

COUNCIL WATCH FLEURIEU INC

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Accountability with Integrity

WHOEVER GETS THE JOB...



DESERVES TO KNOW THE TRUTH — AND SO DO WE

What Does Victor Harbor Want From Its Next Chief Executive Officer?

A new Chief Executive Officer will soon take the helm at the City of Victor Harbor.

It is one of the most important appointments a council can make.

The successful applicant will inherit responsibility for a multi-million-dollar organisation, oversee hundreds of staff, advise elected members, manage major infrastructure projects and help shape the future of Victor Harbor for years to come.

But this appointment raises a broader question.

What does our community expect from its next CEO?

Council Watch believes this is the conversation our community should be having.

This is not about personalities or politics. It is about leadership, governance and accountability.

The next CEO should begin with a clear understanding of the organisation they are being asked to lead—and the community deserves confidence that the Council is selecting the right person for the challenges ahead.

The Community's Expectations

Council Watch believes the next Chief Executive Officer should demonstrate:

Financial Responsibility

Every dollar spent is a ratepayer's dollar.

The community expects prudent financial management, realistic long-term planning and careful assessment of major capital projects before commitments are made.

Transparency

Information should be made public whenever legislation allows.

Trust grows when decisions are explained openly and supported by evidence.

Independent Professional Advice

Elected members should receive balanced analysis, alternative options and clear information—not simply recommendations that steer them toward a single outcome.

The ability to distinguish between an Audit Committee meeting and a Briefing session.

Accountability

The CEO should encourage a culture where decisions can withstand public scrutiny and where questions from councillors and the community are welcomed.

Respect for Democracy

Councillors are elected to make policy decisions.

The Administration's role is to provide objective advice and faithfully implement those decisions.

Community Engagement

The best decisions are made when residents are informed, consulted and treated as valued partners in the future of their community.

A Council Ready for the Future

Victor Harbor faces significant opportunities and challenges.

Major infrastructure projects.

Growing financial pressures.

Increasing community expectations.

Changing legislation.

The next CEO will play a critical role in helping Council navigate these issues.

Strong leadership will require openness, sound judgement, strategic thinking and a commitment to earning the confidence of both elected members and the wider community.

What Does Success Look Like?

Council Watch believes the success of the next CEO should not be measured by headlines, but by outcomes.

Five years from now, the community should be able to ask:

- Is Council financially stronger?
- Has transparency improved?
- Are reports clearer and more balanced?
- Do elected members receive objective advice?
- Has public confidence in Council increased?
- Are major projects being managed responsibly?
- Has community engagement improved?
- Is Victor Harbor better prepared for the future?

If the answer to these questions is "yes", then the appointment will have been a success.

We Want to Hear From You

What are the **three most important qualities** you believe Victor Harbor's next Chief Executive Officer should possess?

Council Watch invites residents to share their views.

Selected responses will be published in a future edition as part of our commitment to encouraging informed public participation in local government.

ETHICS

Most importantly the next CEO will be expected to address the problems of the past and not repeat them in the future, putting ethics above all else.

Council Watch Fleurieu Inc.

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Promoting transparency, accountability and informed public participation in local government.

Council Watch Fleurieu Inc.

Terry Andrews (Chair)

Council Watch Fleurieu Inc.

Email: councilwatch44@gmail.com

Web: <https://councilwatchvictorharbor.com>

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