

District Council of **Mount Remarkable**





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to 2024 and already we are through January. I trust you all had a very joyous Christmas and time out noting harvest finished early. 2023 was a big year for us all, and marks year one of the four year term of office for the current Council. As a team, we are pleased with the results we have reached thus far, and we have much more planned. There are numerous focus areas for Council with many of them simultaneous and will highlight these progressively through our website, Council agendas and Facebook.

Financial Sustainability: As we all face increasing costs across many facets of our daily personal and business lives so does Council. Council is continuing its journey to achieve financial sustainability and is currently working on its draft 2024-2025 budget through a series of workshops leading up to the community consultation commencing early February. Council is increasingly better informed through its asset management planning and asset revaluation process which is nearing completion. While this has highlighted some challenges, it means we are better prepared to manage Council's financial sustainability into the future. This will take time, and Council is committed to ensuring that the community is informed every step of the way.

Strategic and Economic Development Plans: Developing and refining these key plans means that Council is able to fund and undertake important community initiatives in a timely manner. For example, major maintenance of the Booleroo pool, renewal of the Port Germein playground, replacement of several floodways, \$500,000 reseal works to the sealed road network in the District and the largest bridge renewal investment program in Council's history. Infrastructure renewal now features as a large part of what we do every day. This has been a very large body of mostly new work and systems for our teams and I acknowledge their expertise and commitment.

With the supplementary election process now concluded, having received two nominations for two vacancies, I congratulate and welcome Roger Schultz as the new Willochra Ward Councillor, and Jane Evans as the new Telowie Ward Councillor, I believe both will make great contributions to our team, and support the great work that is underway.

The Elected Members and Administration look forward to engagement with the community when explaining the 2024-2025 budget process at the planned public briefing sessions with Progress Groups and community scheduled to commence in February.

Community Engagement: Following feedback received via the 2023 community engagement survey Council is introducing a new initiative to enhance the visibility of Council Members in the district via Community Listening Posts. More information about the dates and times of these activities are outlined in an article in this edition of the newsletter.

I thank our team for their remarkable efforts and commitment throughout 2023, and I look forward to continuing our great work throughout 2024.

Mayor Stephen McCarthy



COUNCIL NEWS

2024 Ordinary Council meeting dates Community Question Time 5.30pm - 6.00pm Ordinary Meeting of Council 6.00pm

In 2024, the Council shall meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers, 3 Stuart Street, Melrose, or as otherwise advised.

- » 16 Jan Melrose Council Chambers
- » 20 Feb Melrose Council Chambers
- » 19 March Wirrabara Institute
- » 16 April Melrose Council Chambers
- » 21 May Melrose Council Chambers
- » 18 June Wilmington Bowling Club
- » 16 July Melrose Council Chambers
- » 20 Aug Melrose Council Chambers
- » 17 Sept Booleroo Centre Bowling Club
- » 15 Oct Melrose Council Chambers
- » 19 Nov Melrose Council Chambers
- » 17 Dec Port Germein Community Hub

Audit & Risk Committee

Next meeting Friday 9 February 2024.

To access copies of current and past Council and Committee meeting agendas and minutes click here:

Council Agenda and Minutes | District Council of Mount Remarkable (mtr.sa.gov.au)

Committees | District Council of Mount Remarkable (mtr.sa.gov.au)

Media Releases

Media releases issued since the previous newsletter are available here: Latest News | District Council of Mount Remarkable (mtr.sa.gov.au)

Newsletters

Previous issues of newsletters are available here: Council | District Council of Mount Remarkable (mtr.sa.gov.au)

