



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Thursday 12th November 2020 @ 6.00pm
Council Chambers, 16-18 Anne Street
George Town

George Town Council
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 12TH NOVEMBER 2020
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NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 12th November 2020 in the Council Chambers, George Town commencing at 6.00 pm.

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1993, I hereby certify that the advice, information and recommendations contained within this Agenda have been given by a person who has the qualifications and / or experience necessary to give such advice, information and recommendations or such advice was obtained and taken into account in providing the general advice contained within the Agenda.



Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER

10th November, 2020

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Local Government Act 1993, Division 3 – Annual General Meeting

72B. Annual General Meeting

1. A council must hold an Annual General Meeting on a date that –
 - a. Is not later than 15 December in each year; and
 - b. Is not before 14 days after the date of the first publication of a notice under subsection (2).
2. A council must publish a notice in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area or other prescribed newspaper specifying the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting.
3. If a quorum of the council is not present at an Annual General Meeting –
 - (a) the Annual General Meeting is to be reconvened and held within 14 days; and
 - (b) a notice is to be published in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area specifying the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting.
4. Only electors in the municipal area are entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.
5. A motion at an Annual General Meeting is passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands or by any other means of ascertaining the vote the council determines.
6. A motion passed at an Annual General Meeting is to be considered at the next meeting of the council.
7. The general manager is to keep minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The George Town Council pays its respect to the traditional and original owners of the land in which we meet, their elders past, present and emerging and we pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal people who are the custodians of this land.

AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The public is advised that it is **Council Policy** to record the proceedings of meetings of Council on digital media to assist in the preparation of minutes, and to clarify any queries relating to the Minutes that are raised during a subsequent meeting under the section "Confirmation of Minutes".

The recording does not replace the written minutes and a transcript of the recording will not be prepared.

All meetings of the Council shall be digitally recorded as provided for by Regulation 33 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 except for the proceedings of meetings or parts of meetings closed to the public in accordance with Regulation 15(2).

In accordance with the requirements of Council's GTC-1 Audio Recording of Council Meetings Policy, members of the public are not permitted to make audio recordings of Council meetings.

In accordance with the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020, Part 4, Section 18, and as given notice by the Premier of Tasmania, Peter Gutwein, under the same act and published in the Tasmanian Government Gazette No. 21 963, 3 April 2020, this meeting is being held face to face with limitation on public attendance to maintain social distancing.

All questions must be in writing from the public and Council will be allowing a maximum of 10 persons into the Ordinary Council meeting. You must pre-register to attend this meeting of Council.

All documents presented, and recordings (audio) of this meeting are made available to the public in accordance with the above act and notice, and the standard applicable provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, and Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

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1. ATTENDANCE

Mayor Greg Kieser (Chair)
Deputy Mayor Tim Harris
Cr Chris Barraclough
Cr Heather Barwick
Cr Justine Brooks
Cr Winston Mason
Cr Andrew Michieletto
Cr Peter Parkes
Mr Jack Reilly
Mrs Debbie Rainbow
Mr David Griffiths

2. APOLOGIES

Cr Greg Dawson

3. STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

General Manager – Mr S. Power
Manager Liveable & Connected Communities – Ms M. Bennett
Manager Development & Environment – Mr R. Cassidy
Manager People, Performance & Governance – Mr B. Daire
Manager Corporate Services & Finance – Mrs C. Hyde
Manager Infrastructure & Works – Mr D. Richardson
Executive Support & Governance Officer – Ms L. Dickenson

4. MEETING PROCEDURES

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Council serves much the same purpose as an Annual General Meeting of the public sector, where the Board of Directors (Elected Members) gives an account of their stewardship over the affairs of the municipality for the financial year in review.

Annual meetings also provide an opportunity for residents (the shareholders) to question Council's performance for the year in review.

The Annual General Meeting will be generally conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined below and the usual Council procedures for the conduct of its meetings.

