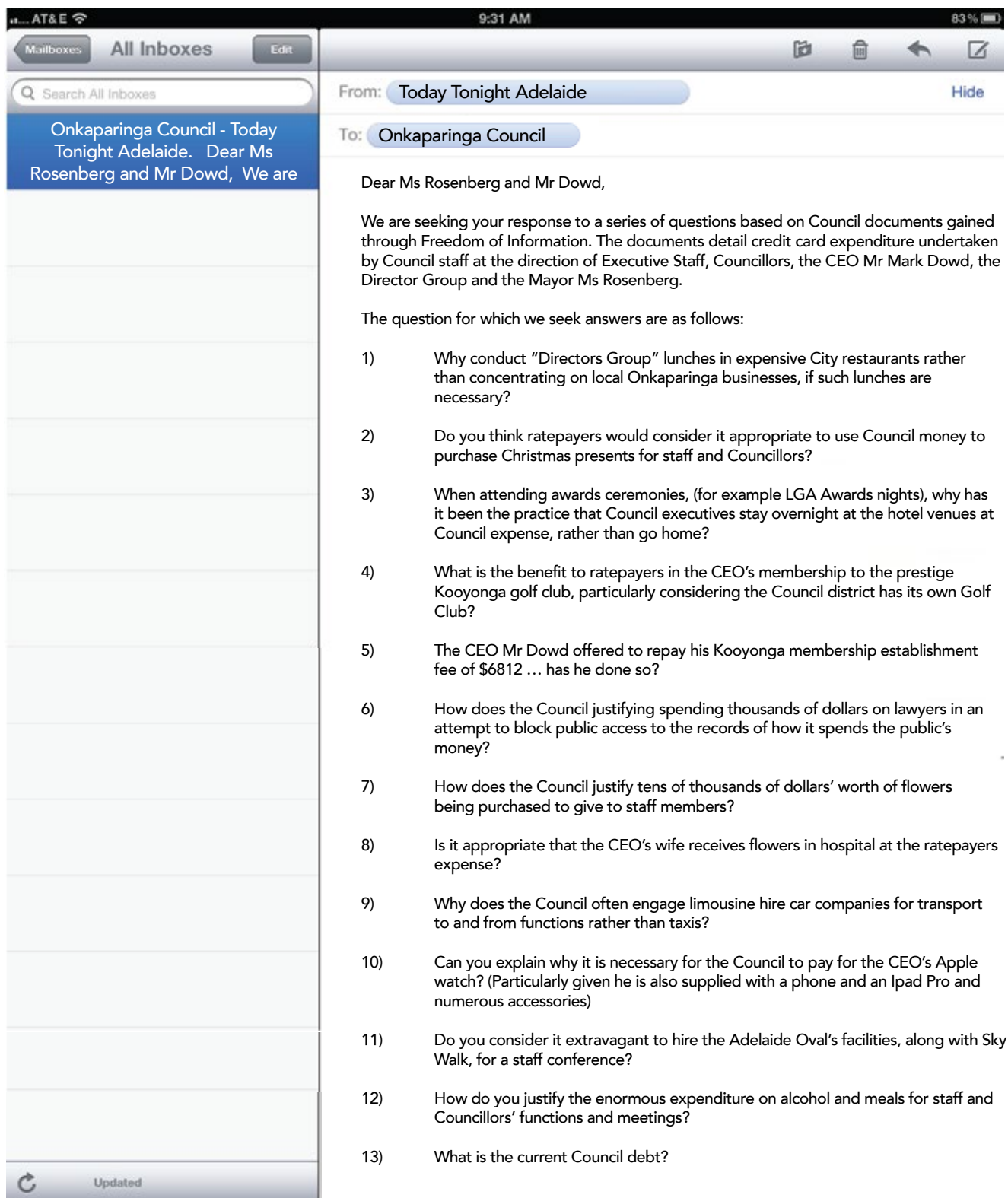