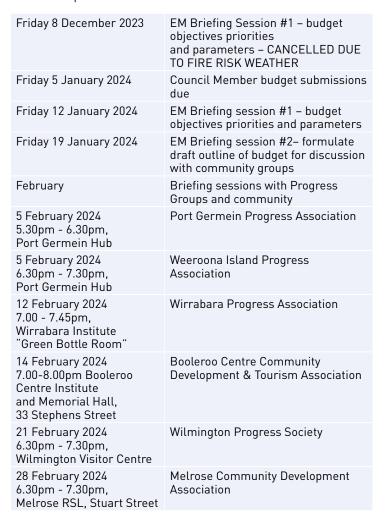


2024-2025 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET PROCESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BRIEFING SESSIONS

The 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan & Budget process has commenced albeit delayed due to the first of four Council Member briefing sessions which was scheduled for 8 December cancelled due to fire risk weather conditions. This session was rescheduled to 12 January where Council Members received a briefing and discussed budget objectives, priorities and parameters.

Early consultation briefing sessions are scheduled with progress groups to enable Council Members to discuss its draft outline of its 2024-2025 budget and provide information about Council's vision for the next 12 months and seek input from the community on its views about what it considers to be the priorities.

The ABP&B process timeline is outlined below:





March 2024	Rate Modelling commences		
Friday 5 April 2024	EM Briefing session #3 - Update of valuations, review of rate modelling results and service charges, and adoption of rebates		
April 2024	Finalisation of draft budget following community forums and briefing session #3		
Friday 10 May 2024	Audit & Risk Committee meeting receives draft budget, provides feedback and recommendation to Council.		
Tuesday 21 May (or Tuesday 28 May (special meeting)	Ordinary Council meeting – considers draft ABP&B for endorsement for public consultation		
May / June 2024	Public Consultation		
18 June 2024	Council Ordinary meeting – receive submissions (written and verbal), and make resolution to refer its budget to a Special meeting of Council for formal adoption		
July 2024	Updates to Final Budget Final Rate Modelling		
July 2024 (date tbc)	Special Meeting of Council – final adoption of business plan & budget and declaration of rates		

Council Member Briefing Sessions can be viewed in person or via Zoom and the community is encouraged to attend the ABP&B community briefing sessions being held in townships in February to learn more about the Council's proposed draft budget outline and vision for the next 12 months.

2024 SUPPLEMENTARY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

At the close of nominations on 25 January, the SA Electoral Commission announced the names of the nominated candidates for the 2024 Supplementary Council Election. As the number of candidates nominated to contest the election did not exceed the number of persons required to be elected in both the Telowie and Willochra Wards.

Nominees have been declared as elected unopposed as follows:

- » Telowie Ward (1 required)
 - No election required Jane EVANS
- » Willochra Ward (1 required)
 - No election required Roger SCHULTZ

The newly elected council members will be officially sworn in at Council's 20 February Ordinary meeting.





ASSET PLANNING & REPORTING UPDATE

Throughout 2024 Council will be strengthening asset management practices to meet required levels of service in the most cost-effective manner for our community now and in the future.

Revaluations of assets are nearing completion, these include:

- » Bridges;
- » Buildings;
- » Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS); and
- » Roads & Footpaths.

This data will be will be adopted by mid 2024 and used in the next iteration of Council's Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan and the 2024/25 asset renewal program in conjunction with Council's annual update of its Long Term Financial Plan.

The data is used to more accurately calculate depreciation in Council's Statement of Comprehensive Income (Operating Statement) as well as the fair value in the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet). The financial statements report on the current consumption and values of assets.

Depreciation is one of the largest numbers in the Operating Statement, Fair Value of Property, Plant & Equipment is the largest value in the Balance Sheet and asset renewal expenditure is usually the most material cash outflows contained in the Long-Term Financial Plan. There is an obvious connection between these items and long-term financial sustainability.

Development of remaining Asset Management Plans to cover all asset classes will also occur during 2024. These include:

- » Airport
- » Buildings and structures;
- » Plant & Fleet; and
- » Information Technology (IT).

With this greater understanding of the community assets, we can ensure delivery of services is provided in a financially sustainable and responsive manner which also complies with regulatory requirements.