- Attendees are asked to complete the Attendance Register.
- Only submissions, questions or motions relating to the Annual Report will be accepted in writing.
- A motion must be seconded and passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands.
- Only electors in the George Town municipal area are entitled to vote at an AGM.
- A motion passed at the AGM will be considered at the next ordinary meeting of the Council.
- Minutes of the AGM will be kept by the General Manager to accurately record the content of the meeting, attendances and apologies, any matter discussed, any motions moved and any questions asked and the answers provided by (whom).
- Questions which cannot be answered will be taken on notice and responded to in writing.
- The Chairperson's ruling is to be final.

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180/20 5. MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DECISION

Moved: Cr Harris
Seconded: Cr Barraclough

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 14th November 2019 of the George Town Council as provided to Councillors be received and confirmed as a true record of proceedings (attached).

VOTING

For: Cr Kieser, Cr Harris, Cr Barraclough, Cr Brooks, Cr Barwick, Cr Mason
Cr Parkes, Cr Michieletto

Against: Nil.

CARRIED 9/0 UNANIMOUS

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6. MAYOR'S MESSAGE – 2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

While COVID-19 has presented a year of unprecedented challenges the 2019/2020 Annual Report contains much to be celebrated. For the second consecutive year, Council has delivered an operational surplus ensuring the Council's long-term financial position remains strong and sustainable.

Responsible resource management is key to ensuring financial sustainability, and it is on this front that I am pleased that Council has adopted its first Asset Management Framework. The framework comprises a suite of management plans, guided by strategy that is underpinned by best practice policy. This means that Council's capital investments are now more than ever guided by data driven decision making, resulting in money being spent in the right areas at the right time.

Council has made good on its commitment to improve community engagement with the adoption of its first Community Consultation Framework. The community will note a greater presence from elected members and officers at community events and greater participation at meetings of community groups. I have personally taken great pleasure in attending roadshows at our outlying communities as I have in attending events such as the Bushfire Fundraising Morning Tea, Soroptimist International Women's Day Breakfast, Emergency Services Dinner, Birth of the Bab, Volunteers Awards, Business Awards and school presentations amongst others. The General Manager and I are committed to monthly radio interviews on Tamar FM where listeners are invited to ask questions 'no holds barred'. I have also met with a great number of residents and businesses over the past year and take this opportunity to thank those who have made the time to discuss matters of importance to them and their community.

Having been directly involved in the TEMCO South 32 round table discussions of all levels of government and various stakeholders, I am delighted that the future of the smelter has been secured through the acquisition by GFG Alliance. This is a great outcome for our community and for Tasmania. We look forward to their involvement in our community.

Our industrial precinct continues to receive much interest from various proponents looking to establish new operations. Interest has certainly accelerated following the State Government's Hydrogen Prospectus and Hydrogen Action Plan which is most welcomed, particularly as Bell Bay is named as a preferred hydrogen site. Note, in today's parliamentary budget all of the state government's energy based budget provisions have been maintained and committed to long term development despite the challenges of COVID-19.

With new job creation on the horizon, I am pleased to have represented Council and have played a part in securing funding for Northern Workforce Development Officer through the Tasmanian Community Fund. This role will play a key role in ensuring the community of the Tamar Valley will be appropriately skilled and prepared to fill existing and future employment opportunities.

Our reliance on industry as our main source of economic security however needs consideration. Council is acutely aware of the vulnerabilities manufacturing is exposed to when competing in a global market and is driving economic diversity through various endeavours including tourism. The mountain bike trail network due for commencement in October 2020 is an example of this, and the community can expect to see a range of tourism related initiatives over the coming months and years.

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6. MAYOR'S MESSAGE – 2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT (CONT.)

The Council have taken the opportunity to be heavily involved in the reinvigoration of our regional economic body Northern Tasmania Development Corporation. I was directly involved in the recruitment of the new CEO Mark Baker and continue to be an active member of the board to ensure our municipality is well represented.

Council continues to actively advocate on behalf of its community, and I thank state and federal ministers for the continued generosity in their time and interest in our municipality. Over the past twelve months we have had the opportunity to participate in the House of Representatives Select Committee on Regional Australia, have contributed to the review of methodology employed for the distribution of federal funds through the State Grants Commission, and have met with multiple ministers both incumbent and shadow at a state and federal level.

