# COMMUNITY NEWS

JUNE 2024

## Have Your Say on Our Future

Do you agree that the District Council of Grant should be a connected, inclusive, resilient and engaged community?

The District Council of Grant is asking you to have your say on the proposed collective vision for the district following its creation involving community representatives over the past 10 months.

At the June Council Meeting, a Draft Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2034 was presented detailing future goals and proposed projects for Council to undertake, facilitate or advocate for over the next 4-10 years.

Mayor Kylie Boston said "We want to create an environment where we can all live, work and play. We feel that the five goals developed in this Draft Strategic Plan allow us to achieve this thanks to input from our Citizen's Jury members."

Chief Executive Officer Darryl Whicker said "The Draft Strategic Plan presented to our community identifies our 'why', our goals, advocacy and ambition driving Council's decision making when allocating resources and prioritising short and long term initiatives."

Community members are encouraged to have their say on the Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2034 via Council's online community engagement platform Your Say DCG at yoursaydcg.com.au/draft-strategic-plan.

More information is detailed on pages 3, 4 and 11.




## Council Decisions

**2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget Adopted:** At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 17 June 2024, Council adopted the Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2024 to 2025.

A two page summary of the Annual Business Plan and Budget can be found on pages 14 and 15.

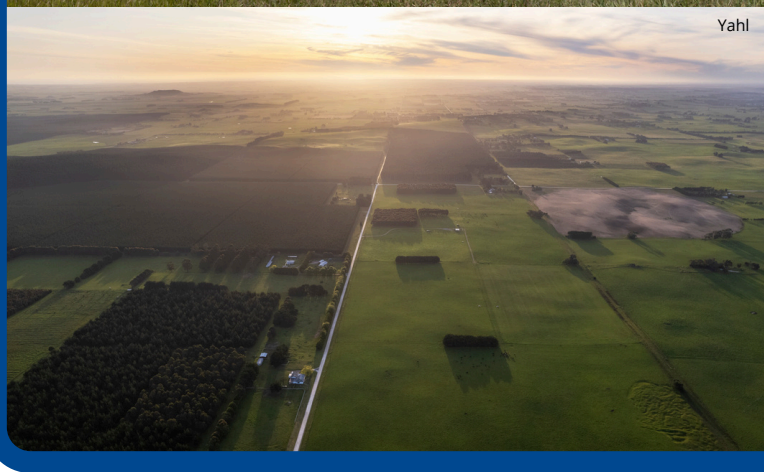
The full document can be view on Council's website at www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/council/council-information/annualbusinessplan

**Next Council Meeting:** 5:30pm Monday 15 July 2024 in the Council Chambers at 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier.

**Head to our website for full Council meeting reports and minutes.**

## Our District


Pelican Point


Yahl

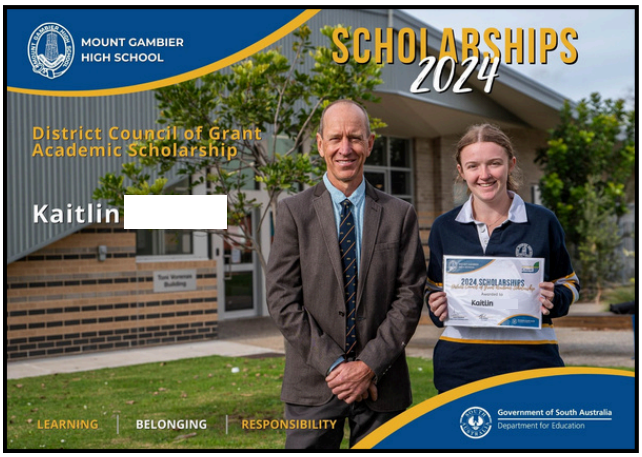
# Out & About with Council

## Academic Award Winners & iPad Winner

**Academic Award Winners**

The District Council of Grant annually gift $750.00 towards Academic Scholarship Awards for Year 10 - 12 students who reside within the Council area.

