

*City of Mount Gambier*

**08 | 09 ANNUAL REPORT**



# Introduction

**Welcome to the Annual Report of the City of Mount Gambier for the 2008/2009 year.**

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.

This Annual Report is a detailed overview of our performance and achievements for the past financial year.

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 2008/09 year and is intended as a point of reference to inform the reader as to 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 the '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 structural 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 undertakes many initiatives to help improve the quality of life for our nearly 25,000 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.

**MOUNT GAMBIER**  
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# Member Information



[ 2006 - 2010 Elected Members ]

The Council comprises a Mayor elected at large and five Councillors for each of two Wards.

The next four year term Local Government elections will be held in November 2010.

## **Council 2006 - 2010 (left to right)**

Cr Daniel McDonough (East Ward)

Cr John Kyrimis (East Ward)

Cr Tony Pasin (East Ward)

Cr Eugene Coscarelli (West Ward)

Cr Allen Smith (East Ward)

Cr Jim Maher (East Ward)

Mayor Steve Perryman

Cr Byron Harfield (West Ward) (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Penny Richardson (West Ward)

Cr Merv White (West Ward)

Cr Des Mutton (West Ward)

# Mayor's Message



[ Mayor Steve Perryman ]

**Council's goal for the future is to continue building a strong, vibrant community that is prosperous, balanced, sustainable and progressive. Over the past twelve months Council has continued its pursuit of this goal through implementing numerous strategies of our strategic plan.**

A particular highlight of the 2008/09 year is the progress made on the Towards 2015 - Vision for the Future, a three stage multi-million dollar project to redevelop and revitalise three key sites within Mount Gambier that will play a vital role in expanding Mount Gambier's social, community, economic and cultural infrastructure. Council's successful application for \$5 million from the Federal Government has made it possible to undertake two stages of that vision concurrently, the Public Library and Community Centre, which will be operational in late 2009, and the Main Corner Development which is due for completion in November 2010.

Environmental Sustainability continues to occupy the thoughts of Council and we are making steady progress on a number of initiatives to promote improved practices in Council's own operations. In time Council aims to encourage and facilitate partnerships that will equip residents to embrace opportunities to create a sustainable future for Mount Gambier.

Council has committed to a partnership with the South Australian Department of Health to fund the Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle (OPAL) program in Mount Gambier for five years starting from September 2009. This presents a great opportunity for our community to build on existing activities and to develop our own solutions which will hopefully lead to increased physical activity, healthy life choices and greater overall health across all sectors of the community.

There are many other actions and outcomes documented in this Annual Report. This document provides a solid reference to the broad range of community, environmental, financial, infrastructure, social and cultural activities in which Council has been involved.

Council thanks the many volunteers who work across so many fields of endeavour in our community and whose efforts make our City a better place to live. I wish to thank Elected Members and Council employees for their professionalism and commitment over the past year.

Working together we are building the future for Mount Gambier.

Kindest regards,

Steve PERRYMAN - MAYOR

# Council and Committees 2006 - 2010 (from November 2006)

## **HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR MR STEVE PERRYMAN**

Phone: 0428 212 507

Email: mayor@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

- Ex-officio member of every Committee of Council
- District Council of Grant's Consultation and Communication Committee
- District Council of Grant's Future Urban Areas Working Party
- Joint Councils Dinner Meetings with Glenelg Shire Council and District Council of Grant
- Provincial Cities Association
- Railway Lands Working Party
- Senior Officers Review & Appointments Committee
- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel

### **Ex Officio**

- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Committee

- Audit Committee

### **SELGA Appointments**

- Limestone Coast Area Consultative Committee
- South East Country Arts Trust - Riddoch Art Gallery – Proxy

### **Member Portfolio:**

Civic Services and Strategic Relationships: governance, civic, ceremonial, public relations, South East Local Government Association, Local Government Association of South Australia, Provincial Cities Association, across border relationships, regional relationships.

## **CR BYRON HARFIELD - (WEST WARD) DEPUTY MAYOR**

39 Pinehall Avenue

Phone: 0419 833 673; 8725 0948

Email: crharfield@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

- Corporate & Community Services Committee
- Combined Councils Christmas Dinner
- Joint Councils Dinner Meetings with Glenelg Shire Council and District Council of Grant
- Main Corner Development Working Party
- Mount Gambier and Districts Airport Committee
- Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust
- Mount Gambier Transport Advisory Committee
- Provincial Cities Association
- Public Relations & Communications Working Party

## **SELGA Appointments**

Deputy Member – Executive Committee

### **Member Portfolio**

Media & Public Relations: media management, community engagement and communications, public relations, funding programs

Public Services: taxis, community/public transport, junior sports assistance fund, airport, regional initiatives/programs involving council, community events, volunteerism

### **CR DES MUTTON (WEST WARD)**

11 Fairlie Street

Phone: 0418 810 774; 8725 2470

Email: crmutton@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

- Operational Services Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Working Party
- Joint Councils Dinner Meetings with Glenelg Shire Council and District Council of Grant
- New Library Working Party
- South East Local Government Association Waste Management Sub Committee

### **Member Portfolio**

Waste Management: waste collections, recycling, landfill (local and regional), transfer centre, greenwaste and waste minimization.

### **CR PENNY RICHARDSON (WEST WARD)**

Unit 1, 1 Nicholas Street

Phone: 0401 000 089; 8723 4283

Email: crrichardson@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

- Corporate & Community Services Committee
- District Council of Grant - 150th Anniversary Sinking of Admella (Year 2009)
- Greater Mount Gambier Tourism Inc
- Joint Councils Dinner Meetings with Glenelg Shire Council and District Council of Grant
- Main Corner Development Working Party
- Mayoress' Family Fun Day Committee
- Mount Gambier Heritage Committee
- Railway Lands Working Party

### **Proxy**

- Riddoch Art Gallery Board of Management

### **Ex Officio**

Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Committee

### **Member Portfolio**

Tourism and Heritage: tourism, major tourism events, community events/

celebrations of a regional nature and heritage.

## **CR ALLEN SMITH (EAST WARD)**

Phone: 0419 869 854; 8725 1863

Email: crsmith@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

- Corporate & Community Services Committee
- Indoor Employees Consultative Committee Single Bargaining Unit
- AWU Consultative Group
- City of Mount Gambier OHS&W and EEO Committee
- Joint Councils Dinner Meetings with Glenelg Shire Council and District Council of Grant
- Main Corner Development Working Party
- Queen Elizabeth Park Trust
- Senior Officers Review & Appointments Committee
- South East Local Government Association - Section 30 Planning Review

## **SELGA**

Planning Review Sub Committee

### **Member Portfolio**

Human Resources: human resources, performance targets, OHS&W/EEO, enterprise bargaining, industrial relations, risk management, technologies, business continuity.

## **CR JOHN KYRIMIS (EAST WARD)**

Phone: 0417 802 894; 8723 9805

Email: crkyrimis@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

- Corporate & Community Services Committee (Presiding Member)
- District Council of Grant's Consultation and Communication Committee
- Joint Councils Dinner Meetings with Glenelg Shire Council and District Council of Grant
- Library Committee (with District Council of Grant)
- Main Corner Development Working Party
- Mayoral Gala Performance
- Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre – Leisure Australia Committee
- New Library Working Party
- Riddoch Art Gallery Board of Management
- Railway Lands Working Party
- Senior Officers Review & Appointments Committee
- Audit Committee (as Presiding Member C & CS Committee)

### **Proxy**

- District Council of Grant's Commercial Development Strategies Working Party

# Council and Committees 2006 - 2010 (from November 2006)

## Member Portfolio

Recreation and Culture: sport, recreation, galleries, arts, aquatics, public libraries, theatres and community centres

Finance/Revenue: revenue raising, financial sustainability, shared services, resource sharing

### CR EUGENE COSCARELLI (WEST WARD)

Phone: 0408 084 586

Email: crcoscarelli@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

- Operational Services Committee
- Building Fire Safety Committee
- Dry Areas Working Party/Licensed Premises Accord Group
- Environmental Sustainability Working Party
- Joint Boundaries Roads Committee with District Council of Grant
- Joint Councils Dinner Meetings with Glenelg Shire Council and District Council of Grant
- Queen Elizabeth Park Trust
- Public Relations & Communications Working Party

### Proxy

- Blue Lake Management Committee
- Mount Gambier and Districts Airport Committee

## Member Portfolio

Compliance and Regulatory: planning, building assessment, environmental health, food premises, liquor licensing, inspectorial and animal control

### CR TONY PASIN (EAST WARD)

P O Box 1375

Phone: 0404 192 370; 8725 6727

Email: crpasin@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

- Operational Services Committee
- District Council of Grant's Consultation and Communication Committee
- Joint Councils Dinner Meetings with Glenelg Shire Council and District Council of Grant
- Mount Gambier & District Population Policy Committee
- Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust
- New Library Working Party
- Railway Lands Working Party
- Senior Officers Review & Appointments Committee

### SELGA

- Deputy Member – Executive Committee
- South East Resource Information Centre
- Limestone Coast Regional Economic Development Board

## Member Portfolio

Economic: economic, commerce and industry, engagement with business leaders, new arrivals initiatives

### CR DANIEL McDONOUGH (EAST WARD)

PO Box 613

Phone: 0407 341 996

- Corporate & Community Services Committee
- Community Safety & Order
- Council Development Assessment Panel (CDAP)
- Joint Councils Dinner Meetings with Glenelg Shire Council and District Council of Grant
- Main Corner Development Working Party
- Mount Gambier Youth Committee
- Youth at Risk Working Party
- City Centre Marketing Team

## Member Portfolio

Community Services: community safety and order, youth services, aged care services, emergency services and multi culturalism and indigenous persons

### CR JIM MAHER (EAST WARD)

PO Box 3614

Phone: 0408 250 864; 8725 0864

Email: crmaher@mountgambier.sagov.au

- Operational Services Committee
- Blue Lake Management Committee
- Council Development Assessment Panel (CDAP)
- Crater Lakes Conservation Management Plan – Working Party
- Crater Lakes Beautification Committee (in temporary recess)
- Environmental Sustainability Working Party
- Joint Councils Dinner Meetings with Glenelg Shire Council and District Council of Grant
- New Library Working Party
- NAIDOC Celebrations Community Planning Committee

### Proxy

- Indoor Employees Consultative Committee Single Bargaining Unit
- AWU Consultative Group
- Library Committee (with District Council of Grant)

### SELGA

- Group Training Employment
- South East Education and Training Association

## Member Portfolio

Environment, Health and Water Quality: health, welfare, immunizations and community health, stormwater, drainage, water quality, Blue Lake/Crater Lakes environs, environmental management

Lifelong Learning: regional education initiatives, higher education, training needs of the region and lifelong learning

### CR MERV WHITE (WEST WARD)

2 MacKenzie Street

Phone: 8725 3799 (p)

Email: crwhite@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

- Operational Services Committee (Presiding Member)
- Council Development Assessment Panel (CDAP)
- District Council of Grant's Consultation and Communication Committee
- District Council of Grant's Commercial Development Strategies Working Party
- Identification of Future Industrial Land Sites within the District Council of Grant Working Party
- Joint Boundary Roads Committee with District Council of Grant
- Joint Councils Dinner Meetings with Glenelg Shire Council and District Council of Grant
- Mount Gambier & Districts Health Service Board
- Mount Gambier & District Road Safety Committee
- New Library Working Party
- Queen Elizabeth Park Trust
- Railway Lands Working Party
- Senior Officers Review & Appointments Committee
- South East Local Government Association
- South East Local Government Association Road & Transport Working Group

### Proxy

- South East Local Government Association Waste Management Sub Committee

### SELGA

- Member – Executive Committee
- South East Education and Training Association

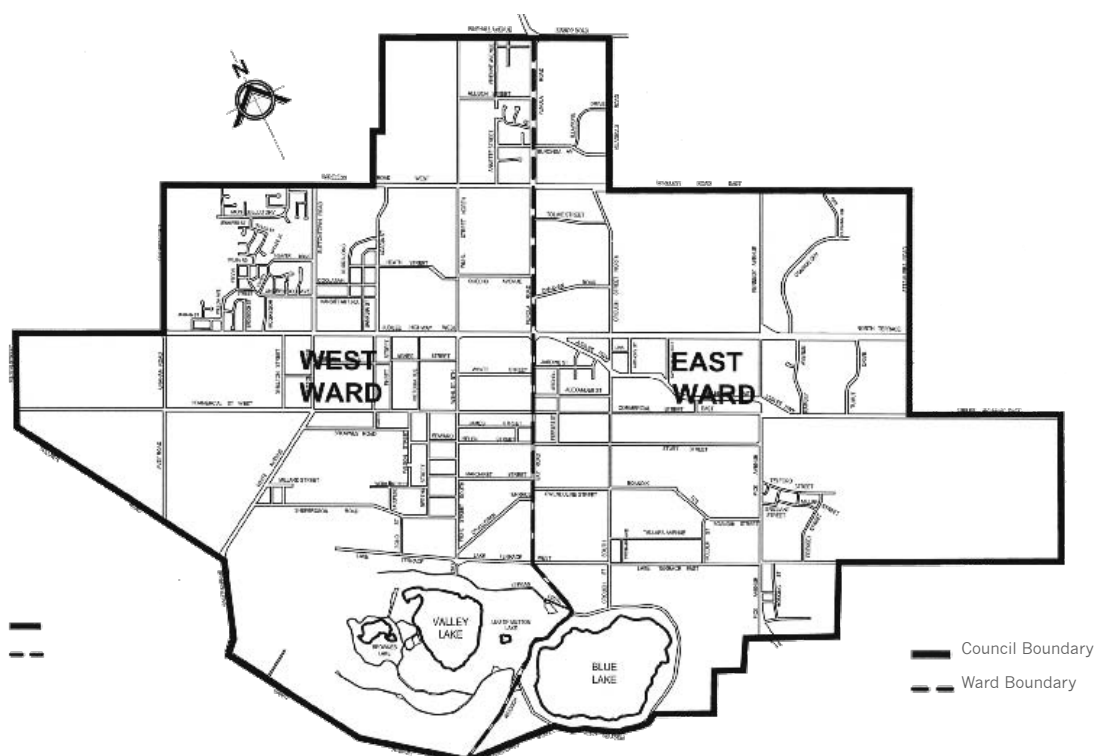
# Attendance at Meetings

The following is the recorded attendance (or apologies) of Elected Members at the twelve (12) Ordinary Council Meetings and the nine (9) Special Council Meetings held during the 2008/09 year:

ELECTED MEMBER	COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD	MEETINGS ATTENDED	APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE	NOT IN ATTENDANCE
Mayor Perryman*	21	16	5	0
Cr Harfield	21	19	2	0
Cr Coscarelli	21	11	7	3
Cr Kyrimis	21	18	3	0
Cr McDonough	21	18	3	0
Cr Maher	21	20	1	0
Cr Mutton	21	14	6	1
Cr Pasin	21	16	5	0
Cr Richardson*	21	15	6	0
Cr Smith	21	21	0	0
Cr White	21	21	0	0

\* It is to be noted that on occasions the Mayor and/or Cr Richardson were apologies as they were attending other functions or meetings on behalf of Council and/or Local Government, on the same evening.

# Council Wards and Boundaries



# Mission and Vision Statement

## TOWARDS 2015 VISION STATEMENT

### **“Mount Gambier is the most liveable City in Australia”**

This vision for our unique City is an opportunity to be fulfilled and/or enhanced by Council.

The Strategic Plan - Towards 2015 commits the Council to address and achieve key goals and key strategies.

Council also wishes to be judged by the quality of its outcomes and achievements not just by the quality of its words.

To this end, Council has become very focused towards achievable targets and realistic outcomes that are important to the City.

Council will continue as a matter of course to undertake its core services and objectives, but it also wishes to attempt to achieve key supplementary goals that ensure the City is forever evolving and improving.

The Strategic Plan - Towards 2015 addresses the implementation of goals and strategies to ensure Council and the community are forever conscious of current challenges and the continuing respect for our environment, our sustainability and the health and well being of our citizens.

Each key goal is defined by a range of strategies and the strategies are actioned through a comprehensive suite of operational activities.

Funding for the key goals and strategies will need to recognise the capacity of the community, competing demands and the reality of economic constraints.

The development of strategic partnerships with others is expected to result in quality and productive outcomes for Council, its customers, its employees and its citizens.

Council's new Strategic Plan - Towards 2015 was adopted on 17th March 2009.

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

## OUR VALUES

Our Values underpin and define how Council operates within the community. By staying true to these Values we will meet and exceed community expectations.

The Values of Council are:

**Respect:** We respect our community, our people, ourselves and other levels of Government.

**Customer Service:** We serve people and welcome personal relationships with the community. We are honest and genuine in wanting to meet and exceed the expectations of the community.

**Decision Making:** Our decision making exhibits courage, sound judgement, initiative and innovation as well as an appreciation of the interaction of the social, economic, cultural and environmental aspects of our work.

**Proactivity:** We are forward looking and positive. Our problem solving and planning seek community input.

**Leadership:** We are the best in what we do and a role model to Local Government.

**Teamwork:** We are committed to the shared goals and strategies of The Strategic Plan - Towards 2015. 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 always for continuous improvement in all that we do.

## OUR GOALS

**Building Communities:** To maintain and improve the quality of life of our people by fostering a range of services and activities.

*State Strategic Plan Reference: Building Communities*

**Commerce and Industry:** To support the reasonable needs of our economic generators to ensure the City has a viable and diverse economic base and continues to be a thriving provincial centre.

*State Strategic Plan Reference: Growing Profitability*

**Diversity:** To provide opportunities for the diverse needs of our people to fully participate and ensure a continuing sense of their engagement, belonging and recognition.

*State Strategic Plan Reference: Improving Wellbeing*

**Environment:** To guide development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

*State Strategic Plan Reference: Attaining Sustainability*

**Financial Sustainability:** To maintain a balance between meeting increasing demand and that of affordability.

*State Strategic Plan Reference: Attaining Sustainability*

**Health:** To encourage and support our people to lead an active and healthy lifestyle, to have local access to high quality health services and to have an environment which supports their health and well being.

*State Strategic Plan Reference: Improving Wellbeing*

**Learning:** To be recognised as a lifelong learning community which encourages, respects and celebrates learning.

*State Strategic Plan Reference: Expanding Opportunity*

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# CEO's Report

We can reflect on the year 2008/09 with a significant sense of achievement and the realisation of our dreams.

Following intensive review, research and planning, Council was able to implement with pleasure two major capital works projects via:

- new Library and Community Centre (incorporating car parking, landscaping and the Civic Plaza)
- Main Corner Development

With a collective spend of over \$15M, these two community projects will change how we (as a community) think about our City and will provide new experiences for our citizens.

These projects physically modernise the City Centre and just as importantly, they will provide a range of community enhancing and community development opportunities by the quality programs and activities that will occur within each space.

Each project will present new journeys of discovery within, through inspiring programs and the creativity of those who will work within each space. The community will enjoy the experiences with fondness and warm affection.

I have no doubt the community will come to be delighted by the interactive pleasures each space will provide and will revisit the spaces time and time again.

Both projects represent the desire of Council to lead in the provision of quality public facilities and to create physical iconic structures that demonstrate to everyone that we are a proud community and that we do wish to be bold and creative.

Council has also continued its various day to day activities which are essential. It is just as important to maintain our "bread and butter" responsibilities that meet the emotional needs and wants of the community as it is to provide the new exciting major facilities.

Council has ensured that it monitors every aspect of its financial affordability and sustainability.

In all that we do we must be conscious of our financial position.

Council uses a range of data and benchmarks to measure its performance, whether they be financial, human resources, risk management, OHS&W or the many other independently gathered research material that we can compare ourselves against.

To be a leader, we must also utilise external expertise from time to time to build upon Council's own internal skills. It is vital that Council strive always to be the best and all the most appropriate knowledge is needed so we can provide the very best.

The world has become a smaller place and we are now judged by international and national standards and expectations by our own community and by our visitors.

It is fundamental to our very existence and our ability to grow as a community, that we aim for the best outcomes always.



The business of local government has become more and more complex. Our dealings with all aspects of our community and our stakeholders is intense and becoming more complicated.

We operate in an environment of specialisation and as such we have to respond to even higher levels of technical capability and demand which does tax our very limited resources.

It is not clear to me that these demands will realise a material benefit to the community as compared to the level of resource commitment that is required.

Sometimes we make life more complicated than it needs to be however we need to remain positive always. We need to find, value and embrace those things that make a real difference in our day to day lives.

We need to recognise those aspects that we appreciate and hold pure and true to our beliefs.

Nothing is constant, nothing is predictable - everything is forever evolving and changing.

In all that we do, we need to remain positive, display passion, demonstrate inspiration, strive for completeness in our relationships, attempt to give enjoyment and know that we do need to rely on each other.

Thank you to the Mayor and Mayoress, the Elected Members of Council and the Employees for your support and your efforts.

Thank you to the Community of Mount Gambier.

Greg MULLER  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**MOUNT GAMBIER**  
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# Governance Statement



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# 2008/09 Budget Analysis

The Budget proposes to spend \$21.87 million in 2008/09 on the delivery of services and programs, maintenance of assets and development of new or upgraded assets (operating/ capital expenditure and appropriations to reserve funds). This is funded from a variety of sources, predominantly rates, but also grants from other parties including State and Federal Governments, and from a variety of statutory and user charges.

## Operating Result

Council is budgeting for a balanced cash Budget result in 2008/09, compared with a \$34,000 deficit in 2007/08 and a small overall operating surplus when all accruals are brought to account.

Council will fund its services in 2008/09 through a mix of revenue sources including rates, user and statutory charges, and grants. Revenue from rates is the major source and, excluding separate rates and the State Government's NRM Levy, is projected to increase from \$11,029,000 in 2007/08 to \$11,746,000 in 2008/09.

Operating Expenditure in 2008/09 is budgeted to increase by 3.4% on the projections for 2007/08. Council faces significant pressures on its Operating Expenditure arising from cost increases as well as demand for additional and increased services. Council is typically exposed to cost increases at a higher rate than the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Consequently the operating budget has been formulated based on the Local Government Price Index of 3.7%. This largely reflects the capital intensive nature of local government.

## PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

### Major New Investment

The 2008/09 Business Plan and 2008/09 Budget comprise a number of proposed major new projects to contribute to the achievement of the City of Mount Gambier's Strategic Plan.

These include major infrastructure improvements, community projects and service improvements.

The development and delivery of Major Strategic Projects is continued through the:

- new Library
- "Main Corner" Culture and Heritage Precinct redevelopment (planning phase)
- Rail Lands redevelopment (planning phase)

These major strategic projects are proposed in partnership with Federal and State Governments and the private sector.

Council through prudent management, has built financial capacity over previous years that will enable repayments in the 2008/09 Budget on a \$4m loan borrowing to be applied to major strategic projects i.e. new Mount Gambier Library.

## 2008/09 Capital Projects include:

		\$
Parks, Gardens, Reserves - Building upgrades		50,000
Playground renewal - Crouch Street Reserve		35,000
Sports Facilities upgrades		
Major Projects:		
RSL Bowls Club		20,000
Frew Park		50,000
Library self check infrastructure		71,000
Plant and Machinery purchases (net of trade)		
Major Purchases:		
Garbage Compactor	\$215,000	631,500
Loader	\$100,000	
Small Trucks	\$114,000	
Stormwater Drainage Program		
Major Project:		
Vivienne/Sharley	\$40,000	
Bike Path Program (\$20,000 subsidy)		55,000
Footway Program		
Major Projects:		
Jardine Street	\$40,000	
Bay Road	\$31,000	
Penola Road	\$20,000	
Road Reseal Program		270,000
Sealed Road Program		
Major Projects:		
Power Street	\$256,000	1,809,000
Shepherdson Road	\$180,000	
Tollner Road	\$290,000	
PLEC (Elizabeth/Caldwell)	\$195,000	

## Other 2008/09 Projects include:

		\$
Environmental Sustainability	30,000	
Additional 2 x CCTV Cameras	50,000	
City Centre Marketing/Streetscaping		90,000
Major Events:		100,000
Sport and Recreation Plan	55,000	
'Gateways' urban design	20,000	
Major Capital Projects Fund allocation		200,000

In addition, Council has budgeted for an overall operating surplus and a balanced cash budget as at 30th June, 2009.

# 2008/09 Budget Analysis cont.

## SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCES

A number of significant factors have influenced the preparation of the Councils 2008/2009 Business Plan. These include:

### Cost increases

Although the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Adelaide was 4.5% for the year ended 31 March 2008, Councils typically face higher cost increases. The Local Government Association publishes a Local Government Price Index (LGPI) that measures the increase in costs faced by local government and is typically rising faster than CPI. The LGPI for the 12 months ended 31 March 2008 has not yet been published but for the period ended 31 December 2007 it was 3.7%, compared to 3.0% for the CPI for the same period.

This reflects the higher capital intensive nature of the various goods and services purchased by local government, particularly the increase in costs associated with maintaining infrastructure, such as roads, footpaths and drains.

Cost increases Council will need to absorb in the 2008/09 Budget process include:

- public liability insurance premiums
- increases in interest rates
- increase in electricity charges
- enterprise bargaining (wage and salary) increases
- increases in fuel and oil prices
- increases in a range of State Government imposed costs i.e. waste management levy

Council reviews its fees and charges for its user-pays services each year to ensure that cost increase in areas such as waste management, energy and fuel and administration are appropriately accounted.

### Legislative changes and financial sustainability

Following the 2005 Independent Inquiry by the Financial Sustainability Review Board into the financial sustainability of local government in South Australia, the Local Government Act and Regulations were subject to a number of significant amendments aimed at improving accountability and transparency of Councils.

Compliance with these amendments, along with the broader objective of implementing the Inquiry's recommendations, has required an intensive focus, resulting in a re-allocation of resources and additional costs in the short-term as Council ensures compliance and further develops its long term financial and asset management plans. This will be more than offset in the medium to longer term as we, and the local government sector at large, reap the benefits of the improvements in business planning and financial governance.

## Renewal and replacement of assets

Consistent with the principles of financial sustainability, Council is committed to continuing its development of comprehensive asset management plans. Considerable progress has been made and a comprehensive Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan will be in place by November 2008. The operations of Council are highly asset intensive – the City has assets and infrastructure valued in excess of \$120 million – and the further development of long term asset management plans will deliver significant improvements to our strategic decisions.

Strategic decisions and budget allocations on capital can be significantly improved through the use of long term infrastructure and asset management plans. Recent amendments to the Local Government Act now require all Councils to have long term infrastructure and asset management plans for all of its assets by November 2008.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR RATES

For 2008/09 we require a total rates increase of 6.5% on 2007/08 to fund all the projects, capital expenditure and services in the Budget.

Components of the overall increase in general rate revenue include:

- 1.37% attributable to the new Mount Gambier Library debt servicing costs
- 1.27% attributable to rate revenue on new growth on new development that will benefit in spreading the overall increase over more rateable assessments

This results in a modest 3.86% as a percentage rate revenue increase available for the provision of Council's ongoing or recurrent general services and facilities.

For the average residential ratepayer this will equate to an approximate of \$28 or 3.75% increase (or fifty four (54) cents per week increase) in Council rates this year bringing the average annual residential rates to \$773 to help fund the 2008/09 Budget.



# 2008/09 Budget Analysis cont.

## RATING STRUCTURE

### Land Valuation Method

Capital value has continued to be used as the basis for valuing land within the Council area in common with almost all other South Australian Councils. This method values the land and all of the improvements on the land and is considered the fairest and most efficient method of distributing the rate responsibility across all ratepayers because:

- It is the most appropriate measure of relative wealth in the community
- As a measure of wealth it most closely reflects the capacity to pay of property owners
- It equates with the taxation principle that people should contribute to community, social and physical infrastructure in accord with their capacity to pay as measured by property wealth

Other valuation methods available are site value (value of land only) and annual value (value of the rental potential of property).

If a ratepayer is dissatisfied with the valuation, the ratepayer may object to the State Valuation Office in writing within 60 days of receiving the notice of valuation, explaining the basis of the objection.

### General Rates

Section 147 of the Local Government Act provides Council with the power to rate all land within the City of Mount Gambier, except for land specifically exempted e.g. Crown Land.

### Fixed Charge

Council has determined that a component of the total rate will be a fixed charge on every rateable property. The fixed charge will affect all ratepayers and will continue to raise slightly less than one half of total rate revenue (before rebates and remissions) required for the 2008/2009 financial year.

Council's reasons for including a fixed charge component are:

- to be able to deliver a range of services to the community, Council must maintain a range of internal support and administrative services. No particular group of ratepayers benefit more than any other group of ratepayers by the provision of the support and administrative services;
- the Council therefore considers it appropriate that all ratepayers contribute equally to the cost of administering Council's activities.

### Differential Rates

One of the outcomes of Council's rating policy review in 2003/2004 was the introduction of a Differential General Rate for each land use category, using land use as the differentiating factor, in recognition of the particular demands placed on Council's infrastructure by these groups of ratepayers. It also recognised the imbalance caused by significant increases in residential properties compared with commercial and industrial properties.

Therefore, in addition to a fixed charge Council will declare differential general rates in the dollar according to the use of the land, for rateable land within the Council area, as follows:

- (a) on rateable land of category 1 (residential) use;
- (b) on rateable land of categories 2, 3 and 4 (commercial shop, commercial office or commercial other) use;
- (c) rateable land of categories 5 and 6 (industrial light and industrial other) use;
- (d) on rateable land of category 7 (primary land) use;
- (e) on rateable land of category 8 (vacant land) use;
- (f) on rateable land of category 9 (other) use.

Every resident benefits in some part from the general amenity of the Council area. This amenity includes the local economy, general Council operations and the ability of every resident to use Council facilities.

The main reasons for providing differential rates are:

- ability to pay
- potential income taxation deductions
- materially heavier/lighter use of services by ratepayers/employees/customers/suppliers
- provide a disincentive to withholding land from development

### Separate Rates

Mount Gambier is in the South East Natural Resources Management Board area and is required under the Natural Resource Management Act 2004 to contribute to the funding of the operations of the Board.

The Council operates as a revenue collection for the South East Natural Resources Management Board and does not retain any revenue collected nor does it determine how the revenue is spent.

### Minimum Amount

Council uses a Fixed Charge as part of its rating structure instead of a Minimum Amount.

### Rate Concessions

The State Government, in providing equity across South Australia, funds a range of concessions on Council rates. The concessions are administered by various State Agencies who determine eligibility and pay the concession directly to Council on behalf of the ratepayer. Concessions are available only on the principal place of residence.

# 2008/09 Budget Analysis cont.

Rate Concessions most commonly are provided to eligible pensioners, state senior card holders (self funded retirees) and eligible persons receiving State and Commonwealth allowances.

## **RATE REBATE/RATE RELIEF ASSISTANCE**

To address any potential inequities in how rates are levied across the Council area the following rate relief assistance options continue to be available:

### **Residential (Principal Place Of Residence) Rate Cap**

This option will provide relief where a ratepayer (principal place of residence) with a residential land use is levied an increase in rates greater than 15% plus the gross rate revenue percentage increase adopted for the 2008/2009 financial year (after considering other rebates).

This rebate will not apply where:

- the increase is due to an increase in valuation as a result of improvements greater than \$20,000
- the increase is as a result of a change of zoning or land use
- ownership of the property has changed since July 2006
- the subject property has been altered in some way (boundary alignment etc) which has resulted in a new property valuation compared to previous



- properties other than the principal place of residence i.e. second and subsequent properties and all other non-principal places of residences of the ratepayer

### **Eligible Pensioner Residential Rate Cap**

This option will provide relief where a ratepayer (principal place of residence) with a residential land use who is entitled to an eligible pensioner concession, is levied an increase in rates greater than 15% inclusive of the gross rate revenue percentage increase adopted for the 2008/09 financial year.

This rebate will not apply where the property exhibits the same characteristics as detailed in the Residential (Principal Place of Residence) Rate Cap.

### **Vacant Land**

The vacant land rate in the dollar is usually substantially higher than the residential rate in the dollar.

For those owners of vacant land who intend to develop that land, in the short term, as their principal place of residence, may be entitled to a rebate on Council rates.

Applications must be in writing with the maximum rate rebate calculated so that the rates payable are equivalent to the average residential land use.

### **Postponement Of Rates - Seniors**

Any person holding a State Seniors Card issued by the State Government may make application to Council for a postponement of the prescribed proportion of rates for the current or future financial years.

All applications for postponement will need to be considered in accordance with the relevant legislative provisions.

### **Hardship**

Any ratepayer experiencing difficulties in meeting rates payments or experiencing hardship will be able to access payment plans tailored to meet their particular circumstances. All arrangements will be strictly confidential.

### **Mandatory And Discretionary Rate Rebates**

The Local Government Act 1999 requires Councils to rebate rates on some land uses (mandatory rebates) and the ability to grant discretionary rebates for land used for the purposes of community benefit provided the land meets certain legislative and Council Policy criteria.

Councils Rate Rebate Policy (incorporating Rate Rebate Application) and the Schedule of Rate Rebates granted, is available for inspection at the Council Office or from the Council website [www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au](http://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au).

# Comparative Performance Measurement

The Project has been undertaken for seven (7) calendar years i.e. 2002 to 2008 and Council has participated in all seven annual reviews.

For the Community Survey component of the overall Project, the following provides the Council results for each year and our average. The figures in brackets are the Statewide results for the same calendar year or the average.

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	Average
Community Satisfaction with Provision and Management of Assets	114.7 (104.5)	117.7 (106.6)	114.9 (107.2)	117.9 (108.1)	119.8 (108.1)	117.4 (107.1)	115.0 (107.1)	116.8 (106.9)
Community Consultation and Awareness Satisfaction	91.2 (83.3)	92.4 (84.9)	90.7 (82.7)	88.4 (82.1)	89.5 (83.4)	84.6 (82.9)	83.4 (84.4)	88.6 (83.3)
General Satisfaction with Council's Services and Facilities	108.6 (102.8)	112.2 (104)	110.6 (104.5)	104.7 (104)	105.9 (103.1)	102.0 (101.3)	98.9 (101.6)	106.1 (103)
Community Perception of Quality of Life	103.7 (90.2)	108.2 (94.0)	109.7 (95.3)	110.2 (94.4)	109.8 (97.4)	108.4 (98.0)	101.6 (96.0)	107.4 (95.1)
Community Perception of Safety and Security	108.8 (91.1)	122.6 (91.2)	113.9 (94.5)	109.3 (92.1)	110 (94.1)	110.8 (96.3)	97.6 (94.4)	110.4 (93.3)
Awareness of Strategic Direction	89.8 (82.2)	94.9 (84.5)	91.1 (82.4)	82.9 (81.9)	86.1 (83.5)	84.1 (83.1)	78.7 (81.1)	86.8 (82.6)
Public Access to Information	93.7 (88.4)	96.6 (89.7)	92.6 (87.8)	90.9 (86.2)	91.4 (87.8)	86.8 (87.6)	87.9 (88.5)	91.4 (88.0)

## COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT PROJECT 2008

Council participated in the seventh Comparative Performance Measurement Project, to gather information annually on the performance of participating Councils across the State in Calendar Year 2008.

The results of the community survey have been processed, along with a range of other measures developed for the project, and paint a picture of a Council's overall performance. Each participating Council received their unique results compared against the regional average and State average for each performance measure. The ability to compare performance results across Councils is a key feature of this project.

The Local Government Act 1999 requires Council to identify 'the measures (financial and non-financial) that are to be used to monitor and assess the performance of the Council over the relevant period' in relation to the objectives and goals set by Council.

Council is also required to report on its performance in the Annual Report

The following is a summary of the high level outcomes for Council from the project for 2008.

Please note the following terms that are used to compare this Council's results against other State benchmarks noting that not all Councils may have participated in the project:

Council	City of Mount Gambier.
ACLG	Urban Regional e.g. Mount Barker, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Coober Pedy, Roxby Downs, Mount Gambier (as defined by the Grants Commission).
SELGA	Seven South East Councils.
SWA	Statewide average.



# Comparative Performance Measurement cont.

MEASURE	2008 RESULTS			
	Council	ACLG	SELGA	SWA
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>				
FOI requests	0	0.03	0.14	0.27
Awareness of Strategic Direction of Council	89.8	88.6	87.5	82.2
Community Consultation	91.2	87.5	87.5	83.3
Public Access to Information, Documents etc	93.7	92.5	91.9	88.4
Achievement of Annual Objectives	81.90%	64.00%	79.40%	86.20%
<b>COMMUNITY SATISFACTION</b>				
General Satisfaction	108.6	105.1	106.1	102.8
Review of Council Decisions	0	0.01	0.02	0.76
Complaints to Ombudsman	0.08	0.28	0.61	0.42
<b>FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS</b>				
Operating Surplus (\$000)	315	-103	-630	-275
Operating Surplus Ratio %	3	-1	-10	-2
Net Financial Liabilities (\$000) (+=surplus / - = deficit)	+3,049	+792	-1,500	-5,821
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio (%) (+=surplus / - = deficit)	+20	+5	-15	-29
Interest Cover Ratio (%)	+1.3	+0.8	-0.5	-0.8
Asset Sustainability Ratio (%)	35	62	54	55
Asset Consumption Ratio (%)	96	74	68	69
Community Satisfaction with Provision and Management of Assets	114.7	105.7	110.2	104.5
<b>QUALITY OF LIFE</b>				
Community Perception of Quality of Life	103.8	98.3	99.7	90.2
Community Services (measure is operating expenditure per 1000 persons on libraries, recreation, sport and cultural etc)	\$345.17	\$497.03	\$420.24	\$455.00
Growth in Capital Valuations	2.00%	2.90%	1.30%	1.80%
Community Perception of Safety and Security	108.8	95.6	105.7	91.1



# Comparative Performance

## Measurement cont.

Performance Score (where applicable) = A performance score of 100 is the standard set for satisfactory performance. A result of 100 indicates that the community perception of Council's performance is satisfactory. A score of less than 100 is considered to be unsatisfactory whereas a score greater than 100 is above satisfactory.

All financial dollar comparisons are based on 2005/06 financial year.

### Analysis of Outcomes for this Council

A review of this Council's performance as compared to Statewide averages and against our results from previous years, can be made for some of the above measures.

Not all of the performance measures can be reasonably compared.

Of the above performance measures, fifteen (15) are able to be analysed and compared and provide a meaningful comparison for the 2008 CPMP outcomes:

- (i) Improved on 2007 result and also achieved better than Statewide averages in six (6) measures vis:
  - operating surplus (\$,000) FSI
  - operating surplus ratio (%) FSI
  - net financial liabilities (\$,000) FSI
  - net financial liabilities (%) FSI
  - interest cover ratio (%) FSI
  - complaints to Ombudsman.
- (ii) did not improve on 2007 results (or equal 2007 results) BUT was still better than Statewide averages in eight (8) measures vis:
  - community satisfaction with assets
  - community consultation and awareness
  - community perception of quality of life
  - awareness of strategic direction
  - public access to information
  - general satisfaction with facilities and services
  - community perception of safety and security
  - growth in capital values
- (iii) improved on 2007 results but less than Statewide averages in one (1) measure vis:
  - achievement of annual objectives
- (iv) did not improve on its 2007 results and was less than Statewide averages in nil measure.