Importantly, Council's long-term sustainability requires us to ensure transparent and sound decision making consistent with our strategic plans and advice.

Council has a total of over \$100M in combined assets. Currently, there are significant backlogs of infrastructure asset renewal across a number of asset classes. This burden of costs is to be met by current and future ratepayers.

Over the next couple of years, we intend to comprehensively record the range and levels of operating and asset services, values and costs. This then provides Council with solid decision-making data to analyse the impact of various scenarios on Council's long term financial position where services are increased or decreased should the need arise at a future time.

Council is committed to operate and maintain its asset portfolio efficiently to meet strategic and legislative requirements whilst delivering the required levels of service for the community.

Council's current adopted strategic documents can be viewed at: https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/documents

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM

At its November 2023 meeting, Council considered the recommendation of its appointed assessment panel and awarded the following grants:

TOTAL	\$27,600.00
Booleroo Centre Community Development Association – Sheep Races	\$1,636.43
Wilmington Oval Committee – Solar Panels	\$5,000.00
Port Germein Bowling Club Inc - Shade Structure	\$4,826.76
Wilmington Tennis Club – Clubhouse Repairs	\$3,700.00
Wilmington Bowling Club - Paint	\$4,000.00
Wilmington Progress Assoc. (Gym Committee) - Tank	\$3,436.81
Wirrabara Progress Association – Public Seating	\$5,000.00



A copy of the agenda report of the November 2023 meeting is available here:

https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0043/1499659/Notice-of-meeting-and-agenda-Ordinary-Meeting-of-Council-21-November-2023. pdf (go to page 226).





COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Financial sustainability is a key focus for councils. Defining financial sustainability across all levels of government is cited at the commonwealth level to be "...a government's ability to manage its finances so it can meet its spending commitments, both now and in the future. It ensures future generations of taxpayers do not face an unmanageable bill for government services provided to the current generation."

All councils aim to achieve financial sustainability by ensuring that they are in a financial position to fund the cost of current operations and the replacement of assets when required. To achieve this, councils must strive for a balance between the service level needs of the community, and the revenue required to meet this level of expenditure in the short and long term.

Key Financial Indicators are used as a measure of financial sustainability and these are reported legislatively required key strategic documents of councils.

The operating surplus ratio is used to determine whether a council can cover its operating expenditure and depreciation charge from its operating revenue. A positive ratio indicates that operating income is available to help fund operating expenditure and renewal of assets. A negative ratio indicates that an increase in operating income or a decrease in operating expenses (or a combination of both) is required to achieve a break-even operating result. Ideally, councils should target breakeven or a small surplus position, noting that the peak body representing the local government sector (Local Government Association of South Australia) recommends a target range of 0-10% for this financial indicator.

Council's current 2023-2032 Long Term Financial Plan aims to achieve a positive operating surplus ratio from 2027-2028 onwards (year four of the 10 year plan).

Council is currently developing its draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan & Budget and its current 2023-2024 Long Term Financial Plan is used to guide Council in its considerations during the budget development process. Doing so aligns with the recommendation of Council's Audit & Risk Committee that Council continue to strive to achieve financial sustainability.

Council's suite of strategic documents are available on Council's website.

https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/documents



COMMUNITY LISTENING POST

In 2023 Council's annual community engagement survey was undertaken and an action plan was developed to address the ideas and concerns that were highlighted through the feedback received. Included in the action plan is a commitment to increase the visibility of elected members in the community. Community Listening Posts will occur in each of the townships each month. Over the coming months Mayor Stephen McCarthy will be pleased to speak with community members in a casual setting to hear about ideas and concerns.

Listening Posts will be open to everyone to drop-in, without the need to register or book a time.

Locations and times of the sessions are currently being established for the remainder of the year. The schedule of dates will be confirmed and promoted via Council's website, Facebook page and by direct email to progress groups to ensure that the information can be shared to as many members of the community as possible.