Cr Bran Mann is pictured with Mount Gambier High School winner Kaitlin, and with St Martins Lutheran College winner Eva and Deputy Principal Celia Mara.






**iPad Winner (FlexiPay)**

Council recently introduced a new way to pay rates online through FlexiPay. Those who paid via FlexiPay automatically went into the draw to win an iPad.

Margaret Reichelt was the winner pictured with Director Corporate Service Gary Button and Mayor Kylie Boston.



Quarterly and full rates installments can still be paid through FlexiPay's online payment portal. The FlexiPay portal can be found online at dcgrant-pay.enotices.com.au.

Quarterly installments are due:

- 6 September 2024
- 6 December 2024
- 7 March 2025
- 6 June 2025

Rates notices will be sent to ratepayers approximately 30 days prior to each due date.




Answer the call.

Volunteering with us is a great thing to do for yourself and your community.

Join SA Ambulance Service and you'll get free qualifications, Ambulance Cover and be reimbursed for travel and childcare.

Find out more
Call 1300 175 584
saasvolunteer.sa.gov.au

Government of South Australia
SA Health

SA Ambulance Service

# Have Your Say on **Our Future**

**Background**
Under section 122 (4) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act), Councils must undertake a review of their strategic plan within 2 years of a local government general election. At the District Council of Grant, we have commenced the Strategic Plan review process in accordance with the Act.

A Strategic Plan is a visioning document which sets out the aspirations, goals and projects which will guide Council's actions over the coming 4-10 years. The Plan sets out our purpose, role, operating principles and commitment to our community. It directs the priorities which we will focus on, the key projects that will be undertaken and where resources will be allocated each year.

**What is proposed?**
Our Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2034 has been created in consideration of research into key demographics, policy trends and initial engagement with local community groups, businesses and key industries through a Citizen's Jury, along with District Council of Grant Elected Members and Council staff.

5 goals have been developed to represent a collective vision for our future:



**Community**
A connected, inclusive, resilient and engaged community



**Economy**
A growing, diverse and vibrant economy, optimising our unique primary industries and natural assets



**Environment**
A sustainable district that values the natural qualities and heritage that underpin our health, liveability and economy



**Infrastructure**
Reliable and contemporary infrastructure that meets the needs of our community, industry and visitors



**Council**
A strategic and financially sustainable Council that values its people and delivers quality services

Each goal is further broken down into:

- What we heard: Summary of information received during initial engagement with the Citizen's Jury, Elected Members and Council staff;
- Focus areas: Proposed short-term projects, long-term projects and areas of Council advocacy;
- Key projects: Council driven projects proposed to be delivered within the next 4 years; and
- Ongoing services: Council's standard services which will continue alongside the above.

**Have Your Say**
Now it is your turn to have your say on the proposed future direction of our Council!

We want to hear from the broader community, including residents, business owners, students, parents, First Nations peoples, sporting clubs, community groups, those with a passion for accessibility, visitors and everyone in between.

Review the Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2034 (or accessible version on yoursaydcg.com.au) and have your say by:

- Completing the online survey
- Emailing feedback to info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au
- Attending a Drop-In Session (listed on pages 4 and 11)
- Submitting a hard copy feedback form or letter to:
  - Principal Office: 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier
  - Port MacDonnell Community Complex: 5-7 Charles Street, Port MacDonnell
  - Post: PO Box 724, Mount Gambier SA 5290

Submissions will be accepted until **5:00pm Wednesday 24 July 2024**.

**Next steps**
Feedback submitted during the consultation period will be reviewed by Council staff and amendments to the Draft Strategic Plan will be made where appropriate. A refined Strategic Plan will then be presented to Council on Monday 19 August 2024 for endorsement.

More information on pages 4 and 11.

