



STRATEGIC PLAN 2015–2024



Central Highlands



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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The Central Highlands of Tasmania is one of the most beautiful and unique natural areas in the world. It covers a total area of 8,010 square kilometres (11.6% of the State) and makes a significant and increasing contribution to the economic wealth of Tasmania. Our region supports a large and diverse agriculture industry and a significant livestock industry including meat and dairy production and contains in excess of 15% of the state's sheep and lambs. Our horticulture sector produces grapes, stone fruit and berries, and together with the forestry industry, power production, trout fishing, tourism and recreation makes our area a diverse rural location.

This Strategic Plan identifies key issues affecting the municipality and provides direction and strategies for the Central Highlands Council to continue to manage the assets (including natural, human, social, physical and organisational assets) and deliver services for our area for the ten-year period from 2015 to 2024.

The Plan is a dynamic document that sets out goals, strategies and programs for Council and the community and serves as a benchmark by which progress can be judged.

It is intended that regular minor reviews of the document will be conducted annually from its adoption to ensure currency.

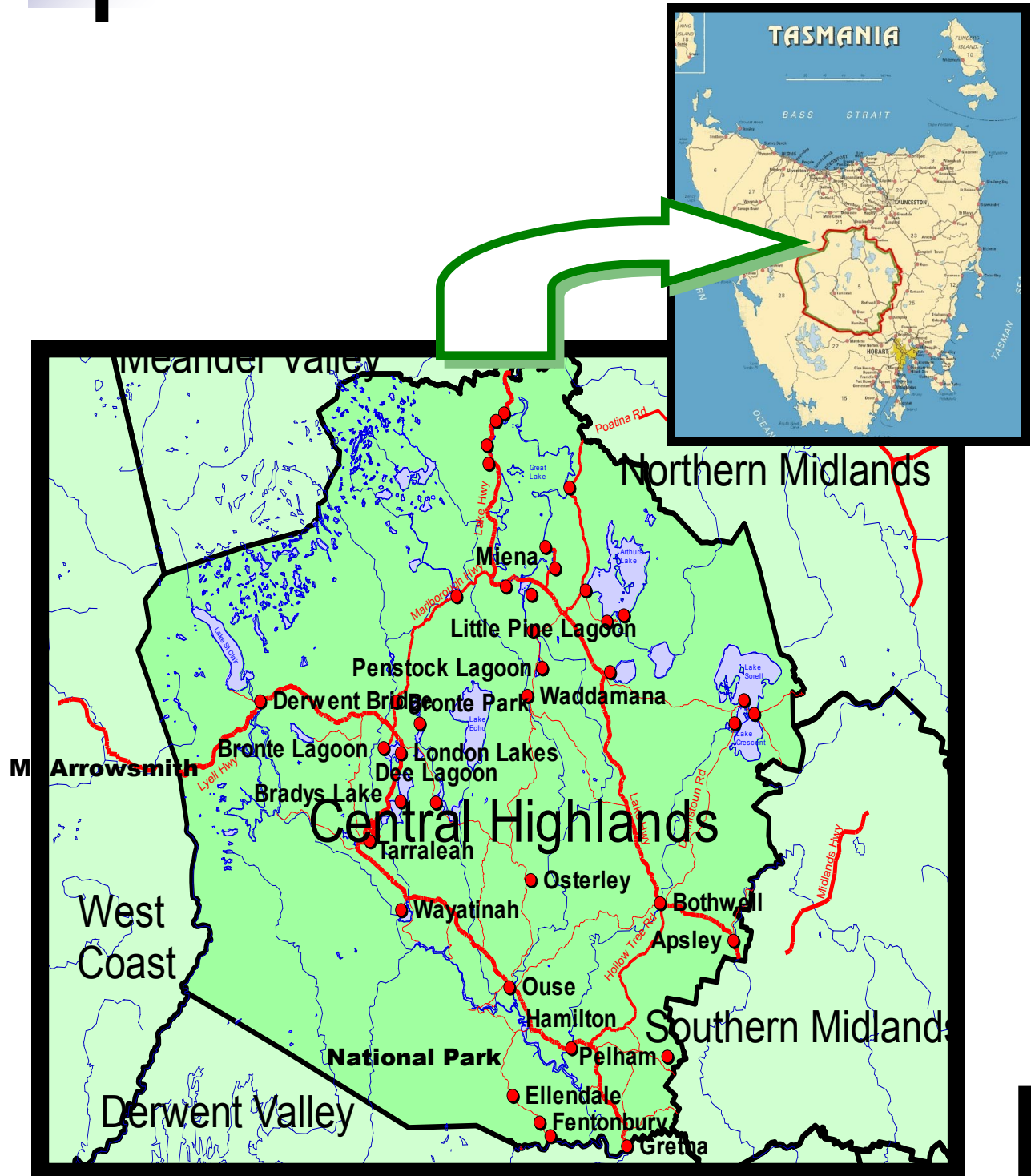
This Plan has been prepared for formal consideration by the community in accordance with the *Local Government Act, 1993*, which states "A Council is to prepare a strategic plan for its municipal area".



