

# **AGENDA ATTACHMENTS**

16 NOVEMBER 2021

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

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## Central Highlands Council

### MINUTES – ORDINARY MEETING – 19 OCTOBER 2021

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Highlands Council held in the Bothwell Town Hall, Bothwell, on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021, commencing at 9.00am.

#### 1.0 OPENING

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.

#### 2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

#### 3.0 PRESENT

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A W Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore.

#### 3.1 IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Lyn Eyles (General Manager) Mr Adam Wilson (Deputy General Manager), Mrs Janet Monks (Minute Secretary)

#### 4.0 APOLOGIES

Nil

#### 5.0 PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATIONS

In accordance with Regulation 8 (7) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the Mayor 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.

*Clr A Bailey- Item 17.4 Community Grant Application - Ouse Community Country Club*

*Clr J Allwright-Item 17.10 Hamilton Twilight Market and Carols – 4 December 2021*



## 6.0 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

**Moved:** Cllr J Honner

**Seconded:** Cllr J Poore

**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	<i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015</i>
1	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 September 2021	Regulation 15 (2)(g) – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.
2	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 5 October 2021	Regulation 15 (2)(g) – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.
3	Confidential Matter	Regulation 15 (2)(g) – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.
4	Consideration of Matters for Disclosure to the Public	Regulation 15 (8) - While in a closed 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.

## 6.1 MOTION OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

**Moved** Cllr J Honner

**Seconded** Cllr R Cassidy

**That** the Council:

- (1) Having met and dealt with its business formally move out of the closed session; and
- (2) Resolved to report that it has determined the following:

Item Number	Matter	Outcome
1	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 September 2021	Minutes of the Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 September 2021 were confirmed

2	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting of Council held on 5 October 2021	Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting of Council held on 5 October 2021 were confirmed
3	Confidential Correspondence	Council resolved to provide the following towards a GP service at Ouse:  (a)Residence 3 Victoria Valley Road with permission to sublet to Ambulance Tasmania  (b)provision of a AWD or 4WD vehicle  (c)Annual contribution of \$20,000 indexed annually by the Hobart cpi
4	Consideration of Matters for Disclosure to the Public	Matters were considered

**CARRIED****FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

**OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC**

Due to COVID-19 a limit of 4 members of the public, at any one time will be applied.

**7.0 DEPUTATIONS**

10.15 – 10.50 Stuart Archer, Lake Meadowbank water level

Mr Stuart Archer raised several concerns in relation to the current situation for water users whilst the repair works are being carried out with the Meadowbank Power Station over a 18mth timeframe. Mr Archer is also concerned whether the lake will be returned to its previous level on completion of the works as he has not received confirmation to date.

**Moved:** Clr A Archer**Seconded:** Clr R Cassidy

**THAT** Council write to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, the Hon Guy Barnett MP raising the following issues:

1. Confirmation that the lake level will be returned to the previous level of .7
2. Request financial support for those adversely impacted by the changing lake levels
3. Requesting that the State Government lobby the Federal Government for financial support for all who are impacted if the lake isn't returned to the previous level due to the Battery of the Nation project.

**CARRIED****FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

10.50 – 11.04 Eve Lazarus, Derwent Catchment Project, Morgan McPherson

Eve and Morgan briefed Council on several items:

- Maps indicating the management plan for weed control in the Central Highlands 22-26
- Application to the Cattle Hill Wind Farm Community Grants Program for \$60,000 for 2 years
- State Government Funding for Weed Control – 3 years left for the program
- New partners – Department of State Growth and the Brighton Council

## 7.1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

## 8.0 MAYORAL COMMITMENTS

16 September 2021	Business of Council
16 September 2021	Tele Meeting with Minister for Health
16 September 2021	Tele Meeting with Leader of the Opposition
16 September 2021	Meeting with GP Services
20 September 2021	Tele Meeting with Minister for Health
20 September 2021	ABC News Monday
20 September 2021	ABC TV Interview
20 September 2021	Southern Cross Interview
20 September 2021	Derwent Valley Gazette Interview
20 September 2021	Meeting with Brian Mitchell and GP Practice
20 September 2021	Meeting with community members x4
21 September 2021	Ordinary Council Meeting, Bothwell
21 September 2021	Rate Payer calls x4
22 September 2021	Meeting with John Tucker MP
23 September 2021	Business of Council
23 September 2021	Meeting with Drs and medical group and onsite tour
23 September 2021	Tele meeting with newspaper
23 September 2021	Business of Council
24 September 2021	Meeting re GP services
25 September 2021	Business of Council re GP services
25 September 2021	Tele meeting with Deputy Premier
27 September 2021	Business of Council
27 September 2021	Tele meeting x3 re GP services
28 September 2021	Business of Council
29 September 2021	National Police Remembrance Day, Rokeby
30 September 2021	Business of Council
01 October 2021	Meeting with Tas Inspector and Senior Sergeant of Tas Police
01 October 2021	Tele Meeting with GP
01 October 2021	Tele Meeting with Elected Member
01 October 2021	Meeting with rate payers x3
02 October 2021	Tele meeting with GP services
04 October 2021	Tele meeting with Elected Members x4
04 October 2021	Tele meeting re GP Services
05 October 2021	Special Meeting of Council
05 October 2021	Council Workshops x2
06 October 2021	ABC Interview and media interviews
11 October 2021	Business of Council
12 October 2021	Meeting with Elected Member
12 October 2021	Teams Meeting Craig Limkin
13 October 2021	Bothwell Bicentenary Workforce Group Meeting – Bothwell

## 8.1 COUNCILLOR COMMITMENTS

### **Deputy Mayor J Allwright**

21 September 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton  
 05 October 2021 Special Closed Council Meeting, Bothwell  
 05 October 2021 Workshop x2 Bothwell

### **Clr A Archer**

21 September 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton  
 05 October 2021 Special Closed Council Meeting, Bothwell  
 05 October 2021 Workshop x2 Bothwell  
 Lake Crescent/Sorell Management Committee

### **Clr A Bailey**

21 September 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton  
 05 October 2021 Special Closed Council Meeting, Bothwell  
 05 October 2021 Workshop x2 Bothwell

### **Clr S Bowden**

21 September 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton  
 05 October 2021 Workshop x2 Bothwell

### **Clr A Campbell**

21 September 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton  
 23 September 2021 Meeting with Doctors at Ouse  
 05 October 2021 Special Closed Council Meeting, Bothwell  
 05 October 2021 Workshop x2 Bothwell  
 08 October 2021 Opening of Op Shop at Ash cottage/HATCH, Ouse  
 13 October 2021 Bothwell Bicentennial Workforce Group meeting, Bothwell

### **Clr R Cassidy**

21 September 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton  
 05 October 2021 Special Closed Council Meeting, Bothwell  
 05 October 2021 Workshop x2 Bothwell  
 Letter to LGAT CEO – research for Council

### **Clr J Honner**

21 September Ordinary Council Meeting Hamilton  
 05 October Special Closed Meeting Bothwell  
 05 October Workshop Bothwell  
 13 October Bothwell Bicentennial Workforce Group meeting, Bothwell

### **Clr J Poore**

21 September 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton  
 05 October 2021 Special Closed Council Meeting, Bothwell  
 05 October 2021 Workshop x2 Bothwell

## STATUS REPORT COUNCILLORS

## 8.2 GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMITMENTS

21 September 2021 Council Meeting  
 22 September 2021 Meeting Mayor & John Tucker MP  
 23 September 2021 Meeting CH General Practice  
 5 October 2021 Special Closed Session Meeting of Council  
 5 October 2021 Council Workshop  
 7 October 2021 Meeting Tas Police

11 October 2021	FWA Webinar
12 October 2021	Teams Meeting Craig Limkin
13 October 2021	Bicentennial Work Group Meeting
14 October 2021	Interview Project Co-ordinator

### 8.3 DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMITMENTS

21 September 2021	Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton
12 October 2021	Municipal Recovery Meeting
13 October 2021	Bi-Centennial Workforce Group Meeting
14 October 2021	Interviews Bi-Centennial Co-Ordinator
14 October 2021	Meeting with OST regarding Nav software

### 9.0 NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS HELD

5 October 2021 –

- Presentation by Epuron,
- Future Projects for Funding
- Long-Term Asset Management Plans and Long-term Financial Management Plan

### 9.1 FUTURE WORKSHOPS

Victoria Onslow – 9 November, 11am at Bothwell

### 10.0 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 11.0 MINUTES

#### 11.1 RECEIVAL DRAFT MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING

**Moved:** Clr A Campbell

**Seconded:** Clr J Honner

**THAT** the Draft Minutes of the Open Council Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 be received.

**CARRIED**

#### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

## 11.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING

**Moved:** Clr J Honner

**Seconded:** Clr A Bailey

**THAT** the Minutes of the Open Council Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

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## 12.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

- 15.1 DES Manager submitted road name
- 16.1 Works & Services Manager actioned
- 16.4 DES Manager to prepare report on land transfer
- 17.1 Land advertised
- 17.3 General Manager sent correspondence
- 17.6 Remission processed
- 17.7 Remission processed
- 17.10 iPads ordered
- 17.11 Donation processed
- 17.14 Policy placed on Council website
- 17.15 Policy placed on Council website
- 17.16 Policy placed on Council website
- 17.17 Policy placed on Council website
- 17.18 Policy placed on Council website
- 17.19 Policy placed on Council website
- 17.21 Community Relations Officer to order cupboard
- 18.2 DGM arranging a meeting

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## 13.0 DERWENT CATCHMENT PROJECT REPORT

**Moved:** Clr J Honner

**Seconded:** Clr J Poore

**THAT** the Derwent Catchment Project Monthly Report be received.

**CARRIED**

### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

*Mr G Rogers Manager DES attended the meeting at 11.09*

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## 14.0 FINANCE REPORT

**Moved:** Clr J Honner

**Seconded:** Clr A Bailey

**THAT** the Finance Reports be received.

**CARRIED**

**FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr A Archer, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr R Cassidy, Cllr J Honner, Cllr J Poore

## 14.1 LONG TERM ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS AND LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND STRATEGY

**Moved:** Cllr R Cassidy

**Seconded:** Cllr A Campbell

**THAT** Council adopt the following updated and reviewed Plans:

- Long Term Financial Plan & Strategy
- Roads and Bridges Asset Management plan
- Buildings Asset Management Plan

**CARRIED**

**FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr A Archer, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr R Cassidy, Cllr J Honner, Cllr J Poore.