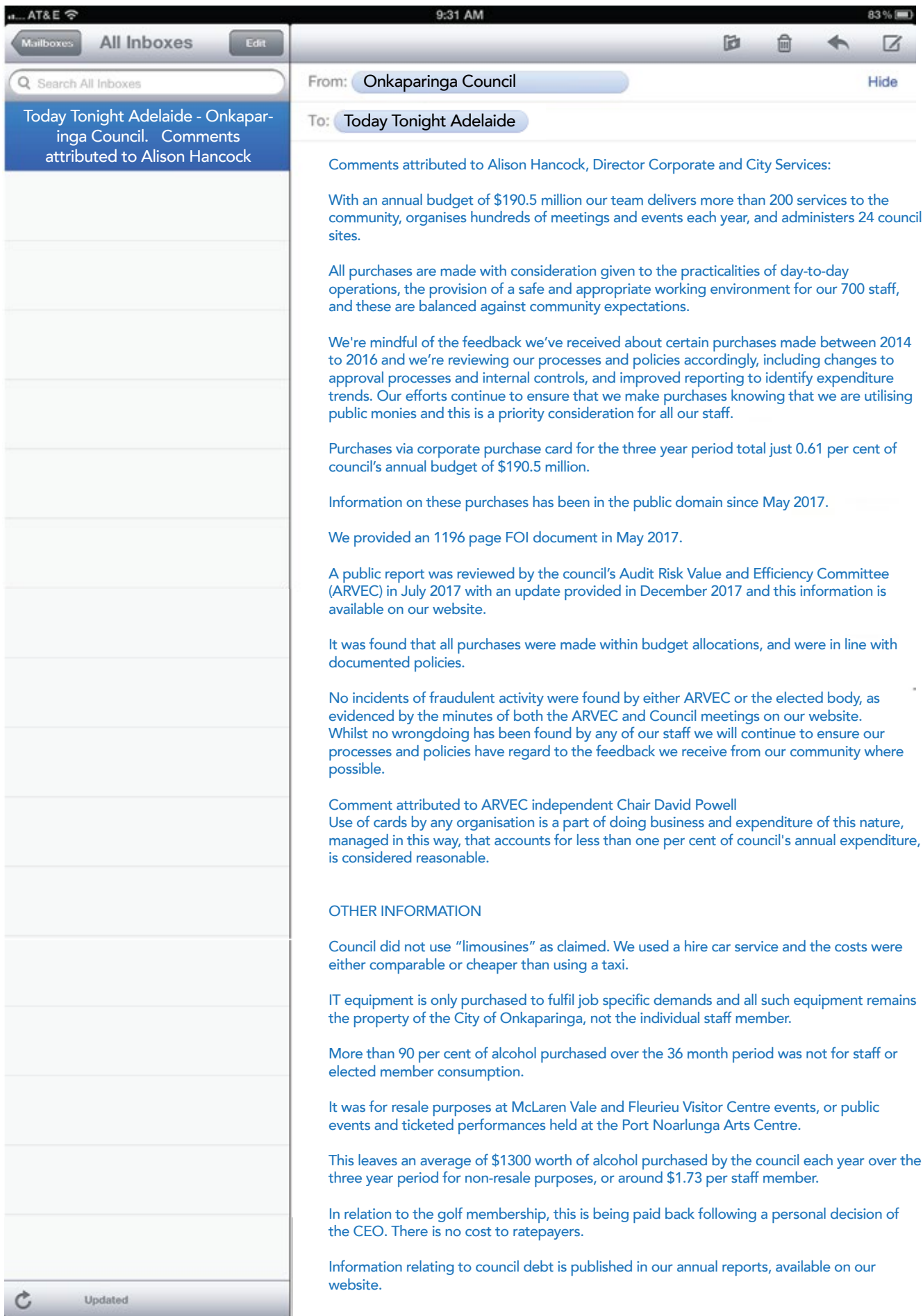