# Decision Making Structure of Council

The Council has adopted the following decision making structure to facilitate good governance and expedite decision making processes having regard to due process:

- (a) Council
- (b) Development Assessment Panel
- (c) Committee Structure
- (d) Community Committees
- (e) Delegations to Employees
- (f) Grievance Procedures

## Committee Structure

Council's Standing Committee structure is set out below (to 30th June 2009).



Council meetings are held at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6.30 p.m.

Standing Committee Meetings are held on the Tuesday evening the week preceding Council Meetings as follows:-

- Corporate and Community Services Committee – 6.00 p.m.
- Operational Services Committee – 7.00 p.m.

unless otherwise amended or altered by Council or the relevant Standing Committee.

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

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

Any person wishing a matter to be considered by Council should communicate in writing to the Chief Executive Officer. These matters are firstly considered by the relevant Council Committee.

Closing dates for agendas for matters to be considered by a Council Committee apply. Please check with Council for these 'deadlines' and the date/times of Committee meetings.

Agendas of all meetings are placed on public display no less than three clear days prior to meetings. Minutes of Council meetings are placed on display within five days after a meeting.

In addition to the above two Standing Committees, Council has also resolved to appoint a range of other Committees and Working Parties which meet as and when required.

These additional Committees and Working Parties include:

- Senior Officer's Review and Appointments Committee
- Audit Committee
- Main Corner Development Working Party
- New Library Working Party
- Railway Lands Redevelopment Working Party

## Council Development Assessment Panel

The Development Act 1993 requires all Councils in South Australia to establish a Council Development Assessment Panel to operate as the relevant authority under the Development Act to assess development applications.

The creation of the Panel is to ensure that Council makes 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 merit of the proposal. The Local Government Act 1999, does not apply to the Development Assessment Panel.

Membership of the Council Development Assessment Panel is made up of four independent Members with an independent member being the Presiding Member (appointed by Council) and three Elected Members of Council, making a total of seven Members on the Panel.

The Council Development Assessment Panel determines its own meeting practices and procedures and acts independently of Council.

The Council Development Assessment Panel holds its meetings on every third Thursday of the month, in the Council Chamber at the City of Mount Gambier, 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier commencing at 5.45 p.m. (unless otherwise determined).

Council cannot influence or overturn any decision made by the Council Development Assessment Panel.

It should be noted that actual decisions/determinations made by the Panel are undertaken 'In Confidence'.

Agendas of all meetings are placed on public display no less than three clear days prior to meetings with minutes on display within five days after a meeting.

# *Decision Making Structure of Council cont.*

## **Community Committees**

In addition to Council's Standing Committees, Council has formed certain community committees that undertake specific roles for Council and the community.

These community committees include:

- Lifelong Learning Working Party;
- Mayoress' Family Fun Day Committee;
- Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee;
- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Committee;
- Mount Gambier Youth Advisory Committee
- Mount Gambier Cemetery Committee;
- Mayoral Gala Performance Committee;
- Crater Lakes Beautification Committee;
- Mount Gambier Heritage Committee;
- Seniors Month Committee;
- Mayors Christmas Appeal Committee
- Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre Management Committee;
- Mount Gambier Public Library Committee;
- Australia Day Awards & Breakfast Committee
- Building Fire Safety Committee;
- Licensed Premises Accord/Dry Areas Group
- Environmental Sustainability Working Party

## **Delegations**

In order to expedite decision making, Council has delegated responsibilities and powers to appropriate Committees and/or employees.

These delegations are reviewed annually by Council.

The current schedule of delegations were reviewed and adopted by Council on 21st April 2009 and are available for public inspection free of charge and for purchase for a fee.

The annual review and delegation adoption process and report, references which power under legislation is being delegated, summary details of the specific delegation, limitations and/or conditions that are applicable to the specific delegation.

## **Grievance Procedures**

Council has adopted a formal Internal Review of Council Decisions Procedure.

The procedure is reviewed during the term of each Council with the last review being conducted on 28th November 2006.

The Procedure is one aspect of Council's customer focused approach to service delivery. It provides a further opportunity to review the way Council makes decisions and provides services to the community and to identify areas for improvement.

It provides the opportunity for any person who is aggrieved by any Council decision to seek a review of that decision.

Issues arise about a range of matters during the course of Council's day to day activities. Most grievances are initially made verbally by telephone, face-to-face to a Council employee, or some may be made in writing in the first instance. Sometimes Elected Members also receive grievances. Grievances will be referred to the relevant Council employee in the first instance and prompt action generally results in the matter being resolved satisfactorily.

The Internal Review of Council Decisions Procedure will apply to requests for review of decisions of Council, its employees or other persons acting on behalf of Council. A formal application or request for review of a decision will therefore initiate the procedure process.

The Internal Review of Council Decisions Procedures will apply to all formal requests for review of Council decisions, except in instances where specific procedures are prescribed in the Local Government Act 1999 or other relevant legislation. It is therefore suggested that the Internal Review of Council Decisions Procedure will not be used when alternative review processes are available.



# Members Allowances and Reimbursements

## Members Allowances and Reimbursements

2008/09

### Allowances

Elected Members are entitled to receive annual allowances pursuant to Section 76 of the Act to help cover the cost of performing and discharging their official functions and duties.

Council at its meeting held on 15th April 2008 resolved to adopt the following Members Allowances for the 2008/09 financial year.

Mayor	\$3,750 per month payable quarterly in advance
Deputy Mayor (not being a Committee Presiding Member):	\$1,167 per month payable half yearly in arrears
Committee Presiding Members (not being the Mayor or Deputy Mayor)	\$1,167 per month payable half yearly in arrears
All other Members (not including above appointments):	\$937 per month payable half yearly in arrears

## 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 Expense reimbursement;
- Seminar/Training Expense reimbursement.

Full details (including limitations and conditions associated with the Council approved expense reimbursements) are included in Council Policy M165 - Members - Allowances and Support Policy.

# Members Training and Development

Council is required to have a formal Policy and Training Program for its Elected Members.

Council has a formal Members Training Policy M250 and has developed and adopted a Members Training Program for the period 2007 – 2010.

Council has commenced to allocate resources for structured Members Training and Development and unstructured continuous learning for Elected Members.

The purpose of the Policy and Program is to maintain competency standards, build on Members' skills base and address Members' training needs identified in any annual analysis. In addition Council seeks to maintain a competent, skilled and safe group of elected decision makers which will enable it to be one of the more progressive Councils in our region and beyond.

During 2008/09 Elected Members participated in a varied program of Workshops and Briefings.

Considerable time has been devoted to assisting the Council to become fully aware of all of the emerging issues and backgrounds before Council, many of which required a level of resolution and advancement to enable their individual implementation and/or conclusion.

Members attended a Training/Information Session facilitated by David Hope of Skillmar Solutions, primarily focussed on interpretation of the many financial reports produced each year for Council e.g. Audited Financial Statements, Financial Sustainability Indicators/comparisons and outcomes, Grants Commission data comparisons, Annual Budget, Asset Sustainability and Asset Consumption, Annual Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan.

Members have also attended a range of activities that build their respective skills and knowledge and which have as their foundation the desire to enhance Members' capabilities to respond to the varied challenges as Elected Members.

The direct cost of Members Training and Development was \$3,393.

# Performance Measures

Council actively participates in all available external Statewide programs, surveys and reviews in an attempt to establish a range of benchmarks and measures on Council's own performance (qualitative and quantitative).

Reference is made elsewhere in this Annual Report on specific examples of formal external performance measurement initiatives and the outcomes e.g.:

- Comparative Performance Measurement for Local Government 2008
- Comparative Performance Measurement Project 2003-2008
- Rates Comparison Report utilising Grants Commission data 2005/06 to 2007/08
- Annual Report on Key Performance Indicators 2008/09
- Financial comparison of Councils utilising Grants Commission data 2007/08
- Workplace Lost Time Injury
- Council's Seven Financial Sustainability Indicator Outcomes 2003/04 to 2008/09
- Grant's Commission allocations for 2008/09
- Fiscal Star Rating of Council's Financial Sustainability 2007/08
- Financial Governance Best Practise

In addition, Council gathers other external data that enables it to reasonably compare its performance against other Councils of like size and regional locality etc or against Statewide data for either general or specific areas of Council's operations.

Council will continue to use the following additional measures to assess its performance against its objectives, e.g.:

- Budget review process - all Councils are required to reconsider or review their Budgets at least three (3) times between 30th September and 31st May each financial year. Council chooses to review its Budget more often than the required three (3) times per year, e.g. seven (7) times in 2008/09, to regularly measure its financial performance in terms of Budget estimates compared to actual income/expenditure. This approach assists the Council to fulfil its role of keeping the Council's resource allocation, expenditure and activities under constant review.
- Strategic Plan review process - a detailed annual review of performance in respect to the implementation of Council's Strategic Plan is undertaken. A written report providing the details of each review is considered and adopted by Council. All reports are available for public inspection (or purchase) at the Council Offices. In addition to the above, the former Strategic Plan 2007 – 2012 and the newly adopted Strategic Plan - Towards 2015 includes both financial and non financial measures that will be used to monitor and assess the performance of the Council over the relevant period.

# Policies

## Council Policies

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

Whilst some Policies are required by Legislation to be reviewed on a more frequent basis, Council's normal procedure is to complete a comprehensive review of all Policies at least once during the term of a Council.

The most recent comprehensive review of Council Policies occurred in 2006 with a further review having commenced in late 2008, which will progressively continue during 2009.

It is intended that all Council Policies continue to be reviewed during the forthcoming term of Council, 2010 - 2014 on a progressive basis.



# Policy and Strategic Matters

During the review year Council considered a number of policy, strategic and matters of importance, that determine the directions of Council and which assist in the management and governance of Council.

Some of the more strategic decisions that Council considered at its meetings during the 2008/09 year included:

## **JULY 2008**

- review of Members Code of Conduct to be undertaken
- approval to proceed to construct a dedicated premise for Mount Gambier Christmas Parade floats/construction/storage
- early conceptual development of a new Council logo
- Council's support for the directions in South Australia's Country Health Care Plan and suggestions of critical areas for attention
- Comparisons of Council's financial data 2006/2007
- Rates Comparison of Council's 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07
- draft operational budget for new Library - implications on the operating statements of Council from the new Library
- annual report to Council from Audit Committee 2007/08
- Council position regarding occupation of Ambulance Centre at Frew Park by SAAS
- delegations to employees (subject to limitations) to engage legal counsel to advise Council on planning appeals
- Council's involvement (in collaboration with LGA) to develop a whole of State - whole of local government view on environmental sustainability and to conduct an environmental sustainability audit
- summary report on 2008 Beyond Carbon - Local Government Climate Change Summit
- report of condition of Frew Park oval surface and authorisation for improvement works
- report on possible removal of cycling track around Vansittart Park oval (received only)
- summary report on submissions received to Council's review of the 1994 Heritage Survey Review
- Annual Business Plan 2008/09 for Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre and decision to close (and remove) the mini golf facility
- increased funding for Attamurra Road/Wireless Road East roundabout and construction in 2008/09
- Council contribution to roundabout at Wireless Road West/O'Leary Road (by District Council)

## **JULY 2008 (SPECIAL)**

- Adoption of 2008/09 Budget, Adoption of 2008/09 Capital Valuations, Declaration of Land Uses and Codes, Declaration of Rates, Declaration of 2008/09 Fixed Charge, Declaration

of 2008/09 Separate Rate, Declaration of Quarterly Billing Dates and Adoption of Council Rebate Policy and Rate Rebate Application

## **AUGUST 2008**

- endorsement of the 2007/08 annual report of the Audit Committee
- Financial Sustainability Indicators - outcomes as a consequence of the adopted 2008/09 Budget
- adoption of the 2008/09 SELGA Budget and Council's contributions thereto
- adoption of 2008/09 declared lease fee for occupiers of Council land
- receipt of 2007/08 Investment Review Report
- receipt of 2007/08 Grievance Procedures annual report
- adoption of sitting fees for Council's Development Assessment Panel until 25th February 2009 and the commencement of a major review of the structure, membership and operating procedures of the Council's Development Assessment Panel prior to the expiry of current arrangements
- review of new Members Code of Conduct and Member Complaint Handling Policy - lie on the table
- annual report of the Mayoral Gala Performance Committee
- adoption of insertions into 2008/09 Annual Business Plan of the intended activities in the 2008/09 Budget that connect to the Strategic Plan 2007 - 2012
- review of Members Training and Development Plan 2007 - 2010 - lie on the table
- 2007/08 Annual Report of the Onsite Counselling Service
- formation of a Council Working Party to consider options for the future redevelopment of the "main corner", 1 Bay Road, Riddoch Art Gallery and Cave Garden precinct
- possible lease/purchase of land(s) at Margaret Street to create a pedestrian link(s) to Railway Lands
- outdoor smoking restrictions in "road related areas" - request for amendment to Section 239 of Local Government Act and further review on Council's options in respect of Council Land
- proposed Street Tree Planting Program for 2009 - invitation for community comment on schedule (net gain 312 street trees)
- proposal to DTEI for possible dedicated bicycle paths at existing roadways at Jubilee Highway and Penola Road and safer crossings at specified areas of the City
- Council report on State Planning Reforms 2008 and submission to the State Government
- purchase of land to facilitate a new roundabout at Wireless Road East/Attamurra Road

# Policy and Strategic Matters cont.

## SEPTEMBER 2008

- 2008/09 Grants Commission allocations - general purpose and roads
- approval for amendments to the Charter of the Provincial Cities Association (Regional Subsidiary)
- report on the planning for the Admella 150 Festival (August 2009)
- new Members Code of Conduct and Member Complaint Handling Policy (lie on table)
- "The Lady Nelson" Visitor Centre to now sell tickets for V/Line and Premier Stateliner passenger bus services
- acceptance of quotation for two (2) additional surveillance cameras for City Centre (and relocate two (2) existing)
- possible purchase of land at 40 James Street (abutting Senior Citizens Centre)
- possible purchase/leasing of separate lands at Margaret Street to provide walkways to the Railway Lands
- annual report of Council's Public and Environmental Health activities for 2007/08
- Review of 1994 Heritage Survey - preparation of DPA to incorporate the recommendations as contained within the 2007 Review. Engagement of Jensen Planning and Design to prepare the DPA. Incorporation of those trees having substantial heritage value only.
- Review of the Council's Development Assessment Panel:
  - > call for nominations from independent persons and Council Members
  - > acceptance of Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct
  - > appointment of public officer
  - > references to compulsory training and conflicts of interest
  - > acceptance of the sitting fees
  - > adoption of CDAP Complaints Handling Policy
- receipt of draft Caroline Landfill Access Agreement - provision of draft to other Councils that may seek to access Council's Caroline Landfill under commercial terms
- review report on the impact on traffic management in the City as a consequence of future blue gum harvesting

## OCTOBER 2008

- adoption of 2007/08 Audited Financial Statements of Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust
- adoption of 2007/08 Audited Financial Statements of Council
- formation of a Members Training and Development Working Party to review policy and develop induction kit
- consideration of the recording/recognition of former Mayor Mrs Lenora Bishop
- receipt of statutory reports for 2007/08 from Provincial Cities Association a Regional Subsidiary of which Council is a Member
- 2008/09 funding allocated for Youth at Risk initiatives
- adoption of amended Council Members Code of Conduct and Complaint Handling Policy (applying also to non elected persons on any Council Committee)
- cash value of Council's Reserve Funds as at 30th June 2008 and projected to 30th June 2009
- annual review and outcomes of Council's 2007/08 Key Corporate Performance Indicators, Financial Sustainability Indicators and Financial Statistics
- report on possible introduction of discount off rates paid in full at first instalment - not actioned
- outcomes for this Council from the independent company Fiscal Star - Rating of Council's Financial Sustainability 2006/07 report
- Enterprise Bargaining - Council proposals to Indoor Employees and also Outdoor Employees to apply from 1st January 2009 for three years
- ongoing review of Council's Development Assessment Panel - invitation for persons to nominate for positions on the Panel to be (re)formed from February 2009
- Environmental Sustainability report on resources required, priority initiatives and implementation processes - request to Working Party to continue to develop the framework of Councils goals and objectives for environmental sustainability
- agreement to release \$40,000 to the City Centre Marketing Team for 2008/09
- Council position in respect of the Mount Gambier Hydrotherapy Pool Fund Bill
- Council to place matters before SELGA regarding suggested enhancements to the governance function and accountability of the Limestone Coast Regional Development Board
- acceptance of tender to construct the new Mount Gambier Library and Community Centre
- Council to prepare a submission to the Dog and Cat Management Board regarding Cat Control



# Policy and Strategic Matters cont.

## NOVEMBER 2008

- adoption of Council's 2007/08 Annual Report
- receipt of Scoping Report for a formal Recreation and Sport Co-location and Sharing Strategy - no further action be taken to undertake the more comprehensive study
- adoption of LGA based best practise model for the annual reporting to Council by the Audit Committee
- annual review and adoption of the Statutory Resolutions and Appointments of Council Register
- outcomes from 2008 Health Assessments of Employees - Changing Shape Program
- annual review and adoption of Council's Competitive Tendering, Contracting, Purchasing, Sale and Disposal of Land and Other Assets Policy
- Council's views on Dog and Cat Management - referred to the LGA and Dog and Cat Management Board for consideration
- concept of a dog park within the City, further concepts required including possible sites and funding options for a dog park
- adoption of Council's 2009 Street Tree Planting Program (following community consultation) - net gain 312 street trees
- Council support for the second version of South Australia's Country Health Care Plan with suggestions of critical areas that should be reflected in Plan
- adoption of Council's 2009 Street Tree Planting Program (following community consultation) - net gain 312 street trees
- Council support for the second version of South Australia's Country Health Care Plan with suggestions of critical areas that should be reflected in Plan
- annual review of some of Council's Policies and adoption (as written) or with minor changes
- adoption of Long Term Financial Plan as a model for future development
- Council to await LGA advices regarding smoking in public places and road areas
- policy position to attempt to obtain from developers a voluntary contribution of \$30 per allotment towards street trees in the subdivision
- adoption of Boundary Roads Program for 2008/09
- adoption of Roads Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans in respect of the road asset category
- adoption of new Policy S135 Streets - Naming of
- Council to participate in the SmokeWatch program
- Council position to negotiate with property owners of pit waste disposal systems to seek cooperation to convert to aerobic systems
- adoption of actions to proceed with environmental sustainability project i.e.
  - > dedicated person/position
  - > implementation of projects and a campaign room
  - > engagement/retainer for ongoing external advice and assistance
- adoption of replacement Policy on Food Premises Inspection
- appointment of both independent and Elected Members to Council's Development Assessment Panel to take effect as from February 2009
- Endorsement of Statement of Intent - Local Heritage DPA. Statement of Intent to be provided to the Minister for agreement prior to proceeding with preparing draft DPA.
- 2008 Local Heritage Restoration grants allocated (\$16,500)
- appointment of Council representatives to the Greater Mount Gambier Infrastructure Working Party with the District Council of Grant
- Commencement of Section 12 Elector Representation Review based on the initial options paper. Action the required six week public consultation process.

## DECEMBER 2008

- report from external auditor on 2007/08 statutory financial audit and recommendations
- details of Council's submission content/project to the Federal Governments Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program comprising new Library, Main Corner, Community Centre, landscape, Civic Plaza, environmental design etc.
- proposed alignment of Regional Development Boards and Regional Development Australia
- annual review and adoption of Council Policy C275 - Code of Practise for Access to Council Meetings, Committees and Documents
- Update No. 2 on proposed operating budget of the new Library (once completed) and implications on Council's Operating Statement
- possible use of Council's Reserve Funds to finance construction of new Library by direct appropriation and/or internal borrowings



# *Policy and Strategic Matters cont.*

## **JANUARY 2009**

- Council support for option 2 model as preferred by Dog and Cat Management Board and the remaking of Dog and Cat Regulations.
- adoption of five year Forward Footpath Construction program 2009/10 - 2013/14
- adoption of five year Forward Pram Crossing Installation program 2009/10 - 2013/14
- adoption of Plant Replacement program for 2009/10
- adoption of Forward Playground Construction program 2009/10 - 2011/12
- 2008 report on Caroline Landfill Groundwater monitoring and adoption of recommendations therein
- endorsement of final Civic Centre car park and Civic Plaza design drawings
- Council's opinion on the draft Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy - general concurrence subject to certain concerns which require further research and development
- adoption of local road bicycle path network, application for funding to enhance network
- adoption of Forward Roads Infrastructure program 2009/10 - 2013/14 and Traffic Control 2009/10 - 2014/15 and City Centre Streetscaping Works program
- ways to enhance the relationships and outcomes between local government and Natural Resource Management Boards having regard to NRM Relations Project Report
- Council purchases property at 40 James Street
- regular reviews of Council Policies and the proposed (re) adoption with or without amendments - no decision
- adoption of new Policy S175 - Safe Environment Policy - Childrens Protection
- half yearly report to Council from its Audit Committee - 2008/09
- adoption of Council recovery charges for 2009/10 from organisations who occupy Council land and where Council maintains that land (wholly or partially)
- review of Council Policy M250 Members Training and Development and Members Training and Development Plan 2007 - 2010 - no decision
- receipt of half yearly Investment Review report - 2008/09
- development of a Bushfire Management Plan for land under direct control of Council

## **FEBRUARY 2009**

- proposal to permit one or two young persons from YAC to actively participate at Council and Committee meetings - matter to be first discussed with YAC
- regular reviews of Council Policies and the (re) adoption with or without amendments
- annual review and adoption of Delegations of Powers of Council following updates - left lie on the table
- adoption of new (replacement) OHS&W - Contactor Management Policy and Procedure
- half yearly status report (to 31/12/2008) on achievements of the Operational Activities of Council's Strategic Plan 2009 - 2012
- year 2008 outcomes from Comparative Performance Measurement Project
- update report on Mount Gambier - A Lifelong Learning Community, reinforcement of the importance of the initiative, formation of a new working party (Council and Community membership)
- application for new dog registration fees, rebates etc. for 2009/10 to Dog and Cat Management Board for consent
- adoption of Forward Drainage Construction Program 2009/10 to 2011/12
- placement of public exhibition draft Community Land Management Plans for recently obtain lands
- purchase of three pedestrian crossing controllers from DTEI for upgrading of current infrastructure
- participation in a working group for the development of Local Government Environmental Health Indicators
- review and (re)adoption of some of Council Policies
- appointment of Council delegates to the South East Local Government Association and endorsement of Council Members appointed by SELGA to its outside organisations
- messages of condolences to local government areas in Victoria where fatalities have occurred from bushfires
- Council donation to the Pioneers Basketball Club for 2009 season
- action of expression of interest process for rights to conduct the coffee shop within the New Library
- New Library to be 100% Green Power
- adoption of design brief and vision for the "Main Corner Precinct" comprising four design/development elements
- Council purchase of 24 Margaret Street (abutting Railway Lands)

# *Policy and Strategic Matters cont.*

## **MARCH 2009**

- consent to now research options to borrow externally up to \$4m for financing of the new Mount Gambier Library
- annual review and adoption of increases to Council's fees and charges to apply for the 2009/10 financial year
- review and (re)adoption of some of Council's Policies (some with minor changes)
- update Report No. 3 on the anticipated Operational Budget for the New Library and future implications on Council's Operating Statement
- annual review and acceptance of revised Information Statement - Freedom of Information Act
- initial review report on Valuation and Rating System for the 2009/10 Valuation and Rating year and use of directions when compiling the 2009/10 Business Plan and Budget
- Council agrees to participate with the State Government as a pilot for the EPODE - OPAL - childhood obesity program
- receipt of report on Financial Governance - Best Practise for Local Government - assessment against thirteen characteristics (refer to Audit Committee)
- review (2008), Orchard Road Landfill Groundwater Monitoring event and testing results
- initial schedule of projects to be implemented by Environmental Sustainability Working Party
- Council to investigate the need for transitional supported accommodation for people with mental health issues
- Receipt of submissions to Council's initial Options Paper from the consultation phase of the Section 12 Elector Representation Review. Proceed to the next phase of developing a proposal report for further public consultation.
- Annual Review of Council's Strategic Plan and adoption of new Plan with a range of changes to the Plan. Proceed to now develop operational activities.
- Seek the authorisation of the Minister for the approval of the Penola Road District Centre Development Plan Amendment.
- half yearly review of Council's three (3) Senior Executive Officers
- Council to enquire as to the status of allocation of beds at Mount Gambier Hospital for mental health patients

## **APRIL 2009**

- Council participates with Stand Like Stone Foundation in "Vital Signs" community check up project
- increases from 1st July 2009 of Cemetery scale of fees at Carinya Gardens Cemetery and parts of Lake Terrace Cemetery
- naming of former Vansittart Park cycling rooms the "Alex Roberts Centre"
- annual review and adoption of Delegation of Powers of Council
- further review of Council Policy manual and updates as required and were adopted
- further negotiations with bus companies for passenger bus ticketing services at "The Lady Nelson" during normal operating hours
- proposed archaeological dig at 1 Bay Road (after buildings demolished), Council requests further details of proposal
- removal of certain pine trees within the Crater Lakes area and the identification of certain pine trees to remain
- notice of motion to the ALGA - General Assembly of Local Government by Council seeking to amend the Building Code of Australia for the mandatory requirement for adaptable housing provisions
- adoption of Community Land Management Plans for lands obtained and/or transferred to Council
- Council to seek to fund sewer service upgrades at Malseed Park in 2009/10 Budget
- specification developed for the calling of proposals from financial institutions for \$4.0m loan borrowing by Council for New Library and Community Centre.

## **SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 2009**

- Council position regarding the proposed alignment of federal based Area Consultative Committees and state based Regional Development Boards. Council adopts a substantial position regarding this proposed alignment.



# Policy and Strategic Matters cont.

## MAY 2009

- adoption of dates and timing processes for consultation on Councils 2009/10 Annual Business Plan and 2009/10 Budget
- adoption of Members Allowances for 2009/10
- adoption of Council Policy regarding how Council seeks nominations from its Elected Members for available SELGA appointed outside organisation positions
- receipt of Draft Capital Expenditure and Operational Budget for the development and maintenance of the Railway Lands - implications on Council's Operating Statement
- annual continuing review and adoption (with or without changes) of certain Council Policies
- adoption of schedule of Rate Rebates/Remissions to apply for 2009/10
- receipt of Rate Rebate Policy to apply for 2009/10 but not adopted
- referral to Audit Committee of possible preparation of new Funding Policies and Strategies and also a new Internal Financial Controls Policy
- adoption of revised Whistleblowers Protection Policy (W150) and adoption of new Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy (F220)
- leasing arrangement of "Old Town Hall" complex to Limestone Coast Regional Development Board as from 1st December 2009 (lie on the table)
- second consultation report accepted by Council for changes to the structure and composition of Council - Section 12 Elector Representation Review - released for public consultation
- adoption of revised 2009/10 entry charges to the Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre
- Council not likely to proceed with a formal archaeological dig at 1 Bay Road
- Council resolves to be involved with the WAY2GO program (for two years) with DTEI, and allocation of \$20,000 in 2009/10 and \$20,000 in 2010/11
- adoption of concepts and directions for the "Main Corner" redevelopment
  - > tenders for demolition
  - > expanded design collaborative team
  - > engagement of specialist services
  - > development of timelines for the project
- Council agrees to the capital spend of the "Main Corner" redevelopment of \$5.0m
- Council consents to seek approvals for removal of certain items from the Railway Lands as part of a general clean up.

## SPECIAL MEETING MAY 2009

- Consider of tender proposals from financial institutions for a \$4.0m Council borrowing

## JUNE 2009

- Audit Committee report to Council on its assessments of Council's performance against the Financial Governance Best Practice thirteen characteristics
- endorsement of By Law amendment to prohibit smoking on Council land - ready for public consultation (lie on table pending more research)
- appointment of community members to Council's Lifelong Learning Working Party
- Council adopts a range of operational activities for its environmental sustainability and to negotiate on the retaining of independent advice to Council. Allocation of funding in the 2009/10 Budget.
- Council adopts new structure/composition of Council following Section 12 Elector Representation Review i.e.
  - > Mayor elected at large
  - > ten area Councillors
  - > no wards
- Council grants licence to "Plants on Sturt" to occupy and operate new coffee shop concession area within New Library
- Council concern that Federal Government funding for Blue Lake Watercare to cease as at 30th June 2009
- leasing arrangements of "Old Town Hall" complex to Limestone Coast Regional Development Board as from 1st December 2009 adopted by Council
- adoption of Audit Committee recommendation that existing internal financial controls of Council are adequate

## SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 2009

- Council commences consideration of 2009/10 Budget and 2009/10 Business Plan (first of five special meetings)

## SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 2009

- Council continues consideration of 2009/10 Business Plan and 2009/10 Budget (second of five special meetings)



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A160	Addresses	C350	Council Land - Special Events Permit
A170	Advertising - All Business Premises/Property	C355	Council Land - Irrigation Policy
A180	Advertising - Home Activity Signs	C360	Council - Personal Immunity for Individuals
A190	Advertising - Revolving Wind Powered Signs	C375	Council Vehicles - Provision and Replacement of
A200	Animals - Keeping of Birds, Livestock	C380	Council Vehicles - Involved in Accidents
A210	Animals - Noise Nuisance	D110	Development Act - Amended Applications
A225	Arts and Cultural Policy	D120	Development Act - Application Fees
A230	Art Works - Council Assistance	D125	Development Act - Bed and Breakfast Establishments
A240	Assemblies and Events on Council Land	D130	Development Act - Certificate of Occupancy
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B160	Building - Verandah Posts	D200	Dog Control - House Inspections
C110	Caravans	D210	Dog Control - Problem Dogs
C120	Cemeteries	D220	Dog Control - Seizure of Dogs
C125	Cemeteries - Lake Terrace Cemetery	D230	Donations - Authority to Approve Requests
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C160	Coat of Arms	E120	Employees - Advance on Salaries and Wages
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C190	Community Identity	E130	Employees - Attendance at Council and Committee Meetings
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T130	Tourism - Miscellaneous Matters	W130	Works - Council Program
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T150	Treasury Management	W150	Whistleblower's Protection Policy
V110	Vandalism - Acts of Graffiti and Rewards		

## *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.

Excluding those properties that are clearly 100% exempt from Council rates in the first instance (i.e. Government land) the value of other statutory and discretionary rate rebates granted by Council for 2008/09 was \$54,316.

A complete schedule of all rateable properties receiving either the statutory or discretionary rebate on rates is contained in Council's Budget papers.

The value of \$54,316 is for rate rebates for those properties receiving a statutory or discretionary rebate of 100% or a lesser percentage or by agreement.

Those properties receiving total exemption at the point of generation of rate accounts, e.g. State and Federal Government property etc, the rates value foregone is estimated at \$180,000.



# Financial Sustainability

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY - INDEPENDENT RATING

The private company Fiscal Star Services Pty Ltd has for the third year provided its independent rating of the financial sustainability of each of Australia's largest 500 Councils (28 Councils in South Australia, including this Council).

The company has released its sustainability ratings based on 2007/08 financial data.

Its rating star assessment is defined as:

- star ratings of 5, 4.5, 4 and 3.5 indicate the Council's existing policies are assessed as "financially sustainable";
- star ratings of 3 and 2.5 indicate the Council's existing policies are assessed as "financially vulnerable";
- star ratings of 2 and 1 indicate the Council's existing policies are assessed as "financially unsustainable".

Council's star rating for the three years of this independent company's assessment have been:

Year	Star Rating
2005/06	3 stars
2006/07	4.5 stars
2007/08	4.5 stars

Across the State, the star rating assessment of those 28 Councils that have been assessed for 2007/08 was:

5.0 stars	NIL Councils
4.5 stars	9 Councils
4.0 stars	1 Council
3.5 stars	5 Councils
3.0 stars	6 Councils
2.5 stars	NIL Councils
2.0 stars	5 Councils
1.5 stars	NIL Councils
1.0 stars	2 Councils

## FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE - BEST PRACTICE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Local Government Association has developed for Councils, a self assessment process to enable each Council to assess its financial governance practices against thirteen (13) characteristics of Financial Governance Best Practice.

Council's Audit Committee accepted the opportunity to assess Council against those characteristics.

The Audit Committee in its final report to Council advised:

"Having regard to the guidances and the suggested measures provided in the LGA discussion paper "Financial Governance Best Practice" and applying the knowledge and observations of the Audit Committee as it undertakes its role for Council, the Audit Committee believes:

1. Council is achieving best practice in nine (9) of the thirteen (13) characteristics.
2. The areas for ongoing refinement are:
  - (i) Education and Training will always be ongoing and necessary and needs to be both general and specific to suit the different needs of Members.
  - (ii) Accounting Policies will always be subjected to ongoing review and refinement.
  - (iii) Budget and financial information is strategic, succinct and easy to follow (the Audit Committee notes that Council is in many respects achieving nearly best practice on this characteristic).
  - (iv) Annual Budget is based on the Long Term Financial Plan and the connections are becoming more obvious".



# Corporate Statement



Greg MULLER  
Chief Executive Officer



Lynne DOWLING  
Executive Assistant



Grant HUMPHRIES  
Director - Corporate &  
Community Services



Daryl SEXTON  
Director - Operational Services

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# 2008/09 Rating and Valuation Summary

	RATING COMPONENT	2007/08	2008/09			
1)	Fixed charge	\$400	\$421.50			
	Amount Total Collection	\$4,928,000	\$5,285,610			
	% of Total Rates	45%	45%			
2)	Differential Rates					
	1. Residential	0.1869	0.188			
	2. Commercial - Shop	.5046 (+170%)	.5076 (+170%)			
	3. Commercial - Office	.5046 (+170%)	.5076 (+170%)			
	4. Commercial - Other	.5046 (+170%)	.5076 (+170%)			
	5. Industry - Light	.4392 (+135%)	.4794 (+155%)			
	6. Industry - Other	.4392 (+135%)	.4794 (+155%)			
	7. Primary Production	0.1869	0.188			
	8. Vacant Land	.7476 (+300%)	.7520 (+300%)			
	9. Other	0.1869	0.188			
3)	Valuation					
	Rateable Land	\$2,478,998,578	\$2,560,572,782			
	Non Rateable Land	\$129,912,222	\$138,949,618			
	All Land	\$2,608,910,800	\$2,699,522,400			
4)	Separate Rate					
	Catchment Board Contribution	\$429,968	\$441,755			
	Catchment/NRM Levy	\$34.90	\$35.40			
5)	Valuation Comparison					
		2007/2008	2008/2009			
	Land Use Category	Properties	Properties	Properties	Assessed Value (\$)	% Increase
1	Residential	10,702	1,988,518,724	10,859	2,036,149,522	2.30%
2	Commercial - Shop	469	162,387,295	465	170,836,384	5.20%
3	Commercial - Office	101	22,304,725	107	25,093,128	12.50%
4	Commercial - Other	368	143,095,925	377	151,661,116	5.90%
5	Industry - Light	109	18,290,558	110	20,146,740	10.00%
6	Industry - Other	97	74,971,207	96	79,125,992	5.50%
7	Primary Production	24	7,203,000	23	6,939,500	-3.60%
8	Vacant Land	437	36,050,255	474	43,122,395	19.60%
9	Other	50	26,176,889	50	27,497,975	5.00%
	TOTALS	12,356	2,478,998,578	12,561	2,560,572,782	3.20%

## 2008/09 Rating and Valuation Summary cont.

6)	Rating Comparison							
		2007/08			2008/09			
	Land Use Category	Fixed Charge	Rate Rebate	Total Rates	Fixed Charge	Rate Rebate	Total Rates	% Increase
1	Residential	4,567,376	543	8,395,198	4,265,200	8,485	7,970,677	5.3%
2	Commercial - Shop	195,997		1,063,187	187,600		1,007,006	5.5%
3	Commercial - Office	44,679		169,107	40,400		152,950	10.5%
4	Commercial - Other	159,748		932,861	147,200		869,262	7.2%
5	Industry - Light	46,786		144,663	44,400		124,732	15.9%
6	Industry - Other	40,464		419,794	38,800		368,074	14.0%
7	Primary Production	8,851		20,148	9,600		23,062	- 12.6%
8	Vacant Land	200,634		528,127	174,800		444,312	18.8%
9	Other	21,075		73,095	20,000		68,925	6.0%
	TOTALS	5,285,610	543	11,746,000	4,928,000	8,485	11,029,000	6.50%

[ Tenison students performing at Celebrate Senior's Concert - Wehl Street Theatre ]



# Key Performance Indicators 2008/09

2008/09 Corporate Level Performance Indicators and Outcomes

## FINANCIAL

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REASON FOR PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT TOOL	TARGET	ACTUAL June 2009 (unless otherwise shown)
Debt Servicing Ratio (Total debt costs over rates)	Measure the capacity of Council to service annual debt	Annual loan interest and principal as a percentage of general rates	Ratio less than 15%	8.2%
Debt Servicing Ratio (Total Servicing costs over operating revenue)	Measure the extent to which long-term debt is impacting on the total income of Council	Annual loan interest and principal as a percentage of Council's operating revenue	Ratio less than 8%	5.1%
Rate Revenue	Measure Council's dependence on rates	Rate revenue as a percentage of total operating revenue	Ratio less than 60%	63.5%
Grants & Subsidies	Measure Council's access to Government funding sources	Operating grants and subsidies as a percentage of total operating revenue	20% or better of total operating revenue	15.07%
Operating Result	Reduce operating deficit each year	End of year operating deficit/surplus before Capital Revenue	Reduce operating deficit - work towards operating surplus	Surplus of \$976,000 (1)
Existing Asset Renewal (Capital Expenditure on existing assets over annual depreciation)	Seek to achieve a ratio of 1:1	Existing Assets Capital expenditure as a ratio of annual depreciation	Ratio of 1:1 ie replace 100% of asset depreciation	0.80:1 (2)
Average rates per rateable property	Benchmark against other like Councils	Rates raised as a \$ value per property	\$950	\$935
Average residential rates	Benchmark against other like Councils	Average \$ value for residential rates	\$800	\$773
Loan Liabilities as a percentage of rate income	Contain Loan Liability to 60% of rate income	Loans outstanding as a percentage of general rates	60% (max)	57.3%
Working Capital ratio	Measures Councils financial position	Value of current assets against current liabilities	3:1 i.e. \$3.00 of current assets for every \$1.00 of current liabilities	3.21:1
Outstanding Council rates	Minimizing outstanding debtors and greater debt recovery	Outstanding rates as a percentage of total rates raised	Less than 1% of rates raised	1.71%
Capital Renewal on existing infrastructure (roads drainage, footpaths) over annual depreciation	Seek to achieve a ratio of at least 1:1	Capital spend on existing infrastructure assets as a ratio of annual depreciation of same assets	1:1 i.e. replace 100% of asset depreciation on renewal of same assets	0.95:1
Operating Surplus/ (Deficit) as a percentage of depreciation	Measures Councils financial position on operating	Surplus/(Deficit) on operations before Capital Revenues against annual depreciation	Not more than -10% to + 5% of depreciation value	+23.0%
Loan Debt as a percentage of Community Wealth (Equity)	Measures Councils financial position	Loans Outstanding as a percentage of Community Wealth (Equity)	Not more than 12%	5.1%

# Key Performance Indicators 2008/09 cont.

2008/09 Corporate Level Performance Indicators and Outcomes 2008/09

## FINANCIAL cont.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REASON FOR PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT TOOL	TARGET	ACTUAL June 2009 (unless otherwise shown)
Capital Expenditure as a percentage of all expenditure	Measures Councils investment in asset renewal/ replacement	Capital expenditure as a % of Capital and Operating expenditure	At least 20%	38.0%
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) as a percentage of operating revenue	Measures Councils - financial position on operating	Operating Surplus/(Deficit) as a percentage of operating revenue	Deficit: not more than 5% Surplus: not more than 5%	N/A 5.3%

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$457,299 Grants Commission payment

<sup>2</sup> \$3,409,000 ÷ \$4,243,000

## COMMUNITY SATISFACTION

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REASON FOR PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT TOOL	TARGET	ACTUAL June 2009 (unless otherwise shown)
Community Satisfaction with Provision and Management of Assets	Measure resident satisfaction with type and state of assets	Annual LGA Community Survey - 2008	100.00 (100 indicates satisfactory)	114.7 (2008)
Community Consultation Satisfaction	Measure resident satisfaction with consultation processes	Annual LGA Community Survey - 2008	100.00 (100 indicates satisfactory)	91.2 (2008)
General Satisfaction with Council's Services and Facilities	Measure resident satisfaction with Council's services and facilities provisions	Annual LGA Community Survey - 2008	100.00 (100 indicates satisfactory)	108.6 (2008)
Awareness of Strategic Direction	Measure resident awareness of Councils direction and its effectiveness	Annual LGA Community Survey 2008	100.00 (100 indicates satisfactory)	89.8 (2008)
Public Access to information	Measure resident awareness of access to Council information and its effectiveness	Annual LGA Community Survey 2008	100.00 (100 indicates satisfactory)	93.7 (2008)
Community Perception of Quality of Life	Measure resident views on community quality of life	Annual LGA Community Survey 2008	100.00 (100 indicates satisfactory)	103.8 (2008)
Community Perception of Safety and Security	Measure resident views on safety & security	Annual LGA Community Survey - 2008	100.00 (100 indicates satisfactory)	122.6 (2008)

# Key Performance Indicators 2008/09 cont.

2008/09 Corporate Level Performance Indicators and Outcomes 2008/09

## INTERNAL EFFICIENCY

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REASON FOR PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT TOOL	TARGET	ACTUAL June 2009 (unless otherwise shown)
Operating Expenditure	Measures the proportion of expenditure as a growth factor	Operating expenditure by number of rateable properties	\$1,200 (min)	\$1,395
Total employee costs by number of rateable properties	Measures employee costs by number of properties serviced	Employee costs by number of rateable properties	Not more than \$500	\$484
All liabilities per rateable property	Measure and monitor all of Councils liabilities	Total Liabilities per rateable property	Not more than \$800	\$836
Occupational, Health and Safety	Measures Council's performance regarding OHS of its employees	Number of Lost Time Injury days	0	0 days
Occupational, Health and Safety	Councils Self Audit Score - percentage benefit	WCS Self Audit OHS Score (max available 100%)	100%	95%
Occupational, Health and Safety	Measures Councils Performance regarding OHS of its employees	Lost Time Injuries per 100 FTE's (incident rate)	0	0.0
Risk Management	Measure the improvement in addressing Council wide risk management issues	MLS Annual Risk Management Review Audit	At least 90%	94.2% (2009)
Public Liability claims against Council	Measure the cost of public liability claims against Council	Loss ratio - claims costs against premiums	Not more than 20%	40%
Cost of Workers Compensation Premium	Measure the cost of Workers Compensation Insurance	Net annual cost to Council noting loss ratio and rebate indication	Less than 10% for claim loss ratio <u>and</u> rebate entitlement greater than 50%	12.0% 48.4%
Employee costs as a percentage of operating expenses	Measures costs of employing staff against operating costs	Employee costs as a percentage of operating expenditure	Not more than 35%	34.7%
Public Liability Claims Performance Distribution	Measure Councils Public Liability Bonus Distribution	MLS Claims Performance Bonus as a % of gross contribution	At least 20%	18.6%
Funds to meet Employee Provisions	Measure the level of funds available for current accrued LSL and AL	Cash available to fund accrued Employee Entitlements (current)	At least 60% of current entitlements funded	44.4%

# Capital Expenditure

Council monitors very closely its spending on Capital and in particular, capital spend on existing assets, as well as on new assets.