## 14.2 ASSET MANAGEMENT – RISK MANAGEMENT

**Moved:** Cllr A Archer

**Seconded:** Cllr R Cassidy

**THAT**

1. Council write to DPIWE expressing our concerns with the damage to Council's assets during controlled releases of water from Lake Crescent.
2. Council include an additional dot point in the Executive Summary for the Central Highlands Council Long Term Asset Management Plan – Roads and Bridges 'flood mitigation – take action to minimise the impact on our assets'

**CARRIED**

**FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr A Archer, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr R Cassidy, Cllr J Honner, Cllr J Poore.

## 15.0 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

In accordance with Regulation 25(1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the Mayor advises that the Council intends to act as a Planning Authority under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, to deal with the following items:

**Moved:** Cllr J Honner

**Seconded:** Cllr A Bailey

**THAT** the Development & Environmental Services Report be received.

**CARRIED**

**FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr A Archer, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr R Cassidy, Cllr J Honner, Cllr J Poore

## 15.1 PROPOSED INDEPENDENT LIVING UNITS - ELLENDALE

**Moved:** Clr J Honner

**Seconded:** Clr A Campbell

**THAT** Mayor Triffitt, Deputy Mayor Allwright and Clr Bailey meet with the landowner to review the proposed subdivision plan and negotiate a purchase price for further consideration by Council.

**CARRIED 8/1**

### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

### **AGAINST the Motion**

Clr R Cassidy

## 15.2 HAMILTON SHOWGROUNDS – REPORT ON PROGRESS WITH LAND TRANSFER

**Moved:** Clr J Poore

**Seconded:** Clr A Bailey

**THAT** Deputy Mayor Allwright and Clr Campbell meet with the landowner to progress the land transfer to the satisfaction of both parties.

**CARRIED**

### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

## 15.3 POLICY NO. 2015-32 FIRE ABATEMENT POLICY

**Moved:** Clr J Honner

**Seconded:** Clr A Campbell

**THAT** Council adopt Policy No. 2015-32 Fire Abatement Policy.

**CARRIED**

### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

## 15.4 ROAD NAMING – WILBURVILLE

At the September Ordinary Meeting Council passed a motion to submit the road name “Tea Tree Bay Road” through Placenames Tasmania for the new road approved as part of a 27 lot subdivision at Wilburville.

Noted



## 15.5 PROPOSED COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT – BOTHWELL NOVEMBER 2021- "LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER" – TAKE 2

**Moved:** Cllr S Bowden

**Seconded:** Cllr A Bailey

THAT Ms Grietje van Randen be advised that:

1. Council is supportive of the new project with the following conditions:
  - a. The number of signs is limited to 3 (possible locations, School Gym area, Medical Centre and the Council Office, Bothwell.
  - b. That the Bothwell School students are involved in the project
  - c. Prizes are allocated to the best three designs.
2. Council will remove the existing Blue Famer

**CARRIED**

### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cllr A Archer, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr S Bowden, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr R Cassidy, Cllr J Honner, Cllr J Poore

## 15.6 DES BRIEFING REPORT

### **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
2021 / 00075	D W Clune	15 Trout Crescent, MIENA	Outbuilding & Carport
2021 / 00079	P & J Sheds	11 Robertson Road, Miena	Outbuilding
2021 / 00080	Pettit Designs	235 Bradys Lake Road, Bradys Lake	Deck
2021 / 00081	P & M Cassar-Smith	Ellendale Road, Ellendale	Outbuilding
2021 / 00087	P M McGee	7 Breona Rise, Breona	Outbuilding
2021 / 00048	O Roffenen	3 Little Dog Drive, Miena	Outbuilding
2021 / 00086	J M Faulkner	5 Bannister Road, Tods Corner	Dwelling Addition (Deck)

#### **PERMITTED**

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2021 / 00076	S C Battaglione	751 Tods Corner Road, Tods Corner	Outbuilding

2021 / 00077	C J M & V Farmer	219 Bradys Lake Road, Bradys Lake	Change of Use to Visitor Accommodation
2021 / 00085	T D W Hall	106 McCallums Road, Fentonbury	Outbuilding

**DISCRETIONARY**

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2021 / 00070	D J & J M Lowe	14 Alexander Street, Bothwell	Outbuilding
2021 / 00063	Freestone Building Surveying	69 Leasons Road, Westerway	Outbuilding
2021 / 00052	Darryn White Building Design & Consulting	Pearces Road, Strickland (CT 206678/1)	Dwelling
2021 / 00069	J P Downie	7561A Highland Lakes Road, Miena	Storage

**ANIMAL CONTROL****IMPOUNDED DOGS**

No dogs have been impounded over the past months.

**STATISTICS AS OF 13 October 2021****Registrations**

Total Number of Dogs Registered in 2020/2021 Financial Year – 978

2021/2022 renewal have been issued.

- Number of Dogs Currently Registered - 887
- Number of Dogs Pending Re-Registration – 52

**Kennel Licences**

Total Number of Kennel Licences Issued for 2020/2021 Financial Year – 29

2021/2022 Renewal have been Issued.

- Number of Licences Issued –30
- Number of Licences Pending – 0
- 

**16.0 WORKS & SERVICES**

**Moved:** Clr A Bailey

**Seconded:** Clr J Honner

**THAT** the Works & Services Report be received.

**CARRIED**

**FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

## 16.1 FENTONBURY WAR MEMORIAL

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor J Allwright

**Seconded:** Clr A Bailey

THAT the Works and Services Manager investigate the purchase of 2 suitable flag poles.

**CARRIED**

### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

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## 16.2 655 KOMATSU GRADER REPAIR

**Moved:** Clr A Bailey

**Seconded:** Clr A Archer

**THAT** Council allocates \$30,000 to have Komatsu repair the grader and then sell by auction with a reserve price.

**CARRIED**

### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore.

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## 16.3 2021 ELECTION COMMITMENT: ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD BOTHWELL FOOTBALL CLUB

**Moved:** Clr J Honner

**Seconded:** Clr A Bailey

**THAT** Council:

1. accepts the grant deed from the election commitment; and
2. Allocate an extra \$13,895.00 for the purchase of the electronic scoreboard from Electronic Signage Australia.

**CARRIED**

### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore.

## 17.0 ADMINISTRATION

### 17.1 REMISSIONS UNDER DELEGATION

The following rate remission has been granted by the General manager under delegation:

05-0700-03558	18.28	Penalty
01-0860-03922	18.93	Penalty
01-0893-04028	21.17	Penalty
01-0860-03933	8.58	Penalty
01-0860-03934	26.82	Penalty
01-0808-03686	28.60	Penalty
01-0820-04020	18.60	Penalty
03-0224-01186	13.23	Penalty

**Moved:** Clr A Campbell

**Seconded:** Clr R Cassidy

**THAT** the remissions under delegation be noted.

**CARRIED**

#### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

### 17.2 ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Under Section 72 of the Local Government Act 1993 Council must prepare an Annual Report. The Annual Report has been prepared and is submitted to Council for adoption.

Council's Annual General Meeting will be held at Bothwell on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 8.45am.

**Moved:** Clr J Poore

**Seconded:** Clr J Honner

**THAT** Council adopt the 2020-2021 Annual report as presented.

**CARRIED**

#### **FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

### 17.3 LEASE INDEPENDENT LIVING UNITS OUSE

A new three-year lease for the Ouse Independent Living Units has been received. The lease is the same as previous leases except Council are now required to maintain the units with the Crown responsible for major repairs and structural works.

**Moved:** Clr J Poore

**Seconded:** Clr A Campbell

**THAT** the General Manager be authorised to sign and seal the Ouse Independent Living Units Lease.

**CARRIED**

**FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

*Clr A Bailey declared an interest in item 17.4 and left the meeting at 12.04*

**17.4 COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION - OUSE COMMUNITY COUNTRY CLUB**

**Moved:** Clr J Honner

**Seconded:** Clr S Bowden

1. **THAT** Council grant a remission of \$408.29 being 50% of the general rate on Property No 01-0810-03938 and
2. **THAT** Council grant a remission of \$415.32 being 50% of the general rate on Property No 01-0805-03937.

