

Latrobe Council Audit Panel

Annual Report to Council

For the year ended 30 June 2017

Audit Panel Objectives

The objective of the Audit Panel is to provide an accountability mechanism in relation to Council's financial, compliance, risk management and internal control activities. The panel reviews the council's performance under section 85A of the Local Government Act and reports to the council its conclusions and recommendations.

Meeting Attendance – Audit Panel Members

Meeting Date	Mr Ben Coull (Chairman)	Cr Lesley Young	Cr Dayna Dennison	Cr Rick Rockliff	Cr Mike McLaren (Proxy)
23 August 2016	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
22 November 2016	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
21 February 2017	✓	✓	n/a	✓	n/a
23 May 2017	✓	✓	n/a	✓	n/a

Summary of the Audit Panel meetings held during 2016/17

Meeting Date	Main Agenda Items / Outcomes
23 August 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Received briefing on the financial and service impacts of the June 2016 floods.➤ Reviewed certified Annual Financial Report for 2015-16.➤ Adopted Annual Work Program for 2016/17.➤ Supported in-principle the development of a pecuniary interest policy/ form.➤ Noted Tasmanian Audit Office Reports on Capital Works and Fleet Management.
22 November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Reviewed Final Audit Recommendations for 2016.➤ Endorsed the Audit Panel Annual Report for 2015-16.➤ Conducted self-assessment review of Audit Panel Performance for 2015-16.➤ Received a presentation from Council's Risk Management Officer regarding Councils' WHS and Risk Priority Plan 2016-2017 and Council's Business Continuity Plan.

21 February 2017

- Noted correspondence relating to Tasmanian Audit Office probity examination of the use of credit cards.
- Resolved to recommend that Council seek nominations for Councillor panel members to be appointed until end October, 2018 and noted that Independent Panel Chairman Mr. Ben Coull is prepared to nominate for a term of four year.
- Received a briefing from the General Manager on the Embedding Shared Resources Project.
- Received a briefing from the Corporate Services Managers of the Councils regarding a common procurement policy for the two councils .
- Reviewed the Audit Panel Charter and agreed that for continuity it would be beneficial to have terms staged for Panel members. The Panel further agreed that the Chairman's appointment should be for four years with maximum consecutive service of two terms. For succession planning purposes it was considered expiry of the Chairman's term should not coincide with the appointment of new Councillor Panel members. Agreed that the Charter should also allow for flexibility for re-appointment should no other nominations be received. Current panel members indicated their willingness to continue their terms until the next election in October, 2018 to align with Councillor terms.
- Recommended that Tasmanian Audit Office be requested to make a joint presentation to Latrobe and Kentish Councils on Related Party Disclosures complying with AASB 124.

23 May 2017

- Received 2016/17 Audit Strategy presentation from Tasmanian Audit Office.
- Reviewed the 2017/18 budget process and information provided to Councillors to date.
- Reviewed existing accounting policies, discussed updates for changes in Accounting Standards, Local Government Act and other legislative requirements, TAO recommendations or changes in Council operations. Resolved to recommend that Council consider the early adoption of revenue standards (AASB15 & 1058) and that a review of useful lives be undertaken as part of the asset revaluation.
- Reviewed 2017/18 Audit Panel Annual Work Program.
- Discussed recent incidences of fraud in other organisations perpetrated via electronic means and Council's response to prevent similar occurrences .

The audit panel has met once since the end of the 2016/17 financial year and work relevant to this annual report completed during that time includes:

- Reviewed the unaudited financial report for the year ended 30 June 2017 and recommended that the amended statements are forwarded to the Panel Chair prior to lodgement with TAO and further that the Panel supports the inclusion of both the Camp Banksia and Camp Boomerang land transfers are included in the 2016/17 statements.

The Audit Panel was effectively supported in its activities by the Corporate Services Manager, and her contribution to its functioning is duly appreciated by members of the audit panel.

Signed 21 November 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Coull', written in a cursive style.

Mr Ben Coull
Chairman