

## Mayor's Message

Last week we celebrated National Volunteers Week. On behalf of the District Council of Grant, Deputy Mayor Megan Dukalskis was delighted to host approximately 50 volunteers at the Port MacDonnell Community Complex for our annual Volunteers Morning Tea.



It is always a pleasure to acknowledge the hard work of our volunteers and on behalf of Elected Members we take this opportunity to say thank you.

Our volunteers' sense of community and selfless service inspires not only myself but also others to create positive change within our district. They truly are the backbone of our community promoting teamwork and a feeling of belonging.

I encourage our community to find volunteering opportunities in something that is of interest to you. Lasting friendships, social activities and fun can be just some of the unexpected rewards that are gained from volunteering.

Last week we also recognised International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) by flying the Rainbow Flag. This was a great opportunity for us to celebrate diversity within our community and we look forward to supporting our LGBTQIA+ residents into the future.

Additionally, I would like to remind our community there are many projects current and upcoming, including consultation on the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget. The best way to keep up to date with Council projects is via <https://yoursaydgc.com.au/>. Elected Members and staff value community feedback to assist with forming Council decisions.

## Council Decisions

- **Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget 2023-2024:** At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 15 May 2023, the Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget for 2023-2024 was endorsed for community consultation. More details about the opportunity are detailed on pages 4 and 5.
- **Temporary Road Closure:** At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 15 May 2023, the temporary closure of a section of Finger Point Road, Port MacDonnell was endorsed. More details can be found on page 10.



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

## Our District



### Connect with us!

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[www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au](http://www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au) | [www.yoursaydgc.com.au](http://www.yoursaydgc.com.au)

# Out & About with Council

At the end of April 2023, Councillor Brad Mann attended the South Australian Volunteer Firefighters Memorial Service in Naracoorte.

**Pictured to right:** Councillor Brad Mann with a CFS representative at the Memorial Service.



Deputy Mayor Megan Dukalskis attended the Local Government Association Deputy Mayor's Forum in Adelaide. Approximately 40 representatives from Council's across the state came together to enhance their skills.

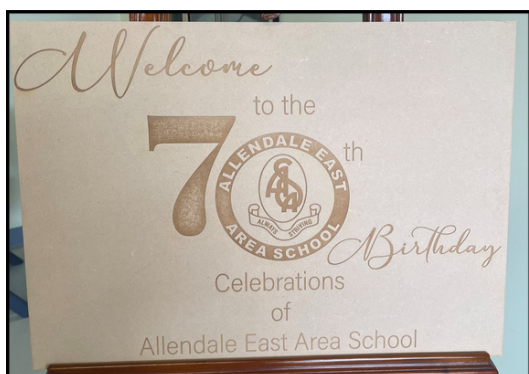
**Pictured to left:** Deputy Mayors who attended the forum.

The District Council of Grant annually gift \$500.00 towards Academic Scholarship Awards for Year 10 - 12 students who reside within the Council area.

Mayor Kylie Boston awarded Fionn Graney from Mount Gambier High School with an Academic Scholarship Award recently.

Announcements of scholarship winners from other high schools will follow in upcoming community newsletters.

**Pictured to right:** Mayor Kylie Boston with Mount Gambier High School scholarship winner Fionn Graney.



Deputy Mayor Megan Dukalskis and Councillor Rodney Virgo attended the 70th birthday celebrations for Allendale East Area School.

Deputy Mayor Megan Dukalskis also attended a Biggest Morning Tea at the Allendale East Public Hall run by students from the Allendale East Area School.

**Pictured to left:** Entrance signage at the Allendale East Area School's birthday event.

# National Volunteers Week

Between Monday 15 and Sunday 21 May 2023, the District Council of Grant celebrated National Volunteers Week.

The annual event is an opportunity to highlight the positive impact volunteers have on communities across the country. This years theme of the week was 'The Change Makers' representing those who are powerful and take action to make the world a better place.

On Wednesday 17 May 2023, Council hosted its annual Volunteers Morning Tea at the Port MacDonnell Community Complex in recognition of the week long celebration.

