade.

The City of Mount Gambier was successful in gaining 2015 National Youth Week funding through the SA Department for Communities and Social Inclusion. This funding is sought annually, and forms the basis for the Youth Week Program each year. Additional funding for activities comes from the Youth Advisory Group and Library

Budgets. In total, Mount Gambier Youth Week events attracted an estimated 500 people.

A key highlight event identified by the YAG this year, was the 'Let's Talk About Sex(uality)' forum. The forum was developed in response to a visit to a YAG meeting by parents who raised concerns about the high suicide rates amongst gay, bisexual and transgender young people in Australia. The YAG decided to host a forum as a platform to safely talk about sexual diversity. The event was well attended, and provided an opportunity for increased support for this group.

A partnership with the Mount Gambier Youth Music Project was another Youth Week highlight, with young people playing live music in front of the Main Corner throughout the week to the surprise and delight of many.

The YAG represented the views and opinions of young people both locally - through the Draft Futures Paper - and at a state level this year, contributing to ideas for the development of a local headspace centre, and feedback regarding a South Australian Commissioner for children and young people.

The group continued to administer the Mount Gambier City Youth Facebook Page, networking in with other young people across the region. The relationship with Rotary saw two young people selected to take part in Rotary's youth leadership opportunities through the RYLA program. YAG worked in partnership with the Migrant Resource Centre to run a youth leadership program during Youth Week 2015, and two members once again actively participated in Youth Parliament.



# Community Statement

## BIG PLAY DAY OUT – AT JOHN POWELL RESERVE

The City of Mount Gambier has become increasingly aware of the health and wellbeing benefits of exploring and connecting with nature - particularly with regards to children by way of learning and improved cognitive development.

Council has developed the John Powell Reserve into a naturescape in order to both beautify the area and increase outdoor learning opportunities and engagement for local children and the community. The Reserve is located on John Powell Drive, close to the Corner of Maxwell Street and is accessible from the path that travels through the rear car park of the Mulga Street Primary School.

Featuring undulating ground and hills ideal for rolling down, the site

is a terrific play space for local children. It offers a large sandpit, an embedded old tree perfect for scrambling over, and a bridge made from discarded railway material to traverse the body of water which surrounds the site after a big rain. A path now circles the main play area with a sentry of trees growing alongside.

March's Big PLAY Day Out was the first large community day at the revitalised reserve, offering a chance for hundreds of locals to connect to the site and celebrate the joy of outdoor play. This reserve became a development site for a day, with children building a huge cardboard village, devising ways to have fun with waste, making art works for the site, planting

up wicking beds of edible foods for future local consumption, and learning about the universe overhead, which is so perfectly viewed from John Powell Reserve's vast night sky.

Following on from the Big PLAY Day Out, local residents planted a number of fruit trees at the reserve in June during the launch of Council's edible Cities program. John Powell Reserve is an evolving Naturescape which will benefit from community participation in its development, and the City of Mount Gambier looks forward to working with the public to develop other creative community days in local reserves across the City.



## Community Statement

# 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 specific sporting organisations who have agreed to become financial members.

The Fund provides financial support for those junior sports persons who have achieved State selection or better in a specific sport. The financial transactions and financial position of the Fund for 2014/2015 was as follows:-

	\$
Assistance to Juniors	15,200
Support for special Coaching Clinics	4,930
Assistance to Disadvantaged Juniors	2,400
Members' Contributions	11,109
Councils' Contributions	16,000
Bank Interest earned	731
Donations received	1,700
Sponsorship of Programs received	3,400
Other Expenses	-
Government and Bank Charges	7
Cash at Bank, 30th June 2015	60,447

For the Twenty Nine (29) years of the Fund's operations, the consolidated transactions to 30th June 2015 are as follows:-

	\$
Assistance to Juniors	416,605
Support for special Coaching Clinics	75,383
Assistance to Disadvantaged Juniors	4,390
Members' Contributions	144,017
Councils' Contributions	276,500
Bank Interest earned	66,649
Donations received	40,086
Sponsorship of Programs received	17,900
Other Expenses	300
Government and Bank Charges	1,322
Cash at Bank, 30th June 2015	60,447

It is to be noted 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.

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

- 22 sporting organisations/clubs are members of the Fund.
- Commercial Club Inc again provided a very generous \$2,500 donation to the Fund.
- Members resigned / suspended were:- Mount Gambier Athletics Talent and Development Squad (resigned).
- Funding formula is based on contributions from the Fund to Member organisations and not on the number of juniors a member organisation has i.e. the more an organisation receives from the Fund the more an organisation will need to contribute.
- The Mount Gambier and District Bendigo Community Bank has generously agreed to sponsor the Funds Annual Coaching Clinic Program to a maximum of \$5,000 (applied for each year).
- 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 is up to \$3,000 and is part of the surplus from the Blue Lake Fun Run.



## Community Statement

### LIFE EDUCATION

Life Education continues to provide preventative drug and health education programs to young people in Mount Gambier.

In Term 1, 2015 the following schools received visits from the mobile classroom and 557

students within the Council area accessed the Life Education Centre resources.

Schools	Students	Council Subsidy \$
Allendale East Area School	173	1,038
Suttontown Primary School	97	582
Melaleuca Park Primary School	180	1,080
Moorak Primary School	107	642
TOTAL	557	3,342

Unfortunately many families genuinely struggle with through financial hardship to meet the fees. Council's funding of \$6 per child is directly used to offset this charge, reducing the fee for Mount Gambier families. Life Education SA Inc apply a policy that no child is to miss out on the programs due to economic hardship and local service club and other community support further assist such families.

Council area are invited to have the mobile classroom attend their schools. The programs cover years R-10, are age appropriate and designed to be delivered on an annual basis.

Council provided the sum of

\$5,000 to the organisation in the 2014/2015 financial year of which \$3,342 was used to provide the subsidy and the balance to offset administration and educator costs.

All primary schools within the

## AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

Ten (10) Citizenship Ceremonies were conducted during the 2014/2015 financial year, with a total of 85 people receiving Australian Citizenship. This year, the City of Mount Gambier welcomed new residents from Argentina, Congo, Egypt, England, India, Myanmar, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Syria, Thailand,

United Kingdom, United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

At each public ceremony, Members of Soroptimist International of Mount Gambier presented a gift to each of our newest citizens. In addition, the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia provided South Australian

Councils with complimentary tickets to the 2015 Royal Adelaide Show as a special gift for each person who received Australian Citizenship in South Australia prior to September.



# Community Statement

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL INCLUSION

Council has formed a focused Community Engagement & Social Inclusion sub committee comprising:

- Cr Hanna Persello (Presiding Member)
- Cr Mark Lovett
- Cr Penny Richardson
- John Amoroso (community)
- Rob Foggo (community)
- Caroline Hill (community)
- Emma Milera (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.

Throughout 2014/2015 the sub committee has sought to formally acknowledge the traditional custodians of our land and build respectful partnerships with our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.

On the 28th of August 2014 representatives of the Community Engagement & Social Inclusion (CESI) Sub-Committee met with Mark Waters, State Manager of Reconciliation South Australia to gain insight into how organisations develop successful Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP's).

If developing a RAP it was stated clearly that words without actions are meaningless. The RAP tool sharpens an organisations focus beyond good intentions – to actions. A RAP provides a public responsibility for measurements and outcomes. It's an organisations

commitment to reconciliation- within a publicly transparent encounter.

Identifying what local issues Council wish to address through the RAP, through consultation, is key to developing an effective local reconciliation action tool.

It was moved at the meeting of Council held on Tuesday, 16th September 2014 that the Community Engagement & Social Inclusion Sub-Committee initiate a Reconciliation Action Plan as a matter of priority within the next 12 months using a Cultural Governance model. A further resolution was passed by Council in June 2015 to endorse the RAP as the key focus area for 2015/2016.

Further to the RAP; a special meeting of Council was held on the 1st of September 2014 to mark the auspicious occasion of the unfurling the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags for permanent display in the Council Chamber. The meeting commenced with a smoking ceremony in the courtyard of the Civic Centre. There was strong public attendance at this significant and moving meeting, and solid recognition from all that the permanent display in the Council Chamber of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags was a proud and important step forward for our community.



# Community Statement

## AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2015

Each Australia Day, the Mount Gambier community is encouraged to rise early to share a cooked breakfast in the Cave Gardens in the lead-up to the annual Australia Day Awards honouring the outstanding achievements of local individuals and groups. On 26th January 2015, Council presented its Australia Day Awards to:

### CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

**Pauline Kenny** - The driving force behind the Sunset Kitchen, inspiring a large team of volunteers to enhance local food security through the provision of meals served by the kitchen. Pauline is a former school principal and is recognised and highly respected for her selfless volunteering, her ability to motivate and mobilise local action and promotion of inclusivity and support in the Mount Gambier community.

**Maxine Tuffnell** - Recognised for years of dedicated charity support, most notably through volunteering to raise funds and awareness for cancer research and support. Maxine is a dedicated and tireless volunteer working uncompromisingly to help find a cure for cancer, and has volunteered closely with community groups and charity organisations in Mount Gambier and surrounding areas since 1986.

**Henny Nieuwendyk** - A famed local sportsman and elite level soccer coach. Many sports people across our region have benefited from Henny's willingness to volunteer his services without hesitation to enhance the quality of sports, health and physical rehabilitation in our area. Henny migrated to

Australia from Holland in 1958 in search of a better life, becoming a citizen in 1965. He was admitted to the International Soccer Club Hall of Fame in 2011.

**Karyn Roberts** - Recognised for her vast contribution to our City's cultural sector and growing reputation as the Jazz Capital of Australia. Karen is a passionate music lover and patron of the arts, and has been instrumental in leading the growth of Generations in Jazz to become one of the best youth music events in Australia. Having finished with Generations in Jazz last year, the community looks forward to seeing other regional projects develop under Karyn's cultural leadership. Karyn's legacy epitomises the valuable contribution volunteer leaders make to cultural life in their communities.

### YOUNG CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

**Jade Maiden** - A Grant High School student who has actively taken a stand against child slavery. Jade has mobilised other young people in Mount Gambier to do the same by developing community events to raise funding and public awareness.

**Susan Giles** - A quiet achiever, this talented cellist and Year 11 Mount Gambier High School student used music to support fundraising efforts during the 2014 Limestone Coast Relay for Life event. She inspired all relay participants with her desire to complete the entire 19 hours non-stop in recognition and support for cancer sufferers.

### COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR

The 2015 Australia Day Community Event of the Year award goes to the Lakes Rotary Club of Mount Gambier for their involvement in the organisation of the Blue Lake Fun Run for 5 years. Originally an Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle (OPAL) initiative, the Fun Run offers 3.2, 6.8 and 10.4-km distances, with participation levels now topping 1200.

A special thank you once again to Mount Gambier Rotary Lakes volunteering to cook the breakfast for the public to enjoy. Thank you, also, to all of those who donated their time entertaining the crowd in the lead-up to the Australia Day Ceremony.





## Community Statement

# CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 2014

Clean Up Australia Day 2015 was held over two days in Mount Gambier; the Schools Clean Up Day took place on Friday, 27th February and the Community Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, 1st March.

Participation in the Schools Clean Up Day almost doubled in 2015, with hundreds of children and teachers cleaning up their school grounds and surrounding areas. Locally, 10 schools participated this year, which was a huge increase on the six schools in 2014. Schools participation in this environmental initiative helps to clean up the community and also educates children to recycle and reduce the amount of rubbish going into landfill.

The Community Clean Up Australia Day event involved approximately 133 volunteers and seven registered community sites. Volunteers collected a total of 36 bags, which included approximately 19 bags of rubbish and 17 bags of recyclables. Significantly less rubbish than previous years was collected, which is encouraging to see, however feedback from participants indicated that rubbish left in car parks in the CBD areas remains high. The Community Clean Up Day was again supported by the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes, who provided a BBQ lunch for all volunteers on the day.



