



Central Highlands Council

AGENDA – ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 November 2023

Dear Councillors,

Notice is hereby given, that an Ordinary Meeting of Central Highlands Council is scheduled to be held in the **Council Chamber, Hamilton** on **Tuesday 21 November 2023**, commencing at **9.00am**.

I certify under Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, that the matters to be discussed under this Agenda have been, where necessary, subject of advice from a suitably qualified person and that such advice has been taken into account in providing advice to the Council.

Dated at Hamilton this **16th** day of **November 2023**.

Adam Wilson
Acting General Manager

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1. OPENING

2. 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.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

4. PRESENT

5. IN ATTENDANCE

6. APOLOGIES

7. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

8. PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATIONS

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.

9. PERCEIVED INTEREST DECLARATIONS

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.

10. CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING

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.

RECOMMENDATION: 01/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

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

Item Number	Matter	Outcome
1	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 October 2023.	Regulation 15 (2)(G) of the <i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015</i> – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.
2	Deputations	Regulation 15 (2)(C) of the <i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015</i> – Commercial information of a confidential nature.
3.1	Legal Advice	Regulation 15 (4) (A) (B) Legal Action taken by or involving Council; or possible future legal action that be taken or may involve the Council.
3.2	Tender – Green Vally Bridge replacement	Regulation 15 (2) (D) contracts and tenders for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval, and renewal.
4	Supplementary Agenda Items	Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the <i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015</i> .
5	Other Business	Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the <i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015</i> .
6	Consideration of Matters for Disclosure to the Public.	Regulation 15 (8) of the <i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015</i> - While in a closed

		<i>meeting, the Council, or Council Committee, is to consider whether any discussions, decisions, reports or documents relating to that closed meeting are to be kept confidential or released to the public, taking into account privacy and confidentiality issues.</i>
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MEETING CLOSED to the public at ____ am.

11. MOTION OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

12. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting re-opened to the public at ____am. 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.

13. DEPUTATIONS

14. 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.

15. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

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. general manager of a question in respect of which the councillor seeks an answer at that meeting.*

15.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – DEPUTY MAYOR J ALLWRIGHT

A Notice of Motion has been received from **Deputy Mayor J Allwright** on **13 November 2023**, for inclusion on this Agenda and provides the following supporting information and reasons for this motion: -

A recent spate of hooning has resulted in damage to the Gretna Fire Service training surface and damage to recently planted trees.

The following motion has been proposed –

RECOMMENDATION: 02/11.2023/C

Moved: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council donate \$2,700 to the Tas Fire Service subject to their approval, to purchase security cameras for monitoring Council property in the vicinity of the Gretna Fire Shed, BBQ, Public Toilets and Cricket oval.

16. COMMITMENTS

16.1 MAYORAL COMMITMENTS

11 October 2023 to 15 November 2023

12 October 2023	Minister Felix Ellis (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
17 October 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Bothwell
26 October 2023	Aus Rally -Official welcome at Bothwell Recreational Grounds
28 October 2023	Gretna community fund raiser
02 November 2023	LGAT Conference - Devonport
04 November 2023	LGAT Conference - Devonport
09 November 2023	Road inspections Meadsfield and Tor Hill Roads

- Business of Council **x 18**
- Ratepayer and community members - communications **x 10**
- Elected Members - communications **x 35**
- Central Highlands Council Management - communications **x 4**

FOR INFORMATION

16.2 COUNCILLOR COMMITMENTS

Deputy Mayor J Allwright

17 October 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Bothwell
23 October 2023	Town Structure Plan - Inception Meeting - Bothwell

Cr A Archer

17 October 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Bothwell
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Cr A Bailey

17 October 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Bothwell
23 October 2023	Town Structure Plan - Inception Meeting - Bothwell
09 November 2023	Road inspections Meadsfield and Tor Hill Roads

Cr R Cassidy

17 October 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Bothwell
23 October 2023	Town Structure Plan - Inception Meeting - Bothwell

Cr J Hall

17 October 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Bothwell
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Cr J Honner

17 October 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Bothwell
23 October 2023	Town Structure Plan - Inception Meeting - Bothwell

Cr D Meacheam

17 October 2023

Ordinary Council Meeting, Bothwell

7-9 November 2023

World Wind Energy – Conference - Hobart

Cr Y Miller

23 October 2023

Town Structure Plan - Inception Meeting - Bothwell

FOR INFORMATION**16.3 GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMITMENTS**

Date	With Whom	Subject / Comment
17 October 2023	Council and Management Members	Council Meeting
9 – 27 November	Annual Leave	

FOR INFORMATION**16.4 ACTING GENERAL MANAGER & DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER COMMITMENTS**

Date	With Whom	Subject / Comment
17 Oct 2023	Council and Management Members	Council Meeting
19 Oct 2023	MAV and Council Officers	MAV Insurance Online Best Practice Forum Tasmania – Round 3, 2023
19 Oct 2023	State Government and Council Officers	Interim Southern Regional Social Recovery Committee
19 Oct 2023	State Government and Council Officers	Briefing Session: Draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service Bill
24 Oct 2023	General Manager and Management Members	Senior Management Meeting
7 Nov 2023	General Manager and Management Members	Senior Management Meeting
9 Nov to 21 Nov 2023	Acting General Manager	Various meetings and duties

FOR INFORMATION**17. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS HELD**

No Workshops were held this month.

18. FUTURE WORKSHOPS

The next Council Workshop will be held on the following date/s –

- 5 December 2023

19. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

20. MINUTES

20.1 CONFIRMATION OF DRAFT MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING – 17 OCTOBER 2023

RECOMMENDATION: 03/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

***THAT** the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 17 October 2023 be confirmed.*

20.2 RECEIVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

No Planning Committee Meeting was held in November.

21. BUSINESS ARISING – OCTOBER 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

Business Arising - actions undertaken.

15.1	NOTICE OF MOTION - ANTI-LITTERING LEVY	Actioned
23.1	DA 2022/82: 16 LOT SUBDIVISION : 40, 46, 48, 50, 56, 58, 60 & 64 ARTHURS LAKE ROAD, WILBURVILLE	Actioned
27.2	SCHOOL BURSARIES AND PRIZE PRESENTATION AWARDS 2023	Actioned
27.8	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA (LGAT) – GENERAL MEETING ON 1 NOVEMBER 2023	Actioned

FOR INFORMATION

22. DERWENT CATCHMENT PROJECT



General business

Parliamentary briefing on feral deer

Eve attended a briefing organised by the Invasive Species Council which gathered representatives from major land management groups including private forestry, private land conservation groups, individual farmers (and TFGA), Landcare, Councils and other advocacy groups to outline the impact feral deer are having across sector. The meeting was aimed at discussion with parliamentarians so they can better understand the true impact of deer on the landscape with the aim of appropriate funding and support for a more effective control program.

Threatened Species roadside maps

We have undertaken comprehensive threatened species mapping along roadsides managed and maintained by Council. The main concern is the distribution of spiky anchor plant (*Discaria pubescens*) in the vicinity of the Cattle Hill Windfarm along Bashan and Waddamana Roads. We are developing a simple map that clearly outlines areas of spiky anchor plant in relation to the roadside maintenance zone which can be used by Council works and contractors.

Clyde River Restoration Grant Opportunity

We have started conversations about the upcoming grant opportunity under the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.
<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/conservation/urban-rivers-catchments-program>. We have several land holders interested and there is good support so far. We have Compass Agri, TasWater, the Cattle Hill Windfarm, Hydro and Crown Land Services on the list for discussions about cash contributions. The grant guidelines are yet to be released.

Central Highlands Weeds program

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 weed management program focuses on implementing the Central Highlands Weed Management Plan and addressing weed control priorities.

The team have preparing for the annual Derwent Catchment Weed Management Meeting which is scheduled for this Thursday (the 16th of November) and which includes the Weed Action Fund working groups this year

presented by Stuart King from NRM North. The meeting has replies for 17 attendees and will be an opportunity to get all the Government stakeholders and other land managers in a room to discuss the Central Highland Weed Management plan and look for opportunities for further collaboration.

The team have also been planning the approach to the works for the Weed Action Fund: Orange hawkweed program. Key staff will be heading out to survey and treat Orange hawkweed around the Central Highlands soon. This is the final year of direct funding from the State Government, so it is important that all scoping surveys are completed to ensure that we know the extent of Orange hawkweed in hotspots. Hydro, TasNetworks, State Growth and Sustainable Timbers Tasmania are all invested in the project. The work includes organising sniffer dog surveys and targeted spot spraying across 6 sites with a range of land tenures.

Agri-best practice programs

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

Derwent Pasture Network - funded by the Derwent Catchment Project

DCP is self-funding ongoing work from the original Pasture Network program that has run over the last 3 years. The DCP committee and team want to make sure that the trial information continues to be monitored and reported to the wider Derwent Pasture Network community. Peter Ball is currently undertaking assessment of the pasture species persistence sites at Thorpe, Cawood and The Backrun, as well as assessment of the Bloomfield 2011 pasture species trial site. Peter will also monitor the Arundel Fertiliser Test Strips and multi species pasture trial, the Wetheron Test Strips, the Back Run grazing exclusion cages.

Containment feeding/drought lotting project - funded by the Tas Farm Innovation Hub and Farming Forecaster through NRM South

DCP is delivering a Statewide containment project that is training Tasmanian experts in containment feeding nutrition, annual health management and design and set up. Sam Bye (DCP), veterinarian Sarah White, Maria Ortiz (Tas Farm Innovation Hub) and consultants from Pinion Advisory are heading to South Australia shortly to complete a training module with containment and livestock expert Deb Scammell. Sam has been working with some local graziers to sure up containment designs and is scheduling workshops for next month which will provide support in decision making and containment management. This is an important project for the broader Tasmanian grazing industry, and we are really happy to be taking the lead, working with experts.

Drought Risk Assessment in collaboration with Rural Business Tas - funded by the Tas Farm Innovation Hub

This project has developed a simple assessment tool for farmers and landowners to identify how vulnerable they are to the impacts of drought. We have completed development of the Drought Risk Assessment survey and the testing phase with 10 surveys undertaken with famers to trial the assessment. The next step is to finalise the Drought Risk Assessment survey into a guided assessment format and work with the Tas Ag Innovation Hub to design a program which rolls out the survey with supporting information to address gaps, where risks are identified.

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.

Nursery update

Spring marks the beginning of production season for the nursery. We have purchased a new heat mat which has more than doubled the germination area in the hot house. Seeds such as Banksia and Prickly Box which overwinter in the shade house have already been pricked out with good germination results. Other species such as Callistemon, Teatree and Melaleuca have all been sown. Acacias and Eucalypts will be next. Karen has also started a range of cuttings on the heat mat from plants collected around the nursery (those that survived the frosty winter we had this year).

Platypus Walk

The crew have continued to carry out restoration work along Platypus Walk. The large thistles have been sprayed and the hawthorn saplings are being cut and pasted to ensure they do not reinfest the site. The ground team have also been treating small willow regrowth along the rivers' edge and brush-cutting long grass.