Again, Council extends its gratitude to the volunteers within the district for their ongoing support making our community a better place.



NATIONAL 15-21 MAY 2023  
**VOLUNTEER**  
THE CHANGE MAKERS WEEK

# Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget 2023-2024

## Have your say on what Council should priorities in the upcoming financial year

The District Council of Grant has developed a Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2023-2024, and invites the community to have your say to shape what is delivered and the associated budget for the upcoming financial year.

The Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget sets out Council's proposed services, programs and projects for 2023-2024. It also aims to maintain effective services for the community and achieve the long term objectives for the District Council of Grant as set out in the Strategic Management Plan 2020-2030.

The document has been prepared on the basis of maintaining an appropriate level of services to the community, without imposing an unrealistic rate burden on ratepayers. The provision of services by Council is a reflection of meeting both Council's obligations under legislation and the community's desire for services and facilities.



Council has budgeted for approx. \$18.4 million in operating income and \$18.6 million in operating expenditure with a net operating deficit of \$203,000 forecast for 2023-2024.

This is in part due to an increase in electricity, fuel, waste disposal costs, and insurance at levels well above inflation. The draft budget has been conservatively framed so any savings in these areas will only decrease the forecast deficit.

At this early stage in the budget setting process there remains some uncertainty surrounding the timing and amount of the forward payment of Federal Government Grants and the impact on Council's forecast deficit, which is not within Council's control.

Council is proposing a reduction to the primary production rate in the dollar of approximately 17%, which remains 90% of the residential rate. Based on valuation movements, the average increase in primary production rates will be approximately \$270 - \$280. Residential and other rate categories are likely to increase by approximately \$50.

Changes to other services charges include:

- Mobile Garbage Bin Service \$285 (+\$15.00)
- Community Waste Management System
  - Vacant Land \$590 (+\$25.00)
  - Occupied \$695 (+\$30.00)

Another item that people often ask Council about is how much will the Regional Landscape Levy (formerly the NRM Levy) be next year? For the 2023-2024 financial year, Council is required to collect on behalf of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, an amount of \$685,647 (a 9.40% increase on 2022-2023).

Funding for sponsorship, donations and community support will continue, with a proposed increase in funding to approx. \$213,000 (+ 22,000) available for various community groups and to support events in 2023-2024.

During 2023-2024, the Essential Services Council of South Australia (ESCOSA) will conduct a review of Council's financial sustainability, standard and breadth of services to ensure efficient delivery of these services. The cost of this review is \$40,000 and has been included in the operating costs, contributing to the proposed operating deficit of \$203,000.

A major ongoing expense that Council is committed to each year is the maintenance of the road network. There are approx. 1,500km's of sealed and unsealed roads which require regular maintenance. A budget allocation of \$2.6M (excluding depreciation of \$2.7M) is required to maintain service standards. Total capital works of \$6.3M are planned for 2023-2024.

The Mount Gambier Regional Airport and Mount Gambier and District Saleyards are important commercial activities that Council continues to maintain and operate on behalf of our ratepayers and the region. Rising costs, passenger numbers and stock volumes are providing challenges for Council to maintain these important facilities in a sustainable manner.



## **HAVE YOUR SAY**

### **Consultation Opens**

Friday, 19 May 2023

### **Consultation Closes**

5:00pm Friday, 9 June 2023

### **Public Meeting**

4:00pm - 5:00pm on Monday, 19 June 2023

Council Chambers (324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier)

**A copy of the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget, and feedback forms are available online via Your Say DCG: [yoursaydcg.com.au/](https://yoursaydcg.com.au/)**

Hard copies of the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget are available to view at Council's Principal Office and Port MacDonnell Community Complex.

# Inner Townships Master Plan Community Drop-In Sessions

In early May, Council welcomed back the consultant team from MasterPlan and Outerspace Landscape Architects to engage with our community further following the reveal of the Draft Inner Townships Master Plan.