**CARRIED**

**FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

**17.5 2021 AUSSIE BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

Noted

*Clr A Bailey returned to the meeting at 12.07*

**17.6 CHILD CARE SERVICES BOTHWELL – PROGRESS**

Noted

**17.7 DISABILITY SPORTS AUSTRALIA, NATIONAL REFERRAL HUB PARTNERSHIP**

Noted

**17.8 RECREATIONAL FISHING AND CAMPING FACILITIES PROGRAM SECOND ROUND GRANT PROGRAM**

**Moved:** Clr J Honner

**Seconded:** Clr R Cassidy

**THAT**

1. the Deputy General Manager and the Manager Development and Environmental Services apply for a grant under the Recreational Camping and Fishing Facilities Program Second Round to undertake the renewal of the toilet block at Dunrobin Park, Lot 100 Ellendale Road, Ouse Title References: 178925/100 which is used as a day use picnic area and boat lunching facility at the northern end of Lake Meadowbank on the Ellendale Road, Ouse; and
2. Council contributes \$25,000 towards the grant application.

**CARRIED****FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

*Mr G Rogers Manager DES left the meeting at 12.22*

**17.9 ROTARY CLUB OF HOBART FUNDING SUPPORT 2021 ANNUAL MAGIC SHOW**

**Moved:** Clr J Poore

**Seconded:** Clr J Honner

**THAT** Council donate \$240 to the Rotary Club of Hobart for the annual Magic Show.

**CARRIED****FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

*Deputy Mayor J Allwright declared an interest in item 17.10 and left the meeting at 12.23*

**17.10 HAMILTON TWILIGHT MARKET AND CAROLS – 4 DECEMBER 2021**

**Moved:** Clr A Campbell

**Seconded:** Clr A Bailey

**THAT** Council contribute \$1,500 to the Hamilton Twilight Market and Carols Event.

**CARRIED****FOR the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Clr A Archer, Clr A Bailey, Clr S Bowden, Clr A Campbell, Clr R Cassidy, Clr J Honner, Clr J Poore

Deputy Mayor J Allwright returned to the meeting at 12.25

**19.0 CLOSURE at 12.25**



# Central Highlands Council

## Draft Minutes Independent Living Units Committee

**Draft Minutes of a Meeting of the Independent Living Units Committee held at the Council Chambers Hamilton on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 commencing at 10.00am.**

### 1.0 OPENING

The Meeting opened at 10.00am

### 2.0 PRESENT

Mayor Lou Triffitt, Cllr Tony Bailey, Mrs Cynthia Cooper,

### 3.0 APOLOGIES

**Moved** Ms Cynthia Cooper

**Seconded** Cllr Tony Bailey

**THAT** an apology be accepted for Mr Andy Beasant

**Carried**

**For the Motion:** Mayor Lou Triffitt, Cllr Tony Bailey, Ms Cynthia Cooper

### 4.0 IN ATTENDANCE

General Manager, Lyn Eyles and Sharee Nichols

### 5.0 MINUTES

**Moved** Cllr Tony Bailey

**Seconded** Ms Cynthia Cooper

**THAT** The Minutes of the Independent Living Units Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 having been circulated to all members be taken as read and confirmed.

**Carried**

**For the Motion:** Mayor Lou Triffitt, Cllr Tony Bailey, Ms Cynthia Cooper

### 6.0 RECEIVAL OF NOTES

**Moved** Cllr Tony Bailey

**Seconded** Mayor Lou Triffitt

**THAT** Notes Minutes of the Independent Living Units Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 be received and noted.

**Carried**

**For the Motion:** Mayor Lou Triffitt, Cllr Tony Bailey, Ms Cynthia Cooper



# Central Highlands Council

## Draft Minutes Independent Living Units Committee

### 7.0 ILU UNIT 4 OUSE TENANCY LETTER

**Moved** Cllr Tony Bailey

**Seconded** Ms Cynthia Cooper

Discussion on a letter received from Ms Colleen Onn ILU 1 Ouse referring to an incident on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 by Housing Unit 1 tenant Ms Annette Jenkins that was reported to Constable Craig Keogh Tasmanian Police of who attended.

**Moved** Ms Cynthia Cooper

**Seconded** Cllr Tony Bailey

**THAT:**

- (a) A letter be sent to Ms Annette Jenkins advising that her conduct is not acceptable.
- (b) A letter be sent to Ms Colleen Onn ILU Unit 1 acknowledging her letter.
- (c)

**Carried**

**For the Motion:** Mayor Lou Triffitt, Cllr Tony Bailey, Ms Cynthia Cooper

### 8.0 ILU HOUSING UNIT 3 OUSE REVIEW APPLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS

The Committee reviewed the application for the Unit 3 Housing Unit Ouse.

Interview 10.15am - Mr Wayne Holdsworth

Interview 10.30am - Mr William Triffitt

**Moved** Ms Cynthia Cooper

**Seconded** Mayor Lou Triffitt

**THAT:**

- (a) It be noted that Mayor Triffitt advised that she does not know Mr William Triffitt as has the same last name spelling.
- (b) Mr William Triffitt be offered the unit on a need's basis
- (c) Mr Wayne Holdsworth be advised that he was unsuccessful and advise him of the ILU Unit become available at Bothwell and offer an applicant to be sent out to apply for this unit if he may-be interested in.

**Carried 2/1**

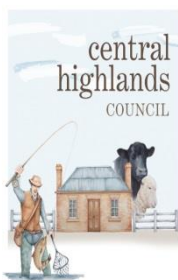
**For the Motion:** Mayor Lou Triffitt, Ms Cynthia Cooper,

**Against the Motion:** Cllr Tony Bailey

### 9.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 11.05am.





## **BOTHWELL SWIMMING POOL** **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Bothwell Swimming Pool Committee held at the Council Chambers, Bothwell on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 commencing at 9.30am.

### **1.0 PRESENT:**

Mayor L Triffitt (Chairperson), Cllr A Campbell, Mrs L Eyles (General Manager), Ms L Anders (Acting Principal BDHS), Mr G Rogers (Manager, DES).

In attendance: Joanne Housego (minute secretary)

The chairperson took the chair and welcomed everybody to the meeting at 9.35am.

### **2.0. APOLOGIES:**

Cllr J Poore and Mr J Branch (Works Manager)

### **3.0. 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 pecuniary interest (any pecuniary or pecuniary detriment) in any item of the Agenda.

**NIL**

### **4.0. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 27.11.20**

**Moved:** Cllr A Campbell

**Seconded:** Mayor L Triffitt

**THAT** the minutes from the meeting of Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 be confirmed as a true record of that meeting.

**Carried**

### **5.0. BUSINESS ARISING**

- Committee Members for the Bothwell Swimming Pool.
- Future advertising of Lifeguard.
- Pool Maintenance - Shade Cloth and seating (recycle type).
- Opening and encouraging use of the pool.

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**Moved:** Cllr A Campbell

**Seconded:** Mayor L Triffitt

**THAT** to encourage / promote the use of the Bothwell Swimming Pool, the month of December 2021 be free entry with the opening of the season starting on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021, this will include an opening BBQ.

**Carried**

**Moved:** Cllr A Campbell

**Seconded:** Mayor L Triffitt

**THAT** the fee structure for 2021/2022 to remain the same as 2020/2021.

The fee structure for the 2020/2021 was as follows:

**Entry**

Junior Day Pass (any or all sessions) - \$4.00

Adult Day Pass (any or all sessions) - \$5.00

Afternoon/Evening Adult Ticket- \$3.00

Afternoon/Evening Junior/Pensioner Ticket- \$2.00

**Season Voucher**

Family - \$143.00

Family Concession - \$ 105.00

Adult - \$79.00

Adult Concession - \$50.00

Junior /Pensioner Season Ticket- \$44.00

Sporting Groups/Clubs-Hourly Hire \$50.00- (Lifeguard will need to be present and paid by Hirer)

**Carried**

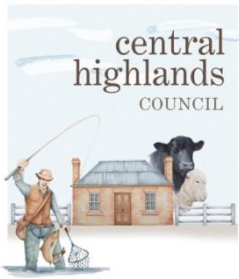
- MAU between the Department of Education and Central Highlands Council.
- Future Developments.

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**6.0. NEXT MEETING** The next meeting of the Bothwell Swimming Pool is to be held at the Bothwell Council Chambers at a date to be advised.

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**7.0 . CLOSURE** There being no further business the chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.35 am.



# MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL HELD AT THE BOTHWELL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, AT 9.03AM ON TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

## 1.0 PRESENT

Deputy Mayor Allwright (Chairperson), Mayor Triffitt, Clr Bailey & Clr Cassidy

## IN ATTENDANCE

Clr Honner, Clr Campbell, Mrs L Eyles (General Manager), Mr D Mackey (Planning Consultant - Southern Midlands Council), Ms L Brown (Planning Officer) attended at 9.30am, Mr D Ridley, Mrs V Onslow & Mrs K Bradburn (Minutes Secretary)

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## 2.0 APOLOGIES

Clr Poore

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## 3.0 PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATIONS

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

Nil

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## 4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved **Mayor Triffitt**

Seconded **Clr Bailey**

**THAT** the Draft Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to be confirmed.

***Carried***

**For the Motion:** Deputy Mayor Allwright, Mayor Triffitt, Clr Bailey & Clr Cassidy

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## 5.0 QUESTION TIME & DEPUTATIONS

Mr D Ridley briefly spoke about his submission on the Draft Local Provision Schedule and his desire to see scenic values protected with the introduction of Scenic Protection Areas.

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## 6.0 DRAFT CENTRAL HIGHLANDS LOCAL PROVISIONS SCHEDULE – PUBLIC EXHIBITION – ASSESSMENT OF SUBMISSIONS

## Report By

Planning Consultant (SMC) Damian Mackey

## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to commence the process of working through the submissions received in response to the recent public exhibition of the Central Highlands Draft Local Provisions Schedule with elected members.