Ouse River Recovery

The team have been treating all the weeds near the bridge at Ouse to maintain the restoration works. The plants from the latest round of revegetation are doing well despite the flooding event last year. Willows are continue sprout but the team are treating them as soon as they show up whilst the ongoing management of blackberry is keeping them busy. The site has a possibility to become a great native habitat hotspot.

Tyenna River Recovery – willow warriors – supported by IFS, SFM, DV council and Tassal



These willows were treated in Autumn 2023, and revisited last month. As you can see progress is being made (dead willows!)

This month's Willow Warrior working bee was held at the end of the October with eight volunteers present. We went back to a private property that was heavily infested with willows and carried out follow-up treatment on the remaining trees.

The site had over 1.5 kilometres of river/stream that was infested with willow and we are pleased to say that all trees have been treated with 85% already dead. The next working bee will have the volunteers going downstream using the old rail corridor as an access track to willows. Our Paddling Willow Warriors (who are extra keen Willow Warriors with a kayaking background and are inducted into the organisation) are now at 15, bringing our total Willow Warriors volunteer count to 80.

Grant applications

Strategic Industry Partnership Program – 2023 Round - funded by the Tas State Government - \$75,720.

This project proposes to develop a sowing rate and sowing risk decision support guide, that is delivered with risk awareness and risk management at front of mind.

The objectives are two-fold, to encourage better sowing rate decisions that facilitate both sufficient grass and clover establishment to benefit improved pasture resilience and productivity, but also to develop increased awareness and capability in identifying and responding to pasture sowing risks in particular, but also grazing enterprise risks in general. **Pending.**

Please don't hesitate to call us if you have any queries about our programs.

Yours Sincerely,

The Derwent Catchment Team

Key Contacts:

Josie Kelman (Co Executive Officer) 0427 044 700

Eve Lazarus (Co Executive Officer) 0429 170 048

Morgan McPherson (Works Manager) 0418 667 426

Karen Phillips (Nursery Manager) 0400 039 303

RECOMMENDATION: 04/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Derwent Catchment Project Report for October be received.

23.0 REPORT TO COUNCIL REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL (DAP) DISCUSSION PAPER

Report By

Louisa Brown (Senior Planning Officer)

Introduction

On 21 July 2023, the Premier announced the development of new legislation to allow certain development applications to be determined by an independent Development Assessment Panel (DAP) appointed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission. The introduction of a DAP framework will provide an alternate approval pathway outside of Councils' decision-making functions when it sits as Planning Authority and help 'take the politics out of planning'.

Any DAP determined applications will still be assessed against the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the LPS. It is intended that the DAP framework will utilise existing processes and incorporate local knowledge into the decision-making process.

In short the introduction of the DAP will primarily impact on the decision making powers of Council, as DAP will function under its own legislation/powers.

The concept of a DAP is certainly not new and is in existence in many other state jurisdictions.

The current role of Council as planning authorities

In Tasmania, councils are 'planning authorities' with defined responsibilities to determine development applications in accordance with the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA). 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.'*

A Council is required to 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.

The DAP 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 of the *Interim Report of the Future of Local Government Review*. That report noted that there was strong division between those who believe the role should relate to strategic land use planning where Councillors can represent community views in the planning processes but that decisions should be made by local professional planners, or in the case of complex applications, by an independent planning panel.

Key questions arising from the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Discussion Paper include:

1. The future Role of council
2. Input on what applications might be suitable to be determined by a DAP
3. Options for what DAP framework might look like
4. How to integrate into planning system

1. The Future Role of Council:

The Act will allow an applicant, and/or a submitter to a publicly notified application (often discretionary), to request that the matter be determined by the DAP. The "threshold or criteria" is yet to be determined.

The request for an independent determination by DAP must be made in writing any time up to five working days after submissions close or another date TBC.

If such a request is received, then the council must delegate its functions, powers and duties to hear and decide the application to the DAP, whose powers are yet to be determined (qualified).

2. Input on what applications might be suitable to be determined by a DAP

The DAP will exist separately from the Major Projects Assessment process where major projects are considered to be large and complex and have impacts beyond a single council area. The threshold for DA's to be considered a Major Project is a value of works more than \$5 million.

Major projects are currently assessed by a panel comprised of members of the independent Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) and people with expertise in the subject area of the project.

Projects are assessed independently to ensure that all the planning aspects of the project are considered equally. They are provided for under s60C(3) of the LUPAA.

3. Options for what DAP framework might look like

Framework is likely to be contingent on the nature, scale and opt-in value threshold of applications.

Whether all DAP applications will still be lodged with and assessed by the local government and/or the TPC. Following assessment, a report from the responsible authority will be forwarded to the DAP, via the DAP secretariat, with recommendations for consideration when determining the application at a DAP meeting.

DAP membership to comprise appropriately qualified persons, based on the requirements outlined in the yet to be determined Development Assessment Panel (DAP) regulations. Specialist members must have experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Planning
- Architecture
- Urban design
- Engineering
- Landscape design
- Environment
- Law
- Property development and management.

4. How to integrate into planning system

Changes will certainly be required to the RMPS and amendments to the existing LUPAA to account for the DAP similar to what has occurred for major project assessments.

Development Assessment Panel Consultation issues

The DAP Position Paper is seeking consultation and feedback on 6 issues, these are as follows. In addition CH Planning Officer has provided some comments as a starting point for discussion.

Consultation Issue 1 – Types of development applications suitable for referral to a DAP for determination

a) What types of development applications are problematic, or perceived to be problematic, for Councils to determine and would therefore benefit from being determined by a DAP?

Options

- i. Applications for social and affordable housing which often attract considerable opposition within the local community based on social stigma rather than planning matters;
- ii. Critical infrastructure;
- iii. Applications where the Council is the applicant and the decision maker;
- iv. Applications where Councillors express a conflict of interest in a matter and a quorum to make a decision cannot be reached;
- v. Contentious applications where Councillors may wish to act as elected representatives supporting the views of their constituents which might be at odds with their role as a member of a planning authority;
- vi. Where an applicant considers there is bias, or perceived bias, on the part of a Council or Councillors;
- vii. Complex applications where the Council may not have access to appropriate skills or resources;
- viii. Application over a certain value;
- ix. Other?

b) Who should be allowed to nominate referral of a development application to a DAP for determination?

Options

- i. Applicant
- ii. Applicant with consent of the planning authority;
- iii. Planning authority
- iv. Planning authority with consent of the applicant
- v. Minister

c) Given the need for a referral of an application to a DAP might not be known until an application has progressed through certain stages of consideration (such as those set out in a) above) have been carried out, is it reasonable to have a range of referral points?

Options

- i. At the beginning for prescribed proposals;
- ii. Following consultation where it is identified that the proposal is especially contentious;
- iii. At the approval stage, where it is identified that Councillors are conflicted.

Question a) Comment:

To be guided by Councillors in responding to this question.

Question b) Comment:

Ideally there needs to be a threshold established to determine what is/in not appropriate to be referred. However, response could include Planning Authority, Applicant & Minister.

Question c) Comment:

Yes, when a DA is contentious, councillors are conflicted.

Consultation issue 2 – Provision of an enhanced role for the Minister to direct a council to initiate a planning scheme amendment under certain circumstances.

- a) Under what circumstances should the Minister have a power to direct the initiation of a planning scheme amendment by a Council?
- b) Is it appropriate for the Minister to exercise that power where the Council has refused a request from an applicant and its decision has been reviewed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission?
- For example:
- Section 40B allows for the Commission to review the planning authority's decision to refuse to initiate a planning scheme amendment and can direct the planning authority to reconsider the request. Where that has occurred, and the planning authority still does not agree to initiate an amendment, is that sufficient reason to allow Ministerial intervention to direct the planning authority to initiate the planning scheme amendment, subject to the Minister being satisfied that the LPS criteria is met?
- c) Are there other threshold tests or criteria that might justify a direction being given, such as it aligns to a changed regional land use strategy, it is identified to support a key growth strategy, or it would maximise available or planned infrastructure provision?

Question a) Comment:

It may be appropriate in the following circumstances:

- enhance or implement the strategic vision of a scheme
- implement new state-wide, regional or local planning policy
- update the scheme
- correct mistakes
- allow a use or development currently prohibited to take place
- restrict use or development in a sensitive location
- set aside land for acquisition for a public purpose or to remove such a reservation when it is no longer needed in the scheme
- incorporate a document as part of a planning scheme
- authorise the removal or variation of a restriction on title (for example, a registered restrictive covenant)
- incorporate changes made to the TPS
- regulate or prohibit the development of land on which there is or was a heritage building that has been unlawfully demolished.

Question b) Comment:

This has the inference of political intervention especially when the matter has been reviewed by the TPC under s40B of the Act.

Question c) Comment:

Provision of major projects that are not foreseen within a planning scheme that may include sustainable energy initiatives.

Consultation issue 3 –

- i. **Incorporating local knowledge in DAP decision making.**
- ii. **DAP framework to complement existing processes and avoid duplication of administrative processes.**

- a) To allow DAP determined applications to be informed by local knowledge, should a Council continue to be:
- the primary contact for applicants;
 - engage in pre-lodgement discussions;
 - receive applications and check for validity;
 - review application and request additional information if required;
 - assess the application against the planning scheme requirements and make recommendations to the DAP.
- b) Is the current s43A (former provisions of the Act) and s40T of the Act processes for referral of a development application to the Commission, initial assessment by Council and hearing procedures suitable for being adapted and used in the proposed DAP framework?

Question a) Comment:

For Councillors to respond to.

Question b) Comment:

No foreseeable need to change these provisions.

Consultation issue 4 – Resolving issues associated with requests for, and responses to, further information.

- a) Should a framework for DAP determined development applications adopt a process to review further information requests similar to the requirements of section 40A and 40V of LUPAA?
- b) Are there any changes that could be made to the Act or planning scheme to improve requests for, and responses to, additional information?

Question a) Comment:

Yes.

Comment:

Yes and the suggested changes include:

The ability at any reasonable time before the hearing of an application for a development application or before the decision to grant or refuse the application (if there is no hearing), by written notice, request the applicant to provide further information relating to the application.

In short this provides for the ability to seek multiple requests as opposed to existing constraints – 1 x request within 21 days as per s54(1)(a).

At any reasonable time before a hearing or, if no hearing is to be held, before the decision is made, a consent authority may commission any person to prepare a report on any matter relating to an application, including information provided by the applicant in the application if the activity for which the approval is sought may, in the authority's opinion, have a significant adverse environmental effect. Costs however to be borne by the applicant

Consultation issue 5 – Appeal rights and assessment timeframes for DAP determined applications.

- a) Is it reasonable that decisions on DAP determined applications are not subject to TasCAT appeals where the TPC holds hearings and provides all parties the opportunity to make submissions and test evidence?
- b) Given the integrated nature of the assessment, what are reasonable timeframes for DAP determined applications?