During their visit, another successful community engagement opportunity was well attended at Casadio Park on Wednesday 3 May 2023 where residents dropped in to view the draft Master Plan and provided valuable feedback.

Images from the drop-in sessions are pictured to the right.



The consultant team also initiated local business stakeholder engagement signifying the commencement of a Strategic Land Use Priorities Review. This project is focused on reviewing the supply and demand of land to accommodate future growth in the Council area.

Further details and community engagement opportunities for this project are anticipated to follow later in the year.

Images from the stakeholder engagement are pictured to the left.

Find out more about the project by scanning the QR code or visit the Your Say DCG page at <https://yoursaydgc.com.au/>. Alternatively, contact Council's Principal Office on 08 8721 0444 or [info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au](mailto:info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au).



# Council Delivers Access and Inclusion Actions

Recommendations from the Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel (AIAP) have been actioned by the District Council of Grant making Donovans Landing more accessible for users.

The District Council of Grant recently completed concreting works at the Donovans Landing to safely connect newly installed accessible picnic tables, existing carpark and Donovans River Wharf. The area was identified for further improvement after the AIAP's district wide bus tour in August 2022 where the Panel made recommendations to Council to increase accessibility.

WDEA Works Director of Employment and Sustainability and, Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel member Brett Orr said improvements like this are crucial to create inclusiveness.

"The work that Council is doing currently to close the gap and break down the barriers for those who may live with disability or experience vulnerability within their life is commendable. I feel privileged to be part of this advisory group to help shape and embed inclusive spaces for all within the community," Mr Orr said.

"Being part of the advisory group is a responsibility to ensure that Council scope, consult, develop, and launch a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan that is meaningful to the community to which it represents."

In 2021, Donovans Landing also underwent additional upgrades with the completion of a new accessible toilet facility. This project was one of many that were and will be completed to meet actions within Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) for 2020-2024.

District Council of Grant's Team Leader – Development Services John Best said Council is committed to continuing to help improve the quality of life for people living with a disability.

"Projects that we are doing, like the replacement of picnic tables with accessible tables, help meet some of the actions within Council's existing Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and with the creation of paths linking various elements on a property this helps make a complete accessible area," Mr Best said.

"The Donovans Landing precinct is now the most accessible it has ever been in and is open for visitors of all abilities to enjoy."

The AIAP's next meeting is scheduled to be held in June 2023.

**Pictured:** Team Leader – Development Services John Best (left) and WDEA Works Director of Employment and Sustainability and, Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel member Brett Orr (right) utilising the new accessible area at Donovans Landing.



# External Grants

## How do I write a grant?

### 1. Determine why you require funding assistance

Prior to applying for any grant, understand what you require grant funding for. Do you need new equipment? Do you need a your club rooms painted? Do you need security system upgrades? By determining your project, the application process will become much easier and increase your chances of funding success.

### 2. Check your eligibility and project criteria

Ensure your project and community group meet the requirements to be supported in the funding round by researching the grant funding guidelines. If you are unsure if you qualify or not, contact the grant organiser to clarify.

### 3. Get support and prepare

Your project will need support and letters of support are often required to form part of your grant application. Connect with your community and show how your project will benefit others. Once you have support, begin to gather documentation required for your application. This often means gaining quotes, completing application paperwork, creating project plans, etc.

### 4. Revise and submit

A grant application should be clear and concise without spelling errors and long winded sentences. It may be beneficial to get a trusted source to review your application prior to submitting. Don't leave submitting your application to the last minute. It is recommended to submit your application ahead of the specified deadline to eliminate any unexpected errors that may occur.