# Have Your Say on **Our Future**

District Council of Grant Mayor Kylie Boston said she is excited to present the long-term Draft Strategic Plan demonstrating Council's commitment to deliver quality services while working together with our communities.

"We want to create an environment where we can all live, work and play. We feel that the five goals developed in this Draft Strategic Plan allow us to achieve this thanks to input from our Citizen's Jury members," Mayor Boston said.

The District Council of Grant formed a Citizen's Jury in September 2023, with representatives from local community groups, businesses and key industries, to help Elected Members and Council staff review previous long-term goals and strategies, and form this new Draft Strategic Plan.



"Our Citizen's Jury have put in a huge amount of work and passion to help create this shared vision which we are really proud of and thank all those involved,"

"Council is committed to being real and listening to our community so we want to make sure everyone is brought along this planning process."

Following endorsement at the recent June Council Meeting, the Draft Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2034 is now open for broader community consultation.

District Council of Grant Chief Executive Officer Darryl Whicker said a prosperous community can be achieved with Council's ongoing sustainable financial management.

"We have proven that the future of our district will be sustainable, and I am therefore confident that we will deliver a high standard of projects and services through our Strategic Plan," Mr Whicker said.

"The Draft Strategic Plan presented to our community identifies our 'why', our goals, advocacy and ambition driving Council's decision making when allocating resources and prioritising short and long term initiatives,"

"Now we want to hear from our broader community to make sure that our focus areas meet our communities expectations to support a positive future."

Have your say on the Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2034 via Council's online community engagement platform Your Say DCG at yoursaydcg.com.au.




A series of face-to-face and online Drop-In Sessions will be held during the consultation period to learn more about the proposed goals and speak with Council representatives. These will be held on:

**Thursday 11 July 2024** | 5:30pm to 7:00pm
Port MacDonnell Community Complex, 5-7 Charles Street, Port MacDonnell

**Tuesday 16 July 2024** | 5:30pm to 7:00pm
Mount Gambier Regional Airport, Airport Road, Wandilo

**Monday 22 July 2024** | 1:00pm to 2:00pm
Online via Microsoft Teams (Register to attend here: https://forms.office.com/r/0XdUrpTpHs)

# Mount Gambier Regional Airport Update

## Master Plan Review & Ticket Sales

### Airport Master Plan Review

The District Council of Grant has commenced engaging with aviation specialists and community members to review the Mount Gambier Regional Airport Master Plan.

Representatives from a variety of aviation fields, businesses and the general community formed an Aviator's Jury to consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the Mount Gambier Regional Airport, and consider the future projects and direction of the Airport.

The current Airport Master Plan 2016-2026 can be viewed on Council's website at: www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/council/policies-by-laws-and-documents/strategiesplans.

The broader community will have an opportunity to have their say and inform the new Mount Gambier Regional Airport Master Plan later in 2024.

Interested parties are encouraged to register to stay up to date with project announcements on Your Say DCG at yoursaydcg.com.au.







### Airfare Ticket Sales

The Mount Gambier Regional Airport is a major gateway to the Limestone Coast and Western Victoria, and is located 10 minutes from the city of Mount Gambier.

The Airport is well serviced by Regional Express Airlines (REX) and Qantas who provide regular return passenger services between Mount Gambier and both Melbourne and Adelaide.

Both airlines discount airfares for routes between Mount Gambier and Melbourne and Adelaide throughout the year.

Visit their websites or call for more information:

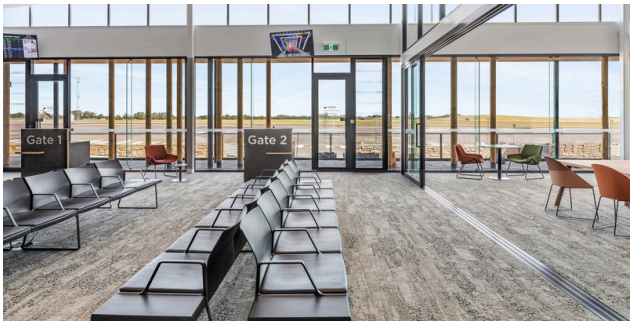
**REX**

- Phone: 131 713
- Website: www.rex.com.au

**Qantas**

- Phone: 131 313
- Website: www.qantas.com

Follow the Mount Gambier Regional Airport on Facebook to also stay up to date with airfare sales.