OPTIONS

Lodging and referrals, including referral to DAP	7 days	Running total
DAP confirms referral	7	14
Further information period (can occur within the timeframes above, commencing from time of lodgement)	7	21
Council assesses development application and makes recommendation whether or not to grant a permit	14	35
Development application, draft assessment report and recommendation on permit exhibited for consultation	14	49
Council provide documents to DAP, including a statement of its opinion on the merits of representations and whether there are any modifications to its original recommendation	14	63
DAP hold hearing, determine application and give notice to Council of decision	35	98
If directed by the DAP, Council to issue a permit to the applicant	7	105 max

Question a) Comment:

Yes given the conflict the TPC has in the existing decision making process

Question b) Comment:

Timeframes will be contingent on whether there is a need for a hearing and preference here is reference to working days not calendar days;

- Publicly notified DA (with hearing) 130
- Publicly notified DA (no hearing) 60

Consultation issue 6 – Roles of the planning authority post DAP determination of a development application.

- a) Should the planning authority remain the custodian of planning permits and be required to issue permits in accordance with a direction from a DAP?
- b) Is it appropriate for planning permits associated with a DAP determined application to be enforced the Council?
- c) Is it appropriate for minor amendments (in accordance with s56 of LUPAA) to DAP determined permits to be made by the planning authority?

Question a) Comment:

Yes assuming of course the local authority has a potential source of revenue from the fee payment.

Question b) Comment:

Yes unless of course DAP will default to monitoring and enforcement functions of EPA?

Question c) Comment:

Consider it appropriate for DAP to determine whether the minor amendment is within scope of the original application however the local authority has the ability to provide DAP with its own interpretation.

Conclusion

The briefing paper is light on detail and additional information is certainly required to inform Councils.

Council must send its comments on the DAP Paper by November 30th, after which the submissions received will be reviewed and inform modifications to the DAP framework. Based on the revised framework, the Government will prepare a draft amendment to the Act which will be further consulted early next year.

RECOMMENDATION: 05/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT

24.1 SOUTHERN TASMANIAN REGIONAL WASTE AUTHORITY – QUARTERLY REPORT

The Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority (STRWA) has provided a quarterly report to Council that provides general and financial performance details of the authority.

FOR NOTING

24.2 SOUTHERN COUNCILS CLIMATE COLLABORATION – COMMUNITY CARBON EMISSIONS AND ENERGY FOOTPRINT CENTRAL HIGHLANDS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA 2023

The Southern Councils Climate Collaboration has provided a report on the community carbon emissions and energy footprint for the Central Highlands Local Government Area 2023.

The Community Carbon Emissions and Energy Footprints (community footprint) have been developed as part of the Southern Councils Climate Collaboration. The Collaboration is an initiative of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority's (STCA) climate program, the Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI). It is supporting the 12 southern councils to build capacity and capability to develop climate responses, to reduce carbon emissions and energy use, and respond to the challenges and opportunities of a changing climate.

The Collaboration uses a common and consistent approach to work with councils to find local solutions. The approaches and resources used in the Collaboration have been developed specifically to meet the role and functions of councils and enable actions to be scaled between councils or regionally resulting in greater efficiencies and avoid duplication.

To support councils in understanding carbon footprints and energy use within their municipal areas the Collaboration developed a peer reviewed open-source model that uses reliable historic and current energy trends, which uses publicly available Australian Energy Statistics and National Greenhouse Accounts Factors data and is supported by other key government datasets. It is freely available to the Australian local governments, Australia-wide, to encourage common and pragmatic reporting and scalability of actions across the sector.

The Community Footprint uses national carbon accounting methods set out by the Australian Government in its National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008 legislation.

This project complements the Council Carbon and Energy Footprints that support Councils in understanding their own corporate emissions and where there are opportunities exist to reduce these.

This report has been created by local government, using national and State Government statistics.

Southern Tasmanian and Launceston City councils have worked with TasNetworks to publish data on electricity used by households and businesses and show localised electricity generation, which is not widely available in other jurisdictions.

Key messages within the report are:

- Higher impact emission reduction efforts are required as more than 22,575 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) are released into the atmosphere every year from activities in the Central Highlands Local Government Area (LGA). This is equivalent to 5,024 petrol/diesel vehicles driving around for one year.
- Industrial and transport sector energy use are clearly the largest emitters (over half of community emissions) and a key focus for government, community, and private sector emission reductions. Combined the commercial and residential sectors contribute 21% of community emissions and the waste, sewerage and agricultural sectors contribute 22%. Emission reduction actions are needed across all sectors to meet Australia's goals of a 43% reduction from 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for assessing climate change science. In the most recent, the Sixth Assessment Report March 2023, there are warnings that urgent action is required to cut emissions by nearly half by 2030 to limit warming to 1.5C for a safe and liveable planet.
- The 12 southern Tasmanian councils, collaborating through a regional climate alliance, developed a community (municipal) emissions methodology for waste and energy based on current reporting methods and protocols. Community greenhouse and energy footprints were completed for each of the councils in 2019 and updated in March 2023.
- Recording and reporting community emissions, technology adoption and energy use can reveal successes over time, highlight the role of emerging industries, and increase accountability towards a low to zero emission future.
- Rooftop solar installations have doubled across the LGA in the last decade and provide 723,851 units generated locally back to the grid. Electric vehicle adoption is low with 0 registered vehicles in 2020.
- Local governments have a key role increasing public understanding by being a corporate leader in the commercial sector, and through communicating successful local initiatives to our households and communities.

Community energy use and waste greenhouse gas emissions footprints	Community footprint 2023 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ -e)
Central Highlands community	22,575
Regional community	2,795,680
Tasmanian community	4,010,000

Sources (left to right, top to bottom): Regional Community Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Footprint, STCA, 2023; Australian Energy Statistics, Australian Government, 2023; Australian Greenhouse Gas Accounts Factors (Tasmania) 2022. Renewable Energy Climate Future Industries Tasmania 2023

The southern Tasmanian local government areas are responsible for over half of Tasmania's energy and waste emissions.

Switching away from fossil fuels and other emissions sources such as coal (from manufacturing) continues to contribute the most, as well as gas, diesel, petrol, and wood will work to reduce the impact of climate change. While Tasmania is a smaller contributor to Australia's emissions, than other states and territories, due to a high percentage of renewables in the electricity mix, greenhouse gas emissions are currently contributing to global warming across all sectors.

Individual households can reduce their emissions through the following measures:

- Switching from wood fires or gas heaters to heat pumps;

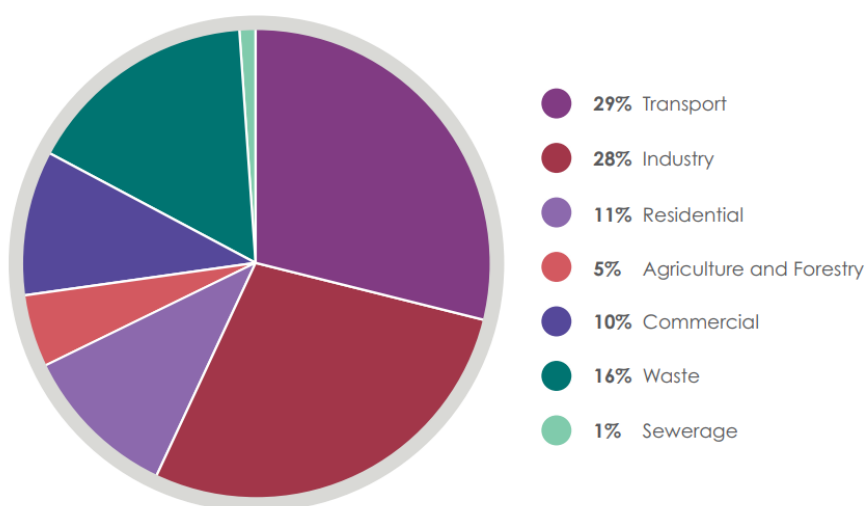
- Electrifying all appliances i.e. replacing a gas water heater/cooker with electric equivalent;
- Installing rooftop solar;
- Reducing vehicle trips with cycling, walking or car sharing;
- Replacing a petrol or diesel vehicles with lower emission vehicles (such as electric options);
- Home composting or using a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service.

There are always options to reduce emissions. These range from low-cost measures such as switching to energy efficient light bulbs, through to behaviour change actions such as influencing friends and family to switch to lower emission products, services and technologies.

Central Highlands Community Carbon Emissions and Energy Footprint results show that 22,575 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions (tCO₂-e) were released in 2021-22.

The municipality's biggest source of energy and waste emissions continues to be transport (29%), followed by the industrial (28%) and commercial (10%) sectors and then residential (11%), agriculture and forestry (5%), waste (16%) and sewerage (1%) sectors.

Figure 1. Community greenhouse gas emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e)



Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2023.

Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2023, TasNetworks, 2023.

Overall energy and waste community greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by 59%.

Energy emissions have decreased by 72%, the reductions were from industry (4,698 tCO₂-e), commercial (7,481 tCO₂-e), transport (1,305 tCO₂-e) and residential (8,059 tCO₂-e) sector.

Waste emissions increased by 2,008 tCO₂-e.

FOR NOTING

25.0 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (DES) MONTHLY REPORT

Reports By

Graham Rogers, Development & Environmental Services Manager

PLANNING PERMITS ISSUED UNDER DELEGATION

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

NO PERMIT REQUIRED

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2023 / 00058	Bison Construction	Dawson Road, Ouse	Outbuilding (Machinery Shed)
2023 / 00061	S D H Steers	29 Drysdale Road, Miena	Change of Use of Outbuilding to Dwelling & Addition (Deck x 2)

ANIMAL CONTROL

Total Number of Dogs Registered in 2022/2023 Financial Year – 968

Total Number of Kennel Licences Issued for 2022/2023 Financial Year – 29

2023/2024 Dog Registration & Kennel Licence Renewals have been issued and were due by 31 July 2023.