GRADING REPORT

Monthly Patrol Grading Reports can be found at:

Infrastructure | District Council of Mount Remarkable (mtr.sa.gov.au)

MONTH		DISTANCE
October 2023		137.7km
November 2023		40km
December 2023		22km
	TOTAL	199.7km



3RD QUARTER RATES

Council rates are one of the main sources of funding for Local Government, they are essential in enabling Councils to deliver the services and facilities that our community relies on along with Federal grant funding.

The third quarter rate notices will be issued on 22 January 2023 and are payable by 18 March 2024.

If you'd like to know more about Council rates and how they are set, you'll find more information on Council's website here:

https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/services/rates

BPAY REMINDER



When paying bills using the BPAY function, it is important to review the Biller codes and reference number to ensure that the payment is allocated to the correct invoice. This is especially important when dealing with multiple invoices or billers.

To do this, you should carefully check each new invoice you receive to confirm the Biller code and reference number.

By taking the time to review these details, you can avoid any potential confusion or errors that may occur during the payment process. This will also help to ensure that your payments are allocated correctly.

COUNCIL'S ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRESS GROUPS

For many years Council has supported Progress Groups in recognition of the significant contribution they make to the townships of Mount Remarkable.

The December 2023 Ordinary meeting of Council received a report on the annual contributions and resolved to provide a payment of \$1,000 (GST is not applicable) each calendar year. As an appropriate governance measure, the annual payment will be made upon submission to Council of an invoice from progress groups.

The Council agenda report and minutes are available here:

AGENDA (go to page 41 to view report)

PUB-Notice-of-meeting-and-agenda-Ordinary-Meeting-of-Council-12-December-2023.pdf (mtr.sa.gov.au)

MINUTES

https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0025/1519171/ Minutes-Ordinary-Meeting-of-Council-12-December-2023.pdf

REVIEW OF LEASES AND LICENCES

Council's adopted Community Plan 2021-2031 includes a strategy to enact strong governance. With this commitment, an internal review of the many licences and lease agreements currently in place with community organisations for associated Council owned properties has been undertaken. The review has identified that a standardised uniform agreement is recommended to ensure that all legal requirements are met by both parties.

It is anticipated that in the coming months, communications will be made with relevant parties to provide more information and to outline necessary changes. For further information, contact Council's Corporate Services Officer on 86662014.







YOUTH & YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

A Youth and Young People Strategy is in the drafting stages. The purpose of the strategy is to provide a strategic roadmap focussed on supporting the wellbeing of children (8-11 years) and youth (12- 25 years) within the District.

Creating a secure, inclusive and sustainable environment for children and young people, involving them in decision-making and providing connections to local community groups/service providers will be key goals within the strategy.

Input will be invited soon from parents/caregivers and young people by way of a survey that will be promoted via Council's website, Facebook page.

Feedback received will inform the drafting of the strategy and the community will be invited to provide further input during the public consultation on the draft strategy.



MORE FUN COMING TO PORT GERMEIN

Thank you to the residents who provided feedback on the design options for the new Port Germein Foreshore Playground.

The collective feedback received concluded that the overwhelming preference was for Design Option 1. It was noted that Design Option 2 was preferred by some respondents and featured some design attributes that could enhance Option 1.

Based on the community's feedback, modest amendments to Design Option 1 are being explored to maximise play space outcomes for the \$300,000 capital project. Construction is scheduled to commence in autumn and conclude in winter 2024.

For further information go to: https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/noticeboard/public-consultation





CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2024

Clean Up Australia Day will be held on Sunday 3 March 2024. Council encourages all residents to participate and help keep our community clean and beautiful.

Council will again this year provide in kind support to the progress groups participating in the activity through provision of bins and waste collection. Council will promote via its Facebook page the local activities being coordinated by the progress groups.



FIRE PREVENTION

The State Government directed that the fire season be brought forward from 1 November 2023 to 15 October 2023. Weekly inspections were conducted between October and December at which time it was determined that the fuel levels in the Council area, were 100% cured (this is the process that the grass undergoes as it dries).