There is a common and resounding theme that permeates our discussions with representatives from all levels of government from both elected representatives and officers alike, from developers, private investors, industry representatives and our own community, the municipality of George Town is being noticed for all of the right reasons. There is an air of optimism and a shared belief in a prosperous future for all members of our community present and future.

In closing, and on behalf of George Town Council, I hope you enjoy some of the highlights presented within the 2019/2020 Annual Report in what has been a challenging yet successful year.

Greg Kieser
MAYOR

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7. GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present Council's 2019/2020 Annual Report in what has been an extraordinarily challenging year for the organisation and the community alike. Nevertheless, the organisation has performed outstandingly with many achievements throughout the year. I am most proud of how the Council, organisation and community responded to the COVID-19 crisis.

Elected members and officers demonstrated great leadership in responding rapidly in a multitude of ways including the introduction of a COVID-19 specific Rates Financial Hardship Policy, issuing of take away permits for food premises, introduction of hygiene, distancing and public safety measures. While many businesses were forced to scale down operations Council increased its operations and placed a number of workers that had lost employment from the hospitality and childcare industry on short term engagements. I am pleased to say that some of these workers have stayed on with Council and continue to make valuable contributions to our community.

It's often in times of crisis that the fabric of community is tested and proven and the partnerships across service providers, industry, government and other entities are strengthened for the betterment of communities. Through partnerships with each of the schools, TEMCO South 32, Bell Bay Aluminium, Department of Education, KEEN Partners, Walker Designs, George Town Chamber of Commerce, the Community Hub, Libraries Tas, the Future Impact Group amongst others, were able to accommodate over 130 disadvantaged families with board games, educational materials including laptops and internet connections. Educational resource packs for early years children were developed and distributed by the George Town Community Hub (see page 18) and a ten-week online Family Friendly Food class program was developed. The Hub also procured and administered E-Readers, making them readily available to our elderly citizens to assist them in maintaining social connections and providing entertainment.

Also through adversity we witness innovation and I'm proud to say that our team of staff were exemplary in this regard. Council's Liveable and Connected Communities team developed an online Kids Activity Portal comprising a range of educational resources, games, virtual tours and activities. The portal was designed to assist in keeping children entertained and educated during isolation. The portal was a great success with many competitions having been held and prizes distributed to many deserving winners. The portal continues to be used throughout the school holiday periods with more prizes on offer including family passes to the Low Head Penguins. Healthy George Town transitioned their program to live streaming with huge success not only locally but across Tasmania.

Healthy Speak podcasts were developed to assist the community in managing life through isolation and maintaining good mental health. These are only some of the initiatives Council has developed and there is still much to do now that we are in the recovery phase.

On the financial performance front, it brings me great pleasure in being able to deliver another strong surplus of \$461,000. Coupled with significant savings across the capital works program has resulted in approximately \$770,000 of additional cash reserves above budgeted forecast. These results further strengthen Council's financial position and thus long-term sustainability.

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7. GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

Like most Councils throughout Australia we are dependent on the ongoing financial assistance provided by the Federal Government through its Financial Assistance Grants Scheme, Roads to Recovery, Country Roads and Bridges and Black Spot funding programs among others. Likewise, we are very appreciative of the financial support provided by the State Government through various grant programs.

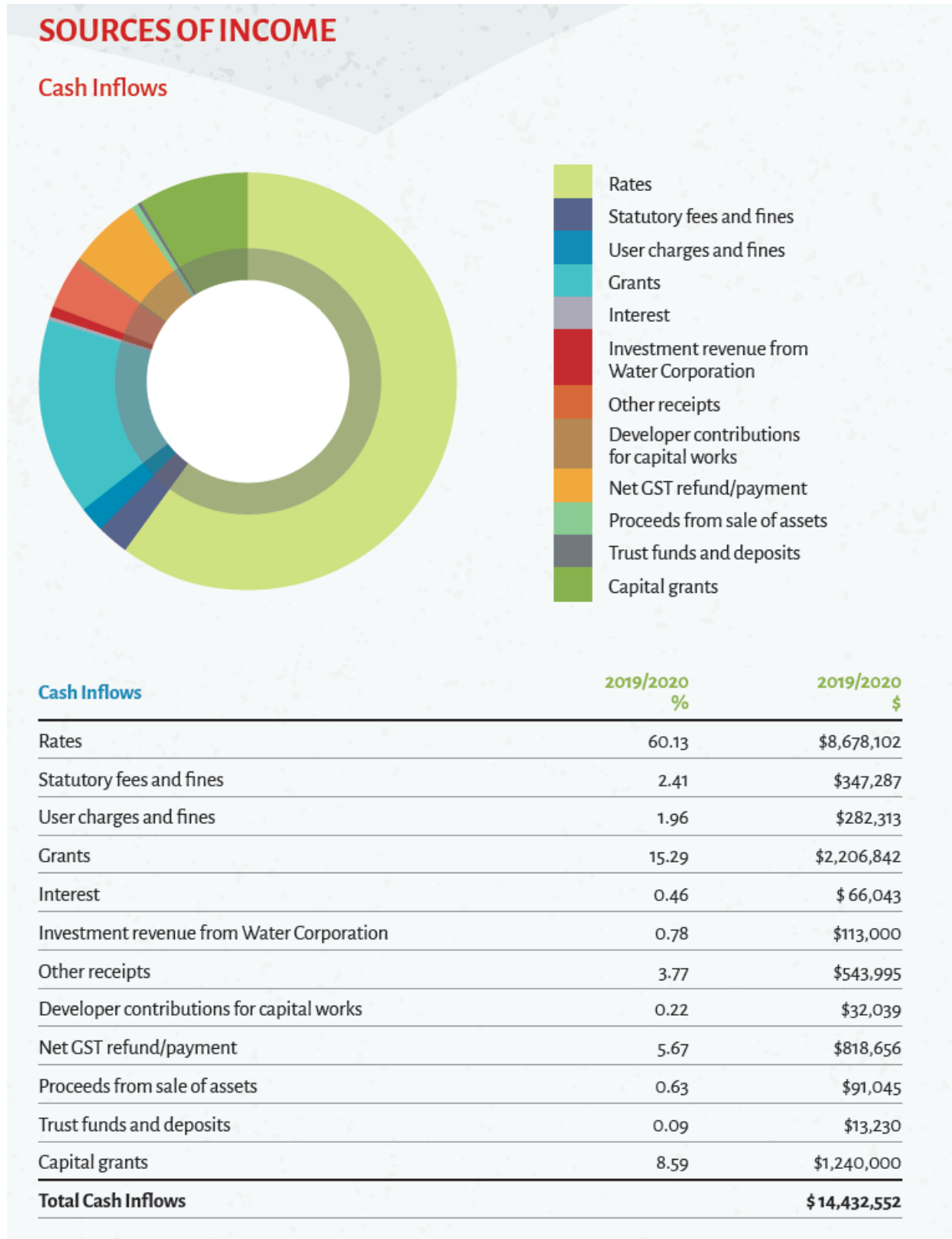
While financial achievements were commendable, it did not come at the expense of organisational performance. The organisation still delivered 90% of its capital works program and completed 90% of service requests within prescribed timeframes.

2019/2020 will be a year remembered for testing the resolve of us all and I am confident we will reflect with pride on the resilience demonstrated collectively through community, industry and government partnerships. Overall the year has been another successful year for Council and community, and I hope you enjoy just some of the highlights of the year as presented in this Annual Report.

**Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER**

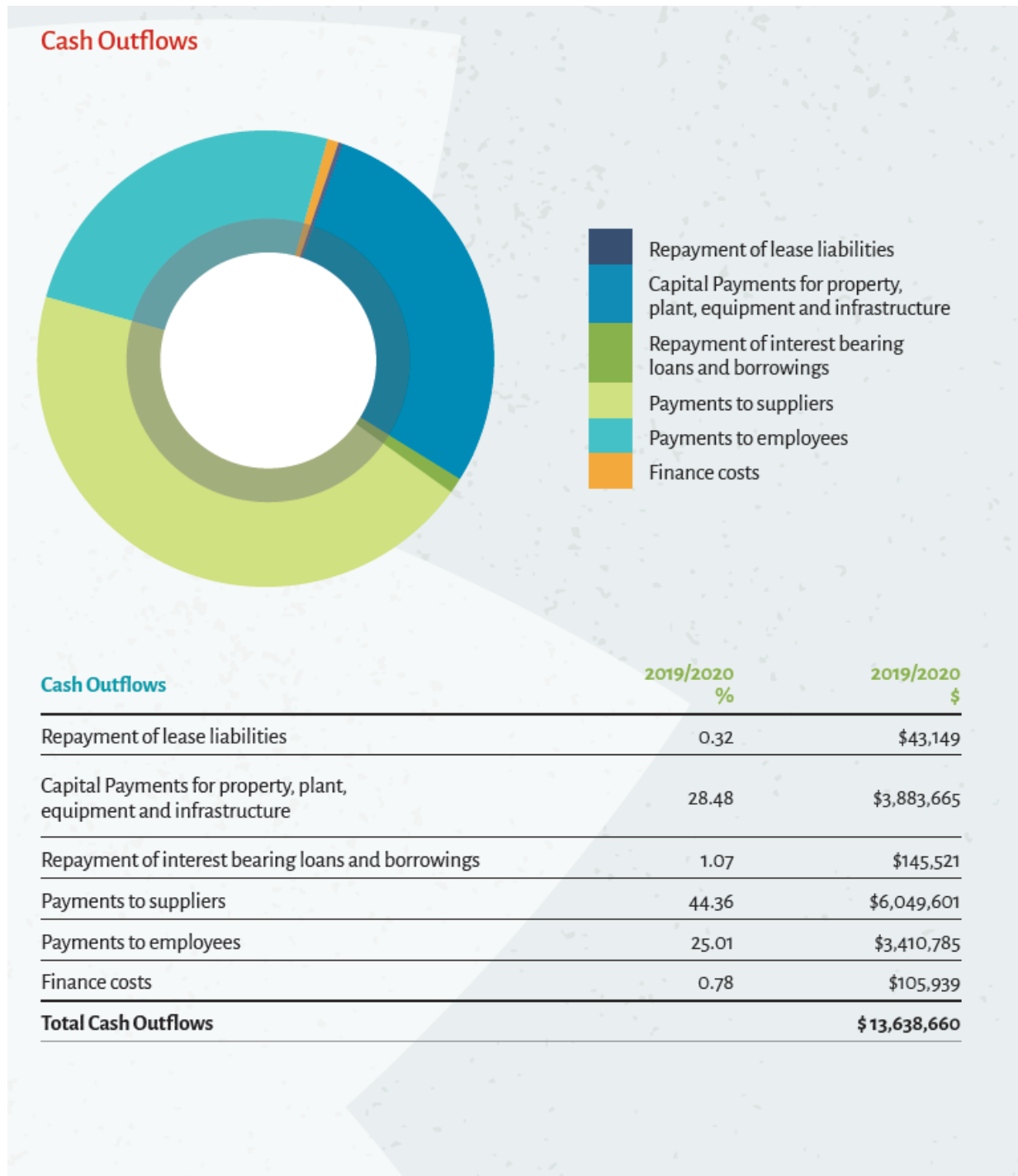
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8. FINANCIAL REPORT – MANAGER CORPORATE AND FINANCE



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8. FINANCIAL REPORT – MANAGER CORPORATE AND FINANCE (CONT.)



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9. SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Nil.

10. QUESTIONS TO THE 2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Nil as the questions provided by Mr Griffiths were not related to the 2019/2020 Annual Report.

Mr David Griffiths, George Town

Q1. Do Council believe it's in the best financial interests of ratepayers to be proposing new developments when there are so many unfinished projects already or soon to be underway e.g. Park; old RSL; Bass & Flinders; Mt Bike track etc.

The Chair advised that the question will be taken on notice and presented at the November 2020 Ordinary Council meeting.

Q2. When, if at all will Council be consulting with affected businesses re – Macquarie Street redevelopment. In particular, parking in front of businesses and access for deliveries from front of shop and provision for food vendors and markets stalls and their impact on already struggling local businesses.

The Chair advised that the question will be taken on notice and presented at the November 2020 Ordinary Council meeting.

11. MOTIONS ON THE 2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Nil

12. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.17 pm.

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Greg Kieser
Mayor