2023/2024 Statistics as of 15 November 2023	
Number of Dogs Impounded during last month	0
Number of Dogs Currently Registered	956
Number of Dogs Pending Re-Registration	16
Number of Kennel Licences Issued	33
Number of Kennel Licences Pending	2

RECOMMENDATION: 06/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

***THAT** the Development & Environmental Services monthly report for October 2023 be received.*

26. WORKS & SERVICES**26.1 WORKS & SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT – OCTOBER 2023****Report By**

Jason Branch, Works & Services Manager

Background

The following activities were performed during **October 2023** by Works & Services –

Grading & Sheeting	Dennistoun Road, Marriotts Road, Ransleys Road, Hanlons Road, Holmes Road, Risbys Road, Avenue, Dillions Road
Maintenance Grading	Woodspring Road, Rotherwood Road, Lake Crescent Road, Wiggs Road, Coopers Road
Potholing / shouldering	14 Mile Road

	Silver Plains Road, Arthurs Lake Road Jones Road
Spraying:	Ellendale Road Tor Hill Road Bothwell township
Culverts / Drainage:	Clean culverts after storms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotherwood Road • Woodspring Road • Langloh Road • McGuires Marsh Road • Victoria Valley Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage Rayners Hill Road and install culvert. • Drainage Allport Road • Repair culvert Waddamana Road • Drainage Waddamana Village • Clean culverts Southernfield and extensions
Occupational Health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Toolbox Meetings • Day to day JSA and daily prestart check lists completed • Monthly workplace inspections completed. • Playground inspection
Bridges:	Green Valley Bridge tender evaluation
Refuse / recycling sites:	Cover Hamilton Tip twice weekly
Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair walkway Westerway • Dig out defects Arthurs Lake Road • Landscaping and finish works at new Hamilton toilet block • Commence tree removal Thousand Acre Lane • Scrubbing vegetation Todds Corner • Install AED signage Miena X 3 • Install sign Arthurs Like Road • Clean up Bothwell waste transfer station • Remove fallen tree from 14 Mile Road • Remove fallen tree Bashan Road • Drainage Bothwell township • Hot mix holes Dennistoun Road • Commence footpath High Street • Guidepost Penstock Road • Install missing sign Reynolds Neck Road • Install traffic Counter Haulage Hill Road • Remove fallen tree from Mark Tree Road
Slashing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thousand Acre Lane

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holmes Road • Dillions Road
Municipal Town Maintenance:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	
Plant:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Fuso truck arrived at Hamilton Works Depot • PM687 Western Star truck serviced and new tyres • PM783 Ford Ranger ute serviced • PM774 Cat Grader serviced • Nissan Xtrail serviced and new tyres • PM757 JCB Backhoe hose repairs x 3 • PM733 Komatsu grader serviced and new shoes on circle • PM676 Kobelco excavator hose repair • PM740 Hino tipper investigate over heating problem
Private Works:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel delivery Wetheron Pastoral • Brett Speed hire of excavator • Compass Dairy slasher hire • DKM Maintenance gravel delivery • Tomic gravel delivery • Will Bignell concrete premix • Miena Village water delivery • Waddamana Forrest gravel purchase • Tony Sutcliffe gravel purchase • G and S Builders gravel • J Tas Builders waste drop off • Andrea Datlen gravel purchase • Nancy Hoskinson gravel delivery
Casuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilets, rubbish and Hobart • Hamilton general duties
Program for next 4 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grading and sheeting Municipal roads • Culvert cleaning and drainage various roads • Works Bothwell waste transfer station

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree removal Thousand Acre Lane

RECOMMENDATION: 07/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

***THAT** the Works & Services monthly report for October 2023 be received.*

26.2 ROAD REPORT - MEADSFIELD AND TOR HILL ROADS

Report By

Jason Branch, Works & Services Manager

The Works and Services Manager has undertaken an inspection of Meadsfield & Tor Hill Roads and found the roads to be in a fair condition, there is some corrugation which is up the hill from Clairvax towards Bothwell. Both Councils supervisors are aware of the corrugation and maintenance work is scheduled in the works program to re grade the roads in the next few weeks.

The Works Supervisor contacted the Mayor to see if she would like to come on a road inspection of Meadsfield & Tor Hill Roads. The Mayor and Councillor Bailey, both attend the road inspection, and both agreed that the road was in fair condition.

FOR INFORMATION

26.3 PATRICK STREET STORM WATER ISSUE

Report By

Jason Branch, Works & Services Manager

Council has had some concerns raised that there is a problem with the storm water getting away in a heavy or continuous rain from a storm water pit in Patrick Street after the recent upgrade works. Also, a resident has raised concerns that their storm water was also not getting away and overflowing from the down pipes onto their property.

Councils Works and Service Manager along with the Works Supervisor have been on site, on a number of occasions and observed the issue. The Works and Service Manager has contacted PDA (engineering consultant) and AWC (civil contractor) and held a site meeting on Friday the 10/11/2023.

Issues that will be addressed is the stormwater pit in Patrick Street will be changed to a grated pit to allow water to be able to flow freely as the current pit blocks too easy from gravel and debris.

A double side entry pit has been installed in Market Place and a new 300mm line straight across the Highland Lakes Road to eliminate flow going into the stormwater pit located in Patrick Street.

FOR NOTING

26.4 COUNCIL HOUSE – 2 CUMBERLAND STREET, HAMILTON

Report By

Barry Harback, Works Supervisor

The house at 2 Cumberland Street, Hamilton has some roof problems in such a way the internal ceiling plaster has become affected.

A roof plumber was engaged to undertake an inspection of the roof and provide some options. He has reported the roof will need to be replaced and the ceiling plaster will also need to be replaced as it has black mould in some areas.

The roof plumber has advised as follows:

As you can see in the photos below,

- there are nails missing;
- holes in the roof, some have been patched and some have not been patched;
- there is corrosion on the joints of the sheets;
- chimney flashings are coming away from the chimney;

I would also recommend replacing the TV antenna as it is quite big and awkward and tied around the chimney

Also, looking at the front of the dwelling on the left-hand side, there is a downpipe running onto the ground that may be causing some damage to the floor inside.





Quotes have been obtained and prices are as follows:

- Replace ceiling plaster in kitchen and patch hallway - \$10,000 (including paint)
- Replacement of roof - \$35,885.00

RECOMMENDATION: 08/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council allocate additional Capital Works funding in the 23/24 budget to replace the roof and undertake associated works at 2 Cumberland Street, Hamilton.

26.5 ASH COTTAGE, 6899 LYELL HIGHWAY, OUSE

Report By

Barry Harback, Works Supervisor

On Friday the 22/9/2023 Council engaged Gutter Vac Tasmania to clean the gutters and do an inspection on the condition of the gutters and roof on the Council owned building at 6899 Lyell Highway Ouse (Ash Cottage).

The report come back to say that the gutters are of fair condition. The colour bond roofing is of very poor condition with rust holes in most of the sheets with some parts of installation being exposed.

The Acting Works and Service Manager, immediately engage a roof plumber to inspect the roof at 6899 Lyell Highway Ouse (Ash Cottage). The roof plumber come back and said the roof is of very bad condition and would recommend the roof to be replaced immediately to prevent further damage to the internals of the building.

Quotes have been obtained with the cost to replace the roof being \$22,285.88.





Roof and Gutter Report

Customer	Central Highlands Council	Date	23/9/2023
Job Address	Ash Cottage 6899 Lyell Highway Ouse		
Debris Loading	Light <input type="checkbox"/> Light to Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate to High <input type="checkbox"/> High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Guttering	Good Condition	No issues with guttering.	
Down Pipes	Good Condition	No issues with down pipes.	
Roofing	Poor Condition	See comments below	
Shed	Good Condition	N/A.	
Outdoor Area	Good Condition	N/A.	
Garage/Carport	Good Condition	N/A.	
Remarks	<p>The debris loading here is extremely high on the driveway side due to trees and I would recommend a 6 monthly clean due to the large debris from the over-hanging gum tree.</p> <p>As has been previously noted - the roofing here has numerous breakage points due to rust and corrosion. Water will be entering the roof space which can lead to mould, mildew and fungus in the roof space. Recommend having roofing replaced to prevent moisture/mould/mildew building up in roofspace and being a potential hazard.</p> <p>We recommend a 6-monthly clean for your gutters.</p>		

Disclaimer

Gutter-Vac operators are not licensed roofers or plumbers and have only conducted a very basic visual inspection of your roof and gutters. The above information is not a specialist report and Gutter-Vac is not liable for any action or failed action resulting from those comments. If you have concerns about your roof, gutters or downpipes, you should contact a licensed roofer or plumber.

RECOMMENDATION: 09/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council allocate additional Capital Works funding in the 23/24 budget to replace the roof and undertake associated works at Ash Cottage, 6899 Lyell Highway, Ouse.

27. ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

27.1 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2020-2025 – MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2023

Report by

Katrina Brazendale, Senior Administration/Community Relations Officer

Background

- Bothwell Playgroup

Playgroup Tasmania have commenced the Small Talk Program, this will conclude on 12 December 2023. Bothwell Playgroup has been well support by families regularly attending which helps being able to bring programs like this to the Central Highlands Region.

- Supporting School with Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club at the Bothwell District High School is continuing with the support of the school parents who are coming in to assist on a weekly basis. Council is also supporting Westerway Primary School with deliveries happening every fortnight.

- Youth and Adults Mental Health Community Sports

The Bothwell District High School along with the assistance from the Bothwell Golf Club will commence the weekly golf sessions facilitated by the Golf Club members in Term 4. This will be held on Thursdays with 10-12 students participating in this program. Council in conjunction with the Goldwind Grant has purchased new adult golfing equipment to better support the older students.

- RACT Driver Training

Discussions have been undertaken with the Bothwell District High School, various parents throughout the Municipality and RACT to undertake driver training in the Municipal area. I am anticipating that this will commence by the end of November. This will be funded through the Goldwind Grant.

- RSA Course

Council has had a request for further RSA training, the next one will be undertaken at Miena on 21st November 2023 with currently 14 participants listed to attend. This will be funded through the Goldwind Grant.

RECOMMENDATION: 10/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Health & Wellbeing Plan 2020-2025 monthly progress report for October 2023 be received.

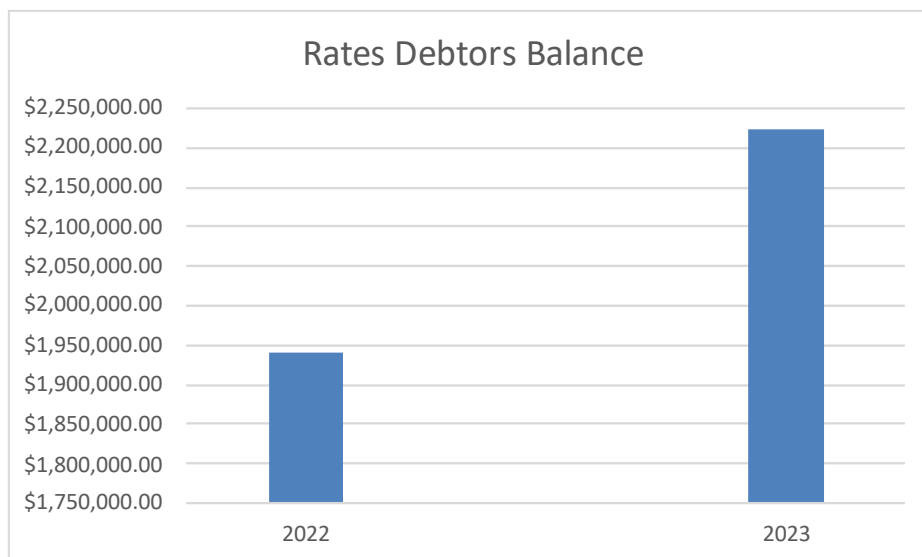
27.2 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