This capital renewal spend is then matched against the annual depreciation charge for those same existing assets.

For the 2008/09 financial year the following was the outcome:

ITEM	CAPEX NEW ASSETS \$'000	CAPEX EXISTING ASSETS \$'000	DEPRECIATION \$'000
Land	355	NIL	NIL
Buildings / Structures	6,104	364	2,005
Infrastructure	724	1,195	1,253
Plant and Machinery	NIL	1,810	696
Minor Plant	6	46	30
Office Equipment	82	NIL	27
Library Books	106	NIL	232
	<b>\$7,377</b>	<b>\$3,415*</b>	<b>\$4,243</b>

\* The Cash Flow Statement within the Balance Sheet will show this figure as \$3,409,000. The \$6,000 difference is the value Council has attributed to the land gifted to Paraquod SA.



# Council's Financial Performance

## GRANTS COMMISSION DATA 2007/08

As a by-product of the work of the State Grants Commission, it has been the practice each year to assemble and publish general and financial information on each Council, commonly referred to as the Commission's "Database Reports".

The Commission is aware of a number of Councils (including this Council) which have adopted a range of financial performance measures and are using information in the Commission's Database reports to "benchmark" themselves against a group of similar Councils.

A review has been undertaken of the 2007/2008 financial data from the State Grants Commission of this Council's data and that of other Councils and the State averages.

The following is a significant range of comparison data for the 2007/2008 year for Council and the State averages.

Having regard to the following data and where comparisons are reasonably able to be made, the following conclusions and comparisons may be of interest.

### 1. Significantly better than the State Averages

- cash and cash equivalents
- percentage of rates from Fixed Charge
- value of our Fixed Charge
- residential rates per residential property
- total financial assets
- net financial liabilities (\$) \*
- operating surplus/(Deficit)\*
- operating Surplus ratio\*
- net financial liabilities ratio (%)\*
- interest cover ratio (%)\*
- total operating expenses
- total liabilities
- employee costs
- materials, contractors plus other costs
- finance costs

### 2. Slightly above the State Averages

- population
- number of rateable residential properties
- investment income
- number of rateable properties
- rates as a percentage of operating revenue

### 3. Less than State Averages

- net outlays on existing assets over depreciation
- net outlays on new/upgraded assets
- net outlays on non financial assets over depreciation
- total assets
- total equity
- total value of residential rates
- asset sustainability ratio (%)\*
- asset consumption ratio (%)\*
- number of employees (FTE)
- capital value of rateable property
- general rates
- grants and subsidies
- total operating revenue
- depreciation

\*Denotes formally adopted Financial Sustainability Indicator for Council.



# Council's Financial Performance cont.

## FINANCIAL COMPARISON - GRANTS COMMISSION DATA 2007/08

COUNCIL	POPULATION 30/6/2008	EMPLOYEES FTE	NUMBER OF RATEABLE PROPERTIES JAN-08	CV OF PROPERTIES (\$MILL) JAN-08	GENERAL RATES (\$000)	GRANTS & SUBSIDIES (\$000)	INVESTMENT INCOME (\$000)	TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE (\$000)	EMPLOYEE COSTS (\$000)	MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER (\$000)	FINANCE COSTS (\$000)	DEPRECIATION (\$000)
MOUNT GAMBIER	24,928	100	12,802	2,496	11,027	1,835	586	16,632	5,453	6,034	231	4,056
MURRAY BRIDGE	19,101	168	10,624	2,123	11,416	7,396	284	22,693	8,487	9,456	855	4,814
PORT AUGUSTA	14,542	198	7,216	1,333	8,040	9,117	154	23,195	11,216	10,868	546	2,924
PORT LINCOLN	14,452	43	8,022	2,018	6,761	1,369	360	10,906	2,303	5,711	44	3,712
PORT PIRIE	17,950	79	9,748	1,630	7,128	4,735	616	14,756	3,837	5,643	0	3,507
WHYALLA	22,801	133	11,444	2,003	8,459	5,276	373	20,152	6,834	9,777	236	3,853
VICTOR HARBOR	13,247	84	9,919	3,073	10,410	1,302	259	15,577	5,484	6,470	1,050	4,202
GRANT	8,542	63	5,299	1,980	4,989	1,578	576	9,996	3,504	2,975	170	3,469
WATTLE RANGE	12,508	88	8,860	2,939	13,889	2,505	389	17,089	5,047	7,277	573	4,793
NARACORTE- LUCINDALE	8,440	76	6,026	2,069	7,481	2,477	115	12,372	4,150	4,078	253	4,342
STATE AVERAGE	23,484	117	12,337	3,956	13,252	3,490	354	21,315	7,162	8,957	457	4,736

COUNCIL	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES (\$000)	NET OUTLAYS ON EXISTING ASSETS - OVER DEPRECIATION (\$000)	NET OUTLAYS ON NEW / UPGRADED ASSETS (\$000)	NET OUTLAYS ON NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS - OVER DEPRECIATION (\$000)	CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS (\$000)	TOTAL ASSETS (\$000)	TOTAL LIABILITIES (\$000)	TOTAL EQUITY (\$000)	NUMBER OF RATEABLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES JAN-08	FIXED CHARGE (\$)	% OF GENERAL RATES FROM FIXED CHARGE (%)	RATES AS % OF TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE (%)	TOTAL RESIDENTIAL RATES (\$000)
MOUNT GAMBIER	15,774	(2,439)	1,261	(1,178)	9,369	130,622	5,458	125,164	10,464	400	38	69	8,319
MURRAY BRIDGE	23,612	(5,128)	6,298	1,170	2,046	102,908	17,595	85,313	6,939			52	6,890
PORT AUGUSTA	25,554	(3,828)	4,128	300	2,132	72,391	15,057	57,333	5,930			38	6,690
PORT LINCOLN	11,770	(314)	1,653	1,339	4,401	131,092	4,039	127,053	6,051	280	25	64	5,165
PORT PIRIE	12,987	228	3,050	3,278	7,430	100,271	3,402	96,869	7,341	255	26	52	4,692
WHYALLA	20,700	(1,089)	1,043	(46)	3,163	162,408	6,180	156,229	10,285	286	35	50	8,346
VICTOR HARBOR	17,206	(1,961)	465	(1,496)	1,762	209,232	20,571	188,661	6,627	210	13	67	7,921
GRANT	10,118	(727)	490	(237)	7,833	64,919	4,271	60,648	2,231			57	987
WATTLE RANGE	17,690	(889)	1,992	1,103	4,791	96,919	11,309	85,610	4,335			70	3,925
NARACORTE- LUCINDALE	12,823	(2,226)	200	(2,026)	1,962	92,107	5,137	86,970	2,569			63	2,625
STATE AVERAGE	21,312	(1,659)	1,778	118	4,276	215,168	12,103	203,064	9,342	269	20	66	8,939

# Council's Financial Performance cont.

## FINANCIAL COMPARISON - GRANTS COMMISSION DATA 2007/08

COUNCIL	TOTAL RESIDENTIAL RATES PER RATEABLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (\$)	TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS (\$000)	NET FINANCIAL LIABILITIES (\$000)	OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) (\$000)	OPERATING SURPLUS RATIO (%)	INTEREST COVER RATIO (%)	ASSET SUSTAINABILITY RATIO (%)	ASSET CONSUMPTION RATIO (%)	NET FINANCIAL LIABILITIES RATIO (%)
MOUNT GAMBIER	795	10,559	(5,101)	858	8	(2.3)	40	92	(31)
MURRAY BRIDGE	993	4,197	13,398	(919)	(8)	2.6	(7)	95	59
PORT AUGUSTA	1,128	4,137	10,921	(2,359)	(27)	1.7	(31)	89	47
PORT LINCOLN	854	5,462	(1,423)	(864)	(13)	(3.1)	92	67	(13)
PORT PIRIE	639	8,901	(5,499)	1,769	24	(4.4)	107	50	(38)
WHYALLA	811	5,861	319	(548)	(6)	(0.7)	72	61	2
VICTOR HARBOR	1,195	2,605	17,966	(1,629)	(16)	5.2	53	75	116
GRANT	442	8,891	(4,620)	(122)	(2)	(4.4)	79	58	(47)
WATTLE RANGE	905	6,337	4,972	(601)	(5)	1.1	81	52	30
NARACOORTE-LUCINDALE	1,022	2,486	2,651	(451)	(6)	1.1	49	80	22
STATE AVERAGE	957	5,992	6,111	3	0	0.5	65	64	29

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS

Council has formally adopted the following seven (7) formal Financial Sustainability Targets i.e.

- Operating Surplus** of breakeven position or better over any five year rolling period
- Operating Surplus Ratio** requiring an operating surplus of between 0% to 15% of General Rates over any five year rolling period
- Net Financial Liabilities (Deficit)** value of no greater than the total annual operating revenue and not less than 0
- Net Financial Liabilities (Deficit)** Ratio of greater than 0% but less than 100% of annual operating revenue
- Interest Cover Ratio** being net interest paid (Deficit) is greater than 0% and less than 10% of annual operating revenue
- Asset Sustainability Ratio** of greater than 90% but less than 110% of capital outlays on renewal of existing assets as a percentage of annual depreciation over any five year rolling period
- Asset Consumption Ratio** (being the written down current value of assets relative to their "as new" value) of greater than 40% but less than 80%



# 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 2008/2009 this was 35% of rate revenue compared to 36% the previous year and 51% prior to the introduction of the quarterly billing regime.

Although this figure is decreasing marginally on previous 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 bill 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
- Direct Debit
- Australia Post (introduced from June 2009 to assist with access issues arising out of the Civic Centre Precinct development)

Over the past five (5) financial years the number of payments made via these facilities has doubled with BPay being easily the most utilised or popular payment facility.

Thirty eight (38) percent of Council's total rate revenue collection is now collected via these facilities compared to thirty two (32) percent two years ago in the 2006/07 financial year.

## STATISTICS - 2008/09

SERVICE	NO. OF PAYMENTS	\$ VALUE
IVR	2,134	593,900
Internet	889	241,900
BPay	15,787	3,376,800
Direct Bank Debits	1,025	81,700
Australia Post (from June 2009)	709	208,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,544</b>	<b>4,502,700</b>



# Employee Entitlements - Provisions

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

YEAR END	LIABILITY (CURRENT AND NON CURRENT)	CASH IN LSL RESERVE FUND	% OF LIABILITY FUNDED
2005	\$526,811	\$276,282	52.4%
2006	\$646,000	\$273,282	42.3%

\* New Model Financial Statements introduced as from 2006/07.

YEAR END	CURRENT \$'000			NON CURRENT \$'000		
	Annual Leave	LSL	TOTAL	Annual Leave	LSL	TOTAL
2007 *	\$522	\$65	\$587	\$65	\$552	\$617
2008 *	\$528	\$538	\$1,066	\$152	\$71	\$223
2009 *	\$588	\$639	\$1,227	\$220	\$116	\$336

"Current" is defined as:

- LSL - assumes that all LSL falling due after 10 years service will be taken in the following 12 months.
- AL - assumes that each employee will take one full year's entitlement within the next 12 months.

Cash Value in Council's Long Service Leave Reserve

YEAR END	CASH VALUE	% OF CURRENT PROVISIONS FUNDED
2008	\$445,000	82.7%
2009	\$545,000	85.2%

The average age of all employees is 43.9 years (male 45.2 and female 40.5).

The average years of service for all employees is 9.1 years (male 9.9 and female 6.4).

# Enterprise Agreements

Following extensive negotiations with its two separate employee representative groups, new Enterprise Agreements were accepted in October 2008.

Agreement was reached on ten main proposals, all of which are detailed in the minutes of the October 2008 Council Meeting. A précis of the agreed proposals are:

- 5% increase in salary and wages from 1st December 2008;
- 6% increase in salary and wages from 1st December 2009, with a minimum of 1% of the 6% being an increase in each employee's superannuation account, i.e. 9% becomes 10%;
- 5% increase (or CPI), whichever is the higher from 1st December 2010;
- Maternity Leave provisions;
- Paternity Leave provisions;
- research of the options to payout Sick Leave as a future possibility;
- term of agreement of three years as from 1st January 2009.

# Financial Sustainability Indicators 2008/09

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS & OUTCOMES FOR PERIOD 2004/05 TO 2008/09

SUSTAINABILITY TARGET	2008/09 COUNCIL OUTCOME (\$=,000)	2007/08 COUNCIL OUTCOME (\$=,000)	2006/07 COUNCIL OUTCOME (\$=,000)	2005/06 COUNCIL OUTCOME (\$=,000)	2004/05 COUNCIL OUTCOME (\$=,000)	AVERAGE PER YEAR OVER 5 YEARS*
1. Operating Surplus of breakeven position or better over any five year rolling period (\$,000)	Operating Surplus of \$976 <sup>1</sup>	Operating Surplus of \$858	Operating Surplus of \$315	Operating Deficit of \$727	Operating Deficit of \$898	<b>Operating Surplus of \$105 (\$,000) (\$241 deficit)</b>
2. Operating Surplus Ratio requiring an operating surplus of between 0% to 15% of General Rates over any five year rolling period	Operating Surplus of +8% of General Rates	Operating Surplus of + 8% of General Rates	Operating Deficit of + 3% of General Rates	Operating Deficit of -7.45% of General Rates	Operating Deficit of -9.69% of General Rates	<b>Operating Surplus of +0.37% of General Rates (-3.0%)</b>
3. Net Financial Liabilities (Deficit) value no greater than the total annual operating revenue and not less than 0 (\$,000)	\$3,598 Surplus	\$5,101 Surplus	\$3,048 Surplus	\$1,070 Surplus	\$184 Surplus	<b>\$2,600 Surplus (\$,000) (\$2,169 Surplus)</b>
4. Net Financial Liabilities (Deficit) Ratio of greater than 0% but less than 100% of annual operating revenue	20% Surplus	31% Surplus	20% Surplus	7.53% Surplus	1.31% Surplus	<b>15.9% Surplus (14% Surplus)</b>
5. Interest Cover Ratio being net interest paid (Deficit) is greater than 0% and less than 10% of annual operating revenue	1.2% Surplus	2.3% Surplus	1.3% Surplus	0.31% Surplus	0.30% Surplus	<b>1.08% Surplus (0.92% Surplus)</b>
6. Asset Sustainability Ratio of greater than 90% but less 110% of capital outlays on renewal of existing assets as a percentage of annual depreciation over any five year rolling period	68%	40%	35%	21%	51%	<b>43% (39%)</b>
7. Asset Consumption Ratio (being the written down current value of assets relative to their "as new" value) of greater than 40% but less than 80%	89%	92%	96%	66%	69%	<b>82% (79%)</b>

\* Please note that the figures in brackets are the previous rolling five year averages (to 30/6/2008).

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$457,299 Grants Commission payment as an advance for 2009/10.



## Funding from other Government Sources

During 2008/09 Council was successful in obtaining special purpose funding from State and Federal Government sources for a number of specific projects as follows:

	\$
Black Spot Road Funding (Commonwealth Government)	268,000
Roads to Recovery (Commonwealth Government)	240,943
Zero Waste SA (eWaste)	5,000
Heritage SA - Heritage Study Review	5,000
New Library (RLCIP - Commonwealth Government)	2,500,000
New Library (RLCIP - Commonwealth Government)	313,000
Bike SA (DTEI) Bike Paths	12,000
New Library - People for Places (State Government)	410,000
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$3,753,943</b>
<b>Comparison 2007/08</b>	<b>\$806,756</b>

The above funding was utilised in the year under review.

Council also receives (in addition to the above) a number of expected annual State and Federal Government grants, e.g.:

	\$
Public Library (operating grant/local purchases)	96,178
Public Library (value of book purchases)	91,968
Grants Commission (General Purpose)	1,823,222
Grants Commission (Local Roads Grants)	397,623
Grants Commission (Special Local Roads Grants)	137,875
Visitor Information Centre	6,000
Community Information Services	14,221
Youth Services grants/contributions	NIL
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$2,567,087</b>
<b>Comparison 2007/08</b>	<b>\$2,002,022</b>

# Human Resource Capabilities Review

**Council has resolved to undertake an internal review of its human resources capabilities to ensure that Council is able to meet all future demands.**

## REVIEW BACKGROUND

There exists current and emerging challenges regarding our existing human resource capability and stability coupled with the significant range of new demands and levels of expertise now required by Council (of itself), the community's needs and aspirations from Council and other external influencing forces e.g. State and Federal Governments.

The human resource capability of Council is "fragile" vis:

1. In most respects we rely on one individual to provide the entire function of that position;
2. The rule of supply and demand is a major factor in our current (in)ability to attract and retain key personnel.
3. Council's own demands, aspirations and objectives in themselves also add additional pressures on the entire organisation as we all try and do all that is expected of us.
4. We have not had serious regard to the need of matching our goals against our capacity. To manage the critical balance between resource input against the true value of and worth of the output we must be aware that every demand of ourselves must be at least equal to the beneficial gain.
5. Council is an excellent employer and trainer. It follows that our employees will be targeted by others and/or our employees will grow beyond the current position objectives and may seek new horizons.
6. We operate in an era of specialisation. Every task or requirement is designed around specialisation and as a consequence:
  - we face increasing expectations and best practice aspirations
  - specialisation inherently creates more/higher levels of specialisation (i.e. continuous improvement) and workloads that impact on the resource capability of Council
  - we place more and more demands on ourselves because of specialisation and specialists themselves keep "raising the bar"
  - statutory and legislative demands more and more of Council in specialised areas
7. We note the increasing national trend towards flexible hours of work arrangements, working from home and the potential for absences from the actual workplace.

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

Council is a good employer, operating with a caring and interested community, with Council providing solid resources and ample opportunity to build the capabilities of its employees, however Council will struggle to achieve stability in its human resources (all employees) which is demonstrated as follows:

1. Employees/prospective employees can seek a salary premium and other benefits to be attracted to country locations.
2. "Other like employers" are going to pay premiums and additional benefits to attract employees to their organisations.
3. The salary/wage/benefit relativities between common employer groups (as a consequence) vary significantly, causing employees in one employer group to be aware of the benefits of like employees in another like employer group.
4. Council has traditionally been a very lean organisation. It just copes with absences by employees on any form of leave.

The ability of the organisation is severely restricted when position vacancies exist in key positions, and depending on the position that is vacant, it may be difficult to fill and generally takes quite some time and is expensive.

5. Our systems of governance, corporate accountability, decision making and compliance/regulatory responsibilities are usually developed and implemented by "others" without any regard to the resource implications of how the task is to be undertaken, by whom and what will be the true material benefit and advancement from the "investment".
6. Often our decision making is more focussed on the status of the decision itself not the resource implications that will be caused by that decision and the real benefits and/or enhancements because of the development of the decision.
7. Our governance and corporate decision makers (either local, regional, State or National) are about the highest levels of best practice legislation and compliance responsibility, output etc. but little regard is given by decision makers as to who has to implement the decisions, the cost of implementation and more importantly what will be the true material benefit i.e. is our organisation or community any better off because of the decision and its development.

# *Human Resource Capabilities Review cont.*

The review will be undertaken to address six (6) main issues vis:

1. The retention of existing employees and what needs to occur or what needs to be provided to achieve this.
2. Our ability to attract the best people for our organisation and at what considerations might need to be provided.
3. What are the emerging new needs and responsibilities that we have to contend with i.e.
  - a. specialisation
  - b. succession planning
  - c. enhancement/implementation of the Council's goals that are above the "norm"
4. Our decision making processes that need to be focussed on efficient material benefit outcomes that exceed the "investment" inputs of our limited resources.

5. What are our true objectives that make this Council (and our community) different and leaders.

Council has to decide what it wants and as a consequence, resource it.

Conversely, if we add things on, then it should follow that we should also take things off, to ensure the fine balance of our capability and capacity are preserved.

6. Are our current classifications sufficient/relative to retain existing employees and to ensure their continued employment with Council and motivation to perform to exceptional levels of output and professional commitment.

This review was partially commenced in 2008/09 by the completion of the "Employee Classifications Review and Other Organisational Matters" Report (part 6 above).



# Information Technology

## LOCAL AREA NETWORK

Is reviewed on a three (3) year finance/rental cycle. The most recent upgrade was completed in late 2007 which provided for replacement of all network hardware (servers, desktops etc) and the upgrade of corporate software to MS2007 suite of software.

Council's shift to a "managed services" support platform has enabled the retirement of four (4) servers out of the network, leaving only the network or mail server to be managed locally.

The maintenance of the Council network is outsourced to a local service provider and full disaster recovery facilities have been established at an off site location.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOFTWARE

Council operates the 'Authority' software solution developed and maintained by local government software vendor Civica Australia Pty Ltd.

During 2008/09 continued to develop the 'AIM' Asset and Infrastructure Management System and is currently adding a 'mobile' facility to that solution.

The 'mobile' solution will provide the ability to access, collect and review data/information in the field particularly in relation to assets, animals and infringements, customer service requests, food inspections etc etc

All facilities referred to above are part of or are integrated with Council's local government software solution 'AUTHORITY'.

Council's 'AUTHORITY' software solution is now managed under a 'managed service' platform, similar to the Library software and is delivered over VPN technology using a Citrix environment from the Civica Data Centre allowing Council to retire four servers, leaving only the local network server and backup server to be managed locally.

Significant upgrades to the 'AUTHORITY' platform occurred during 2008/09 including the migration to a web based platform followed by a major version upgrade.

Council recognizes that information technology is critical to the organization's ability to maintain business continuity and managed services presents the best opportunity to ensure that business continuity. Benefits in terms of risk management and disaster recovery cannot be matched in-house.

Council also retains membership of the SA/NT Civica 'Authority' User Group.

## LIBRARY SOFTWARE

Council also utilises Civica Australia Pty Ltd for Library software services on a 'managed services' platform.

All services associated with the Library software including hardware, version upgrades, disaster recovery etc etc are included in the managed services arrangement which is delivered electronically.

Version upgrades of the 'SPYDUS' software package occur on an ongoing basis, the most recent being in December 2008.

Council has also used the Civica 'Spydus' software solution to deliver, electronically, the entire Les Hill Photographic collection which is fully digitized and is available in a searchable format from the Council website.

The online library catalogue available through the Council website continues to be a most popular and increasingly used innovation.

Council has added a "Syndetic Enriched Content" feature to the existing online catalogue facility which will provide borrowers with cover images, profiles, summaries and annotations of each record (book etc.) selected.

## GIS/SPATIAL INFORMATION SOFTWARE

Council utilizes the 'MAPINFO' spatial information solution and has developed a range of additional information 'layers' within 'MAPINFO' that are used extensively within the organization.

Digital aerial photography used by the spatial software was updated during 2007 and the 'MAPINFO' solution has been fully integrated with Councils Local Government 'Authority' software solution.

Council migrated to the 'MAPINFO' Exponare licensing arrangement in March 2005 which provides greater flexibility and access to additional functionality.

A continued focus will be on the use of 'MAPINFO' to assist with asset management requirements and on further integration with the local government software applications.



# Information Technology cont.

## ELECTRONIC SERVICES/SOFTWARE

Council continues to expand the range of online services available via the Civica solution which is designed to fully integrate with the 'day to day' 'AUTHORITY' local government software.

Applications currently include online payments (rates, debtors, dog registrations and infringements), development approvals and employee kiosk functionality.

Online payment facilities available for the convenience of ratepayers include:-

- Interactive voice response (IVR) over telephone;
- Internet via Council secure site;
- BPay (IVR and Internet) via your selected banking institution;
- Direct Debit.
- Australia Post

The number of payments made utilizing these facilities continues to increase, in 2008/2009 an increase of 17% compared to the previous financial year.

In terms of actual amounts paid using these facilities, they now account for 38% of Council's total rate revenue collection compared to 35% for the previous financial year.

Over one third (\$4.502m) of Council's total rate revenue collected (\$11.746m in 2008/09) is now collected via electronic means.

Council's revised dog registration renewal process enables dog owners to seamlessly pay their renewals on-line and without having to attend the Council Office to collect the new tag or incur postage costs.

This new process has proved extremely popular with approximately 25% or 1,000 dog owners utilizing the new renewal/payment facility.

**Website: [www.mountgambier.as.gov.au](http://www.mountgambier.as.gov.au)**

The Council website has been the subject of a complete review and upgrade as has the Library section of the site. In the coming year the Tourism site will be substantially upgraded.

The new website has been configured with a new content management system and an administration module to enable day to day management by internal resources.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Councils adopted Information Technology Plan contains the following vision statement;

*"The City of Mount Gambier's information technology environment will deliver a single user friendly graphical interface from one corporate computer system that allows flexibility to manipulate data and retrieve information for Council's reporting purposes and to enable provision of quality customer service."*

Many of the identified priority actions have been implemented i.e. computing facilities for Elected Members, Asset and Infrastructure software as well as upgrades to the 'AUTHORITY' solution such as the Customer Request System.

The focus over the next period will be the continued development of the Asset and Infrastructure management software and 'mobile' computing to assist with the ongoing management of Councils asset base.

The implementation of an Electronic Document Records Management (EDRMS) solution previously deferred pending a review by State Records of accredited electronic document management systems is now underway. Council is currently working with a number of other Council's in South Australia and Local Government Corporate Services to finalise procurement and implementation options on a co-operative and shared services basis.



# Investment Review

Section 140 of the Local Government Act 1999 states "A Council must, at least once in every year, review the performance (individually and as a whole) of its investments". The required Section 140 review report for the 2008/09 year which complies with Council's Investment Policy and Investment Policy Review process for reporting on such matters was accepted by Council at its meeting held 21st July 2009.

The Local Government Act requires a Council when investing money to exercise the care, skill and diligence a prudent person of business would when managing the affairs of other persons.

The following are the highlights from the 2008/09 report.

- Official Reserve Bank Rates were:

- > November 2006 – 6.25%
- > August 2007 – 6.50%
- > March 2008 – 7.25%
- > February 2009 - 3.25%
- > April 2009 - 3.00%

- Investment House:

- > Local Government Finance Authority (LGFA) rating AA+

- LGFA bonus:

- > \$26,305 paid to Council in October 2008 based on deposits and borrowings

- LGFA Interest Rates were on average:

- > Average 4.07%
- > Yield from bonus .32%
- > Gross average interest rate 4.39%

- Average interest rate of general account: 2.30% (on monthly average balance) and Average interest rate on Reserve Funds: 4.60% (plus bonus yield).

- The final actual incomes from investments were as follows:

- > General account      \$98,170      (to general revenue)
- > LGFA bonus      \$26,305      (to general revenue)
- > Reserve funds      \$247,906      (to reserve funds)

Investments as at 30th June 2009 were:

AMOUNT	FUNDS	INVESTED WITH	TERM	INTEREST RATE
\$4,767,312	General Working	LGFA	At call	2.75%
\$3,412,675	Reserves	LGFA	At call	2.75%
Nil	Unused Loan			
\$1,053,513	Working Account	Westpac	At call	0.25%
\$2,501,130	LCIP Account	Westpac	At call	2.75%

# Land Acquisitions

During 2008/09 Council purchased (or executed contracts to purchase) a number of strategic properties.

These acquisitions included the following:

1. 40 James Street (\$305,000): for the consolidation with three other properties Council owns at No's 42, 44 and 46 James Street.
2. 24 Margaret Street (\$180,000): for the eventual creation of public walkway access from Margaret Street to the Railway Lands.

3. 1 Bay Road (\$50,000): the payment of the final \$50,000 to complete the purchase of this main corner property (the total purchase price was \$350,000).

4. 18 Ferrers Street (Red Cross - \$200,000): settlement to occur in August 2009 and the purchase further consolidates Council's ownership of land that comprises the Civic Centre - Civic Plaza hub.

Council did not sell or agree to dispose of any land during the 2008/09 period. Council did acquire or obtain small parcels of land to facilitate traffic control improvements, roadworks and/or for stormwater and drainage purposes.

# Local Laws

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, all Council By-Laws expire after seven (7) years.

Council's existing By-Laws, adopted by Council in 2003, incorporate;

By-Laws in Part A deal with interpretation and application of the by-laws.

By-Laws in Part B deal with moveable signs, set standards for moveable signs as permitted under Section 225 of the Local Government Act and provides exemptions for Political moveable signs.

By-Laws in Part C deal with activities on Council land.

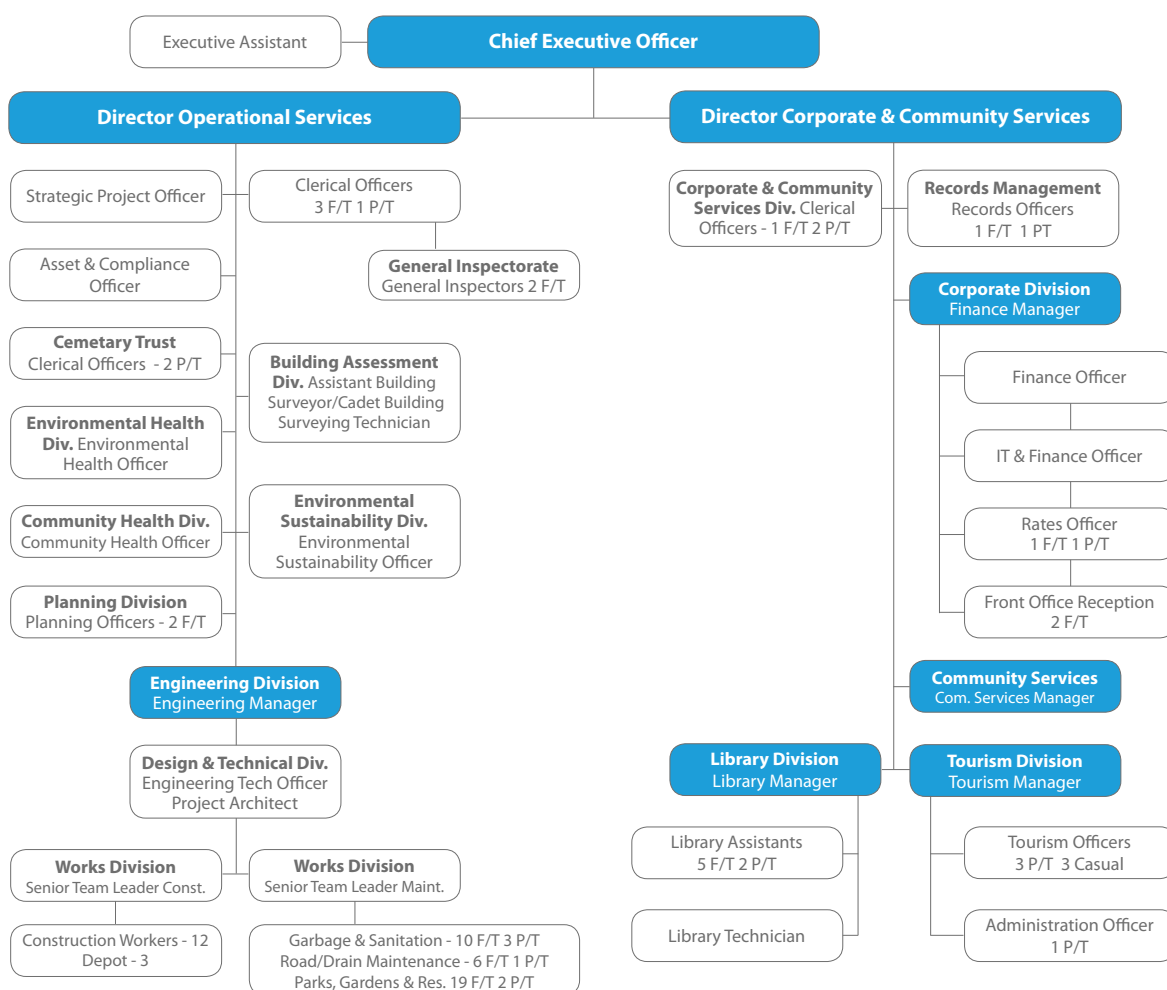
By-Laws in Part D regulate the keeping of dogs on private property.

By-Laws in Part E deal with regulation of taxi's within the City of Mount Gambier.

In accordance with provisions of Section 251 of the Local Government Act, the Council by-laws will expire on 1st January, 2011 unless revoked or amended prior to that date.

Given the expiry date for most existing By-Laws, Council will need to ensure its By-Law review process is commenced in 2009/2010 and for the Parliamentary approval process to be completed by 2011.

## Organisational chart (as at 30/6/2009)



# Rates Comparison Report

## 2005/06 to 2007/08

Council's average rates per capita and per residential property are still amongst the lowest of Councils in the region and of Councils in the Provincial Cities Association following the release of a rates comparison report for the financial years 2005/06 to 2007/08.

Councils across the State are required to submit to the State Grants Commission a number of annual returns detailing both financial and non financial outputs on the operations of each Council.

The State Grants Commission is able to consolidate the data and produce a range of financial comparison data reports on each Council and whilst the release of the comparison data can be delayed for some considerable time the consolidated information is a valuable source when a Council seeks to compare its outcomes against other Councils for specific aspects of its operations.

Council has had an opportunity to examine Grant Commission reports on Sources of Revenues by Council for the 2005/06 financial year to and including the 2007/08 financial year and in particular comparisons on general rates raised by each Council and the following are extracts for South East Councils and the Councils that comprise the Provincial Cities Association for the stated periods:

COUNCIL	GENERAL RATES PER CAPITA \$			RESIDENTIAL RATES PER RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY \$		
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
BERRI BARMERA	459	474	647	542	844	603
GRANT	538	549	661	421	421	442
KINGSTON	973	957	1158	942	913	967
LOXTON WAIKERIE	522	550	640	660	703	797
MOUNT GAMBIER	408	416	458	723	788	795
MURRAY BRIDGE	505	567	616	868	933	993
NARACOORTE LUCINDALE	816	839	927	874	964	1022
PORT AUGUSTA	472	520	612	836	924	1128
PORT LINCOLN	422	455	486	839	857	854
PORT PIRIE	345	370	425	534	584	639
REMARK PARINGA	343	357	447	367	392	410
ROBE	1351	1398	2057	968	1841	1444
TATIARA	821	850	1002	819	961	911
VICTOR HARBOR	708	745	792	1095	1518	1195
WATTLE RANGE	756	1054	958	821	796	905
WHYALLA	346	347	444	657	711	811
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>	506	536	597	843	920	957
<b>CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER</b>	408	416	458	723	788	795

Please note that the above figures are for General Rates only.