In November 2023, Council undertook fire inspections in each township to identify properties that needed to be cleaned up for the upcoming fire season. The property owners that were deemed to be non-compliant were sent letters.

It is crucial to keep your home and property prepared throughout the year to ensure your safety during bushfires. Ensure that you have a current plan in place, and all family members know where to find it in case of an emergency. Don't forget about your pets.

Please check the Country Fire Service website https://www.cfs.sa.gov. au/home/ for updates and information regarding the fire season.

COMPLIMENTARY WASTE DISPOSAL DAY 24 MARCH 2024

Council will be opening the Willowie Waste Transfer Station between 9am and 11.30am on Saturday 23rd March 2024 as a Complimentary Waste Disposal Service to district residents only.

This no-fee opportunity for residents also assists in improving the district's amenity.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this offer by disposing of their waste.

The below list are items will not be accepted:

- » Building products
- » Batteries
- » Automobile components
- » Pharmaceuticals
- » Rocks & Earth
- » Poisons

» Tyres

» Oils

» Oil Filters

- » Ammunition
- » Paint
- » Liquids

This limited complimentary service at Willowie Waste Transfer Station will be between 9.00am - 11.30am on Saturday 23rd March 2024 only.

For all other times of the year, the Willowie Waste Transfer Station is generally open to the public each Saturday fortnight 9am to 11.30am with fees payable.

The Willowie Waste Transfer Station is located on Pinda Road, Willowie and is closed on Catastrophic, Extreme and Severe Fire Ban Days and Public Holidays.

For further information, please refer to Council's 2024 waste calendar and fees and charges:

WASTE CALENDAR:

https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0033/1517586/Mt-Remarkable-Calendar-2024.pdf

FEES AND CHARGES (pages3-5):

https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0034/1455946/Fees-and-Charges-Schedule-2023_2024.pdf

For further information, community members are encouraged to contact Council on 0886 662014.



FATHER CHRISTMAS TOUR 2023

Mayor Stephen McCarthy accompanied Father Christmas on a tour of the District on Friday 15 December.

Progress Groups and the community were encouraged to greet Father Christmas on his tour as he spread Christmas cheer throughout the townships in the District.

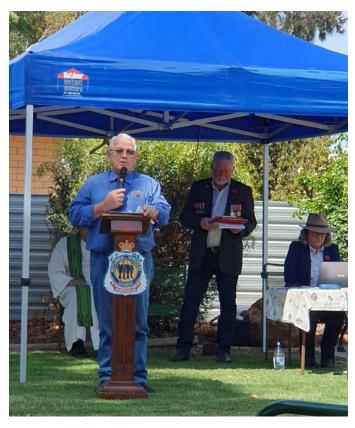
Thank you to everyone who participated in the event.





REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023





Mayor Stephen McCarthy at the Port Germein Service.

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NORTHERN PASSENGER TRANSPORT NETWORK **KEEPS MOTORING ON**

The past few months have proven to be a most exciting time for the Northern Passenger Transport Network (NPTN). With Kristen Blieschke now firmly behind the wheel of Care in Motions NPTN operations as Business Hub Leader in Melrose, the outlook is strong for the community.

During recent times Care in Motion has now totally replaced the entire NPTN vehicle fleet with the addition of six vehicles, one more than previously following on from the transition from council. All vehicles have now been appropriately wrapped making them easily identifiable for the community and in particular clients that use this wonderful community service.

Additionally, behind the scenes, Care in Motion has invested heavily in a new software system called TRIPS. This has dramatically improved the logistics and efficiency of the operation which clearly has flow on benefits to both our clients and volunteers. It also improves the reporting of critical data regarding the acquittals of both our State and Federal funding requirements.