Report by

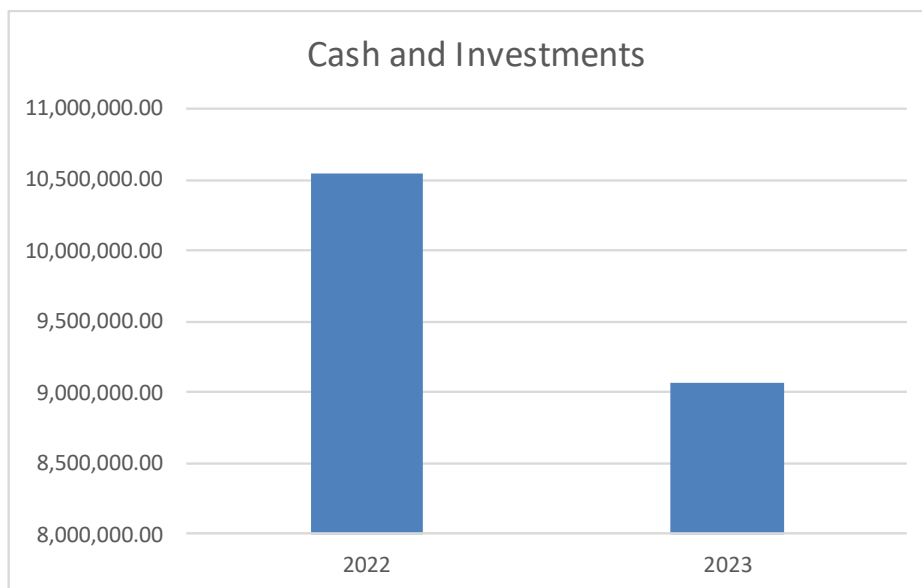
David Doyle, Contract Accountant

Background

Rates Reconciliation as at 31 October 2023				
		2022		2023
Rates in Debit 30th June		\$100,036.35		\$135,606.82
Rates in Credit 30th June		-\$139,127.10		-\$171,244.88
Balance 30th June		-\$39,090.75		-\$35,638.06
Rates Raised		\$4,088,619.14		\$4,473,690.61
Penalties Raised		\$13,296.33		\$15,306.58
Supplementaries/Debit Adjustments		\$7,972.47		\$6,548.44
Total Raised		\$4,070,797.19		\$4,495,545.63
Less:				
Receipts to Date		\$2,013,883.01		\$2,110,107.38
Pensioner Rate Remissions		\$109,399.55		\$117,916.83
Remissions/Supplementary Credits		\$6,631.61		\$9,058.10
Balance		\$1,940,883.02		\$2,222,825.26



BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023					BALANCE	
No.	Bank Accounts	Investment Period	Current Interest Rate %	Due Date	2022	2023
11100	Cash at Bank and on Hand					
11105	Bank 01 - Commonwealth - General Trading Account				393,600.67	1,840,341.14
11106	Bank 02 - Westpac - Direct Deposit Account				18,321.21	812,608.95
11110	Petty Cash				350.00	350.00
11115	Floats				200.00	200.00
11199	TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND				412,471.88	2,653,500.09
11200	Investments					
11207	Bank 05	87 Days	4.69%	22/12/2023	4,007,101.37	3,067,638.05
11207	Bank 06	30 Days	4.10%	3/11/2023	2,009,785.21	1,072,905.82
11214	Tascorp	183 Days	4.75%	21/12/2023	78,294.58	80,346.47
11216	Bank 16	60 Days	4.38%	13/12/2023	4,033,133.59	2,194,375.32
11299	TOTAL INVESTMENTS				10,128,314.75	6,415,265.66
	TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS AND CASH ON HAND				10,540,786.63	9,068,765.75



Bank Reconciliation as at 31 October 2023			
	2022		2023
Balance Brought Forward	\$11,182,308.09		\$9,710,151.06
Receipts for month	\$236,405.50		\$154,353.14
Expenditure for month	\$877,926.96		\$795,738.45
Balance	\$10,540,786.63		\$9,068,765.75
Represented By:			
Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$399,612.81		\$1,837,433.19
Balance Westpac Bank	\$19,011.21		\$812,608.95
Investments	\$10,128,314.75		\$6,415,265.66
Petty Cash & Floats	\$550.00		\$550.00
	\$10,547,488.77		\$9,065,857.80
Plus Unbanked Money	\$0.00		\$2,907.95
	\$10,547,488.77		\$9,068,765.75
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$0.00		\$0.00
Unreceipted amounts on bank statements	\$6,702.14		\$0.00
	\$10,540,786.63		\$9,068,765.75

	BUDGET	ACTUAL TO	ACTUAL TO	% OF BUDGET	BALANCE OF
	2023/2024	31-Oct-22	31-Oct-23	SPENT	BUDGET
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$1,697,621	\$618,374	\$641,312	37.78%	\$1,056,308
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$181,554	\$58,223	\$88,381	48.68%	\$93,174
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$121,900	\$32,223	\$33,735	27.67%	\$88,165
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$41,000	\$8,921	\$9,517	23.21%	\$31,483
ONCOSTS	(\$279,933)	\$85,809	(\$64,781)	23.14%	(\$215,152)
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	\$323,750	\$62,061	\$119,678	36.97%	\$204,072
TOTAL CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$2,085,892	\$865,611	\$827,842	39.69%	\$1,258,051
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
				237.14%	
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$286,795	\$76,070	\$105,776	36.88%	\$181,019
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$31,300	\$6,343	\$10,263	32.79%	\$21,037
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$11,300	\$849	\$4,422	39.13%	\$6,878
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$204,463	\$41,653	\$46,549	22.77%	\$157,915
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$53,151	\$3,800	\$3,422	6.44%	\$49,728
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$192,000	\$48,462	\$61,846	32.21%	\$130,154
WASTE SERVICES	\$874,519	\$202,318	\$274,149	31.35%	\$600,369
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	\$49,440	\$88,196	\$4,786	9.68%	\$44,654
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	\$1,702,968	\$467,691	\$511,214	30.02%	\$1,191,754
WORKS AND SERVICES					
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$160,734	\$45,538	\$60,213	37.46%	\$100,521
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$23,800	\$5,464	\$7,049	29.62%	\$16,751
HALLS (HALL)	\$56,969	\$22,534	\$34,511	60.58%	\$22,458
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$75,329	\$28,694	\$38,663	51.33%	\$36,666
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+tennis)	\$100,745	\$26,113	\$56,402	55.99%	\$44,343
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$152,400	\$57,151	\$69,573	45.65%	\$82,827
HOUSING (HOU)	\$100,258	\$52,636	\$58,172	58.02%	\$42,086
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$17,580	\$4,413	\$5,233	29.77%	\$12,347
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$1,267	\$1,020	\$1,852	146.18%	(\$585)
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$1,037,200	\$560,386	\$543,403	52.39%	\$493,797
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$9,580	\$5,012	\$5,260	54.91%	\$4,320
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,316	\$185	\$2,986	12.81%	\$20,330
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$44,600	\$32,517	\$26,708	59.88%	\$17,892
SUPER. & I/D OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$757,839	\$145,933	\$200,205	26.42%	\$557,634
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(\$194,500)	(\$55,318)	(\$59,579)	30.63%	(\$134,921)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$136,000	\$56,060	\$47,067	34.61%	\$88,933
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$318	\$502	25.11%	\$1,498
PLANT MTCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$500,000	\$221,211	\$321,689	64.34%	\$178,311
PLANT INCOME	(\$710,000)	(\$339,311)	(\$417,160)	58.75%	(\$292,840)
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$32,000	\$17,865	\$20,053	62.66%	\$11,947
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$28,553	\$18,819	\$19,084	66.83%	\$9,470
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$37,000	\$15,969	\$7,327	19.80%	\$29,673
FLOOD REPAIRS		\$17,876	\$0		
TOTAL WORKS & SERVICES	\$2,392,672	\$941,085	\$1,049,215	43.85%	\$1,343,456

DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES					
Corporate Services	\$2,085,892	\$865,611	\$827,842	39.69%	\$1,258,051
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$1,702,968	\$467,691	\$511,214	30.02%	\$1,191,754
Works & Services	\$2,392,672	\$941,085	\$1,049,215	43.85%	\$1,343,456
Total All Operating	\$6,181,531	\$2,274,387	\$2,388,270	38.64%	\$3,793,261
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE					
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Computer Purchases	\$10,000	\$21,084	\$0	0.00%	\$10,000
Equipment	\$5,000	\$5,578	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
Miscellaneous	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
	\$20,000	\$26,662	\$0	0.00%	\$20,000
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
Swimming Pool	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$15,000
	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$15,000
WORKS & SERVICES					
Plant Purchases	\$940,000	\$342,711	\$60,890	6.48%	\$879,110
Camping Grounds	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Public Conveniences	\$333,334	\$46,865	\$58,710	17.61%	\$274,624
Bridges	\$648,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$648,000
Road Construction & Reseals	\$2,818,000	\$187,386	\$211,480	7.50%	\$2,606,520
Drainage	\$780,000	\$0	\$175,138	0.00%	\$604,862
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$73,000	\$40,186	\$16,110	22.07%	\$56,890
Infrastructure	\$184,000	\$0	\$40,209	21.85%	\$143,791
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$443,000	\$6,833	\$8,111	1.83%	\$434,889
Rec Grounds	\$810,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$810,000
Halls	\$198,000	\$0	\$2,623	1.32%	\$195,377
Buildings	\$845,169	\$77,557	\$430,579	50.95%	\$414,590
	\$8,072,503	\$701,539	\$1,003,849	12.44%	\$7,068,654
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS					
Corporate Services	\$20,000	\$26,662	\$0	0.00%	\$20,000
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$15,000
Works & Services	\$8,072,503	\$701,539	\$1,003,849	12.44%	\$7,068,654
	\$8,107,503	\$728,201	\$1,003,849	12.38%	\$7,103,654

Comprehensive Income Statement						
31/10/2023						
Recurrent Income	Budget 2022-2023	Actual to date prior year	Actual to Date	Budget 2023-2024	Variation from YTD Budget %	Comments
Rates Charges	\$4,088,847	\$4,088,619	\$4,469,305	\$4,469,863	(0)%	
User Fees	\$370,250	\$101,948	\$80,615	\$355,450	(11)%	
Grants - Operating	\$928,852	\$211,729	\$104,541	\$124,860	50%	
Other Revenue	\$354,200	\$156,231	\$266,425	\$453,200	25%	
Grants received in Advance	\$2,044,477		\$3,031,386	\$2,998,566		FAGs received Jun 2023 for 2023/24
Total Revenues	\$7,786,626	\$4,558,527	\$7,952,272	\$8,401,939	61%	
Expenditure						
Employee Benefits	\$2,005,037	\$716,840	\$755,003	\$2,553,663	(4)%	
Materials and Services	\$2,089,353	\$800,070	\$753,326	\$2,012,016	4%	
Other Expenses	\$1,699,645	\$766,854	\$867,843	\$1,715,852	17%	
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$2,130,000	\$723,469	\$820,068	\$2,260,000	3%	
Total Expenditure	\$7,924,035	3,007,233	3,196,240	8,541,531	4%	
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	(137,409)	1,551,294	4,756,031	(139,593)		
Capital Grants & Other	\$2,379,150	\$258,248	\$123,100	\$2,407,078		
Surplus(Deficit)	2,241,741	1,809,542	4,879,131	2,267,485		
Capital Expenditure	\$5,561,522	\$728,201	\$1,003,849	\$8,107,503		