Some Councils charge ratepayers (in addition to the above General Rates) a range of extra Special Rates for special services e.g. garbage collection, waste management etc. These are NOT shown in above.

The City of Mount Gambier General Rates shown are however INCLUSIVE of such special extra special services.

Whilst each Council is unique and it may be unfair and unreasonable to rely totally on the above data as a measure of a Councils effectiveness and/or efficiency, it is however a high level benchmark that Council needs to be aware of and in its broadest sense can indicate how a Council is "tracking" against other Councils in respect of general rates per capita and residential rates per residential rate-able property for general rates.

Council and our community can be relatively satisfied that our average rates per capita and per residential property are better than reasonable when compared to other Council benchmarks however fundamental to all that Council does is to continue to ensure that Council provides absolute value for money to its community.

# Risk Management Review

During 2009 Council was again reviewed by the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme in respect of Council's risk management policies, practices and procedures.

The 2009 review involved the following specific categories:

- Risk/Emergency Management/Professional Indemnity
- Committee & Non Employment Management
- Contract Management
- Legislative Requirements - Land
- Asset Management Programs & Systems - Land
- Land Use (Lease/Licence/Permit Activities)
- Legislative Requirements - Roads
- Road Management Programs & Systems

The comprehensive review touches upon the above specific focus categories, makes comments on the findings and makes high level and low level findings and recommendations on each specific focus category for Council's formal consideration and action.

Council can be very pleased with the outcomes from the 2009 Risk Management Review.

The 2009 review averages for Council, Local Government (Statewide) and Regional Councils (Statewide) are as follows:

SECTION	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AVERAGE	REGIONAL AVERAGE	CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER AVERAGE
	%	%	%
Risk/Emergency Management & P I	71.2	65.4	86.5
Committee & Non Employment	83.3	79.2	92
Contract Management	89.2	87.6	96.4
Legislative - Land	93.7	92.4	100
Asset Management Programs & Systems - Land	81.5	78.4	94.3
Land Use (Lease/Licence/Permit)	91.3	89.3	100
Legislative - Roads	92.6	92.1	98.6
Road Management Programs & Systems	87	84.7	95.3
<b>Average Overall Result</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>94.2</b>

The review process has provided to Council the opportunity to gain a thorough understanding of the level of civil liability, risk management etc. currently being practiced. The data also provides a comparative overview across the whole of the local government industry.

Council results from a very similar risk management review in 2008 were:

- Council achievement average 91.0%
- Regional Statewide average 83.0%
- Local Government average 85.2%

# Superannuation

## A CHALLENGING YEAR FOR SUPERANNUATION

It has been an extremely tough year for all investors and in particular superannuation. On the back of the US sub-prime crisis, financial markets around the globe became and still remain volatile. Such volatility has led to share markets experiencing a level of turbulence that has not been witnessed before.

Local Super has not been immune and many members will notice lower or even negative returns when they review their Member Statement or check their balances online. It is a stressful time for members, particularly those nearing or already in retirement. The important message is don't panic and make sure any investment decision is based on appropriate advice.

## REVIEWING THE INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Volatile times can be a good time to review investment strategies but with markets currently very unpredictable, it is important to not let short-term ups and downs cloud long-term goals. Local Super continues to monitor ongoing market developments and the impact on investments. Generally, after times of uncertainty markets improve. Local Super maintains a long-term investment strategy and continues to closely monitor investment managers and their relative performance against benchmarks.

## COMPETITIVE RETURNS - CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

During 2008/2009, Local Super's managers had mixed fortunes in comparison to market indices. Australian shares slightly under performed and international shares managers were impacted by the performance of emerging markets and under performed. Exposure to unlisted property provided some protection. Annual performance from fixed interest managers was disappointing for the year but more recent returns have been encouraging. The Adelaide Airport investment has been a good contributor to overall performance as have some changes to introduce new managers later in the year to take advantage of opportunities in various markets. Whilst absolute performance has obviously been disappointing, the Growth option return to 30 June 2009, -11.61%, is consistent with the median of the Superratings survey of comparable funds.

INVESTMENT OPTION	1 YEAR NET RETURN P.A. (%)	5 YEAR NET RETURN P.A. (%)	10 YEAR NET RETURN P.A. (%)	25 YEAR NET RETURN P.A. (%)
Growth	-11.61	5.31	7.01	8.41
Australian shares	-17.92	-3.3	-3.3	
International shares	-19.64	-6.1	-6.1	
Sustainable Shares	-16.51	2.11	3.65	
Conservative	-4.98	4.35	4.87	
Cash	3.44	4.4	4.24	

## ACHIEVEMENTS AT LOCAL SUPER

There have been many challenges over the past 12 months. Not least of which has been the impact of the global financial crisis on investments and superannuation. Throughout, Local Super has aimed to provide members with the information and assistance needed to navigate this period of volatility.

## LOCAL SUPER VOTED A 'BEST VALUE FOR MONEY SUPERANNUATION FUND'.

For the second year running Local Super was awarded the highest possible rating, Platinum, by SuperRatings.

# Treasury Management

Council and its Audit Committee had previously researched a range of initiatives that will improve the way Council manages its money i.e. the way it uses/invests any surplus funds and the way it borrows funds for major capital works and the relationship of both to the treasury function of Council.

This new approach to its overall treasury management establishes a decision making framework to ensure that:

## **POLICY OBJECTIVE:**

- funds are available as required to support approved outlays; and
- interest rates and other risks (e.g. liquidity risks and investment credit risks) are acknowledged and responsibly managed; and
- net interest costs associated with borrowing and investing are reasonably likely to be minimised on average over the longer term.

## **STRATEGY:**

Council's operating and capital expenditure decisions are made on the basis of:

- identified community need and benefit relative to other expenditure options;
- cost effectiveness of the proposed means of service delivery; and,
- affordability of proposals having regard to Council's long-term financial sustainability (including consideration of the cost of capital and the impact of the proposal on Council's Net Financial Liabilities and Interest Cover ratios).

## **OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION:**

Council manages its finances holistically in accordance with its overall financial sustainability strategies and targets. This means Council will:

- maintain target ranges for both its Net Financial Liabilities and Interest Cover ratios;
- generally only borrow funds when it needs cash and not specifically for particular projects;
- not retain and quarantine money for particular future purposes unless required by legislation or agreement with other parties;
- apply any funds that are not immediately required to meet approved expenditure (including funds that are required to be expended for specific purposes but are not required to be kept in separate bank accounts) to reduce its level of borrowings or to defer and/or reduce the level of new borrowings that would otherwise be required.

Council at its meeting held on 15th April 2008 adopted a formal Treasury Management Policy and Supporting Guidelines.

Council and the Audit Committee will need to proceed to develop the consequential steps necessary to progressively introduce the range of changes necessary and which will need to occur.



# Workplace Lost Time Injury

Council has developed and encouraged a complete Occupational Health and Safety awareness for the benefit of employees and the organisation.

Council and employees have fully embraced the desire to provide a safe work environment and to meet legislative requirements.

Council achieved an excellent result with Health and Safety in respect of a reduction in time lost from work due to workplace injury.

As the following figures highlight that Council has maintained a consistently low incidence of workplace lost time injury (LTI) and lost time injury days (LTI days).

As a result of the hard work undertaken by Council and employees, Council is receiving significant bonus payments from the LGA Workers Compensation Scheme.

In 2008/09 Council received a bonus of \$124,121 (\$127,750 was the budgeted figure).

## 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
2005	Council Groups	4	92	7	23.0	19.8	4.0	3
		6	205	16	35.4	27.0	5.4	3
2006	Council Groups	1	2	7	2.0	5.2	1.0	0
		5	78	15	15.7	23.5	4.7	2
2007	Council Groups	4	24	6	6.0	20.2	4.0	2
		6	87	15	15.0	23.7	4.7	3
2008	Council Groups	3	15	12	5.0	15.3	3.1	1
		4	44	12	10.6	18.2	3.6	2
2009	Council Groups	0	0	8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
		5	53	14	10.9	16.5	3.3	2

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

Council's workers compensation premium rate for 2008/09 was 4.25% less 49.5% performance rebate equals 2.15% (net) and for 2009/10 the rate is estimated to be a net 2.19% (as compared to the Statewide Local Government average of 2.69%).





# Compliance Statement



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# Audit Committee

Council at its meeting held on 28th November 2006 resolved pursuant to the requirements of Section 126 of the Local Government Act to form an Audit Committee and to comprise two independent persons and one Council Member.

The terms of reference of the Audit Committee are detailed in Corporate & Community Services Report No. 76/2006 as are the terms and conditions of appointment of the three person Audit Committee.

The appointees are:-

- Valerie Murrell (Independent) and Presiding Member of the Committee
- Bob Clark (Independent)
- The Presiding Member of Council's Corporate & Community Services Committee presently Cr John Kyrimis

At this time neither Ms Murrell nor Mr Clark anticipated a sitting fee/allowance from Council for their work on the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee's Annual Report to Council for the 2008/09 year is detailed in Corporate and Community Services Report No. 48/2009 and is in the form of updated notations and comments made to the adopted "Work Program for the Audit Committee 2007-2010" as well as:

- Dates of the nine meetings held and the number of Members in attendance
- Summary of Committee activities for 2008/09
- Training sessions attended
- Review of Terms of Reference
- Self assessment of its own performance

# Business Plan Summary 2008/2009

## 2008/09 BUSINESS PLAN AND 2008/09 BUDGET

The 2008/09 Business Plan is Council's statement of the programs and outcomes it intends to undertake in the coming financial year. The Plan gives effect to the Strategic Directions encompassed in the Council's Strategic Plan, Long Term Financial and Asset Management frameworks.

The 2008/09 Business Plan sets out Council's proposed services, programs and projects. It aims to maintain efficient services for the community and continue progress towards the longer term objectives for the City as set out in the Strategic Plans. Specific objectives/activities for the year are proposed which are consistent with the Council's long-term financial and asset management frameworks to ensure the long term sustainability of the Council's financial performance and position.

Council's key strategy for 2008/09 is to continue to invest in the renewal and replacement of the City's infrastructure and to maintain our wide ranging community support programs and activities. Everything the Council does across all of its areas of endeavour is towards maintaining our public infrastructure, building community capacity, adding to the "value" of Mount Gambier as a place of vibrancy and a superior quality of life. Key priorities include:

- maintaining our extensive public realm assets and infrastructure and the maintenance of programs that directly support our community;
- continuing the development of Council's infrastructure and asset management framework;

- continued development of the City Centre rejuvenation strategy including major infrastructure projects of a new Mount Gambier Library, the planning for the redevelopment of the former railway lands and also redevelopment of the "Main Corner";
- 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 major events and conferences;
- capital infrastructure program of over \$3.8m (new and renewal)

The 2008/09 Budget proposes to spend \$21.87m on the delivery of services and programs, maintenance of assets and development of new or upgraded assets (operating and capital expenditure and appropriations to reserve funds).

This is funded from a variety of sources, predominantly rates, but also grants as well as statutory and user charges.

Council's Strategic Plan, Business Plan and Budget can be viewed at [www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au](http://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au).

# *Business Plan Summary 2008/2009 cont.*

## **WHY DO WE PAY COUNCIL RATES?**

The City of Mount Gambier is responsible for maintaining the community's assets with a current value of in excess of \$120 million which includes land, roads and footpaths, stormwater drainage, parks, community centres, tourist centre and sporting facilities. In addition, Council provides intangible services for the benefit of residents such as street lighting, immunisation, waste management, aged care facilitation, libraries and information services.

There are also certain services that Councils are required to provide under various Acts of Parliament such as planning and development, environmental health, building control and dog management.

For 2008/09 it is estimated that approximately \$15.66 million will be required to deliver the core services (operating expenditure) of Council.

## **HOW ARE RATES CALCULATED?**

Once Council decides what services are to be provided in the financial year and at what cost, this information is incorporated into an overall Budget along with revenue sources such as grants, fees and charges, loan income etc.

Council then works out the amount of revenue that must be collected from the community in the form of Council rates to balance the Budget.

Council's rating strategy uses a combination of a fixed charge on every rateable property and the differential rating system, based on land use, when calculating general rates.

The fixed charge component, increased from \$400 to \$421.50 (+5.6%) in 2008/09, applies to every rateable property and will continue to raise slightly less than one half (45%) of Council's gross rate revenue.

The differential rating component which raises the remainder (55%) of Council's required gross rate revenue is determined by multiplying the individual property value (capital value provided by Valuer-General) by the differential rate in the dollar adopted for each separate land use category i.e. residential, commercial, industry, primary production, other and vacant land.

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR RATES**

Council's services and programs are funded through a mixture of income sources, primary rates. Delivery of Council's proposed program for 2008/09 will require a rate revenue of \$11,746,000.

Components of the overall increase in general rate revenue include:

- 1.37% attributable to the new Mount Gambier Library debt servicing costs
- 1.27% attributable to rate revenue on new growth or new development that will benefit by spreading the overall increase over more rateable assessments

This results in a modest 3.86% as a percentage rate revenue increase of \$28 or 3.75% (or fifty four (54) cents per week increase) in Council rates this year bringing the average annual residential rates to \$773 to help fund the 2008/09 Budget.

For around \$2.10 per day Mount Gambier residential ratepayers (on average) will have access to the substantial benefits of the services and facilities funded by the City of Mount Gambier in its 2008/09 Budget.

As part of Council's rating strategy a range of rate relief measures have been developed to assist ratepayers experiencing difficulties in meeting their rate commitments, including:

- State Government eligible rate concessions
- Residential (principal place of residence) rate cap
- Eligible Pensioner residential rate cap
- Vacant Land rate rebate
- Postponement of rates for seniors
- Hardship
- Mandatory and Discretionary rate rebates

For further details, Council's Rate Rebate Policy can be viewed from the Council website or contact Council's Rates Officers for assistance.

## **WHERE DO YOUR RATES GO?**

The 2008/09 Budget continues to include the following major services:

- Infrastructure, roadworks, stormwater drainage, footpath and kerbing, traffic control
- Community/Cultural
- Recreational/Parks and Gardens
- Environmental - Waste Management, Street Cleaning, Street Trees, Street Lighting
- Library and Information Services
- Economic/Tourism Services

The development and delivery of Major Strategic Projects is continued through the:

- New Library
- "Main Corner" Culture and Heritage Precinct redevelopment (planning phase)
- Railway Lands Community Project (planning phase)

These major strategic projects are proposed in partnership with Federal and State Governments and the private sector.

Council through prudent management, has built financial capacity over previous years and in the 2008/09 Budget that will enable repayments on a \$4m loan borrowing to be applied to major strategic projects i.e. new Mount Gambier Library.

# Business Plan Summary 2008/2009 cont.

Some of the more significant capital projects approved in the 2008/09 Budget include:

Parks, Gardens, Reserves - Building upgrades			\$50,000
Playground renewal - Crouch Street Reserve			\$35,000
Sports Facilities upgrades			\$155,000
Major Projects:	RSL Bowls Club	\$20,000	
	Frew Park	\$50,000	
Library self check infrastructure			\$71,000
Records Management software			\$90,000
Plant and Machinery purchases (net of trade)			\$631,500
Major Purchases:	garbage compactor	\$215,000	
	loader	\$100,000	
	small trucks	\$114,000	
Stormwater Drainage Program			\$59,000
Major Project:	Vivienne/Sharley	\$40,000	
Bike Path Program (\$20,000 subsidy)			\$55,000
Footway Program			\$163,000
Major Projects:	Jardine Street	\$40,000	
	Bay Road	\$31,000	
	Penola Road	\$20,000	
Road Reseal Program			\$270,000
Sealed Road Program			\$1,809,000
Major Projects:	Power Street	\$256,000	
	Shepherdson Road	\$180,000	
	Tollner Road	\$290,000	
	PLEC (Elizabeth/Caldwell)	\$195,000	

Other Projects in the 2008/09 budget include:

Environmental Sustainability		\$30,000	
Additional 2 x CCTV Cameras		\$50,000	
City Centre Marketing/Streetscaping			\$90,000
Major Events			\$100,000
Sport and Recreation Plan			\$55,000
'Gateways' urban design			\$20,000
Major Capital Projects Fund allocation			\$200,000

In addition, Council has budgeted for an overall operating surplus and a balanced cash budget as at 30th June, 2009

# Business Services Charter

Council conducted its last review of its Business Services Charter and adopted a slightly varied Charter in June 2007.

The Business Services Charter is intended to improve Council/Business communication by clearly outlining Council services provided to business and seeking business feedback on the services and service standards.

The Business Services Charter sets out Council's commitment to provide a timely and efficient service to local businesses where this is necessary but more importantly the Charter is designed to assist with improving Council responsiveness to business.

The level and efficiency with which our services are delivered to businesses in our community is of importance to their sustainability.

A Business Charter is a high quality process centered around a commitment to a minimum level standard of service delivery to business clients and will assist in the attainment of the Council vision.

The Business Charter has two major components:-

- A list of the various services that Council provides to local businesses; and
- A commitment to a certain minimum standard in the delivery of those services.

It is envisaged that the Business Charter will provide a variety of benefits to both local business and to Council. The benefits to the local business community are:-

- Easily available information about the services offered by Council;
- More relevant and appropriate services;
- Recognition that the success of business is of major importance to our local economy;
- Transparency and accountability in service delivery; and

- Increased awareness of the needs of business, particularly the various needs of business in different industry sectors.

Some of the benefits to Council are:-

- Matching Council services with the needs and expectations of business;
- Enhancing the area as a place to do business;
- Promotion of the various services that Council provides;
- Ensuring continual management and operational improvement; and
- Ensuring that business operators do not have unreasonable expectations about Council's ability to deliver service.

As part of the development of a Business Charter by Council, it is considered appropriate that the local business community be progressively consulted for feedback and comment, which may result in amendments to the Business Charter from time to time.

The use of a Business Services Charter provides an opportunity for Council to ensure that the services offered to or needed by a business are appropriate and provided in a timely and efficient manner.

Council will ensure that its performance in fulfilling its obligations under this Charter is regularly monitored.



# Community Lands

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, Council had previously classified all of its land (excluding roads) as either community land or non-community land (i.e. operational land). This process was completed in June 2002.

The Local Government Act 1999 also requires Council to prepare community land management plans for all of its community land parcels and the land management plans must undergo a public consultation process prior to adoption.

Council has in excess of 300 land parcels and all land parcels now have land management plans in place.

All community land management plans were prepared and adopted prior to January 2005.

During the 2008/09 year in review, Council did make some minor amendments to some of its community land definitions and included some additional new lands as community lands and prepared new plans for these parcels of new community land.

These changes were made after the required community consultations.

The adopted community land management plans are available for inspection at the Council offices.



# Competitive Tendering Statement

During the 2008/09 year Council advertised and accepted the following competitive tenders for the provision of goods and services:-

ITEM	VALUE
1 x Sedan	\$10,191*
Provision of two CCTV/Surveillance Cameras for City Centre	\$77,820
Routine servicing of fire protection systems	\$11,367 (for two years)
1 x Sedan	\$9,094*
Demolition of 5 Sturt Street	\$28,750
Construct storage shed for Mount Gambier Christmas Parade (at Depot)	\$163,200
Engagement of Planning Consultant for Mount Gambier Heritage Development Plan Amendment	\$52,000
Replacement Photocopier	\$8,866*
Playground equipment	\$31,792
Mower (out front deck)	\$16,637*
Refuse Compactor	\$236,411*
New Library and Community Centre	\$8,456,340
1 x Sedan vehicle	\$11,165*
Crushing of stone, concrete and brick at Caroline Landfill	Range \$9.75m <sup>3</sup> to \$9.50m <sup>3</sup>
2 x Tip Trucks	\$82,669*
1 x Loader	\$102,780
1 x 4WD wide area rotary mower	\$81,391*
1 x Sedan vehicle	\$12,347*
1 x 2WD Utility (no trade)	\$21,178
Radio Frequency Identification System for New Library	\$259,980
Provision of a \$4.0M loan borrowing to part finance New Library	
Tenders for the provision of:	
· road sealing aggregate	
· pre-mixed concrete	
· tyres, retreading, repairs	
· bitumen products	
· nightly closing of Council properties	
1 x Utility	\$9,719*
1 x Sedan	\$9,629*
Cleaning Contract - "Lady Nelson" (2 Year Term)	\$24,268 PA
Demolition of 1 Bay Road	\$109,000 (plus removal of asbestos \$20,800)

\*Excluding GST and after trade-in

In addition Council had accepted other competitive tenders in the previous financial year(s) which continued into the 2008/09 financial year.

# Confidentiality Provisions

Council held twelve (12) ordinary meetings and nine (9) special meetings between July 2008 and June 2009.

A total of 658 resolutions were made at these meetings.

Of this number, 95 were considered 'in confidence' (14.4% of the total number).

The 95 items considered 'in confidence' included occasions where the same item was required to be considered for a second or third time by Council.

Of the 95 items considered 'in confidence' only 57 were kept confidential (8.6% of the total number).

Council's custom and practice is that an order to keep a matter confidential remains in place for six (6) months from the date the order is made.

In many other cases no order is made to keep the matter confidential or a different period of time is specified (usually a lesser period).

The following statistics are provided in respect of Council's Development Assessment Panel and its Standing Committees:

(i) Council Development Assessment Panel

> 10 meetings

> 51 items considered - no items were kept 'in confidence'

(ii) Operational Services Committee

> 11 meetings

> 187 items considered of which 37 were considered 'in confidence' (19.7% of the total number)

> Of the 37 items, 14 (7.4%) were kept confidential

(iii) Corporate and Community Services Committee

> 11 meetings

> 197 items were considered of which 21 were considered 'in confidence' (10.6% of the total number)

> Of the 21 items, 17 (8.6%) were kept confidential

(iv) Senior Officers Review and Appointments Committee

> 5 meetings

> 7 items considered of which 4 were considered 'in confidence' (57.1% of the total number)

> Of the 4 items, none were kept confidential

(v) Audit Committee

> 8 meetings

> 59 items considered – no items were kept 'in confidence'

# Cost Effective Delivery of Services

As a means of proving that Council continues to provide "Best Value" to its ratepayers and the wider community, Council is required to use measures to ensure that the services it provides are delivered cost effectively.

Council's "Competitive Tendering, Contracting, Purchasing, Sale and Disposal of Land and Other Assets Policy" makes a number of statements regarding Council's desire to:

- (i) have and retain a core group of highly trained, skilled, resourced and motivated employees undertaking key services for the community as direct service providers;
- (ii) retain an appropriate (core) level of staffing;
- (iii) retain control over the way in which services are provided and its response to emergency situations;
- (iv) create or maintain economic development, growth and employment opportunities within the Council area, i.e. within Council and within its external goods and services providers and contractors.

Whilst Council has no formalised system of cost comparison at this time, it is to be noted from the following data that Council has been successful in balancing the requirement for the retention of an appropriate (core) level of employees and the desire to ensure a competitive approach to service delivery (or components thereof) through tenders and use of contractors.



# Cost Effective Delivery of Services cont.

The way Council embraces this principal of responsive inhouse service delivery and recognising the advantage of buying in competitively priced goods and services to complement Council's employee skills is demonstrated in the following operating expenditures (excluding capital expenditures):

YEAR ENDING	*EMPLOYEE COSTS \$	CONTRACTORS \$	MATERIALS \$
2005	4,540,610 (49.2%)	2,380,763 (25.8%)	2,299,436 (25.0%)
2006	5,091,943 (53.7%)	2,242,331 (23.7%)	2,138,311 (22.6%)
YEAR ENDING	EMPLOYEE COSTS \$'000	OTHER MATERIALS, CONTRACTS, EXPENSES + PRESCRIBED EXPENSES \$'000	
2007#	5,203 (47.1%)	5,840 (52.9%)	
2008#	5,453 (47.4%)	6,035 (52.6%)	
2009#	6,082 (46.4%)	7,005 (53.6%)	

\*includes all salaries and wages (\$5,544,000), superannuation (\$466,000), fringe benefits tax, workers compensation (\$129,000), increases in liability for accrued wages, annual leave and long service leave (\$310,000), less employee costs capitalized.

# New Model Financial Statements adopted from 2006/07

As a means of establishing a comparative benchmark on the above Council statistics, Council notes that based on 2007/08 Statewide data the State Averages were:-

Employee Costs	\$7,162,000 (44.4%)
Contractors, Materials etc.	\$8,957,000 (55.6%)

## Development Assessment Panel

Changes to the Development Act resulted in all Councils being required to form new Development Assessment Panels and that such Panels must have independent persons appointed thereto.

A number of consequential changes also resulted in process adjustments and a much clearer separation between a Council and their Panel in decision making.

Panel Members are entitled to the payment of sitting fees and in some cases the reimbursement of certain expenses.

As from the 26th February 2007, Council had formed its new Council Development Assessment Panel and the membership had been appointed for a two year term concluding on 25th February 2009.

Following the calling for public expressions of interest (and also a separate process for the Council Member appointees to the Panel), Council resolved on 16th December 2008;

- (i) that the following Independent Persons be appointed to the Council Development Assessment Panel which shall commence for a two year term at the expiration of the current term in February, 2009:

- Mr David Chapman;
- Mr Paul Jenner;
- Mr Ted Jordan;
- Mrs Liz Travers.

Mr Paul Jenner be appointed as the Presiding Member of the Council Development Assessment Panel.

- (ii) that the following Elected Members be appointed to the Council Development Assessment Panel which shall commence for a two year term at the expiration of the current term in February, 2009:

- Cr Jim Maher
- Cr Daniel McDonough
- Cr Merv White

## Development Assessment Panel cont.

The agreed sitting fees are to remain unchanged 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).

The Members have been appointed for a two year term commencing from 25th February 2009.

## 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 25/6/2009)

COUNCIL	MEMBERS	ELECTORS	ELECTOR RATIO
Pirie Regional	11	13,197	1:1199
Barossa	14	17,307	1:1236
Victor Harbor	11	15,166	1:1378
Murray Bridge	10	15,281	1:1528
Mount Gambier	11	19,671	1:1788
Whyalla	11	15,367	1:1397
Mount Barker	11	22,771	1:2070
Alexandrina	12	24,338	1:2028
Adelaide Hills	13	31,338	1:2410
Port Augusta	10	10,218	1:1021
Port Lincoln	11	10,957	1:996

Section 12(4) of the said Act states inter alia 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 conducted its Elector Representation Review in the 2008/09 year. Following the statutory public consultation stages on the initial options report and the second formal Council proposal report (and having regard to public submissions received), Council at its meeting held on 16th June 2009 resolved:

- (a) Council hereby adopts the following arrangements in respect of the formal Section 12 Elector Representation Review:

- 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
- all to apply as of the November 2010 Local Government elections:

## *Elector Representation Review cont.*

(b) the resolution of Council as contained in (a) above be the formal Council position and that this position be now submitted to the State Electoral Office for confirmation and approval."

The necessary applications to the State Electoral Office will be lodged for assessment and in due course the granting of consent to the Council proposal so that everything is in place in time for the November 2010 General Elections.

## *Equal Employment Opportunity*

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible:

- (a) for developing and implementing an equal employment opportunity program relating to employment within the Council;
- (b) for developing and implementing other initiatives to ensure that all employees have equal employment opportunity in relation to their employment.

Council is committed to assisting its employees in this area and the Equal Employment Opportunity Committee, which consists of management and employee representatives, meets on a regular basis (as part of the OHS&W Committee).

Human Resources and Personnel Practices - Policies and Procedures are also reviewed on a regular basis.

TEAM	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Executive	1	1	2
Corporate and Community Services	7	24	31
Operational Services	61	17	78
<b>Totals</b>	69	42	111
<b>Percentages</b>	62%	38%	100%

Total Number Employees      111  
Full Time Equivalents:      102.6

(all as at 30th June 2009)

## *External Auditors*

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:-

- the sum of \$6,440 was paid for the interim annual audit of the Council's internal controls and transactions (2008/09);
- the sum of \$7,350 was paid for the balance of the 2007/08 annual audit of statutory financial records and related specific purpose statements;
- the firm Galpin Engler Bruins & Dempsey were the Council's external Auditors for the entire review year.

Acting on delegated authority, Council's Audit Committee at its meeting held on 28th March 2007 engaged the firm Galpin Engler Bruins and Dempsey to be the Council's external Auditors for a period of five years as from the Audit of the 2006/07 financial statements until the conclusion of the 2010/11 Audit.

The external Audit includes:-

- statutory financial audit; and
- extensive internal control audit
- specific purpose statements

# Freedom Of Information

This Information Statement is published by the City of Mount Gambier in accordance with the requirements of Section 9 (1a) of the Freedom of Information Act 1991.

Council is pleased to comply with the legislation and welcomes enquiries.

An up-dated Information Statement will be published in accordance with the Act at least every 12 months.

## 1. STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

### 1.1 Full Council

Full Council, consisting of the Mayor and ten (10) Ward Councillors, is the decision making body on all policy matters. Ordinary meetings of the full Council are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 6.30p.m. and members of the public are welcome to attend. The meetings are held at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier.

### 1.2 Standing Committees

Standing Committees have been formed to streamline Council business. These committees normally meet on a Tuesday evening the week prior to the Council meeting each month and make recommendations to Council. Members of the public are again welcome to attend. The standing committees are the:

- Corporate and Community Services Committee - 6.00p.m.
- Operational Services Committee - 7.00 p.m.

### 1.3 Council Development Assessment Panel

The Development Act 1993 requires all Councils in South Australia to establish a Council Development Assessment Panel to operate as the relevant authority under the Development Act to assess development applications.

The creation of the Panel is to ensure that Council makes 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 merit of the proposal. The Local Government Act 1999 does not apply to the Council Development Assessment Panel.

Membership of the Council Development Assessment Panel is made up of four independent Members with an independent member being the Presiding Member (appointed by Council) and three Elected Members of Council, making a total of seven Members on the Panel.

The Council Development Assessment Panel determines its own meeting practices and procedures and acts independently of Council.

The Council Development Assessment Panel holds its meetings on every third Thursday of the month, in the Council Chamber at the City of Mount Gambier, 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier commencing at 5.45 p.m. (unless otherwise determined).

Council cannot influence or overturn any decision made

by the Council Development Assessment Panel.

It should be noted that the actual decisions/determinations made by the Panel are undertaken 'In Confidence'.

Agendas of all meetings are placed on public display no less than three clear days prior to meetings with minutes on display within five days after a meeting.

### 1.4 Agendas and Minutes

Agendas of all Council, Standing Committees and Development Assessment Panel meetings are placed on public display not less than three days prior to those meetings. Minutes and the recommendations and/or resolutions from these meetings are placed on display within five days of the meeting being held.

All agendas/minutes from Council/Committee/Panel meetings are available from Council's website ([www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au](http://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au)).

### 1.5 Community Committees, Working Parties and Groups

A number of Community Committee's, Working Parties, Management Executive Group and Other Focus Groups comprising elected members, staff and the public have been established to investigate and/or advise Council on particular issues.

Currently they are:

- Crater Lakes Beautification Committee
- Mount Gambier Cemetery Committee
- Mount Gambier Heritage Committee
- City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund Committee
- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade Committee
- Mayoral Gala Performance Committee
- CDAA - Land Owner Liaison Forum
- Seniors Month Committee
- Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre/ Mini Golf Management Committee
- Joint Boundary Roads Committee with District Council of Grant
- Senior Officers Performance Review Committee
- Crime Prevention Focus Groups and Action Teams
- Licensed Premises Accord Working Party
- Dry Areas Working Party
- Australian Day Awards Breakfast Committee
- Christmas Decorations Committee
- ASU Single Bargaining Unit
- AWU Consultative Group
- Crater Lakes Conservation Management Working Part
- City of Mount Gambier Public Library Committee
- Mount Gambier Youth Advisory Committee
- Building Fire Safety Committee
- Mayors Christmas Appeal Committee

# Freedom Of Information cont.

- Mayoress Family Fun Day Committee
- Audit Committee
- Main Corner Redevelopment Working Party
- New Mount Gambier Library Working Party
- Railway Lands Working Party
- Members Training and Development Working Party
- Environmental Sustainability Working Party
- Gateways Precinct Working Party

The minutes of the meetings of these Community Committee's Groups are, when necessary, included in the Agendas for the meetings of the full Council (or appropriate Standing Committee), or are available for perusal at the Council Offices.

## 1.6 Delegations

The Chief Executive Officer and other Officers have the delegated authority from Council to make certain decisions on a number of specified administrative and policy matters. These delegations are listed in the Delegations Register and are reviewed annually by Council.

In keeping with the legislative responsibilities of Council, i.e.

- to determine policies to be applied by the Council in exercising its discretionary powers;
- to determine the type, range and scope of projects to be undertaken by the Council; and
- to develop comprehensive management plans, budgets, financial controls and performance objectives and indicators for the operations of the Council,

Council is charged to make decisions, which direct and/or determine its activities and functions. Such decisions include the approval of works and services to be undertaken, and the resources which are to be made available to undertake such works and services.

Decisions are also made to determine whether or not approvals are to be granted for applications from residents for various forms of development.

## 2. SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Council makes decisions on policy issues relating to services that are provided for members of the public. These services currently include (but are not limited to):

- Roads/Footpaths/Kerbing Stormwater Drainage
- Traffic Control Traffic Lights/School Crossings
- Public Cemeteries Parking Bays/Street Closures
- Street Lighting Street Sweeping
- Street Tree Planting Litter Bins
- Refuse Collection Public Conveniences
- Fire Protection Public Libraries
- Garbage Disposal Senior Citizens
- Playground Equipment Immunization Programmes

- Aquatic Facilities Aged Care
- Waste Management/Recycling Parking Controls
- Waste Minimisation Car Parks and on street parking
- Building Control Dog Control
- Planning Control Environmental Health Matters
- Clean Air Control Community Transport
- Tourism Emergency Services
- Animal and Pest Plants Heritage Recognition
- Economic and Industry Services Recreation/Sporting Facilities
- Parks, Reserves and Gardens (Public) Crime Prevention
- Special Needs Programmes - Donations Arts/Cultural
- Youth Services Environmental Protection/Sustainability
- Food Premises/Sampling Community Services - General

## 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### 3.1 Council Meetings

Members of the public have a number of opportunities to put forward their views on particular issues before Council.

These include:

- (i) Deputations - With the permission of the Committee or Development Assessment Panel Presiding Member, a member of the public can address a Council Committee or the Panel personally or on behalf of a group of residents/interested persons.
- (ii) Presentations to Council - With prior notification and arrangement with the Mayor, a member of the public can address the Council on any issue relevant to Council.
- (iii) Petitions - Written petitions can be addressed to the Council on any issue within the Council's jurisdiction.
- (iv) Written Requests - A member of the public can write to the Council on any Council policy, activity or service.
- (v) Elected Members - Members of the public can contact the Elected Members of Council to discuss any issues relevant to Council.

### 3.2 Public Consultation

Council has duly adopted a Public Consultation Policy in accordance with Section 50 of the Local Government Act, 1999.

The Policy is designed to outline the principles and procedures that the City of Mount Gambier will follow to involve the community in Council's decision making process through effective communication and consultation strategies, and has the following broad objectives:

- To establish positive relationships between Council and the community;

# Freedom Of Information cont.

- To promote open, transparent and responsive decision making by Council;
- To provide effective communication and consultation between Council and the community;
- To encourage, enhance and/or provide the opportunity for community participation in the decision making processes of Council;
- To achieve a greater level of community input, understanding and ownership of decisions made by Council.

This Policy applies to those initiatives or activities of Council on which consultation is required by the Local Government Act, 1999 and other legislation or will be undertaken as a matter of Council policy on other issues

The areas that Council is required to follow the relevant steps set out in its public consultation policy are:

- Changes to the manner, places and times at which Council Offices will be open for business (Section 45);
- Adoption, alteration or substitution of a code of practice relating to the principles, policies, procedures and practices to apply for meetings and documents (Section 92);
- The Adoption of Council's Annual Business Plan (Section 123);
- Changes to basis of Rating (Section 151);
- Rating - Differential Rates (Section 156);
- The exclusion of Local Government land from the classification as community land (Section 193) or the revocation of the classification (Section 194);
- The adoption, amendment or revocation of a management plan for community land (Sections 197 and 198);
- The granting of a lease or licence over community land (Section 202);
- The granting of a permit over a public road granting exclusive occupation or restricting access to a road, or in relation to a use or activity for which public consultation is required (Section 223);
- The planting of vegetation on a public road that may have a significant impact on residents, businesses or advertisers (Section 232);

When a matter under Council's consideration is not specifically required by the Local Government Act 1999 to follow the steps set out in its Public Consultation Policy, but specific sections within the Act do specify that certain public consultation steps must be followed, Council will be guided by the steps outlined in the relevant sections of the Act.

This will apply to:

- Representation Review Section 12
- Status of Council or Name Change Section 13
- Certain Commercial Activities Section 48

- Public Consultation Policy Section 50
- Strategic Management Plans Section 122
- Making of By-Laws Section 249
- Order Making Policies Section 259

Various procedures are specified in the Policy in respect of how the consultation process is to proceed which will largely depend on the particular issue or proposal under consideration.

## 4. ACCESS TO COUNCIL REGISTERS, CODES, POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS

4.1 In accordance with Section 132 of the Local Government Act, 1999, a member of the public is entitled:

- to inspect the following documents at the Council Office during ordinary hours without charge; and,
- to purchase the following documents at the Council Office during ordinary hours for a fee fixed by the Council.

DOCUMENT	FEE
Access to Meetings and Documents - Code of Practice	\$1.00/Policy
Annual Financial Statements	50¢/sheet
Annual Report	No charge
Annual Business Plan (Draft)	50¢/sheet
Annual Business Plan (Summary)	No charge
Assessment Record	50¢/sheet
Changes to a Councils Rating System Report	No charge
Code of Conduct - Elected Members Policy	\$1.00/Policy
Code of Conduct - Employees Policy	\$1.00/Policy
Contracts and Tenders Policy	\$1.00/Policy
Council Agenda and Minutes	50¢/sheet
Council By-Laws Certified Copies	50¢/sheet \$1.00/sheet
Delegations Register	50¢/sheet
Development Application Registers	50¢/sheet
Development Applications by Consent	50¢/sheet
Development Assessment Panel, Agenda and Minutes	50¢/sheet
Dog Register	50¢/sheet
Elected Members Allowances and Support Policy	\$1.00/Policy
Election Campaign Donations Returns	50¢/sheet
Information Statement for F.O.I.	50¢/sheet
Internal Review of Council Decisions Procedure	\$1.00/Policy

# Freedom Of Information cont.

Members Conflict of Interest Guidelines	50¢/sheet
Notice of Meetings (Council/Committees/ Panel)	50¢/sheet
Order Making Policy	\$1.00/Policy
Parking Register	50¢/sheet
Policy Manual	50¢/sheet
Public Consultation Policy	\$1.00/Policy
Rate Rebates Report	50¢/sheet
Register of Annual Fees and Charges levied by Council	50¢/sheet
Register of Community Land	50¢/sheet
Register of Employee's Salaries, Wages and Benefits	\$2/entry
Register of Members Allowances and Benefits	\$2/entry
Register of Members Interests	50¢/sheet
Register of Officers Interests	50¢/sheet
Register of Public Roads	50¢/sheet
Risk Management Identification Register	50¢/sheet
Standing and Community Committee Agendas and Minutes	50¢/sheet
Statutory Resolutions and Appointments Register	50¢/sheet
Strategic Management Plan	No Charge
Supplementary Development Plans (previously on exhibition)	50¢/sheet
Voters Rolls	50¢/sheet

Fees and charges set by Council for provision of the above documents are exempt from GST.