Lake Meadowbank

MAP OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

(Not to Scale)



COMMUNITY STATISTICS

The following statistics are provided from the 2016 Census Data

POPULATION

Male 1,141 Female 998 Total 2141

The median age of people in the Central Highlands was 50 years. Children 0-14 years made up 16.2% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 23.6% of the population.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people made up 5.3% of the population.

EMPLOYMENT

897 people, aged 15 years and over, reported being in the labour force in the week before Census night. Of these 53.6% were employed full time, 30.9% were employed part-time and 8.0% were unemployed. Of the employed people in Central Highlands, 19.9% worked in Sheep and Beef Cattle Farming, 3.5% worked in accommodation and 3.9% in local government administration.

The most common occupations included managers 23.7%, Labourers 21.4%, Technicians and Trade Workers 15.1%, Community and Personal Service Workers 9.4% and Machinery Operators and Drivers 9.2%.

EDUCATION

In the Central Highlands, 24.5% of people were attending an educational institution. Of these, 31.9% were in primary school, 15.4% in secondary school and 9.9% in a tertiary or technical institution.

Of people aged 15 years and over in Central Highlands, 9.1% reported having completed Year 12 as their highest level of educational attainment, 16.1% had completed a Certificate III or IV and 5.9% had completed an Advanced Diploma or Diploma.

FAMILIES

Of the families in the Central Highlands 31.1% were couple families with children, 54.6% were couple families without children and 12.4% were one parent families.

In the Central Highlands, of all households, 60.6% were family households, 35.1% were single person households and 4.3% were group households

34.7% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 and 3% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3,000.

The median weekly income for people aged 15 years and over was \$467.

DWELLINGS

36.3 % (891) of private dwellings were occupied and 63.7% (1,561) of private dwellings were unoccupied on census night. Of the occupied private dwellings, 4.0% had 1 bedroom, 23.4% had two bedrooms and 49.4% had 3 bedrooms. The average household size was 2.1 people.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

1. Vision

To provide residents and visitors opportunities to participate in and enjoy a vibrant local economy, rewarding community life, cultural heritage and a natural environment that is world class.

2. Mission

Provide leadership to ensure that local government and other services are provided to satisfy the social, economic and environmental needs of the present day community, whilst endeavouring to ensure the best possible outcomes for future generations.

3. Goals

1. Community Building—Build capacity to enhance community spirit and sense of wellbeing
2. Infrastructure and Facilities—Manage Council's physical assets in an efficient and effective manner
3. Financial Sustainability—Manage Council's finances and assets to ensure the long term viability and sustainability of Council
4. Natural Environment—Encourage responsible management of the natural resources and assets in the Central Highlands
5. Economic Development—Encourage economic viability within the municipal area
6. Governance and Leadership—Provide governance and leadership in an open, transparent, accountable and responsible manner in the best interests of our Community.

Australasian Golf Museum



STRATEGIES - GOAL 1

Goal 1 Community Well-Being

Build capacity to enhance community spirit and sense of wellbeing

Strategies

- 1.1 Continue to upgrade existing public open spaces and sporting facilities and encourage community use
- 1.2 Advocate for improved health, education, transport and other government and non-government services within the Central Highlands
- 1.3 Continue to strengthen partnerships with all tiers of government
- 1.4 Support and encourage social and community events within the Central Highlands
- 1.5 Provide support to community organisations and groups
- 1.6 Foster and develop an inclusive and engaged community with a strong sense of ownership of its area
- 1.7 Foster and support youth activities in the Central Highlands