DONATIONS AND GRANTS 2022-23

Date	Details	Budget	Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Hamilton Show	Childrens Services	Community Grants \ Donations	Event Development and Sponsorship	Further Education Bursaries and School Support	General Items	Church Grants	Tourism	TOTAL
	Community & Economic Development Support	\$4,133									
	Support/Donations	\$9,640									
	Further Education Bursaries	\$1,800									
	Central Highlands School Support	\$3,000									
	Anzac Day	\$6,000									
	Hamilton Show	\$5,000									
	Australia Day	\$2,500									
	Church Grants	\$5,000									
	Suicide Prevention Program	\$2,000									
	Anglers Alliance Sponsorship	\$3,000									
	Royal Flying Doctor Service	\$1,000									
	Youth Activities	\$5,000									
	Australasian Golf Museum contribution to power	\$5,000									
	South Central Region Projects	\$5,000									
	Local Govt Shared Services Project	\$2,000									
	200 Years of Hamilton Celebration	\$40,000									
	Health & Wellbeing Plan Implementation	\$5,000									
	Visitors Centre	\$5,000									
	Grant assistance	\$15,000									
	Design/concept contractors - Grants	\$25,000									
	Healthy Connect Project	\$10,000									
	Highlands Digest Support	\$0									
	Contribution Children's Services Bothwell	\$500									
31/07/2023	Brighton Family Day Care	\$5,000		5,000.00							5,000.00
17/08/2023	Lions Club of Hobart	\$360						360.00			
7/09/2023	Highlands Digest Support	\$10,800						10,800.00			
5/10/2023	Great Lake Volunteer Fire Brigade	\$867			867.00						
YEAR TO DATE EXPENDITURE			0.00	5,000.00	867.00	0.00	0.00	11,160.00	0.00	0.00	17,027.00
BUDGET		\$177,600	13,500.00	10,500.00	10,000.00	41,000.00	4,800.00	84,800.00	5,000.00	8,000.00	177,600.00

RECOMMENDATION: 11/11.2023/C**Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr**THAT** the Monthly Finance Report to 31 October 2023 be received.

27.3 REQUEST FOR RATES REMISSION

Report by

Adam Wilson, Acting General Manager

Correspondence has been received from rate payers that purchased the property located at 316 Lower Marshes Road, Apsley. The owner states that their purchase of the property was to prevent the sale and removal of the deconsecrated St. Bartholomew's Church and associated cemetery. The owner currently maintains the Church building and operates the cemetery. This includes building maintenance, maintenance of existing graves, payment of rates and charges and covering the cost of public liability insurance. The cemetery is rarely used (last burial was over 16 years ago). This cemetery is maintained completely independently from the Church. Members of the public have access to the site at all times, and through the retention of this operational cemetery, local members of the community are able to be buried near family members.

For the last 3 years Council has provided the owner of the property with a remission of their general rates.

RECOMMENDATION: 12/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

***THAT** Council remit the General Rates on property located at 316 Lower Marshes Road, Apsley.*

27.4 STATE GRANTS COMMISSION DISCUSSION PAPER DP23-01 - REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BASE GRANT METHODOLOGY

Report by

Adam Wilson, Acting General Manager

Ivan Dzelalija the Principal Policy Analyst and Executive Officer of the State Grants Commission has written to the General Manager regarding the State Grants Commission - Discussion Paper DP23-01 - Review of Financial Assistance Base Grant Methodology.

In 2022-23, the Commission issued the following two Conversation Starters:

- CS23-01 - Allocation of a share of the Base Grant on a per capita basis; and
- CS23-02 - Adjusting councils assessed expenditure requirements to allow for the service population being greater than the resident population.

The Commission has since prepared the attached Discussion Paper which examines these issues in more detail.

The Commission has examined the impacts of changing its approach to preparing recommendations for the allocation of the base grant component of the Financial Assistance Grants, following the generally positive feedback from two Conversation Starters issued in December 2022 and February 2023.

These proposed changes relate to the allocation of a share of the base grant on a per capita basis and basing councils' expenditure requirements on estimates of the service population.

This paper examines how the Commission's 2023-24 recommendations for the allocation of the base grant would have been different:

- if the Commission no longer allocates 30 per cent of the base grant to all councils on a per capita basis; and
- if the Commission bases councils' expenditure requirements on estimates of the population they service and not the resident population as estimated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Removing the per capita allocation to all councils of 30 per cent of the base grant would result in significantly different grant recommendations for several councils by making available a greater share of the base grant to be allocated according to relative need. It would lead to lower base grant recommendations for the more populous councils with low assessed relative need. For example, it would have reduced the recommended grants for 2023-24 by around \$265 000 per year in the case of Devonport City Council and by almost \$150,000 for Brighton Council.

By contrast, the recommended base grants for the smaller councils with high assessed relative need would be significantly increased, such as up by just over \$160,000 for the Southern Midlands Council for 2023-24 and by just under \$150,000 for West Coast Council.

Basing expenditure requirements on estimates of the service population rather than the resident population would have resulted in increased grant recommendations for 2023-24 for those councils with a proportionately large number of holiday properties. These include Glamorgan-Spring Bay (up by around \$450,000), Central Highlands (up by just over \$330,000) and Tasman (up by almost \$290,000).

The councils with the largest decreases are those councils with larger populations with a relatively small share of dwellings that are estimated to be not occupied by residents. These include West Tamar (down by almost \$195,000), Huon Valley (down by almost \$185,000) and Latrobe (down by around \$170,000).

This paper also reports on the impact on recommendations of implementing both new approaches. The largest increases in recommendations would be for Central Highlands (up by just over \$470,000), Glamorgan-Spring Bay (up by almost \$460,000), and Tasman (up by just over \$360,000).

The councils with the largest decreases are those councils with larger populations, excluding the minimum grant councils, with a relatively small share of dwellings that are estimated to be not occupied by residents. These include West Tamar (down by just over \$325,000), Devonport (down by just over \$270,000) and Huon Valley (down by around \$250,000).

For both changes, the base grant recommendations for the five minimum grant councils, namely Hobart, Clarence, Kingborough, Glenorchy and Launceston, would not be affected.

The Commission is seeking feedback from Central Highlands Council on the proposed changes, which will be used to inform its decision making. Council is encouraged to provide written responses by 15 December 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: 13/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

***THAT** Councillors provide their comment on the State Grants Commission - Discussion Paper DP23-01 - Review of Financial Assistance Base Grant Methodology to the General Manager by Friday the 8 December 2023, so that Council can provide comments to the State Grants Commission before Friday, 15 December 2023.*

27.5 DRAFT TASMANIA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE BILL

Report by

Adam Wilson, Acting General Manager

Dion Lester the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of Tasmania has written to the General Manager regarding the Fire and Emergency Service Bill.

On 28 September 2023 the State Government released the draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill which amongst other things, establishes the Tasmanian Fire and Emergency Service (TFES).

The TFES will consist of the Tasmania Fire Service – as a division established under the previous Fire Service Act 1979 (repealed) and State Emergency Services to continue under the Emergency Management Act 2006.

The Bill also includes a new funding model. The funding model proposes a “simple, fair and sustainable model” to fund the fire and emergency services in accordance with the recommendation from The Blake Review, and feedback on the Treasury Options Paper.

The proposed funding model in the draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill:

- abolishes the Insurance Fire Levy,
- simplifies the property-based levy (currently known as the Fire Service Contribution, which is collected via council rates), and
- continues the existing Motor Vehicle Levy in its current form but extends it to include motorcycles.

Property - Based Levy

The new fire and emergency service levy will be calculated using a property's Assessed Annual Value (AAV) multiplied by the relevant land classification rate and will continue to be collected via council rates.

Section 50 of the Bill determines the Treasurer will publish the AAV rate determination for each land classification by 31 May for the financial year starting 1 July in that year.

The Consultation Paper released by the State Government provides two options:

- Option 1 – set a single rate across Tasmania, or
- Option 2 – set a two-tiered rate across Tasmania depending on whether you live in a rural or urban area.

	Summary	LGAT Comment
Option 1 Single rate across Tasmania	<p>This option proposes all residential properties across Tasmania pay a fixed amount of 1%.</p> <p>As part of equalising the current payment model, some areas of the state will be impacted.</p> <p>To mitigate this, the Government will introduce a Rural Transition Guarantee of \$100 to eligible regional households to support the transition years. This would initially be a fixed-term initiative.</p> <p>A list of the areas is available here.</p> <p>The proposal includes different rates for other classifications. This is to recognise that the fire and emergency response at commercial and industrial premises are often of greater risk or complexity to respond to than residential property.</p> <p>The proposed rates range from 0.5% to 3.2%.</p>	LGAT is seeking access to the treasury modelling to support councils reviewing this option.

	Summary	LGAT Comment
Option 2 Two-tiered rate	<p>This option proposes two rates – one urban and regional.</p> <p>The outcome of this option would be urban areas continuing to pay similar rates as they do now, but the rate would be standardised removing inequities between cities.</p> <p>Regional areas would see a smaller increase than option one but equalisation would be met between rural areas.</p> <p>The proposed rates in this option range from 0.5% to 3.2%</p>	<p>LGAT is seeking access to the treasury modelling to support councils reviewing this option.</p>

In addition to the funding model several other changes are proposed through the new legislation. These are summarised below:

Legislative reference	Summary	LGAT Comment
Section 17 Establish the State Fire and Emergency Service Committee	<p>The State Fire Commission will become the State Fire and Emergency Service Committee.</p> <p>The committee will be Ministerially appointed, reporting directly to the new Commissioner.</p> <p>Local Government had a position prescribed and</p>	<p>The membership list of the TFES Bill is less prescriptive, with reference to between 8 to 12 members being appointed.</p> <p>Schedule 1 of the Bill outlines the membership of the committee with no identification of actual members.</p>

Legislative reference	Summary	LGAT Comment
	appointed by the Governor in the <i>Fire Services Act</i> .	<p>Local Government representatives currently sit on the State Fire Commission and the State Fire Management Council.</p> <p>There should be a Local Government representative on the new committee given Local Government's role in collecting the levy, emergency management and in supporting community preparedness and building community resilience.</p>
Section 18 Other committees	The Bill provides for the Commissioner to establish other committees as the TFES Commissioner considers appropriate.	<p>The <i>Fire Services Act</i> established the State Fire Management Council which included a Local Government representative.</p> <p>The establishment of any committee should consider and include where relevant a Local Government representative.</p>
Section 46 Funding of TFES	Funding is only to be used for the purpose of the TFES and its functions under the TFES Act or any other prescribed function or purpose relating to EM. As noted above the Insurance Fire Levy has been abolished and replaced with a property-based levy; the Motor Vehicle Levy remains	<p>LGATs 2021 submission to the Blake <i>Fire Services Act</i> Review and Treasury option Paper called for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A property-based levy was generally supported but it was noted that not all councils use the AAV model.