Following the committee meeting, it is intended to produce an updated report incorporating the outcomes of discussions for the November Council meeting.

Council has a statutory timeframe of 60 days from the close of submissions to provide its assessment report to the Tasmanian Planning Commission. Effectively, this means it needs to be provided a few days prior to the Christmas break.

## Background

The Tasmanian Planning Scheme will consist of the State Planning Provisions (SPPs) and the Local Provisions Schedules (LPSs) from each Council.

After several years of work and negotiations with the Tasmanian Planning Commission, Council was directed by the State Government to make certain changes to the Draft LPS and to place it on formal public exhibition for public comment. This was a 60-day period ending on 22 October.

It is now Council's role to consider the matters raised in submissions received and determine a view on them, including whether the LPS should be amended as a result. The submissions and Council's views on them will then be forwarded to the Commission which will hold public hearings. All submitters will be invited by the Commission to participate in the relevant hearing. Ultimately, the Commission will make final determinations and direct Council to make changes to the LPS accordingly. The Minister will then declare the Tasmanian Planning Scheme to be in force in the Central Highlands municipal area.

## Assessment of Submissions

The Planning Committee worked through the attached Submission Assessment Table and agreed with the "Assessment and Recommendation to Council" being recommended by Damian Mackey (Planning Consultant).

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Broke for Morning Tea at 10.40am

Meeting Resumed at 10.47am

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

**THAT** the following recommendations be made to Council:

### Recommendation 1

**Moved:** Mayor Triffitt

**Seconded:** Clr Bailey

- A. Agree to accept Submissions No. 41, 42, 43 and 44, despite having received them after the advertised date and time for the close of submissions.

**Carried**

**For the Motion:** Deputy Mayor Allwright, Mayor Triffitt, Clr Bailey & Clr Cassidy

## **Recommendation 2**

**Moved:** Mayor Triffitt

**Seconded:** Clr Cassidy

- A. Agree to explore the establishment, potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act, of the mooted Scenic Road Corridor (or alternatively a Scenic Protection Area) under the Scenic Protection Code along the Lyell Highway which was the subject of Submissions No. 21 and 22.
- B. Agree to explore the establishment, potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act, of the mooted 'Central Highlands Scenic Protection Area' under the Scenic Protection Code along Highland Lakes Road and Waddamana Road which was the subject of Submissions No. 34 and 35.

**Carried**

**For the Motion:** Deputy Mayor Allwright, Mayor Triffitt, Clr Bailey & Clr Cassidy

## **Recommendation 3**

**Moved:** Clr Cassidy

**Seconded:** Clr Bailey

- A. Develop a structure plan for the township of Bothwell, with input from the local community. This is to follow completion of the Local Provisions Schedule development process and is to set out the preferred future development of the town and any subsequent zoning changes that ought to be made. Part funding for this project is to be sought from the State or Federal Governments.
- B. Develop a structure plan for the township of Ouse, with input from the local community. This is to follow completion of the Local Provisions Schedule development process and is to set out the preferred future development of the town and any subsequent zoning changes that ought to be made. Part funding for this project is to be sought from government.

**Carried**

**For the Motion:** Deputy Mayor Allwright, Mayor Triffitt, Clr Bailey & Clr Cassidy

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## **7.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

**Nil**

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## **8.0 CLOSURE**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.20am

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**DRAFT CENTRAL HIGHLANDS LOCAL PROVISIONS SCHEDULE**

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

**REPRESENTATIONS ASSESSMENT TABLE**

**9 November 2021**

NOTE: IN THE TABLE, 'LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY' REFERS TO COUNCIL ACTING IN THAT CAPACITY UNDER THE *LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS ACT*  
*1993*

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
1.	Tree Alliance Private Forests Tasmania Penny Wells, CEO	Advises that Private Forests Tasmania's comments will be submitted as part of the Department of State Growth's submission	Noted. <u>Local Planning Authority View:</u> No action required.
2.	TasRail Jennifer Jarvis Manager Group Property & Compliance	Notes several aspects of the Draft LPS, including the inclusion of the Road & Rail Assets Code. No objections.	Noted. <u>Local Planning Authority View:</u> No action required.
3.	Tony Donaghy	<p>460 Dry Poles Road, Ellendale. PID 3389090</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerned that property is proposed to be rezoned to Agriculture. 7.269 ha and not part of a larger farm. States that it is 'too small to be viable farm'.</li> <li>Used as a 'rural dwelling' and 'should be zoned either Rural Living or Rural.</li> <li>Aerial images provided.</li> </ul> <p>449 Dry Poles Road, Ellendale. PID 1661759</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Block across road owned by Mr Donaghy's parents.</li> <li>Even smaller than 460 Dry Poles Rd and proposed to be Agriculture also.</li> <li>Same concerns.</li> </ul> <p>Considers the propose zoning to be an error.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>These lots are on the edge of the broader boundary between Rural and Agriculture Zoned areas.</p> <p>Small lots in such locations and clearly incapable of accommodating a commercial farming enterprise and used, or intended to be used, for rural living purposes, should be in the Rural Zone.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of both properties should be amended to Rural.</p>

Central Highlands Draft LPS - Representations Assessment Table – 9 November 2021

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
4.	Reliance Forest Fibre Darryn Crook, Technical Manager	<p>Reliance Forest Fibre manages large areas of plantation forestry.</p> <p>Concerned that their land holdings are split between Rural and Agriculture Zones, and notes that plantation forestry is 'no permit required' in the Rural Zone.</p> <p>Notes that it is desirable from a forest management perspective to have all plantation properties in the Rural zone to avoid conflict where areas are not covered by a Private Timber Reserve.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Areas dominated by forestry and other non-agricultural use, whether PTRs exist or not, should be zoned Rural.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of all properties owned or managed by Reliance Forest Fibre should be amended to Rural.</p>
5.	Stuart & Karen Philp	<p>Owners of Lot 1 Lyell Highway, Bronte Park, PID 3054354, CT 241850/1</p> <p>124.9 ha property, 116.1 ha of which is covered by a Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of Lot 1 Lyell Highway, Bronte Park, PID 3054354, CT 241850/1 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>



Central Highlands Draft LPS - Representations Assessment Table – 9 November 2021

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
6.	<p>Conservation Landholders Tasmania</p> <p>John Thompson obo the Board of Trustees, CLT Trust.</p>	<p>Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) describes themselves as 'an educational trust'.</p> <p>CLT has identified 13 Conservation Covenant areas in Central Highlands that it believes should be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone, instead of the proposed Rural Zone in the Draft LPS, 'subject to landowner agreement'.</p> <p>These are listed in table provided in the submission.</p>	<p>It appears that CLT have contacted the owners of the Conservation Covenant areas and requested them to consider supporting the idea that the zoning of the land be changed from Rural to Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Seven of the landowners have separately made submissions making this request. These are submissions No. 5, 8, 14, 15, 19, 25 and 33. All except No. 8 requested that the entirety of their titles change to Landscape Conservation with No.8 requesting that just the covenanted area change.</p> <p>As detailed above in relation to submission No. 5, Council has indicated it would be receptive to changing the zone of covenanted areas if requested by the landowners. Therefore, it is recommended that this submission by CLT be supported insofar as the proposed zoning changes are supported by the landowners concerned.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of the subject properties where landowner consent has been given should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
7.	TasWater Jason Taylor Development Assessment Manager	<p><b>A.</b> Requests that several water reservoir tank facilities be zoned Utilities. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ouse Reservoir Tank</li> <li>• Bronte Park (Various Tanks).</li> </ul> <p><b>B.</b> Requests that Attenuation Area buffers around Sewerage Treatment Plants not be mapped and that the system rely on the distances specified in the code. In support of this, the submission noted that several mapped Attenuation Areas do not match that specified in the code, and that TasWater is planning upgrade works on various facilities which would alter other appropriate attenuation distances.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree. Key infrastructure such as township water reservoir tanks should be zoned Utilities.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Disagree. The policy for the depiction of Attenuation Areas on the LPS overlay maps is determined by the State Government. The downside of relying on the written description for buffer areas is that they can be missed – by members of the public, Council planners, consultant planners, people involved in conveyancing, etc. If they are mapping into an overlay, such mistakes are much less likely. The overarching policy embedded within the state planning system is that codes should be applied by mapped overlay wherever possible. The depiction of bushfire prone areas is one notable example of this that Councillors will be familiar with. This is a matter for statewide consistency, and not for individual councils to determine, and it is recommended that Council not support this suggestion. <u>Local Planning Authority View:</u> <b>A.</b> The zoning of the land containing the TasWater-owned Ouse Reservoir Tank and Bronte Park Tanks should be amended to Utilities <b>B.</b> Amending the Attenuation Area maps to remove buffer areas around active Sewerage Treatment Plants is not supported.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
8.	Daniel Lee	<p><b>A.</b> Owner of Lot 1 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264618, CT 166564/1 41.9 ha property, 39.3 ha of which is covered by a Conservation Covenant. Proposed to be zoned Rural. Requests that the covenanted area be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone, but that the 2.5 ha portion of non-covenanted land be retained as Rural Zone. If split zoning is not possible, then the preference is to retain the Rural Zone for the entire property. This property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p> <p><b>B.</b> The submitter also notes that two adjoining forested properties are proposed to be zoned Agriculture, yet they contain substantial areas of significant environmental values – the same values that led the government agreeing to the conservation covenant on Lot 1 Marked Tree Road. The submitter requests that this neighbouring land be zoned Rural so that the Priority Vegetation Overlay of the Natural Values Code can apply to provide a level of protection. Aerial mapping provided.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree. Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change. This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do. If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally. Agree to the covenanted portion only being changed to Landscape Conservation and the remainder being Rural Zone.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Agree. This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'. The titles identified in the submission are a case in point. Agree that the two neighbouring titles (RF 171934/1 and FR 108593/1) be zoned Rural. <u>Local Planning Authority View:</u> <b>A.</b> The zoning of the covenanted area on Lot 1 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264618, CT 166564/1 should be amended to Landscape Conservation. <b>B.</b> The zoning of the neighbouring land referred to in Point B should be amended to Rural, subject to landowner consent.</p>