## MOUNT GAMBIER CHRISTMAS PARADE

### CELEBRATES 55 YEARS

The Mount Gambier Christmas Parade has delighted the people of Mount Gambier and District each year since 1959, heralding the arrival of Father Christmas and the festive season to the City. The parade involves local people from service clubs, schools, businesses, families and individuals who all work together to bring a unique, quality family event to the community. The 2014 Christmas Parade celebrated 55 years since the Junior Chamber of Commerce started the event at 9.30am on Saturday 5th December 1959. An extract from the Border Watch on 8th December 1959 recounts:

“Mount Gambier’s first Christmas Pageant packed the biggest crowd ever seen into Commercial Street to enjoy a gay and colourful procession of 25 decorated floats and another 26 marching groups, clowns, bands and novelties.”

That 1959 pageant started at Vansittart Park, and then headed east along Commercial Street to Crouch Street. It now travels in the opposite direction, and has grown considerably, with 11 bands and 44 floats participating in this year’s event in front of large crowds. There were many 2014 Parade highlights.

The Youth Advisory Group joined the Mayor’s Annual Christmas Appeal “Star Float”, and YAG clowns

encouraged the public to donate towards this worthy cause to help those less fortunate enjoy a better festive season.

Each year, the Lions Club “Blue Lake City Brass Band Festival” combines with the Christmas Parade, with local and visiting marching bands performing much-loved Christmas Carols along the length of the Parade route. Eleven brass bands from across Victoria and South Australia competed in a street march and competition before the 2014 Parade, followed by a performance at a public concert and competition in the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre, with major prizes on offer.



# Community Statement

## MOUNT GAMBIER CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Mount Gambier Rotary West Club held their annual "Party in the Park" in the Cave Gardens following the Parade. Children and parents could meet Father Christmas, with musical and dance performances, face painting and a bouncy castle also provided as entertainment. Extra entertainment was also provided along Commercial Street to celebrate the 55th year of the Parade, with performances from local dancing groups, singing groups, African Drummers, the Generations in Jazz Band, a Vintage Car Club display and the Mil-Lel Steam and Machinery Association giving rides for the children behind their small steam traction engines.

The SA Police Band concert at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre on Friday night was a highlight of the Parade weekend, along with having the band perform at the Brass Band Festival on the Saturday. The Police Band led the Parade, and also did a public performance near the Old Town Hall at the conclusion of the march.

Public feedback suggested this was the best Christmas Parade ever, with many varied and exciting colourful floats. It was a tremendous effort by all the community members involved and by the Parade Advisory Group.

WIN Television provided the following awards for the 2014 Parade winners:

Most Outstanding	"Christmas Down on the Farm" by Mulga Street Primary School
Best Christmas Theme	"Christmas 100 Years ago" by Mount Gambier Rotary Club and Murray Langford
Best School Entry	"Frosty's Christmas" by Compton Primary School
Best Club or Community Organisation	"Santa's away, the Elves will play" by Once-Upon-a-Wish
Best Out of Town	"Christmas under the Sea" by Nangwarry Primary School
Best Musical	"UMOJA Drummers" by North Gambier Primary School and New Arrivals Program
Best Brass Band	Geelong West Brass Band
Best Individual	"How much is the Doggy in the window?" By David Hill, Maureen Opperman and Carol Winterfield
Encouragement Award	"Summer Fun" by Gordon Education Centre



## Community Statement

# THE MOUNT GAMBIER SENIOR'S FESTIVAL

The Mount Gambier Senior's Festival aims to celebrate the achievements of people in our community who are over 55, and 2014 marked the 21st year the City of Mount Gambier has held this event. The celebrations saw a name change from the Every Generation Festival to the Mount Gambier Senior's Festival, and the party flowed across a fortnight of activities, which saw local businesses, clubs and organisations partner for the duration of the Festival.

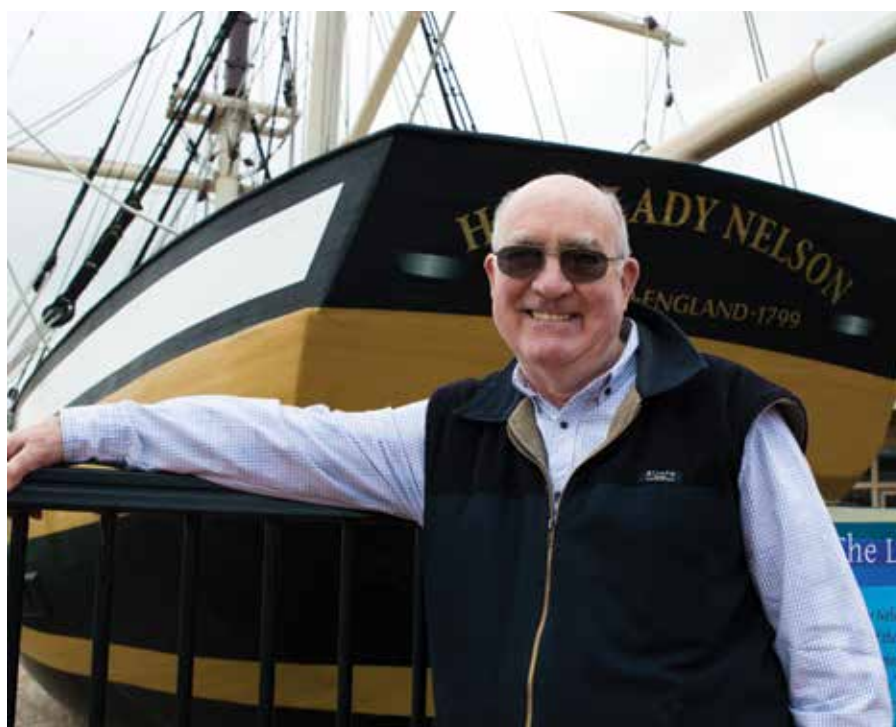
The opening birthday celebrations took place during an afternoon of entertainment, music, food and laughter at the Mount Gambier and Districts Senior Citizen's Club, and culminated in another packed concert courtesy of the Mount Gambier City Band and the Mount Gambier City Concert Band.

As with many community events, the added support of local businesses, service clubs and organisations enables the Senior's Festival to provide such a diverse program of events. Key features of this year's festival included a week of free travel for seniors on local transport courtesy of McCormick's Mount Gambier City Bus Service. Highlights included free come and try fitness classes for over 55's at Active8 Health and Sports Centre and two screenings of South Australian film 'The Ride,' an inspiring documentary which traced the adventure of four men who traded in their wheelchairs for quad bikes on an outback Aussie adventure. The screenings included live Q&A with the filmmakers.

TAFE SA hosted a range of local workshops focusing on everything from understanding modern car mechanics to beauty and nail care. In addition, the Surviving Retirement forum featured a range of guest speakers with retirement tips to inspire the audience, with art classes, bushwalking and open days also on offer.

An active Festival Advisory Group is made up of representatives from different sports and recreation clubs, service agencies and other local groups whose active seniors organise events and activities to aid celebrations each year. Council works alongside this group offering administrative and financial support to ensure the diverse range of activities.

Since 1993, Council has celebrated Senior's recognising the remarkable local achievements they make and duly awarded 47 Senior's in our community through the Senior Citizen of the Year and Recreation Awards. In 2014, in conjunction with the Lions Club of Gambier City and the Lions Club of Mount Gambier, both of these awards went to those with a long history of community volunteering. Hywell Griffith was named Senior of the Year, in recognition of his extraordinary community volunteering legacy and the 2014 Recreation Award went to local activity group Chat N'Craft.



# Community Statement

## THE MAIN CORNER

The Main Corner continues to reinforce its status as the cultural and conference 'hub' of Mount Gambier, embracing sophisticated technology with a strong sense of history and geology and providing unique and diverse venues for community organisations, agencies and the general public to meet and share information and celebrations.

### ATTENDANCE RECORD

The Main Corner maintained a stable attendance record with an average of 4,400 people per month. The significant increase in August can be attributed to the SciWorld Sunday community event.

MONTH	ATTENDANCE	MONTH	ATTENDANCE
July 2013	5,059	January 2014	4,364
August 2013	7,041	February 2014	3,443
September 2013	4,804	March 2014	4,788
October 2013	6,039	April 2014	4,899
November 2013	5,801	May 2014	4,474
December 2013	4,298	June 2014	3,933

Some of the more notable events the Main Corner has hosted include:

- Soul Arts Convention
- NAIDOC awards
- Victim Support Services Mock Trials
- 100 Mile Classic
- Migrant Resource Centre Intergenerational Forum
- Cyber Safety workshops
- Limestone Coast Community Services Round Table
- SciWorld
- CPR4Kids
- Gold Cup Carnival Cocktail evening
- Ovarian Cancer Chemmart Fundraiser
- History of Fashion exhibition
- Bowls SA
- Alzheimer's Australia
- Seniors Week Film Screenings
- National Story Telling Day
- 'The Ride' Film Screening
- Cave Divers Association
- Ride 2 Work Day Breakfast
- EXPOS (B& P Travel,
- Recycled Fashion Show
- National Water Week
- Australian Breast Feeding Association Shopping Spree
- White Ribbon Cocktail event
- Community Action for Sustainability Public documentary screenings
- City of Mount Gambier citizenship ceremony
- Gordon Education Centre art exhibition
- Mount Gambier Baptist Church Anniversary exhibition
- Cross Border Conference
- Lifeline Anti Poverty program
- Foodbank 10th Anniversary
- 50 things to do before you turn 13 launch
- AIGSE Awards Night
- City of Mount Gambier 60th anniversary
- Australia Day Award recipients morning tea
- Community Christmas Lunch
- Pangula Suicide Action Plan Launch
- Mediation SA workshops
- Bionomics Presentation





## Community Statement

### THE MAIN CORNER

- 64th anniversary 1951 Scouts Jamboree
- Prime Minister's Community Morning Tea
- Office for Ageing - Residential laws
- SA Visitor Information Centre Conference
- Youth Week Launch and Loc8 events
- Youth Week launch and Scavenger Hunt
- Generations in Jazz Welcome Reception
- Pangula Mannamurna concert and linguistic workshops
- Earth Hour
- Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission
- Community Road Awareness Programme
- Civic Reception - 150th - Old Court House
- World No Tobacco Day
- Women in Business and Regional Development Cocktail Night
- Music Biz workshops for Youth
- Mind Australia workshops for Mental Health
- Regional Suicide Prevention Network
- Relay for Life Launch
- Integrated Vulnerability to Climate Change Workshops

#### PRIME MINISTER'S COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

Mid-March we hosted the Community Morning Tea function for the Honourable Tony Abbott, Prime Minister of Australia. The work in the lead-up to the event required attention to security detail working alongside federal and local police. A total of 250 community members attended the function, and the feedback we received from MP Tony Pasin's office referred to the event as 'perfect'.

#### JAMES MORRISON ACADEMY OF MUSIC AT UNISA

The James Morrison Academy of Music opened in March 2015, and now occupies the Old Town Hall and Institute Building. The Main Corner has become an integral part of their operations, with weekly presentation classes being held in the Dress Circle. The Dress Circle was also the venue used for major performances including the opening with SA Premier Jay Weatherill in attendance, as well as the end of Semester performance and a special presentation with James Morrison and Marian Petrescu.

#### HISTORY OF FASHION EXHIBITION

The History of Fashion exhibition was provided by Capital Collections in Canberra and displayed five dates that were significant in Australian History, with the fashion of those dates represented. The exhibition also included ipads with relevant video, and was popular with high schools in the area. Two delegates from Canberra attended the opening, which was launched by local fashion icon Wendy Richardson from Redgum Country.

