

Mr Terry Andrews
Chairman - Council Watch Fleurieu Inc.
Sent via email: councilwatch44@gmail.com

8 July 2025

Dear Terry,

We are writing to you in your capacity as Chair of Council Watch Fleurieu Inc in direct response to your recent correspondence circulated to residents via email and published online regarding the Victor Harbor Regional Community, Sport and Recreation Precinct (the Precinct) project.

Your communication contains numerous claims that are factually incorrect, highly misleading, and unnecessarily alarmist. As an organisation claiming to advocate for accountability and integrity, we respectfully request that you demonstrate these qualities and correct the misinformation you have distributed as a matter of urgency.

We provide the following clarifications to assist:

- **Financial Sustainability and the Public Private Partnership (PPP)**
Council's exploration of a Public Private Partnership model for the delivery of the Precinct has been driven by the need to maintain Council's financial sustainability and minimise the impact on ratepayers while still delivering much-needed community facilities that address a strategic need. The model avoids the burden of Council bearing the full cost of construction and depreciation, while also securing additional facilities for our community within the Precinct. It also avoids a heavy reliance on grant funding, which under a traditional delivery model, Council would be seeking \$14-\$16 million, something that is unlikely to be achieved in the current climate where many councils are after funding for projects. Through the PPP Council requires a minimum of \$4 million in grant funding for the project to progress.
- **False and Misleading Financial Claims**
Your circulation of Cr Quaremba's speculative and unfounded claim that the private partner stands to make \$300 million over 149 years is reckless and without basis. This was addressed and corrected during the workshop, in which you were in attendance. Accord representatives categorically rejected that figure, explaining its complete lack of factual grounding. Continuing to promote this figure as truth is knowingly misleading the community.
- **What the community gains**
The Victor Harbor community does not lose anything through the progression of the Precinct. In fact, the community stands to benefit enormously:
 - A new sport and recreation facility
 - Spaces for allied health, childcare and wellbeing services
 - Food and beverage offering and passive recreation spaces
 - Jobs and a significant boost to the local economy.

This project enhances community health and wellbeing while ensuring access to important social and community facilities, something that your narrative continually ignores.

- **Stakeholder Support**

Your claim that 'not one of the sporting groups have supported this project' is completely false. Groups such as the Great Southern Amateur Basketball Association, Victor Harbor Gymnastics Club, Southern Sharks Pickleball, Great Southern Badminton Association, local schools and other future user groups have not only been consulted but have actively contributed to shaping the project. In fact in the most recent workshop, which you attended to observe in the public gallery, these stakeholders spoke positively about the project and voiced their continued support.

Further to these stakeholder sentiments, Council's Community Satisfaction Surveys conducted in 2022, 2023 and again in 2025 clearly show the Precinct as the highest priority major project for the Victor Harbor community. These surveys are conducted by an independent research firm with demographically representative samples.

Your claims that the project lacks public support does not align with objective data that is reflective of the broader Victor Harbor community.

- **Misrepresenting Council's governance practices**

Your suggestion that this project is being 'pushed' by the Mayor and CEO is flat-out wrong. The decision to enter into a Heads of Agreement (and subsequent extensions) have been made by the Council. As with all decisions of Council the Administration, led by the CEO, implement these decisions accordingly.

Council has undertaken (and continues to undertake) extensive due diligence over several years and made its decision in line with these investigations, legal advice and community consultation results.

We understand your desire and right to scrutinise Council's decisions. However, accountability also requires **you** as a leader of Council Watch Fleurieu Inc to operate with integrity and factual accuracy. By repeatedly spreading incorrect claims, you are not representing the broader community, you are misinforming it.

Our community should not be subject to fearmongering and untruths, it deserves better. We can no longer tolerate your careless behaviour, and respectfully ask you to:

1. Correct false claims circulated in your communications.
2. Refrain from publishing unverified or misleading information in the future.
3. Acknowledge the facts presented here in good faith.

We welcome your scrutiny on this project but it must be based on evidence, not speculation.

Yours sincerely



Victoria MacKirdy
Chief Executive Officer