Most documents identified in the above schedule are also available for viewing on Councils website [www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au](http://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au).

## 4.2 Other Information Requests

Requests for other information not included in clause 4.1 above will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Under this legislation, an application fee and a search fee must be forwarded with the appropriately completed request as provided for in the Freedom of Information - (Fees and Charges) Regulations 1991, unless the applicant is granted an exemption.

Should the applicant require copies of any documents inspected pursuant to a Freedom of Information request, the charges set out in clause 4.1 will apply as will the charges/fees set out in 4.2 hereof.

## 4.3 Council Designated Officer

All enquiries concerning the lodgement procedures for Freedom of Information requests, the procedures for inspecting or purchasing the identified City of Mount Gambier Administrative and Policy Documents, Procedures for Access to other Councils Documents and Amendments of any Council records concerning the personal affairs of a member of the public are to be directed to:

Mr Grant Humphries

Director - Corporate and Community Services

Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace

MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290

Applications will be responded to as soon as possible within the statutory 30 days of Council receiving the appropriately completed Freedom of Information request together with the application and search fee and all other information necessary for a qualified response to be provided.

An application for access to a Council's document(s):

- must be in writing; and
- must specify that it is made under this Act; and
- must be accompanied by such application fee as may be prescribed; and
- must contain such information as is reasonably necessary to enable the document to be identified; and
- must specify an address in Australia to which notices under this Act should be sent; and
- must be lodged at an office of the agency, and may request that access to the document be given in a particular way.

## 5. AMENDMENT OF COUNCIL RECORDS

A member of the public may gain access to Council documents to make amendments concerning their personal affairs by making a request under the Freedom of Information Act. A member of the public may then make application (in the prescribed form) for a correction to any information about themselves that is incomplete, incorrect, misleading or out of date.

To gain access to these Council records, a member of the public must complete a Freedom of Information request as indicated above outlining the records that he/she wishes to inspect.

# Grievance Procedures - Review of Decisions

Section 270 of the Local Government Act states (the following are the relevant parts for the purposes of this Annual Report):

“(1) A council must establish procedures for the review of decisions of -

- (a) the council;
- (b) employees of the council;
- (c) other persons acting on behalf of the council.

(2) The procedures must address the following matters (and may address other matters):

- (a) the manner in which an application for review may be made;
- (b) the assignment of a suitable person to reconsider a decision under review;
- (c) the matters that must be referred to the council itself for consideration or further consideration;
- (ca) in the case of applications that relate to the impact that any declaration of rates or service charges may have had on ratepayers - the provision to be made to ensure that these applications can be dealt with promptly and, if appropriate, addressed through the provision of relief or concessions under this Act;
- (d) the notification of the progress and outcome of an application for review;
- (e) the time frames within which notifications will be made and procedures on a review will be completed.

(4) A council, or a person assigned to consider the application, may refuse to consider an application for review if -

- (a) the application is made by an employee of the council and relates to an issue concerning his or her employment; or
- (b) it appears that the application is frivolous or vexatious; or
- (c) the applicant does not have a sufficient interest in the matter.

(8) A council must, on an annual basis, initiate and consider a report that relates to

- (a) the number of applications for review made under this section; and
- (b) the kinds of matters to which the applications relate; and
- (c) the outcome of applications under this section; and
- (d) such other matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.”

Council has always had a formal Grievance Procedure however Sub Section (8) above requires Council on an annual basis to initiate and consider a report that relates to:

- (a) the number of applications received requesting a review,
- (b) the kinds of matters to which the application relates,
- (c) the outcome of the applications,
- (d) such other matters as may be prescribed.

(Please note that at this time nothing has been prescribed).

The following is the required report pursuant to Section 270(8) of the Local Government Act and for the 2008/09 financial year:

- 1.Number of Applications for review made under this Section : NIL
- 2.Kinds of matters to which the Application relate : N/A
- 3.Outcome of Applications under this Section : N/A
- 4.Prescribed Matters : NIL



# Human Resources

The review year has continued as a year of the fine tuning of existing policies, practices and procedures across all areas of human resources and Council and its employees can be justifiably pleased with all outcomes and progresses.

All employer-employee consultative groups have been focused and productive, i.e.:

- Occupational Health and Safety and Equal
- Employment Opportunity
- Indoor Employees Consultation Group
- AWU Consultation Group

All employee support systems have been maintained with the retention of the on site counselling service, journey insurance and the system of performance development and review for all employees.

All policies and procedures have been under constant review, systems refined with the process of consultation of all human resources documents an ongoing feature.

Other human resources activities included:

- completion and acceptance of new enterprise agreements for both Indoor Employees and Outdoor Employees that took effect as of 1st January 2009 (salary and wage increases from 1st December 2008);
- performance and development reviews conducted for all employees;
- employee assistance program reviewed and promoted to employees;
- an effective 'safe return to work' of injured employees has become a priority to reduce the cost of claims and the effect on employees;
- designated training and development.

## STAFFING

As at 30th June 2009 Council employed sixty nine (69) male employees, forth two (42) female employees, in full time, part time or casual positions.

Total Number employees	111
Full Time Equivalents	102.6

(all as at 30th June 2009)

## STRUCTURE

Two Departments of Council currently operate to assist in the flow of work and to establish the accountability measures by each Department.

The Departments - Corporate and Community Services and Operational Services are managed by a Director with relevant support Managers and employees for each Department/Division.

The office of the Chief Executive Officer is involved with all Departments and has specific responsibilities with the areas of Governance and Compliance.

## TRAINING

- Ongoing training for employees has been provided.

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Council continues its endeavour to maintain a high standard of Occupational Health and Safety Management.

The Strategic Plan for Occupational Health and Safety, which had been developed pursuant to the WorkCover Exempt Employer Standards, requires Council as an exempt employer, to set its own Occupational Health and Safety objectives based on the organisation's own gap analysis and to integrate Occupational Health and Safety into the organisation's Strategic Management Planning.

This is a continuing process and Council aims to increase workplace efficiency by maintaining:

- low incident rate;
- low frequency rate;
- low duration rate;
- assist with the reduction of the unit cost of labour for workers compensation.
- improve compliance of Occupational Health and Safety by contractors working for Council;
- maintain the workplace in a clean and orderly state;
- enhance pre-placement assessment process;
- maintain compliance with WorkCover Performance Standards;
- assess and maintain a high level of safety for employees working on roads;

Council's Occupational Health, Safety, Welfare and Equal Employment Opportunity Committee, which comprises management and employee representatives, continues to update its plan, policies and procedures for the use of employees.

The Committee has been assisted in its work by the Regional Risk Coordinator and this assistance has been invaluable to Council.

Council, the Committee (which meets regularly to address occupational health and safety issues), all employees and the Regional Risk Coordinator have a continuing commitment to Occupational Health and Safety and to achieve the best possible policies, practices and procedures for the occupational health and safety of all employees.

Safe Work Procedures and Policies are being continually reviewed and new procedures are introduced if considered necessary.

Workplace inspections are undertaken on a regular basis.

## *Human Resources cont.*

Council participated in the Local Government Association Workers' Compensation Scheme's Healthy Lifestyle projects and continues to provide health screenings for its employees.

- Occupational Health and Safety training and information sessions are made available to employees on a continuing basis.

## *Mandatory Registers, Codes and Policies*

Council is required by the Local Government Act 1999 to keep certain Registers, Codes of Conduct and Policies.

Most (if not all) Registers, Codes and Policies/Procedures are reviewed on an annual or regular basis.

The following schedule details all of these matters.

### **REGISTERS**

Council maintains the following Registers:

- Members Register of Interest;
- Members Register of Allowances and Benefits;
- Officers Register and Remuneration, etc.;
- Officers Register of Interest;
- By-Laws;
- Delegations Register;
- Statutory Resolutions and Appointments Register;
- Public Roads Register;
- Annual Fees and Charges Register;
- Parking Register;
- Community Land Register;
- Development Application Register;
- Election Campaign Donation Returns;
- Dog Register;
- Risk Management Identification Register;
- Rate Rebate Register.

### **CODES**

Council maintains the following Codes:

- Code of Practice for access to Council Meetings, Council Committees and Council Documents;
- Code of Conduct for Council Members/Complaint Handling Policy
- Code of Conduct for Employees;
- Code of Conduct for Council Development Assessment Panel.

### **POLICIES/PROCEDURES**

Council maintains the following Policies/Procedures:

- Rate Rebate Policy/Application;
- Public Consultation Policy;
- Internal Control Policies and Procedures;
- Competitive Tendering Policy;
- Order Making Policy;
- Policy Manual;
- Internal Review of Council Decisions Procedure;
- Elected Members Allowances and Support Policy;
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy;
- Whistleblowers Protection Policy.



# 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 and Community Services
- Director - Operational Services.

The remuneration of the Senior Executive Officers, the conditions of employment, contract of employment etc are detailed in the formal Officers Register and Remunerations - Salaries and Benefits, which is available for public inspection. The summary of the benefits of Senior Executive Officers (SEO's) are as follows (as at June 2008):

- Award Salary - all SEO's
- private use of a Council vehicle (conditions apply) - all SEO's
- annual performance payment (subject to meeting identified annual qualitative and identified quantitative measures) - 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

The Award classification for Council is set by the independent Local Government Association/Australian Services Union biennial review which determines the Award level of each individual Council and as a consequence the Award level of its Chief Executive Officer.

Council, by policy resolution, has determined to accept the biennial review outcome level for the setting of the base classification of its Chief Executive Officer and that the Department Directors be classified two levels below that of the Award classification level of the Council/Chief Executive Officer plus the benefits of the terms and conditions of each individual Contract of Employment.

Council has appointed a formal Senior Officers Review and Appointments Committee to conduct regular reviews of the three Senior Officers, their performance and achievements against a range of agreed targets and outcomes.

In the 2006/07 year, Council had the entire annual review/performance review processes and documents independently assessed to ensure best practice.

The independent assessment confirmed the annual review processes is best practice.

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

- Director - Corporate and Community Services - 1st June 2012
- Chief Executive Officer-24th November 2013
- Director - Operational Services- 12th September 2014

## Subsidiaries

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

Council is a member, together with the six other Councils in the South East region that constitute 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 is a member together with six other Provincial Cities in the State that constitute 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
- City of Victor Harbor

## Subsidiaries cont.

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 report and the audited statement of income and expenditure for year ended 30th June, 2009;
- President's Report detailing the work and operations of the Association for year ended 30th June, 2009;
- Annual Program/Business Plan for the 2009/10 year.

The above reports are available for viewing by any person (for purchase at a fee) at the Council Offices.

## The Management Team

As part of our commitment to corporate excellence, the organisational structure of Council has been developed to encourage the organisation to better deliver improved efficiencies and to be totally accountable.

The management team comprises the following as at June 2009;

### SENIOR EXECUTIVE

Chief Executive Officer, Greg Muller

Director - Corporate and Community Services, Grant Humphries

Director - Operational Services, Daryl Sexton

Strategic Project Officer, Tracy Tzioutziouklaris

Executive Assistant, Lynne Dowling

### DIVISIONAL MANAGERS

Finance Manager, Robert Bowering

Library Manager, Cathryn Harris

Tourism Manager, Mae Steele

Community Services Manager, Gina Ploenges

Engineering Manager, Daryl Morgan



# Community Statement



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# Australia Day Awards

On 26th January 2009, Council presented its Australia Day Awards to:

- Helen WILLIAMS
- Glenda KOOP
- Jean HAYWOOD
- Rebekah POEL – Young Citizen
- Stephen McENTEE - Young Citizen
- Katelyn LAPATHA - Young Citizen
- TS Gambier (Navy Cadets) - Community Event

The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes donated the proceeds from the 2009 Australia Day Breakfast to Regional Foodbank (\$1,250) and the Make-A-Wish Foundation (\$1,250), with some funds retained by the Club to purchase new equipment.

# Australian Citizenship

During the 2008/09 financial year, six (6) Citizenship Ceremonies were conducted.

A total of forty (40) persons received Australian Citizenship at these ceremonies.

At each Citizenship Ceremony, members of Soroptimist International of Mount Gambier presented a native tree or shrub to each candidate.

# Call Centre

Council has an out of hours call service to ensure that customers are provided with a personal contact on a 24/7 basis. Call centre services are provided by the RAA in Adelaide and the service provides a wide scope of information to out of hours callers.

Emergencies are 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 the call centre operation over the past two financial years.

	TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS 2007/2008	TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS 2008/2009
July	92	103
August	103	94
September	118	108
October	101	141
November	146	101
December	325	303
January	117	179
February	87	130
March	147	125
April	127	115
May	106	118
June	82	118
Total Calls	1,551	1,635

# *Celebrate Seniors Month*

Council assists the Celebrate Seniors Committee with administrative and financial support to ensure a wide range of community members can take advantage of the activities and celebrations in October of each year.

The current committee represents such organisations as Senior Citizens Club, Australian Retired Persons Association, Italo Australia Club, University of the Third Age, Office Recreation and Sport (Be Active), RSL Bowling Club, Croquet Club of Mount Gambier, Council and Boandik Lodge. The fantastic community committee with the support of many businesses, service clubs and organisations strives to create an action packed program of events each year for all seniors to enjoy in the community.

As part of Celebrate Senior's Month, the committee in conjunction with Gambier City Lions Club and the Mount Gambier Lions Club, presented the following awards in 2008; Mrs Jean HAYWOOD was selected as Senior of the Year and Mrs Valda BRENNAN received the Recreation Award.

# *City Centre CCTV Surveillance Cameras*

Following the continuing success of the installation and operation of the eight (8) CCTV/Surveillance Cameras within the City Centre, a review indicated that Council should consider the installation of a further two (2) surveillance cameras at strategic locations as part of the 2008/09 Budget and to relocate two (2) existing cameras.

Council's 2008/09 Budget had allocated funds for the purchase and installation of two (2) new CCTV/surveillance cameras and the relocation of two (2) existing cameras.

The new locations for the two (2) new surveillance cameras were:

- › corner of James Street and Gray Street
- › corner of Helen Street and Gray Street

The relocations were:

- › from Helen Street (Coles) to Penola Road (McDonalds) and,
- › from Ferrers Street/Commercial Street East to Commercial Street West/Gray Street

All changes and positionings were with full consultation with Mount Gambier Police.

The quote for the above works was \$72,460 (plus GST) plus a new DVR to be located at the Mount Gambier Police Station at a cost of \$12,620 (plus GST).



# City Centre Marketing Team

Council previously agreed to allocate specific funding to a City Centre Marketing Team which has been formed by the Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce.

Council had agreed to provide a total of \$100,000 between the 2006/07 financial year to and including the 2008/09 financial year.

Council in March 2007 developed a range of formal Aims and Objectives and Key Performance Indicators to guide the work and direction of the City Centre Marketing Team and other references that it is hoped will develop the Team to its fullest potential and hopefully the Team can work towards self sustainability within three years.

Fundamentally the purpose of the City Centre Marketing Team is:-

- promote and market the retail advantages of the City Centre of Mount Gambier to the greater region;
- facilitate the advancement of the retail experiences within the City Centre;
- City Centre to be a vibrant, colourful, attractive and a dynamic retail experience;

- seek uniformity of the retail experience, presentation of retail premises for the ultimate attraction of the area to existing and new customers;

- initiatives that enhance and sustain the prominence of the City Centre in a wide regional context.

During the 2008/09 year, the Team has achieved the following;

- the required changes to its structure were implemented
- has employed a part-time Marketing Manager
- commenced to meet the Council's original KPI's it set for the Team
- has completed the street numbering of individual shops within some of the City Centre streets
- launched its first dedicated marketing campaign across all media
- working towards full attainment of the original Council set aims and objectives
- seeking to become financially self sufficient

# City Hall/Institute

The City Hall venue is used for a range of events and functions including major conferences, expos and exhibitions as well as public meetings, corporate functions and various private functions such as weddings, birthdays etc.

The Institute first floor facilities are used extensively by the Limestone Coast Regional Development Board and associated occupiers of the inter-connected Old Town Hall as

well as numerous other hiring's on a casual and permanent basis by a variety of Government Departments and agencies, local community groups and others.

The meeting rooms (Leadlight and College Rooms) are well utilised by various community groups and are extremely functional for board meetings, training days, smaller conferences or simply for personal appointments or meetings.

## HIRE STATISTICS

### CITY HALL

Hire Period	Available Days	Hires	Conc. Hires	Total Hires	Hire %
1/7/2008 – 30/6/2009	365	58	49	107	29

### INSTITUTE (LEADLIGHT AND COLLEGE ROOMS)

Hire Period	Available Days	Hires	Conc. Hires	Total Hires	Hire %
1/7/2008 – 30/6/2009	365	31	161	192	53

The income value for hire of facilities for the 2008/09 financial year amounted to approximately \$69,000. Of that amount approximately \$38,000 of hire income was forgone for uses associated with sponsorship arrangements or for Council, community or charitable uses.

Enquiries and bookings for facilities can be made through Council front reception staff with hire permit applications, including schedule of rates, areas available for hire and hire conditions for both City Hall and Institute are also available from the Council website.

# *Clean Up Australia Day 2009*

## **Mount Gambier's environment wins on National Clean Up Australia Day.**

In March 2009 Clean up Australia Day attracted approximately 3,000 volunteers, the majority of those being school students from Mount Gambier and surrounding schools. The number of families and individual participants continues to increase steadily.

The waste collection estimate for the week is approximately 6 tonne, with the majority of waste consisting of:-

- Industrial waste e.g. metal, timber, wire
- Glass
- Fast food wrappers
- Convenience food wrappers – chips, lollies etc.

Sites targeted:-

- around schools sites, adjoining roads, parks etc.
- public parks e.g. Valley Lake Recreation area
- main roads e.g. Highways, City Centre
- high volume roads in industrial zones
- perimeters of sporting grounds e.g. Blue Lake Sports Park, Frew Park etc.

The National Clean Up Australia Day organisers provided coloured collection bags for recyclable material; this was a welcome addition to the annual program and was well received by community participants. This new addition to the rubbish collection procedure allowed for a successful separation of cans, bottles and cartons from the waste stream and therefore preventing these recyclable materials from going to landfill.

# *New Mount Gambier Library*

Council's aspirations for a new Library and Community Centre will be realised in December 2009 when the new facility opens to the community.

Council's vision was to create a library service based on innovation and the use of best practices, but most importantly, a space which could grow into a community hub supporting community connectivity and community engagement and communication. Throughout the journey this vision has remained the prime focus of Council and has driven the design process and internal planning.

Key features of the new library include:

- A welcoming entry with a direct vista to an active and visually interesting feature comprising the themed children's library, topical displays and merchandise.
- A clockwise circulation pattern with all fiction, non-fiction and themed lifestyle collections grouped centrally.
- Access to a multipurpose activity room, local history centre, learning centre and group study rooms.
- Active spaces are located at the transparent edges of the building including a central coffee shop with separate external access. This is the hub that services the newspaper and magazine area, community lounge and young adult spaces.
- A fully functional parenting room complete with toddler toilet, change facility, microwave, television and private feeding area.

- Information Technology features highly throughout the building. Computers numbers will more than double, plus there will be the added bonus of an training suite featuring 18 computers with web cams, data projector and fully interactive white board.

- Self-checking equipment using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is located adjacent to the exit path.

The spaces inside and outside the library will be perfect for public celebrations, fairs, and festivals - as well as smaller but no less important events that occur on a regular basis such as community markets or Sunday afternoon concerts and other musical presentations. These activities will reinforce the library's role as a true community anchor.

When you combine all the ingredients of a great library together, you have a public institution whose influence will extend far beyond its physical location. The highly visible location of the new Library and Community Centre will undoubtedly instil confidence in the community and be a catalyst for further investment from both the public and private sectors across the City.

# Community Services, Safety, Welfare and Well Being

Council provides many direct and indirect services and support to its community and in particular, to the health, welfare, safety 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 2008/09:

Care Ring Telephone Service (Lifeline SE)	\$2,000
Crime Prevention initiatives	\$35,613
General Community Donations	\$33,677
Homeassist Program (HACC)	\$13,000
Immunisations	\$33,887
Lambert Village - supported residential facility (for capital improvements)	\$5,000
Life Education Centre	\$4,000
Red Cross Transport Service	\$NIL
Senior Citizens' Centre (maintenance to building/other expenses)	\$1,707
Seniors' Month/Seniors Activities	\$1,796
Syringe Disposal Service	\$896
Youth Advisory Committee and projects	\$11,525
Youth at Risk Initiatives	\$2,686
Graffiti Removal Program	\$1,487
Reidy Park Centre	\$15,518
Mount Gambier City Band	\$5,000
Community Information Services	\$21,869
City Hall – subsidised hire charges to community groups (discounted value)	\$38,258
Wehl Street Theatre (Centrestage)	\$23,202
Stand Like Stone Foundation	\$6,000
CCTV/Surveillance Cameras (Maintenance)	\$10,483
City Centre Marketing Team	\$40,000
Under Verandah lighting "main street" (Maintenance)	\$2,777
Health Promotion general	\$3,882
Paraquad SA (Corriedale Park)	\$6,072
Old Gaol Community Garden	\$541
	<b>\$320,876</b>

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

## Community Award Programs

Council in collaboration with sponsors Centro Mount Gambier, 5SE and STARFM developed the Centro New Generation Awards to recognise outstanding young people in the Mount Gambier community in a wide range of endeavours. Twelve awards were presented throughout calendar year 2008 with each of the winners listed receiving an exclusive Crumpler lap top bag, certificate and \$100 Centro Mount Gambier voucher:

<b>January</b>	Erin Ireland	<b>July</b>	Jayden Cordes
<b>February</b>	Sarah Dickens	<b>August</b>	Kaitlyn Paltridge
<b>March</b>	Stephen McEntee	<b>September</b>	Aimie Laube
<b>April</b>	Danielle McCallum	<b>October</b>	Euan Doidge
<b>May</b>	Hannah Pham	<b>November</b>	Katelyn Lapatha
<b>June</b>	Leith Robson	<b>December</b>	Rebekah Poel

# Home Assist Program

Council made available the sum of \$13,000 in 2008/09 to the South East Regional Community Health Service for the Home Assist Program (HACC) to eligible clients in the Council area. The level of service provided to that of need within the community is always challenging.

Mount Gambier and District Community Health Service, through the Home Assist Program, supplied services in the categories of domestic assistance, personal care, respite care, check visits, home help, food services, nursing services, social support and transport.

In partnership with the above Services and the significant funding they secure from HACC, the small Council contribution to the overall costs has been well utilised for the benefit of the members of the Mount Gambier community.

Based on previous year's statistics the Home Assist Program within Mount Gambier and District will provide some:-

- 45,000 services to over 2,000 clients;
- Services include social support, respite services, home maintenance, home modifications and home help.

# Junior Sports Assistance Fund

Membership of the Fund is comprised of the City of Mount Gambier and the District Council of Grant and a number of sporting organisations who have agreed to become 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 2008/09 was as follows:-

	\$
Assistance to Juniors	15,950
Support for special Coaching Clinics	1,000
Members' Contributions	6,518
Councils' Contributions	12,500
Bank Interest earned	876
Donations received	2,880
Other Expenses	-
Government and Bank Charges	33
Cash at Bank, 30th June 2009	50,267

For the Twenty Four (24) years of the Fund's operations, the consolidated transactions to 30th June 2009 are as follows:-

	\$
Assistance to Juniors	271,950
Support for special Coaching Clinics	47,303
Members' Contributions	92,638
Councils' Contributions	190,500
Bank Interest earned	63,966
Donations received	23,889
Other Expenses	300
Government and Bank Charges	1,173
Cash at Bank, 30th June 2009	50,267

It is to be noted that payments from the Fund for assistance to juniors did not commence until July 1988 and funding for coaching clinics did not commence until July 1991.

The major considerations for the review year included:-

- 25 sporting organisations/clubs are members of the Fund;
- Commercial Club Inc again provided a very generous \$2,000 donation to the Fund (2008);
- A major review of finances (i.e. increase income and reduce expenditure) will again be the focus of the 2009 Annual Meeting.
- New members admitted were: Nil
- Members resigned / suspended were:-Two organisations
- A new funding formula was adopted to apply from the 2005/06 financial year (and is continuing);
- The new funding formula is now 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.
- One Member organisation has not paid its 2008/09 donation to the Fund (as at 30th June 2009) and the Committee will consider whether this organisation should be suspended.



# Mount Gambier Public Library

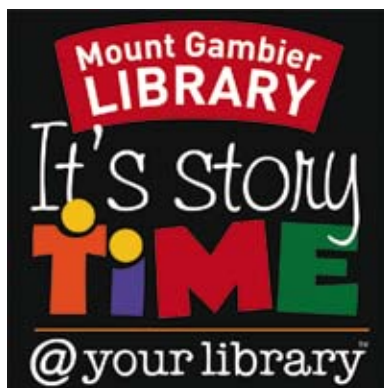
Since 2005, the Mount Gambier Public Library has taken steps to introduce more community-based initiatives and programs, which has increased patronage to the library by more than 1000 visits per month. To continue the library's growth, its infrastructure must also change to grow and support its community.

After three years of research, consultation and planning the reality of a new library finally arrived with the signing of contracts with Kennett Builders on 10th November 2008. The construction work on the much anticipated new Mount Gambier Library commenced on the 24th November 2008 with the demolition of the Council owned car garage.

The current library building has served the community well for over twenty five years, but needs change, services continue to expand and combined with the introduction of technology, accessibility and space have become major issues.

Located beneath the Council and the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre there was no opportunity of expansion. Access to the building has always been an issue with borrowers having to negotiate a flight of stairs before entering the library. Patrons with mobility limitations have difficulty browsing the high shelves and navigating the cramped aisles. Physically, there is no place to study as table spaces are limited and the introduction of free wireless Internet has further highlighted the need for dedicated study spaces.

The new Mount Gambier Library will be much more than a physical redevelopment. It will challenge perceptions of what a library is and what a library can be. The new development will revitalise many of the community services offered by the Council, delivering an innovative suite of services and programs, onsite, online and throughout the wider Mount Gambier region. Alongside this project, Council has undertaken refurbishment and improvements works to the Civic Centre and Plaza and will provide increased car parking facilities and water sensitive urban landscape elements.



## CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

August was Children's Book Week and the library once again hosted 40 classes of primary school and kindergarten children over the 10 day period. All employees participated in the event which saw 1,100 plus children come through doors with many experiencing the library for the first time. Children were given "show bags" of information, word finds, colouring sheets and enrolments to join the library.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The library's school holiday program continues to grow each year with sessions booking out well in advance. During 2008 the library, City Hall and Council Chambers have been transformed it to a Jedi Training Academy, Fairyland, the Wild West and the magical land of OZ. Children have enjoyed creating painted masterpieces, designed their own special jewellery pieces, learnt about caring for pets, followed Dorothy around the Emerald City, participated in treasure hunts and slayed the odd dragon or two.

Some of these activities have involved partners including Bunnings, Black's Veterinary Clinic and the local Scout group.

## LIBRARIES & BEYOND

Libraries & Beyond is an innovative, fun and receptive program designed to promote both literacy and the attractions of the library to preschoolers and their families. The joy of reading and the profile of the Mount Gambier Library has been promoted to a broad section of the community and many partnerships have been formed with government departments, private childcare providers and the educational sector. Targeted marketing has ensured the program reaches places families already gather and has provided the library with a high local profile.

Libraries & Beyond really came about by accident more than a deliberate plan. In 2008 three library staff were given the opportunity to attend a storytelling workshop at Portland Library. The training was presented by early childhood development lecturers from the University of Ballarat. It was there staff learnt the techniques of storytelling and how best to engage small children.



# *Mount Gambier Public Library cont.*

New staff member Danni Jones was keen to try out her new found skills, and set about finding a suitable book which would benefit from some simple props and puppets. The library's regular StoryTime normally involves a bit of singing, a story and some fairly basic crafts, so Danni thought this was the perfect opportunity to test out her newly acquired skills on a live audience. The book chosen was Pamela Allen's *Alexander's Outing* and the props she used were a tall spaghetti jar, a jug of blue water, two yellow rubber ducks and a couple of duck glove puppets. Just as Danni started her performance, the Library Manager walked into the children's area and low and behold *Libraries & Beyond* featuring *Alexander's Outing* was born.

The simplicity of this program makes it ideal to transport around the city to kindergartens, child care centres, playgroups and schools. The entire program can be packed into a suitcase and easily transported. Each session is designed to run for around 25 minutes and the children are enchanted with the interaction and theatrics of the live performance.

The library has been able to reach a huge number of children who don't normally visit the library with many going home to pester their parents into bringing them to the library, this has been evident with the number of specially designed library enrolment forms being presented at the library desk within days of a *Libraries & Beyond* performance.

This program would never have been possible had it not been for the generous support of the Barry Maney Group and their kind offer a motor vehicle. The company are now reporting some very positive community feedback regarding their involvement with the Mount Gambier Library from the wider community and strongly believe the decision to sponsor the library has been justified.

## **COMMUNITY PROFILE**

For the first time the library was represented at a number of community events throughout the year. The Mount Gambier Show was the first event the library participated in. Library staff were on hand to read stories, sing songs and promote the new library. The Christmas Parade was the next big venture outside the confines of the library building. Staff had great fun in decorating the Barry Maney library car as Santa's favourite red nosed reindeer and staff were joined in the parade by many of the regular Baby Bounce and StoryTime participants.

The final community event was the 2009 Mayoress Family Fun Day. Library staff helped entertain thousands of children with a wide variety of crafts which proved very popular on a day when the weather wasn't all that kind.



## **NEW LIBRARY TEAM MEMBER**

Danni Jones joined the library team in July 2008. Danni began her career as a speech and drama teacher and freelance dramaturge working in primary schools throughout the Limestone Coast. She was then appointed Community Theatre Worker and Audience Development Officer for Mainstreet Theatre Company developing and producing regionally inspired Australian theatre. It was during this time Danni worked closely with the Australian Theatre for Young People, Carclew Youth Arts, Windmill Performing Arts, and was awarded a SA Great Community Individual Award for commitment to development of theatre workshops designed specifically for people with intellectual disabilities. Danni then turned her attention to a media career and spent four years as a breakfast radio announcer and promotions manager for Macquarie Southern Cross Media based in the Limestone Coast and then in central NSW. In 2008 Danni decided she needed a sleep-in and left breakfast radio to return to the Limestone Coast and began work at the Mount Gambier Public Library where she is heavily involved in children's programming and the development of the *Libraries & Beyond* literacy program.



# Mount Gambier Public Library cont.

## Mount Gambier Public Library Service Statistics 2008/09

	MOUNT GAMBIER	PORT MACDONNELL	TOTAL	2007/2008
Loans				
Adult Fiction	53,103	5,974	59,077	49,653
Adult Non-Fiction	26,796	1,425	28,221	29,288
Large Print	40,684	1,166	41,850	42,611
Adult Paperback	12,302	2,201	14,503	28,543
Childrens Fiction	29,272	4,706	33,978	34,278
Childrens Non-Fiction	4,586	399	4,985	6,128
Childrens Paperbacks	18,439	560	18,999	20,574
Graphic Novels	1,672	213	1,885	3,162
Sports Equipment	79	0	79	142
Jigsaws	564	2	566	827
Magazines	12,300	1,169	13,469	15,507
Music CD	5,692	6	5,698	5,428
CD ROM	568	25	593	920
Video	4,925	2,116	7,041	12,431
DVD	47,897	14,610	62,507	47,746
Cassette Books	351	0	351	723
Hear a Books	5,834	112	5,946	5,851
LOTE - Language other than English	436	0	436	469
Interlibrary Loans	2,013	33	2,046	2,201
Other loans	6,519	0	6,519	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>274,032</b>	<b>34,717</b>	<b>308,749</b>	<b>306,482</b>

	2008/2009			2007/2008
	Mount Gambier	Port MacDonnell	TOTAL	
Door Count	123,559	21,119	144,678	148,096
Internet (hours)	13,700	3,318	17,018	16,542
Story telling - Under 5's & Baby Bounce	4,208	316	4,524	3,056
Holiday Activities	1,500		1,500	1,250
School Visits	3,967	161	4,128	1,800
Adult programs	161		161	126
JP Service	73		73	106
Visits per head of population			4.6	4.7
No. borrowers			15,200	16,819

State average of visits per head of Pop 7.2

# Life Education

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

In Terms 3 & 4 2008 the following schools received visits from the mobile classroom and 1,881 students within the Council area accessed the Life Education Centre resources.

SCHOOLS	STUDENTS	COUNCIL SUBSIDY \$
Compton PS	53	106
Gordon Education Centre - Mulga Street	27	54
McDonald Park PS	557	1,114
Reidy Park PS	189	378
North Gambier PS	261	522
Tenison Woods College	794	1,588
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>3,762</b>

Unfortunately many families genuinely struggle with a fee of \$7 through financial hardship. Council's funding of \$2 per child was directly used to offset this charge, reducing the fee for Mount Gambier families to a more affordable \$5. This will again happen in 2009/10. 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.

All primary schools within the 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.

We are also pleased to note that a new mobile classroom servicing the region has been secured and has been newly commissioned and provided by Life Education Victoria.

Council provided the sum of \$4,000 to the organisation in the 2008/09 financial year.

# Main Corner Development

The Main Corner project is much anticipated and will be one of the most exciting developments for Mount Gambier in recent times.

The project started out as a desktop exercise to develop concepts for the Main Corner prior to handover of ownership of the former RSL property in April 2009. It has now become an achievable project at an estimated capital cost of \$5M.

All thanks to funding from the Federal Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program - Strategic Projects as part of the 'Stimulus Package' along with various other funding sources, Council was able to secure funding to accelerate this stage of Councils Towards 2015 Vision.

The project became reality on May 11 2009 and the vision for the Main Corner, involving complete demolition of the former RSL at 1 Bay Rd, moved from simple conceptual ideas to a refinement of the initial design that formed part of the successful funding applications. The design will provide the centre of the City with an attractive community space, open up its use for a wider range of cultural and social activities and enable better internal linkages between a revamped Riddoch Art Gallery building, existing Old Town Hall/ Institute and the highly successful City Hall into one fully integrated complex.

Key features of the design will be a new entrance to the Riddoch Art Gallery building as part of a bold vertical entry statement curved in the shape of a sinkhole. The rest of extension to the building will only cover a small portion of the site (around 36%) to enable vistas through the site from the main corner into the Cave Garden and toward the New Library beyond. The extension will house an entrance

foyer, multi-purpose reception area and feature staircase utilising the old fire stair treads from the original dress circle of the King's Theatre (upper section of the Riddoch). Other functionality of the extension will include loading access from Bay Road for gallery purposes, a new lift as well as a storage room for exhibition crates. A suspended upper level, or mezzanine, 'Exhibition Foyer' will complete the new extension component of the building and further link the ground level spaces to the redeveloped first floor of the Riddoch.

Redevelopment works within the Riddoch building itself will include a total revamp of the existing lower galleries, a new first floor to utilise the derelict upper level for multifunctional community purposes such as specialised exhibitions, multi-media and conference type use. In addition to the new upper floor, the existing tiered seating component of the northern end of the first floor will be redeveloped as a lecture theatre seating around 100 people and conveniently also accessed from the upper level of the Institute adjacent the College and Leadlight Rooms. At ground level the existing building will also undergo a facelift to its under-stage storage zones and incorporate the introduction of a centrally located commercial grade kitchen to cater for both the spaces of the Gallery and the City Hall further enhancing the functionality of the overall complex.

The building will comprise of nearly 500m2 of new multifunctional space as well as nearly 900m2 of revamped gallery and multi-purpose zones within the existing Gallery building. The redevelopment of the Cultural and Heritage Precinct will enhance the artistic culture and arts of the region on an ongoing basis and centred on our 'Main Corner'.

# Mayor's Christmas Appeal

The 2008 Mayor's Christmas Appeal raised the remarkable sum of \$29,801 and donations were provided to six local charitable organisations, namely Salvation Army, Jubilee Care, St Vincent de Paul, Uniting Care, Anglican Care and Lifeline, for the distribution of Christmas hampers and other benefits to persons/families in Mount Gambier and district.

Donations to Agencies were:

Jubilee Care	\$3,100
Uniting Care	\$3,200
St Vincent de Paul Society	\$6,100
Salvation Army	\$6,100
Anglican Community Care	\$3,500
Lifeline South East	\$1,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,600</b>

The donations to the above agencies supported 549 adults, 574 children and distributed 388 hampers and 144 vouchers to support those in need during the festive season.

The Combined Christmas Appeals Committee also hosted a Christmas function for Carers in the community. The event attracted approximately ninety community members who enjoyed an afternoon tea and Christmas carols performed by students from Mulga Street Primary School.

Significant contributions received were as follows:-

MG Plasterers Pty Ltd (and their many suppliers/contacts)	\$6,000
UFS Chemist	\$1,000
Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West (Party after Parade)	\$1,000
Rotary Club of Mount Gambier	\$1,000
Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes (Blue Lake Carols)	\$2,000
Mount Gambier Christmas Parade donations (Youth Advisory Committee collections)	\$3,026

Due to the outstanding generosity to the 2008 Mayor's Christmas Appeal and following a recent meeting with representatives of the local welfare organisations, the planning committee has recommended that the donations for 2009 to the local welfare organisations be increased from \$23,600 to \$27,000.

The full value of the donations to each local welfare organisation is to be made in early December 2009 to provide funds in advance for purchases of foodstuffs for the Christmas hampers.

The 2008 Appeal exceeded our expectations and the Mayor and the Committee representatives feel quite humbled by the continued generosity of our community.

Financial transactions for the year were as follows:

Balance brought forward 1st April 2008	\$39,511
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## PLUS INCOME:

Donations	\$28,726
Donation Tins proceeds	\$1,075
Interest	\$441
Proceeds from Pine City Apex	\$208
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$69,961</b>

## LESS EXPENDITURE:

Donations	\$24,000
Bank/Govt Charges	Nil
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>

<b>BALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2009</b>	<b>\$45,961</b>
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## FUNDS HELD

Cheque Account	\$45,961
Fixed Deposit	\$5,874
	<b>\$51,835</b>



# Mayoral Gala Performance

The aim of the City of Mount Gambier Mayoral Gala Performance is to recognise the local performing arts talent in the region, particularly young aspiring performers, by showcasing this local talent in one Gala Performance.

The Mayoral Gala Performance is recognised as the premier performing arts event held in the region.

