



16.2.	Borough of Queenscliffe Annual Report 2022-2023
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Purpose

This report presents the Borough of Queenscliffe Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 for Council’s endorsement.

Executive Summary

Portfolio 5: Governance and Finance

Strategic Objective: *To provide a financially viable Council that is accountable, transparent and practices good governance.*

Priority 3: *Accountable and transparent governance*

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to prepare an annual report and provide a description of its required contents. In accordance with the Act, Council officers have prepared an annual report for the 2022–23 financial year. The annual report must include the following:

- Report of operations: information about the operations of the council
- Performance statement: audited results achieved against the prescribed performance indicators and measures
- Financial statements: audited financial statements prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

The report provides an account of Council’s operations over the 2022–23 financial year as well as the achievements, challenges, and directions for the year ahead.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Borough of Queenscliffe Annual Report 2022–2023.



REPORT

Background

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) requires Council to prepare an annual report in respect of each financial year. Subsection 98(2) of the Act states that the report must contain the following:

- a) a report of operations of the Council
- b) an audited performance statement
- c) audited financial statements
- d) a copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement
- e) a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the *Audit Act 1994*
- f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

The 2022–2023 report is Council's second annual report prepared in line with the requirements of the new Act. In continuing with our standard of high-quality publications, these requirements are supplemented with an in-depth report of operations that addresses Council's performance against the strategic objectives listed in our Council Plan. Officers employed the services of Martlette Graphic Design who have produced an engaging and eye-catching document.

In preparing this report, the Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the financial statements, performance statement and government and management checklist included in this report at its meeting held on 12 September 2023 prior to completion of the 2022–23 audit and Council adoption of the statements 'in principle' at its Ordinary Meeting held on 27 September 2023.

Council received unqualified audit opinions on the performance statement and financial statements from the Victorian Auditor-General's Office on 6 October 2023. These documents were subsequently incorporated into the Annual Report.

The *Local Government Act 2020* no longer requires Council to submit a copy of the Annual Report to the Minister for Local Government. However, subsection 99(1) of the Act still requires Council, as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year, to prepare the performance statement and financial statements of the Council for the financial year. Section 100 of the Act requires that Council present the Annual Report at an open meeting of the Council within four months of the end of the financial



year. This requirement of the Act gives reason for Council considering the report at this October Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Discussion

The Annual Report complies with the legislative requirements of the Act, detailing the achievements of Council during the 2022–23 financial year. The structure of the annual report reflects the second year of the Borough’s Council Plan 2021–2025.

While the economic, social and trade effects of the pandemic continued to be felt for much of the financial year, Council sustained numerous successes, which have been outlined in the publication.

These highlights include:

- Officially opening Wirrng Wirrng – Queenscliffe Hub
- Raising the rainbow flag at Council offices for IDAHOBIT
- Co-hosting the first annual Nightide event
- Opening the new amenities block at Queenscliff Recreation Park
- Continued to develop our Reconciliation Action Plan
- Continued to support our local businesses through pandemic recovery
- Provided sponsorship grants that brought the community together.

This year, the Borough of Queenscliffe’s Annual Report’s chapter heading photography focuses on showcasing the distinctive vegetation, animal life and natural environment observed across Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. This imagery highlights aspects of the Borough’s landscapes and vegetation from a perspective not often seen in local promotional publications.

Council officers engaged the services of photographer Alan Barber of Barefoot Media, who photographed an exceptional suite of high-quality shots to meet this brief. To complete this look and feel, Council officers incorporated an artwork from First Nations artist Chloe Chatterton titled *Wadawurrung Dja*.

This detail acknowledges the steps Council has taken to walk with the Borough’s First Nations and Indigenous peoples and communities. In a year where the Borough of Queenscliffe has worked on developing its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan, the artwork seen throughout the Annual Report captures the significance of Country and our connection to it.



Options

1. Endorse the Annual Report as presented.
2. Choose not to endorse the Annual Report.

Communications and Engagement

Community Engagement

The purpose of this report is to inform the community regarding this proposal.

Collaboration

There are no collaboration requirements associated with this report.

Governance Context

Relevant Law

Local Government Act 2020

Charter of Human Rights

This report has had consideration to, and complies with, the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Gender Equality Act 2020

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* requires a Gender Impact Assessment to be undertaken when the Council develops or reviews any Council policy, program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public. Has a Gender Impact Assessment been undertaken in respect of the matters in this Council Report?

No; this is an update on Council programs and services but is not a program or service in its own right and therefore a Gender Impact Assessment is not required.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable.

Legal and Risk Implications

Not applicable.



Related Documents

Annual Plan 2023–2024

Climate Emergency Response Plan 2021–2025

Community Vision 2021–2031

Council Plan 2021–2025

Financial Plan 2022–2032

Disclosure of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Considerations

Environmental Sustainability

The Annual Report provides information in relation to Council's commitment to Environmental Sustainability.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable.

Implementation

Operational Impacts

There are no operational impacts associated with this report.

Implementation Process

This project will be delivered by existing staff and resources.

Attachments

1. Borough of Queenscliffe Annual Report 2022–2023 [**16.2.1** - 4 pages]