#### SOUL ARTS CONVENTION

The Soul Arts Convention saw more than 100 youths attend up to 34 performing arts workshops over two days, utilising every venue of the Main Corner and flowing into the Library. Event organisers provided renowned choreographers in the industry whose credits included So You Think You Can Dance, The Voice and MTV.





# Community Statement

## MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY

The Mount Gambier Library demonstrates that modern libraries are about engaging the community and creating a sense of excitement and pride through innovative programming and special events that emphasize the value of literacy and learning. The vision behind the development of the Mount Gambier Library has incorporated excellence in library spaces, programs, and the use of information technology to provide the community with a contemporary environment to support their learning journey.

### FINDING MY PLACE

Finding MY Place is an alternative learning program where at-risk youth develop skills needed for both careers and life after school. The program has only been made possible with the support and participation of local business and community organisations that freely give their time to conduct workshops with the students. The 10-week program features a Mayoral graduation ceremony at the end where students are presented with certificates and prizes donated by local businesses and library volunteers.

### HISTORY MONTH

History Month is held as part of the About Time SA History Festival and celebrates our connection with the past and our collections, places and stories through an amazing range of history-related activities. More than 1,000 people attended activities ranging from documentary screenings, author and school visits, an historical exhibition and numerous workshops. In partnership with the Mount Gambier Local History Group, a cemetery tour exploring our early pioneers and how their lives shaped Mount Gambier was a fitting end to the month.

### LOUD IN THE LIBRARY

LOUD in the Library transforms the Library into an entertainment and learning arena filled with 250 young people as part of Youth Week activities. Live music and dance performances are combined with key community outreach agencies and activities to provide a place that is safe, socially engaging, entertaining and that could potentially impart life skills to young people in our community.

The event is made possible through the generous support of local community agencies and youth that volunteer their time to provide music and dance throughout the evening.

### EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

The Library continues to focus on improving the quality of our early literacy programs, which include Baby Bounce, Move and Groove and Storytime. Children's programming staff attended a Building Foundations for Early Learning workshop, and we have now adopted principles and practices to underpin children's early learning in all of our sessions. Over 7,000 children and parents participated in sessions this year.

### BOOKS IN HOMES

The Mount Gambier Library in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier and DECD have partnered to promote the importance of reading and literacy in the home with the introduction of the Books in Homes Program. The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier donated \$4,000 to fund the program, with DECD selecting the reception students of Mulga Street Primary School as the first participants. Over the year, students select and receive nine books to keep and read at home. Library staff also visit classrooms to share stories and craft and promote the importance of reading. The students also get to visit the library for special book giving and storytime sessions, and a pack of books is donated to the school library.



# Community Statement

## MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY STATISTICS

### UNLEASHED OPEN DATA COMPETITION

Mount Gambier Library was chosen as the first regional location to host the Unleashed Open Data Competition, part of the National GovHack Competition held simultaneously across the country from 11-13 July. Unleashed provides an opportunity for web and application developers, open data and visualisation gurus, journalists, graphic designers, researchers and anyone interested in playing with data to come together over a single weekend. Teams work together to create new mashups, data visualisations and apps with open data from government, research and industry. The concepts on promoting the data to the public didn't have to be fully functioning or a complete website or application – just a great idea needed to be formed with teams promoting their idea via a 3 minute recording which was uploaded by the deadline. Judges across the state watched these videos and chose winners across various categories, with a local Mount Gambier team winning local prizes sponsored by Green Triangle Electronics and Friends of the Library, and a State Award sponsored by Adelaide City Council.

### ONE CARD NETWORK

The One Card Network now connects public libraries across South Australia, and is being used as a platform from which to offer other co-ordinated statewide services such as databases and online resources. In 2014/2015, Mount Gambier Library sent 17,315 items to other libraries and received 15,390 items from other libraries for our borrowers.

Loans	2014/2015	2013/2014
Adult Fiction	82,343	92,199
Adult Non-Fiction	37,594	39,386
Large Print	21,199	26,393
Ebooks	7,981	5,248
Childrens Fiction	56,094	62,934
Childrens Non-Fiction	6,088	6,980
Graphic Novels	4,715	3,927
Jigsaws	(in other)	961
Magazines	12,809	14,506
Emagazines	3,897	4,599
Music CD	9,293	9,679
CD ROM	181	610
DVD	115,097	125,076
Hear a Books	6,091	6,570
Eaudiobooks	4,616	2,160
Community Languages	326	316
Interlibrary Loans	35	46
Bikes	566	302
Other	368,925	401,892
<b>Loans</b>	<b>368,925</b>	<b>401,892</b>
	2014/2015	2013/2014
Door Count	394,172	395,822
Internet (hours)	25,860	24,285
Baby bounce, Storytime, Move & Groove	7,203	7,925
Holiday Activities	2,241	2,115
School and Outreach Visits	2,257	3,600
Adult and other programs	1,923	2,731
JP Service	1,197	882
Author Events	3,282	976
Visits per head of population	15.02	15.17
Number of borrowers	20,891	22,452

The Library continues to contribute to strengthening our community through innovative, creative programs and library services, which have been built on the belief that the future of libraries lies in their ability to engage with communities, building strong social

networks as well as meeting their learning and recreational needs through the exploration of new opportunities.



# Mount Gambier Library

## Usage and Patronage Report 2014/2015

In 2014/2015

**20,891** Registered Patrons

Borrowed

**368,925** Items

**32,847** People visited  
EACH MONTH

**394,172**

Visitors for the **YEAR!**

That's **15X**

the **ENTIRE** population  
of the City of  
Mount Gambier.

### PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Baby Bounce	3,160
Move and Groove	1,749
Storytime	2,294
50 School Visits	2,257
School Holiday Programs	2,241
17 Author Events	3,282
61 Other Programs	1,923
127 Computer Lessons	485

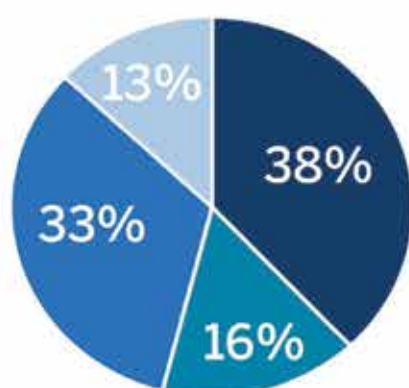


MALE  
VS  
FEMALE  
PATRONS

62%



### Registered Users By Age



Under 24  
25-34 Years  
35-64 Years  
65+ Years

### "ONE CARD" items

**15,390** items received from other  
libraries for Mount Gambier borrowers

**17,315** items sent by Mount Gambier  
to other libraries

**98%**

of patrons believe the **Mount Gambier Library**  
is an important place for the **COMMUNITY.**

# 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 2011, 2006, 2001, 1996 and 1991 Censuses of Population and Housing. The profile is updated with population estimates when the Australian Bureau of Statistics (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 clear 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 Australian Bureau of Statistics data, analysed and presented by population experts and funded by the City of Mount Gambier.

Council encourage the use of this extensive on-line resource which is available via the Community Profile button on the homepage of Council's website.

## 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 encourage the use of this extensive on-line resource which is available via the Community Profile button on the homepage of Council's website.



# Community Statement

## MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The City of Mount Gambier wishes to thank everyone who has so generously donated to the Mayor's Christmas Appeal over recent years, and the volunteers who continue to support this initiative.

Last year alone, the proceeds of the Mayor's Christmas Appeal enabled us to distribute \$29,000 worth of community contributions to vulnerable and isolated people in our City. We assisted more than 550 families - including over 750 children - with Christmas hampers, vouchers or gifts.

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
- The Salvation Army

Additional coordination support was once again offered through the Sunset Kitchen and Families SA.

The Christmas Parade alone again saw more than \$3,000 contributed by the crowd via collection buckets held by our young clowns as they walked down the Main Street.

The success of this appeal is a direct reflection of the strong community spirit of our City's residents.

## YPN - YOUR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Your Professional Network (YPN) is Mount Gambier's social and professional support network, established to provide a platform for like-minded professionals. YPN facilitates constructive inter-professional networking in both formal and social settings. The network supports new professionals to build networks and integrate into our community, particularly those who have either relocated for employment/career purposes, are returning to the district, or are focusing on professional development and rural work placements.

YPN focuses on a number of areas;

- Supporting new people settling in Mount Gambier;
- Assisting people (new and local) who would like to progress their careers;
- Assisting people who are establishing or looking to grow their business;
- Identifying established professionals or business owners willing to assume a mentor role.
- Linking people through social networking and professional development opportunities.

In 2014/2015, YPN co-ordinated regular social meet and mingle events at Mac's Hotel, whilst encouraging gatherings at arts, cultural and volunteering events in Mount Gambier. Keeping people in the loop about opportunities available in and around town through Facebook, and offering the opportunity to access them with other people has been a key focus over the past 12 months.



# Economic & Regional Statement

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# Economic & Regional Statement

## REGIONAL FUNDING SUPPORT

Throughout this annual report, Council makes significant references to its genuine willingness to work regionally to further the common good of the South East region or the provincial regions of our State.

A vibrant and successful South East region will provide benefits to Mount Gambier and/or this Council.

The following are the more significant Council contributions provided to State and/or regional organisations for 2014/2015:

Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast	\$23,000
Regional Tourism	\$28,000
Local Government Association of South Australia	\$33,000
Provincial Cities Association	\$11,000
Regional Recreation and Sport position	\$12,000
Regional Waste Officer Position	\$13,000
Riddoch Art Gallery	\$61,000
South East Local Government Association	\$72,000
South East Heritage Advisory Service	\$23,000
Stand Like Stone Foundation	\$8,000
Lifelong Learning Initiatives/Tertiary and Higher Education Initiatives	\$17,000
Life Education Centre	\$5,000

(Some incomes and/or grants may have been received to offset the costs of some of the above initiatives).





## Economic & Regional Statement

# MOUNT GAMBIER - A LIFELONG LEARNING CITY

Council has a continuing desire (in collaboration with the community) for Mount Gambier to be a true “Lifelong Community Learning City”.

Initially this desire was driven by Council’s wish to recognise our local educational excellence from early childhood right through to our university and tertiary education presences.

Council has formed a dedicated Lifelong Learning Council Working Party comprising:

- Cr Sonya Meziniec (Presiding Member)
- Cr Hanna Persello
- Cr Penny Richardson
- David Meziniec (community)
- Sarah Pellen (community)
- Alexandra Nicholson (community)

The City of Mount Gambier continues to adopt Learning as a key theme and strategy and in the review of Council’s current Strategic Plan, Learning remains one of our key strategic goals Beyond 2015.

Our fundamental focus is that learning in all its forms is a lifelong activity and is a core source of individual, social and community strength. This is reflected in the simple statement of our learning vision: “To be recognised as a learning community which celebrates learning for all groups and members of the community”.

Learning takes on many forms and it has been widely recognised that it takes a village to teach the child therefore the City of Mount Gambier remain committed to enhancing our community’s quality of life through the development, recognition and celebration of lifelong learning.

Following a series of forums and workshops held in Mount Gambier over the past few years the City of Mount Gambier’s Lifelong Learning Sub Committee has continued to foster and develop partnership projects which enhance our community across each stage of the learning cycle.

With a goal of making Mount Gambier the most liveable City for all of our citizens, we recognised the importance of developing a pledge with local services to allow our children to flourish in their earliest years.

The Mount Gambier Charter for Children was officially launched at the Acacia Kindergarten on the 22nd October 2014.

The City of Mount Gambier has remained committed to the continued development of a whole of community relational learning approach, working in an increasingly relationship-based way in terms of both service provision and the development of the Mount Gambier Charter for Children.

The Charter for Children aims to serve as an aspirational set of principles, to guide the work of Council, early learning services, service providers and business who wish to subscribe to the Charter’s principles.