The Performance, held on Saturday 20th June 2009, continues to be a focus event for performing artists of the region, who by invitation, are recognised for their talent and are no doubt proud to be part of the Mayoral Gala Concept.

The Performance, held annually at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre is proudly sponsored by Van Schaik's Bio Gro and is supported by the City of Mount Gambier and the media of Mount Gambier.

The Committee membership includes:

His Worship the Mayor, Mr Steve Perryman  
Cr John Kyrimis, Presiding Member  
Mrs Barbara Lees-Margiotta, Artistic Director  
Mrs Marlene Doody, Stage Manager  
Mrs Pamela Walker OAM, Musical Director  
Mr Grant Humphries  
Ms Gina Ploenges  
Mrs Jacinta Reid  
Mrs Dianne McEwen

Euan Doidge was announced as winner of the 2009 Mayoral Gala Award by Mount Gambier Mayor, Mr Steve Perryman on Saturday evening, 20th June 2009.

Euan displayed his array of performing arts talents by performing "Man in the Mirror" and "Electricity as a vocalist, then a dance solo "Someday" as a follow up.

He and Symiko de van der Schueren also enthralled the audience with their "paz de deux" dance routing which they will perform at the world dance championships in the United States in July 2009.

The 2009 Performance also featured former local performer, Gavin Clarke.

Born in Mount Gambier in 1977, Gavin has a long history of involvement in the arts, beginning at McDonald Park Primary School where he was regularly involved in school performance days and 'All Together Sing' classes. Gavin continued his interest in the arts throughout school, learning the trombone and performing in musicals at Mount Gambier High School.

After completing a Bachelor of Music at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, he worked for a year as a trombonist aboard cruise ships and upon returning to Australia he moved to Adelaide and made the transition from musician to actor, working in theatre restaurant, children's theatre, short films and small TV roles including a featured guest role in an episode of McLeod's Daughters.

During this time he sought to improve his movement skills and enrolled in the full-time dance course at the Adelaide Centre for the Arts. While studying dance, Gavin became involved as a singer with the Adelaide Vocal Project which saw him perform alongside the Leigh Warren Dancers in the Phillip Glass Opera 'Akhnaten'.

Gavin has gained numerous South Australian opera and musical theatre credits and upon graduation from AC Arts Gavin began making a name as a contemporary dancer.

In 2006 Gavin returned to Mount Gambier to begin developing new dance theatre work, bringing dancers from Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and started taking workshops aimed at getting more guys involved in dance. These initial workshops were the inspiration for a boys only dance class being added to the curriculum at Mount Gambier High School.

Gavin moved to Sydney to work with Opera Australia as a dancer in their productions of Death in Venice and subsequently The Pearl Fishers and Tannhauser in which he performed as the dance double for the title role of Tannhauser at the Sydney Opera House.

Sydney also provided Gavin's first dramatic theatre role in the controversial play Cruising at the TAP theatre. Following the success of this play Gavin travelled to Tasmania working for TasDance to co-create the community based dance/theatre work Let's Get It Strait for the Tasmania's international arts festival 'Ten Days on the Island'.

Gavin is currently in the final stages of creating his own dance theatre work A Country Dance which will premiere in Mount Gambier on 17th July before beginning a tour of regional South Australia.

Other local Performers invited to perform at the 2009 Performance included:

Ms Jacinta Oulton - Vocal  
Mr Peter Andrinopoulos - Musical  
Tenison Woods College Drum Corps - Musical  
Whodunnit ? - Musical  
Ms Mahalia Fox - Vocal/musical  
Mr Euan Doidge - Dance/vocal

Special mention should also be made of the tribute performance to Sir Robert Helpmann in the centenary of the year of his birth. The Sir Robert Helpmann tribute featured dancers Jayden Prelc, Ashley Bronca and Michael Riggs.

## *Mayoress' Family Fun Day*

The 6th Mayoress' Family Fun Day was held in 2009 and was again an outstanding success. Weather conditions and the beginning of the football season resulted in fewer participants in 2009 however this led to smaller queues and an even happier crowd. Approximately 2,000 passports were issued to children under the age of sixteen years of age. The Mayoress' Family Fun Day is an event that enables children from all socioeconomic groups to participate in an event that is all inclusive without any cost that might otherwise deter marginalized groups.

As with each other year the Mayoress' Family Fun Day Committee are indebted to the Service Clubs, Church Groups, Sporting and Dance Organisations, Local Businesses and other organisations and numerous individuals who give up their valuable time to provide assistance with raising and dismantling tents, putting up banners, supervising long queues of children and providing food for the crowd.

The ForestrySA Friends of Native Wildlife was featured at the 2009 event complete with snake pit and education program. The Grant High School animal nursery was again a major attraction.

Participants on the day as well as the volunteers applaud the Mayoress' Family Fun Day Committee's efforts to produce this event.

## *Memories in a Suitcase*

The "Memories in a Suitcase" sculpture was created as part of a future celebration of the contribution of migrants to the community of Mount Gambier, in particular post-war migrants. Silvio Apponyi was commissioned to create a large scale granite sculpture shaped as a suitcase, the suitcase was an icon selected by the community that represented their journeys from across the globe to Australia, it is considered a timeless symbol.

The "Memories in a Suitcase" sculpture was completed in March 2008, and is currently in storage at Council awaiting installation as part of the landscaping features the new Mount Gambier Library and Community Centre / Civic Plaza.

The unveiling of the sculpture at the new Civic Plaza location will take place in December 2009.



# Mount Gambier Christmas Parade 2008

For fifty years the WIN Television Mount Gambier Christmas Parade has delighted the people of Mount Gambier and District as it heralds the arrival of Father Christmas to the City each year.

This much loved community event was staged for the 50th consecutive time in 2008.

The Parade attracts a wide variety of community participants from service clubs, schools, families and individuals who all work together to bring a high quality event to the community.

Perfect spring weather drew a large audience to the 2008 Parade, which again featured The Blue Lake Brass Band Festival. Visiting band entries continue to be a great addition to the Parade, performing much loved Christmas Carols along the length of the Parade route.

Peter Mounsey, Christmas Parade Development Advisor created a fantastic new float "The Tank Engine", which delighted young and old alike as it made its way along the Parade route.

WIN Television provided the following awards for the 2008 Parade winners:

## **MOST OUTSTANDING ENTRY**

Compton Primary School - "HMAS Compton"

## **BEST CHRISTMAS THEME**

St Martin's Kindergarten - "The Nativity"

## **BEST CLUB OR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION**

Lake City Rock 'n' Roll Club - "Jailhouse Rock"

## **BEST SCHOOL ENTRY**

Akuna Kindergarten - "Live Healthy, Live Happy"

## **BEST OUT OF TOWN ENTRY**

Suttontown Primary School - "Christmas in Camelot"

## **BEST MUSICAL ENTRY**

Tenison Woods College Drum Corp

## **BEST INDIVIDUAL ENTRY IN PARADE**

Bianca Cordes - "One Woman Circus"

## **ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD**

Daniel Atkins-Leary & friends - "An Aussie Christmas"

## **BEST BRASS BAND - NON PROFESSIONAL**

Maroonda Brass

The financial transactions of the Parade Committee for the twelve (12) month period to 30th June 2009 is detailed as follows:

<b>OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1 JULY 2008</b>	<b>\$15,178</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Council Donation	\$10,000
Donation for Tank Engine - OG Roberts & Co	\$1,000
Donation for Christmas Stocking – Chamber of Commerce	\$200
Donation for Hansel and Gretel – Harvey Norman	\$200
Donation for Fairytale Float	NIL
Donation for Christmas Star Float	NIL
Bank Interest	\$70
Sales	\$90
	<b>\$11,560</b>
	<b>\$26,738</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
Reimburse to Council	\$8,507
Photography	\$337
Advertising	\$256
Lions Club Brass Band Festival Sponsorship	\$4,000
Printing	NIL
Bank Charges	NIL
Donation to Marshalls	\$600
Donation to Program Distributors	\$200
Donation to St Johns Volunteers	\$150
Trophies	\$38
	<b>\$14,088</b>
<b>BANK BALANCE AS AT 30th JUNE 2009</b>	<b>\$12,650</b>



# Security Foot Patrolling Within City Centre

The Mount Gambier Licensed Premises Accord Group comprises Police, Office of Liquor and Gaming Commission, Council, Licensees of Hotels/Clubs able to operate after 1.00 a.m. and other key stakeholders.

The Group believed that the security foot patrol presence continue to ensure even higher levels of acceptable public behavior as well as provide vital and valuable support to local Police in their extremely demanding work for the community.

Members of the Group and others closely associated with activities of licensed premises e.g. taxis were very willing to again support this proactive initiative and some of the licensees of the Group financially contribute to the costs collectively (34%), as well as Council (63% of costs) and Lake City Taxis (3%).

The security foot patrolling operates each weekend and with outstanding success.

The contractor is Green Triangle Security.

Detailed weekend reports on observations and activities within the patrolled area are provided to Council and Police by the Contractor.

Council and Police have been particularly impressed with the willingness and genuine interest in the continuation of the security patrol initiative on a permanent basis by the licensed premise proprietors involved and other businesses who are the true “drivers” of this project.

## Railway Lands

Council was not able to devote the level of required thinking to the development vision for the Railway Lands due to other capital works programs taking precedent.

The New Library and Community Centre, together with the Main Corner Development have required Council to give these two major projects priority in terms of Members’ time and the allocation of Council’s financial resources.

During 2008/09 the following represents the steps taken by Council in respect of the Railway Lands as a means of advancing the vision direction:

- the need for Margaret Street properties to integrate with the Railway Lands and also the need to link strategically to Olympic Park and also to the City Centre
- the purchase of 24 Margaret Street as a future pedestrian link to Margaret Street
- undertook some preliminary clean up of the site
- preparation of financial modelling reports illustrating the impact on Council’s financial sustainability, based on capital spend options of \$5M, \$7M and \$10M and also the impact on Council’s Operating Statement due to capital investment interest costs and ongoing maintenance of the remaining community land
- identification of various heritage features across the site and the heritage controls over the site
- future zoning of the Railway Lands for maximum benefit Council to proceed to prepare design briefs, concepts and design standards for those areas that could be released (sooner rather than later) for private development and state therein the Council’s expectations of the design standards for the private development on the released lands

- further design/concept plans be undertaken on the areas to be retained by Council for either community purposes or retained by Council for commercial purposes
- the design plans/concepts be referred to a Quantity Surveyor for a capital development cost assessment of the intended works by Council
- Council contact with an adjoining property owner to discuss with them the Council’s concepts for the Railway Lands and their integration with adjoining property owners for the ultimate success of the entire precinct’s development and the adjoining property owners
- Council seek advice regarding the Council’s powers for the closing of roads or load limit/vehicle type restrictions etc. on the public roads at or around the Railway Lands site e.g. Railway Terrace
- report on critical timelines to be prepared, with an emphasis on timing for:
  - > development of designs, concepts and plans
  - > Quantity Surveyor estimates of capital costs
  - > Financial Plan preparation
  - > Community consultation processes

Noting the existing Council resource commitments to other community initiatives and major capital projects.

**MOUNT GAMBIER Live. Learn. Imagine**

# Riddoch Art Gallery

The City of Mount Gambier is directly involved with Riddoch Art Gallery, even though it is administered by a separate Incorporated Board of Management. Council provided the following benefits in 2008/09:

- Council is owner of the building
- Council has direct representation on the Board
- Council Depot staff assist Gallery staff on occasion with moving heavy and/or large items

Provide a cash grant of \$56,000 comprising of;

General Operating Grant	\$45,000
Collection & Conservation Grant	\$5,000
Building Asset Maintenance Grant	\$6,000

Waived an annual \$3,000 repayment of an existing loan due to Council from the Gallery

With the support of Council, Riddoch Art Gallery programmed twenty exhibitions. These covered exhibitions by local artists; community exhibitions; collection based exhibitions; and quality touring exhibitions from a range of national cultural institutions. An important exhibition was the Gallery curated show Women of Significance: A Tribute to Cathleen Edkins & Margaret French. This saw the combination of collection and locally borrowed artwork, to create a survey of two significant local artists. It was a timely, as Cathleen Edkins died only the week before the exhibition opened.

Visitor numbers continued to increase in line with the Gallery's Strategic Plan, with 11,216 visits during the period (up by 9% from the previous year). Similarly, the involvement of volunteers across a range of Gallery activities continues, with an average of 30 volunteer hours donated each week. Volunteers assisted with hanging exhibitions, research for exhibitions, collection maintenance, reception duties, library cataloguing and exhibition openings.

With the continued support of Council, Riddoch Art Gallery can continue to provide the very best art experiences for the local community, as well as providing a valuable tourism experience for the general public.

# Youth Advisory Committee

Council's Youth Advisory Committee is now in its seventh year of operation, and continues to attract a wide cross section of young people to its membership. Meetings during 2008/09 have averaged attendances of 18 members on each occasion. City YAC membership currently spans the entire 12 to 25 youth age range.

Highlights of the year have included the following:

## YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2008

Youth Parliament has become a permanent fixture of the Youth Advisory Committee program. Each year members of the YAC volunteer to participate in this statewide program at Parliament House, Adelaide. It is a large commitment on the part of the participants as they spend many months researching and writing parliamentary bills and speeches in preparation for the week long Youth Parliamentary session. In 2008 team members Kenni Bawden, Travis Ellis and Grace Ploenges-Beltchev tabled the "Youth Attitude Bill 2008" for debate in the upper and lower house of Youth Parliament.

## VOLUNTEERING

Council's Youth Advisory Committee is very proud of the number of volunteer hours they contribute to a wide variety of youth and general community events. In the past twelve months YAC members have given their time, energy, enthusiasm and skills to the following:-

- Clean Up Australia Day
- Mayoress' Family Fun Day
- Youth Week 2009
- Mayor's Christmas Appeal 2008- the YAC has now raised nearly \$9,000 over four years.
- Youth Week 2008



# Youth Advisory Committee cont.

## NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK 2009 - MAKE A MOVE

YAC members devised a program full of great events and opportunities for young people to take part in during Youth Week 2009, these included:

If You Want It Come And Get It Jam - Sutton Reserve Skate Park was crammed full of skaters and bike riders on the first day of Youth Week - they skated to the sounds of DJ Sammond.

Movie Night - Around fifty young people attended the Oatmill Cinema to see "Paul Blart: Mall Detective" rated PG

Mount Gambier You've Got Talent - The YAC put together a program of local talent - who performed just for the experience and fun. All performers and audience were welcomed with pre-performance mocktails.

It's All Good at Frew Park - the Mayoress' Family Fun Day Committee kindly allowed the YAC members on the Saturday, to use the stage and facilities in place for the Fun Day on Sunday. It meant that local performers were able to play in an outdoor stage with professional support. The line up included: "Beneath Dying Skies", "Despair to Glory" and "Queen Akini".

## YACFEST 08

YAC members Hannah Pham and Tim Newport attended an Office For Youth State gathering, namely YACFEST08 in November 2008, accompanied by Clare Kinloch. The one hundred plus participants from across the State had the opportunity to learn about:

Youth Participation in Action - How to advocate and campaign through your YAC

Tech Talk - Networking technology and cyber safety

Public Speaking - Tips and tricks

Governance - The three tiers of government and meeting procedures

Events Management - How to develop and implement an event project plan

## youth=change08

YAC conducted for the second time a regional youth forum, youth=change08. This forum attracted eighty young people from across the Limestone Coast, who were given the opportunity to meet and discuss with peers issues and ideas. Gabrielle Kelly of Archangel Australia facilitated the day, which culminated in the development of a youth=change08 young leader's declaration which contained the following:

"We the Young Leaders of the Limestone Coast, attending youth=change08 are:

- deeply concerned about our environment, our use of natural resources and especially water;
- we want to create a healthy global society by encouraging people to be positive and informed about the future;
- we believe young people have a huge contribution to make to political life and we want to see political leaders and processes really engage the energy, intelligence and capacity of young people;
- we believe young people need better quality information in order to support good choices for their lives and the future of the planet;
- we are concerned about poverty locally, globally and want to contribute to overcoming its cruel impacts."



# Youth At Risk Initiatives

Council and the District Council of Grant, in partnership with the local high schools and key local youth services providers continue to allocate funding to assist with programs that are aimed specifically at 'Youth at Risk' within our City and district.

The partners are keen to collectively and cooperatively work together to seek to identify meaningful projects, programs and options and to provide financial support to assist certain young people recognise that they can have a brighter future and a better life.

The approved programs hopefully will provide very direct interaction with identified youth who have (or are likely to develop) behavioural problems and may offend against the community.

The following initiatives were approved in 2008/09:

ORGANISATION	DETAIL	AMOUNT
1. Prison Fellowship South Australia	Children of prisoners are 6 times more likely to go to prison. In conjunction with the Scripture Union wish to seek out and enrol children to attend life changing camps from October 2007. 120 children over next 18 months. Programs are intervention based. Children up to 15 years aged 8 - 12 with two in Mount Gambier. 6 children in City are eligible and at risk.	\$500
2. Noorla Yo-Long - Blue Light Outdoor Adventure	Crime Awareness Life Skills Program. 12 students each from MTGHS, GHS, TWC and 12 from CYFS total 46. Develop life skills in personal growth, physical education, leadership, co-operation, trust building, self challenge, problem solving, anger management, crime awareness.	\$2,000
3. Allendale East Area School	Operation Flinders - April 2009, five students from Kingston Area School and Allendale East Area School. Amount requested \$1,000 (for Allendale East Area School students only).	\$800
4. Mount Gambier High School	2009 trip to Operation Flinders. Funds for travel and overnight stay. 10 students who are considered "At Risk".	\$1,000
5. Tenison Woods College	Odyssey Program for Y9 boys (total 55) in February 2009. Odyssey program covers: identity, anger management, me and my mates, decision making, problem solving, de-stressing, life skills. Total cost \$1,755.	\$1,000
6. Tenison Woods College	Girls Essential for Y9 girls (total 60). Raise awareness of relationships, barriers to positive relationships, school safe and friendly, finding solutions, conflict resolution, value female students. Total cost \$1,800.	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$6,300</b>

Each initiative has as its base a desire to address aggressive tendencies and an endeavour to 'head off' a pathway to offending or continual offending by some young persons.



# *The Young Professionals Network (YPN)*

The Young Professionals Network (YPN) has been established as a social and support network and provides an opportunity to meet other 'like' people in Mount Gambier, particularly for those who have relocated for employment/career purposes and have no family connections to rely upon.

YPN can assist young people new to the local community to feel welcome, increasing the likelihood of them staying or at the very least, enabling them to act as great advocates for the region due to their positive experiences.

YPN co-ordinates a weekly meet and greet event and has developed a monthly social program. Some of the more notable functions included the annual Welcome function in February which kicks off the YPN year, Professional Development Seminar in May and the hosting of a function to welcome those UniSA students involved in the Mount Gambier teaching practicum.

Involvement in the UniSA teaching practicum project was one of the most beneficial projects so far as it had a far reaching effect, leaving the graduate students enthusiastic to return to Mount Gambier as teachers.

YPN also took the chance to launch the 'Just Landed' website and postcards, which was a joint project between Council, YPN and the Mount Gambier branch of the Soroptimists International service group. This was again well received, especially by the UniSA students attending the launch, who believed the website to be an important resource.

The feedback with regard to the Young Professionals Network's work in the community has been positive and YPN hope to continue to grow and meet the needs of its members in 2010.



# Infrastructure Statement



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# Aquatic Centre

The Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre continued to provide Learn to Swim programs to the local community during 2008/09. These programs included VacSwim and 'in house' programs.

Council has continued to maintain this community asset with completion of wet deck tiling.

Local Manager, Peter Collins has continued to "grow the business" and has worked hard to promote this facility, with the aim of retaining current customers and encouraging new swimmers to the Centre.

The Mini Golf facility closed prior to the start of the 2008/09 season.

Daily patronage is very temperature dependent, with daily maximum temperatures below about 26° to 27° resulting in low daily attendance figures.

The facility was again independently audited during 2008/09 for Risk Management and as with previous years, the Centre achieved extremely high scores, indicating the value of well maintained and a well managed facility.

The following statistics are provided for 2008/09:



INDIVIDUAL ADMISSIONS	
Swimming - Adult	2237
Swimming - Child	5557
Swimming - Spectator	421
Swimming - Pensioner	249
Swimming - Family	540
Aquavoucher Return - Pensioner	140
Swim School - Preschool	1036
Swim School - School age	5701
Swim School - Adult	14
Season Pass	4015
Birthday Parties	1033
Lap Swimming	1712
VacSwim	2082
Carnivals - General	1401
Carnivals - Discount	6
Education Department - Primary	13030
Education Department - Jnr Primary	4858
Aquavoucher Return - Adult	162
Aquavoucher Return - Child	81
Triathlons	390
School Swim	0
Swim Club	230
<b>INDIVIDUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>44,895</b>
Comparison 2007/08	55,303
HIRE GROUPS	
Royal Life Saving Society	83
Scuba Club	0
Hire Group Total	83
Comparison 2007/08	444
COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSIONS	
No Charge Spectator	9079
Education Department - Teachers	901
Free Admission Passes	7
<b>COMPLIMENTARY TOTAL</b>	<b>9,987</b>
Comparison 2007/08	10,938
<b>TOTAL ATTENDANCES</b>	<b>54,965</b>
Comparison 2006/07	66,685

## *Bicycle Paths*

Council has now completed its review of the 1998 Strategic Bicycle Plan. A revised network of bicycle paths has been developed. A special thank you needs to go to the Bicycle User group (BUG) for their substantial involvement in this process.

Council received funding from the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure for extensions to the Blue Lake Sports Park bicycle path (physical connection from the existing path to Dimjalla Skate Park).

Council will aim to continue with the provision of infrastructure in accordance with the revised plan and hopes to secure State Government funding to continue with this worthy project.

## *Blue Lake Sports Park Signage*

In early 2009 all internal signage panels were positioned and the entry statement was commenced.

Constructed by local contractors, the entry statement is a striking design element utilising innovative construction techniques.

Final completion of the project was reached in June 2009 at a total cost of \$40,000.

## *Boundary Roads*

The City of Mount Gambier and the District Council of Grant share responsibility for the network of roads that form the common boundary of the two Council areas.

In 2008/09 both Councils increased their funding to the Boundary Roads Program from \$110,000 to \$125,000 per Council.

Council was also granted Black Spot Funding to construct a new roundabout at the intersection of Wireless Road East and Attamurra Road, and this was completed in May 2009. As this is a Boundary Road, the District Council of Grant made a financial contribution to the project.

The District Council of Grant was also successful in obtaining Black Spot Funding for the intersection of Wireless Road West and O'Leary Road, and the works included crest removal on O'Leary Road, substantial alterations to underground services and improved drainage. The City of Mount Gambier also made a financial contribution to this project – as it is also a boundary road.

The balance of available funding has been allocated to the upgrade of O'Leary Road, from Calula Drive to Wireless Road West and the upgrade of Suttontown Road/Wireless Road roundabout. Both of these projects should proceed in 2009/10.



# Cemeteries

The City of Mount Gambier is the legal owner of the lands, buildings and facilities at the Lake Terrace Cemetery and the Carinya Gardens Cemetery. The Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust (a Committee of Council) undertakes the care, control and management of Carinya Gardens Cemetery and Sections H and J at the Lake Terrace Cemetery.

The Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust is made up of:

- two Members of the City of Mount Gambier;
- one Member of the District Council of Grant;
- one representative of the Churches of Mount Gambier and nominated by the Mount Gambier Ministers' Association;
- one community representative.

The current Members of the Trust are Archdeacon Brian Ashworth (Presiding Member), Cr Tony Pasin, Cr Byron Harfield, Cr Brian Collins and Mr Tony Bolton.

Meetings of the Trust were held on 8th August 2008, 19th September 2008, 23rd January 2009, 27th March 2009 and 29th May 2009.

The Trust is a member of the Australasian Cemeteries and Crematoria Association (ACCA) and the Cemeteries Association of South Australia (CASA). Both industry bodies provide leadership, professional services and communication to the cemetery and crematorium industry. The promotion and facilitation of the professional development of its members, including the establishment of comprehensive codes of practice, guidelines, training materials and research projects is a main objective of both organisations.

The Trust is mindful of the need to keep fees to a minimum whilst at the same time providing quality facilities and services to the public.

## CARINYA GARDENS CEMETERY

The Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust has demonstrated a keen desire to enhance and expand the grounds and facilities at Carinya Gardens Cemetery.

The Trust has previously adopted the 'Carinya Gardens Cemetery Master Plan' as its overall vision for the future development of Carinya Gardens Cemetery. It is envisaged the Plan will ensure the orderly development of Carinya Gardens Cemetery. Original cost estimates for the works required was in the order of \$430,000+. Concepts provided in the Master Plan are expected to be gradually introduced over a number of years.

The progressive installation of concrete strips and head-blocks to burial lawns was continued during the year. Rows U to AC were installed in the Cypress Garden, and Rows U to Z were installed in the Eucalypt Garden. It is anticipated that all existing allotments will be fitted with the strips and head-blocks during the 2009/10 financial year.

The total number of burials performed at Carinya Gardens Cemetery during the financial year was 132 compared to 103 in 2007/08. The total number of cremations performed was 256 compared to 272 in 2007/08.

The Carinya Chapel was utilised for 117 funeral services during the year. Of these, 86 were for cremation services, and 31 were for burial services.

## LAKE TERRACE CEMETERY (area managed by the Trust)

Some time ago, Council made available to the Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust a portion of Section H and Section J at the southern end of the Lake Terrace Cemetery for use for burials.

At the beginning of 2008/09, all forty eight (48) concrete burial vaults at Section H either contained interments or were pre-leased. As a result, the Trust engaged Norwalk Pre-Cast Burial Crypts, under the direction of GHD Pty Ltd, to install a further twelve (12) vaults. This project has now been completed and the new vaults are available for interment and pre-lease.

Section J of Lake Terrace Cemetery contains numerous ground burial allotments which provide an alternative to families who would prefer monumental style memorialisation rather than the standard memorialisation available at Carinya Gardens Cemetery.

For the 2008/09 financial year, three (3) burials were undertaken at Section H (vaults), and four (4) burials were undertaken at Section J (ground) at Lake Terrace Cemetery.

## LAKE TERRACE CEMETERY (area controlled by Council)

The Lake Terrace Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Mount Gambier and is still used from time to time.

In 2008/09 three burials and one interment of ashes was undertaken in Section LA, one burial and one interment of ashes in Section L, one burial in Section B, two burials and one interment of ashes in Section K, one burial in Section G and one burial in Section M.



# City Centre Urban Design and Traffic Management Plan

Council completed the upgrade of James Street (between Gray Street and Elizabeth Street) and this work indicates a new era in urban design and construction.

The City Centre Urban Design and Traffic Management Plan (prepared in 2007) assumes that the quality of James Street will flow through to all other works proposed in the City Centre.

In 2008/09 Council allocated funding to the following City Centre works:

• City Centre signage upgrade	\$125,000
• Percy Street streetscaping	\$50,000
• Coles carpark pedestrian link	\$72,000
• Engelbrecht Lane upgrade	\$85,000
• Streetscaping (City Centre)	\$100,000
• Pedestrian link	
- Commercial Street and Percy Street	\$50,000

Due to the construction works associated with the new Library the construction of the above projects has been deferred.

## Footpath Patrol

The Australian Retired Pensioners Association and the East Gambier Neighbourhood Group have continued to provide valuable feedback to Council regarding the footpath network in the City.

Rough and broken up driveways continue to be a problem and Council reminds residents that the proper maintenance of the driveway section of the footpath/nature strip is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner.



# Infrastructure Works

## ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Council has continued with its substantial program of reviewing existing roads within the City.

In 2008/09 the following projects were completed:

- Power Street - full length
- Dove Place - full length
- Henty Street
- Sturt Street (Crouch Street to Anthony Street)
- Final stage of Shepherdson Road reconstruction
- Eleanor Street reconstruction

Council also expended in the order of \$240,000 on the resealing of various roads, and \$23,000 (approximately) on providing a 'hotmix' asphalt overlay to intersections.

General road maintenance (including pot hole repair, signage, linemarking etc.) was carried out to a value of \$133,560.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Residential development was again strong in 2008/09 and the construction of the following streets by either Council or contractors on behalf of numerous developers occurred:

- Kensen Court
- Queens Court
- Peppermint Drive
- Hilltop Avenue
- Veldarose Lane
- Rosemont Place
- Fimmell Court

## FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION

In order to enhance and expand the footpath network within the City, Council expended in the order of \$153,000 on the following works:

- Resealing footpaths (\$47,000)
- Bike path construction (\$35,000)
- Penola Road footpath (Wireless Road to Buronga Avenue) (\$20,000)
- Brilliant Street (\$8,800)
- Wireless Road (Periam Street to Suttontown Road) (\$8,000)
- Dove Place (\$23,000)
- Davison Street (Jubilee Highway to Commercial Street) (\$6,000)
- New Pram Crossings (\$5,400)

In addition to the provision of new facilities, Council expended in the order of \$265,000 on general maintenance of the footpath networks.

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Council expended in the order of \$140,000 on general traffic management in 2008/09. This expenditure relates to maintenance of parking signs, traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, school crossing etc.

## STORMWATER MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of the stormwater system is a major component of Council's annual works program, and the expenditure on this function in 2008/09 was approximately \$100,000. This work involves drain cleaning and repair and maintenance of the network of drainage bores (in excess of 400).

# Playgrounds

Unfortunately there was no playground constructed in 2008/09. A new playground for the William A Crouch Reserve was ordered but unfortunately the company engaged to supply the equipment went into liquidation prior to delivery.

It is anticipated this playground will now proceed in the early part of 2009/10.



# Street Trees

Council remains committed to its goal of a street tree planting program to populate the City's streets with 10,000 street trees by 2017.

To accomplish this objective, Council has to obtain a net gain on average of, 300 new trees each year. The following table sets out the street tree program achieved for 2008/09.

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	STREET NAME	TREES RETAINED	REMOVALS	PLANTINGS	NET
Manchurian Pear	<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Friendswood Place	0	0	10	10
Manchurian Pear	<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Lumidin Drive	0	0	43	43
Manchurian Pear	<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Peppermint Drive	0	0	28	28
Purple Leaf Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus Cerasifera 'Nigra'</i>	Sunnyside Drive	0	4	15	11
Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon viminalis 'Harkness'</i>	Miller Street	3	2	50	48
Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon viminalis 'Harkness'</i>	Ellis Street	6	5	28	23
Native Frangipani	<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Birdwood Avenue (North Side)	0	3	20	17
Australian Willow	<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Birdwood Avenue (South Side)	0	8	43	35
Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana 'Glensform' Chanticleer</i>	Tweed Crescent	0	7	104	97
			9	29	341	312

# Undergrounding of Power Lines

Council, in conjunction with the Power Line Environment Committee (PLEC) completed the undergrounding of power lines in Sturt Street, from Bay Road to approximately Krummel Street, including sections of Ferrers Street and Compton Street.

The total cost of the work was in the order of \$1.2 million, with \$406,000 from Council and the balance of funding coming from PLEC.

Council again is partnering with the Power Line Environment Committee (PLEC) and has commenced another project in 2008/09, this time in the Commerce Place carpark/Gray Street/Caldwell Street area.

The total cost of the project was approximately \$600,000, with Council's contribution being \$195,000.

Most of the City Centre has now been 'cleared' of overhead power lines and the old 'stobie' poles.

Council acknowledges the highly valued and respected input from the Power Line Environment Committee.





# *Economic and Regional Statement*



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# Mount Gambier & District Tertiary Education Grants

Council continued the Mount Gambier & District Tertiary Education Grants program in 2008/09 as a means of recognising local skill shortages and to assist 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 and 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.

Ten Mount Gambier residents have been awarded donations from the Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Education Grant Program.

The value of the donation is \$2,000 each and a total distribution of \$20,000 was provided to the ten successful applicants.

Seventeen excellent applications to the Tertiary Education Grants Program were received and the process of determining which of the applicants were to benefit from the program was extremely difficult.

The focus area for 2009 was medical and allied health studies/vocations and the Program is about providing some financial assistance to our residents who are required to leave our community to study degree programs in our focus area.

Funding for the 2009 grant program was provided by:-

- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
- City of Mount Gambier
- Mount Gambier Private Hospital
- District Council of Grant
- Ken and Carol Stafford
- UFS Chemist
- Country Health SA (SERCHS)
- Jean Henke
- Barry and Shirley Maney

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

Council was very 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.

Council extends its very best wishes to the successful recipients in their studies and 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 Community Learning and assist in meeting local essential skills shortages.



# Mount Gambier & District Tertiary Education Grants cont.

Successful recipients in 2008/09 were:

RECIPIENT	PROGRAM OF STUDY
Careen LINDSAY	Post Grad. Diploma in Psychology (Year 2) Charles Darwin (Bathurst) Year of Graduation – 2009
Gary WILSON	Graduate diploma in mental health nursing University of SA (part time) Year 1 - Year of Graduation 2010
Kathleen MANEY	Bachelor of Psychological Science University of Adelaide (full time) Year 1 - Year of Graduation 2011
Jenna BOWN	Bachelor of Physiotherapy University of SA Year 1 - Year of Graduation 2012
Sarah WILSON	Bachelor of Physiotherapy University of SA Year 2 - Year of Graduation 2012
Elise THOMPSON	Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) University of Adelaide Year 1 - Year of Graduation 2012
Tegan ANDERSON	Bachelor of Midwifery University of SA Year 2 - Year of Graduation 2009
Eloise PATZEL	Bachelor of Health Services University of Adelaide Year 1 - Year of Graduation 2012
Mignon TUCKER	Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) Deakin University Year 1 - Year of Graduation 2012
Louise HANSSEN	Graduate Diploma of Psychology Monash University Year 1 - Year of Graduation 2010



# Mount Gambier

## - a Lifelong Community 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 new university and tertiary education presences.

As Council and the community representatives explored the main focus of formal education, it became clear that learning can be formal and informal, it can be structured and unstructured, it can be recreational learning and more importantly, it is a whole of life/whole of community aspiration.

Through the continuing development of the Council's desire to be a "Lifelong Community Learning City", it is acknowledged that we will need to ensure that the wide community understands what we mean, the broader benefits to the community and genuinely supports the initiative and wishes to embrace the concept that Mount Gambier is an inclusive community that encourages and motivates and which wishes to recognise persons who perfectly example the "Lifelong Learning Community" principles.

It is our wish that as a means of communicating to the wider community the need to understand the opportunity for quality of life enhancement through "Lifelong Community Learning", that 2009/10 be focussed on a broad whole of local media campaign of explaining and acknowledging the benefits of Lifelong Community Learning.

During the review year Council initiated the following:

- reconfirmed its desire to facilitate the introduction, understanding and acceptance of the vision that Mount Gambier be a "Lifelong Community Learning City"
- stated its desire that the year 2009/10 be focussed on communicating to the community of Mount Gambier the continuing excellence and best practice that exist within the City and the opportunities for community enrichment and active participation in all forms of Lifelong Learning
- formed a dedicated Council Working Party comprising:
  - > Cr Maher
  - > Cr McDonough
  - > Virginia Hill (community)
  - > David Meziniec (community)
  - > Sharee Cordes (community)

MOUNT GAMBIER  
LIVE . LEARN . IMAGINE



# 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 direct Council contributions it has provided to State and/or regional organisations for 2008/2009:

Greater Mount Gambier Tourism	NIL
Limestone Coast Economic Development Board	\$19,495
Limestone Coast Tourism	\$54,044
Local Government Association of South Australia	\$27,042
Provincial Cities Association	\$12,993
Regional Recreation and Sport position	\$8,500
Riddoch Art Gallery	\$59,000
South East Education and Training Association	\$5,000
South East Local Government Association	\$33,916
Volcanoes Discovery Trail Committee	\$7,549
Regional Waste Management	NIL
Tertiary/Higher Education (Medicine/Allied Health Scholarships)	\$20,000
Historic Celebrations (Admella – August 2009)	\$26,553
Stand Like Stone Foundation	\$6,000
Flinders University RCC – (Medical Students)	NIL
Study Student Accommodation review (TAFE/Uni SA)	\$2,000



# Tourism Division

Tourism makes a significant contribution to Mount Gambier's economy, generating over \$100 million in annual expenditure and equating to the creation of numerous jobs. Those both directly and indirectly involved in tourism have the capacity to benefit economically from this industry.

*Multiplier Effect: A tourist dollar is a new dollar injected into a local economy. A percentage of this new dollar is spent in the community by the recipient and this dollar is spent and re-spent creating a multiplier effect.*

Council continues to acknowledge the importance of tourism to the local economy and has planned and invested heavily in the community infrastructure to provide a platform which encourages the ongoing development of tourism based businesses. Such facilities include Crater Lakes Complex and Recreational Areas, Umpherston Sinkhole, Engelbrecht Cave, Centenary Tower, Cave Garden, the many playgrounds, parks and gardens as well as "The Lady Nelson" Visitor and Discovery Centre.

Apart from the infrastructure investment Council has been a significant contributor to Regional Tourism organisations in a financial capacity, participation as board members and other in-kind support.

*\*For further details regarding funding please see particulars listed under Regional Funding Support in this section or elsewhere in this Annual Report.*

## MOUNT GAMBIER VISITOR NUMBERS

On average Mount Gambier plays host to over 420,000 international and domestic visitors, this includes day trips to the City of Mount Gambier Local Government area. International and Domestic visitors stay on average three to four nights and spend approximately \$300 per visit.

Mount Gambier is the southern gateway to The Limestone Coast Region and is well equipped to manage visitor enquiries with "The Lady Nelson" Visitor and Discovery Centre ideally positioned on the Princes Highway. During the last 12 months the Visitor Information Centre assisted over 98,000 persons, 85% of which were visitors to Mount Gambier.

## "THE LADY NELSON" VISITOR & DISCOVERY CENTRE

The Visitor Centre plays a fundamental role in the cross border region as it provides detailed information on Mount Gambier, Limestone Coast, South Australia and Victoria. The Discovery Centre component continues to interpret the geological and human history of the area and "The Lady Nelson" is a favourite attraction of many locals and visitors alike. The centre's facilities and employees provide valuable support to business and tourism operators, tourism industry groups as well as offering a range of information services to the community.

Key elements:

- Visitor and Information Services
- Discovery Centre
- Event Support Services
- Tourism Industry Support
- Education Facility
- Passenger Bus Terminal

## VISITOR & DISCOVERY CENTRE VISITATION

In its 23rd Year of operation the centre has undergone a significant change to the method used to capture the number of people utilising the facilities. The introduction of an electronic door counter has seen a steep increase in total visitor numbers being recorded, this new method allows us to accurately record and compare Mount Gambier with other large centre's across the country. Mount Gambier is one of five major gateway centres in South Australia.

A total of 98,066 visitors have passed through the doors during the 2008/09 year, 78% Domestic Visitors while International Visitors continue to make up 22% of the total, 70% of which come from Europe and the United Kingdom. 10% of visitors toured the Discovery Centre component of the complex.