# Port MacDonnell Community Complex Update

## Author Event & School Holiday Program

### An afternoon with Leonie Kelsall

The Port MacDonnell Community Complex will be hosting author Leonie Kelsall to speak about her newest novel; *The Homestead in the Eucalypts*.

***Book summary:***
When student doctor Taylor Lawrence's city life is turned upside down, she seeks sanctuary on her grandparents' farm in the South Australian countryside.

During the lonely nights, she fantasises of a time long-gone; of Anna, who, rising at dawn to milk the cows and fetch water from the well, is caught in a bushfire that threatens to leave her reputation as blackened as the surrounding bushland. And of Anna's rescuer, fellow settler, Luke Hartmann.

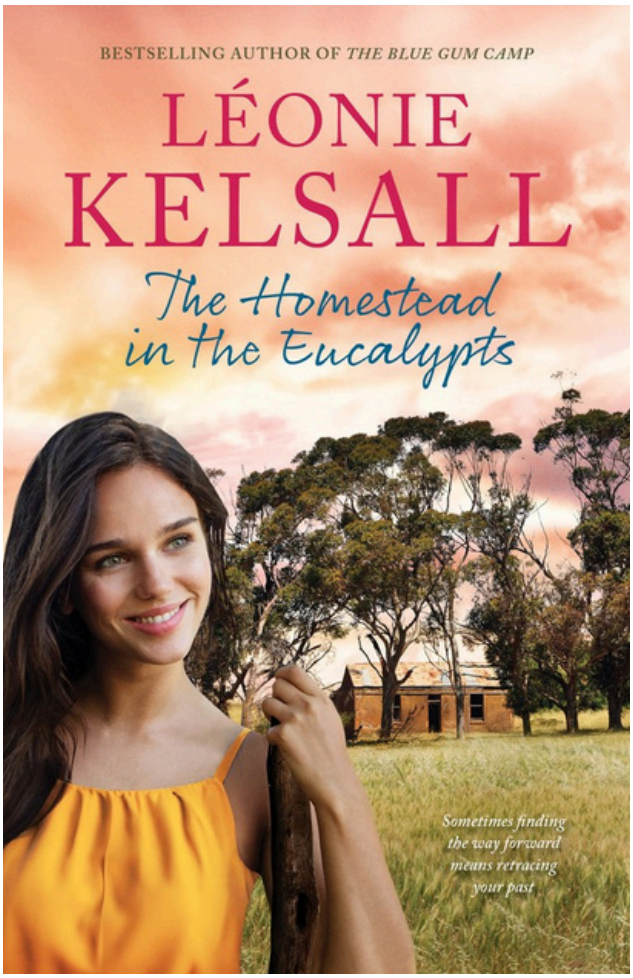
Reality blurs as Taylor repeatedly escapes into Anna's world, and she realises she must discover whether her dreams are pure fantasy—or if they recount a story more familiar than she could ever imagine.

Either way, it seems she'll end up with a broken mind or a broken heart. The problem is, Taylor is no longer sure which she would prefer.

Join Leonie and other book lovers at the Community Complex on **Sunday 14 July 2024 at 3:00pm**.

This is a free event however bookings are required. Contact the Port MacDonnell Community Complex on (08) 8738 3000 to book your spot.






### Winter School Holiday Program

Join staff and other children at the Port MacDonnell Community Complex during the Winter school holidays between 6 and 21 July 2024.

A two-week cooking and craft program has been created for everyone to enjoy. View the full program on page 12.

Bookings are required for some activities.