Central Highlands Draft LPS - Representations Assessment Table – 9 November 2021

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
9.	<p>Department of Justice Consumer, Building &amp; Occupational Services Peter Graham, Executive Director</p>	<p>Notes that the Bushfire Prone Areas mapping will be introduced into the Central Highlands via the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, (once the Local Provisions Schedule is finalised by the TPC). Requests that Council consider introducing it into the current scheme, the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015.</p>	<p>Disagree. The Bushfire Prone Areas mapping could only be introduced into the current planning scheme via a planning scheme amendment process. This would take months – possible as long, or longer, than to complete the Local Provisions Schedule process. <u>Local Planning Authority View:</u> Amending the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015 to include the Bushfire Prone Areas mapped overlay is not supported as it would likely take a similar time to the finalisation of the LPS and the subsequent incorporation of this mapping in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme for the Central Highlands municipal area.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
10.	<p>Department of Police, Fire &amp; Emergency Management State Emergency Services Andrew Lea, Director.</p>	<p>Notes that there is no Flood Prone Areas overlay in the Draft LPS, and further notes that Council advised that this is because there is no reliable spatial data.</p> <p><b>A.</b> Advises that a state-wide project is underway to produce flood prone area mapping for areas that do not yet have it and asks Council to consider incorporating the mapping into the appropriate overlay in the planning scheme in the future.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Notes that, despite there being no overlay in the LPS, the Flood Prone Areas code applies anyway, via the ordinance. The submission advises that the Department of Justice / State Emergency Service is working on a guidance document for Councils to help them determine when a development application should trigger consideration under the Flood Prone Areas code.</p> <p>The submission further notes a range of information that Council officers can utilise whilst awaiting the above.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree in principle, noting that this is not a matter for Council to determine as part of the current Draft LPS process. Flood prone areas mapping, if available, should be incorporated into the appropriate overlay in the planning scheme.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Noted, and welcomed. Under C12.2.3 of the State Planning Provisions, planning authorities may ask for a flood hazard report. In the absence of a mapped overlay of flood prone areas, there is no specific trigger for Council to ask for such a report. A guidance document would be of great assistance to Council planning officers whilst awaiting the introduction of a mapped overlay.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>These matters are noted and agreed in principal.</p> <p>It is noted that no action is required in regard to the Draft Local Provisions Schedule.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
11.	Michael Stevens & Fiona McOwan	<p>Owners of property at 370 Strickland Rd, Strickland.</p> <p>PID 7710494, CT 160316/1. 70 acres.</p> <p>Rural lifestyle block with hobby-farm level agriculture. No intention to use for commercial agriculture.</p> <p>Concerned about the restrictions on use of proposed Agriculture Zone and has requested the Rural Zone apply.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Whilst this patch is cleared, the property is part of a broader landscape dominated by forest.</p> <p>It is a relatively small lot close to the edge of the broader boundary between Rural Zone and Agriculture Zone.</p> <p>This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'. This is a case in point.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of 370 Strickland Rd, Strickland, PID 7710494, CT 160316/1, should be amended to Rural.</p>
12.	Humbie Pastoral Paul Ellis & Shauna Ellis	<p>Owners of St Patricks Plains, PID 5000165.</p> <p>2,143 ha property. Class 6 agricultural land. 900m above sea level. Fit for dry sheep grazing only. Runs 1 sheep to 3 to 5 acres. Severe winters (average maximum temperatures do not exceed 10 degrees C. Widespread inundation in winter, with rocky land elsewhere. 434 ha of FCF covenanted land.</p> <p>Maps and BOM data provided.</p> <p>The submitters strongly question the application of the Agriculture Zone to this area, as it is poor farmland. The future, they say, is in tourism, recreation and, potentially, renewable energy. Not farming.</p> <p>The Rural Zone is much more suitable to this land.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>High altitude central plateau land such as this is clearly some of the poorest and most marginal land in Tasmania. It is several orders of magnitude poorer than some of the hinterland on the northwest coast that has been allocated the Rural Zone. A core outcome of the entire state-wide single planning scheme project is consistency. In the interest of this alone, this land should be Rural Zone.</p> <p>Recommend that this land, and the other areas of proposed Agricultural Zone in this landscape, be changed to Rural.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, alluded to in the submission, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of St Patricks Plains, including PID 5000165, should be amended to Rural.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
13.	Greg Pullen	<p>Resident of the Central Highlands.</p> <p>Concerned that too much land is proposed to be zoned Agriculture instead of Rural.</p> <p>Agriculture Zone up the boundaries of settlements will make future expansion all but impossible.</p> <p>The Agriculture Zone also removes consideration of natural values, as the Priority Vegetation overlay cannot apply in this zone. This will lead to ill-considered developments.</p> <p>Cites the proposed wind farm at St Patricks Plains as an example – on land proposed to be Agriculture Zone yet contains many significant natural values.</p> <p>Concerned the inability of councils to ‘tidy up ... historical anomalies’ in the planning scheme through this process will be at a substantial cost to ratepayers through the need for multiple minor planning scheme amendments in the future.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>This accords with Council’s view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as ‘land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone’</p> <p>The submission is correct in that the Priority Vegetation overlay cannot apply in the Agriculture Zone. This is reasonable in the case of genuine productive agricultural land, as such land was invariably cleared and farmed many years ago and therefore contains little or no natural values.</p> <p>Many large areas of proposed Agricultural Zone in the Central Highlands, conversely, are inherently poor from an agricultural perspective and there have not been subject to wholesale clearance over the course of the last 200 years and retain very substantial levels of significant natural values. This is indicative of the poor ‘fit’ of the Agriculture Zone to such land.</p> <p>Recommend that the extent of the proposed Agriculture Zone be substantially reviewed using the ‘decision tree’ document that the Southern councils jointly developed.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The Agriculture Zone has been applied far to widely and covers relatively poor quality land and land hard-up against townships where it will lead to land use conflict and make township expansion considerations more onerous than the quality of the land warrants. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
14.	ECO-NOMY P/L Dean Brampton, Director.	<p>Owner of 'Bronte Park 2', Lyell Highway, Bronte Park, PID 2304227, CT 243948/1</p> <p>15.09 ha property, 14.08 ha of which is covered by a Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of 'Bronte Park 2', Lyell Highway, Bronte Park, PID 2304227, CT 243948/1 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>



