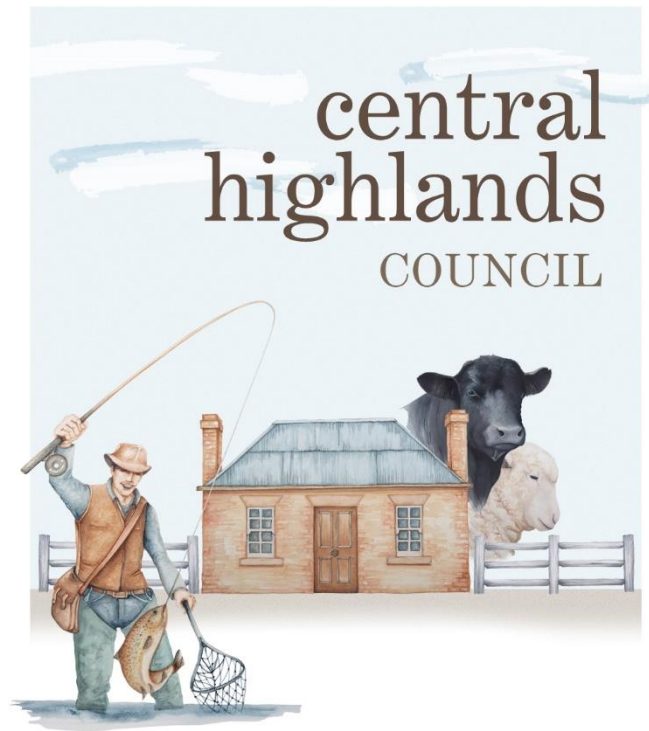




Council Meeting Minutes

15th April 2025

Bothwell Council Chambers

Notice of Meeting of Council – Tuesday 15th April 2025

To Councillors,

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, Notice is hereby given, that an Ordinary Meeting of Central Highlands Council is scheduled to be held in the Council Chamber, **Bothwell** on **Tuesday 15th April 2025**, commencing at **9.00am** with the business of the meeting to be in accordance with the following agenda paper.

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 Part 2, Division 1, a notice of the meeting was published on the Council website on 1 August 2024.

General Manager's Certification

PURSUANT to Section 65 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hereby certify, with respect to the advice, information and/or recommendation provided for the guidance of Council in this Agenda, that:

- A. such advice, information and/or recommendation has been given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice; and
- B. where any advice is given by a person who does not have the required qualifications or experience, that person has obtained and taken into account the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person.

Section 65(2) forbids Council from deciding any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering that advice.

Dated at Hamilton this **10th** day of **April 2025**.



Stephen Mackey
Acting General Manager

Order of Business

AUDIO RECORDING DISCLAIMER.....	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	5
CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETING	5
1. PRESENT.....	6
1.1 IN ATTENDANCE.....	6
1.2 APOLOGIES.....	6
2. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA.....	7
3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND STAFF ..	7
3.1 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST	7
3.2 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST	7
4. MINUTES.....	7
4.1 CONFIRMATION OF DRAFT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 18 MARCH 2025.....	8
5. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOP(S) HELD.....	8
5.1 FUTURE WORKSHOP(S).....	10
6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC	10
7. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC	12
8. PUBLIC RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT(S).....	12
9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	13
10. PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS.....	14
10.1 PETITIONS	14
10.2 DEPUTATIONS	14
10.3 PRESENTATIONS	14
11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS.....	15
11.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR Y MILLER.....	15
11.2 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR Y MILLER.....	17
11.3 NOTICE OF MOTION – MAYOR L TRIFFITT	18
11.4 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM	19
11.5 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM	21
12. COUNCIL ACTING AS A PLANNING AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO THE LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS ACT 1993 AND COUNCIL’S STATUTORY LAND USE PLANNING SCHEME	23
13. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING RESUMED	23
14. MONTHLY MAYORAL AND ELECTED MEMBERS ACTIVITY	23
14.1 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	26
15. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – COMMUNITY WELL-BEING)	31

15.1	HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2020-2025 – MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT	31
15.2	ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS 2025.....	32
15.3	SPORTS REPRESENTATION DONATION REQUEST – COOPER SMYTHE	34
15.4	SPORTS REPRESENTATION DONATION REQUEST – REUBEN STOTT	34
15.5	DONATIONS REQUEST – IMMUNE DEFICIENCIES FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA	35
15.6	APPLYING COMMON SEAL ON GRANT DEED	36
15.7	DONATION ENDO GIVING DAY	36
16.	OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES.....	38
16.1	WORKS & SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2025.....	38
17.	OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	41
17.1	MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2025.....	41
18.	OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	51
18.1	DERWENT CATCHMENT PROJECT.....	51
19.	OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.....	56
19.1	DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.....	56
19.2	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL (DAP) PROCESS.	57
19.3	TOP TOURISM TOWN AWARD ENTRY FOR BOTHWELL.....	21
20.	OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP.....	65
21.	CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS TO THE AGENDA.....	65
22.	CLOSURE	65

The meeting commenced at 9.03 a.m.

AUDIO RECORDING DISCLAIMER

As per *Regulation 33 (2) (a) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, audio recordings of meetings will be made available to Councillors, staff and members of the wider community including Government Agencies at no charge and will be made available on Council's website as soon as practicable after each Council Meeting. Unlike Parliament, Council meetings are not subject to parliamentary privilege, and both Council and the individual may be liable for comments that may be regarded as offensive, derogatory and/or defamatory.

The Mayor advises the meeting and members of the public that Council Meetings, not including Closed Sessions, are audio recorded and published on Council's Website in accordance with Council's Policy 2017-50.

The Mayor also advises that members of the public are not permitted to make audio recordings of Council Meetings without prior approval being granted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge and pay respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.

CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETING

Central Highlands Council takes safety seriously. We have a duty to ensure that we provide a safe workplace for our Employees, Councillors, Contractors and members of the public while present at Council's workplaces.

These premises form part of the Council's workplace, and it is expected that everyone who attends Council meetings will behave in a polite and respectful manner. People should refrain from using offensive or derogatory language or comments and not be aggressive, threatening or speak in a hostile manner.

1. PRESENT

Mayor L Triffitt; Deputy Mayor J Allwright; Cr A Archer (attended at 9.07 a.m.); Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller

1.1 IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Stephen Mackey (Acting General Manager) and Mrs Katrina Brazendale (Minute Secretary).

1.2 APOLOGIES

Nil

2. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

3.1 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

PURPOSE

In accordance with Regulation 8 (7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the Chairperson requests Councillors to indicate whether they or a close associate have or are likely to have a pecuniary interest (any pecuniary or pecuniary detriment) or conflict of interest in any Item of the Agenda.

Nil

3.2 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PURPOSE

Under the **Model Code of Conduct** made by Order of the Minister responsible for Local Government the following will apply to a Councillor –

PART 2 – Conflict of Interest that are not Pecuniary.

(6) A Councillor who has an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest in a matter before the Council must –

- (a) Declare the conflict of interest and the nature of the interest before discussion on the matter begins; and
- (b) Act in good faith and exercise reasonable judgement to determine whether a reasonable person would consider that the conflict of interest requires the Councillor to remove himself or herself physically from any Council discussion and remain out of the room until the matter is decided by the Council.

Stephen Mackey – Item 4.1 CLOSED Session General Managers Performance Review

4. MINUTES

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF DRAFT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 18 MARCH 2025

RESOLUTION 01/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr A Bailey

THAT the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

Attachment – Draft Minutes

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to confirm the Council Minutes of the previous month. Copies of the minutes have been previously circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

5. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOP(S) HELD

- 22nd March 2025 (Saturday) **Miena**
- 1st April 2025 **Bothwell**
- 8th April 2025 **Bothwell**

RESOLUTION 02/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr D Meacheam

Seconded: Cr J Hall

THAT the Council notes the following Council Workshop(s) conducted by Council since its last ordinary Council meeting.

Date	Attendance	Purpose
22/03/2025 (Miena)	Present: Mayor L Triffitt; Deputy Mayor J Allwright; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller. Mr Stephen Mackey (Acting General Manager) and Ms Kat	<i>For Council to better understand the needs and aspirations of Ellendale and surrounds, and for this to be considered in Strategic Plan</i>

	Cullen (Community Development Officer) Apologies: Cr A Archer	
01/04/2025	Present: Deputy Mayor J Allwright; Cr A Archer; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller. Mr Stephen Mackey (Acting General Manager) and Mrs Katrina Brazendale (Executive Assistant). Apologies: Mayor L Triffitt and Cr A Bailey	<i>Discussions undertaken on the following items:-</i> • <i>Osterley Church Picnic</i> • <i>Autumn Festival – Derwent Valley</i> • <i>Tas Networks – Power Pole Bothwell</i> • <i>Letters from recent Council Motions</i> • <i>Upcoming Elections and Council's list</i> • <i>Finance Committee</i> • <i>Council Properties at Wayatinah and Miena</i> • <i>Boat Ramp (Clyde River</i> • <i>LGAT Motion(s)</i>
08/04/2025	Present: Mayor L Triffitt; Deputy Mayor J Allwright; Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller. Mr Stephen Mackey (Acting General Manager), Zeeshan Tauqeer (Accountant), Graham Rogers (Manager DES) and Mrs Katrina Brazendale (Executive Assistant). Apologies: Nil	<i>Discussions undertaken on the following items:-</i> • <i>2025/2026 Budget</i>

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

5.1 FUTURE WORKSHOP(S)

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is for Councillors to note the Council Workshop date(s).

The proposed next Council Workshop will be held on the following date(s).