# Mount Gambier & District Saleyards Update

Support our farmers

Support Our Farmers

# BACK OUR SALEYARDS



**Scan the QR code to sign the petition calling for Federal Government funding to upgrade the Mount Gambier & District Saleyards.**

# Waste and Recycling Update

## Mobile Garbage Bins & Waste Transfer Stations

### Waste Transfer Station Vouchers

Each property in the District Council of Grant is eligible for a cashless waste transfer station voucher at the commencement of each financial year. The voucher card entitles the resident / tenant to 6 visits, with a heaped tandem trailer load of segregated waste considered to be the maximum quantity for each visit on the voucher card.

Segregated loads of scrap metal are free, and green waste during the fire danger season will not constitute a visit on the voucher.

Vouchers are now available to collect:
**In-person:**

- Principal Office: 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier
- Port MacDonnell Community Complex: 5-7 Charles Street, Port MacDonnell

**Phone:** (08) 8721 0444

**Email:** info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au




### Mobile Garbage Bin Collection

Pictured on the right of this page is Council's updated Mobile Garbage Bin collection calendar for 2024-2025.

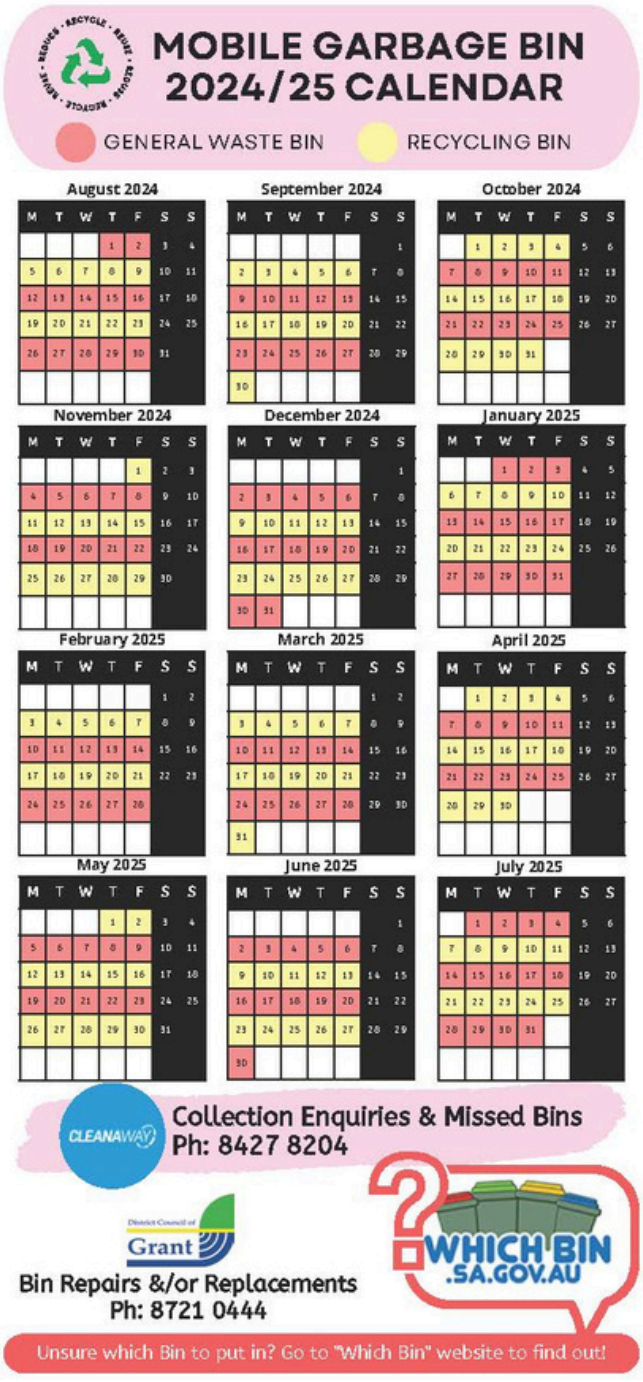
Please note it is imperative that bins are placed out the night before or prior to 6:00am on the day of your service to ensure collection.