We recognise the Charter principles have relevance and application within our community however the focus remains on early childhood, with the aim of decreasing rates of developmental delay in the region (recorded independently by the Australian Early Childhood Census - AEDC). Therefore from a relational learning framework shared with the City’s formal and informal educators, the City continues to work with community partners, to create a shared vision for children and families and become a community of lifelong learners.



# Economic & Regional Statement

## MOUNT GAMBIER & DISTRICT TERTIARY HEALTH EDUCATION GRANTS

Council continued the Mount Gambier & District Tertiary Health Education Grants program in 2014/2015 as a means of recognising local skill shortages and assisting local students who are required to live outside Mount Gambier to pursue their course of study. The program aims to encourage and foster those persons who normally reside within our City and District, who need to leave our region in order to undertake studies in the identified skill areas required within our community. It is our hope that the students will return to our region after graduation.

Fourteen successful applicants from Mount Gambier and the surrounding districts received individual \$2,000 grants from the Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grant Program this year, resulting in a total distribution of \$28,000 in 2014/2015.

The program received additional philanthropic support this year from private benefactors keen to support rural health skill development.

The focus area for 2015 was medical and allied health studies/vocations who were required to leave our community to study degree programs.

Funding for the grant program was provided by:-

- City of Mount Gambier
- Mount Gambier Private Hospital
- District Council of Grant
- Ken and Carol Stafford
- UFS Chemist
- Country Health SA (SERCHS)
- Greater Green Triangle UDRH
- Mount Gambier & District Community Bank
- Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes
- And private benefactors keen to remain anonymous.

Council is indebted to the above financial sponsors who, through their vision and confidence, can offer meaningful financial support to the successful students and their families to meet the very high costs of tertiary study.

Council continues to be impressed with the standard and number of our residents who are undertaking demanding study away from home in the critical areas of medicine and allied health, and extends its very best wishes to the successful recipients in their studies. We trust they obtain the success and rewards that come from dedication, commitment and desire to achieve.

It is the wish of the community partnership to support any initiative that strengthens and enhances our strategic objective for Mount Gambier to be a leading community in encouraging all forms of Lifelong Learning and assist in meeting local essential skills shortages.



## Economic & Regional Statement

# MOUNT GAMBIER & DISTRICT TERTIARY HEALTH EDUCATION GRANTS

Amelia Hancock	Bachelor of Pharmacy University of South Australia
Jim Weston	Bachelor of Paramedic Science Flinders University
Sara Turnbull	Bachelor of Health Science – Principles of Physiotherapy / Master of Physiotherapy Flinders University
Imogen Hardacre	BA Health Science / Master of Physiotherapy Flinders University
William Circelli	Bachelor of Physiotherapy University of South Australia
Shannon Pearce	Bachelor of Psychological Science University of South Australia
Anna Telford	BA Physiotherapy University of South Australia
Elanor McClintock	Bachelor Midwifery Flinders University
Hilary Forgan	BA of Psychology (Honours) University of South Australia
Annabelle Lockwood	Bachelor Applied Science /Occupational Therapy University of South Australia
Segollene Kasole <b>Greater Green Triangle Grant Recipient</b>	Bachelor Science /Master of Optometry Flinders University
Hayley Holder <b>Bendigo Bank Grant Recipient</b>	Bachelor of Nursing / Psychological Services Deakin University
Elise Thompson <b>Bendigo Bank Grant Recipient</b>	Master of Psychology (Clinical) University of South Australia

## Economic & Regional Statement

# KANAWINKA GEOPARK “LAND OF TOMORROW”

The Kanawinka Inc. is the evolution of the former Volcanoes Discovery Trail Cross Border Committee, an organisation established around 1995 which identified the need for and commissioned the preparation of a strategy for the volcanic assets of Victoria's western plains and the volcanic outcrops in south-eastern South Australia.

The volcanic province of the western district of Victoria and south-eastern South Australia is the most extensive in Australia, covering some 26,910 square kilometres across two states and seven Council areas. It ranks with the top six most significant volcanic provinces in the world and contains six sites of international significance as well as nearly 50 sites of national, state or regional significance.

Whilst the aims of the former Volcanoes Discovery Trail Committee focussed principally on the implementation of a tourism marketing strategy, the goalposts and associated opportunities have dramatically shifted with the transition to Geopark status.

In 2006, the UNESCO Global Geopark network issued an invitation for the area of the Volcanoes Discovery Trail to apply for status as part of the international network of Geoparks. Following submission of an application and an inspection process that occurred in the region in June 2007, the UNESCO International Geopark Conference held in Germany on 22nd June 2008 proclaimed Kanawinka Geopark as the 57th member of the Global Network of International Geoparks assisted by UNESCO.

Unfortunately, due to the Federal Government's opposition to the UNESCO Geopark movement (111 Geoparks in 32 Countries) the required four-yearly revalidation process was unable to be completed, and therefore Kanawinka's status as a Global Geopark under the UNESCO banner has lapsed.

As a result of the lack of support from the Australian Government and in turn from the majority of the local governments that established Kanawinka, the organisation known as Kanawinka Inc. has gone into recess.



# Economic & Regional Statement

## THE MOUNT GAMBIER VISITOR CENTRE AND “THE LADY NELSON” DISCOVERY CENTRE

### VISITOR INFORMATION & DISCOVERY CENTRE

A total of 80,175 visitor enquiries were handled in 2014/2015. A total of 78,441 people came through the door, with 47,954 coming to the counter to make an enquiry. International visitors made up 16% of the total visitation and 42% of enquiries handled were from out of the local area. Eight per cent of total visitors also visited the Discovery Centre. The mountgambiertourism.com website recorded 72,763 unique visits until it was replaced in May 2015.

Monthly statistics show peaks in March, May, January, and December, reflecting our busiest periods of Christmas, Easter and the Generations in Jazz Festival. The busiest day of the year occurred on the 27th December, with 758 visitors. August 31st was the quietest, with 62 visitors.

Improvements to the layout of the building are ongoing, with paving now completed to allow for an outdoor seating area providing additional comfort for bus passengers and visitors during opening hours. The wetlands area within the Discovery Centre has undergone revegetation with native and coastal flora featuring native foods. Interpretive signage has been installed, explaining Aboriginal history and the drainage system associated with the wetlands.

Staff continue with weekly familiarisations to all attractions and accommodation properties in Mount Gambier, building knowledge and fostering communication with local operators. Regular attendance

at local forums and committees has also been undertaken, including Kanawinka Geotrail, Limestone Coast Visitor Information Providers, Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce, South Australian Tourism Commission Forums, and SA State Visitor Information Centre Network Meetings.

### CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Mount Gambier hosted two major tourism industry events within the last financial year:

#### Cross Border Meeting

In November 2014, the two-day Annual Cross Border Visitor Information Centre meeting was held at Mount Gambier's Main Corner. All Limestone Coast Visitor Information Centres and Great Ocean Road and Western Victorian Visitor Information Centres are invited to attend. Hosted in conjunction with the District Council of Grant, a total of 20 delegates attended. Familiarisations to many of our local attractions were included: Blue Lake and Crater Lakes area, Mount Schanck, Port MacDonnell Community Centre, Cave Garden, Lady Nelson Visitor and Discovery Centre, Engelbrecht Cave, Aquifer Tours, Mt Gambier Airport, Umpherston Sinkhole.

#### SA Annual Visitor Information Centre Conference

In March 2015, Mount Gambier hosted the four-day Annual South Australian Visitor Information Centre Conference at the Main Corner. A total of 82 delegates attended, representing all of the Visitor Centres throughout South

Australia. The theme for the conference was “Connecting with the Future”, and the conference was designed to be hands-on, equipping delegates with real skills and an understanding of social media. Major outcomes included photography, writing for the media and an understanding of the different styles required for websites, Facebook, Blogs and Twitter.

Assistants and photographers were available throughout the conference to guide delegates, loading the appropriate apps to their phone, photography, content, videoing and uploading to a variety of platforms.

Members of the public, tourism operators and Chamber of Commerce members were invited to attend the conference sessions and dinners. Through this, delegates had a chance to meet locals, and locals gained an understanding of the tourism industry and in particular the importance of the Visitor Information Centres to our State.

Time was set aside for shopping and dining. Tours were conducted through some of our most spectacular and unique scenery, and delegates used their new skills to upload content immediately to a variety of platforms throughout the course of the conference.

### PUBLICATIONS AND BROCHURE DISTRIBUTION

The Mount Gambier Guide and the Mount Gambier map have both undergone reviews and had a limited reprint in anticipation of the rebranding introduction.



# Economic & Regional Statement

## THE MOUNT GAMBIER VISITOR CENTRE AND “THE LADY NELSON” DISCOVERY CENTRE

### ACCOMMODATION HUB

Generations in Jazz was again assisted in the provision of alternative accommodation. Hosted via the Generations in Jazz website, moderation, proof reading, loading live to website and removing properties once booked, was undertaken by the Lady Nelson staff.

### PASSENGER BUS SERVICES

Staff handled a total of 10,249, bus enquiries, with 6032 bus tickets sold. This represents 12% of total enquiries through the door, but 21% of the actual counter enquiries handled by staff, with similar numbers for each bus company.

### Visitor Information Centre Enquiry Figures for 2014/2015

July 2013	4781
August 2013	4224
September 2013	5670
October 2013	7702
November 2013	6704
December 2013	8728
January 2014	9615
February 2014	7278
March 2014	8951
April 2014	7878
May 2014	4785
June 2014	3859
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80,175</b>
Website enquiries (Unique Visits, until May 2015)	72,763
Total enquiries serviced	15,2938
Total visitation cumulative (May 1977- June 2015)	2,828897

### Miscellaneous Statistics and Information

Total Counter Enquiries	47,954
Counter Enquiries from outside of Mount Gambier	37,705
International Visitors	14,576
Entries to Discovery Centre	6590
Christmas Period Visitation (26 Dec – 6 Jan)	6371
Easter Long Weekend Visitation	3978
Information Packs/ Mail outs	2391
Total Email and Phone Enquiries	1920
Busiest Day (Dec 29)	775
Average Website hits per day	345
Cave Diver Keys	203
Quietest Day (Aug 3rd)	74

Premier Stateliner Bus Ticketing	Total Pax	Ticketing Ex GST (\$)
Premier Adult Ticket	721	\$61,710.70
Premier Child Ticket	148	\$6,619.68
Premier Concession Ticket	394	\$17,943.22
Premier Student Ticket	1650	\$91,346.76
<b>Premier Stateliner Total</b>	<b>2931</b>	<b>\$117,623.36</b>
V Line Adult Ticket	1366	\$68,742.51
V Line Child Ticket	196	\$3,630.66
V Line Concession	86	\$1,740.49
V Line Student Ticket	1471	\$43,250.75
<b>V Line Total</b>	<b>3119</b>	<b>\$117,337.41</b>
Combined Bus Ticket Sales	6032	\$294,960.77
Bus Enquiry No Ticket Sale	1052	
<b>TOTAL BUS ENQUIRIES</b>	<b>7084</b>	



# Economic & Regional Statement

## MOUNT GAMBIER COMMUNITY EVENTS 2014/2015

### GENERATIONS IN JAZZ

1-3 May 2015

2015 was the biggest year yet, with 3,000 young musicians from around Australia participating in vocal ensembles and 120 community and high school bands. We heard some great swinging jazz and inspiring performances from these aspiring stars in Mount Gambier at GIJ. We also heard from world renowned professional performers, including a capella group "Take 6", "Hot Horn Happening", "Idea of North", Rickey Woodard and Jeff Clayton from the USA and Mark Nightingale and Brian Kellock from the UK.

The inaugural GIJ was first held in 1987, offering six young instrumentalists a chance to perform at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre with the opportunity to win the James Morrison Jazz Scholarship.