Kristen Blieschke (NPTN Business Hub Leader) and David McDonald (CEO)

On another positive note, the NPTN has been selected to participate in the Commonwealth Funded "Pilot Programme" for the evaluation of a National Variable Pricing Matrix for Community Transport Services that are funded under the Commonwealth Home

Support Programme. Hopefully, all going well this may result in a new funding model from the 1st July 2025 which may assist with funding for those providers in rural, remote and country areas of Australia.

Flinders Mobile Library

www.onecard.network/flindersmobile

Town	February	March	April
WILMINGTON 12.45pm – 2.15pm MELROSE 3.00pm – 5.00pm	Tuesday 6, 20	Tuesday 5, 19	Tuesday 2, 16, 30
WIRRABARA 10.15am - 11.45am MURRAY TOWN 12.45pm - 1.45pm APPILA 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Thursday 8, 22	Thursday 7, 21	Thursday 4, 18
PORT GERMEIN 10.00am - 12.30pm	Thursday 1, 15, 29	Thursday 14, 28	Thursday 11
BOOLEROO CENTRE 12.30pm - 4.00pm	Friday 2, 16	Friday 1, 15	Friday 12, 26

RETURN BOXES are located at the Booleroo Centre IGA, Wilmington Post Office, Store Fifty Four Melrose, and the Wirrabara Lucky Seven.

For more information

- email: flindersmobile.library@gmail.com

Phone/Fax: 8662 2305

Does the Flinders Mobile Library have e-books? YES!

Library membership gives you access to 300,000+ e-books, eaudio books and e-magazines on your digital device/s for FRFF

All you need is to be a library member

Membership of the Library is free to all residents of South Australia. You can join either by coming into the Library with proof of ID and address, or you can join on-line via our website to access all of the Libraries SA network's e-resources without ever coming into the Library.

The 2 e-resources apps the Library uses are:





Libby

Borrow-

There is a wide variety of material available, both children's and adult's fiction, cook books and biographies to weekly magazines and scientific publications and everything in-between -ir both e-book and e-audio format

All for free and available wherever you are!

Links to download the apps are available from our website:

www.onecard.network/flindersmobile

Library staff are always willing to help in the setup of the apps so you can take full advantage of these resources.



Turn on. Log in. Get smart ... let the learning begin.

LinkedIn Learning is a premium online learning resource offering thousands of courses in business, technology, design, animation, photography, music, personal development, using the web & more!

These courses will build your skills and could even help you to develop or start your own business.

Access to LinkedIn Learning is FREE with your Flinders Mobile Library membership.

To get started, visit www.libraries.sa.gov.au/learning and log in with your "X0" or "D0" barcode number and PIN. Flinders Mobile Library staff are happy to help get you started.





AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Award ceremonies and celebrations were held on 26 January 2024 throughout the District. Congratulations to the winners of the following awards:

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Paul Wurst from Appila was presented with the 2024 Citizen of the Year award at the Australia Day celebrations held at Wirrabara.



Paul Wurst, 2024 Citizen of the Year with Mayor Stephen McCarthy

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Ali Whenan from Wilmington was awarded the 2024 Active Citizenship Award at the Australia Day celebrations held at Wilmington.



Ali Whenan, winner of the Active Citizenship Award with Willochra Ward Councillor the Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan

COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

BMW Junior Players Review was awarded the 2024 Community Event of the Year Award at the Australia Day celebrations held at Melrose.

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Representatives of BMW Junior Players Review, winner of the Community Event of the Year

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MOUNT REMARKABLE

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www.mtr.sa.gov.au

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TELOWIE WARD



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Cr Sheriden Tate M: 0422 330 639 E: state@mtr.sa.gov.au

WILLOCHRA WARD



Cr Danny Keller **M:** 0428 305 987 E: igkeller@mtr.sa.gov.au



Cr Colin Nottle M: 0427 672 180 E: cenottle@mtr.sa.gov.au



Cr the Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan **M:** 0428 735 005 E: dcvanholstpellekaan@mtr.sa.gov.au