The bin is to be placed with the lid opening towards the road and the lid is kept closed to prevent animal scavenging and/or wind blowing rubbish along the roadside.

Bins which are overweight (above 70kg) or contaminated may not be collected. A sticker will be placed on your bin to advise of reason for non-collection.

Non-council branded bins will not be collected.

Replacement bins required due to damage, loss and/or stolen can be issued at the owner's expense. Contact Council to arrange a replacement.



# Dog Owner Reminders & Tips

### Registration

All dogs over three months of age must be registered via the Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) website.

All registered dogs are issued with a permanent registration number on a grey disc following first registration. Owners must affix the issued disc, or one of their choice displaying the permanent registration number, to the dog's collar.

Registration expires 30 June and must be renewed on DACO by 31 August each year. The permanent registration number remains the same each year.

Replacement discs may be purchased on DACO if required, or a metal disc may be used.

To register a dog, you must be over 16 years of age and you must inform your local council within 14 days if:

- you have a new dog
- your dog has moved to different premises (registration can be transferred between local councils)
- your dog is missing
- ownership of the dog has transferred to another person
- your dog dies.

Owners can do this by logging into DACO and updating their record.

Dog registration fees are used by your council for the administration or enforcement of dog and cat management, including dog parks, animal management teams and pound facilities.

*Sourced from the Dog and Cat Management Board's Dog Owners' Handbook 2020



# Planning & Development Tips

### Approval Wizard

Did you know PlanSA has an online 'approval wizard' to help you determine if a project or development requires development approval?

Ensuring you have the right approval ensure that development is appropriate for the location it is proposed, and constructed in a safe way and compliant with relevant standards.

Types of development which typically require approval include, but are not limited to:

- building work and construction;
- changing land use (eg. private residential to tourist accommodation);
- altering property boundaries; and
- installing signage for advertising.



Some common at home projects don't always require approval, such as installing or replacing garden sheds, fences and decks.

Check if your project needs approval online at plan.sa.gov.au/development_applications/before_you_lodge/find_out_if_you_need_approval.

You will be required to enter the address of your property in order to calculate if approval is required.

Still not sure if you need development approval? Speak with Council's Planning and Building staff on (08) 8721 0444 or at the Principal Office: 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier.

# External Grant Funding

## OneFortyOne PINE Community Grants

OneFortyOne understands that raising funds for community projects, learning opportunities, the arts, sports programs and environmental activities, can be difficult. Especially in regional communities.

Through the Community Grants Program OneFortyOne aims to support the communities in which our people live and work acknowledging that community activities are what give life and enjoyment in any vibrant community.

The grants program supports People, Ideas, Nature and Education.

- **P**: People. Promoting individual and community wellbeing
- **I**: Ideas. Contributing to culturally vibrant and sustainable communities
- **N**: Nature. Rejuvenating our natural environment
- **E**: Education. Supporting education and training

To be eligible to apply, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be a school, charity or a not-for-profit organisation;
- Organisations must be in the Green Triangle Region of South Australia and Victoria or in the Nelson, Tasman or Marlborough regions of New Zealand;
- Applications must have a focus on OneFortyOne's local communities and have a purpose that benefits the community, not an individual; and
- Applicants must have complied with requirements of previous completed grants.

More information via the QR code or online at: onefortyone.com/community/grants/about-community-grants

OneFortyOne PINE COMMUNITY GRANTS

# External Community Consultation

## Dingley Dell Conservation Park Draft Management Plan

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) are seeking your views on the draft management plan for Dingley Dell Conservation Park.