today tonight

We made several requests to interview the Mayor & Mr Dowd from the Onkaparinga Council. Both repeatedly declined.

We also asked for a response to detailed questions. You can see those questions below, and the Council's response following.





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Today Tonight Adelaide - Onkaparinga Council. Comments attributed to Alison Hancock

From: Onkaparinga Council

Hide

To: Today Tonight Adelaide

Comments attributed to Alison Hancock, Director Corporate and City Services:

With an annual budget of \$190.5 million our team delivers more than 200 services to the community, organises hundreds of meetings and events each year, and administers 24 council sites.

All purchases are made with consideration given to the practicalities of day-to-day operations, the provision of a safe and appropriate working environment for our 700 staff, and these are balanced against community expectations.

We're mindful of the feedback we've received about certain purchases made between 2014 to 2016 and we're reviewing our processes and policies accordingly, including changes to approval processes and internal controls, and improved reporting to identify expenditure trends. Our efforts continue to ensure that we make purchases knowing that we are utilising public monies and this is a priority consideration for all our staff.

Purchases via corporate purchase card for the three year period total just 0.61 per cent of council's annual budget of \$190.5 million.

Information on these purchases has been in the public domain since May 2017.

We provided an 1196 page FOI document in May 2017.

A public report was reviewed by the council's Audit Risk Value and Efficiency Committee (ARVEC) in July 2017 with an update provided in December 2017 and this information is available on our website.

It was found that all purchases were made within budget allocations, and were in line with documented policies.

No incidents of fraudulent activity were found by either ARVEC or the elected body, as evidenced by the minutes of both the ARVEC and Council meetings on our website. Whilst no wrongdoing has been found by any of our staff we will continue to ensure our processes and policies have regard to the feedback we receive from our community where possible.

Comment attributed to ARVEC independent Chair David Powell
Use of cards by any organisation is a part of doing business and expenditure of this nature, managed in this way, that accounts for less than one per cent of council's annual expenditure, is considered reasonable.

OTHER INFORMATION

Council did not use "limousines" as claimed. We used a hire car service and the costs were either comparable or cheaper than using a taxi.

IT equipment is only purchased to fulfil job specific demands and all such equipment remains the property of the City of Onkaparinga, not the individual staff member.

More than 90 per cent of alcohol purchased over the 36 month period was not for staff or elected member consumption.

It was for resale purposes at McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Visitor Centre events, or public events and ticketed performances held at the Port Noarlunga Arts Centre.

This leaves an average of \$1300 worth of alcohol purchased by the council each year over the three year period for non-resale purposes, or around \$1.73 per staff member.

In relation to the golf membership, this is being paid back following a personal decision of the CEO. There is no cost to ratepayers.

Information relating to council debt is published in our annual reports, available on our website.

Further questions put to Onkaparinga Council by Today Tonight:

AT&E 9:31 AM 83%

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Onkaparinga Council - Today Tonight Adelaide. Dear Ms Rosenberg and Mr Dowd, We are

From: Today Tonight Adelaide Hide

To: Onkaparinga Council

Council's statement did not answer Today Tonight's questions. Specifically, the answers we am seeking are these, and we wish that these be specifically addressed:

- 1) Why conduct "Directors Group" lunches in expensive City restaurants rather than concentrating on local Onkaparinga businesses, if such lunches are necessary?
- 2) Do you think ratepayers would consider it appropriate to use Council money to purchase Christmas presents for staff and Councillors?
- 3) When attending awards ceremonies, (for example LGA Awards nights), why has it been the practice that Council executives stay overnight at the hotel venues at Council expense, rather than go home?
- 4) What is the benefit to ratepayers in the CEO's membership to the prestige Kooyonga golf club, particularly considering the Council district has its own Golf Club?
- 5) With respect to Mr Dowd offered to repay his Kooyonga membership establishment fee of \$6812, you reply that this is being paid back by the CEO. However, I understand that Mr Dowd has offered only to repay it in instalments. How much, therefore, has he repaid to date? Is the rest an interest-free loan from Council to the CEO?
- 6) How does the Council justifying spending thousands of dollars on lawyers in an attempt to block public access to the records of how it spends the public's money?
- 7) How does the Council justify tens of thousands of dollars' worth of flowers being purchased to give to staff members?
- 8) Is it appropriate that the CEO's wife receives flowers in hospital at the ratepayers expense?
- 9) You state that using hire cars is comparable or cheaper than using a taxi. What are the rates for the hire cars (so that we might compare)? Why is it necessary to use either hire cars or taxis when directors receive a generous vehicle allowance?
- 10) Can you explain why it is necessary for the Council to pay for the CEO's Apple watch? (Particularly given he is also supplied with a phone and an Ipad Pro and numerous accessories)
- 11) Do you consider it extravagant to hire the Adelaide Oval's facilities, along with Sky Walk, for a staff conference?
- 12) What is the current Council debt?