Monthly calculations show peaks occurring in October, December and January and then again in March and April. Contributing factors were many minor and major events including two large Rotary Conferences, SA Country Swimming Championships and the 20th Anniversary of Generations in Jazz.



# Tourism Division cont.

## Visitation figures for 2008/09 to the Visitor Centre:

Jul-08	5,413
Aug-08	4,123
Sep-08	5,867
Oct-08	9,950
Nov-08	6,791
Dec-08	10,840
Jan-09	13,626
Feb-09	8,109
Mar-09	10,301
Apr-09	11,207
May-09	6,499
Jun-09	5,340
<b>TOTAL (Electronic Door Counting)</b>	<b>98,066</b>
Comparison 2007/08 (Manual Counting)	70,784
Total Visitation (May 1977-June 2009)	2,290,101

## Visitation figures for 2008/09 to the Discovery Centre:

Adults	2,783
Child	743
Senior	2,113
Family – 458 x 4 av. =	1,832
School Groups	824
Adult Groups	1,387
Annual Pass	50
Attractions Passports	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,787</b>
Comparison 2007/08	9,679
Total Visitation (Dec 1986-June 2009)	491,544

## Other Interesting Statistics & Distribution :

Total Email & Phone Enquiries	5,127
Local Community Visitation & Enquiries	15%
Visitors from outside of Mount Gambier	85%
Mount Gambier Visitor Guides	50,000
Mount Gambier Maps	35,000
Limestone Coast Visitor Guides	20,000
South Australian Regional Guides	10,000
Event Information Packs	4,330
New Residents & Visiting Students Packs	100

## PUBLICATIONS & BROCHURE DISTRIBUTION

The Mount Gambier Visitor Guide was printed in full colour for the 12th consecutive year. The Guide has been improved to include maps for the crater lakes walks and short drives, it is an essential tool in the delivery of information with details of attractions plus a whole host of colour photographs of Mount Gambier and surrounds. 50,000 Mount Gambier Guides were produced and distributed across Mount Gambier, Victoria and South Australia, as well as providing them to Tourism businesses in Mount Gambier and District. 35,000 Mount Gambier Maps were revised and produced into tear off pads which allows for easier delivery of information.

## TOURISM INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Employees at “The Lady Nelson” regularly assist operators in their business activities and provide advice to prospective or new Tourism Operators. A Tourism Operator’s Pack provides information on the tourism industry and where required a referral to various industry and business development services is given. Familiarisation programs of the Local Attractions and Accommodation is a key priority for development of our Tourism employees.

Involvement with industry bodies and associations has continued to grow with good networking occurring with information centre’s throughout South Australia and Victoria. The centre employees work closely with Limestone Coast Tourism on various projects including attendance at travel shows which showcase Mount Gambier and the region. Greater Mount Gambier Tourism continues to utilise an office space at the Centre where they hold monthly meetings. A close working relationship has been developed and some joint marketing has been undertaken. Mount Gambier Bed & Breakfast Operators hold regular meetings within the centre and provide staff with valued feedback about the industry.

## KANAWINKA GEOPARK “LAND OF TOMORROW”

The Kanawinka Geopark Board 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 fifty 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.

# Tourism cont.

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 Kanawinka Geopark was proclaimed as the 57th member of the Global Network of International Geoparks assisted by UNESCO.

Australia now joins 18 other countries as members of the UNESCO Global Network with the most prolific Geopark locations being in China (20) and Europe (35).

The initial focus of the Geopark Board is on the securing of funding through Government Programs that will enable the preparation of a strategic plan and the eventual implementation of that Plan.

The important aspects Geoparks are the links between the geology and the people, their stories, culture and history that build into a sustainable source of geotourism, bring jobs to rural and indigenous people and in turn help protect sites of importance and promote geoheritage.

## The Vision

To create an identity of international significance based on the geological, volcanic and speleological features of the Western Plains of Victoria and South East of South Australia.

## Mission Statement

To promote the awareness of all Sites of Significance in the region and the Geopark as a whole that will satisfy the needs and aspiration of Australians as well as international geological study and that the volcanic, geological and speleological features will be recognised as having national and international significance.

Kanawinka Global Geopark - 'Land of Tomorrow' - Australia's first Global Geopark [www.kanawinkageopark.com](http://www.kanawinkageopark.com)

## EVENTS

### Event Support Services

Council now has a dedicated Event Support team. Based at "The Lady Nelson" Visitor & Discovery Centre, they have assisted numerous events and hosted welcome functions over the past twelve months. Assistance provided includes:

- Venue Selection & Advice
- Accommodation requirements
- Itinerary Planning
- Funding Advice & Assistance
- Catering Selection & advice
- Promotion & Marketing
- Administrative Support
- Referrals to appropriate Council Divisions
- Co-ordinate meetings with key personnel within Council & the Community as required
- Event Timing & Bidding
- Event Analysis
- Tourist Information Packs (pre event mail-outs or available at Events)
- Motivational Image Gallery of the city & region
- Promotional Banners & Signage
- What's on events calendar
- Welcome functions featuring Local/Regional Food & Wine

### MAJOR TOURISM EVENTS

Council has continued to recognise the promotional, economic and employment benefits to Mount Gambier that is realised from the hosting of major events within the City.

Council makes available direct funding to organisers who conduct major events, and the following State or National events were held during the review year or partly funded for a near future event.

- International Women's Tennis (October 2008)
- Rotary District 9520 Conference (October 2008)
- Valley Lake Timed Hill Climb (November 2008)
- Lions National Brass Band Festival (November 2008)
- Mount Gambier Gift - Footrace (December 2008)
- SA v Victoria Claxton Shield Baseball (December 2008)
- State Country Swimming Championships (January 2009)
- National Limestone Sculpture Symposium (February 2009)
- Rotary District 9500 Conference (March 2009)
- Alex Roberts 100 Mile Classic and Blue Lake Cup (April 2009)
- Generations in Jazz (May 2009)



# Tourism cont.

Total funding allocated was \$100,601 for Major Event Tourism.

Council also allocated \$16,995 for the conduct of minor events which were also held at Mount Gambier during 2008/09.

Planning has commenced for the hosting of some or all of the following major events in the 2009/10 year or near future years:

- SA Rural Women's Gathering (August 2009)
- International Union of Forest Research Organisations (August 2009)
- National Community Foundation Forum (August 2009)
- International Tennis (October 2009)
- Lions National Brass Band Festival (November 2009)
- Valley Lake Hill Climb Motor Event (November 2009)
- 30th Show & Shine - South East Street Machines (November 2009)
- Auto Fest Car Festival (November 2009)
- Mount Gambier Gift (December 2009)
- Aged and Community Care - Tri-state Conference (February 2010)
- National Conference of Ryder Cheshire (April 2010)
- Generations in Jazz (May 2010)
- Two Day Cycling Carnival (100 Mile & Blue Lake Cup) (May 2010)
- 2010 National Sunbeam Car Rally (June 2010)
- World Simmental Congress 2010 (post conference tour) (September 2010)
- Australian Forest Growers Bi-annual Conference (October 2010)
- National Limestone Sculpture Symposium (March 2011)
- Australian Forest Contractors-Austimber Conference & Expo (March 2012)

These planned major events are in addition to many other events held annually at Mount Gambier for which separate funding may have been allocated.



## MAJOR COMMUNITY EVENTS

Council recognises the importance in the development of the community and to contribute to the quality of life of our citizens that the conduct of major community events can be a significant means of community celebration.

Council wishes to develop partnerships to provide to the community opportunities to enjoy, participate and appreciate the uniqueness of our City.

Through community events and community activities we can seek to enhance the respect towards our community by our community and to strengthen City Pride, community participation and community success.

Examples of existing major community events that very successfully build City Pride include:

- Limestone Coast Choral and Vocal Showcase (August 2008)
- Mount Gambier Eisteddfod (July - September 2008)
- Mount Gambier Spring Show (October 2008)
- Mount Gambier Christmas Parade and Party after the Parade (November 2008)
- Blue Lake Carols (November 2008)
- Australia Day Breakfast and Awards (January 2009)
- Mayoress' Family Fun Day (April 2009)
- Mayoral Gala Performance (June 2009)
- Senior's Month (October 2008)

It was Council's pleasure to provide significant financial support to many of the above community events, (\$66,273 in 2008/09).

## MOUNT GAMBIER LIVE . LEARN . IMAGINE





# Environment Statement



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# Blue Lake Watercare

Blue Lake Watercare is a community education program jointly sponsored by the City of Mount Gambier and the South East Natural Resources Management Board. It is aimed at increasing the community's awareness of issues surrounding the Blue Lake and to encourage a community that is educated, aware and involved in the management of OUR Blue Lake.

## BLUE LAKE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Blue Lake Business of the Year Awards recognise businesses that do the right thing for our community and our environment. Over forty guests and representatives from nominated business attended the awards ceremony in August 2008. Blue Lake Watercare part funded these awards along with a mixture of private and public sponsorship, including the City of Mount Gambier, the District Council of Grant, Malseed's Real Estate, Peter Jennings Pumps and WIN Television. Top Spot Auto Dismantlers was awarded Blue Lake Business of the Year and received the following fantastic prizes - 6 months free advertising on WIN Television and \$4000 cash to put towards addressing a local environmental issue.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

### School Visits/South East Environmental Education Working Group

Blue Lake Watercare continues to support and work with the South East Integrated Environmental Education Working Group to improve environmental education in our region. The South East Integrated Environmental Education Working Group launched a calendar of professional development opportunities for teachers as well as provided a number of school visit's and demonstrations, on water catchment issues.

Blue Lake Watercare also supported South East representatives from Tenison Woods College at the South Australian Youth Environment Conference in Adelaide – they presented a workshop for other students from all around SA on the Blue Lake.

Within the wider community Blue Lake Watercare has promoted the new City of Mount Gambier Transfer Station service to provide ewaste recycling facilities. An e-waste and spent fluoro globe muster was held; saving more than one semi-trailer load of e waste from landfill. A series of series of community education presentations were held to raise awareness of the importance of responsible recycling.



## Carpark with Waterwise Features

Waterwise features have been incorporated into the carpark for Mount Gambier's new library. The carpark has been carefully designed so that stormwater run-off from the car park, new and existing roof area is captured and filtered. Permeable pavers capture the water and direct it to swales (shallow troughlike depressions, containing native plants and grasses). The indigenous native plants, and grasses planted in the swales will be watered by stormwater run-off. The swales also carry over-flow of water into a wetland area with many indigenous wetland plants which further help to filter pollutants from storm water before it drains back to the aquifer. The trees in the carpark have also been carefully selected to provide climate control for the parked cars - summer shade and winter sun penetration. Rather than a concrete jungle, the carpark aims to be a 'green space' - using indigenous local plants to reduce water usage and careful design to showcase water conservation.

## New Signs Around the Blue Lake

Eight new signs have been positioned around the Blue Lake. They cover information about what lives in the crater rim, groundwater, indigenous place names and how to care for our Blue Lake. The signs were professionally designed and some of them feature art work by students from Mount Burr Primary School and Saint Martins College. It is hoped that the signs will be of interest to both tourists and locals alike and encourage people to be waterwise and do their bit to protect the Blue Lake.

## Bluelakewatercare.com

For the first time we have been able to get up-to-date information about the level of the Blue Lake, pumping rates and rainfall onto the web for people to view. This information has been made available to the general community of Mount Gambier with the support of the Department of Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation.



# Building Division

The Building Division is part of the Operational Services Department within Council. The Building Divisions duties primarily relate to the assessment of development applications for Building Rules Consent (BRC). Building rules assessment is carried out in order to ascertain if a proposed development complies with the Development Act 1993, Building Code of Australia and Australian Standards. In plain language building assessments are carried out to check that proposed buildings are structurally sound and have the required amenities (disabled access, fire safety systems, toilets etc) for their usage.

Current staffing levels within the building division include one full time Assistant Building Surveyor, one full time Cadet Building Surveying Technician and two clerical officers (shared resource).

Other tasks carried out by the building division include:

- On-site building inspections.
- Management of building maintenance services for Council's built assets.
- Building Fire Safety Committee duties including inspection and reporting.
- Project management.
- Maintenance of asbestos registers.
- Advisory services.

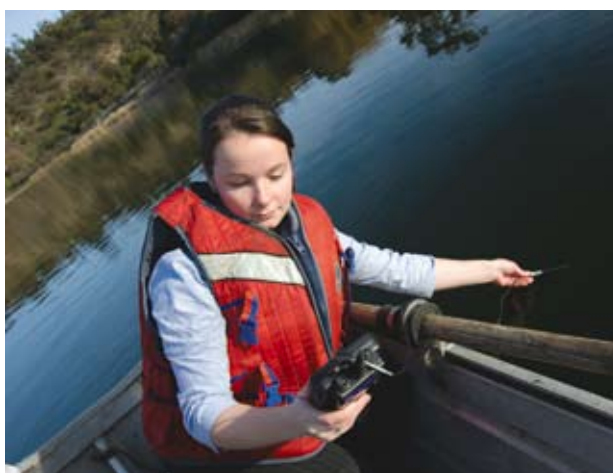
## OBJECTIVE OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Council's building division seeks to maintain appropriate building standards and controls within the guidelines and responsibilities imposed by various Acts but chiefly the Development Act 1993 and Development Regulations 1994, Council Policies, Building Code of Australia and associated Australian Standards. Our aim is to provide an efficient and professional service providing sound advice to a range a stakeholders including State Government Agencies, allied professionals, tradespeople and the community.

## BUILDING STATISTICS

Statistics for 2008/2009 show that numbers of approvals issued by Council have decreased compared to the previous few years although the estimated expenditure has increased. These figures show a general trend toward increased activity in the residential dwelling sector.

	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Estimated Expenditure	\$91,538,498	\$46,475,738	\$47,410,393
Dwellings	122	128	123
Dwelling Additions	39	40	70
Flats/Units	21 (217)	20 (107)	12 (35)
Outbuildings	210	264	282
Commercial	30	33	37
Industrial	14	21	24
Signage	16	19	12
Wastewater	2	6	4
Other	83	112	74
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>638</b>



# Community Health Division

Council is committed to encouraging and supporting residents to lead an active and healthy lifestyle and to have local access to high quality health services. To this end, the Community Health Services of Council provide for accessible no cost immunisation sessions for childhood vaccination and user pay vaccinations at cost to the consumer; licenses the Supported Residential Facility and advocates for improved services in Aged Care and Mental Health.

## IMMUNISATIONS

Council continues to provide vaccinations programs for the community of Mount Gambier, through public, school and workplace vaccination sessions. Public Immunisation sessions provide vaccinations to infants under the Australian Childhood Vaccination Program. The workplace sessions provide for Influenza; Adult Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (whooping cough); and Hepatitis B. The school vaccination program delivers Hepatitis B and Chicken Pox to all year 8 students; Human Papillomavirus vaccine to Year 8 girls; and Boosterix (diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough) to Year 9 students. The School program involves visiting each school

for the Year 8 program 3 times in the year; Year 9 students and one visit for Year 9 student. In 2008/2009 Council administered 4,960 vaccines compared with 5,032 vaccines in 2007/2008.

The demand for Influenza vaccinations by workplaces continues to grow steadily with number of vaccinations delivered increasing each year.

Council responds and assists where possible to help people determine their own or a child's immunisation status. This is done through Council's own vaccination data base and the Australian Commonwealth Immunisation Register.

VACCINES	
ADT- Adult Diphtheria & Tetanus	0
Childhood Pneumococcal - Prevenar	217
Comvax - Haemophilus Influenza Type B & Hepatitis B	34
DTPa - Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis	0
dTPa - Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (Adult vaccine Boosterix)	552
Haemophilla	65
Hep B (Paediatric) - Hep B	16
Hep B (Adult)	905
Hep A (Adult) - Hepatitis A	3
Hep A (Child) - Hepatitis A	4
Hep A & B (Adult) - Hepatitis A & B	17
Hep A & B (Child) - Hepatitis A & B	0
Hexa (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis acellular, Hep B, Hib & Polio)	215
HPV - Gardasil (Human Papiloma Virus)	848
IFX/IPV - Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis and Polio	117
Influenza Vaccine - Influenza	1,024
IPV - Poliomyelitis	1
MenC - Meningococcal C	111
MMR Measles, Mumps & Rubella	226
Pedvax (Haemophilus Influenza Type B)	0
Pneumococcal Vaccine - Pneumovax	3
Rotavirus	197
Varilrix - Chicken Pox	405
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,960</b>
Comparison for 2007/08	5,032

# Community Health Division cont.

## HEALTH CARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Supported Residential Facilities

Council has one supported residential facility within its jurisdiction. The facility provides accommodation and some personal care services for clients. Council audits this facility annually and licenses its ongoing operation. The facility has increased its capacity to accommodate vulnerable persons in the community by 6 with the construction of separate living units for individuals and couples.

### Home Based Therapeutic Waste Program

The program that was introduced in 2004 provides the community of Mount Gambier with a responsible means of disposal of needles and syringes and other forms of sharps used in the home in the course of administering medication. Businesses and individuals are given advice about disposing of sharps responsibly and are able to obtain sharps containers from Council. In late June 2009 a fibre board sharps container has been introduced to reduce both cost for the user and plastic waste in our environment. Council arranges for the disposal of the sharps containers, so that they do not end up in general waste. Council has had 265 people registered for this program since it began in 2004 and currently 88 continue to use the program.

## Corporation Reserve B

Council has continued with the development of its 'Walk through History' pine plantation on Corporation B (south side of Blue Lake and adjacent to Northumberland Avenue).

All the seedlings were planted in the winter of 2008 and Council now has to concentrate on weed and pest control in the early years of the new plantation. At present the new plantation is not obvious to passersby but over the next 2-3 years the pine trees will gain height and the layout of the plantation will become obvious.

## Crater Lakes

The Crater Lakes Complex (comprising Blue Lake, Leg of Mutton Lake, Valley Lake and Brownes Lake) is a state and national natural icon with the area under the care, control and management of the City of Mount Gambier (except the area inside the fence line to the Blue Lake).

In 2008/09 Council continued with its program to eliminate pest 'woody' plants, namely invasive Pine trees and Olive trees.

The importance of the Blue Lake cannot be underestimated. It is our water supply and a fantastic tourist attraction and preserving both the quality and quantity of the water supply is one of the major environmental challenges facing the Mount Gambier Community.

Council has continued its support for, and participation in the Blue Lake Management Committee. It is regrettable that funding for the position of Blue Lake Water Care Officer was withdrawn as of 30th June 2009. The City of Mount Gambier is campaigning strongly to have this funding reinstated so the Mount Gambier community has access to appropriate resources and knowledge to ensure the long term sustainability of the Blue Lake.

Every person in this community needs to do 'their bit' to look after the Blue Lake.

Council has also started a project to recognise the Valley Lake Wildlife Park (now known as a Conservation Park) which will enable the reintroduction of a range of native fauna into the facility. Council extends its thank you to the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes and Mr Peter Feast for their input (in both labour and expertise).



# Dog and Cat Management Plan 2007-2012

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. Council has not resolved to regulate cats.

Dog owners are required to ensure that their dogs are registered with Council once they reach the minimum 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

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.

## General Inspectorial including Dog Control

The following statistics are provided in respect of the Division of Inspectorial and Dog Control for the 2008/09 review year.

• Dog expiations	210
• Dog complaints	962
• Dog impoundments	345
• Dog attack report	9
• Parking offences	274
• Pest Plant notices (long grass & noxious)	323

• Fire permits	137
• Cattle impoundments (sheep and cows)	-
• Vehicle impoundments	3
• Dog Registrations	4,467
• Payment to SEAWL (Councils pound)	\$14,000
• Dog expiation income	\$20,780
• Dog registration fees	\$88,823



# Environmental Health Division

## FOOD SAFETY

### Food Premises Inspections

Council conducts regular inspections of food premises within its jurisdiction. A food business is defined as being any business, enterprise or activity that involves the sale or food or handling of food intended for sale. In 2008/2009 Council conducted 196 unannounced food premises inspections and site visits. The frequency of Councils inspections 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 imposes penalties for non-compliance, including expiation fees and orders to restrict the operations of a food business.

### Food Safety Education

Council takes a pro-active approach to food safety education, providing a number of food handling sessions and educational opportunities for local primary and high school students, service clubs and community groups. Council also sends out regular food handling newsletters to all food premises operating in the City during the year.

Every year Council participates in National Food Safety Week to highlight the importance of food safety in preventing food poisoning. The theme of food safety week this year was "Food adventures - New foods, New techniques." Primary school students had the opportunity to attend an information session and participate in sushi making to celebrate the adventurous spirit of Australians.

## HEALTH PROMOTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Monitoring of Air Quality

City of Mount Gambier is working with the Environment Protection Authority on a combined wood smoke reduction program aimed at reducing pollution from domestic wood heaters in the City of Mount Gambier. To date we have seen

air-monitoring equipment installed at a local school and information sessions have been delivered to students and teachers. At the conclusion of the air monitoring, we will have an indication of the quality of the air in Mount Gambier.

### Monitoring of waste control systems

The City of Mount Gambier has a number of existing septic systems in areas not connected to sewer. As the City of Mount Gambier is in the capture zone of the Blue Lake, only aerobic on-site wastewater systems are now approved for new development in areas where sewer is not available. An aerobic wastewater treatment plant treats the water using aeration and chlorination to a standard where it can be re-used for some irrigation procedures.

## DISEASE PREVENTION

### Monitoring and Management of Insanitary Conditions

In 2008/2009 Council received 19 complaints in relation to perceived insanitary conditions. The majority of the complaints related to pest/vermin infestation. All complaints are inspected by Councils Environmental Health Officers to determine if the condition of the premises constitutes an insanitary condition (as defined by the Public and Environmental Health Act, 1987). Council provides brochures and advice to both commercial and residential properties affected by rodent infestation.

### Public Pools and Spas

Mount Gambier has a number of publicly accessible pools and spas, found in a variety of locations including motels, gyms and caravan parks. Council inspects pools and spas to ensure they are properly disinfected, maintained appropriately and safe for public use. Throughout 2008/2009 the standard of maintenance throughout some of these facilities dropped, with 3 pools closed throughout financial year as a result of inadequate disinfection. Pools and spas have been implicated in disease outbreaks and it is imperative they are maintained at the required standard.

## Administration of the Food Act 2001, During the Financial Year 2008-2009

Routine inspections undertaken	161
Follow up inspections undertaken	30
Incident triggered inspections	5
Total number of inspections conducted under the Food Act 2001	196
Number of permanently operating premises routinely inspected under the Food Act 2001	178
Inspections conducted of temporary premises operating at local events (markets, festivals etc.)	33
Number of orders/notices issued under Food Act 2001	8
Number of expiation notices issued under Food Act 2001	2
Number of alleged food complaints received	5
Number of confirmed food poisoning cases received	nil

# Environmental Improvements

## NEW LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

The new Library and Community Centre incorporates best practice environmentally sustainable design principles.

Building and construction materials are robust and low maintenance. Recycled content, locally sourced and renewable materials are specified where possible. The new building is aligned on a north/south orientation to integrate passive solar effects and maximise available daylight and natural ventilation.

Once selected, the building contractor will be required to comply with sound environmental management principles during construction with respect to recycling and site management.

The proposed air conditioning systems are a variable refrigerant volume (VRV) type. The VRV system provides an improvement in energy efficiency by utilising variable speed refrigeration compressors. This enables the compressor to speed up or slow down to match the required down load on the system, in lieu of continuously starting and stopping as in a conventional system.

Additional energy savings are achieved by utilising a three pipe refrigeration system. If there is a situation where one of the indoor units is operating in heating mode, and another unit is operating in cooling mode, the three pipe system enables a transfer of energy between the systems, thus reducing the load on the outdoor condensing unit.

Outside air is required to be introduced into the building via a ducted mechanical ventilation system. This can have a significant impact on energy consumption, as the outdoor air needs to be heated or cooled to a suitable temperature before being supplied to the building.

To reduce the amount of energy normally required to introduce outside air, ducted heat recovery ventilation units are proposed. These ventilation units extract air from the building at 24°C, and use this outgoing air to heat (or cool) the incoming outside air via a heat exchange device. This provides a reduction of up to 70% in the energy required to heat or cool the outside air.

On days when the weather is suitable, energy savings are achieved via natural ventilation system. The mechanical ventilation and air conditioning systems will shut down, and the operable windows will automatically open.

The lighting, power and communications systems are energy efficient, utilising current technologies which are linked to the building management system with programmable automated timers.

Council has also resolved to purchase 100% “wind green power” for the new Library.

Hydraulic services will include self closing taps and regulated auto flush to urinals. All clean roof water discharge will be directed to aquifer storage in keeping with water catchment requirements in Mount Gambier.

The building features solar hot water systems with natural gas backup units.

## PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AROUND THE NEW LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ASSOCIATED WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN (WSUD) STRATEGIES

The concepts of urban greenery and Water Sensitive Urban Design provide fundamental benefits for cities as they grow:

- Increased biodiversity
- Reduced temperatures
- Cleaner air
- Less water run-off, minimising flooding and reducing infrastructure
- Improved psychological well being for people
- Improved aesthetics

Due to the proximity of the new Library site to the Cave Garden sinkhole (the City's original water source), the theme of water has been used as inspiration for the WSUD strategies integrated into the Civic Plaza and associated car park, showcasing the City's commitment to water sustainability and protection.

Permeable pavers will be used to lower rainfall run-off from impervious areas that will ultimately reduce potential downstream flooding. These pavers are also designed to capture pollutants from stormwater runoff that would otherwise contaminate groundwater or drainage systems. These systems assist in the biological decomposition of hydrocarbon contaminants whilst enabling the underground aquifer to be naturally recharged.

Adjacent to the permeable pavers are a series of vegetative swales. These are used as natural filter strips that retain excess runoff from the car park zone not captured by the permeable pavers. The swales are shallow channels lined with shade trees, native grasses and sedges that retain pollutants through infiltration and re-direct captured excess runoff to a nearby sediment removal pond. Captured water is able to effectively reach the root zone and naturally hydrate the landscape elements. Only excess runoff is directed to the sediment removal pond via an integrated network of perforated subsoil drains.

The final part of the system is the sediment removal pond that captures all of the excessive runoff not infiltrated into the groundwater via the permeable pavers and vegetative swales. This pond, with a cascading open drain, has the capacity to hold the runoff from a major storm event. It will be designed as a contemporary piece of urban architecture whilst performing important storage and filtering functions.

As a demonstration site for future WSUD projects within the City Centre, it will become a benchmark feature and promote the need for water conservation and management awareness in a public space heavily frequented by locals and tourists alike.

# Environmental Sustainability

The City of Mount Gambier has made a strong commitment to embrace environmental sustainability.

Council plans to not only undertake measures to protect the local environment but also make a local contribution to the larger issues of global warming and climate change. Council also needs to respond to the increased level of environmental awareness and education and the greater expectations towards environmental sustainability within the community

Within the 2007 Strategic Plan for the City of Mount Gambier, Council identified that it needs to address issues associated with environmental sustainability. The five strategies identified to meet this goal involved waste management, climate change, water, heritage and health.

The City of Mount Gambier has further strengthened its commitment to undertake organisational change to promote, encourage and foster environmental sustainability in its new Strategic Plan, Towards 2015. Within this Strategic Plan Council is continuing to build upon a strong base for continuing improvement to the amenity of the City, its operation and enhance the protection of the environment.

As part of this work Council has established a Sustainability Working Party to assist Council to achieve its environmental sustainability goals and objectives. The working party is currently comprised of Cr Eugene Coscarelli, Cr Maher, Cr Mutton, Cr White, the Director - Operational Services, Sustainability Officer and Strategic Project Officer.

Council has also recently created the position of 'Sustainability Officer' whose role is to:

- Provide specialist technical services to Council in the area of environmental sustainability,
- To assist in the preparation and co-ordination of the development of Council's environmental policies and strategies.
- To promote the highest standards of environmental sustainability management and awareness amongst Councillors, staff and the local community.
- To facilitate and encourage activities in the fields of conservation, sustainability and the environment by local community groups, Council, government agencies and other organisations.
- To assist in the development of policies and procedures for environmental and sustainability matters.
- Pursue grant funding for environmental and sustainability projects.

Through the hard work of the Sustainability Working Party and the Sustainability Officer thirty seven (37) environmental sustainable related projects have been identified that Council hopes to achieve in the coming months which include:

- measuring the monthly consumption of petrol, diesel and gas by Council's vehicle fleet;
- develop a source of information on local waste reduction and elimination;
- develop a paper reduction strategy;
- reduce electricity consumption in Council's buildings;
- increasing the rate of recycling of organic materials to reduce the amount of waste going to Council's landfill; and
- review existing council policies to encourage improvement within environmental sustainability practices.

Council has also provided a facility for a 'Campaign Room' where the community can access and become actively involved in environmental sustainability ideas, issues and projects. The 'Campaign Room' is currently being developed and facilitated by an independent consultant (Dr Steb Fisher) with environmental sustainability expertise on behalf of both the community and Council.

A problem that prevents sustainability is not so much a negative attitude towards sustainability but rather the ability for sustainability to be converted in a meaningful way into everyday business practices. What Council is attempting to do is not to take one large step to sustainability overnight, but to adopt a model that encourages continual progress in the right direction.



# Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan

The Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan (a joint initiative of the City of Mount Gambier, District Council of Grant and Planning SA) is now a statutory planning document which forms part of the regional planning strategy for this area.

In accordance with this plan, Council has prepared an amendment to its Development Plan to reserve land on Penola Road (which was zoned 'Bulky Goods' prior to the adoption of the Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan, and then reserved by the Minister for Planning to 'deferred urban') to 'District Centre'.

This new zone will allow for the development of a large sector retail shopping centre on the site.

Council, in conjunction with District Council of Grant has also commenced work on the urban design elements of the three major 'Gateways' (entrances) to the City on Penola Road, Jubilee Highway East and Jubilee Highway West. This project is also identified in the Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan.

The Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan is available from the Council, District Council of Grant or Planning SA.

## Heritage Restoration Fund

In 2008/09 Council distributed \$16,500 as part of the 2008 Local Heritage Restoration Fund to eleven (11) owners of Local Heritage Places within the City on the recommendation of Council's Heritage Committee.

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. 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.

At the previous request of the Heritage Committee, Council increased the value of the grant to a maximum of \$2,000 in certain circumstances to be able to provide better assistance to the owners of Local Heritage listed properties to undertake more urgent and significant maintenance projects on their properties.

This is the seventh year that Council has offered grants as part of the Local Heritage Restoration Fund, with all of the money available being shared amongst ten of the fourteen applicants. This year Council's Heritage Committee, which considers all of the applications, was able to offer assistance to most of the applicants, which is a reflection of how important the conservation of the City's heritage is considered by Council.



# Litter Pick Up and Graffiti Removal

Council is very conscious of the need to regularly patrol high risk areas for litter and to also act quickly to remove graffiti.

Gambier Contracts have continued to provide to Council a litter pick up service to the following key areas:

- Penola Road - Highway Super Deli to KFC
- Jubilee Highway - Wehl Street to Crouch Street
- Jubilee Highway West - Suttontown Road to Badenoch Street
- Jubilee Highway - Mobil Service Station to McDonald's Restaurant
- Lake Terrace East - Pick Avenue to Lewis Avenue
- John Watson Drive
- Jubilee Highway East to Dohle Road
- Lake Terrace East - Lewis Avenue to Dohle Road

This service is provided to Council as part of the rental agreement for the occupation by Gambier Contracts of the Council owned facility on Eucalypt Drive.

The following table summarises the hours spent during 2008/09 on litter pick up.

MONTH	HOURS
Jul 08	108
Aug 08	96
Sept 08	108
Oct 08	96
Nov 08	96
Dec 08	72
Jan 09	72
Feb 09	96
Mar 09	96
Apr 09	96
May 09	84
Jun 09	72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,092</b>



# Planning Division

## Section 30 Review

SELGA on behalf of the South East Councils, which includes the City of Mount Gambier have recently:

- established a Planning Committee to commence the South East Section 30 Development Plan Review; and
- engaged a consultant, Connor Holmes, to undertake the Section 30 Review on behalf of SELGA; and

The Section 30 Review is a process Council is required to undertake as specified within Section 30 of the Development Act 1993 where Council is required to prepare a report which:

- addresses the strategic planning issues within the area of Council;
- any other policy or document prescribed by the Regulations; and
- addresses appropriate amendments to any Development Plan that applies within the area of Council.

The purpose of the Section 30 Review is to set Council's priorities for:

- achieving orderly and efficient development;
- the integration of transport and land use planning;
- implementing any relevant targets set out in the State Planning Strategy;
- implementing affordable housing policies;
- infrastructure planning; and
- other projects or initiatives considered relevant by Council.

Council is required by the Development Act 1993, to undertake a Section 30 Review every five (5) years. It is anticipated that the Section 30 Review will be completed by the end of 2009.

## Penola Road (District Centre) Development Plan Amendment

Council has recently completed the Penola Road (District Centre) Development Plan Amendment which will incorporate a new District Centre Zone on Penola Road (Riddoch Highway) towards the northern boundary of the City of Mount Gambier.

This Development Plan Amendment investigated the implications of:

- further retail development outside of the City Centre;
- identification of the most appropriate location for such development;
- the development of appropriate policies such as floor area limitations;
- limitations on specialty shop floor areas;
- accessibility issues affecting the land;
- the extent of the Zone to include land adjacent to Bishop Road;

- zone boundary interface issues;
- best practice planning policies; and
- the economic benefits of the proposed rezoning.

This Development Plan Amendment has been submitted to the Minister for Urban Development and Planning for final authorisation and is expected to be incorporated into the Development Plan for the City of Mount Gambier towards the end of 2009.

## Centres, Commercial and Local Shopping Zones Development Plan Amendment

Council is currently preparing the Centres, Commercial and Local Shopping Zones Development Plan Amendment. The proposed Centres, Commercial and Local Shopping Zones DPA aims to review, consolidate and update existing Centre Zone provisions, to review the hierarchy of centres in accordance with State policy and with the Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan, review the zoning and relevance of the existing commercial zone, as well as to make consequential amendments to broader policy provisions, associated maps, figures and tables.

The following issues are addressed in the Development Plan Amendment:

- Formalise a retail hierarchy within the City and provide a clear strategic framework for future Centre development;
- Review the boundary of the Mount Gambier City Centre Zone to determine if the area included in the zone is the most appropriate area to be included in the city centre policy and activities. Ensure Commercial retail areas are consolidated in and around the Lakes Village Shopping Complex;
- Investigate the implications of further retail development outside of the City Centre Zone and identify the most appropriate location for such development, (if warranted) and relevant policies, such floor area limitations, to ensure the primacy of the City centre;
- Review planning policy for the City Centre Zone to identify and encourage a mix of complementary land uses within the City Centre, including retail, commercial, entertainment, recreation, community and residential;
- Prepare best practice planning policy and changes to zoning provisions to promote and facilitate mixed used developments (eg retail uses on the ground floor with commercial or residential uses above) within key areas of the City Centre;
- Develop best practice planning policy to encourage a gradual transition between the commercial and retail land uses within the city centre to ensure new buildings complement, in style and scale, the existing streetscape;
- Review the Local Shopping Zones as to their ongoing use and function and consider rezoning to match their existing use, or to Local Centre in accordance with current zoning practice.

# *Planning Division cont.*

- Review the zoning of Commercial Streets East and West having regard to established, existing land uses and to emerging demand for Commercial development, particularly small scale offices.
- Review and make recommendations where required to ensure the provision of off street car parking for new development in the City is adequate having regard to the most recent car parking studies.
- Examine the possible implementation of a Car park Fund for the City Centre pursuant to Section 50A of the Development Act, 1993.

This Development Plan Amendment was placed on Public Consultation during July - September, 2009. At the conclusion of the public consultation process Council will consider any amendments to be made to the draft document before seeking authorisation from the Minister for Urban Development and Planning to have the Development Plan Amendment incorporated into the Development Plan for the City of Mount Gambier. This Development Plan Amendment is expected to be completed in 2009/2010.

## **Local Heritage Development Plan Amendment**

Council has completed a review of the 1994 City of Mount Gambier Heritage Survey. Council has now commenced a Local Heritage Development Plan Amendment to incorporate the recommendation of the Heritage Survey into the Development Plan.

Council has appointed Jensen Planning, as the project consultants, who are now preparing the draft DPA on behalf of Council. It is anticipated that this draft DPA will be forwarded to Council for consideration in the near future and will be finalised during and incorporated into the Development Plan by 2010.

## **Residential Zone Review and Development Plan Amendment**

Council is currently undertaking a Residential Zone Review and a Residential Zone Development Plan Amendment (DPA). Council wishes to undertake a DPA to update the current Residential objectives and principles of development control within its Development Plan.

A number of residential issues have arisen which need to be addressed in relation to:

- dwelling size and types;
- infill development;
- character and amenity;
- site coverage; and
- domestic outbuildings.

It is anticipated that the DPA will be completed in 2009/2010.

## **DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT**

A Development Application has three consents pursuant to the Development Act 1993; being, Development Plan Consent (planning consent), Building Rules Consent (building consent) and final Development Approval.

Many Development Applications are dealt with under delegated authority by Council Officers. However, some Development Applications require referral to the Council Development Assessment Panel (CDAP) for a decision to be made.

Before undertaking any development, please discuss your intentions with the relevant Council Officer/s. If you are required to lodge a Development Application, time and money can be saved if you are thoroughly prepared. Advice can be obtained from the Development Services Division of Council, phone (08) 8721 2530.

## **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.



# Planning Division cont.

## COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL CONT.

The creation of CDAP is to ensure that Council makes 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 Local Government Act 1999, does not apply to the CDAP.

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. Currently, the CDAP Members are:

Mr Paul Jenner (Presiding Member)

Mr David Chapman

Mr Ted Jordan

Ms Elizabeth Travers

Cr Daniel McDonough

Cr Jim Maher

Cr Merv White

Council cannot influence or overturn any decision made by the CDAP. It should be noted that all CDAP Members are to fulfil 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 every third Thursday of the month at the Council Chamber, 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier, commencing at 5:45 p.m. (unless otherwise determined).

## CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The City of Mount Gambier Heritage Committee was established in 1991. The City of Mount Gambier Heritage Committee has 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 City of Mount Gambier Heritage Committee has played an important role in a number of heritage related projects over the past twelve months.

The following projects are examples of achievements, in which the City of Mount Gambier Heritage Committee has been involved in:

- Review of the 1994 City of Mount Gambier Heritage Survey;
- Heritage education and distribution of information to the public;
- Implementing monthly Heritage Help Workshops (open to the public); and
- 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:

- Establishment of a significant tree register;
- Applications for grants for heritage related projects;
- Review of heritage listed properties;
- Provide advice to Council regarding a Heritage Development Plan amendment;
- Promotion of built and environmental heritage as a tourism asset; and
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey.

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



# Stormwater Management

The recent nationwide drought has focused communities and governments on the need to consider stormwater as a valuable resource rather than a 'waste' product.