**Background**

Management plans are high level, strategic documents that set the direction and outline how parks will be managed. They are required for all parks under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

Once finalised, the plan will replace the Dingley Dell Conservation Park section of the *Small Inland Parks of the South East Management Plan* (1994). While the protection and conservation of natural and heritage values, and providing opportunity for tourism is a focus in the current plan it doesn't envisage tourist accommodation.

The draft plan enables upgrades of existing infrastructure and the development of new facilities including small-scale accommodation to support tourism and experiences where visitors can appreciate and learn about Dingley Dell Cottage and the park's biodiversity.

**Get involved**

Read the Dingley Dell Conservation Park Draft Management Plan online at yoursay.sa.gov.au (scan the QR code below) and have your say by:

- taking the online survey
- emailing a submission to DEWProtectedAreaManagement@sa.gov.au
- posting a written submission to Department for Environment and Water, National Parks and Protected Area Program, GPO Box 1047 ADELAIDE SA 5001

Consultation closes Friday 6 September 2024.



# Have Your Say on Our Future

We have developed a collective vision for our future. Now it's your turn to have your say on the proposed direction of our Council!

learn more at our
## DROP-IN SESSIONS

- **Thursday 11 July 2024** | 5:30pm to 7:00pm
  Port MacDonnell Community Complex
  5-7 Charles Street, Port MacDonnell
- **Tuesday 16 July 2024** | 5:30pm to 7:00pm
  Mount Gambier Regional Airport
  Airport Road, Wandilo
- **Monday 22 July 2024** | 1:00pm to 2:00pm
  Online via Microsoft Teams

**More information:**
yoursaydcg.com.au

District Council of Grant

District Council of Grant

# **The Gallery** at the Port MacDonnell Community Complex

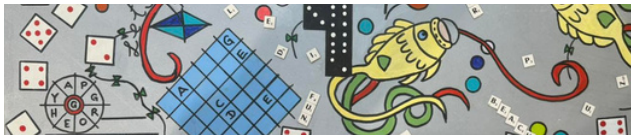
A new exhibition has been welcomed into The Gallery at the Port MacDonnell Community Complex; *Imagination Unleashed* by local artists, Heather McLean and Cathie Davies.

Together, they have 45 artworks for sale. Heather has created a display of acrylic and watercolour works, and Cathie has used decorative embellishments on recycled furniture.

The exhibition remains on display until the end of July 2024.

The Gallery is free to enter and open during the Port MacDonnell Community Complex opening hours:

- Monday to Friday | 9:00am - 5:00pm
- Saturday to Sunday | 11:00am - 3:00pm





## PORT MACDONNELL COMMUNITY COMPLEX

## JULY 2024 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

### WEEK 1

**MONDAY 8TH**




Kaleidoscope

**TUESDAY 9TH**




**Story Time @ 10:30AM**

**WEDNESDAY 10TH**



**Badge making**
10-12pm
30min sessions
Bookings required

**WEDNESDAY 10TH**



Cotton Ball Painting

**FRIDAY 12TH**



Diorama

### WEEK 2

**MONDAY 15TH**



Yarn Painting

**TUESDAY 16TH**




**Story Time @ 10:30AM**

**WEDNESDAY 17TH**



**Cooking - Pizza**
11-1pm
30min sessions
Bookings required

**WEDNESDAY 17TH**



Tissue Paper Coasters

**FRIDAY 19TH**



Stitch Cards

**Bookings required for Wednesday activities (08) 8738 3000**




NEED A PLACE TO WORK?

# CO-WORKING *space*

## TUESDAY 20 AUGUST

**PORT MACDONNELL COMMUNITY COMPLEX**
**DROP IN BETWEEN 9:30AM AND 3:00PM**

WORKSPACE AREA
FAST WI-FI
NEARBY CAFES

MOUNT GAMBIER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

District Council of Grant

*This event is a joint initiative of the Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce and District Council of Grant*

Want to know more about the Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce? Chat with a Chamber Board Member at the upcoming session or visit www.mountgambierchamber.com.au

Registrations are encouraged by scanning the QR code

District Council of Grant

# Annual Business Plan & Budget Summary

# 2024 - 2025

The District Council of Grant Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024-2025 (the Plan) provides an overview of the services, programs and strategic projects that Council aims to deliver for the community over the next financial year.