Bothwell Medical Centre



STRATEGIES - GOAL 2

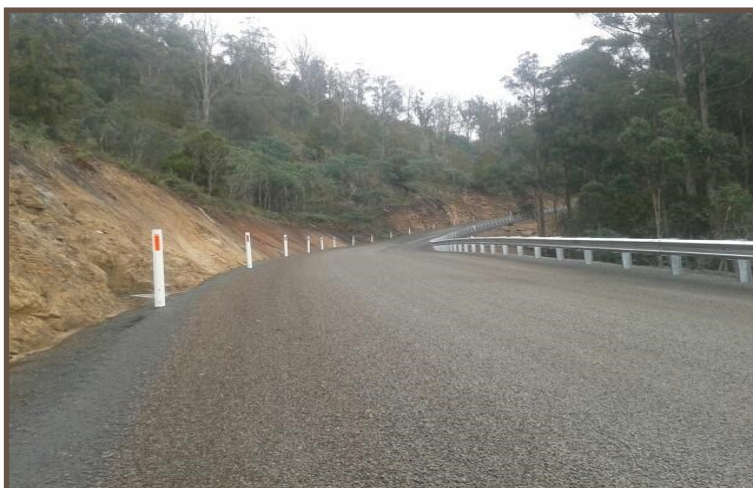
Goal 2 Infrastructure and Facilities

Manage Council's physical assets in an efficient and effective manner

Strategies

- 2.1 Develop and implement a 10 year Asset Management Plan for all classes of assets
- 2.2 Continue to lobby at regional and state levels to improve transport and infrastructure
- 2.3 Seek external funding to assist with upgrading of existing infrastructure and funding of new infrastructure and facilities
- 2.4 Ensure that the standard of existing assets and services are maintained in a cost effective manner

Pelham Tier Diversion



STRATEGIES - GOAL 3

Goal 3 Financial Sustainability

Manage Council's finances and assets to ensure long term viability and sustainability of Council

Strategies

- 3.1 Manage finances and assets in a transparent way to allow the maximisation of resources to provide efficient and consistent delivery of services
- 3.2 Review annually, Councils Long Term Financial Management Plan and Council's Long Term Asset Management Plan
- 3.3 Where efficiency gains can be identified, resource share services with other local government councils
- 3.4 Endeavour to, and continue to lobby for, an increase in the level of grant income
- 3.5 Encourage development to expand Council's rate base
- 3.6 Identify revenue streams that could complement/substitute for existing resources
- 3.7 Develop and maintain sound risk management processes



Power & lights upgrade at Bothwell Recreation Ground



STRATEGIES - GOAL 4

Goal 4 Natural Environment

Encourage responsible management of the natural resources and assets in the Central Highlands.

Strategies

- 4.1 Continue to fund and support the Derwent Catchment Project
- 4.2 Continue with existing waste minimisation and recycling opportunities
- 4.3 Promote the reduce, reuse, recycle, recover message
- 4.4 Continue the program of weed reduction in the Central Highlands
- 4.5 Ensure the Central Highlands Emergency Management Plan is reviewed regularly to enable preparedness for natural events and emergencies
- 4.6 Strive to provide a clean and healthy environment
- 4.7 Support and assist practical programs that address existing environmental problems and improve the environment

Goal 5 Economic Development

Encourage economic viability within the municipality

Strategies

- 5.1 Encourage expansion in the business sector and opening of new market opportunities
- 5.2 Support the implementation of the Southern Highlands Irrigation Scheme
- 5.3 Continue with the Highlands Tasmania and Bushfest branding
- 5.4 Encourage the establishment of alternative industries to support job creation and increase permanent residents
- 5.5 Promote our area's tourism opportunities, destinations and events
- 5.6 Support existing businesses to continue to grow and prosper
- 5.7 Develop partnerships with State Government, industry and regional bodies to promote economic and employment opportunities
- 5.8 Work with the community to further develop tourism in the area



Highlands Bushfest 2014

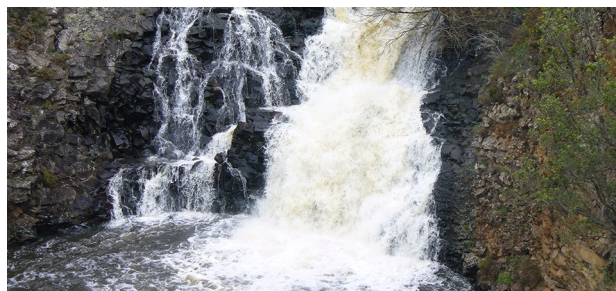
STRATEGIES - GOAL 6

Goal 6 Governance and Leadership

Provide governance and leadership in an open, transparent, accountable and responsible manner in the best interests of our community

Strategies

- 6.1 Ensure Council fulfils its legislative and governance responsibilities and its decision making is supported by sustainable policies and procedures
- 6.2 Ensure that Council members have the resources and skills development opportunities to effectively fulfil their responsibilities
- 6.3 Ensure appropriate management of risk associated with Council's operations and activities
- 6.4 Provide a supportive culture that promotes the well-being of staff and encourages staff development and continuous learning
- 6.5 Provide advocacy on behalf of the community and actively engage government and other organisations in the pursuit of community priorities
- 6.6 Consider Council's strategic direction in relation to resource sharing with neighbouring councils and opportunities for mutual benefit
- 6.7 Support and encourage community participation and engagement
- 6.8 Ensure that customers receive quality responses that are prompt, accurate and fair
- 6.9 Council decision making will be always made in open council except where legislative or legal requirements determine otherwise.



Tarraleah Falls