Budget Workshops Schedule

Tuesday, 29th April

Tuesday, 13th May

Tuesday, 27th May

Tuesday, 10th June (only if required)

These workshops would take place at the Bothwell Council Chambers, commencing at 10:00 am.

6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION 03/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

THAT pursuant to Regulation 15 (1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, Council, by an absolute majority, close the meeting to the public to consider the following matters in Closed Session:

Item Number	Matter	Outcome
2.1	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 March 2025.</i>	<i>Regulation 15 (2)(G) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.</i>
4.1	<i>Performance Review - General Manager</i>	<i>Regulation 15 (2)(G) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.</i>

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

PURPOSE

Under Regulation 15 (1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* states that at a meeting, a council by absolute majority, or a council committee by simple majority, may close a part of the meeting to the public for a reason specified in sub-regulation (2).

As per *Regulation 15 (1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, this motion requires an absolute majority.

MEETING CLOSED to the public at 9.12 am.

7. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting re-opened to the public at 10.00 a.m. The Mayor again advises, to the meeting and members of the public that Council Meetings, not including Closed Sessions, are audio recorded and published on Council's Website.

Members of the public are not permitted to make audio recordings of Council Meetings without prior approval being granted.

Kat Cullen (Community Development Officer) was in attendance when the meeting resumed

8. PUBLIC RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

The Chairperson announced that pursuant to Regulation 15(8)(9) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 and having considered privacy and confidential issues, the Council authorised the release to the public of the following discussions, decisions, reports or documents relating to the closed meeting:

<i>Item Number</i>	<i>Matter</i>	<i>Decision</i>
<i>2.1</i>	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 March 2025.</i>	<i>THAT</i> <i>the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 March 2025 be confirmed</i>
<i>4.1</i>	<i>Performance Review - General Manager</i>	<i>This item is yet to be discussed</i>

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the Council conducts a Public Question Time Forum to enable members of the public to ask question on Council related matters.

A period of 15 minutes, if required, will be set aside at the beginning of each Ordinary Council Meeting to conduct Public Question Time. If a response to a question cannot be provided at the meeting a written response will be provided as soon as practicable.

A member of the public may give written notice to the General Manager, 7 days before a meeting of a question to be put to the Meeting.

The Chairman may invite any member of the public present at a meeting to ask questions, without notice, relating to activities of the Council, subject to the provisions of Clause 2 below.

1. Once Question Time commences the Chairman will determine the order in which questions are heard.
2. Questions may relate to any business of the Council capable of being discussed in the open portion of the meeting, and which is not listed as an item for consideration on the Agenda for the Council Meeting.
3. Members of the public proposing a question are required to be present at the Council Meeting at which their question is to be read. Where a person submits a question for Public Question Time but fails to attend the meeting, the question will be treated as general correspondence and a written response will be provided at the earliest opportunity.
4. A person asking a question, when called upon by the Chairman is requested to:
 - Stand,
 - State their name and address,
 - Read out their question.
5. The Chairman retains the right to accept or decline questions and to determine if the question is to be answered at the meeting by the appropriate Councillor or employee or written down and taken on notice. The decision to take the question on notice may also be taken by the Councillor or employee to whom the question is directed. Questions taken on notice will be answered at a later meeting.
6. The Chairman may rule a question inappropriate, and thus inadmissible if in his or her opinion it has already been asked, is unclear, irrelevant, insulting, improper or relates to any matter which would normally be discussed in the closed portion of the meeting as defined in the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.
7. Public Question Time forum will be limited to a maximum of 15 minutes in duration and will be declared closed following the expiration of the allocated time period, or where all valid questions have been dealt with, whichever is the sooner.
8. Each question is to be asked by the proponent who will be allowed a maximum of three minutes in which to put the question.
9. The Chairman will **not allow** any discussion or debate on either the question or the response.
10. Where a person proposes more than one question at any one forum, and there are a number of persons wishing to lodge questions, the Chairman may take the questions in such order so as to hear as many members of the public as practical during the time allocated.

11. The minutes of the Council Meeting will contain a summary of each question asked by members of the public and the response given.
12. Public Statements (as opposed to questions) **will not** be accepted for the reason that statements could be considered a form of participation.

Pertaining to any Planning Authority agenda item within this agenda, Council will do so in accordance with Council's Policy 2017-49.

Both the Public Question Time Procedure above and Council's Policy 2017-49 'Public Comment on Planning Agenda Items' will be available for the public to view at the meeting.

Seven members were in the gallery when the meeting resumed, with no questions being raised.

10. PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

10.1 PETITIONS

Nil

10.2 DEPUTATIONS

Nil

10.3 PRESENTATIONS

Tracey Turale, Pamela Turton-Turner and Paul Sasse provide Council with an update on HATCH's submission to become a Neighbourhood House and services that they provide to the Community.

The presentation concluded at 10.17 a.m.

11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

PURPOSE

Under Regulation 16 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 relating to Motions on Notice. It states the following:

- (5) *A Councillor may give to the general manager, at least 7 days before a meeting, give written notice of a motion, together with supporting information and reasons, to be included on the agenda of that meeting.*

11.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR Y MILLER

RESOLUTION 04/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr Y Miller

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT Council ask the Police Department to place a speed camera either permanently or intermittently at Franklin Place, Hamilton

CARRIED 8/1

For the Motion

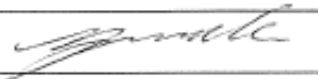
Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

Against the Motion

Cr R Cassidy

NOTICE OF MOTION

Under Division 2 – Motions, Section 16 (5) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, a Councillor may give to the General Manager, at least 7 days before a meeting, written notice of a motion, together with supporting information and reasons, to be included on the agenda of that meeting.

Date of Meeting:	15/4/25
Councillor Name:	yvonne Miller
Proposed Motion:	That council ask the Police dept to place a speed Camera either permantly or inter ^{er} minantly.
Background Details:	60 km speed limit is not being adhered to, especially early morning - 5 - 8am with log trucks etc.
Signature:	
Date:	1 - 4 - 25

11.2 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR Y MILLER**RESOLUTION 05/04.2025/C****Moved:** Cr Y Miller**Seconded:** Cr D Meacheam**THAT** Council meet once a year at Miena – Great Lake**CARRIED 7/2****For the Motion**

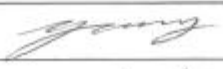
Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

Against the Motion

Cr A Archer and Mayor L Triffitt

NOTICE OF MOTION

Under Division 2 – Motions, Section 16 (5) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, a Councillor may give to the General Manager, at least 7 days before a meeting, written notice of a motion, together with supporting information and reasons, to be included on the agenda of that meeting.

Date of Meeting:	15/4/25
Councillor Name:	Yvonne Miller.
Proposed Motion:	That council meet once a year at Miena - Great Lake.
Background Details:	We are here to represent the community. In doing so it is would allow the population of the northern part of the Council to be able to attend the meeting. after some questioning while at Miena, it was enthusiastically received.
Signature:	
Date:	1/4/25

11.3 NOTICE OF MOTION – MAYOR L TRIFFITT

Deputy Mayor J Allwright took the chair at 10.33 a.m.

RESOLUTION 06/04.2025/C

Moved: Mayor L Triffitt

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

THAT Council's DES Manager Graham, provide an estimated costing and design of a building Complex to house the 3 Emergency Services ie: Ambulance, Fire, SES on the Council owned land opposite the Great Lake Community Centre (GLCC) building at yingina/Great Lake.

CARRIED 8/1

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

Against the Motion

Cr A Archer

Recommendation for the April Council meeting:

Move: Mayor Triffitt Second:

THAT Council's DES Manager Graham, provide an estimated costing and design of a Building Complex to house the 3 Emergency Services ie: Ambulance, Fire, SES on the Council owned land opposite the Great Lake Community Centre (GLCC) building at yingina/Great Lake.

Thank you.

Mayor L Triffitt resumed the chair at 10.39 a.m.

11.4 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM

RESOLUTION 07/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr D Meacheam

Seconded: Cr Y Miller

THAT the following schedule of Council committee meeting times and frequency be discussed and affirmed

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Under Division 2 – Motions, Section 16 (5) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, a Councillor may give to the General Manager, at least 7 days before a meeting, written notice of a motion, together with supporting information and reasons, to be included on the agenda of that meeting.

Date of Meeting:	April 15, 2025
Councillor Name:	David Meacheam
Proposed Motion:	That the following schedule of Council committee meeting times and frequency be discussed and affirmed.
Background Details:	I'm putting up the following schedule with the expectation that individual councillors will make amendments to the motion that will in particular, set in place the initiation of meetings of the committees ratified at the ordinary meeting of Council in March this year.
Signature:	<i>David Meacheam</i>
Date:	31/3/25

Council Committee	Representative	Meeting Schedule
Audit Panel	Deputy Mayor J Allwright Cr A Bailey Cr (Dr) Meacheam (Proxy)	Quarterly, commence at 9.00 am, rather than 10.00 am
Derwent Catchment Project	Deputy Mayor J Allwright Cr R Cassidy (Proxy)	As required
Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH)	Mayor L Triffitt Cr Y Miller Cr J Honner (Proxy)	As required

Independent Living Units	Mayor L Triffitt (Chair) Cr A Bailey Cr Y Miller Cr J Hall	As Required
Local Government of Tasmania (LGAT)	Mayor L Triffitt Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Proxy)	Quarterly
Southern Tasmanian Council Authority (STCA)	Mayor L Triffitt Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Proxy)	Quarterly
South Central Sub-Regional (SCS) Working Group	Mayor L Triffitt Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Proxy)	Quarterly
Plant Committee	Cr A Archer (Chair) Cr A Bailey Cr J Hall	Given some Councillor daytime commitments, might evening meetings be appropriate?
Economic Development Special Committee	Cr (Dr) Meacheam (Chair) Deputy Mayor J Allwright Cr R Cassidy Community Member (4)	Quarterly. First meeting ASAP after community members are recruited.
Community Development Special Committee	Mayor L Triffitt (Chair) Cr J Honner Cr Y Miller Community Members (4)	
Finance Committee	Cr (Dr) Meacheam Deputy Mayor J Allwright Cr A Archer Cr J Hall (Proxy)	Quarterly. First meeting immediately following April 2025 Ordinary meeting of Council.