Since then, the event has well and truly outgrown the theatre, and is now held in a massive circus marquee known as the "James Morrison Pavilion", which is erected adjacent to "The Barn" on Punt Road South of Mount Gambier. Besides that huge marquee, there are also another seven smaller marquees and buildings used for performances in the various vocal and instrumental divisions.

With GIJ starting more than 25 years ago, we now see students who played in those early bands, attending the event as music teachers with their own school bands. Some of the instrumental finalists through the years are now playing professionally all over the

world. One of these successful GIJ graduates, Ross Irwin, is the Program Director for GIJ.

GIJ is all about bringing together many young musicians to participate in and compete for awards and scholarships. They also learn from their peers, share fellowship with like-minded music enthusiasts and get to be inspired by hearing some of the world's best Jazz professionals perform.

#### Main activities over the GIJ weekend:

- "James Morrison Jazz Scholarship" – this award is open to solo instrumentalists. Six finalists are judged during the GIJ weekend and the winner receives \$10,000 to assist in development of their music career.
- "Generations in Jazz Vocal Scholarship" – Again, six finalists are competing for \$5,000 to assist in the development of their career.
- "City of Mount Gambier National Big Band Award" – this award is open to any secondary school big band. The bands are separated into five divisions with prize money of up to \$7,000 for Division 1. Outstanding musicians in the top three divisions are rewarded with a place in their divisions "Superband". In addition, several talented young musicians in Division 1 are nominated as potential "Future Finalists" in the James Morrison Jazz Scholarship and one is selected to win \$3,500 to assist their

musical education. The Division 1 and 2 superbands and future finalists all play at the GIJ Sunday afternoon performance. Division 5 bands are adjudicated only and one band is selected to win an encouragement award.

Many volunteers assist the GIJ committee set up the massive marquees, stage, and catering facilities in the weeks leading up to the event, and help after with the "bump out". Volunteers also take on vital roles during the GIJ weekend with duties including MC, green room supervisors, door attendants, waiters, collecting cans and bottles, car park attendants, and more.

As a direct result of the huge following of Generations in Jazz and foresight of the founders, the "James Morrison Academy of Music" opened in Mount Gambier in 2015 in the Old Town Hall. The Academy offers a one-year Diploma of Music and a three-year Bachelor of Music affiliated with the University of South Australia. The course covers instrumental, aural and theory work, arranging and improvising. The Academy students have the opportunity to play with James Morrison at the GIJ Festival each year.

Both the world-class Academy and the unique Generations in Jazz event allow Mount Gambier to claim the title of the "Jazz Capital of Australia".

# Economic & Regional Statement

## MOUNT GAMBIER COMMUNITY EVENTS 2014/2015

### SA JUNIOR COUNTRY SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

9-12 January 2015

The Blue Lake Y Swim Club and Mount Gambier Swimming Club jointly conducted the South Australian Country Championships in January 2015. The Championships have not been held in Mount Gambier since 2009.

There were 323 competitors from across South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

840 visitors accompanied the swimmers, including officials, referees and Swimming SA personnel. The Championships provide country-based swimmers with an opportunity to compete at a higher level while representing their swimming club. Given that the Championships were held in Mount Gambier, local swimmers had the opportunity to participate in the event, whereas they may not have if it was hosted in a different location. The championships also provided both local clubs an opportunity to work together toward a common goal, which has fostered stronger working relationships.

The venue at the Margaret Street Aquatic Centre was perfect for the competition. New lane ropes were installed for the event with support from Mount Gambier's local member, Troy Bell who pushed for a grant from SA Tourism Commission. The SA Minister for Sport and Recreation, Leon Bignell, attended to open the games and mentioned that he once took part in a swimming carnival at Mount Gambier, as he was raised at nearby Glencoe!

### MOUNT GAMBIER JUNIOR BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

15-16 November 2014

The Junior Basketball Championships have been held in Mount Gambier for more than 25 years, starting as a small tournament involving teams from across the Limestone Coast. In the past 12 years, it has grown into the biggest and best junior basketball tournament in Country South Australia. Over the last five years the number of participating teams has grown from 72 to 112 teams in 2014. These teams bring with them around 3,125 parents and supporters from country and metropolitan SA and the Western Districts of Victoria. The event is very highly regarded because of the professional organisation and the overall high standards of play. The efforts of well-trained volunteers over the weekend ensure a smooth and professional event. Because of the large number of competitors, the basketball is played at both "The Icehouse", and the multipurpose halls of many local schools.

### "HILLTOP HOODS" COSBY SWEATER NATIONAL TOUR

8 November 2014

Mount Gambier's iconic Old Gaol was the host venue for world-class Australian artists "Hill Top Hoods" as part of their National Tour. The Old Gaol has now held three outstanding musical performances - two "Bliss n Eso" concerts and the Xavier Rudd National Tour. The community of Mount Gambier enthusiastically embraces these top-class musical concerts. The

"Hilltop Hoods" event attracted around 2,300 people with half coming from the Region, and the rest travelling from Adelaide, Melbourne and Western Victoria.

The Old Gaol venue provides excellent security and is a safe place for younger members of the community to enjoy entertainment.

Many volunteers from the MFS, SES and SAPOL help with security and logistics and work with the production company to ensure a successful event.

National youth radio station Triple J helped promote the event, which was a real boost for Mount Gambier, demonstrating we have the capacity to be a key music destination.

### 2015 PGA PRO-AM BLUE LAKE LEGENDS GOLF TOURNAMENT

24 April 2015

This year, the Blue Lake Golf Club was added to the PGA "Tour of Australia's Legends" roster. The Legends tour is the professional golf circuit for male golfers aged 50 and over. There were more than 40 Australian and international professional competitors as well as a field of around 120 amateurs for the event. They all stayed for at least two to three days as did their followers and families in some cases. Some of these players have had international golfing careers, so it was a sporting and event coup for Mount Gambier.

Rain caused a 90-minute delay halfway through the event, and made the conditions at the Blue Lake links a little difficult, but all competitors acknowledged the



## Economic & Regional Statement

# MOUNT GAMBIER COMMUNITY EVENTS 2014/2015

course was a good test of their golfing abilities. The Legends Tournament will continue at the Blue Lake Course for the next three years as a two-day event.

### BLUE LAKE FUN RUN

1 December 2014

The Blue Lake Fun run is now five years old and is going from strength to strength. It was originally an OPAL (Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle) initiative with approximately 800 competitors in its augural year in 2010. After two years, OPAL handed the event to Lakes Rotary Club of Mount Gambier, and participation levels climbed to 1300 runners in 2014.

The Lakes Rotary Club has a focus on promoting community health through fitness programs, healthy diets for healthy living, water consumption, adequate sleep and a well-balanced life. There has been strong support from the community, government agencies, non-government organisations and businesses who all work together to create an amazing event.

Rotary gives back to the community through its fundraising at the Fun Run. In 2015, \$20,000 was distributed to the community through Sports Scholarships, Mental Health initiatives, grants to disadvantaged groups, local schools and community groups.

The Rotary Club has a focus on supporting bodies that contribute to the mental and physical well being of people in our community.

The Fun Run involves three courses of 10.4 km, 6.8 km or the 3.2 km for the competitors to run or walk, either as individuals or in teams.

Lakes Rotary received the Mount Gambier "Community Event of the Year" recognition in the Australia Day Awards for 2015.





# Financial Statement

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## SELECTED GENERAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

Area	3,388 ha or 34 km <sup>2</sup>
Length of Roads	224 km
Number of Properties coded Residential	11,939
Median Age	37
Unemployment	7.1%
Capital Value (July 2014)	\$3,202,252,530

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Residents of the City of Mount Gambier	25,247	25,911	25,911	26,092	26,246
Eligible Voters	17,843	17,411	18,050	18,379	18,345
No. of employees (full time equivalent)	110	111	116	118	116
Development Applications (Blg & Plan)					
Applications and Land Divisions (No.)	472	444	363	442	417
Dwellings (No.)	104	104	75	112	101
Flats/Units (No.)	0	0	0	0	0
Business/Commercial /Industrial (No.)	36	51	56	35	32
Additions and Alterations (No.)	240	220	191	189	212
Other, signs, divisions	92	69	43	80	72
Estimated Expenditure (Value \$m)	43.6	93.1	31.9	46	43.1
No. of Dogs Registered	4,813	4,837	4,818	4,945	4,491
No. of Assessments	13,309	13,395	13,499	13,584	13,710
Rates of cents in the dollar					
Rateable Capital Value of Assessments (value \$m)	3,070	3,207	3,139	3,167	3,202
Rate Rebates and Remissions (value \$thous)	119	137	153	163	166
Value of Pensioner Concessions (value \$thous)	417	426	465	424	440
No. of non-ratable 100% rebate assessments	497	501	504	510	525
Fixed Charge	\$456.00	\$480.00	\$516.40	\$544.80	\$565.50

# SELECTED GENERAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## 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 walking safety.
- Care for your own street footpath. Some residents are unable. 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.

f. Take your visitors for a walk through our parks, gardens, the Crater Lakes area, Cave Garden, Umpherston Sinkhole and public facilities such as the Main Corner, Library and 'The Lady Nelson' complex. Show them that you are proud of your City.

g. If you see any Council's safety signs on road works down, please stand them up or report to Council.

h. Report to the ETSA Utilities or to Council, any street lights which are not working. Phone 13 13 66.

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 everyone to play our part in making Mount Gambier the tidiest and friendliest City in Australia.

## POPULATION CHANGE

The population of Mount Gambier City over the years:-

1961	15,388
1966	17,146
1971	17,934
1976	19,292
1991	19,880
1996	20,813
2001	22,720
2006	23,922
2011	25,257
2013	26,092 (ABS – ERP)
2014	26,246 (ABS – ERP)





# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>INCOME</b>			
Rates	2	17,641	16,826
Statutory charges	2	417	378
User charges	2	3,706	3,530
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2	3,604	1,278
Investment income	2	29	32
Reimbursements	2	350	229
Other income	2	363	467
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>26,110</b>	<b>22,740</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee costs	3	9,197	8,772
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3	8,920	8,467
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3	6,649	5,907
Finance costs	3	299	262
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>25,065</b>	<b>23,408</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>1,045</b>	<b>(668)</b>
Asset disposal & fair value adjustments	4	58	(3,227)
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2	796	3,064
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>			
transferred to Equity Statement		1,899	(831)
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>			
<i>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</i>			
Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	9	33,460	-
<b>Total Other Comprehensive Income</b>	9	<b>33,460</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>35,359</b>	<b>(831)</b>

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes commencing page 125.



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	969	1,173
Trade & other receivables	5	1,568	1,132
Inventories	5	40	37
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>2,577</b>	2,342
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Financial assets	6	108	154
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	7	230,349	195,144
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>		<b>230,457</b>	195,298
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>233,034</b>	197,640
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade & other payables	8	2,436	2,643
Borrowings	8	184	243
Provisions	8	2,076	1,742
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>4,696</b>	4,628
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	8	4,525	4,538
Provisions	8	232	252
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>		<b>4,757</b>	4,790
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>9,453</b>	9,418
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>223,581</b>	188,222
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated Surplus		49,398	46,307
Asset Revaluation Reserves	9	165,034	131,574
Other Reserves	9	9,149	10,341
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>223,581</b>	188,222

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes commencing page 125.



# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000	Total Equity \$'000
<b>2015</b>				
Balance at end of previous reporting period	46,307	131,574	10,341	188,222
Restated opening balance	46,307	131,574	10,341	188,222
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year</b>	<b>1,899</b>			<b>1,899</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>				
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		33,460		<b>33,460</b>
Transfers between reserves	1,192		(1,192)	-
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>49,398</b>	<b>165,034</b>	<b>9,149</b>	<b>223,581</b>
<b>2014</b>				
Balance at end of previous reporting period	48,060	131,574	9,419	189,053
Restated opening balance	48,060	131,574	9,419	189,053
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year</b>	<b>(831)</b>			<b>(831)</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>				
Transfers between reserves	(922)		922	-
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>46,307</b>	<b>131,574</b>	<b>10,341</b>	<b>188,222</b>

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes commencing page 125.



# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Rates - general & other		17,591	16,808
Fees & other charges		417	408
User charges		3,562	3,993
Investment receipts		28	69
Grants utilised for operating purposes		3,604	1,374
Reimbursements		350	252
Other revenues		415	2,748
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee costs		(8,762)	(8,719)
Materials, contracts & other expenses		(9,518)	(9,935)
Finance payments		(339)	(230)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities</b>		<b>7,348</b>	<b>6,768</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets		796	3,064
Sale of replaced assets		299	276
Sale of surplus assets		612	-
Repayments of loans by community groups		60	126
<b>Payments</b>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(5,156)	(6,574)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(4,091)	(3,969)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities</b>		<b>(7,480)</b>	<b>(7,077)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Proceeds from borrowings		-	1,163
<b>Payments</b>			
Repayments of borrowings		(72)	(356)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities</b>		<b>(72)</b>	<b>807</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>(204)</b>	<b>498</b>
<b>Cash &amp; cash equivalents at beginning of period</b>	10	<b>1,173</b>	<b>675</b>
<b>Cash &amp; cash equivalents at end of period</b>	10	<b>969</b>	<b>1,173</b>

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes commencing page 125.



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

### 1 Basis of Preparation

#### 1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* dated 20th October 2015.

#### 1.2 Historical Cost Convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

#### 1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates, and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of this Note.

#### 1.4 Rounding

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

### 2 The Local Government Reporting Entity

The 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.

In the month of June 2015 the Federal Government paid an amount of untied financial assistance grants, which are recognised on receipt, in advance of the year of allocation. In June 2015, one quarter of the 2015/2016 allocation amounting to \$1,317 was paid in advance. Accordingly, in the reporting period ended 30 June 2015, Council's operating surplus was effectively overstated by \$1,317.

The actual amounts of untied grants received during the reporting periods (including the advance allocations) are disclosed in Note 2.

### 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



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

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.

## 6 Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

### 6.1 Land under roads

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired prior to 1 July 2008 as an asset in accordance with AASB 1051 Land under Roads. Land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 has not been recognised as in the opinion of Council it is not possible to reliably attribute a fair value, and further that such value if determined would be immaterial.

### 6.2 Initial Recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use". Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

### 6.3 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.

### 6.4 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.

### 6.5 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.



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2015

## 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". 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	2.00% (2014, 2.44%)
Weighted average settlement period	1 year (2014, 1 year)

No accrual is made for sick leave for ASU employees 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 sick leave for ASU employees.

AWU employees are entitled to the payment of sick leave under the AWU Enterprise Agreements No. 9 of 2015, on the following basis:-

- Termination Pay-Out – Clause 28
- Annual Cash-Out – Clause 28

A provision has been raised in 2015 for \$30 resulting in an over all provision of \$52 being recorded by Council. This will continue to be increased over a 5 year period (commenced from 2014) to match the maximum in any one year that would need to be paid by Council. Currently that figure is \$131, however to date only two employees have qualified for this benefit with \$22 being paid since the introduction of this benefit in 2012.

### 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 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,

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.

- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

## 11 Pending Accounting Standards

Certain new accounting standards and UIG interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2015 reporting period and have not been used in preparing these reports.

AASB 7	Financial Instruments – Disclosures
AASB 9	Financial Instruments
AASB 15	Revenue from Contracts with Customers
AASB 124	Related Party Disclosures

Standards containing consequential amendments to other Standards and Interpretations arising from the above - AASB 2010-7, AASB 2014-1, AASB 2014-3, AASB 2014-4, AASB 2014-5, AASB 2014-6, AASB 2014-7, AASB 2014-8, AASB 2014-9, AASB 14-10, AASB 15-1, AASB 15-2, AASB 15-3, AASB 15-4, AASB 15-5 and AASB 2015-6.

(Standards not affecting local government have been excluded from the above list.)

*Council is of the view that 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.*

The Australian Accounting Standards Board is currently reviewing AASB 1004 Contributions. It is anticipated that the changes resulting from this review may have a material effect on the timing of the recognition of grants and contributions, but the financial consequences cannot be estimated until a revised accounting standard is issued.

## NOTE 2 - INCOME

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>RATES REVENUES</b>			
<b>General Rates</b>		<b>17,183</b>	16,383
Less: Discretionary rebates, remissions & write offs		(166)	(163)
		<b>17,017</b>	16,220
<b>Other Rates</b> (including service charges)			
Natural Resource Management levy		559	550
		<b>559</b>	550
<b>Other Charges</b>			
Penalties for late payment		65	56
		<b>65</b>	56
		<b>17,641</b>	16,826

Continued...



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 2 - INCOME *cont.*

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>STATUTORY CHARGES</b>			
Development Act fees		114	108
Town planning fees		112	101
Animal registration fees & fines		123	122
Parking fines/expiation fees		50	38
Other licences, fees, & fines		18	9
		417	378
<b>USER CHARGES</b>			
Cemetery/crematoria fees		789	608
Green Waste Collection		410	274
Landfill		1,319	1,343
Hall & equipment hire		319	70
Recycling		118	140
Sales - general		391	573
Bus Ticketing		320	340
Sundry		40	182
		3,706	3,530
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>			
<b>Interest on investments</b>			
Local Government Finance Authority		27	29
Banks & other		1	1
Loans to community groups		1	2
		29	32
<b>REIMBURSEMENTS</b>			
for roadworks		35	72
for private works		102	55
other		213	102
		350	229
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Insurance & other recoupments (infrastructure, property, plant & equipment)		235	246
Donations		42	75
Sundry		86	146
		363	467

Continued...



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 2 - INCOME *cont.*

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		796	3,064
Other grants, subsidies and contributions		3,604	1,278
		4,400	4,342
<i>The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 11.</i>			
<b>Sources of grants</b>			
Commonwealth Government		280	2,581
State Government		4,120	1,760
Other		0	1
		4,400	4,342
<b>Conditions over grants &amp; contributions</b>			
<i>Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet expended in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:</i>			
<i>Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period</i>			1,000
<i>Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods</i>			
Railway Lands		-	(1,000 )
<b>Subtotal</b>			(1,000 )
<i>Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>			
Railway Lands Artwork		100	-
<b>Subtotal</b>		100	
<i>Unexpended at the close of this reporting period</i>		100	
<i>Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period</i>		100	(1,000 )



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 3 - EXPENSES

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>EMPLOYEE COSTS</b>			
Salaries and Wages		8,094	8,055
Employee leave expense		491	149
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	16	821	802
Workers' Compensation Insurance		240	227
Other		44	45
Less: Capitalised and distributed costs		(493)	(506)
<b>Total Operating Employee Costs</b>		<b>9,197</b>	<b>8,772</b>
<b>Total Number of Employees</b> <i>Full time equivalent at end of reporting period</i>		<b>116</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>MATERIALS, CONTRACTS &amp; OTHER EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Prescribed Expenses</b>			
Auditor's Remuneration			
Auditing the financial reports		20	19
Elected members' expenses		294	272
Election expenses		77	-
Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses		391	291
<b>Other Materials, Contracts &amp; Expenses</b>			
Contractors		2,869	2,886
Energy		956	877
Maintenance		7	6
Legal Expenses		35	18
Levies paid to government - NRM levy		555	544
- EPA, ESL & Dog Levies		577	494
Parts, accessories & consumables		1,149	1,738
Professional services		132	171
Sundry		2,249	1,442
Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses		8,529	8,176
		<b>8,920</b>	<b>8,467</b>

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 3 - EXPENSES *cont.*

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION &amp; IMPAIRMENT</b>			
<b>Depreciation</b>			
Buildings and Other Structures		2,850	2,563
Infrastructure		2,340	2,140
Plant & Equipment		986	683
Minor Plant		39	31
Office Equipment		201	258
Other		233	232
		6,649	5,907
<b>FINANCE COSTS</b>			
Interest on Loans		299	262
		299	262

## NOTE 4 - ASSET DISPOSAL & FAIR VALUE ADJUSTMENTS

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>			
<b><i>Assets renewed or directly replaced</i></b>			
Proceeds from disposal		299	276
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		319	3,503
<b>Gain (Loss) on disposal</b>		(20)	(3,227)
<b><i>Assets surplus to requirements</i></b>			
Proceeds from disposal		612	-
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		534	-
<b>Gain (Loss) on disposal</b>		78	-
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OR REVALUATION OF ASSETS</b>		58	(3,227)



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 5 - CURRENT ASSETS

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>CASH &amp; EQUIVALENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash on Hand and at Bank		67	647
Deposits at Call		902	526
		969	1,173
<b>TRADE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>			
Rates - General & Other		461	411
Rates postponed for State Seniors		-	-
Accrued Revenues		5	4
Debtors - general		1,010	539
GST Recoupment		66	118
Loans to community organisations		46	60
		1,588	1,132
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Debts		20	-
		1,568	1,132
<b>INVENTORIES</b>			
Stores & Materials		19	15
Trading Stock		21	22
		40	37

Aggregate write-downs and other losses recognised as an expense, and reversals of these, were not material in amount in either year. All such reversals occurred principally as a result of clerical inaccuracies during stores operations.

## NOTE 6 - NON-CURRENT ASSETS

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>			
<b>Receivables</b>			
Loans to community organisations		108	154
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		108	154



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Fair Value Level	2014 \$'000				2015 \$'000			
		AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT
Land - 2	2	7,451	-	-	7,451	7,243	-	-	7,243
Land - 3	3	33,318	89	-	33,407	33,575	-	-	33,575
Buildings & Other Structures - 2	2	53,425	1,075	(4,387)	50,113	57,248	-	(6,078)	51,170
Buildings & Other Structures - 3	3	65,349	958	(29,610)	36,697	67,463	-	(30,742)	36,721
Infrastructure	3	75,559	7,812	(23,028)	60,343	122,674	-	(27,902)	94,772
Plant & Equipment	3	4,685	1,065	(1,177)	4,573	5,464	-	(978)	4,486
Minor plant	3	155	74	(53)	176	155	99	(92)	162
Office Equipment	3	-	1,775	(1,144)	631	-	1,915	(1,340)	575
Other	3	1,926	291	(464)	1,753	1,926	416	(697)	1,645
<b>TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>		241,868	13,139	(59,863)	195,144	295,748	2,430	(67,829)	230,349
<b>Comparatives</b>		<b>240,558</b>	<b>7,506</b>	<b>(54,053)</b>	<b>194,011</b>	<b>241,868</b>	<b>13,139</b>	<b>(59,863)</b>	<b>195,144</b>

Continued...

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT *cont.*

	2014 \$'000	CARRYING AMOUNT MOVEMENTS DURING YEAR \$'000								2015 \$'000
	CARRYING AMOUNT	Additions		Disposals	Depreciation	Impairment	Transfers		Net Revaluation	CARRYING AMOUNT
		New/ Upgrade	Renewals				In	Out		
Land - 2	7,451	14	-	(259)	-	-	-	-	37	7,243
Land - 3	33,407	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168	33,575
Buildings & Other Structures - 2	50,113	2,181	222	-	(1,691)	-	-	-	345	51,170
Buildings & Other Structures - 3	36,697	829	540	(275)	(1,159)	-	-	-	89	36,721
Infrastructure	60,343	861	3,341	-	(2,340)	-	-	-	32,567	94,772
Plant & Equipment	4,573	35	928	(318)	(986)	-	-	-	254	4,486
Minor Plant	176	25	-	-	(39)	-	-	-	-	162
Office Equipment	631	21	124	-	(201)	-	-	-	-	575
Other	1,753	125	-	-	(233)	-	-	-	-	1,645
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	195,144	4,091	5,155	(852)	(6,649)	-	-	-	33,460	230,349
Comparatives	194,011	3,969	6,573	(3,502)	(5,907)	-	-	-	-	195,144

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

### VALUATION OF ASSETS

#### General Valuation Principles

##### *Accounting procedure*

Upon revaluation, the current new replacement cost and accumulated depreciation are re-stated such that the difference represents the fair value of the asset determined in accordance with AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement: accumulated depreciation is taken to be the difference between current new replacement cost and fair value. In the case of land, fair value is taken to be the current replacement cost.