The natural geological structure of the ground under Mount Gambier has ensured that this City has used stormwater as drinking water since European Settlement. The question of whether a community can use stormwater as drinking water has been beyond doubt for the last 150 years, but many Australians are only just starting to come to terms with this concept.

Whilst Mount Gambier is living proof that stormwater is a resource, we all need to work hard to ensure that run off is not polluted and Council is adopting modern drainage practices and techniques (e.g. stormwater retention basins) to 'clean' the stormwater prior to discharge to the underground aquifer (which in turn supplies water to the Blue Lake).

## Waste Management - Future Directions

Council is well advanced in finalising its long term Environmental Management Plan for the Caroline Landfill. Future construction works will incorporate state of the art environmental protection systems and management techniques.

Increased costs will be a consequence of increased environmental standards and this will be reflected in future landfill charges.

### KERBSIDE RECYCLING

Kerbside recycling remains a well utilised service and the recycling effort by the community has been sustained.

Fortunately the Global Economic Crisis has not affected the materials that can be recycled via this service and hopefully this will remain the case into the future. Council encourages everyone to use the blue bins to its fullest potential.

### ORGANIC RECYCLING

Organic recycling, although a voluntary, user pay service, continues to expand with more residents taking up this service each year. This is an excellent outcome as every kilogram of material in the organic/greenwaste bin is used in the production of gardening supplies (Van Schaiks Bio Gro) and is one less kilogram going to landfill.

Organics in landfills are major producers of greenhouse gases.

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)

### EWASTE RECYCLING

Ewaste recycling is slowly being embraced by the community. Any item that has batteries or an electrical cord should now be recycled. This service is cost neutral to Council, that is Council only receives revenues that equal the cost of transportation and the recycling charges of the recycling company that receives the ewaste.

Council is hopeful that more people will embrace ewaste recycling and it is also worthy of noting that the Federal Government is looking at a nationwide ban on ewaste going to landfill.

### WASTE OIL

Waste oil in the home is also a problem and Council has now introduced 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.

Opening hours for the Waste Transfer Centre are as follows:

Monday to Friday - 7.30am to 12 noon

Saturday and Sunday - 2pm to 5pm

# Waste Management - Future Directions cont.

## Organic/Greenwaste Collection Statistics

YEAR END JUNE	TOTAL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES	RESIDENTS PURCHASED SERVICE	% ACCEPTANCE
2005	10153	4269	42
2006	10323	4500	43
2007	10506	4919	46
2008	10702	4943	46
2009	10859	5237	48

The following table indicates the amount of waste (in tonnes) handled by Council for the last five financial years:

YEAR END 30TH JUNE	DOMESTIC PICKUP (t)	WASTE TRANSFER CENTRE BINS (t)	HARDWASTE (t)	KERBSIDE RECYCLABLES (t)	ORGANIC/ GREENWASTE (t)	TOTAL WASTE OF CONTRACTORS (t)	TOTAL TO LANDFILL (t)
2005	6054	1362	572	-	2476	7017	14448
2006	5279	1049	717	2128	2855	5144	11489
2007	5449	948	725	2239	2496	4725	11293
2008	5551	993	637	2362	2345	5254	11832
2009	5589	773	561	2327	2812	2889	9444



# *Financial Statement*



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# Financial Statistics of Council

	YEAR END				
	2005 (\$,000)	2006 (\$,000)	2007* (\$,000)	2008* (\$,000)	2009* (\$,000)
Operating Revenue	14,006,068	14,929	15,651	16,633	18,501
Council Rates Included in Operating Revenue	9,272,303	9,852	10,268	11,027	11,746
Operating Expenditure	15,874,904	15,656	15,336	15,775	17,525
Employee Costs included in Operating Expenditure	4,540,610	5,091	5,203	5,453	6,082
Depreciation included in Operating Expenditure	4,195,992	4,331	4,017	4,056	4,243
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,868,836)	(727)	315	858	976 <sup>1</sup>
Capital Revenue	456,346	445	501	736	3,539
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(442,490)	(286)	835	1,658	5,480
Loans Principal Outstanding	5,265,664	4,609	3,926	3,212	6,730
Current Assets	7,250,430	7,447	9,174	10,266	13,616
Current Liabilities	2,435,278	2,133	2,554	2,736	4,235
Non Current Assets	111,803,519	110,369	120,759	120,355	127,528
Non Current Liabilities	5,238,005	4,556	3,879	2,722	6,266
Net Equity	111,380,666	111,127	123,500	125,163	130,643
Cash at Beginning of Period	7,201,734	6,493	6,836	8,495	9,369
Cash at End of Period	6,492,712	6,836	8,495	9,369	12,041
Principal Paid on Borrowings	737,592	694	683	714	764
Interest Paid on Borrowings	319,925	304	276	231	195
Superannuation Council Contribution included in Employee Costs	362,825	395	409	438	466
Rates Outstanding	101,961	107	99	117	202
Lease Commitments	372,494	222	69	176	117
External Debt to Net Equity	4.7%	4.1%	3.2%	2.6%	5.1%
External Debt to Gen Rates	56.8%	46.7%	38.2%	29.1%	57.2%
Debt Servicing (P&I) to General Rates	11.4%	9.8%	9.3%	8.6%	8.2%

\*New Model Financial Statements introduced as from 2006/07

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$457,299 Grants Commission payment as an advance payment for 2009/10.



# Selected General Statistics

Area	2,704 ha
Length of Roads	190 km
Number of Properties coded Residential	10,859
Site Value (July 2008)	\$897,852,000
Capital Value (July 2008)	\$2,700,462,400

<b>For the year ended 30 June:</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Residents of the City of Mount Gambier	23558	23640	23895	24494	24640	24928	<b>N/A</b>
Residential Voters	15902	15921	16304	16550	16668	16921	<b>17267</b>
Non-residential Voters	1831	2230	2198	2216	2312	2449	<b>2463</b>
No. of employees (full time equivalent)	89	93.5	94	97.5	97.5	102.1	<b>102.6</b>
Development Applications (Blg & Plan)							
Applications and Land Divisions (No.)	641	607	726	730	638	643	<b>537</b>
Dwellings (No.)	132	148	137	113	123	128	<b>122</b>
Flats/Units (No.)	7(53)	10(54)	7(84)	15(86)	12(35)	20(107)	<b>21(217)</b>
Business/Commercial /Industrial (No.)	59	64	83	76	61	54	<b>44</b>
Additions and Alterations (No.)	298	345	392	405	352	304	<b>249</b>
Other, signs, divisions	100	106	107	121	90	137	<b>101</b>
Estimated Expenditure (Value \$m)	32.0	52.1	42.8	43.5	47.4	46.4	<b>91.5</b>
No. of Dogs Registered	4004	4048	3952	4304	4720	4617	<b>4467</b>
No. of Assessments	11302	11461	11718	11827	12074	12356	<b>12561</b>
Rates of cents in the dollar			See Below	See Below	See Below		
Rateable Capital Value of Assessments (value \$m)	375.8 (site)	427.3 (site)	1953	2033	2188	2478	<b>2560</b>
Rates foregone on non rateable property (value \$thous)	546	550	370	386	391	421	<b>452</b>
Rate Rebates and Remissions (value \$thous)	48	107	384	141	60	55	<b>54</b>
Value of Pensioner Concessions (value \$thous)	360	360	372	353	346	389	<b>394</b>
No. of non-ratable 100% rebate assessments	448	453	415	413	425	447	<b>452</b>
Fixed Charge			\$365	\$365	\$382	\$400	<b>\$421.50</b>



# Selected General Statistics cont.

Changed from Site Value to Capital Value as from 1st July 2004

	2004/05 \$	2005/06 \$	2006/07 \$	2007/08 \$	2008/09 \$
Residential	.002045	.002104	.00199	.001869	.00188
Commercial - Shop	.005624 (+175%)	.005680 (+170%)	.005373 (+170%)	.005046 (+170%)	.005076 (+170%)
Commercial - Office	.005624 (+175%)	.005680 (+170%)	.005373 (+170%)	.005046 (+170%)	.005076 (+170%)
Commercial - Other	.005624 (+175%)	.005680 (+170%)	.005373 (+170%)	.005046 (+170%)	.005076 (+170%)
Industry - Light	.004806 (+135%)	.004944 (+135%)	.004676 (+135%)	.004392 (+135%)	.004794 (+155%)
Industry - Other	.004806 (+135%)	.004944 (+135%)	.004676 (+135%)	.004392 (+135%)	.004794 (+155%)
Primary Production	0.002045	.002104	.00199	.001869	.00188
Vacant Land	.012270 (+500%)	.008416 (+300%)	.00796 (+300%)	.007476 (+300%)	.00752 (+300%)
(+300%)					
Other	.002045	.002104	.00199	.001869	.00188

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

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

- Keep any overhanging branches from your property over the footpath neatly trimmed to a minimum height of 2.2m above the footpath.
- Report street trees that require trimming for safe sight distance and safe to walk under.
- Care for your own street footpath. Some residents are unable. Can you assist them?
- Report to Council or the Police any acts of vandalism, graffiti or damage to any public or private property. Remember you are a 'shareholder' in your City.
- Report to Council any dangerous pot holes in roads or footpaths.
- Take your visitors for a walk through our parks, gardens, the Crater Lakes area, Cave Garden, Umpherston Sinkhole and 'The Lady Nelson' complex. Show them that you are proud of your City.
- If you see any Council's safety signs or lights on road works down, please stand them up or report to Council.
- 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 last 46 years:-

1961	15,388
1966	17,146
1971	17,934
1976	19,292
1991	19,880
1996	20,813
2001	22,749
2008	24,928

Percentage increase: 62.0% or 1.32% average per year

(Source: State Library of SA - ABS SA Year Books and ABS data)



# Selected General Statistics cont.

## CLIMATE SUMMARY

Thanks to the Technical Officers at the Mount Gambier Met. Office of the Bureau of Meteorology, the following climate data is able to be provided for the 2008/09 year:

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP (°C)	HIGHEST MAX (°C)	LOWEST MIN (°C)	RAINFALL MM)
July 08	12.6	15.8	-0.4	89.2
August 08	12.9	17.2	1.2	114.0
September 08	16.2	22.9	-0.4	52.8
October 08	20.2	32.9	1.4	15.2
November 08	20.8	34.7	1.8	34.8
December 08	20.4	30.2	5.9	118.4
January 09	26.7	43.6	4.0	5.4
February 09	26.8	35.1	6.1	1.4
March 09	23.1	34.9	3.2	49.8
April 09	19.6	32.8	1.9	66.2
May 09	16.5	20.6	3.9	29.6
June 09	14.1	16.4	0.6	59.2
<b>Average</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>53.0</b>



# Income Statement as at 30 June 2009

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>INCOME</b>			
Rates	2	12,166	11,431
Statutory charges	2	418	339
User charges	2	1,579	1,505
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2	2,789	1,813
Investment income	2	411	586
Reimbursements	2	944	537
Other income	2	194	421
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>18,501</b>	16,632
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee costs	3	6,082	5,453
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3	7,005	6,035
Finance costs	3	195	231
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3	4,243	4,056
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>17,525</b>	15,775
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>			
		<b>976</b>	858
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	4	203	64
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2	3,539	736
Physical resources received free of charge	2	762	-
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>5,480</b>	1,658

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



# Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	12,041	9,369
Trade & other receivables	5	1,544	868
Inventories	5	31	29
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>13,616</b>	10,266
Non-current Assets			
Financial Assets	6	514	322
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	7	127,014	120,033
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>		<b>127,528</b>	120,355
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>141,144</b>	130,621
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & Other Payables	8	2,158	907
Borrowings	8	850	763
Provisions	8	1,227	1,066
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>4,235</b>	2,736
Non-current Liabilities			
Trade & Other Payables	8	50	50
Borrowings	8	5,880	2,449
Provisions	8	336	223
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>		<b>6,266</b>	2,722
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>10,501</b>	5,458
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>130,643</b>	125,163
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated Surplus		41,518	37,510
Asset Revaluation Reserve	9	78,235	78,235
Other Reserves	9	10,890	9,418
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>130,643</b>	125,163

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

## Changes in Equity as at 30 June 2009

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>			
Balance at end of previous reporting period		<b>37,510</b>	37,364
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		<b>5,480</b>	1,658
Transfers to Other Reserves		<b>(9,146)</b>	(5,322)
Transfers from Other Reserves		<b>7,674</b>	3,810
<b>Balance at end of period</b>		<b>41,518</b>	37,510
<b>ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE</b>			
	9		
Balance at end of previous reporting period		<b>78,235</b>	78,230
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		-	5
<b>Balance at end of period</b>		<b>78,235</b>	78,235
<b>OTHER RESERVES</b>			
	9		
Balance at end of previous reporting period		<b>9,418</b>	7,906
Transfers from Accumulated Surplus		<b>9,146</b>	5,322
Transfers to Accumulated Surplus		<b>(7,674)</b>	(3,810)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>		<b>10,890</b>	9,418
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD</b>		<b>130,643</b>	125,163
Total of all revenues recognised directly in Equity		-	5
<b>NET CHANGE IN EQUITY</b>		-	5

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

# Cash Flow Statement

## for the year ended 30 June 2009

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Operating receipts		18,983	16,647
Investment receipts		595	487
<b>Payments</b>			
Operating payments to suppliers & employees		(13,305)	(12,451)
Finance payments		(194)	(243)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities</b>		<b>6,079</b>	<b>4,441</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets		3,539	736
Sale of replaced assets		527	226
Repayments of loans by community groups		77	75
<b>Payments</b>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(3,409)	(1,843)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(7,377)	(1,996)
Loans made to community groups		(282)	(51)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities</b>		<b>(6,925)</b>	<b>(2,853)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Proceeds from Borrowings		4,282	-
<b>Payments</b>			
Repayments of Borrowings		(764)	(714)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities</b>		<b>3,518</b>	<b>(714)</b>
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		2,672	874
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	10	9,369	8,495
<b>Cash &amp; cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12,041</b>	<b>9,369</b>

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

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## 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 equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standard.

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Urgent Issues Group Interpretations (UIGs) and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under clause 11 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999.

#### 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 AIFRS 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

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 consolidated fund 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.

Trust monies and property held by Council but subject to the control of other persons have been excluded from these reports. A separate statement of moneys held in the Trust Fund is available for inspection at the Council Office by any person free of charge.

### 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.

### 4. Cash, Cash Equivalents and other Financial Instruments

Cash Assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments forms part of Note 12.

### 5. Inventories

Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Inventories held in respect of business undertakings have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

#### 5.1 Real Estate Assets Developments

Real Estate Assets developments have been classified as Inventory in accordance with AASB 102 and are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Cost includes the costs of acquisition, development, borrowing and other costs incurred on financing of that acquisition and up to the time of sale. Any amount by which cost exceeds the net realisable value has been recognised as an expense.

Revenues arising from the sale of property are recognised in the operating statement when settlement is completed.

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## 5.2 Other Real Estate held for resale

Properties not acquired for development, but which Council has decided to sell as surplus to requirements, are recognised at the carrying value at the time of that decision.

Certain properties, auctioned for non-payment of rates in accordance with the Local Government Act but which failed to meet the reserve set by Council and are available for sale by private treaty, are recorded at the lower of the unpaid rates and charges at the time of auction or the reserve set by Council. Holding costs in relation to these properties are recognised as an expense when incurred.

## 6. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

### 6.1 Transitional Provisions

As at 1 July 2008, Council has elected not to recognise any values for land under roads acquired before the commencement of AASB 1051 Land Under Roads. Details of the effects of this election are given in Note 7.

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".

### 6.2 Initial Recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. 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. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

Capital works still in progress at balance date are recognised as other non-current assets and transferred to infrastructure, property, plant & equipment when completed ready for use.

### 6.3 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 as follows. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Office Furniture & Equipment	\$1,000
Other Plant & Equipment	\$1,000
Buildings - new construction/extensions	\$1,000
Park & Playground Furniture & Equipment	\$1,000
Road construction & reconstruction	\$1,000

Paving & footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	\$1,000
Drains & Culverts	\$1,000
Reticulation extensions	\$1,000
Sidelines & household connections	\$1,000
Artworks	\$1,000

### 6.4 Subsequent Recognition

Certain 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 in a manner which reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation is recognised on a straight-line basis. Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown below. 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.

#### Plant, Furniture & Equipment

Office Equipment	4 years
Vehicles and Road-making Equip	8 to 15 years
Other Plant & Equipment	5 years

#### Building & Other Structures

Buildings / Structures	5 to 20 years
------------------------	---------------

#### Infrastructure

Sealed Roads	40 years
Bridges	30 years
Footpaths / Kerbing	50 years
Drains	100 years

#### Other Assets

Library Books	6.67 years
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# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## 6. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment cont.

### 6.6 Impairment

Assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to depreciation and are reviewed annually for impairment. Assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash outflows or value in use).

For assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, the value in use is the depreciated replacement cost. In assessing impairment for these assets, a rebuttable assumption is made that the current replacement cost exceeds the original cost of acquisition.

### 6.7 Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs in relation to qualifying assets (net of offsetting investment revenue) have been capitalised in accordance with the allowed alternative treatment in AASB 1023 "Borrowing Costs". The amounts of borrowing costs recognised as an expense or as part of the carrying amount of qualifying assets are disclosed in Note 3, and the amount (if any) of interest revenue offset against borrowing costs in Note 2.

## 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	7.25% (2008, 6.68%)
Weighted average settlement period	1 year (2008, 1 year)

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

### 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. Construction Contracts

Construction works undertaken by Council for third parties are generally on an agency basis where the third party reimburses Council for actual costs incurred, and usually do not extend beyond the reporting period. As there is no profit component, such works are treated as 100% completed. Reimbursements not received are recognised as receivables and reimbursements received in advance are recognised as "payments received in advance".

## 11. Leases

Lease arrangements have been accounted for in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 117.

In respect of finance leases, where Council substantially carries all of the risks incident to ownership, the leased items are initially recognised as assets and liabilities equal in amount to the present value of the minimum lease payments. The assets are disclosed as assets under lease, and are amortised to expense over the period during which the Council is expected to benefit from the use of the leased

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

assets. Lease payments are allocated between interest expense and reduction of the lease liability, according to the interest rate implicit in the lease.

In respect of operating leases, where the lessor substantially retains all of the risks and benefits incident to ownership of the leased items, lease payments are charged to expense over the lease term.

## 12. GST Implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax"

- > Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- > Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- > Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- > Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

## 13. Comparative Information

Comparative information has been reclassified to be consistent with the current year disclosure of equivalent information in accordance with AIFRS.

## 14. New Accounting Standards

Certain new accounting standards and UIG interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2009 reporting period.

AASB 3	Business Combinations
AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 123	Borrowing Costs
AASB 127	Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements
AASB 2007-6	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123
AASB 2007-8 & AASB 2007-10	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101
AASB 2008-2	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations arising on Liquidation
AASB 2008-3	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 3 and AASB 127
AASB 2008-5 & AASB 2008-6	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project

AASB 2008-7	AASB 2008-7 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Cost of an Investment in a Subsidiary, Jointly Controlled Entity or Associate
AASB 2008-8	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Eligible Hedged Items
AASB 2008-9	Amendments to AASB 1049 for Consistency with AASB 101
AASB 2008-11	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard - Business Combinations Among Not-for-Profit Entities
AASB 2008-12	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Reclassification of Financial Assets - Effective Date and Transition
AASB 2008-13	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 17 - Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners
Interpretation 15	Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate
Interpretation 16	Hedges of a Net Investment in a Foreign Operation
Interpretation 17	Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners
Interpretation 18	

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.



# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 2 - INCOME

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>RATES REVENUES</b>			
General Rates		11,800	11,082
Less: Discretionary rebates, remissions & write offs		(54)	(55)
		11,746	11,027
<b>Other Rates (including service charges)</b>			
Natural Resource Management levy		444	430
		444	430
<b>Other Charges</b>			
Penalties for late payment		30	29
		30	29
<b>Less: Discretionary rebates, remissions &amp; write offs</b>		(54)	(55)
		12,166	11,431
<b>STATUTORY CHARGES</b>			
Development Act fees		149	126
Town planning fees		143	102
Animal registration fees & fines		106	84
Parking fines / expiation fees		13	22
Other registration fees		5	5
Sundry		2	-
		418	339
<b>USER CHARGES</b>			
Cemetery/crematoria fees		533	459
Green Waste Collection		310	255
Hall & equipment hire		25	25
Parking fees		4	10
Sales - general		606	648
Sundry		101	108
		1,579	1,505
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>			
Interest on investments			
Local Government Finance Authority		374	519
Banks & other		34	63
Loans to community groups		3	4
		411	586

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 2 - INCOME cont.

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>REIMBURSEMENTS</b>			
for roadworks		206	235
for private works		718	238
other		20	64
		944	537
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Insurance & other recoupments - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		192	290
Pine Tree Royalties		-	129
Sundry		2	2
		194	421
<b>GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		3,539	736
Other grants, subsidies and contributions		2,789	1,813
		6,328	2,549

The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 11.

<b>Sources of grants</b>			
Commonwealth Government		843	147
State Government		5,485	2,402
		6,328	2,549

### Conditions over grants & contributions

Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet expended in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:

Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period	-	-
Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods		
New Library & Main Corner Developments	2,500	-
Subtotal	2,500	-
Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions		
New Library & Main Corner Developments	-	-
	-	-
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period	2,500	-
Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period	2,500	-

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 2 - INCOME cont.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE		
Roads & Footpaths	762	-
<b>TOTAL PHYSICAL RESOURCES RECEIVED</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>-</b>

## Note 3 - EXPENSES

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>EMPLOYEE COSTS</b>			
Salaries and Wages		5,544	5,107
Employee leave expense		310	121
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	16	466	438
Workers' Compensation Insurance		129	110
Other		22	46
Less: Capitalised and distributed costs		(389)	(369)
<b>Total Operating Employee Costs</b>		<b>6,082</b>	<b>5,453</b>
Total Number of Employees		111	110
(Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)			
<b>MATERIALS, CONTRACTS &amp; OTHER EXPENSES</b>			
Prescribed Expenses			
Auditor's Remuneration			
Auditing the financial reports		14	14
Elected members' expenses		240	229
<b>Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses</b>		<b>254</b>	<b>243</b>
<b>Other Materials, Contracts &amp; Expenses</b>			
Contractors		2,304	2,072
Energy		496	461
Maintenance		35	24
Legal Expenses		108	33
Levies paid to government - NRM levy		442	429
Parts, accessories & consumables		2,205	1,789
Professional services		239	162
Sundry		922	822
<b>Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts &amp; Expenses</b>		<b>6,751</b>	<b>5,792</b>
		7,005	6,035
<b>FINANCE COSTS</b>			
Interest on Loans		195	231
		195	231

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 3 - EXPENSES cont.

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION & IMPAIRMENT			
Depreciation			
Buildings & Other Structures		2,005	1,977
Infrastructure		1,253	1,166
Plant & Equipment		696	603
Minor Plant		30	28
Office Equipment		27	29
Other Assets		232	253
		<b>4,243</b>	<b>4,056</b>

## Note 4 - ASSET DISPOSAL & FAIR VALUE ADJUSTMENTS

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT			
Assets renewed or directly replaced			
Proceeds from disposal		527	226
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		324	162
NET GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OR REVALUATION OF ASSETS		203	64

## Note 5 - CURRENT ASSETS

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>CASH &amp; EQUIVALENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash on Hand and at Bank		1,215	1,777
Short Term Deposits & Bills, etc		10,826	7,592
		12,041	9,369
<b>TRADE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>			
Rates - General & Other		202	117
Accrued Revenues		70	254
Debtors - general		1,048	337
GST Recoupment		54	5
Prepayments		81	79
Loans to community organisations		89	76
		1,544	868
<b>INVENTORIES</b>			
Stores & Materials		20	16
Trading Stock		11	13
		31	29

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 6 - NON-CURRENT ASSETS

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>			
Receivables			
Loans to community organisations		514	322
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		<b>514</b>	<b>322</b>

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

	2008 \$'000				2009 \$'000			
	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT
Land	27,502	-	-	27,502	27,851	-	-	27,851
Buildings & Other Structures	50,386	-	(3,916)	46,470	56,748	-	(5,912)	50,836
Infrastructure	43,608	-	(2,234)	41,374	46,290	-	(3,488)	42,802
Plant & Equipment	4,080	-	(1,180)	2,900	5,400	-	(1,613)	3,787
Minor Plant	143	-	(49)	94	196	-	(80)	116
Office Equipment	131	-	(61)	70	213	-	(88)	125
Other Assets	2,154	-	(531)	1,623	2,260	-	(763)	1,497
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>128,004</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(7,971)</b>	<b>120,033</b>	<b>138,958</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(11,944)</b>	<b>127,014</b>
<b>2008 Totals</b>					<b>128,004</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(7,971)</b>	<b>120,033</b>



# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

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

	2008 \$'000 CARRY- ING AMOUNT	CARRYING AMOUNT MOVEMENTS DURING YEAR \$'000							2009 \$'000 CARRY- ING AMOUNT
		ADDITIONS		DISPOS- ALS	DEPRE- CIATION	IMPAIR- MENT	BLANK	NET RE- VALUA- TION	
		New/ Upgrade	Renewals						
Land	27,502	355	-	(6)	-	-	-	-	27,851
Buildings & Other Structures	46,470	6,104	364	(97)	(2,005)	-	-	-	50,836
Infrastructure	41,374	1,486	1,195	-	(1,253)	-	-	-	42,802
Plant & Equipment	2,900	-	1,810	(227)	(696)	-	-	-	3,787
Minor Plant	94	6	46	-	(30)	-	-	-	116
Office Equipment	70	82	-	-	(27)	-	-	-	125
	1,623	106	-	-	(232)	-	-	-	1,497
TOTAL INFRA- STRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	120,033	8,139	3,415	(330)	(4,243)	-	-	-	127,014
2008 Totals	120,407	1,996	1,843	(162)	(4,056)			5	120,033

### VALUATION OF ASSETS

At 1 July 2004 upon the transition to AIFRS, Council elected pursuant to AASB 1.19 to retain a previously established deemed cost under GAAP as its deemed cost for the purposes of AIFRS.

#### 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.

Pursuant to Council's election, freehold land and land over which Council has control, but does not have title, is recognised on the cost basis. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Land improvements, including bulk earthworks with an assessed unlimited useful life, are recognised on the cost basis, originally deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2006 at current replacement cost. Additions are recognised at cost.

#### Buildings & Other Structures

Pursuant to Council's election, buildings and other structures are recognised on the cost basis, originally deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2006 at current replacement cost by Maloney Field Services. Additions are recognised at cost or determined by Council officers.

#### Infrastructure

Transportation assets were valued by Council officers at written down current replacement cost during the reporting period ended 30 June 2007 and pursuant to Council's election are disclosed at deemed cost. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

Stormwater drainage infrastructure was valued by Council officers as at 30 June 2007 at written down current replacement cost, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2007 and pursuant to Council's election are disclosed at deemed cost. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

#### All other assets

Pursuant to Council's election, these assets are recognised on the cost basis. Library books and other lending materials are capitalised in bulk, and written out when fully depreciated.

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 8 - LIABILITIES

	2009 \$'000			2008 \$'000	
	NOTES	CURRENT	NON-CURRENT	CURRENT	NON-CURRENT
<b>TRADE &amp; OTHER PAYABLES</b>					
Goods & Services		1,894		678	
Payments received in advance		29	50	31	50
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements		183	-	147	-
Accrued expenses - other		52	-	51	-
		<b>2,158</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>BORROWINGS</b>					
Loans		850	5,880	763	2,449
		<b>850</b>	<b>5,880</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>2,449</b>
<i>All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council.</i>					
<b>PROVISIONS</b>					
Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		1,227	336	1,066	223
		<b>1,227</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>223</b>

## Note 9 - RESERVES

ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE	NOTES	1/7/08 \$'000	NET INCREMENTS (DECREMENTS) \$'000	Transfers on Sale \$'000	30/6/09 \$'000
		<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	
Land		19,346	-	-	19,346
Buildings & Other Structures		43,354	-	-	43,354
Infrastructure		12,645	-	-	12,645
Plant & Equipment		69	-	-	69
Other Assets		2,821	-	-	2,821
Total Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment		78,235	-	-	78,235
<b>2008 Totals</b>		<b>78,230</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>78,235</b>

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 9 - RESERVES cont.

OTHER RESERVES		1/7/08	TRANSFERS TO RESERVE	TRANSFERS FROM RESERVE	30/6/09
Long Service Leave		445	157	(57 )	545
Off Street Car Park		921	133	(765 )	289
Plant Replacement		1,895	635	(1,609 )	921
Lady Nelson Park Development		83	24	-	107
Asset Replacement		1,520	398	(930 )	988
Land Division - Outstanding Work		232	-	-	232
Downstream Drainage		54	4	-	58
Work in Progress		3,128	7,332	(3,128 )	7,332
City Centre Improvement		213	68	(185 )	96
Major Capital Works		794	383	(1,000 )	177
Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust		89	6	-	95
Junior Sporting Fund		44	6	-	50
<b>TOTAL OTHER RESERVES</b>		<b>9,418</b>	<b>9,146</b>	<b>(7,674 )</b>	<b>10,890</b>
	<b>2008 Totals</b>	<b>7,906</b>	<b>5,322</b>	<b>(3,810 )</b>	<b>9,418</b>

## 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 and available-for-sale financial assets.

### Other Reserves

#### Long Service Leave

- established to fund City of Mount Gambier employee long service leave entitlements
- ongoing Reserve Fund
- transfers from the Fund are made as and when required
- transfers to the Fund include Council budgetary allocations, interest received and funds from other employers in respect of transferred employees

#### Off Street Car Parking Reserve

- established to fund off street car parking initiatives in the 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, interest received, sales etc

#### Lady Nelson Park Development

- established to fund any development works that may occur at The Lady Nelson site
- ongoing Reserve Fund
- 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 Division Outstanding Works

- funds held in trust to ensure land division obligations 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

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 9 - RESERVES cont.

### *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 as and when required with works and projects normally completed in the year following
- transfers to the Fund include funds for works 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
- transfers 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 Council 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
- transfers from the Fund are made as and when required
- transfers to the Fund include Council budgetary allocations, donations and interest received



# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## 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	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Total cash & equivalent assets	5	12,041	9,369
<b>Balances per Cash Flow Statement</b>		<b>12,041</b>	<b>9,369</b>

(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities			
Net Surplus (Deficit)		5,480	1,658
Non-cash items in Income Statement			
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment		4,243	4,056
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		310	122
Non-cash asset acquisitions		(762)	-
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as Investing Activity		(3,539)	(736)
Net (Gain) Loss on Disposals		(203)	(64)
		<b>5,529</b>	<b>5,036</b>
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets			
Net (increase) decrease in receivables		(663)	(228)
Net (increase) decrease in inventories		(2)	16
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables		1,215	(383)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations</b>		<b>6,079</b>	<b>4,441</b>

(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities			
Acquisition of assets by means of:			
- Physical resources received free of charge	2	762	-
Amounts recognised in Income Statement		762	-
		<b>762</b>	<b>-</b>



# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 11 - FUNCTIONS

	INCOMES, EXPENSES AND ASSETS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES									
	INCOME		EXPENSES		OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME		"TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)"	
	ACTUAL 2009 \$'000	ACTUAL 2008 \$'000	ACTUAL 2009 \$'000	ACTUAL 2008 \$'000	ACTUAL 2009 \$'000	ACTUAL 2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Administration / Support Services	14,838	13,601	3,125	3,437	11,713	10,164	5,172	1,588	11,235	10,993
Community Support	96	566	851	859	(755)	(293)	14	14	8,377	6,193
Culture	907	327	2,456	2,156	(1,549)	(1,829)	610	187	19,434	14,332
Economic Development	754	119	960	834	(206)	(715)	11	46	3,480	7,060
Environment	102	848	2,859	2,612	(2,757)	(1,764)	-	-	4,943	6,774
Recreation	82	71	2,382	2,246	(2,300)	(2,175)	-	34	31,210	32,171
Regulatory Services	418	339	891	869	(473)	(530)	-	-	-	-
Transport	68	232	1,670	1,894	(1,602)	(1,662)	521	680	40,074	37,719
Engineering / Indirect	-	-	812	319	(812)	(319)	-	-	5,326	3,209
Unclassified	1,236	529	1,519	549	(283)	(20)	-	-	17,065	12,170
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18,501</b>	<b>16,632</b>	<b>17,525</b>	<b>15,775</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>6,328</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>141,144</b>	<b>130,621</b>

Excludes 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.

## Note 11 - COMPONENTS OF FUNCTIONS cont.

### 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, and 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.

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 11 - COMPONENTS OF FUNCTIONS cont.

### Economic Development

Regional Development, Tourism, and Other Economic Development and activities.

### Environment

Animal/Plant Boards, Waste Management, Domestic Waste, Green Waste, Recycling, Transfer Stations, 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.

## Note 12 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits	Accounting Policy: Carried at lower of cost and net realisable value; Interest is recognised when earned.
	Terms & conditions: Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 2.75% and 7.00% (2008: 6.00% and 7.40%).
	Carrying amount: approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.
Receivables - Rates & Associated Charges (including legals & penalties for late payment)	Accounting Policy: Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.
	Terms & conditions: Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 0.93% (2008: .85%) Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.
	Carrying amount: approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).
Receivables - Fees & other charges	Accounting Policy: Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.
	Terms & conditions: Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.
	Carrying amount: approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).
Receivables - other levels of government	Accounting Policy: Carried at nominal value.
	Terms & conditions: Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of the Governments of the Commonwealth & State.
	Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 12 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT

Receivables - Retirement Home Contributions	<p>Accounting Policy: Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.</p> <p>Terms &amp; conditions: Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective legislation.</p> <p>Carrying amount: approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).</p>
Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals	<p>Accounting Policy: Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.</p> <p>Terms &amp; conditions: Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.</p> <p>Carrying amount: approximates fair value.</p>
Liabilities - Retirement Home Contributions	<p>Accounting Policy: To avoid inconvenience when complying with the separate audit requirements imposed by the relevant legislation, amounts are carried at nominal values.</p> <p>Terms &amp; conditions: Pursuant to Commonwealth legislation certain intending residents are required to contribute amounts on an interest free basis. The amounts are subject to certain deductions as prescribed by the legislation, the balance being repaid on termination of tenancy.</p> <p>Carrying amount: approximates fair value for short tenancies; may be non-materially over-stated for longer tenancies.</p>
Liabilities - Interest Bearing Borrowings	<p>Accounting Policy: Carried at the principal amounts. Interest is charged as an expense as it accrues.</p> <p>Terms &amp; conditions: secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable; interest is charged at fixed rates between 5.05% and 9.8% (2008: 5.95% and 9.8%)</p> <p>Carrying amount: approximates fair value.</p>
Liabilities - Finance Leases	<p>Accounting Policy: accounted for in accordance with AASB 117.</p>



# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 13 - FINANCIAL INDICATORS

	2009	2008	2007
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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</b>	976	858	315
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*Being the operating surplus (deficit) before capital amounts.*

<b>Operating Surplus Ratio</b>			
Operating Surplus	8%	8%	3%
<i>Rates - general &amp; other less NRM levy</i>			

<b>Net Financial Liabilities</b>	(3,598)	(5,101)	(3,048)
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*Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council businesses.)*

<b>Net Financial Liabilities Ratio</b>			
Net Financial Liabilities	(19.9%)	(31.5%)	(20.0%)
Total Operating Revenue less NRM levy			

<b>Interest Cover Ratio</b>			
Net Interest Expense	(1.2%)	(2.3%)	(1.3%)
Total Operating Revenue less NRM levy less Investment Income			

<b>Asset Sustainability Ratio</b>			
Net Asset Renewals	68%	40%	35%
Depreciation Expense			

*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.*

<b>Asset Consumption Ratio</b>			
Carrying value of depreciable assets	89%	92%	96%
Gross value of depreciable assets			

*Total carrying value of depreciable assets divided by total reported value of depreciable assets before accumulated depreciation.*

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## 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 uniform and consistent basis. The uniform presentation represents a simplified version of reporting under the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) framework of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

All Councils in South Australia voluntarily have agreed to summarise annual budgets and long-term financial plans on the same basis.

The arrangements ensure that all Councils provide a common 'core' of financial information, which enables meaningful comparisons of each Council's finances

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Income	18,501	16,632
less Expenses	(17,525)	(15,775)
	976	858
Net Outlays on Existing Assets		
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	(3,409)	(1,843)
less Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	4,243	4,056
less Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	527	226
	1,361	2,439
Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets		
"Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets (including investment property & real estate developments)"	(7,377)	(1,996)
less Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets	3,539	736
	(3,838)	(1,260)
Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year	(1,501)	2,037

## 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.

Contingent rental payments exist in relation to the lease of one grader if utilisation exceeds 250 hours during any month. No contingent rentals were paid during the current or previous reporting periods.

No lease imposes any additional restrictions on Council in relation to additional debt or further leasing.

Leases in relation to computer and office equipment permit Council, at expiry of the lease, to elect to re-lease, return or acquire the equipment leased.

No lease contains any escalation clause.

Commitments under non-cancellable operating leases that have not been recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Not later than one year	66	67
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	51	109
	117	176

# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## Note 16 - 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. Permanent and contract employees of the South Australian Local Government sector have the option to contribute to Marketlink and/or Salarylink. All other employees (including casuals) have all contributions allocated to Marketlink.

### Marketlink (Accumulation Fund) Members

Marketlink receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (9% in 2008/09 for Marketlink members and 3% for Salarylink members; 9% and 3% respectively in 2007/08). No further liability accrues to the employer as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

### Salarylink (Defined Benefit) 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 of contribution and final average salary. Council makes employer contributions to Salarylink as determined by the Scheme's Trustee based on advice from the Scheme's Actuary. The rate is currently 6% (6% in 2007/2008) of "superannuation" salary. Given that

Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation, the remaining 3% for Salarylink members is allocated to their Marketlink account. Employees also make member contributions to the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Fund to meet the member's benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

The Salarylink Plan is a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Fund's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by employer, 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 full actuarial investigation conducted by the Scheme's actuary, L C Brett, BSc., FIA, FIAA, of Brett and Watson Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2008, the Trustee has determined that the current funding arrangements are adequate for the expected Defined Benefit Plan liabilities. However, future financial and economic circumstances may require changes to Council's contribution rates at some future time.



# Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## **Note 17 - CONTINGENCIES & ASSETS & LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position but knowledge of those items is considered relevant to user of the financial report in making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of scarce resources.

### **1. Land Under Roads**

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

At reporting date, Council controlled 194.69 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 \$21,000 (2008: \$43,000) at reporting date.

Council does not expect to incur any loss arising from these guarantees.

### **4. Legal Expenses**

Council is the planning consent authority for its area under the Development Act 1993 (as amended). Pursuant to that Act, certain persons aggrieved by a planning decision of the Council may appeal. It is normal practice that parties bear their own legal costs. At the date of these reports, Council had notice of 2 appeals against planning decisions made prior to reporting date. All known costs have been recognised, but the amount of further costs cannot be known until the appeals are determined.





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