11.5 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM**RESOLUTION 08/04.2025/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr R Cassidy

THAT Council at its earliest convenience lobby the candidates for the upcoming Federal election in Lyons for the sealing of the Marlborough Road. That lobbying is to be paired with media releases to the major Tasmanian newspaper and electronic media, including Council's own Facebook page.

CARRIED 8/1**For the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

For the Motion

Cr R Cassidy

RESOLUTION 09/04.2025/C**Moved:** Cr J Honner**Seconded:** Cr R Cassidy

THAT Council move to Item 19.3 on the Agenda.

CARRIED**For the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

19.3 TOP TOURISM TOWN AWARD ENTRY FOR BOTHWELL**RESOLUTION 10/04.2025/C****Moved:** Cr J Honner**Seconded:** Cr R Cassidy

THAT Council approve the allocation of up to \$1,000 from the Community and Economic Development Budget for a short professional tourism video, plus entry fee payment for entering Bothwell in the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania's Top Tourism Town Award.

CARRIED**For the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

Attachment - Top Tourism Town award information.

BACKGROUND

Cally Lyons of Rathmore has raised with Council nominating Bothwell in the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania's Top Tourism Town Award. It is proposed that the nomination would be submitted by Council, along with support and collaboration from local tourism operators, Destination Southern Tasmania, and Tourism Industry Council Tasmania. Bothwell would be entered in the Tiny Tourism Town Award for populations under 1,500.

The entry requires: an overview of the town, a feature-style editorial, a short promotional video, a local travel itinerary.

Benefits of entry:

- All entries are promoted through the social media channels of TICT, Spirit of Tasmania, RTOs, and other industry partners.
- Creation of destination marketing resources which Council can use for continued promotion of region.
- Winners package – a marketing package valued at \$20,000+
- Tasmanian winners automatically become National Finalists

A nomination fee of \$199 applies, submissions are due 14 May 2025. In addition to the application fee, the request includes engaging a professional to create a short professional promotional video for Bothwell which is required for entry. Given discussions with video content creators, the estimate for the video is between \$600-\$800.

RESOLUTION 11/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr Y Miller

Seconded: Cr J Honner

THAT Council move back to Item 12. On the Agenda.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

12. COUNCIL ACTING AS A PLANNING AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO THE LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS ACT 1993 AND COUNCIL'S STATUTORY LAND USE PLANNING SCHEME

Nil

13. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING RESUMED

Not Required

14. MONTHLY MAYORAL AND ELECTED MEMBERS ACTIVITY

RESOLUTION 12/04.2025/C

Moved: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Seconded: Cr J Honner

THAT the Council notes the Mayoral and Elected Members Activities.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

Strategic Plan	6.2 Ensure that Council members have the resources and skills development opportunities to effectively fulfil their responsibilities
Council Policy	Councillor Code of Conduct Policy
Legislative Context	Local Government Act 1993 Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2024
Consultation	The community and stakeholders.
Impact on Budget/Resources	Not applicable.
Risk	Allocations for Councillor Conference attendance are included in the operational budget.

PURPOSE

This report aims to provide an overview of the Mayor and Elected Member's monthly activities.

BACKGROUND

The Mayor and Elected members can provide an activity report each month summarising any civic events they attend.

DISCUSSION

The Mayor and Elected Members represent the council at public and civic events and are the political interface between other bodies, governments, and the Council. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the Mayor is designated as the spokesperson for the Council as well as a representative for the Council on regional organisations and at intergovernmental forums at regional, state, and federal levels. Reports below are provided outside the general functions of a Councillor, whereby Councillors meet with ratepayers and attend workshops.

Mayor Loueen Triffitt

10 March 2025	Inspector Tasmanian Police (Hamilton)
18 March 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
22 March 2025	Community Workshop (Miena)
26 March 2025	International Women's Day (Gretna)
28 March 2025	Visit Her Excellency, Bothwell District High School, Central Highlands Visitor Centre & Australasian Golf Museum, Morning tea with representative from the Bothwell Bunnies and Sheep Station Cup, Ratho Farm Tour, Great Lake Community Centre – Greenhouse and Makers Shed Civic Reception with Emergency Services.
8 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)

- Business of Council x **11**
- Ratepayer and community members – communications x **8**
- Elected Members - communications x **28**
- Council Management communications x **4**

Deputy Mayor J Allwright

18 March 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
22 March 2025	Community Workshop (Miena)
28 March 2025	Visit Her Excellency (Ratho Farm)
1 April 2025	Council Workshop (Bothwell)
2 & 3 April	LGAT Hobart
8 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)

Cr A Archer

18 March 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
8 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)

Cr A Bailey

18 March 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
22 March 2025	Community Workshop (Miena)
8 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)

Cr R Cassidy

15 March 2025	"Malbena Matters" Fishers & Walkers of Tasmania
18 March 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
22 March 2025	Community Workshop (Miena)
28 March 2025	Visit Her Excellency (Ratho Farm)
1 April 2025	Council Workshop (Bothwell)
1 April 2025	Help Shape The Tourism In The Central Highlands (Ratho Farm)
8 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)

Cr J Hall

18 March 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
22 March 2025	Community Workshop (Miena)
28 March 2025	Visit Her Excellency (Ratho Farm)
1 April 2025	Council Workshop (Bothwell)
1 April 2025	Help Shape The Tourism In The Central Highlands (Ratho Farm)
8 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)

Cr J Honner

18 March 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
22 March 2025	Community Workshop (Miena)
1 April 2025	Council Workshop (Bothwell)
8 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)

Cr D Meacheam

18 March 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
22 March 2025	Community Workshop (Miena)
28 March 2025	Visit Her Excellency (Ratho Farm) and (Great Lake Community Centre)
1 April 2025	Council Workshop (Bothwell)
1 April 2025	Help Shape The Tourism In The Central Highlands (Ratho Farm)
8 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)

Cr Y Miller

18 March 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
22 March 2025	Community Workshop (Miena)
28 March 2025	Visit Her Excellency (Ratho Farm) and (Great Lake Community Centre)
1 April 2025	Council Workshop (Bothwell)
1 April 2025	Help Shape The Tourism In The Central Highlands (Ratho Farm)
8 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)

14.1 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor provided update on the following Items

- Osterley Church Picnic held on the 12 April 2025
- Gretna Cricket Club Presentation held on the 12 April 2025

The Mayor had requested that the attached correspondence from Elizabeth Lang dated 14th March 2025 be placed on the Agenda. Due to the lateness of receiving these letters a report was unable to be completed prior to the agenda going out, therefore the correspondence is for noting only.

RESOLUTION 13/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr D Meacheam

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT

That in response to the growing incidence of invasive weed species on the Central Plateau, Council:

1. With the assistance of the Derwent Catchment Project or Whispering Landscapes, initiate further action for weed control in public areas on the Central Plateau.
2. With reference to the Derwent Catchment Project funded program for weed control on private lands, Council sent out advice in relation to weed control on private lands with rates notices.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

RESOLUTION 14/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr D Meacheam

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT

That Council requests that the Department of State Growth act in response to the following issues:

1. Reduce the present speed limit on Highland Lakes Road through Miena from 80 kph to 50 kph.
2. That the left-hand signage of the T intersection of the Marlborough Road with the Highland Lakes Road (northbound) be repositioned to enable safe viewing to the left/North.

3. That's Department of State Growth instigate regular sweeping of the gravel spread from the intersection of unsealed Council roads that impact upon Highland Lakes Road.

CARRIED 8/1

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

Against the Motion

Cr J Honner

14-03-2025.

Dear Lou: Please find encl. two letters to you and Council members. The one relating to roads was requested by you at the recent Shackowners Assocn. meeting at Miera. The second relates to the spread of weeds in the Miera area.

I hope Council can act upon these issues as we continue to care about safety, and the environment, within the Central Highlands.

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth Lang.

Please put each of these onto your agenda for next Council meeting. Thank you.

14-03-2025.

Dear Mayor Triffitt and Central Highlands Councillors:

Many residents and shack owners within the Mienan area are very concerned about the increasing prevalence of invasive plants, in particular broom and thistles. Professional spraying of some other species, plus these two, is being done in some areas, which is making a difference. However, local roads are becoming inundated by thistle and broom, as are many house blocks.

Could a letter or notice attached to rate accounts / newsletters / The Mayor's report in "The Highland Digest" (all of these - maybe also notices placed in/on public noticeboards!) be circulated - to urge shackowners to clean up their blocks, and help to eradicate these plants?

Many of us care deeply about this unique environment, and wish to see these introduced species dealt with.

Thanking you in anticipation,
Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth Lang.

14-03-2025.

Dear Mayor Triffitt, and Central Highlands Councillors:

At the recent Shackowners Assocn. meeting, held at Miena 9/3/2025, Mayor Lou Triffitt requested that I send the following points, which could be included in continuing Council requests to relevant government departments about road issues in the Miena area.