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No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
15.	PC Jacques & MJ Jacques	<p>Owner of property off Dennistoun Road, Bothwell, PID 1843865, CT 126437/1</p> <p>Property containing a Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of the property off Dennistoun Road, Bothwell, PID 1843865, CT 126437/1 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
16.	Tas Fire Service Tom O'Connor Senior Planning & Assessment Officer	<p>TFS is broadly supportive of the Draft LPS.</p> <p>The TFS points out that, since the Bushfire Prone Areas Code was reviewed in 2017, it no longer applies to Visitor Accommodation use. It is therefore suggested that clause P1.2(b) in the proposed Lake Meadowbank Specific Area Plan be amended to remove specific reference to the Code and simply refer to 'bushfire protection':</p> <p><i>(b) the extent of clearing is the minimum necessary to meet the requirements of the <del>Bushfire Prone Areas Code</del> for bushfire protection.</i></p> <p>TFS consider that this change will enable proposed Visitor Accommodation Use to be subject to bushfire risk mitigation considerations.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Whilst this change seems counter-intuitive, the recommendation is based on the practical experience of TFS working with the Code.</p> <p>It is somewhat inexplicable that the 2017 revision of the Code removed Visitor Accommodation from its operation, as fire emergencies are even more threatening to people unfamiliar with an area.</p> <p>The proposed change is supported.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The following change should be made to clause P1.2(b) in the proposed Lake Meadowbank Specific Area Plan to remove specific reference to the Code and simply refer to 'bushfire protection':</p> <p><i>(b) the extent of clearing is the minimum necessary <del>to meet the requirements of the Bushfire Prone Areas Code</del> for bushfire protection.</i></p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
17.	Venesser Oakes	<p>Owner of 168 Risbys Road, Ellendale. PID 7147419.</p> <p>12.17 ha 'steeply sloped property, with approximately 50% natural bush' and with electrical infrastructure running through it. Too small and steep to be successfully used for anything more than a small-scale hobby farm.</p> <p>Concerned that the land is proposed to be Agriculture Zone. The Rural Zone is more appropriate.</p> <p>Expressed dissatisfaction with the formatting and layout, and general usability of the various documents on display as part of the Draft LPS public exhibition.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>This property is approximately 50% cleared and is relatively steep. It is part of a cluster of Rural Zoned similar-sized lots to the north and west, whilst it abuts a much larger Agriculture Zone property to the east.</p> <p>It is a relatively small lot on the edge of the broader boundary between Rural Zone and Agriculture Zone.</p> <p>The submission accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'. This is a case in point.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of 168 Risbys Road, Ellendale, PID 7147419, should be amended to Rural.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
18.	TasNetworks ?	<p><b>A.</b> Requests the Derwent Bridge substation and nine communication sites be zoned Utilities.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Requests that no land with Electricity Transmission Corridors over it be zoned Landscape Conservation.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Requests Priority Vegetation Overlay be removed from 18 infrastructure sites where the vegetation has already been substantially modified.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Notes several problems with the State Planning Provisions that could cause safety issues - - mainly exemptions. It is suggested that there be exceptions to these exemptions in the Electricity Transmission Corridors overlay – similarly to the exceptions associated with the Local Historic Heritage Code.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree. Substantial infrastructure sites such as these should be zoned utilities.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Agree. The Landscape Conservation Zone is incompatible with Electricity Transmission Corridors. Whilst there is no Landscape Conservation Zone in the draft LPS, this may change with a number of owners of conservation covenanted land requesting this zoning. The existence of an Electricity Transmission Corridor would need to be checked in these cases.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Agree. The Priority Vegetation Overlay on substantially modified infrastructure sites is unnecessary and problematic.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Noted. As this matter relates to the State Planning Provisions, it is not within Council's current role to form a view on this matter.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> The zoning of TasNetworks' Derwent Bridge substation and nine listed communication sites should be amended to Utilities</p> <p><b>B.</b> Any areas amended to Landscape Conservation Zone that include Electricity Transmission Corridors should have these areas excluded from the Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p><b>C.</b> The Priority Vegetation Overlay should be removed from the 18 listed infrastructure sites where the vegetation has already been substantially modified.</p> <p><b>D.</b> This a matter for the State to consider.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
19.	Malcolm Grant	<p>Owner of Lot 3 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3268969, CT 166563/3</p> <p>40.1 ha property, 27.43 ha of which is covered by a Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of Lot 3 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3268969, CT 166563/3 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
20.	Jim Allwright	<p><b>A.</b> Concerned about the large extent of proposed Agriculture Zone, covering land that is unsuitable to agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural lifestyle areas around Ellendale and Westerway.</li> <li>• High-altitude seasonal grazing land, better suited to other (non-agricultural) pursuits.</li> </ul> <p>The Agriculture Zone will reduce landowners' ability to further use and development of these areas in the future.</p> <p>Applying the Agricultural Zones to marginal areas such as these is at odds with the zoning of much better agricultural potential land in the northwest as Rural, and one of the stated key aims of this entire planning reform project to achieve state-wide consistency.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Concerned that the Planning Commission has directed that Council's modified Lake Meadowbank Specific Area Plan be removed from the Draft LPS. The lake, with all its users and values, including Aboriginal heritage, needs contemporary planning arrangements.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Concerned that Council's attempts to remove minor split-zonings has not been permitted, so far, by the Commission, despite State guidance to the effect that split zoning is to be avoided if at all possible.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Concerned that this planning reform process has not allowed the removal of minor redundant anomalies, such as the removal of the Attenuation Area around the now non-existence sewerage treatment ponds at Great Lake Hotel.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree.</p> <p>This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Large areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'.</p> <p>Recommend that areas with these characteristics be changed to the Rural Zone, in accordance with the 'decision tree' document adopted by the Southern councils.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Agree.</p> <p>The amendments to the Lake Meadowbank Specific Area Plan would enable it to function more efficiently, better fit with the SPP format and protect significant Aboriginal Heritage values.</p> <p>Recommend that Council continue to argue for its inclusion at the Commission hearings.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Agree.</p> <p>The split zone titles that Council wishes to adjust so that they are entirely one zone constitute minor changes and ought to be possible.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Agree.</p> <p>Council has not been able to undertake a general 'scheme renovation' for twenty years. In the late 2000s, Council was about to embark on a new planning scheme when the Regional Planning Reform process began, and Council chose to join that process. Midway through the process it was announced by the State that the interim schemes being created had to be 'like-for-like', and hence scheme renovation was not permitted. The current Statewide planning reform process has also been designed to be a 'like-for-like' transition and, hence, general scheme renovation is similarly not allowed.</p> <p>The outcome of all of this is that schemes have become full of 20 redundant or out-of-date components, and it will take a great deal of local government and state government resources to fix these matters through a long series of planning scheme amendments.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
21.	Eco-Nomy P/L Dean Brampton	<p>Proposes the creation of a Scenic Road Corridor (possibly a Scenic Protection Area) under the Scenic Protection Code of the State Planning Provisions.</p> <p>The area would extend 20km along the Lyell Highway, extending to the furthest skyline or 2 km if the skyline is very distant. Detailed maps and extensive landscape values analysis are provided in the submission.</p>	<p>Potentially agree.</p> <p>Whilst the proposal may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or the impacted landowners in particular regarding this specific proposal.</p> <p>A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The establishment of the mooted Scenic Road Corridor (or alternatively a Scenic Protection Area) under the Scenic Protection Code along the Lyell Highway should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

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No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
22.	S&K Superannuation Fund Stuart & Karen Philp	<p>Proposes the creation of a Scenic Road Corridor (possibly a Scenic Protection Area) under the Scenic Protection Code of the State Planning Provisions.</p> <p>The area would extend 20km along the Lyell Highway, extending to the furthest skyline or 2 km if the skyline is very distant. Detailed maps and extensive landscape values analysis are provided in the submission.</p> <p>The submission is identical to No. 21.</p>	<p>Potentially agree.</p> <p>Whilst the proposal may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or the impacted landowners in particular regarding this specific proposal.</p> <p>A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The establishment of the mooted Scenic Road Corridor (or alternatively a Scenic Protection Area) under the Scenic Protection Code along the Lyell Highway should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>