##### *Highest and best use*

For land which Council has an unfettered right to sell, the "highest and best use" recognises the possibility of the demolition or substantial modification of some or all of the existing buildings and structures affixed to the land.

Much of the land under Council's care and control is Crown land or has been declared as community land under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999. Other types of restrictions also exist.

For land subject to these restrictions, the highest and best use is taken to be the "highest and best use" available to Council, with a rebuttable presumption that the current use is the "highest and best use". The reason for the current use of a large proportion of Council's assets being other than the "highest and best use" relates to Council's principal role as the provider of services to the community, rather than the use of those assets for the generation of revenue.

For buildings and other structures on and in the land, including infrastructure, "highest and best use" is determined in accordance with the land on and in which they are situated.

##### *Fair value hierarchy level 2 valuations*

Certain land, and the buildings and structures thereon, are shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 2 valuation inputs. They are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, with directly or indirectly observable adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset.

##### *Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of land*

Valuations of Crown land, community land and land subject to other restrictions on use or disposal, shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 3 valuation inputs, are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, but include adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset that are not directly or indirectly observable in that market, or the number and / or amount of observable adjustments of which are so great that the valuation is more fairly described as being based on level 3 valuation inputs.

##### *Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of buildings, infrastructure and other assets*

There is no known market for these assets and they are valued at depreciated current replacement cost. This method involves:

- The determination of the cost to construct the asset (or its modern engineering equivalent) using current prices for materials and labour, the quantities of each being estimated based on recent experience of this or similar Councils, or on industry construction guides where these are more appropriate.
- The calculation of the depreciation that would have accumulated since original construction using current estimates of residual value and useful life under the prime cost depreciation method adopted by Council.

This method has significant inherent uncertainties, relying on estimates of quantities of materials and labour, residual values and useful lives, and the possibility of changes in prices for materials and labour, and the potential for development of more efficient construction techniques.

*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.



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT *cont*

Office Furniture & Equipment	\$1,000
Other Plant & Equipment	\$1,000
Buildings - new construction/extensions	\$10,000
Park & Playground Furniture & Equipment	\$2,000
Road construction & reconstruction	\$10,000
Paving & footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	\$2,000
Drains & Culverts	\$5,000
Reticulation extensions	\$5,000
Artworks	\$5,000

### *Estimated Useful Lives*

Useful lives are estimated for each individual asset. In estimating useful lives, regard is had to technical and commercial obsolescence, as well as legal and other limitations on continued use. The range of useful lives for a representative range of assets is shown below, although individual assets may have an estimated total useful life of greater or lesser amount:

<b>Plant, Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>	
Office Equipment	5 to 10 years
Office Furniture	10 to 20 years
Vehicles and Road-making Equip	5 to 8 years
Other Plant & Equipment	5 to 15 years
<b>Building and Other Structures</b>	
Buildings – masonry	50 to 100 years
Buildings – other construction	20 to 40 years
Park Structures – masonry	50 to 100 years
Park Structures – other construction	20 to 40 years
Playground equipment	5 to 15 years
Benches, seats, etc	10 to 20 years
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
Sealed Roads – Surface	15 to 25 years
Sealed Roads – Structure	20 to 50 years
Unsealed Roads	10 to 20 years
Bridges – Concrete	50 years
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	10 to 70 years
Drains	70 years
<b>Other Assets</b>	
Library Books	10 to 15 years
Artworks	indefinite



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

### LAND & LAND IMPROVEMENTS

Council being of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably to qualify for recognition; land under roads has not been recognised in these reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

Freehold land and land over which Council has control, but does not have title is recognised at cost. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

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 2012 by Mr Martin Oldfield, BBus Property (Val) AAPI Certified Practicing Valuer of Maloney Field Services at current replacement cost.

As at 1 July 2014, the values were indexed at a rate of 0.5% in line with the Building Price Index (BPI) for the Adelaide market. The next external valuation is due during the reporting period ending 30 June 2017.

Additions are recognised at cost.

### BUILDINGS & OTHER STRUCTURES

Buildings and other structures were revalued as at 30 June 2012 by Mr Martin Oldfield, BBus Property (Val) AAPI Certified Practicing Valuer of Maloney Field Services at current replacement cost. As at 30 June 2013 Building and Structures that are 'Not Council Controlled' were identified and removed from our financial statements.

As at 1 July 2014, the values were indexed at a rate of 0.5% in line with the (BPI) for the Adelaide market. The next external valuation is due in the 2017 financial year.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation assets were valued by Council officers at depreciated current replacement cost as at 1 July 2014, based on the latest unit costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2014.

Council's data has undergone an extensive review from 2012 – 2014 with assets now being assessed on individual components. Each component has been quantified, condition rated and valued independently to form the final amount disclosed in these statements.

New items such as traffic lights, carparks and stormwater infrastructure are examples of assets that have been identified and contributed to an increase in valuation of overall assets by \$33.5m as at 1 July, 2014.

Further interrogation of the data held for stormwater infrastructure assets is underway in preparation for the valuations due for the reporting period ending 30 June 2017. It is anticipated that the increase will not be in the vicinity of this year's increases.

Other contributing factors were the inclusion of additional road infrastructure from the boundary realignment with the District Council of Grant on 1 July 2010 and developer provided infrastructure which had not previously been identified.

All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

### PLANT, FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

These assets were valued by Council officers as at 1 July 2014 at depreciated current replacement cost, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2014. All acquisitions made after the respective date of valuation are recorded at cost.

### ALL OTHER ASSETS

These assets are recognised on the cost basis. Library books and other lending materials were valued by Council officers as at 30 June 2012 at depreciated current replacement cost, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2012. All acquisitions made after the respective date of valuation are capitalised in bulk, and written out when fully depreciated.



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 8 - LIABILITIES

		2015 \$'000		2014 \$'000	
	Notes	Current	non-current	Current	non-current
<b>TRADE &amp; OTHER PAYABLES</b>					
Goods & Services		1,454		2,222	
Payments received in advance		516	-	189	-
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements		180	-	59	-
Accrued expenses - other		10	-	50	-
Deposits, Retentions & Bonds		190	-	123	-
Other		86	-	-	-
		2,436	-	2,643	-
<b>BORROWINGS</b>					
Loans		184	4,525	243	4,538
		184	4,525	243	4,538
<i>All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council.</i>					
<b>PROVISIONS</b>					
Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		2,076	232	1,742	252
		2,076	232	1,742	252

## NOTE 9 - RESERVES

		1/7/2014	Net Increments (Decrements)	Transfers, Impairments	30/6/2015
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE</b>					
Land		30,447	205	-	30,652
Buildings & Other Structures		73,438	434	-	73,872
Infrastructure		23,522	32,568	-	56,090
Minor plant		516	253	-	769
Office Equipment		34	-	-	34
Other		3,617	-	-	3,617
<b>TOTAL</b>		131,574	33,460		165,034
<i>Comparatives</i>		131,574	-	-	131,574

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 9 - RESERVES *cont.*

	Notes	1/7/2014	Transfers to Reserve	Transfers from Reserve	30/6/2015
<b>OTHER RESERVES</b>					
Long Service Leave		724	-	-	724
Off Street Car Park		267	-	-	267
Plant Replacement		1,561	-	-	1,561
Lady Nelson Park Development		6	-	-	6
Asset Replacement		1,296	-	-	1,296
Land Divison - Outstanding Work		232	-	-	232
Downstream Drainage		171	3	-	174
Work In Progress		4,385	2,987	(4,385)	2,987
City Centre Improvement		688	-	-	688
Major Capital Works		482	-	-	482
Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust		478	194	-	672
Junior Sporting Fund		51	9	-	60
<b>TOTAL OTHER RESERVES</b>		10,341	3,193	(4,385)	9,149
<i>Comparatives</i>		9,419	4,459	(3,537)	10,341

## PURPOSES OF RESERVES

### Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non-current assets (less any subsequent impairment losses, where applicable).

### Other Reserves

#### Long Service Leave

- Established to fund City of Mount Gambier employee long service entitlements
- Ongoing Reserve Fund
- Transfers from the Fund are made as required
- Transfers to the Fund include Council budgetary allocations, interest received and funds from other employers in respect of transferred employees

#### Off Street Parking Reserve

- Established to fund off street parking initiatives in to Mount Gambier City Centre precinct

- Ongoing Reserve Fund
- Transfers from the Fund are made as and when required
- Transfers to the Fund include Council budgetary allocations and Interest received

#### Plant Replacement

- Established to fund Council's plant and machinery fleet requirements
- Ongoing Reserve Fund
- Transfers from the Fund are made as and when required
- Transfers to the Fund include Council budgetary allocations and interest received

#### Lady Nelson Park Development

- Established to fund any development works that may occur at The Lady Nelson suite
- Ongoing Reserve Fund



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 9 - RESERVES *cont.*

- Transfers from the Fund are made as and when required
- Transfers to the Fund include Council budgetary allocations and interest received

### *Asset Replacement*

- Established to fund the City of Mount Gambier Asset replacement/renewal requirements
- Ongoing Reserve Fund
- Transfers from the Fund are made as and when required
- Transfers to the Fund include Council budgetary allocations, interest received, any sales etc.

### *Land Divison Outstanding Works*

- Funds held in trust to ensure land divisions are completed
- Ongoing Reserve Fund
- Transfers from the Fund are made as and when land division obligations are certified as completed
- Transfers to the Fund are funds deposited by developers in respect of their land division obligations

### *Downstream Drainage*

- Funds contributed by developers and held by Council to complete drainage obligations
- Ongoing Reserve Fund
- Transfers from the Fund are made as and when required
- Transfers to the Fund are developer contributions and interest received

### *Work in Progress*

- Established to fund Council works and projects that are carried over from one budgetary year to the next
- Ongoing Reserve Fund
- Transfers from the Fund are made as and when required with works and projects normally completed in the year following
- Transfers to the Fund include funds for work and projects that have been allocated in one budget year but not completed in that year

### *City Centre Improvement*

- Established to fund improvements and initiatives in the Mount Gambier City Centre precinct
- Ongoing Reserve Fund
- Transfers from the Fund are made as and when required
- Transfer to the Fund include Council budgetary allocations and interest received

### *Major Capital Works*

- Established to assist Council fund impending major capital works projects
- Ongoing Reserve Fund
- Transfers from the Fund are made as and when required
- Transfers to the Fund include budgetary allocations and interest received

### *Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust*

- Established to fund any development works or projects that may be required at the Carinya Gardens Cemetery and Crematorium
- Ongoing Reserve Fund
- Transfers from the Fund are made as and when required
- Transfers to the Fund include Cemetery Trust budgetary allocations and interest received

### *Junior Sporting Fund*

- Established to fund the operations of the Mount Gambier Junior Sporting Fund
- Ongoing Reserve Fund



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## 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 Balance Sheet as follows:

