

CM14.2. AlburyCity 2023-24 Annual Report

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CONFIDENTIAL	No		
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Purpose of Report

To present AlburyCity's 2023/24 Annual Report to Council for noting prior to submission to the Minister for Local Government by 30 November 2024.

Background

AlburyCity's Annual Report details the progress Council has made toward achieving the outcomes of the Community Strategic Plan – *Towards Albury 2050*. The report highlights our achievements and activities under each of the themes: A Growing Sustainable Economy, An Enhanced Natural Environment, A Caring Community and A Leading Community.

The Annual Report is required to be prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*; Section 428 (Annual Reports), Section 406 (Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines), Section 508A (Special Variation over the years), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* Reg 217 (Additional information for inclusion in Annual Report), and the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*.

Our Annual Report is presented under two documents:

1. The Community Report (Attachment 1) shares with our community; the achievements of AlburyCity during 2023/24.
2. The Regulatory Report (Attachment 2) contains the information prescribed by the Regulation. This report provides information to assist the community in understanding AlburyCity's performance both as a business entity and a community leader.

Issues

The joint message from the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer within the Annual Report acknowledges a wonderful year for our city, with a focus on even greater engagement to understand community views and aspirations, whilst we continued to deliver on actions detailed in our annual Operational Plan and Four Year Delivery Program.

We remain committed to continuously improving the delivery of services and infrastructure for our growing community; while balancing financial sustainability and ensuring we deliver value for money across all our operations.

AlburyCity highlights during 2023/24 included:

A Growing Sustainable Economy

- Albury Wodonga Destination Management Plan 2024-2028 endorsed by Council in May 2024.
- Aurora Laser Vision light show mesmerised 43,000 visitors.
- Economic Development Strategy developed and endorsed by Council in September 2023.
- Integrated Transport Strategy was endorsed by Council on 11 December 2023.
- Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan continued with commencement of draft plan.
- Streetlighting review in Kerr Road commenced.
- Albury Visitor Information Centre successfully and seamlessly moved from the old Station Masters House in Railway Precinct into the Albury Library Museum in early September 2023.
- Annual Meter Replacement Program completed.
- The Two Cities One Community (2C1C) Public Wi-Fi continues to provide our community with a seamless user experience.
- Footpath construction program completed.
- Roads Resealing Program completed.
- Road and Drain Rehabilitation Program completed.
- Development of the Waste Management Centre continued.

An Enhanced Natural Environment

- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure at David Street and Volt Lane implemented.
- Phase Two of the Murray River Experience Master Plan commenced with over 700 feedback submissions received.
- Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan was endorsed by Council in November 2023.
- Environmental Sustainability Framework and Action Plan endorsed by Council 11 March 2024.
- Our Halve Waste Program continued to support the region's goal of reducing waste.
- Ongoing implementation of the Regional Natural Environment Strategy actions.
- The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Action Plan continued to be implemented and evaluated.
- We planted 1,000 trees as part of the Annual Tree Planting Program.

A Caring Community

- Aboriginal Advisory Committee launched in February 2024.
- Implementation of AlburyCity's Inland Waterways Drowning Prevention Strategy continued.
- We continued to successfully deliver a range of experiences, festivals and events to connect our community.
- Draft Social Infrastructure and Open Space Strategy underway.
- Draft Oddies Creek Park Splash Park feasibility study completed.
- Draft Early Years and Young Peoples Plan ready for public exhibition.
- Albury Regional Skate Park toilet block completed.
- Our Disability Inclusion Action Plan actions were successfully delivered.
- Play Space Shade Program implemented with 24 shade sails installed across our playgrounds.
- A successful Write Around the Murray was delivered in September 2023.
- Our Reconciliation Action Plan continues to be implemented.

- Mirambeena and Glenecho Community Centres have continued to be important community hubs for their area. 1,750 food parcels were given to the community.
- The CCTV Mobile Trailer continues to be fully utilised in monitoring criminal activity and keeping our community safe.
- The Albury Entertainment Centre hosted over 176 individual events and attracted over 98,000 visitors.

A Leading Community

- *A Place for Everyone* – Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Strategy and Action Plan was endorsed in September 2023.
- Our *Engaging Albury* Strategy was adopted by Council in February 2024.
- Our draft Customer Experience Strategy was on public exhibition in June 2024, ready for adoption by Council.
- Successfully installed and integrated 12 People Counters, providing AlburyCity with live data and valuable insights into visitor patterns.
- AlburyCity continues to build and maintain strong partnerships with ongoing participation in a broad range of collaborations at regional, state and national levels and across all sectors which serve our community.
- AlburyCity's Grow Our Own Program continues to deliver successful results.
- Community engagement initiatives have been implemented, giving the community the opportunity to comment on projects and decisions that may impact them.
- Our biennial Community Satisfaction Survey was conducted in June 2024.

Risk

- **Business Risk** – The Annual Report is a legislative requirement to demonstrate the achievements of the Council in its delivery of the Four Year Delivery Program.
- **Corporate Risk** – There is a corporate risk to AlburyCity if the legislative requirements are not met and the Annual Report is not forwarded to the Minister by 30 November 2024.
- **WHS and Public Risk** – No risks identified.
- **Environmental Risk** – No risks identified.
- **Delivery Program Risk** – No risks identified.

Engagement

The development of AlburyCity's 2023/24 Annual Report has been supported by internal stakeholder consultation and input from our leaders across the organisation. Our leaders have also been provided the opportunity to review the draft document and provide feedback for consideration.

The Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) was provided the opportunity to review their section of the Annual Report at the ARIC meeting held on 13 November 2024.

Conclusion

The AlburyCity 2023/24 Annual Report highlights our achievements and activities under each of the themes of the Community Strategic Plan – *Towards Albury 2050: A Growing Sustainable Economy, An Enhanced Natural Environment, A Caring Community and A Leading Community*.

The Annual Report will be published on AlburyCity's website as well as being submitted to the Minister for Local Government.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes AlburyCity's 2023/24 Annual Report that is to be submitted to the Minister for Local Government by 30 November 2024.

Attachments

1. AlburyCity's Draft 2023/24 Annual Report – Community Report (DOC24/251806).
2. AlburyCity's Draft 2023/24 Annual Report – Regulatory Report (DOC24/251805).