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No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
23.	PDA Surveyors Justine Brooks Senior Planning Consultant.	<p>Pertains to an approved subdivision on the northern edge of Bothwell, for Clyde River Holdings Pty Ltd. PID 3240245, CT 164767/1.</p> <p>The subdivision for 16 residential lots and the amalgamation of a number of adjacent large rural titles was approved prior to the advent of the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015. The small lots have not yet been created but the approval has “substantial commencement” and therefore remains alive.</p> <p>The submission states that the land was zoned Village prior to the 2015 interim scheme and that this zoning was changed to Rural Resource by that scheme. It is now proposed to be Agriculture under the draft LPS.</p> <p>It is requested that the land subject to the 16 approved small lots be changed back to Village, to appropriately suit the future development and use of this land.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The land accommodating the 16 approved residential lots at Bothwell on PID 3240245, CT 164767/1 be changed to Village, in line with the zoning that existed prior to the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
24.	Alexandra Brock & Garry Daud.	<p>Owners of 571 Thousand Acre Lane, Hamilton.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural. (The submitters are content with that zoning.)</p> <p>Concerned about the rezoning of neighbouring land to Agriculture.</p> <p>Their land and the neighbouring properties form a cluster of rural lifestyle lots that retain substantial areas of remnant native bush, embedded within a broader pastoral farming landscape that is predominantly cleared.</p> <p>The native bush has priority vegetation values, both on the submitters land and on the neighbouring rural lifestyle blocks. These values are not protected on the neighbouring land, due to the Agriculture Zoning.</p> <p>It is requested that these neighbouring titles be zoned Rural.</p> <p>The submitters also express broader concerns over the proposed far-ranging application of the Agriculture Zone in Central Highlands, where they consider there will be many other cases where high-value native vegetation areas are so zoned, and therefore omitted from the Priority Vegetation Overlay.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Subject to landowner consent.</p> <p>The submission accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Large areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'. This is a case in point.</p> <p>Recommend that Council contact the owners of the neighbouring rural-lifestyle blocks to ascertain their views. Where agreed, support change to the Rural Zone.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The two land parcels (neighbouring 571 Thousand Acre ) be changed to Rural Zone, subject to landowner consent.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
25.	Peter & Michelle Cassar Smith.	<p>Owners of Lot 3 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264626, CT 166564/3. (Note: a different Lot 3 to Submission No.19)</p> <p>138.9 ha property containing a Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Advises that they are selling the property and that they have notified the purchasers of this issue and that the purchasers agree with the Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of Lot 3 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264626, CT 166564/3 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>
26.	Department of State Growth James Verrier Director, Transport Systems and Planning Policy	<p>Generally, in agreement with the draft LPS.</p> <p>Several aspects of the State Planning Provisions are noted and endorsed.</p> <p><b>A.</b> Requests amending the zoning of a new road lot to Utilities. CT 46/6704, Highland Lakes Road near Ripple Creek.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Notes that some mining leases are proposed to be zoned Agriculture and suggests that the Rural Zone might be more appropriate.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree.</p> <p>The road easements of major roads such as Highland Lakes Road should be Utilities.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Not agree.</p> <p>Council liaised with Mineral Resources Tasmania regarding all mining leases. Where a lease is for a relatively minor operation within a larger agricultural title, it was agreed not to spot-zone to Rural.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> The zoning of CT 46/6704, Highland Lakes Road, should be changed to Utilities.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Mining leases for minor mining facilities should be zoned as per the subject title, as agreed with Mineral Resources Tasmania.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
27.	Tasmanian Land Conservancy James Hatton, CEO	<p><b>A.</b> Requests all land owned by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy to be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>In Central Highlands this is multiple properties covering 20,000 ha. Protected by conservation covenants.</p> <p>Much of this land is currently proposed to be Rural. Some is proposed to be a mix of Environmental Management, Agriculture and Rural.</p> <p>Nevertheless, all TLC land is requested to be Landscape Conservation.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Request Council to implement a process of continually revising, updating and re-evaluating natural assets overlay mapping.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Requests that the Priority Vegetation Overlay apply to all zones.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Request that the Natural Assets Code be reviewed – principally to remove exemptions.</p> <p><b>E.</b> Suggest that all covenanted land be zoned landscape Conservation.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Not relevant to the current statutory process. It is noted that such work is best carried out at the regional or state level.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Not within Council's purview.</p> <p>This pertains to the State Planning Provisions. The State has directed that these are specifically outside the scope of the current process.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Not within Council's purview.</p> <p>This pertains to the State Planning Provisions. The State has directed that these are specifically outside the scope of the current process.</p> <p><b>E.</b> Not agree.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> The zoning of all land owned by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p> <p><b>B.</b> This is not relevant to the Draft LPS.</p> <p><b>C.</b> This is a matter for the State.</p> <p><b>D.</b> This is a matter for the State.</p> <p><b>E.</b> It is not agreed that all land subject to a conservation covenant be rezoned to Landscape Conservation. If this was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
28.	Greg & Jane McGann Hatlor Pty Ltd	<p>Owners of a home on 70 acres at Arthurs Lake.</p> <p><b>A.</b> Concerned about the proposed rezoning from Rural Resource to Agriculture, and the 'unintended negative impacts' that could result.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Questions why the Scenic Protection Code has not been used, given the area's natural beauty.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> The submitters appear to hold the same concerns that Council has in regard to the proposed inappropriate rezoning of large areas of land to Agriculture. Council's view is that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Large areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Council has not sought to introduce a Scenic Landscape Area into the scheme via this Tasmanian Planning Scheme establishment process.</p> <p>Whilst this may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or potentially impacted landowners.</p> <p>A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process, and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p><b>C.</b> The Supporting Report details this State Government-initiated project. This can be provide to the submitters.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> The Agriculture Zone has been applied far to widely and covers relatively poor quality land often accommodating uses such as forestry and natural values conservation. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Council has agreed to explore the use of the Landscape Conservation Code as potential planning scheme amendments, pursuant to specific proposals submitted by a number of other representors.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
29.	Dominica Sophia Tannock	<p>Melbourne resident who has recently purchased a property in the Central Highlands lakes area.</p> <p><b>A.</b> Concerned about the rezoning of this area from Rural Resource to Agriculture. Specifically, the potential impact on landscape.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Proposes the use of the Scenic Protection Code</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Council's established view is that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Council view therefore accords with the general concerns of the submitter.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Not agree.</p> <p>Whilst the creation of scenic protection areas may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or impacted landowners in particular. A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process, and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> The Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely and covers relatively poor quality land often accommodating uses such as forestry and natural values conservation. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Council has agreed to explore the use of the Landscape Conservation Code as potential planning scheme amendments, pursuant to specific proposals submitted by a number of other representors.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
30.	<p>GHD</p> <p>David Cundall, Senior Planner obo Geoffery Herbert</p>	<p>3 Adelaide Street, Bothwell. CT 245881/1.</p> <p>Land zoned Low Density Residential and proposed to transition to the new Low Density Residential zone.</p> <p>Existing approval for subdivision of 8 lots, ranging in size from 1547m2 to 2446m2.</p> <p>Notes that this land is adjacent to five existing village-sized lots (around 900m2) and proposes that 3 Adelaide Street should also be Village Zone.</p> <p>Requests Council to commit to a structure planning process for Bothwell to consider the most appropriate zoning for the various parts of the town into the future.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Many rural towns around the State have been subject to structure planning projects over the last ten years.</p> <p>It would appear to be many decades since Bothwell has had the benefit of such a process.</p> <p>Structure plans often recommend rezonings, and they are then used to support planning scheme amendments.</p> <p>Recommended that Council pursue a structure plan for Bothwell once the LPS work is completed, potentially with financial support from the State Government.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>A structure plan for the township of Bothwell, with input from the local community should be developed. This should follow completion of the Local Provisions Schedule development process and is to set out the preferred future development of the town and any subsequent zoning changes that ought to be made.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
31.	Ian Fitzgerald	<p>Concerned for the preservation of the natural landscapes around The Steppes, St Patricks Plains, Thousand Lakes Wilderness Area and the Great Lake and associated water bodies.</p> <p>Specifically, concern is expressed about the possible impacts of the mooted windfarm at St Patricks Plains / Steppes.</p>	<p>The submitter is not specific in suggesting how the Draft LPS could be modified to address these concerns. The creation of Scenic Protection Areas under the SPP's Scenic Protection Code would potentially address them.</p> <p>Whilst the creation of Scenic Protection Areas may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or impacted landowners in particular. A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The submission is not sufficiently detailed in regard to proposed changes to the Draft LPS for a definitive view to be formed. However, Council has formed views on related matters regarding the zoning of this land and possible Scenic Protection Areas.</p>



