



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 20 February, 2015

Long-serving CEO resigns

Long-serving chief executive officer Mark Searle has resigned, proudly leaving the City of Marion in a better position than when he arrived nearly 15 years ago.

A special general council meeting was held last night to consider the resignation, which will occur on March 27.

Mayor Kris Hanna said: "On behalf of Council, I sincerely thank Mark for what has been a remarkable era of achievement for Marion".

Among Mr Searle's significant achievements are:

- Harnessing staff, council and other resources to obtain a commitment from the State and Federal Governments to build the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre and the GP Plus. A total investment of \$140 million for a \$12.5 million contribution from council.
- In the south, there has been the construction of the Patpa Drive, the redevelopment of the Hallett Cove Shopping Centre, the Boatshed Cafe and the soon to be completed Cove Civic Centre. A total investment of more than \$100 million for a \$15 million contribution from council
- Working with the State Government to develop the Tonsley site. A \$1 billion investment.
- Smaller projects such as the Rajah Street Reserve and the Marion Historic Village.

Mr Hanna said winning the 2010 Gold Business Excellence Award and the 2013 Australasian and Australian Awards for Community Engagement for the development of council's strategic plan were testimony to Mr Searle's leadership.

"A key part of the City of Marion's success is its culture and leadership and Mark has transformed both," Mr Hanna said.

"Our internal auditors have observed that the City of Marion seems to be achieving more with less compared with other councils."

Mr Searle said he adored local government and the City of Marion community but it was time for a change.

"I have been talking with the Mayor since late last year about my plans. I felt ready for a change and torn by my commitment to Marion," Mr Searle said.

"The timing is good for council with a new Mayor and seven new Elected Members. It is also good for me.

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“I plan to take an uninterrupted three months’ break and take out the new wetsuit I bought myself for Christmas and hit the surf.”

He said the ability of council, staff and the community to work together had been behind the city’s achievements.

“It has been a privilege to work with and for the City of Marion. I have so many fond memories and worked with so many magnificent people,” Mr Searle said.

“I wish council, staff and our community well for the future. It is a great city going to great places.”

An acting chief executive will be appointed on March 27 while a search begins for a new CEO.

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