- ① * The speed limit on Highland Lakes Rd, from Shannon Lagoon through to Lochiel Drive, and on the Marlborough Hwy past the Great Lake Hotel - should be reduced to 50 kph.
- ② * Many hamlets and towns throughout Tasmania now have such a reduced speed limit. Even places with small populations have this limit through their residential section on major roads.
- ③ * Miena residents have NO footpaths upon which to walk. People must therefore walk along major roads/highway edges. Relating to point ② - most of the places with reduced speed limits do have footpaths!!
- ④ * The Tasmanian state government would surely advocate health and fitness strategies for people! Preventive health initiatives, such as safe walking paths, should be provided. If not - then reduce vehicular speed!!
- ⑤ * Recent years have seen an increase in traffic using roads. Many motorists are oblivious re. local road use. Tourist traffic, business expansion, shack building/renovation. GPS-directed routes ---- all are reasons as to why roads are busier.
- ⑥ * The present 80Kph speed does NOT allow entry/exit into and from local streets to occur safely. No vehicle can be sighted as we enter the main road, but because of their speed, a vehicle can be hammering our rear as we move gears to continue.

(page 2 foll.)

P.2

- ⑦* Regular gravel sweeps should occur at local roads which meet the main roads. Gravel from unscaled roads spreads over the bitumen, which can cause vehicles to slew and skid.
- ⑧* The one-lane bridge at Shannon Lagoon continues to be dangerous. Vehicles coming from the Bothwell/Poatina direction often DO NOT STOP! This bridge should be widened, as it's on a major road.
- ⑨* The large road sign on the left as motorists reach the T-intersection just down from the Great Lake Hotel needs to be re-positioned-again! You CANNOT see to the left for coming traffic. The solid section of the sign needs to be set higher on the poles so we can see the road clearly to the left.

Request: Could this document be placed as an agenda item for your next Council meeting, please?
And- could Council contact the Dept. of State Growth and other relevant bodies to urge action upon these requests?

Thanking you in anticipation,
Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth Lang.

15. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – COMMUNITY WELL-BEING)

Build capacity to enhance community spirit and sense of wellbeing

- 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

Deputy Mayor J Allwright left the meeting at 11.17 a.m.

15.1 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2020-2025 – MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLUTION 15/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr Y Miller

THAT the Health and Wellbeing report be received.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

BACKGROUND

The following activities were performed during **February and March 2025**.

COUNCIL CORE BUSINESS

Council Community Grant Program

Administration of Community Grants Program and School support funding.

Grant Applications

- TAS Active infrastructure grants are currently open and close 30 April. Application being developed for both Gretna Cricket Club changerooms and Bothwell Recreation Grounds lighting

upgrade.

- Purchases are being finalised for received funding for successful grant Stream 1 and 2 for Resilience and Recovery DPAC. Round 3 for regional resources is currently open.

Events

- 22 March Community Workshop – Miena.
- 26 March Women’s Day at Gretna – around 45 in attendance.
- 25 April ANZAC day – planning for event underway with event details finalised
- 17-25 May Volunteer Week – working with Rural Business Tasmania to develop workshop for local volunteering groups, and Volunteer Week Event.

Tasmanian Tourism Showcase – investigating Council participating in this event 26July.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Promotions of Ellendale and Miena Community workshops. Facilitation of Miena Community workshop.
- Promotion of ANZAC day event
- Community engagement regarding feedback Ouse School to Department of Education

Meetings attended

Meeting with Department of Education – Rural Business Tasmania – financial counselling service; Ouse School, Gretna Cricket Club facility upgrade; Gretna Fire brigade – ANZAC Day; Bronte Park Body Corporate – ANZAC day; Playgroup Tasmania – Bothwell yearly plan; LGAT Health and Wellbeing Network meeting; Child & Youth Safety Peer Learning Network Communities for Children Steering Committee.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

1. Central Highlands Community Health Centre – Innovative Model of Care Project

Request has been made to Primary Health Tasmania for update for this project.

2. Ouse School

Attendance at Community drop-in session with Department of Education, Children and Young People at Ouse 26 March. Promotion of flyer requesting feedback regarding school. Meeting with General Manager and DECYP representatives scheduled for 22 March.

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION

Council social media (Facebook) update - 12 March – 13 April 2025

Audience: 2,649 followers. Net followers increase: 12 in last 28 day; 593 in the last year.

Posts: ANZAC Day, Women’s Day, Home Safe Pet Id program, Bashan Wind farm consultation, Miena workshop promotion, Great Lake weed management project, DST tourism workshops, Home Care south community shopping trips, Bothwell Swimming Pool update,

Deputy Mayor J Allwright returned to the meeting at 11.18 a.m.

15.2 ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS 2025

RESOLUTION 16/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr Y Miller

Seconded: Cr J Hall

THAT Council accept the ANZAC day 2025 arrangements report.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

Attachment - ANZAC Day poster

BACKGROUND

Please see table below regarding ANZAC DAY arrangements for this year:

Ceremony	Time	Council support
Arthurs Lake Roadhouse	6am	Elected representatives attending, wreath
Bronte Park Historic Village	6am	New flags, elected representatives invited (representative to be determined), wreath, \$200 contribution to post-event community BBQ.
Fentonbury War Memorial	6am	Elected representatives attending, printing, wreath, \$200 contribution to post-event catering at Westerway Hall.
Gretna Cenotaph	6am	Elected representatives attending, printing, PA, wreaths, coordination, funding post-event catering at Gretna Hotel.
Great Lake Community Centre	9am	Elected representatives invited (representative to be determined), wreath, \$200 contribution to post-event catering at Community Centre.
Bothwell Memorial Cenotaph	11am	Elected representatives attending, printing, PA, wreaths, coordination, funding post-event catering at Castle Hotel.
Hamilton Memorial Cenotaph	11am	Elected representatives attending, printing, PA, wreaths, coordination, funding post-event catering 1826 Bar & Bistro.

DISCUSSION

Discuss which Council representatives will attend Bronte Park and Miena ceremonies.

15.3 SPORTS REPRESENTATION DONATION REQUEST – COOPER SMYTHE**RESOLUTION 17/04.2025/C****Moved:** Cr J Honner**Seconded:** Cr R Cassidy

THAT Council provide a donation of \$500 towards travel costs for Cooper Smythe to attend the Australian Track and Field Championships.

CARRIED**For the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

Attachments - Community Donations request – redacted and Endorsement letter from Athletics Tasmania

BACKGROUND

Cooper Smythe, from Ellendale has been selected to represent Tasmania at the Australian Track and Field championships on the 10-12 April 2025 in WA. He has qualified for the under 20 men's long jump and is part of the men's 4 x100m relay state team.

Cooper's family have submitted a request for financial assistance from Council. As per Council's community donations program, residents may apply for and receive up to \$500 in financial support to attend an interstate representative event.

15.4 SPORTS REPRESENTATION DONATION REQUEST – REUBEN STOTT**RESOLUTION 18/04.2025/C****Moved:** Cr J Honner**Seconded:** Cr A Bailey

THAT Council provide a donation of \$500 to Reuben Stott for costs associated with attending the Indoor Cricket National Championships, through the Community and Economic Development budget allocation.

CARRIED**For the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

Attachment - Community Donations request - redacted**Background**

Reuban Stott, from Ellendale, has been selected to represent the Tasmanian U16 boys team at the Indoor Cricket National championships on the 6-12 July 2025 in WA.

Reuben's family have submitted a request for financial assistance from Council. As per Council's community donations program, residents may apply for and receive up to \$500 in financial support to attend an interstate representative event.

15.5 DONATIONS REQUEST – IMMUNE DEFICIENCIES FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA**RESOLUTION 19/04.2025/C**

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

THAT Council provide a donation of \$280 towards support for Hobart Razzamatazz, hosted by Immune Deficiencies Foundation of Australia through the Community and Economic Development budget allocation.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

Attachments - Community Donations request from IDFA**BACKGROUND**

Council have supported the annual fundraising event "Razzamatazz" for several years. The coordinators have extended their thanks for Council's continued support.

This year, funds raised will go towards the provision of critical support and equipment for the Immune Deficiencies Foundation of Australia (IDFA), to help those families with children that have an immune deficiency.

The show will be held at the Federation Concert Hall – Hobart Grand Chancellor.

Donations provides free tickets to the event for Tasmanian special needs and disadvantaged children and their carers and families. The profits from the purchase of these tickets then are distributed to IDFA.

The cost for four tickets is \$280.

15.6 APPLYING COMMON SEAL ON GRANT DEED

RESOLUTION 20/04.2025/C

Moved: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Seconded: Cr J Honner

THAT council authorise the signing of the Deed of Variation for Central Highlands Council (Health Action Team Central Highlands) – Healthy Tasmania Healthy Focus – Highlands Healthy Connect Stage 2 'Pathways to a better life' Funding Agreement 2023 - 2025 covering the period 1 June 2023 to 31 December 2025 by the Acting General Manager.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

REPORT BY Katrina Brazendale, Acting Deputy General Manager

DISCUSSION

Tracey has negotiated an extension to the Funding Agreement with Department of Health (Healthy Tasmania) for an extension for the Highlands Healthy Connect Project.

The current Funding Agreement expires on 30th June 2025. The extension will be until 31st December 2025. Council is the auspice for HATCH for this project.

There are no financial or other implications for council as there are enough funds to continue the project.

To be able the extension council was required to sign and seal the grant deed. There is authority under councils' delegations register for the General Manager to use the common seal as long as the use is advised to council at the next available council meeting.

