COUNCIL SNIPPETS
Please refer to the Council Minutes & Agenda Reports available on the Council website mtr.sa.gov.au for full details.

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY 16 MAY 2017 COUNCILLORS RESOLVED:

Port Germein Progress Association
The proposed water park public consultation period concluded on 27 April 2017. Council received 97 written comments, Councillors considered submissions received and general reports and resolved that the Council does not support gifting/leasing/sale of the Council land for the water park and;
does not support the taking out of a loan through the Local Government Finance Authority for the amount of $361,000 over 15 years on behalf of the Port Germein Progress Association for the establishment of the Water Park.

Wirrabara Community Grants Scheme
The guidelines and application form for the Wirrabara Community Grant Scheme was presented to Councillors. The grant utilises the annual lease payment from NBN Co and will be used to support local community proposals and projects. The first round of the Wirrabara Community Grant Scheme is open and closes on 12 July 2017. Further information on page 3.

Property Settlement
Council has purchased the property at 9 Giles Street Melrose which projected into the Council depot this will allow realignment of the area.

Unauthorised Signage
It has been noticed that private land owners are installing ‘No Through Road’ & ‘Private Property’ signage on public roads. Councillors undertook to name all gazetted rural roads in the district and landowners are not permitted to install their own private signs. Landowners with a public road passing through their properties are able to approach Council to discuss options to rent a road (exclusive) or request to close a road (purchase), conditions do apply. Council requests that landowners who have installed their own private signage to please remove them and seek further advise from Council. If you wish to discuss the options available please contact the Council Office on 8666 2014.

From the Mayor……
There is always something interesting going on in Council and the district at large. I was invited to meet with Chinese investors interested in the possible expansion of Camel farm which may have some positive spin offs for our council district. I also attended the four waterways catchment seminar at Melrose. The Councillors received a presentation from Steve Barnett, Principal Hydrogeologist, from DEWNR at its May meeting regarding the Willochra Water Catchment Basin and opportunities for this area. The presentation was very informative and opens up some positive opportunities for future development in the district. I believe we need to be proactive to attracting new business and helping our communities to grow.

Myself and five Councillors toured some of our local businesses late in May going to Port Germein, Baroota, and concluded at Wilmington. This tour was very beneficial to the Councillors. We intend to visit other local businesses in other district periodically.

This time of the year is always an interesting one as Councillors consider the Annual Business Plan and Annual Budget and sets the Fees and Charges for the next financial year. At the next Ordinary Meeting to be held on 13 June Councillors will consider budget submissions received during the public consultation process and I thank those ratepayers who took an interest in the process.

As the Mayor I receive many invites to attend a variety of events. I am trying to attend as many as possible as they are great for networking and gaining information that can be implemented or suggested for our district. I will be attending the Reception in Honour of the Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen at Government House next week.

District Council of Mount Remarkable hosted the Legatus (Central Local Government Region) meeting at the Melrose Showgrounds on 19 May 2017. It was a good opportunity for us to showcase our area, provide other Mayors and CEO’s with a small taste of our local tourism, food and wine and network. I thank the Melrose Hospital Auxiliary for catering and Blessing Wines and Taralee Orchards for the wine tastings and dried fruits.

Colin Nottle
Mayor
Illegal Dumping

From 1 February 2017, Council has a new regulatory role in littering in South Australia and commencing 1 July 2017, will have a new role in regulating local nuisances. Council has received several reports of Illegal dumping occurring on Council land, in creeks and road sides. Illegal dumping activities can have significant negative impacts on communities. Not only is it unsightly, it can put public health and safety at risk and the cost to council of cleaning up illegal dumping is considerable.

Anyone who suspects or witnesses illegal dumping is encouraged to contact Council. Illegal dumping is an offence significant penalties can apply if anyone is found to be dumping illegally. Council can be contacted on 8666 2014 or email postmaster@mtr.sa.gov.au.

Council has two transfer stations and a landfill for the dumping of unwanted household items and rubbish. E-waste and green waste can be delivered free to any of these facilities.

Waste management services, opening days and times for the transfer stations and landfill are available at www.mtr.sa.gov.au.

Council in conjunction volunteers and the local communities has worked hard to develop the beautiful parks and recreation spaces we offer. Please help to maintain them. We are all responsible for the waste we generate, let’s keep our Council district waste free and looking good.
Concession changes for Community Wastewater Management Scheme

From 1 July 2017 the way eligible concession holders receive their Community Wastewater Management Schemes (CWMS) concession will change.

The Department of Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) have completed a review of how the sewage concessions are provided to eligible residents and advised Council that commencing in the 2017-18 year an alternate method of delivering these concessions is being introduced.