Regarding other payments, we have several other questions:

Psychological testing/ appraisals/ psychometric appraisal and Psychological appraisal for TL development compliance and report conducted by Stilwell Management during the period 13/1/15 to 23/9/15

Testing and appraisals 6 @ \$1100.62 =	\$6603.72
Appraisal for TL development 1 @ 452.54 =	\$452.54
Total	\$7056.26

After September 2015 the task reverted back Council's Human resources.

The payments to Stilwell were paid on 5 different staff credit cards.

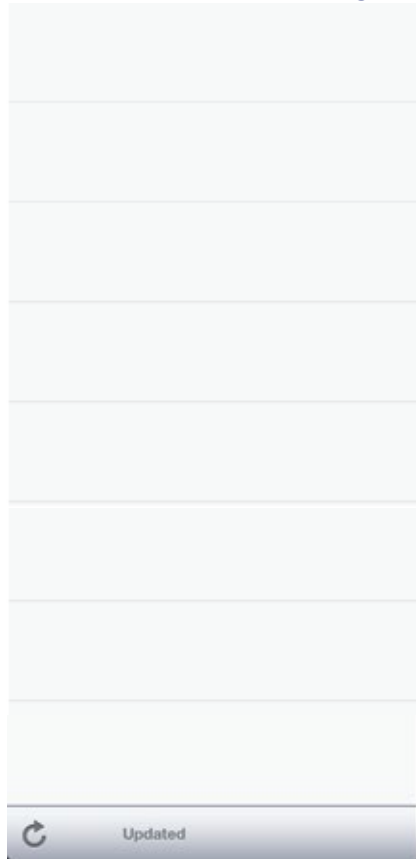
The Administration procedures for Corporate Purchase Card is clear; "It is not to be used as an alternative to the more structured procurement process".

- Q1. Why were these payments paid by credit rather than on invoices through the normal procurement process?
- Q2. Why were the payments on 5 separate credit cards ?
- Q3. Why was the approved administrative process ignored?

Updated

Continued next page....

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Payments to SMA for use of Adelaide Oval facilities.

26/4/16	Deposit for Departmental Leadership meeting	\$1020.00
10/6/16	Corporate and City Services Director/Leadership Group catering	\$1985.00
21/7/16	Deposit for hire of Adelaide Oval facilities for Director Group and Managers off site meeting	\$2040.00
28/7/16	Balance of charges for hire of Adelaide Oval function room and including tours and climb	\$2981.46
Total		\$8026.46

- Q1. Why was it necessary to spend \$8026 for two offsite meetings at Adelaide Oval?
- Q2. Why was there even a need for an offsite meeting?
- Q3. If there was a genuine need, why were the multiple options to meet within the City of Onkaparinga including Council chambers at far less cost not availed of?

Further to Council's statement that Council uses a hire car service, and the costs are either comparable or cheaper than using a taxi, we've found the card data entry for 14-9-16 which shows the Director City Services hired a chauffeur-driven hire car to travel from Sellicks to Ashbourne at a cost of \$160.

We've called a taxi company for a quote. We're told a cab trip would be between \$90 and \$100. This contradicts Council's statement regarding comparative costs.

The reason for the hire car trip was given as "late finish". Given that Directors are provided with a fully serviced and maintained motor vehicle and free petrol for private as well as work use, why was a hire car used?

The Council's response to these further enquiries.