15.7 DONATION ENDO GIVING DAY

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr J Honner

THAT Council make a donation of \$300 to the Endo Giving Day.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION

Moved: Cr Y Miller

Seconded: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

THAT Council make a donation of \$500 to the Endo Giving Day.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

RESOLUTION 21/04.2025/C**Moved:** Cr Y Miller**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor J Allwright**THAT** Council make a donation of \$500 to the Endo Giving Day.**CARRIED****For the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, Acting General Manager**DISCUSSION**

Endometriosis Australia have written to Council request a donation to help to train nurses in providing essential care for those living with endometriosis in these communities.

Nurses are critical in the fight against endometriosis, often at the frontline, helping guide, and support individuals through their journey with the debilitating condition. Their dedication and compassion make all the difference to helping those with endometriosis.

From educating patients about symptoms to providing emotional support during treatments, they play a key role in improving the quality of life for individuals in rural and remote regions with this chronic condition.

Endometriosis facts

- Endometriosis affects an estimated one in 10 women, or 176 million women worldwide
- Women with endometriosis can wait 7 to 10 years to receive a diagnosis. This may be because symptoms are non-specific, and endometriosis is generally only diagnosed through surgery.
- There is no cure for endometriosis.
- While diagnosis is usually made via a keyhole procedure called a laparoscopy, ultrasound and MRI may be used to diagnose certain types of endometrioses.
- Around one third of women with endometriosis will experience infertility as a result of this condition.
- Women with endometriosis have a slightly increased risk of developing ovarian cancer.
- Annually, endometriosis is estimated to cost Australian society around \$5 billion in lost productivity, and around \$2.5 billion in direct healthcare costs.
- In Australia and globally, endometriosis research receives significantly less funding than research into other chronic conditions that affect a similar number of women and have a comparable morbidity rate

16. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES)

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

- 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

16.1 WORKS & SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2025

RESOLUTION 22/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr A Bailey

Seconded: Cr J Hall

THAT the Works & Services monthly report for March 2025 be received.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

REPORT BY Jason Branch, Works & Services Manager

BACKGROUND

The following activities were performed during **March 2025** by Works & Services –

Grading & Sheeting	Fourteen Mile Road
Maintenance Grading	
Potholing / shouldering	Gowen Brea Road Pine Teir Road
Spraying	
Culverts / Drainage	Clean drains Ellendale Road Replace culvert Interlaken Road Extend culverts Interlaken Road
Occupational Health and safety	Monthly Toolbox Meetings Day to day JSA and daily prestart check lists completed. Monthly workplace inspections completed. Playground inspections
Bridges	
Refuse / recycling sites	Cover Hamilton Tip twice weekly
Other:	Maintenance Hamilton quarry, tidy up gravel stockpiles Maintenance Hamilton landfill site Carting gravel to Thousand Acre Lane upgrade

	Trim trees Market Place Bothwell Cold mix holes Arthurs Lake Road Repair toilets Bethune and Dunrobin Replace stolen taps and shower head Hamilton toilets Replace stickers on guideposts Municipal roads Scrubbing light vegetation Todds Corner Road Shoulder grading Hollow Tree Road Remove debris and vegetation Mt Adelaide Reserve Install pitch cover Bothwell recreation ground Tidy up and remove unsafe equipment Wayatinah Park Repair broken seat Bothwell Clean up of Osterley Church grounds Clean cattle grids Interlaken Road Remove dangerous low limb Meadsfield Road 3 x drum musters Replace signage Morass Bay Roads Repair damaged give way sign Great Lake Unblock Ouse toilets Shouldering Ellendale Road and Victoria Valley Road Repair damage to Ouse BBQ Remove dangerous trees Dawson Road Repair sinks holes Strickland Road Trims trees Hamilton and Ouse township Remove fallen tree Strickland Road
Slashing:	Dillions Road Marriots Road Raynors Hill Road Coopers Hill Road Wiggs Road Hannlons Road The Avenue Ransleys Road Dry Poles Road Rockmount Road McCullums Road Halls Road Richardsons Road Belchers Road
Municipal Town Maintenance:	Collection of town rubbish twice weekly Maintenance of parks, cemetery, recreation ground and Caravan Park. Cleaning of public toilets, gutters, drains and footpaths. Collection of rubbish twice weekly Cleaning of toilets and public facilities General maintenance Mowing of towns and parks Town Drainage
Buildings:	Replace lights Ouse Hall
Plant:	PM753 Bomag Compactor, repairs PM726 repairs to John Deer tractor and slasher PM709 Cat loader repairs PM818 Toyota Hilux service PM733 Komatsu grader service PM821 Komatsu grader 4 x new rear tyres
Private Works	

Casuals	Toilets, rubbish and Hobart Hamilton general duties
Program for next 4 weeks	Stage 4 thousand Acre Lane Reconstruction Slashing Municipal Roads

17. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY)

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

- 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

17.1 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2025

RESOLUTION 23/04.2025/C

Moved: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Seconded: Cr Y Miller

THAT the Monthly Finance Report to 31 March 2025 be received.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

Strategic Plan	3.1 Manage finances and assets in a transparent way to allow the maximisation of resources to provide efficient and consistent delivery of services
Council Policy	Not applicable
Legislative Context	The council's decision-making is under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, and the report details the basis for the recommendation
Consultation	The financial statements form part of the public record within the Council minutes
Impact on Budget/Resources	As attached

Risk	The council must ensure that it meets its financial obligations. This report captures the ongoing financial performance
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REPORT BY Zeeshan Tauqeer, Accountant

BACKGROUND

The following Finance reports are tabled for period ending **31 March 2025**.

Rates Reconciliation as at 31 March 2025

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
<i>Rates in Debit 30th June</i>	\$135,606.82	\$196,877.36
<i>Rates in Credit 30th June</i>	-\$171,244.88	-\$145,341.00
<i>Balance 30th June</i>	-\$35,638.06	\$51,536.36
Rates Raised	\$4,486,365.49	\$4,729,920.23
Penalties Raised	\$42,213.36	\$48,976.76
Supplementaries/Debit Adjustments	\$20,617.21	\$26,839.42
Total Raised	\$4,549,196.06	\$4,805,736.41
<i>Less:</i>		
Receipts to Date	\$3,607,638.52	\$3,896,348.56
Credit Journals	\$0.00	\$19,728.23
Pensioner Rate Remissions	\$119,626.72	\$130,435.03
Remissions/Supplementary Credits	\$18,651.14	\$10,566.41
<i>Balance</i>	\$767,641.62	\$800,194.54

Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2025

	2024	2025
Balance Brought Forward	\$6,764,320.24	\$5,164,030.04
Receipts for month	\$583,218.19	\$1,339,703.23
Expenditure for month	\$796,612.24	\$1,478,838.17
Balance	\$6,550,926.19	\$5,024,895.10
Represented By:		
Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$1,433,345.25	\$1,565,462.62
Balance Westpac Bank	\$167,900.99	\$287,038.70
Investments	\$4,949,129.95	\$3,171,843.98
Petty Cash & Floats	\$550.00	\$550.00
	\$6,550,926.19	\$5,024,895.30
Plus Unbanked Money		
	\$6,550,926.19	\$5,024,895.30
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$0.00	\$0.00
Unreceipted amounts on bank statements	\$0.00	
	\$6,550,926.19	\$5,024,895.30

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 31 March 2025

No.	Bank Accounts	Investment Period	Current Interest Rate %	Due Date	BALANCE	
					2024	2025
11100 Cash at Bank and on Hand						
11105	Bank 01 - Commonwealth - General Trading Account				1,433,345.25	1,565,462.42
11106	Bank 02 - Westpac - Direct Deposit Account				167,900.99	287,038.70
11110	Petty Cash				350.00	350.00
11115	Floats				200.00	200.00
11199 TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND					1,601,796.24	1,853,051.12
11200 Investments						
11207	Bank 6	0	0.00		0.00	0.00
11207	Bank 5	0	0.00		3,101,930.88	0.00
11115	Bank 04	30	4.25%	2/04/2025	-	1,003,389.88
11110	Tascorp	90	4.49%	29/04/2025	82,259.93	86,625.35
11115	Bank 16	33	4.28%	23/04/2025	2,227,431.27	2,081,828.75
11299 TOTAL INVESTMENTS					5,411,622.08	3,171,843.98
TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS AND CASH ON HAND					7,013,418.32	5,024,895.10

Comprehensive Income Statement

31/03/2025

Recurrent Income	Budget 2023-2024	Actual to date prior year	Actual to Date	Budget 2024-2025
Rates Charges	\$4,469,863	\$4,477,140	\$4,717,569	\$4,682,233
User Fees	\$355,450	\$211,519	\$328,068	\$494,250
Grants - Operating	\$124,860	\$274,432	\$340,402	\$30,000
Other Revenue	\$453,200	\$616,696	\$490,220	\$704,366
Grants received in Advance	\$2,998,566	\$3,031,386	\$2,782,241	\$3,206,515
Total Revenues	\$8,401,939	\$8,611,173	\$8,658,500	\$9,117,364
Expenditure				
Employee Benefits	\$2,553,663	\$1,997,782	\$2,092,941	\$2,584,261
Materials and Services	\$2,012,016	\$1,965,818	\$2,047,597	\$2,447,768
Other Expenses	\$1,715,852	\$1,364,650	\$1,321,623	\$1,892,738
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$2,260,000	\$1,606,545	\$1,894,306	\$2,327,800
Total Expenditure	\$8,541,531	6,934,795	7,356,468	9,252,567
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	(139,592)	1,676,378	1,302,032	(135,203)
Capital Grants & Other	\$2,407,078	\$554,876	\$1,525,149	\$2,424,996
Surplus(Deficit)	2,267,486	2,231,254	2,827,181	2,289,793
Capital Expenditure	\$8,107,503	\$2,868,410	\$2,130,000	\$5,117,085