Legislative reference	Summary	LGAT Comment
	and has been extended to include motorcycles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Levy must not to constitute the majority of base funding, the State Government needs to commit to this essential service through appropriation. • A sustained education campaign from the State Government to ensure rate payers understand it is a state tax. • Ring fencing of levy funds must be legislated. • The 4% administration fee paid to councils to administer the levy should not be reduced. <p>Whilst some of the feedback from LGATS previous submissions have been included the following are areas LGAT seeks further clarity on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative options to the AAV model for councils who do not use this rating method. • The rate of the administration fee. • Sustained education campaign.

Legislative reference	Summary	LGAT Comment
		<p>In addition, LGAT will seek clarification if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SES Volunteer unit funding currently provided by Councils via MOUs is replaced by the new funding model. • Asset ownership for SES assets
Section 49 TFES – Property Levy	A council is to charge the levy on eligible property as defined in Clause 48.	LGAT will seek clarity on exemptions.
Section 50 Treasurer to determine AAV rates	The Treasurer will publish AAV rate determination by 31 May based on land classification.	<p>The current fire service levy is set by the State Fire Commission.</p> <p>The Bill transfers this responsibility to the Treasurer with the determination to be complete by 31 May each year.</p> <p>Movements in the levy should be communicated to councils well in advance of preparing their annual budget.</p>
Section 51 Administration of TFES – Property Levy	Each financial year a council is to provide the TFES Commissioner with the TFES property levy collected by the council in the prescribed manner.	The Bill has no prescribed payment intervals which was previously legislated as quarterly.

General Comments

Section 47 and 51 reference regulations – these may be made by the Governor as per section 86.

Section 74 allows the Commissioner to invoice via a Council a property owner who has not acted on an abatement notice service by the Council and the TFES responds to a fire at the property.

Review – An independent review is to be undertaken of the operation of the Act to be completed before the 5th anniversary.

The Tasmania Fire Service website provides the following information:

<https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/reform/what-is-changing/>

What is changing?

The new Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service Bill provides the flexibility and adaptability required for legislation to remain contemporary and more efficient to administer. This is critical for an emergency service organisation.

The Bill enables the following reform:

The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) and the State Emergency Service (SES) will formally unite to become the Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service (TFES).

Importantly, our fire and emergency service workers will still be easily identifiable as they will continue to proudly wear their respective TFS and SES uniforms.

The new TFES will be led by the Commissioner, Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service. The Commissioner, Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service will report directly to the Minister, for Police, Fire and Emergency Management and will be empowered to oversee the workforce and the budget for the TFES.

The TFES will be one of two operational pillars of the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM).

The authorities legislated for the current State Fire Commission (SFC) will be transferred to the new Commissioner. The SFC will become the State Fire and Emergency Service Committee.

The State Fire and Emergency Service Committee will be Ministerially appointed and included in legislation and will report directly to and support the new Commissioner. The membership will grow and include representatives from SES and other emergency service providers.

Our hard-working emergency services volunteers will be provided with greater protections under the new legislation.

The Bill also includes an equitable, sustainable and fair funding model to support our TFES in the work they do to keep Tasmanians safe.

The world our fire and emergency services operate in has changed. We have to plan for the impact of climate change which will see more frequent and longer emergencies. The reviews of the Fire Service Act 1979 have highlighted the need for a stable, predictable and fair funding model to support our emergency service leaders to plan, respond to and transition to recovery after an emergency.

The following information will provide you with all you need to know about the new Funding model for the Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service that is legislated in the Bill:

The new funding model

The way our fire and emergency services are funded will be changing. The new Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service Bill will ensure our fire and emergency services are funded appropriately now, and into the future.

Why do we need a new funding model

The existing arrangements are in accordance with a complicated and narrow funding model first introduced in 1979. These arrangements have not changed to reflect the current operation of our fire and emergency service functions, including greater mobility, technology changes, longer fire seasons, increased response duration, and the impact of climate change. The current arrangements do not include funding for the State Emergency Service, which is also not currently funded in an appropriate or sustainable way.

Our emergency services currently rely on seven different funding streams, including three levies: insurance fire levy, a property-based levy, and a motor vehicle levy.

The Blake Review, and feedback on the Treasury Options Paper, highlighted that the current funding arrangements are complex and not fit for purpose, with recommendations that the insurance fire levy should be replaced with a property-based levy.

Insurance based taxes are widely considered to be inefficient given the additional cost they apply to insurance premiums and how they distort behaviour by deterring businesses from taking out sufficient insurance. They are also an unstable funding stream as they only apply to certain insurance policies and it is not compulsory to have an insurance policy.

Under the current model the property-based levy (known as the fire service contribution, which is paid through your council rates) is based on the brigade classification system. This means if you own a property near a career brigade, you pay more than someone who lives near a volunteer brigade. There are also different rates depending on which council area you live in.

This is significantly outdated – our fire and emergency services (career or volunteer) respond to everyone in our community equally and without hesitation. They don't take any boundaries into consideration when they respond. Ultimately it means that some people pay less than others but receive the same high-quality service.

What is the new model

The draft TFES Bill proposes a simple, fair, and sustainable model to fund our fire and emergency services in accordance with the recommendations from The Blake Review, and feedback on the Treasury Options Paper. This model ensures both TFS and SES are funded appropriately now, and into the future.

The proposed funding model in the TFES Bill:

- abolishes the Insurance Fire Levy;
- simplifies the property-based levy (currently known as the Fire Service Contribution, which is paid through your council rates); and
- continues the existing Motor Vehicle Levy in its current form but extends it to include motorcycles.

The Motor Vehicle Levy

The current Motor Vehicle Levy will become the Motor Vehicle Fire and Emergency Service Levy and will be extended to include motorcycles.

In 2023-24 the fee per registered vehicle is \$21, and this fee will continue to be indexed annually with movements in CPI. If you currently receive a concession on your Motor Vehicle Fire Levy, the concession will continue to apply to the Motor Vehicle Fire and Emergency Service Levy.

Concession Rate Increase

The Tasmanian Government is proposing to increase the concession rate for the Fire and Emergency Service Levy and the Motor Vehicle Fire Levy from 20% to 30%.

The eligibility criteria for a concession will not change.

How is the new version of the property-based levy calculated

The new fire and emergency service levy will be calculated using a property's Assessed Annual Value (AAV) (found on your council rates notice) multiplied by the relevant land classification rate. The land classifications are based on land usage.

Your levy = your AAV x your land classification rate (refer to the Proposed land classification rates table) – your concession*

*if you are eligible for a government concession

The fire and emergency service levy will replace the current Fire Contribution Levy on your council rates notice.

What is the current fire service contribution funding model

The *Fire Service Act 1979* prescribes the current funding arrangements for the State Fire Commission (SFC), which is the governing body for the TFS.

As noted in the Blake Review, these arrangements are extremely complex and highly prescriptive, with funding being provided from a range of sources.

This includes a property-based levy. Under this levy, where you live determines what you pay for the fire service. As a result, some households pay \$44 per annum, and some paying over \$400 per annum. This is because the rates are currently set according to the local government area where a property is, and whether it is supported by a career, volunteer or retained brigade.

However, our fire and emergency services do not operate this way and will regularly move in and out of local government boundaries to provide emergency response. For example, large regional fires often receive career brigades and aircraft response, or a motor vehicle accident will have the first crew available attend.

The following table demonstrates the inequities – this includes that there are inequities across local government areas, as well as inequities across urban and regional areas.

Table 1 – Examples – Current Funding Model Inequities

Location	Classification Rate	Cost for an average AAV
Burnie	1.4%	\$268
Devonport	1.2%	\$219
Hobart	0.89%	\$160
West Launceston	1.1%	\$208
Glenorchy	1.1%	\$206

Ulverstone	0.35%	\$64
New Norfolk	0.31%	\$44
St Helens	0.37%	\$52

To resolve these inequities, the Blake Review (2020) provided 16 recommendations for funding reform, and consultation on models was undertaken in 2022. As a result of the feedback from the consultation, the Government is proposing two models that are possible for implementation under the current draft Bill, which is also available for consultation.

The current model results in high levels of funding uncertainty and variability for the TFS and SES on a yearly basis. This means funding projections can vary significantly from future deficit (as per the 2021-22 Corporate Plan), to projected surplus (as per the 2022-23 Corporate Plan), which stifles service planning, restricts investment in facilities and equipment, reduces the support available for volunteers, and impacts on important work like fuel reduction activity.

Current arrangements are not sustainable or effective to support an emergency service that needs to grow and invest regularly in new equipment to provide lifesaving services and meet the needs of the future.

This is why Tasmania needs a fairer approach to funding its fire and emergency services to allow the TFES to effectively plan and deliver services for all Tasmanians.

We are proposing to:

- Remove the insurance-based levy
- Reform the property-based levy
- Keep the motor vehicle levy and include motorcycles in this levy

Property based levies are used extensively in most other jurisdictions. Tasmania's emergency response resourcing is therefore at significant risk in the future if action is not taken.

To achieve this, we are proposing two options:

- Option 1 – set a single rate across Tasmania, or
- Option 2 – set a two-tiered rate across Tasmania depending on whether you live in a rural or urban area.

New funding model rate option 1 - set a single rate across Tasmania

To resolve the current situation where Tasmanians pay more than 29 different property rates (see table 1), the Government proposes that all residential properties pay a fixed amount – 1%.

This means no matter where you live in Tasmania, everyone is paying the same rate.

For a property with an average AAV, this would therefore be \$180. If you have a higher value AAV, you will pay more. If you have a lower value AAV, you will pay less.

In doing this we can be confident that Tasmania has a fair and sustainable funding model that is applied equitably across Tasmania.

As part of equalising the current payment model we are proposing there would be different rates for other land classifications. This is to recognise that the fire and emergency response at commercial or industrial premises are often of greater risk or complexity to respond to than residential property.

Table 2 – Proposed Land Classifications – Option 1

Land Classification	Rate
Commercial	2.4 %
Community Services	0.5 %
Industrial	3.2 %
Other	0.5 %
Primary Production	2.4 %
Residential	1.0 %

New funding model rate option 2 - set a two-tiered rate across Tasmania

Option 2 proposes a two-tiered rate to be introduced across Tasmania with one rate for urban areas, and another for regional areas.

The outcome of Option 2 would be that urban areas continue to pay similar rates as they do now – but, the rate would be standardised removing inequities between cities.

For regional areas there will be a smaller increase than under Option 1, but the goal of equalisation for these areas would still be achieved meaning there is greater equity between rural areas.

In practice, this will result in regions paying less than a pensioner in an urban area.

The proposed two-tier system is in Table 3.

Table 3 – Proposed Land Classifications – Option 2

Land Classification	Rate
Commercial	2.6 %
Community Services	0.6 %
Industrial	3.4 %
Other	0.6 %
Primary Production	1.2 %
Residential (Urban)	1.2 %
Residential (Rural)	0.6%

Local Government Association of Tasmania have negotiated an extension until Friday 1st December for submission on the Bill.