Additional grant writing tips are also available via The Grants Hub -

<https://www.thegrantshub.com.au/blog/articles/top-10-tips-for-successful-grant-writing>

## What is available?

### Heritage Conservation Grant

- Available to owners of State Heritage listed places and places situated within a State Heritage Area
- Provides up to \$20,000 for conservation work or documentation
- In most cases, is provided on a dollar-for-dollar basis

CLOSE: 2:00pm Thursday 10 August 2023

More information: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/heritage-grants>

### Priority Community Infrastructure Program

- Aims to build resilient communities through the provision of social and community facilities, and improve community amenity, accessibility and liveability through investment in community infrastructure
- A total funding pool of \$1 billion is available over five years
- There is no minimum grant amount

CLOSE: 5:00pm Thursday 31 August 2023

More information: <https://rdalc.grantguru.com.au/grant/priority-community-infrastructure-program/>



Red Cross volunteers are available to collect residents from their homes to assist with attending medical appointments and social outings. Through transport they support community members to maintain their lifestyle and meaningful activities. Trips are made from Monday to Friday with a small fee starting from \$6.00.

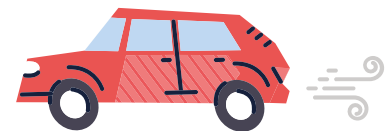
Red Cross volunteers also make calls 365 days a year to keep the community connected. Whether it's once a day or once a week they will be a friendly voice on the end of the phone. Telecross is available for daily wellbeing calls or TeleChat for weekly or fortnightly calls for a longer conversation.

\*These services are available to people registered with the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

**For more information about these services and how to get involved contact:**

- Australian Red Cross - (08) 8100 4500
- My Aged Care - 1800 200 422

*Supported by the Australian Government Department of Health*



# Upcoming Events



**Monday, 19 June 2023**

- Monthly Council Meeting
- 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier at 5.30pm



**Childrens Story Time**

- Weekly
- 10:30am Tuesday's
- Port MacDonnell Community Complex

Visit Council's website and view the community events calendar to find more events.

FOUR REASONS WHY PRESENTS

# 24KM

## OUR WALK TO REMEMBER

THE  
VICTIMS  
SURVIVORS  
LIVES LOST  
THOSE LEFT BEHIND

LET'S SPEAK UP  
SPEAK OUT  
AGAINST  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 3RD 2023**  
**START 08.00 AM**

**KATHERINE & ALYCE**  
**WALKING FROM BADENOCHS DELI**  
**TO PT MACDONNELL**

**RAISING MONEY TO HELP VICTIMS**

TO DONATE BSB 805 005 ACC 5262837  
ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
FOR A RECEIPT EMAIL [TRUDI@FOURREASONSWHY.ORG.AU](mailto:TRUDI@FOURREASONSWHY.ORG.AU)



**The Haven**  
Mount Gambier

**Women's Information Service**  
☎ 0439 169 925



**OUR WALK TO REMEMBER VIP SEATS**  
**REGISTER YOUR SPOT NOW 0432332762**

Our wonderful partners from The Haven Mt Gambier and FRW have 22 free VIP tickets to give away to attend Our Walk To Remember Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

VIP tickets include a bus ride to Pt Mac and the return trip. You also will be provided lunch and drinks on us!

You will get to show your support for Katherine and Alyce, cheer them on, congratulate them at the finish line in our exclusive Marquee with Mayor Kylie Boston and then celebrate afterwards with a free lunch.

More details to follow. At this stage seeking expressions of interest for 2 time slots 10 am – 230pm and 11am – 3pm (return times may be earlier)

Those affected by domestic abuse either personally or family members/friends of are encouraged to apply.

Names and bookings will remain private and confidential from social media

Email [trudi@fourreasonswhy.org.au](mailto:trudi@fourreasonswhy.org.au)

Phone Trudi on 0432332762

Inbox us at Four Reasons Why Facebook Page

[\(2\) Four Reasons Why | Mount Gambier SA | Facebook](#)

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Road Closure & Waste Transfer Station Opening Alteration

Closure between: **Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 June 2023**

Please note that a portion of Surfers Way and Finger Point Road, Port MacDonnell will be CLOSED between **7:00am and 7:00pm** on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 June 2023.

The Port MacDonnell Waste Transfer Station will also be closed on both of these days. The facility will be OPEN between **10:00am and 2:00pm on Friday 9 June 2023** for use instead.

The temporary road closure and altered Waste Transfer Station opening hours will allow for the Bayside Drift Matsuri event to take place safely.