	BUDGET	ACTUAL TO	% OF BUDGET	BALANCE OF
	2024/2025	31-Mar-25	SPENT	BUDGET
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES				
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$1,870,264	\$1,484,935	79.40%	\$385,329
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$256,040	\$204,432	79.84%	\$51,608
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$127,141	\$95,413	75.05%	\$31,728
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$34,357	\$24,516	71.36%	\$9,841
ONCOSTS	(\$498,049)	(\$536,004)	107.62%	\$37,955
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	\$460,441	\$461,477	100.23%	(\$1,036)
TOTAL CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$2,250,194	\$1,734,767	77.09%	\$515,427
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES				
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$321,446	\$259,949	80.87%	\$61,497
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$33,455	\$22,997	68.74%	\$10,458
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$11,375	\$11,828	103.98%	(\$453)
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$182,083	\$120,142	65.98%	\$61,941
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$30,241	\$39,873	131.85%	(\$9,632)
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$351,850	\$204,670	58.17%	\$147,180
WASTE SERVICES	\$928,956	\$733,657	78.98%	\$195,299
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	\$41,357	\$2,349	5.68%	\$39,008
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	\$1,900,763	\$1,395,465	73.42%	\$505,298
WORKS AND SERVICES				
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$287,145	\$126,035	43.89%	\$161,110
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$16,732	\$11,611	69.39%	\$5,121
HALLS (HALL)	\$80,732	\$88,085	109.11%	(\$7,353)
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$97,057	\$111,713	115.10%	(\$14,656)
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+tennis)	\$119,900	\$91,867	76.62%	\$28,033
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$193,285	\$154,777	80.08%	\$38,508
HOUSING (HOU)	\$116,424	\$110,266	94.71%	\$6,158
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$18,884	\$14,753	78.12%	\$4,131
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$2,346	\$1,687	71.90%	\$659
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$1,056,382	\$794,961	75.25%	\$261,421
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$13,813	\$16,382	118.60%	(\$2,569)
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,026	\$5,853	25.42%	\$17,173
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$50,743	\$14,174	27.93%	\$36,569
SUPER. & ID OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$812,468	\$891,178	109.69%	(\$78,710)
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(\$181,998)	\$7,981	-4.38%	(\$189,979)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$128,847	\$84,485	65.57%	\$44,362
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$305	15.23%	\$1,696
PLANT MITCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$640,571	\$436,587	68.16%	\$203,984
PLANT INCOME	(\$756,571)	(\$705,225)	93.21%	(\$51,346)
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$42,124	\$39,644	94.11%	\$2,481
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$40,559	\$25,075	61.82%	\$15,484
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$0	\$4,648		(\$4,648)
FLOOD REPAIRS		\$0		
TOTAL WORKS & SERVICES	\$2,804,469	\$2,326,838	82.97%	\$477,631
DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES				
Corporate Services	\$2,250,194	\$1,734,767	77.09%	\$515,427
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$1,900,763	\$1,395,465	73.42%	\$505,298
Works & Services	\$2,804,469	\$2,326,838	82.97%	\$477,631
Total All Operating	\$6,955,426	\$5,457,070	78.46%	\$1,498,356

	BUDGET 2024/2025	ACTUAL TO 31-Mar-25	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE				
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES				
Computer Purchases	\$41,500	\$35,955	86.64%	\$5,545
Equipment	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
Miscellaneous	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
	\$51,500	\$35,955	69.82%	\$15,545
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES				
Swimming Pool	\$5,000	\$1,870	37.40%	\$3,130
	\$5,000	\$1,870	37.40%	(\$4,182)
WORKS & SERVICES				
Plant Purchases	\$760,000	\$467,215	61.48%	\$292,785
Camping Grounds	\$0	\$0		\$0
Public Conveniences	\$150,000	\$0	0.00%	\$150,000
Bridges	\$0	\$18,065	0.00%	(\$18,065)
Road Construction & Reseals	\$2,918,000	\$1,040,385	35.65%	\$1,877,615
Drainage	\$20,000	\$4,898	0.00%	\$15,102
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$11,440	\$239	2.09%	\$11,201
Infrastructure	\$82,145	\$28,235	34.37%	\$53,910
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$40,000	\$28,185	70.46%	\$11,815
Rec Grounds	\$570,000	\$302,419	53.06%	\$267,581
Halls	\$60,000	\$11,755	19.59%	\$48,245
Buildings	\$449,000	\$190,779	42.49%	\$258,221
	\$5,060,585	\$2,092,175	41.34%	\$2,968,410
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS				
Corporate Services	\$51,500	\$35,955	69.82%	\$15,545
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$5,000	\$1,870	37.40%	\$3,130
Works & Services	\$5,060,585	\$2,092,175	41.34%	\$2,968,410
	\$5,117,085	\$2,130,000	41.63%	\$2,987,085

Grants and Community Support 2024-25 Budget Performance Review

Overview

The Grants and Community Support program for 2024-2025 has a total annual budget allocation of \$157,100, against which \$46,523.09 has been expended year-to-date (YTD). This represents approximately 30% of the yearly budget utilized so far, leaving roughly \$110,577 (about 70% of funds) remaining for the rest of the financial year. All financial figures below compare the allocated budget to actual expenditures as of the end of March 2025.

Total Budget vs Year-to-Date Expenditure

- Total Program Budget (2024-25): \$157,100
- Total Expenditure YTD: \$46,523.09
- Overall Variance: \$110,576.91 under budget (i.e. ~70% of the budget not yet spent).

Budget vs Expenditure by Category

Category	Annual Budget (\$)	YTD Expenditure (\$)	Variance (\$)
Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Hamilton Show	13,500.00	21,041.28	+7,541.28
Children's Services	10,500.00	5,000.00	-5,500.00
Community Grants & Donations	10,000.00	18,093.81	+8,093.81
Event Development & Sponsorship	21,000.00	725.90	-20,274.10
Further Education Bursaries & School Support	4,800.00	1,000.00	-3,800.00
General Items	84,300.00	662.10	-83,637.90
Church Grants	5,000.00	0.00	-5,000.00
Tourism	8,000.00	0.00	-8,000.00

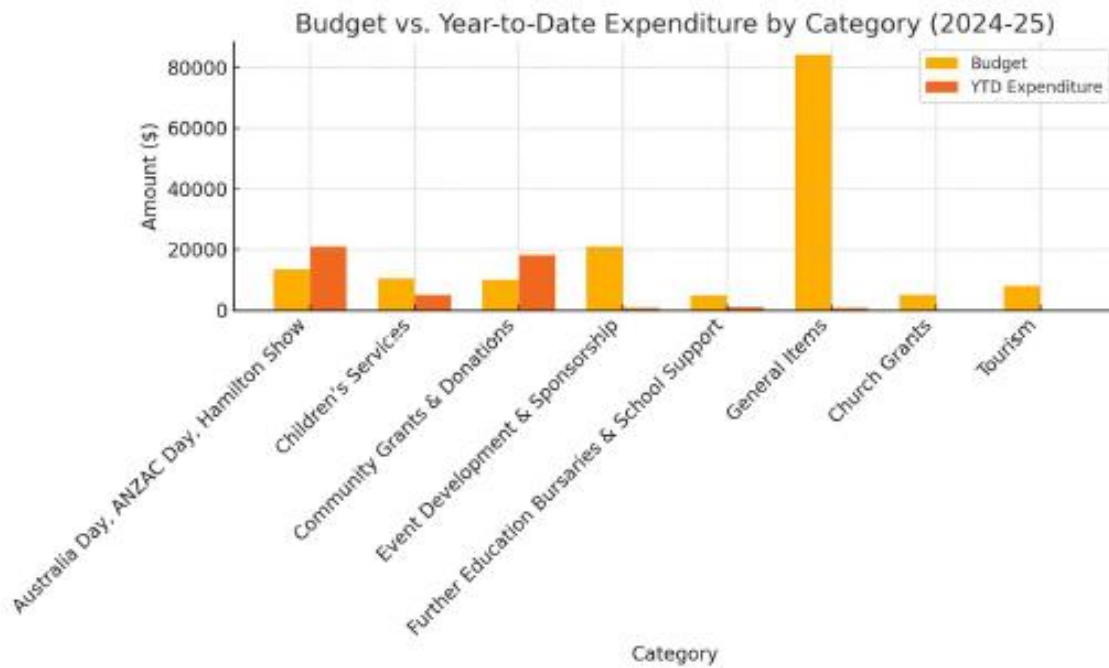


Figure 1: Budget vs. Year-to-Date Expenditure by Category (2024-25).

Detailed Expenditure Items

Item	Budget (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)
Australia Day	2,500.00	3,503.28
Hamilton Show	5,000.00	17,538.00
Children's Services (Brighton Family Day Care)	5,000.00	5,000.00
Community Grant – Miena Seisun	1,500.00	1,500.00
Great Lake Community Centre – Heating System	2,000.00	2,000.00
Lions Club of Bothwell	500.00	500.00
Westway Community Hall Association	1,500.00	1,500.00
Event Development and Sponsorship – Rotary Club Magic Show	0.00	254.55
Further Education Bursaries	1,800.00	1,000.00
School Support – Central Highlands	3,000.00	400.00
General Items – Youth Activities	5,000.00	500.00
Highlands Digest Support	15,800.00	10,859.26

18. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)

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

- 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

18.1 DERWENT CATCHMENT PROJECT

RESOLUTION 24/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT the Derwent Catchment Project Report for March 2025 be received.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.