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Total cash & equivalent assets	5	969	1,173
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		969	1,173
<b>(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities</b>			
Net Surplus (Deficit)		1,899	(831)
Non-cash items in Income Statement			
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment		6,649	5,907
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		435	53
Change in allowances for under-recovery		20	-
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as Investing Activity		(796)	(3,064)
Net (Gain) Loss on Disposals		(58)	3,227
		8,149	5,292
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets			
Net (increase) decrease in receivables		(470)	(15)
Net (increase) decrease in inventories		(3)	3
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables		(328)	1,488
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations</b>		<b>7,348</b>	<b>6,768</b>
<b>(c) Financing Arrangements</b>			
Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:			
Bank Overdrafts		250	-
Corporate Credit Cards		21	21
LGFA Cash Advance Debenture facility		12,000	12,000

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 YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 11 - FUNCTIONS

INCOMES, EXPENSES AND ASSETS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES									
	INCOME		EXPENSES		OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFECIT)		GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME	TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)	
	ACTUAL	2015 \$'000	ACTUAL	2015 \$'000	ACTUAL	2015 \$'000		2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Administration / Support Services	20,967	17,992	5,143	4,968	13,024	3,911	1,494	18,345	21,770
Community Support	946	859	2,221	2,246	(1,387)	34	16	10,430	13,817
Culture	446	554	2,994	2,873	(2,319)	175	209	44,258	51,888
Economic Development	406	408	1,622	1,402	(994)	-	-	4,024	5,858
Environment	2,053	1,899	4,145	4,070	(2,171)	-	-	11,229	5,531
Recreation	112	109	2,603	2,722	(2,613)	-	-	42,616	44,013
Regulatory Services	426	396	1,195	406	(769)	-	-	-	-
Transport	315	108	2,754	2,761	(2,653)	280	2,623	87,286	40,345
Engineering / Indirect	-	-	1,431	1,281	(1,281)	-	-	7,146	8,197
Unclassified Activities	439	415	957	679	(264)	-	-	7,700	6,221
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26,110</b>	<b>22,740</b>	<b>25,065</b>	<b>23,408</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,342</b>	<b>233,034</b>	<b>197,640</b>

Revenues and expenses exclude net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets, net gain (loss) from joint ventures & associated entities, 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 YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 11 - COMPONENTS OF FUNCTIONS

The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

### ADMINISTRATION / SUPPORT SERVICES

Governance, Elected Members, Organisational, Support Services, Accounting/Finance, Payroll, Human Resources, Information Technology, Communication, Rates Administration, Records, Occupancy, Contract Management, Customer Service, Other Support Services, Revenues, Separate and Special Rates.

### 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, Other Services for the Aged and Disabled, 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, and Other Economic Development and activities.

### 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

Footpaths and Kerbing, Roads – sealed, Roads – formed, Roads – natural formed, Roads – unformed, Traffic Management and Other Transport.

### ENGINEERING / INDIRECT

Engineering office expenses, AWU employee's expenses and entitlements, depot expenses, plant and machinery expenses.

### UNCLASSIFIED ACTIVITIES

Finance charges and investment revenue, private works and sundry property maintenance.



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## 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	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at lower of cost and net realisable value; Interest is recognised when earned.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 2.15% and 2.50% (2014: 2.50%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 1 day and an average interest rates of 2.42% (2014: 1 day, 2.50%).
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.
Receivables - Rates & Associated Charges (including legals & penalties for late payment) <i>Note: These receivables do not meet the definition of "financial instruments" and have been excluded from the following disclosures.</i>	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> 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.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 0.645% (2014: 0.666%) Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).
Receivables - Fees & other charges	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> 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.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).
Receivables - Other levels of government	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at nominal value.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> 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.
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value.
Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value.
Liabilities - Interest Bearing Borrowings	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at the principal amounts. Interest is charged as an expense as it accrues.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable (describe basis); interest is charged at fixed (or variable - 4.25% as at 30 June 2015) rates between 5.05% and 7.90% (2014: 5.05% and 7.90%).
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value.
Liabilities - Finance Leases	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> accounted for in accordance with AASB 117.



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 12 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS *cont.*

### Liquidity Analysis

2015	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash & Equivalents	969			969	969
Receivables	1,015	-	-	1,015	1,015
Other Financial Assets	46	108	-	154	154
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,138</b>	<b>2,138</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	2,246	-	-	2,246	2,246
Current Borrowings	184	-	-	184	184
Non-Current Borrowings	-	814	3,711	4,525	4,525
	<b>2,430</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>3,711</b>	<b>6,955</b>	<b>6,955</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Due &lt; 1 year</b>	<b>Due &gt; 1 year; ≤ 5 years</b>	<b>Due &gt; 5 years</b>	<b>Total Contractual Cash Flows</b>	<b>Carrying Values</b>
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash & Equivalents	1,173			1,173	1,173
Receivables	543	-	-	543	543
Other Financial Assets	60	154	-	214	214
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,930</b>	<b>1,930</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	2,534	-	-	2,534	2,534
Current Borrowings	243	-	-	243	243
Non-Current Borrowings	-	803	3,735	4,538	4,538
	<b>2,777</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>3,735</b>	<b>7,315</b>	<b>7,315</b>

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

	30 June 2015		30 June 2014	
	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Carrying Value \$'000	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Carrying Value \$'000
Other Variable Rates	4.58	1,334	4.78	1,162
Fixed Interest Rates	5.93	3,375	6.48	3,619
		<b>4,709</b>		<b>4,781</b>



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 12 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS *cont.*

### NET FAIR VALUE

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

### RISK EXPOSURES

**Credit Risk** represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any 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 & 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 YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 13 - FINANCIAL INDICATORS

	2015	2014	2013
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.			
<b>Operating Surplus Ratio</b>			
Operating Surplus	6%	(4%)	2%
Rates - general & other less NRM levy			
<i>This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of general and other rates, net of NRM levy.</i>			
<b>Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio</b>	2%	(4%)	2%
<i>In recent years the Federal Government has made advance payments prior to 30th June from future year allocations of financial assistance grants, as explained in Note 1. The <b>Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio</b> adjusts for the resulting distortion in the disclosed operating result for each year.</i>			
<b>Net Financial Liabilities Ratio</b>			
Net Financial Liabilities	26%	31%	22%
Total Operating Revenue less NRM levy			
<i>Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council businesses). These are expressed as a percentage of total operating revenue.</i>			
<b>Asset Sustainability Ratio</b>			
Net Asset Renewals	53%	107%	85%
Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan required expenditure		*	*
<i>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.</i>			



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## 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.

These arrangements ensure that all Councils provide a common 'core' of financial information, which enables meaningful comparisons of each Council's finances.

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Income	26,110	22,740
/less Expenses	25,065	23,408
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>(668)</b>
<b>/less Net Outlays on Existing Assets</b>		
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	5,156	6,574
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	(6,649)	(5,907)
Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	(299)	(276)
	(1,792)	391
<b>/less Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets</b>		
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets (including investment property & real estate developments)	4,091	3,969
Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets	(796)	(3,064)
Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	(612)	-
	2,683	905
<b>Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>(1,964)</b>





# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## 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 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:

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Not later than one year	43	26
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	127	13
Later than 5 years	-	-
	170	39



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## NOTE 16 - SUPERANNUATION

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to Statewide Super (formerly Local Government Superannuation Scheme). There are two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Permanent and contract employees of the South Australian Local Government sector with Salarylink benefits prior to 24 November 2009 have the option to contribute to the Accumulation section and/or Salarylink. All other employees (including casuals) have all contributions allocated to the Accumulation section.

### ACCUMULATION ONLY MEMBERS

Accumulation only members receive both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of ordinary time earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (9.50% in 2014/2015; 9.25% in 2013/14). 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 2013/14) of "superannuation" salary.

In addition, Council makes a separate contribution of 3% of ordinary time earnings for Salarylink members to their Accumulation account. Employees also make member contributions to the Salarylink section of the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Salarylink section of the Fund to meet the member's benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

The Salarylink section is a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Salarylink section's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by each employer, and employees may transfer to another employer within the local government sector and retain membership of the Fund, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As

provided by AASB 119.32(b), Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

The most recent actuarial investigation was conducted by the Fund's actuary, A C Miller, FIAA, of Russell Employee Benefits Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2014. 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 YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

## 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 user of the financial report in making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of scarce resources.

### 1. LAND UNDER ROADS

As reported elsewhere in these Statements, Council is of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably for these assets to qualify for recognition, and accordingly land under roads has not been recognised in these reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

At reporting date, Council controlled 224 km of road reserves of average width 20 metres.

### 2. POTENTIAL INSURANCE LOSSES

Council is a multi-purpose organisation providing a large range of building, parks infrastructure, playgrounds and other facilities accessible to the public. At any time, it is likely that claims will have been made against Council that remain unsettled.

Council insures against all known insurable risks using a range of insurance policies, each of which is subject to a deductible "insurance excess", the amount of which varies according to the class of insurance.

Council has recognised the potential losses arising from claims known at reporting date based on average historical net cost (including insurance excess) of similar types of claims. Other potential claims not reported to Council may have existed at reporting date.

### 3. BANK GUARANTEES

Council has guaranteed certain loans and other banking facilities advanced to community organisations and sporting bodies, amounting to \$210 (2014: \$210) at reporting date.

Council does not expect to incur any loss arising from these guarantees.

### 4. LEGAL EXPENSES

Council is the planning consent authority for its area under the Development Act 1993 (as amended). Pursuant to that Act, certain persons aggrieved by a planning decision of the Council may appeal. It is normal practice that parties bear their own legal costs. At the date of these reports, Council has not received notice of any appeals against planning decisions made prior to reporting date. All known costs have been recognised.

### 5. "CARBON" TAX

From 1 July 2012 a new tax on emissions of certain "greenhouse" gases commenced operation. Council has a number of garbage landfill facilities which emit, and will continue for many years to emit, gases of this type.

Using current calculation methods, emissions from Council's landfill facilities are substantially below current taxable thresholds. This situation is expected to continue while thresholds remain at current levels.

Information currently available provides assurances that "legacy emissions" from garbage placed in landfills prior to commencement of the tax will not subsequently become liable to the tax. However, should taxable thresholds be substantially reduced Council may be subject to taxation on landfill deposits made after 1 July 2013. No liability has been recognised in these reports.



**CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER**  
**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2015**

**STATEMENT BY AUDITOR**

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of City of Mount Gambier for the year ended 30 June 2015, 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*.



**Simon Smith**

**Galpins Accountants, Auditors & Business Consultants**

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2015



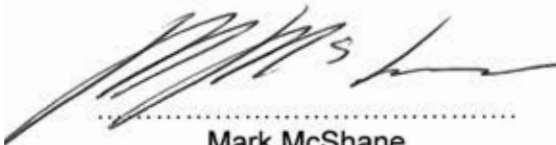
## **CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER**

### **ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2015**

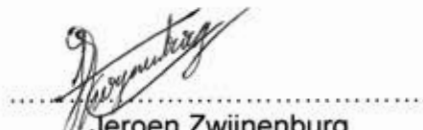
#### **CERTIFICATION OF AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE**

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of City of Mount Gambier for the year ended 30 June 2015, 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**



Jeroen Zwijnenburg  
**PRESIDING MEMBER  
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Date: 13th October 2015

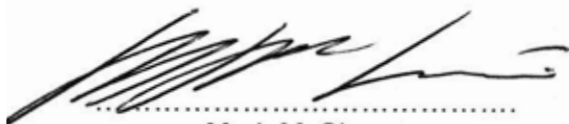
## CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER

### ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2015

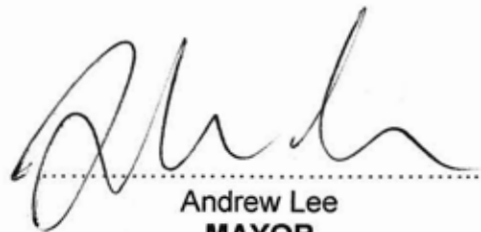
#### CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 2015 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**

Date: 20/10/2015.







City of  
Mount Gambier



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