Previously DCSI assessed applications and advised Council which ratepayers were eligible to receive the concession as a credit on their annual rates notice. In light of policy change DCSI may not disclose customer information to third party organisations, such as Council and therefore from 1 July 2017 DCSI are introducing a simpler more streamlined system and the CWMS concession will be paid directly to the customer.

This concession in addition to the Cost of Living Concession (COLC) payment will be paid to eligible customers registered with DCSI and will be paid directly into their bank account via EFT in late September. DCSI wrote to all affected households informing them of the changes and explaining how water concessions and sewerage concessions for CWMS households will be administered from 1 July 2017.

This change will affect the appearance of the 2017-2018 rates notice as the CWMS concession will no longer appear on your annual rates and the full CWMS amount will be payable. As a result the amount payable will appear to be higher than in previous years because the concession amount will be paid direct to eligible households rather than direct to Council.

For questions regarding the CLC and the CWMS concession or to check eligibility please contact the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion Concessions Hotline directly on 1800 307 758 or go to www.mtr.sa.gov.au for further information.

Council encourages eligible households to use the payment they receive from the State Government to assist in the payment of their Council rates.

Developement and Planning

Council is responsible for the local implementation of the State’s Planning Strategy in line with the legislation contained in the Development Act 1993. Development plans guide the type of development that can occur in different zones within a council’s boundaries. The Planning and Development Officer uses policies contained within Councils development plan to assess development applications. Depending on the type of development being proposed, the assessment process can vary. Council also assess building applications against the Building Rules including the Building Code of Australia and any relevant Minister’s specifications.

It has become apparent there are a number of shipping containers appearing either as storage containers or for use as an additional building.

In accordance with the Act:
- Shipping containers do require Development Approval
- Shipping containers are considered to be a building under the Development Act
- The location of a shipping container must also be appropriate for the zone as it can affect the amenity of the location
- Shipping containers can be used for storage, but this use has to be in conjunction with residential dwellings.
- Shipping Containers can only be used for overnight accommodation if they are able to be approved as a habitable dwelling and meet all the requirements of the Building Code.
- Council can issue retrospective approval for shipping containers already in place but may require that some containers be removed from site or converted to meet specific legislative requirements.

Application forms and Council’s Better Development Plan are available at the Council Office or on mtr.sa.gov.au.

Councils Planning and Development Officer is available on Tuesday or Wednesday to answer your building questions. Contact us on 8666 2014.

Operations Manager

Council is advertising for an Operations Manager to oversee and manage the Township Maintenance and Projects team of the Council on a full time basis. The position would suit a self-motivated individual with strong leadership skills and a commitment and desire to contribute and participate to the local community.

A copy of the position description and how to apply is available on Council’s website www.mtr.sa.gov.au.

For further enquiries please contact Jessie White at the Council Office on 8666 2014.

Applications close 5.00pm Monday 26 June 2017
Council has received an increased number of reports of dogs Wandering at large. As a dog owner it is an offence for your dog to wander at large, which in practice, means any dog in a place without permission, including on the road and footpath without physical restraint. It is important that you have a secure yard to prevent your dog from escaping and that it’s registration disc is attached to its collar so that we can identify your dog and reunite it with you as soon as possible.

Dogs that wander on the streets or in public areas without an owner present cause a nuisance, are often distressed and may attack or harass people or other animals. In some cases they cause road accidents resulting in injury to the dog and on occasion to vehicle occupants and may cause property damage – all of which becomes the responsibility of the owner of the dog. There are many reasons why a dog wanders including behavioural traits for example looking for a mate or simply poor fencing at home or a gate left open by a visitor.

Council has been made aware of several dogs that are wandering the streets of townships which may pose a risk to neighbours, residents and livestock. Several reports of livestock being killed or mauled have been reported recently. Dog owners are encouraged to view the Council Dog and Cat Management Policy available on its website www.mtr.sa.gov.au and be a responsible dog owner. Residents who find a dog wandering at large or have concerns in regards to a dog/s should contact Council on 8666 2014 and report the matter to the Authorised Dog Catcher.

From August 2017 new laws affecting all dog or cat owner, breeder or seller in South Australia commence. These changes, which include new requirements for microchipping, desexing and breeder registration, are being phased in over the next 18 months, with new standards and guidelines for breeders and sellers taking effect. From 1 July 2018, it will be compulsory for:

- All dogs and cats over a certain age to be microchipped.
- All new generations of dogs and cats (born after 1 July 2018) to be desexed. (Exemptions apply for working dogs, registered breeders etc).

Further information is available from http://www.dogandcatboard.com.au. Dog Registrations are due by 31 August and all dogs three months or older are required to be registered under the Act. Council offers a 50% rebate on a Standard Dog Registration - a dog that has been both Microchipped and Desexed. There is no proposed increase to Dog Registration Fees in 2017/2018.