The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management is keen to receive feedback both on the current components of the Bill and Levy options, but also alternative solutions to ensure a fairer and more sustainable funding model going forward.

Council is encouraged to provide a written responses to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management by 1 December 2023.

Felix Ellis, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

11 November 2023

Fire and Emergency Service Working Group to tackle the challenge for our future

The Tasmanian Government has heard loud and clear the concerns raised by Tasmanians in relation to its proposed fire levy models and will establish a working group to develop a new model that Tasmanians support.

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Felix Ellis, said it is crucial we get reforms to the fire and emergency service levy right.

“We heard the concerns, and we are listening.

“I am grateful for the frank and fearless feedback raised by Tasmanians in relation to the fire and emergency service levy and will establish a working group to work together on a model that strikes the right balance for Tasmania.

“We have been clear from the get-go that we wanted to hear from Tasmanians and encouraged their feedback as part of the consultation,” Minister Ellis said.

“On Wednesday this week I met with business, industry, local government, unions and community leaders who attended a TFES Roundtable Forum.

“We are committed to continue listening and consulting.

“Stakeholders have been clear that they want reform to ensure Tasmania’s fire and emergency services are funded in a fair and sustainable way.

“The establishment of a working group will ensure that we can work together with stakeholders, and the community, to get it right and develop a model that is fair to households, fair to business, fair to our regions and also fair to our emergency services so they can save lives.

“We’ve been clear that this is not something we are going to rush – it will take time, and we are committed to getting it right.

“I look forward to working closely with stakeholders and the community as we design a way forward.”

The community consultation process will remain open until December 1, with all feedback considered as part of the development the draft Fire and Emergency Services Bill.

Dion Lester the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of Tasmania has written to the General Manager on Monday 13th November stating the following regarding the Fire and Emergency Service Bill:

'You will have seen (attached) the Government has responded to our advocacy on going to back to work up some reasonable options for the fire levy and broader Bill (although, the main media and Government focus to date has been on the two funding options presented).

Mick and I have been invited to the first working group meeting in early December. We will advocate for the working group process to be expanded beyond just peak bodies for subsequent activities.

While the current funding options are not going to be progresses, there is still value in councils forming a view / providing feedback on:

- *The broader Bill (omissions, issues etc.)*
- *A very brief note on the options presented to help us keep the pressure on the Government.*
- *Any initial thoughts on alternative funding proposals / options, noting this will be subject to further work over the next couple of months.'*

RECOMMENDATION: 14/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Councillors provide their comment on the Fire and Emergency Service Bill and Levy options, to the General Manager by Wednesday the 29 November 2023, so that Council can provide comments to the Minister's Office before Friday, 1 December 2023.

27.6 YOUTH NETWORK OF TASMANIA

Report by

Adam Wilson, Acting General Manager

Tania Hunt the Chief Executive Officer of the Youth Network of Tasmania has written to the General Manager regarding the Youth Transitions Action Plan: Discussion Paper.

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT), is the peak body for young people aged 12-25 years and the non-government youth sector in Tasmania.

YNOT has been funded to develop a whole-of-government Action Plan, aligned to the Tasmanian Government Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, to respond to the needs of young people 18-25 years as they transition to adulthood. A Discussion Paper has been produced, informed by academic literature, and consultations with young people and key stakeholders in the community and government sectors.

The Discussion Paper 'Becoming an Adult: the experience of young Tasmanians today: A Discussion Paper to guide action' is open for public consultation from 1 to the 28 November 2023.

Ms Hunt on behalf of YNOT, would like to invite the Central Highlands Council to provide a response to the key issues raised in the Discussion Paper or to make comment on any other issues that may be relevant to the development and implementation of the Action Plan.

Written submissions must be received by 11:59PM Tuesday 28 November 2023 and should be uploaded through our online portal or emailed to jo@ynot.org.au. Responses are also welcomed via our online short-form survey.

YNOT will be promoting the opportunity to participate in the Discussion Paper consultation process and would appreciate if Council could share this opportunity through our networks.

For further information or discussion, please contact YNOT Project Manager at jo@ynot.org.au or 0488 235 511, or visit our website Youth Transitions 18-25: A Plan for Action (ynot.org.au).

RECOMMENDATION: 15/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

***THAT** Councillors provide their comment on the Youth Transitions Action Plan: Discussion Paper to the General Manager by Monday the 27 November 2023, so that Council can provide comments before Tuesday, 28 November 2023.*

27.7 TASMANIAN AUTUMN FESTIVAL – SPONSORSHIP

Report by

Adam Wilson, Acting General Manager

Michael Smith the President of the Derwent Valley and Central Highlands Tourist Association Inc. has written to the General Manager regarding the Tasmanian Autumn Festival sponsorship.

The Derwent Valley and Central Highlands Tourism Association (DHTA) invites Central Highlands Council to become a sponsor of the Tasmanian Autumn Festival.

The Tasmanian Autumn Festival is a regional festival that celebrates the natural beauty, cultural heritage and culinary delights of the Derwent Valley and Central Highlands regions of Tasmania.

The Derwent Valley and Central Highlands Tourist Association has a membership base of 44 businesses and growing. Central Highlands businesses currently account for 25% of our member base such as Curringa Farm, Rathmore, 28 Gates, Meadowbank and The Great Lakes Hotel.

Destination Southern Tasmania (DST) are in support of this initiative and we attach a letter from Alex Heroys, CEO to that affect.

The Tasmanian Autumn Festival aims to position the Valley and Highlands as a premier destination for Autumn experiences in Tasmania, and to create a memorable and distinctive brand identity that reflects the character and appeal of the region. The festival will foster community and business collaboration, as well as engagement and pride amongst local residents. When more visitors come to our region, stay longer and tell our stories in person and via social media the economic and social benefits are far reaching.

The Autumn Festival will be an annual event that will take place over a minimum of two weeks in April with the inaugural event in 2024. It will feature a range of activities, events and experiences, primarily hosted by businesses and community groups in the Valley and Highlands at their own properties. The operational cost of these satellite events are the responsibility of the hosting business.

The Derwent Valley and Central Highlands Tourist Association will be responsible for working with businesses and groups to inspire and bring their events and activities together and market them under the Tasmanian Autumn Festival banner. We have invited the long running one day Derwent Valley Autumn Festival run by Rotary, to be a key event on the broader Tasmanian Autumn Festival calendar.

DHTA will also assist to coordinate joint activities and services such as trails, transport and visual activations at several locations.

As a sponsor of the Tassie Autumn Festival, Council will have the opportunity to promote your organisation to a large and diverse audience of visitors, locals and media. You will also be able to demonstrate your support for the regional tourism industry and the local community. Depending on your level of sponsorship, you will receive various benefits such as logo placement on promotional materials, website and social media, acknowledgement in media releases and speeches, invitations to functions, signage at venues and events, and naming rights to specific activities or events.

The sponsorship proposal is included in the attachments, that outlines further details of the details of the festival, and the sponsorship levels and benefits. The Derwent Valley and Central Highlands Tourist Association hopes that Central Highlands Council will sponsor this exciting and unique event that will showcase the best of what our region has to offer which includes the significant businesses and visitor infrastructure of your council area.

Additional information on sponsorship options can be obtained from Mr Michael Smith at dvchta@mail.tidyhq.com

FOR DECISION

27.8 DONATION – OATLANDS MULTI-PURPOSE CENTRE

Report by

Adam Wilson, Acting General Manager

The Mayor has requested that Council consider if they would like to support and donate to the Oatlands Multi-Purpose Centre, as the family of the Late Toni Branch requested donations to the Oatlands Multi-Purpose Centre instead of receiving flowers at the funeral service.

RECOMMENDATION: 16/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council donate \$ to the Oatlands Multi-Purpose Centre

27.9 DONATION – DEMENTIA CENTRE UTAS HOBART

Report by

Adam Wilson, Acting General Manager

The Mayor has requested that Council consider if they would like to support and donate to the Dementia Centre Utas Hobart, as the family of the Late Mr Hossack requested donations to the Dementia Centre Utas Hobart instead of receiving flowers at the funeral service.

RECOMMENDATION: 17/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council donate \$ to the Dementia Centre Utas Hobart.

27.10 DONATION – CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE

Report by

Adam Wilson, Acting General Manager

The Mayor has requested that Council consider if they would like to support and donate to Cancer Research, in remembrance of the Late Cr Scott Bowden.

RECOMMENDATION:18/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council donate \$ to Cancer Research.

27.11 COMMUNITY GRANT – GREтна FIRE BRIGADE

Brigade Chief – Colin Cunningham AFSM has written to the General Manager regarding a community grant for Junior member Soft Shell Jackets and the TFS Annual lolly run which covers the Towns of Gretna, Hamilton, Ouse and surrounding areas.

Mr Cunningham states the following: Gretna Brigade Junior members attend many Community events, Regional and State competitions – Soft shell jackets are not provided by TFS for Junior members, some of these events are in inclement weather and our members wear their own jackets which vary in colour and design, this does not present the Brigade in a professional manner.

Our Junior members have polo tops that were purchased over ten years ago due to a generous grant from Central Highlands Council, these tops are embroidered with the TFS logo and the wording “Central Highlands Council”.

The garments are still in excellent condition due to a care and management policy set in place by the Brigade. These tops are replaced on as needed basis by the Brigade. A similar process would apply to the Jackets.

The Brigade request Council to consider support for the purchase of 10 soft shell jackets for Gretna Junior members. A quote of \$750 has been obtained from Wicked Work wear Moonah which includes embroidery on one side of breast “Gretna Fire Brigade” and the other side would have the Council logo subject to Council approval.

If successful, the Gretna Brigade would acknowledge the Grant/Donation with articles in Highlands Digest and New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News.

Promotion of the Brigade and Council would also be ongoing at the various events our members attend, not only locally but in many parts of the State.

On behalf of the Gretna Volunteer Fire Brigade may I request council to consider a donation of \$750 for the purchase of Soft Shell Jackets and a small donation to assist with the purchase of lollies for the Brigades Annual lolly run which covers the Towns of Gretna, Hamilton, Ouse and surrounding areas.

RECOMMENDATION: 19/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council provide a donation of \$750 for the purchase of 10 soft shell jackets for Gretna Junior members and \$100 for the purchase of lollies for the Brigades Annual lolly run which covers the Towns of Gretna, Hamilton, Ouse and surrounding areas.

28. SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the Council by absolute majority may decide to deal with a matter that is not on the agenda if, where the General Manager has reported either:

- a) The reason it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda;
- b) That the matter is urgent; or
- c) That advice of a qualified person has been obtained and taken into account in providing advice to Council under Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

RECOMMENDATION: 20/11.2023/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Council resolve by absolute majority to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager in accordance with the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

29. OTHER BUSINESS

30. CLOSURE

Mayor Triffitt thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at _____ am/pm.