The Plan also ensures the maintenance of appropriate levels of statutory and discretionary services to the community and allows strategic goals to be achieved in alignment with Council's Strategic Management Plan 2020-2030.

| Income From General Rates | Other Income | Total Revenue | Total Capital Expenditure | General Rate Increase |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| $10.831M | $9.187M | $20.018M | $7.326M | 4.8% |



## MAJOR SPEND



**$3.64M**

**Roads**

Construction and maintenance



**$1.96M**

**Plant**

Equipment purchases and renewal



**$368K**

**Community Building Improvements**

Upgrades and renewal

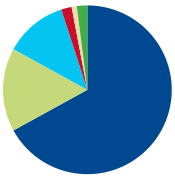


**$162K**

**Community Waste Management System**

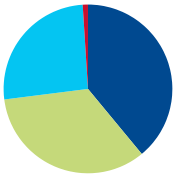
Upgrades to pumps

## FUNDING SOURCES



| | |
|---|---|
| Rates | 67% |
| Grants, subsidies & contributions | 16% |
| User charges | 12% |
| Statutory charges | 2% |
| Other income | 1% |
| Interest | 2% |
| **Total** | **$20.018M** |

## OPERATING EXPENSES



| | |
|---|---|
| Wages & salaries | 39% |
| Materials, contractual services & other | 34% |
| Depreciation | 26% |
| Finance charges | 1% |
| **Total** | **$19.686M** |

# KEY PROJECTS: Investing in our community



**$89K** — **Mobile Phone Telstra Towers**



**$80K** — **Coastal Adaption Project**



**$70K** — **Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) Trial**



**$40K** — **Local Heritage Survey**

# HOW IS THE PLAN DEVELOPED?

Each year Council reviews its services and projects to understand our community's needs and expectations for the upcoming financial year, and also how we deliver works and services in the most cost effective way.

Actions outlined in Council's Strategic Plan are incorporated into a Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget, which are then considered at a Council Meeting.

Next, the Draft Plan goes out to our community for consultation. Any additional challenges, risks and opportunities highlighted through the consultation period are considered and incorporated into the revised Draft Plan where possible, which is presented back to Council.

Council then endorses the final Plan at a Council Meeting ready for implementation in July.

# FUNDING THE PLAN

Rates continue to be a major source of Council's income so that the required redevelopments and services can be funded.

## Rating Information:

**Differential Rates:** Council uses capital value as assessed by the State Valuation Office as the basis of valuing land, which is considered the fairest method for distributing the rate burden across all ratepayers.



**Regional Landscape Levy (RLL):** Legislation requires Council to collect the RLL. Please direct all enquiries to the Limestone Coast Landscape Board on (08) 8735 1204.



**Payment of Rates:** Rates are due and payable in four instalments:

- 6 September 2024
- 6 December 2024
- 7 March 2025
- 6 June 2025

If an instalment of rates is not paid on or before the last day of payment, fines and interest are payable on the arrears.




## Service Charges:

**Community Wastewater Management Schemes:** Council charges for the removal, treatment and appropriate disposal of domestic wastewater in a number of towns across the district.



**Mobile Garbage Bin Collection:** A two bin kerbside rubbish and recycling collection service is provided by Council in defined collection areas.



**Waste Transfer Vouchers (WTV):** Each property in the district is eligible for one cashless WTV at the start of each financial year. The voucher entitles six visits to a Waste Transfer Station.

Obtain a WTV by contacting Council via phone, email or in person. Further details about the system are listed on Council's website.




Want a copy of the complete 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget? Visit:

- www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au
- Principal Office at 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier