



**Limestone Coast Local Government Association**

*“Limestone Coast Better Together”*

**NOTICE** is hereby given that a Special Meeting  
of the

**Limestone Coast Local Government Association**

is to be held in the form  
of a telecommunications meeting

on

**Tuesday 22 July 2025 commencing  
at 2.00pm**

Mayor Lynette Martin OAM  
President  
LCLGA



## **AGENDA**

**Date: 22 July 2025**

**Time: 2.00pm**

**Location: Microsoft Teams**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.....	03
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4.1	Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Transition	

**Board Members**

City of Mount Gambier	Mayor Lynette Martin OAM - <i>President</i>
Tatiara District Council	Mayor Liz Goossens – <i>Vice President</i>
District Council of Grant	Mayor Kylie Boston
District Council of Robe	Mayor Lisa Ruffell
Kingston District Council	Mayor Jeff Pope
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	Mayor Patrick Ross

**1. OPENING MEETING****2. ATTENDANCE**

*At the commencement of a telecommunications meeting, each Board Member must announce his/her presence to all other Board Members taking part in the meeting. A Board Member must not leave a telecommunications meeting by disconnecting his/her telephone, audio-visual or other communication equipment, unless that Board Member has previously notified the President.*

**Board Members present via Teams:**

City of Mount Gambier	Mayor Lynette Martin OAM
Tatiara District Council	Mayor Liz Goossens
District Council of Grant	Mayor Kylie Boston
District Council of Robe	Mayor Lisa Ruffell
Kingston District Council	Mayor Jeff Pope
Naracoorte Lucindale	Mayor Patrick Ross

**CEO's/staff present via Teams:**

LCLGA EO	Charlotte Edmunds
City of Mount Gambier	Sarah Philpott CEO
Tatiara Council	Anne Champness CEO
District Council of Grant	Darryl Whicker CEO
District Council of Robe	Nat Traeger CEO
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	Kelly Westell CEO
Kingston District Council	Ian Hart CEO

**3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

*Pursuant to Division 1, Part 4, Chapter 5 of the Local Government Act 1999, a Board Member who has an interest in a matter within the Agenda must disclose the interest to the Board.*

Agenda Report No and Title	ADD
Board Member Name and Council	ADD
Type of interest	GENERAL/MATERIAL CONFLICT
Members' Interest in the Matter:	Explanation provided here
Member participating in Meeting?	YES/NO
Reasons for Participating:	Explanation provided here
Member Voting on matter?	YES/NO

#### 4. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

##### 4.1 Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy

Pursuant to section 90(3) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Limestone Coast Local Government Association orders that all members of the public, except Mayor Lynette Martin, Mayor Liz Goossens, Mayor Kylie Boston, Mayor Jeff Pope, Mayor Patrick Ross, Cr Lisa Ruffell, LCLGA Executive Officer Charlotte Edmunds, Sarah Philpott CEO, Anne Champness CEO, Darryl Whicker CEO, Nat Traeger CEO, Kelly Westell CEO and Ian Hart CEO be excluded from attendance at the meeting for the receipt, discussion and consideration in confidence of Agenda Item 4.1 Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Transition.

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association is satisfied that, pursuant to section 90(3) (d) (i) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to the Agenda Item is:

- Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Transition

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the information to be presented and discussed relates to commercial information of a confidential nature the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party.

**Report Author:** Charlotte Edmunds

**Officers consulted:** Tony Elletson

**Strategic Reference:** LCLGA Strategic Plan – Building a Stronger Economy

**Budget Implications:**

The allocation proposed to be taken from the LCLGAs consolidated revenue (reserves) is from a current balance of \$315,000. The LCLGA's cash flow will not be negatively affected, and the LCLGA will retain sufficient reserves to meet current liabilities. A budget adjustment will be undertaken in Budget Review 1 to reflect the commitment, should the Board determine as per the resolution.

**Risk Assessment:** High

**Recommendation**

1. That the Limestone Coast Local Government Association, bearing in mind the current Heads of Agreement between LCLGA and Regional Academy of Sport, approve the expenditure of \$45,500 plus gst from consolidated revenue (reserves) to bridge the funding gap for this calendar year and ensure the existing Limestone Coast Athletes remain in their programs under the new management of Regional Academy of Sport.
2. That a formal letter be sent from LCLGA EO to Regional Academy of Sport by COB Wednesday 23 July 2025, giving in-principle agreement of this financial commitment.

**Brief Report**

The Board has been provided background information and correspondence to the issue under consideration in this report. In addition, a meeting was held on Monday 23 July with Regional Academy of Sport representatives to informally understand the situation. In brief, the salient background is as follows:

- The Limestone Coast Sporting Academy (LCSA) has operated under the auspices of the LCLGA for many years, funded by way of seven Council subscriptions, successfully supporting young athletes across the region
- The LCSA proposed to move to an incorporated association model following a review of operations, which would have seen the LCSA become self funding, albeit initially with some proposed requests to Councils to assist in the transition year. Updates on the transition have been provided to the LCLGA through regular board reports.
- The model proposed shifted with successful negotiations with the Regional Academy of Sport (RAS), an independent not for profit. To that end a Heads of Agreement was submitted to the Board and signed in May 2025. That Heads of Agreement named the (then) seven Councils comprising the LCLGA, but was an agreement between the LCLGA and RAS
- An application was made to State Government for bridging grant funding to assist the transition to the end of the calendar year. That funding application was unsuccessful.
- A longer term grant application is with the State Government and to date has been received favourably but there is no current commitment
- To assist in the interim period (until the end of the Calendar year), RSA have sought via the LCLGA a contribution of \$45,500 (plus GST), seeking that funding by way of \$6500 per each of the seven Council's named in the Heads of Agreement
- Since the original agreement, Wattle Range Council's application to cease membership of the LCLGA has been approved by the Minister. The Board will need to turn it's mind to whether Wattle Range Council's contribution should be by way of LCLGA funding (given their status at the time), which is the recommendation of this report, for the transition funding only.
- Most of the seven Council's do not have a budget allocation to assist in the transition funding and have limited capacity to obtain a decision from their Chambers in the time available.
- Beyond the end of the calendar year, any future funding from individual Councils will be a matter for each Council, as per the Heads of Agreement, which commits that the LCLGA will encourage Councils to make a financial contribution in addition to any grant funding.
- The LCLGA does have reserves of funding, which could be contributed to support the transition period, and the Board may choose to deploy funds of \$45,500 to do so, as per the recommendation of this report.
- If funding is not achieved, the current cohort of athletes will not complete this year
- There is significant community and reputational risk if a solution is not found to the issue.

It is recommended that the initial discussion on this item be held in confidence, as the Heads of Agreement has a confidentiality clause and the RSA sought that the failure to attract bridging finance be kept confidential for the moment. Further, the matter of Wattle Range's

changed status may also confer an advantage or disadvantage on them as a third party to the LCLGA given they have moved from the LCLGA, but still have an interest in the Academy, and by way of being named in the Agreement.

Time is of the essence as the RSA Board meet Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>, and will need to understand LCLGA's (or the individual councils) positions for their deliberations.

Once the LCLGA has decided, it is recommended that the resolution be removed from confidence. The report should remain in confidence until such time as RSA gives permission, given the contractual clause in the Heads of Agreement.

**CONSIDERATION FOR KEEPING ITEMS CONFIDENTIAL**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

1. In accordance with sections 91(7) and 91(9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Limestone Coast Local Government Association orders that the discussion and report pertaining to 4.1 Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy Transition be kept in confidence under section 90(3)(d)(i) until the Regional Academy of Sport releases LCLGA from its contractual obligation around confidentiality, but that the resolution of the Board be released as soon as practicable after the decision is made, with the outcome conveyed to Regional Academy of Sport and the relevant Councils