Derwent Catchment Project Council Report March-April 2025

General business

As the season transitions, we're wrapping up our on-ground weed management programs, which should pave the way for planting season once the soil moisture reaches optimal levels. We're pleased to share that we successfully secured grant funding for the Miena Cider Gum conservation program through the State Government's Threatened Species Partnership Grant Program for 2024-2025. More details on this initiative can be found in the conservation section of this report.

We also explored applying for the Disaster Ready Fund Round 3 which is open currently for an Ouse River project. However, a challenge with this grant round is the requirement for a 50% in-kind contribution. Previous rounds allowed historical contributions to be considered over a longer period, which was crucial to our success with the Clyde River grant. Unfortunately, the updated guidelines now only accept historical contributions from 2023 onwards, making it difficult to generate sufficient in-kind support for a robust project proposal. We will continue to seek funding to support a broader Ouse River restoration program.

Agri-best practice programs

Strategic Actions 4.7 Support and assist practical programs that address existing environmental problems and improve the environment.

The Carbon Outreach Program

The Derwent Catchment Project is developing and organising a series of workshops in June across three locations: the Derwent, East Coast, and Mid-South Midlands. These workshops are part of the national Carbon Outreach Program, an Australian Government initiative aimed at supporting farmers and land managers in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration. Southern Farming Systems are running workshops in the North of the State as part of the Carbon Outreach Program.

Our goal is to develop clear, accessible presentations that help producers fully understand the importance of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting. We will cover what will be expected from farm businesses, the types of information required for GHG assessments, and the

available calculators. Additionally, we'll discuss the current landscape of carbon projects, the various methods in use, and emerging opportunities in biodiversity and natural capital markets.

Derwent Pasture Network

The Derwent Catchment Project's Pasture Network hosted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshop at the Hamilton Resource Centre on March 13. IPM experts Paul Horne and Rebecca Addison delivered an engaging and informative introduction to IPM principles, using locally relevant examples of pasture and forage pests to bring the concepts to life.

A group of 16 producers attended the session and were encouraged to consider the unintended consequences of conventional pest control methods—particularly how they can sometimes worsen pest issues or contribute to resistance and tolerance in pest populations. The workshop explored a range of IPM strategies, highlighting how cultural, biological, and chemical controls can be integrated to manage pests more sustainably. Special attention was given to leveraging the benefits of predatory insects that are already present within local farming systems.

Peter Ball from the Derwent Catchment Project shared observations from local demonstration sites, including a species comparison trial that revealed notable differences in resistance and tolerance to Corbie grub grazing between Phalaris and Cocksfoot cultivars.

The workshop concluded with a BBQ, giving attendees a relaxed setting to continue conversations, share insights, and ask further questions.

This event marked the launch of the Derwent Catchment Project's new initiative, supported by the Australian Government through the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program. The project, titled *Climate Smart Farming Systems – Integrating Agricultural and Environmental Practices for Sustainable Farming Systems in Southern Tasmania*, aims to build knowledge and capacity among producers to trial tools, technologies, and practices that support sustainable production and climate resilience. The project will run over four years.

Weed Management Programs

Central Highlands Weed Management Plan

Strategic Actions 4.4 Continue the program of weed reduction in the Central Highlands, and 4.7 Support and assist practical programs that address existing environmental problems and improve the environment.

The Derwent Catchment Project ground crew have completed the final component of the Gorse treatment along Rotherwood Road for the council. They have also completed weed control on a section of the Lyell Highway near Ouse for the Department of State Growth. The outcome has been an alignment in weed control effort with local landholders along the highway so that there's a more consistent approach across the area. We have also begun discussing the new season plan starting in Spring 2025 with lead stakeholders. The work will focus on extending the effort and progress made this season.



Weed control on a section of the Lyell Highway near Ouse.

Restoration and Conservation

Strategic Actions: 4.1 Continue to fund and support the Derwent Catchment Project and 4.7 Support and assist practical programs that address existing environmental problems and improve the environment.

Hamilton Native Plant Nursery

The New Norfolk markets have been reasonably successfully with an average of 150 plants sold each market for the past five weekends. The markets have provided Karen the opportunity to interact with community members, provide advice for autumn plantings, and spread the word about the Derwent Catchment Project. The last of the six markets is this weekend.

The nursery continues to make improvements even as things start to slow down heading into autumn. The perimeter of the nursery has a new shade cloth and the bank out front is scheduled to be planted this autumn. Regular assistance from a long-term volunteer is helping to maintain general nursery operations 1 day a week.

Rivers

Tyenna River Recovery

A Willow Warrior working bee is being organised for this week on the 12th of April. The goal will be to remove a large log jam that is becoming infested with willow and treat willows along the river right downstream of Mount Field National Park.

Clyde River – Flood Resilience Project

We are currently awaiting the grant deed to sign for this project, which we expect to receive shortly. In the meantime, we have been conducting preliminary GIS assessments to inform the river plan, which will be developed once the project is officially initiated.

Conservation

Miena Cider Gum conservation program

We're pleased to announce that we have received funding from the State Government's Threatened Species Partnership Grant Program to support the conservation of the Miena cider gum at key sites. As part of this project, we will fence another important stand of ancient cider gums at St Patricks Plains using a 6-foot exclusion fence with a floppy top. In addition, two other significant trees at the site will be enclosed with the same fencing method.

This fencing approach has proven highly effective, with noticeable improvements in canopy health and overall tree condition. We will also repair and replace wombat gates that have deteriorated over time. Within the large 700-metre fenced area, we'll carry out targeted vegetation management to reduce woody shrub growth and support the health of the cider gum habitat.

Yours Sincerely,
The Derwent Catchment Team

Key Contacts:

Josie Kelman (CEO) 0427044700

Eve Lazarus (Program Manager) 0429170048

Morgan McPherson (Operations Manager) 0418 667 426

Karen Phillips (Nursery Manager) 0400 039 303

19. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

Encourage economic viability within the municipality

- 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

19.1 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

RESOLUTION 25/04.2025/C

Moved: Cr A Archer

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT the Development & Environmental Services Report be received.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

REPORT BY Graham Rogers, Manager DES

PLANNING PERMITS ISSUED UNDER DELEGATION

The following planning permits have been issued under delegation during the past month.

DISCRETIONARY

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2025/00009	M Donnelly, M Damant	485 Upper Mill Road, Hamilton	Outbuildings (2)
2025/00008	Matthew Pettit	60 The Avenue, Ellendale	Dwelling

ANIMAL CONTROL

Total Number of Dogs Registered in 2023/2024 Financial Year – 998

Total Number of Kennel Licences Issued for 2023/2024 Financial Year – 29

2024/2025 Dog Registration Renewal have been issued and were due by 31 July 2024.

Infringement Notices have now been issued for 10 unregistered dogs.

Statistics as of 04 April 2025	
Number of Dogs Impounded during last month	1
Number of Dogs Currently Registered	934
Number of Dogs Pending Re-Registration	10
Number of Kennel Licence Renewals	33

19.2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL (DAP) PROCESS.**RESOLUTION 26/04.2025/C**

Moved: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT the information be received and that Council determine that opposes the *Land Use Planning & Approvals (Development Assessment) Bill 2025*, because:

- A. Council maintains its general objection to the removal of certain development applications from the local Planning Authority's jurisdiction as the assessing and determining authority, and
- B. Council objects to the proposed change that would enable the Minister to direct a Planning Authority to amend its Local Provisions Schedule, as this local component of the planning scheme should remain under of the control of the local Planning Authority.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.

REPORT BY Damian Mackey, Special Projects Officer

Attachments

1. Revised Land Use Planning & Approvals (Development Assessment) Bill 2025 - Background report for Consultation, February 2025.
2. Revised Land Use Planning & Approvals (Development Assessment) Bill 2025.
3. Report of Consultation, Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Framework Position Paper, Oct. 2024.

BACKGROUND

In July 2023, the Premier announced the development of new legislation to allow certain development applications to be determined by independent 'Development Assessment Panels', (DAPs), appointed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission. The Premier advised that the introduction of the DAP framework is intended to provide an alternate approval pathway outside of Councils' decision-making functions and help 'take the politics out of planning' for more complex or contentious development applications. A discussion paper was released at the time for local government, stakeholder and community feedback.

In 2024 a draft *Land Use Planning & Approvals (Development Assessment) Bill* was released for consultation, attracting 542 submissions. These are assessed in the enclosed *Report of Consultation, Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Framework Position Paper, Oct. 2024*. This has resulted in a number of significant amendments and a revised *Land Use Planning & Approvals (Development Assessment) Bill 2025* has now been released for further consultation.

Central Highlands Council formed the view that it opposes the entire Development Assessment Panel concept on the principle that such decisions should always be the responsibility of the local Planning Authority. Furthermore, mechanisms already exist for very large and complex proposals which have ramifications beyond municipal boundaries to be considered at a higher level, including 'Projects of State Significance' and 'Major Projects'.

RATIONALE BEHIND DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANELS

In Tasmania, Councils make decisions under two separate pieces of legislation.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, councillors act as the elected representatives of the community and make decisions on various matters, bringing the will of the people into those decisions. Such decisions do not include determining development applications.

Under the *Land Use Planning & Approvals Act 1993*, councillors act as a 'Planning Authority' with strict responsibilities to determine development applications in accordance with the Planning Scheme. Section 48 of the LUPAA requires that: *'where a planning scheme is in force, the Planning Authority must, within the ambit of its power, observe, and enforce the observance of, that planning scheme in respect of all use and development undertaken within the areas to which the planning scheme relates.'*

Therefore, Council must act as a Planning Authority when it is determining development applications, irrespective of the personal or political views of individual Councillors and the constituents they represent, and irrespective of how many objections may have been lodged against a particular proposal. The only thing that matters are the provisions in the planning scheme.

The State Government's discussion paper notes that *'This presents a degree of conflict for those elected to represent their constituents under the Local Government Act 1993 and perform the Planning Authority function.'*

The contested role of Councillors in planning has been identified as an issue in the Stage 2 Interim report (released May 2023) of the *Future of Local Government Review*.

There have been instances in Tasmania where a Council has been accused of making a 'political decision' in refusing or approving a development application. On the other hand, it is sometimes difficult for councillors to explain a decision rightfully based on the planning scheme provisions to constituents who expected the opposite decision based on widespread community sentiment against (or for) a particular proposal.

The Government intends that the introduction of the DAP process for particular development applications will address this situation, along with some other situations where it may be more appropriate for the decision to be taken out of the local Planning Authority's hands.

The concept of the DAP process is not new and is in existence in most other State jurisdictions.

However, as mentioned above, Tasmania already has other processes where development applications are not considered by the local Council acting as the Planning Authority. These include 'Projects of State Significance' (such as the proposed Macquarie Point Stadium) and 'Major Projects' (such as the new Bridgewater Bridge).

AMENDMENTS IN THE REVISED BILL

The following table (from the Government's report) indicates the key issues and changes arising from the last consultation exercise:

Modification	Reason
Removal of the option for an applicant or planning authority to request the Minister to transfer an application to a DAP for determination partway through a council assessment process.	This pathway was removed because it was overly complex and provided uncertainty to both the applicant and planning authority in the assessment process. It also causes the assessment process to take longer and potentially duplicating assessment tasks performed by the DAP and planning authority.
Modifying the criteria for when the Minister can refer a new application to a DAP for determination by removing certain statements, such as where an application is likely to be 'controversial'.	The removal of ambiguous or subjective criteria helps provide certainty regarding the eligibility of applications to enter the DAP assessment process. This matter is also helped by the requirement of the Commission to prepare guidelines for the Minister to use when making a determination to refer an application (see below for further details).
Increasing the value thresholds for an application to be referred to a DAP from \$5 million to \$10 million in a city, and from \$2 million to \$5 million in other areas.	In response to concerns that the threshold values are too low and that it would allow too many applications to enter the DAP process.
Allowing the Commission to issue guidelines to assist the Minister in determining whether to refer an application to a DAP and a requirement for the Minister to take these guidelines into account when making that determination.	To provide greater certainty and accountability regarding what applications are eligible for referral to a DAP for determination.
Clarifying that the DAP can use alternate dispute resolution techniques when making a determination and trying to resolve issues between parties.	Although dispute resolution and mediation processes are implicit in the Commission's proceeding, the proposed inclusion of explicit provisions gives greater certainty to aggrieved parties.

Modification	Reason
Clarifying that the DAP can modify hearing dates and times subject to giving notice and that hearings can occur during an agreed extension of time.	Modification made to provide greater flexibility for conducting hearings to account for availability of the parties to attend hearings, or the need to add additional hearings days to consider the issues raised in the submissions.
Including provisions that allow the Commission to appoint a substitute panel member should a previously appointed member become unavailable.	Modification made to allow flexibility in the Panel membership in case a member becomes unavailable so that it does not hold up the assessment process.
Clarifying that the Heritage Council, in providing its advice to the DAP, are to have regard to the relevant matters that it would normally for an application under s.39(2) of the <i>Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995</i> .	Modification made to clarify the extent of advice provided by the Heritage Council to the DAP.
Clarifying that the Heritage Council retains its normal enforcement functions following the issuing of a permit approved by the DAP.	Modification to clarify that the Heritage Council retains its enforcement function regarding any heritage conditions it may have recommended be imposed on the permit consistent with post approval functions under other assessment pathways.

REVISED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.

A key issue previously raised by local government is the eligibility criteria. These criteria are to be used by the Minister to determine whether to agree to refer a development application to the Tasmanian Planning Commission to be determined through the DAP process.

As indicated in the above table, the eligibility criteria have been modified, and narrowed. These changes have been made largely to take into account the concerns raised by local government.

It is noted that it is the Government's stated intention that the use of the DAP process will be unusual, and not the norm. The great majority of applications will still run through the local Council (Planning Authority) process.

The revised eligibility criteria are provided in the enclosed documents, but are repeated here for convenience:

A development application may be eligible for DAP determination if it is for a discretionary permit and is not subject to the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994.

An applicant, or the relevant planning authority with the consent of the applicant, can apply to the Commission for a development application to be determined by a DAP subject to satisfying one or more of the following:

- 1. The application relates to development that includes social or affordable housing or a subdivision to facilitate social and affordable housing, made by, or on behalf of, Homes Tasmania or a registered community housing provider.*
- 2. The application relates to development that exceeds the following value thresholds:*
 - a) over \$10 Million or such other amount prescribed, if all, or any part of the development, is located in a city;*
 - b) over \$5 Million or such other amount prescribed, where the development is located elsewhere ;*
 - c) over \$1 Million if council is the applicant and the planning authority, or such other amount prescribed in Regulations; or*
 - d) a class of application prescribed in Regulations.*

The applicant or the relevant planning authority may request the Minister to refer an application to the Commission to be determined by a DAP subject to the Minister being satisfied that one or more of the following criteria are met. In making this decision, the Minister must have regard to the guidelines prepared by the Commission:

- 1. The application relates to development that includes social or affordable housing, or a subdivision to facilitate social and affordable housing, for persons who may otherwise be unable to access suitable accommodation in the private rental or property market;*
- 2. The application is for development that is considered to be of significance to the local area or State;*
- 3. The applicant or planning authority is of the view that the planning authority does not have the technical expertise to assess the application;*
- 4. The planning authority has, or is likely to have a conflict of interest, or there is perceived bias on the part of the planning authority; or*
- 5. A class of application prescribed in Regulations.*

OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED DAP PROCESS:

Other key issues of note are:

- DAP-determined applications are assessed against the current planning scheme rules. In this respect there is theoretically no difference than if assessed by Council acting as the Planning Authority.
- It is the Minister that refers a development application to the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) to be determined under the DAP process, but it is the TPC that independently appoints the members of the Development Assessment Panel.
- Councils have certain 'Planning Authority' functions within the DAP process, but during the public notification period Councils are free to act as the elected representatives of the people

under the *Local Government Act 1993* and could, for example, lodge a representation in that capacity.

- In the early part of the DAP process, the local Planning Authority (Council) is to provide certain advice and information to the DAP.
 - The local Planning Authority (Council) is defined as a 'reviewing entity' in the proposed legislation, with certain inputs, opportunities of comment and responsibilities.
- There is a public notification period within the DAP process, being the exhibition of the development application.
- It is notable that development applications that are Level 2 Activities under EMPCA are not eligible for the DAP process.
- The Development Assessment Panel is to hold hearings in regard to proposals, to which 'reviewing entities' (including the local Planning Authority) are to be invited, along with members of the public and other entities who lodged representations.
- If a development application gains approval through the DAP process, the local Planning Authority (Council) will be directed to issue a planning permit. This direction will include the list of conditions.
- Enforcement of the planning permit conditions will be the responsibility of the local Planning Authority.
- A fee structure is to be established that the State Planning Office advises is to be 'cost-neutral'. This includes the fees a Planning Authority or 'reviewing entity' (i.e. the local Council) may charge.

OTHER ASPECTS OF THE BILL

The Bill contains two other components, separate to the DAP concept. These are:

1. Introducing the ability for a person to ask the Minister to review a decision by a Planning Authority to refused to initiate that person's proposal for a planning scheme amendment.

Currently, if a Planning Authority does not initiate a proposed planning scheme amendment, it stops dead and there is no ability for an applicant to appeal that decision. The proposed change would allow applicants to, in effect, appeal such refusals to the Minister. (Refer Section 7 of the Bill).

Other decisions made by various authorities within the planning system are appealable. It has been unusual that a decision by a Planning Authority to refuse to initiate a planning scheme amendment has not been appealable. In this light, this new provision is considered reasonable, and in the interests of natural justice.

2. Introducing the ability for the Minister to direct a Planning Authority to amend its Local Provisions Schedule. (Refer Section 8 of the Bill).

Councillors will be aware that the Tasmanian Planning Scheme is made up of the State Planning Provisions (+95% of the written provisions) and the 'Local Provisions Schedule' which, in theory, is provided by the local Planning Authority. In reality, the Local Provisions Schedule is mostly directed by the State Government / Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Nevertheless, the Local Provisions Schedule is, at least, intended to be the domain of the local Planning Authority, and it is recommended that Council not support this aspect of the Bill.

CONCLUSION

The revised DAP Bill has been significantly amended to allay most of the practical concerns previously expressed by many local Councils.

However, the overall concept remains the same: the Bill would establish a pathway for certain development applications to bypass the local Planning Authority assessment and determination process.

Very large proposals will likely be declared Projects of State Significance or Major Projects under existing legislation. However the DAP process will be potentially available to much smaller developments that meet the eligibility criteria, such as being valued at more than \$5 million in rural areas.

Therefore, Council's previously expressed fundamental concerns with the entire concept remain.

The proposal to allow the Minister to direct a Planning Authority (Council) to amend its Local Provisions Schedule is also of concern.

It is recommended that Council determine that it maintains its objections to the revised Bill.

20. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP)

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

- 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.

21. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

Nil.

22. CLOSURE

Mayor Triffitt thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 12.02 p.m.