No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
32.	Mary Louise Ashton Jones	<p>Concerned for the preservation of the natural landscapes around Central Highlands.</p> <p>Request that the Scenic Protection Code be utilised in the LPS.</p>	<p>Potentially agree.</p> <p>Whilst the creation of Scenic Protection Areas may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or impacted landowners in particular. A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code in this area should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>
33.	Natalie Fowell	<p>Owner of Lot 2 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264597, CT 166564/2.</p> <p>41.64 ha property containing a 38.19 ha Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of Lot 2 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264597, CT 166564/2 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
34.	Victoria Onslow & William Phipps Onslow	<p>Concerned for the preservation of the natural landscapes around Central Highlands.</p> <p>Request that the Scenic Protection Code be utilised in the LPS.</p> <p>Cites the need to protect the area's world class trout fishing, tourism and recreation industries.</p> <p>Particularly mentions the Steppes area.</p>	<p>Potentially agree.</p> <p>Whilst the creation of Scenic Protection Areas may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or impacted landowners in particular. A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The establishment of the mooted Central Highlands Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code along the Highland Lakes Road and Waddamana Road should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
35.	David Ridley	<p>Concerned for the preservation of the natural landscapes around Central Highlands.</p> <p>Requests that the Scenic Protection Area be created in the LPS covering those parts of the Central Plateau visible from Highland Lakes Road and Waddamana Road.</p> <p>Provides a very detail report “Central Highlands Scenic Protection Area (SPA), Tasmania”. This includes maps, photographs and a detailed and thorough analysis of landscape values.</p> <p>The submitter points out that the existing Rural Resource Zone contains some provisions pertaining to landscape protection whilst the new Rural and Agriculture Zones do not.</p>	<p>Potentially agree.</p> <p>Whilst the creation of Scenic Protection Areas may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or impacted landowners in particular. A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p>The point that the transition from the existing Rural Resource Zone to the new Rural and Agriculture Zones will result in the removal of clauses pertaining to landscape impact is well made, and should be relevant to Council’s future consideration of this matter generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The establishment of the mooted Central Highlands Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code along the Highland Lakes Road and Waddamana Road should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
36.	Irene Inc Jacqui Blowfield, Senior Planner obo the No Turbine Action Group Inc (Central Highlands).	<p>Concerned that the mooted windfarm will significantly impact on the significant natural values of the areas around Liawenee, Todds Corner and St Patricks Plains.</p> <p>Supporting the submission is a biodiversity values assessment and a statement on the impact on Wedge-tailed eagles.</p> <p>Of particular focus is the proposed zoning of these areas to Agriculture and the subsequent omission of the Priority Vegetation Overlay of the Natural Assets Code. These areas have important natural values that ought to be protected in the new scheme.</p> <p>Suggests that the Landscape Conservation Zone is the most appropriate zone.</p>	<p>Partially agree.</p> <p>Recommended that the Rural Zone, and therefore the Priority Vegetation Overlay of the Natural Assets Code, apply to these areas.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>A change of zoning to Landscape Conservation is not supported.</p> <p>The zone should be changed to Rural.</p> <p>The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code in this area should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
37.	<p>Red Seal Urban &amp; Regional Planning</p> <p>Trent Henderson, Principal Planner obo Jonathon Dorkings</p>	<p>Jonathon Dorkings is owner of 204 Meadowbank Road, Meadowbank, PID 7516181, CT 35385/2.</p> <p>The subject land is a small 3079m<sup>2</sup> rural lifestyle block, part of a cluster with seven similar -sized lots.</p> <p>Concern centres on the proposed Agriculture Zone.</p> <p>Request that the zone be Rural Living Zone to match the use and development of this land.</p> <p>The request is supported by a detailed planning report and an agricultural capability assessment by a qualified consultant – Geo-Environmental Solutions (GES).</p> <p>The GES report concludes the land is Class 6 agricultural land, i.e.: poor, with no capacity for cropping.</p> <p>Concludes that the subject land and the seven similar-sized adjacent lots should be Rural Living Zone.</p>	<p>Agree that the Agriculture Zone is inappropriate for this land and the seven similar adjacent titles.</p> <p>Recommend Rural Zone, however, not Rural Living Zone.</p> <p>Although small clusters of Rural Living Zone or Low Density Residential Zone are not uncommon, with many such small clusters around the Highland lakes.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of 204 Meadowbank Road, Meadowbank, PID 7516181, CT 35385/2 should be amended to Rural.</p> <p>The zoning of the similar lots in the same strip should be changed to Rural, subject to landowner consent.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
38.	John Toohey	<p>A regular visitor to the Central Highlands.</p> <p>Concerned that the intrinsic values, scenic values, aboriginal heritage, unique character and landscape values of the Highlands is maintained and protected.</p> <p>Suggests these tables in the LPS should not be left blank:</p> <p><b>A.</b> Table C6.1 Local Heritage Places</p> <p><b>B.</b> Table C6.3 Local Historic Landscape Precincts</p> <p><b>C.</b> Table C6.4 Places or Precincts of Archaeological Potential</p> <p><b>D.</b> Table C6.5 Significant Trees</p> <p><b>E.</b> Table C8.1 Scenic Protected Areas</p> <p><b>F.</b> Table C8.2 Scenic Road Corridors</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Disagree.</p> <p>As Councillors will be aware, Council's preference is to include the existing Local Heritage Places list in the new LPS – but with spatial extents modified to match the revised equivalent listings on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. To transfer them without doing this would result in thousands of hectares of farmland unnecessarily listed for non-existent heritage values. This was apparently not possible, so the decision was made to remove the local list. It is noted that all places remain on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, and so remain protected.</p> <p><b>B. C. D. E &amp; F</b> Disagree.</p> <p>These various precincts, places and areas are not in the current planning scheme and there has been no work done to identify any and/or liaise with community and potentially impacted landowners. Council is not in a position to propose the introduction of these mechanisms as part of this current process.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> Table C6.1 Local Heritage Places should not be utilised as Council has been unable to manage the spatial extents of the listed properties to match the Tasmanian Heritage Register listings and the key areas of all properties are, in any case, listed on the THR, rendering the local list redundant.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Table C6.3 Local Historic Landscape Precincts should not be utilised.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Table C6.4 Places or Precincts of Archaeological Potential should not be utilised.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Table C6.5 Significant Trees should not be utilised.</p> <p><b>E. and F.</b> The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area and a Scenic Road Corridor under the Scenic Protection Code should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act, as per specific proposals subject of other representations.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
39.	Jacob Smith	<p>Owner of the former Principal's Cottage of Ouse School at 7011 Lyell Highway.</p> <p>States that this land is not zoned Village despite being part of the village of Ouse, next to the school.</p> <p>Under the Draft LPS it is proposed to be zoned Agriculture and is currently Rural Resource Zone.</p> <p>Notes that Council's Supporting Report states that there is insufficient need for more Village Zone land in Ouse pursuant to the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy. However, the submitter argues that this strategy is out-of-date, being developed eleven years ago prior to the recent population boom in Tasmania which has led to a general shortage of housing supply.</p> <p>The land is unsuitable for an agricultural enterprise, being relatively small, adjacent to the school and unirrigated.</p> <p>Allowing the land to be subdivided would, in contrast, likely strengthen the school through increased student numbers.</p> <p>Request change to Village Zone.</p>	<p>Agree that the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy is badly out of date.</p> <p>However, a structure plan or similar settlement analysis would need to be undertaken at Ouse to support a rezoning to Village.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the Agriculture Zone is considered inappropriate for the reasons raised by the submitter.</p> <p>Smaller titles such as this that are, in practice, part of villages but not zoned as such should be zoned Rural, as a 'holding zone'. This would allow easier consideration of town expansion in the future and to create a buffer around the townships.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of 7011 Lyell Highway should be changed to Rural, as this will negate potential for land use conflict, especially in such close proximity to the school, and it will perform the function of a 'holding zone' in the short term.</p> <p>A structure plan for the township of Ouse, with input from the local community should be developed. This should follow completion of the Local Provisions Schedule development process and is to set out the preferred future development of the town and any subsequent zoning changes that ought to be made.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
40.	<p>Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water &amp; Environment.</p> <p>Tim Baker, Secretary</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Does not support the zoning of the western half of the Interlaken Canal as Utilities Zone. Requests that it be Environmental Management Zone.</p> <p>States that the EMZ zones is necessary to protect the RAMSAR wetland <i>“from further encroachment and/or hydrological impact by the canal and associated works, now and in the future”</i>.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Requests that a Public Reserve, PID 5475283, on the Lyell Highway be changed from Rural Zone. (Not stated which zone is requested).</p> <p><b>C.</b> Request unallocated Crown Land at Brady’s Lagoon (PID 2541169) be changed from Agriculture Zone to Environmental Management Zone, as it contains threatened native vegetation.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Notes that all references to the National parks and Reserves Land Regulations 2009 should be updated to the national Parks and reserves management regulations 2019.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Not agree:</p> <p>Council has zoned the eastern half of the canal as Utilities Zone. This section is on an adjacent title outside the RAMSAR area.</p> <p>In the Supporting Report, Council indicated its preference for the entire canal to be zoned Utilities, reflecting the reality on the ground and providing greater certainty that this key component of the Clyde irrigation district can continue operating properly into the future.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Agree.</p> <p>Public Reserves are generally appropriately zoned Environmental Management Zone.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Agree.</p> <p>Change to the Environmental Management Zone.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Noted.</p> <p>A matter for the State Government to address within the State Planning Provisions.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> Council maintains its view that the whole canal should be zoned Utilities, reflecting the reality on the ground.</p> <p><b>B.</b> The zoning of Public Reserve, PID 5475283, should be changed to Environmental Management.</p> <p><b>C.</b> The zoning of unallocated Crown Land at Brady’s Lagoon (PID 2541169) should be changed to Environmental Management.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Noted.</p>



No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
41.	<p>Susanne and Dean Klower</p> <p>Received at 8:58pm, 22 October 2021. After the advertised deadline of close of business 22 October 2021.</p> <p>The Planning Commission have advised it is up to Council to decide if late submissions will be accepted.</p>	<p>Owns land at 735 Arthurs Lake Road, Arthurs Lake.</p> <p>Concerned with the proposed extent of rezoning to the Agriculture Zoning in the area, and that this will lead to loss of important values.</p> <p>Cites the proposed wind farm at St Patricks Plains as an example – on land proposed to be Agriculture Zone yet contains many significant natural values.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'.</p> <p>Recommend that the extent of the proposed Agriculture Zone be substantially reviewed using the 'decision tree' document that the Southern councils jointly developed.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The late submission should be accepted.</p> <p>The Agriculture Zone has been applied far to widely and covers relatively poor quality land and land dominated by natural values and forestry. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p> <p>The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code in this area should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
42.	<p>T.L Wood</p> <p>Received at 5:27pm, 22 October 2021. After the advertised deadline of close of business 22 October 2021.</p> <p>The Planning Commission have advised it is up to Council to decide if late submissions will be accepted.</p>	<p>Concerned with the proposed extent of rezoning to the Agriculture Zoning in the area, and that this will lead to loss of important values.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'.</p> <p>Recommend that the extent of the proposed Agriculture Zone be substantially reviewed using the 'decision tree' document that the Southern councils jointly developed.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The late submission should be accepted.</p> <p>The Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely and covers relatively poor quality land and land dominated by natural values and forestry. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
43.	<p>Odile Foster</p> <p>Received on 23 October 2021. After the advertised deadline of close of business 22 October 2021. The Planning Commission have advised it is up to Council to decide if late submissions will be accepted.</p>	<p>Owner of shack at Miena</p> <p>Concerned with the proposed extent of rezoning to the Agriculture Zoning in the area, and that this will lead to loss of important values.</p> <p>Cites the proposed wind farm at St Patricks Plains as an example – on land proposed to be Agriculture Zone yet contains many significant natural values.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'.</p> <p>Recommend that the extent of the proposed Agriculture Zone be substantially reviewed using the 'decision tree' document that the Southern councils jointly developed.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The late submission should be accepted.</p> <p>The Agriculture Zone has been applied far to widely and covers relatively poor quality land and land dominated by natural values and forestry. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p> <p>The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code in this area should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
44.	<p>William John Gunn</p> <p>Received on 25 October 2021. After the advertised deadline of close of business 22 October 2021. The Planning Commission have advised it is up to Council to decide if late submissions will be accepted.</p>	<p>Owner of house at Miena.</p> <p>Concerned with proposed changes to the planning scheme “as it appears to be mainly to allow the development of many more wind towers”.</p> <p>Concerned of the impact on the natural landscape ‘over the whole community’.</p>	<p>Agree, generally.</p> <p>It is assumed the changes to the planning scheme referred to are the rezoning of large areas of Highland Lakes land to Agriculture, rather than Rural, especially at St Patricks Plains.</p> <p>This underlying sentiment accords with Council’s general view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as ‘land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone’. This includes St Patricks Plains.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The late submission should be accepted.</p> <p>The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code in this area should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>
45	<p>Sue Chandler</p>	<p>Raises general concerns about the impact of development on wilderness values.</p> <p>The representation does not propose any specific changes to the Draft LPS.</p>	<p>No view can be formed.</p>



## Derwent Catchment Project Monthly Report for Central Highlands Council

**November 2021**

### General Business

At the end of last month we held our annual general meeting at Currunga Farm in Hamilton. The DCP Committee was re-elected, and Josie gave us an overview of achievements for the year. Our Pasture Condition Tool was officially launched by Mark Shelton MP. We are looking forward to another year of working in the community to improve the regions natural and agricultural landscapes.



*Launch of the Pasture Condition Tool and a review of the DCP major achievements this year.*

### Weed Management Program/Planting

*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.*

This spring the DCP continues its weed control program, working to eradicate weeds that threaten important natural values and agricultural industries in the region.

## **On-ground Works Program**

This month our on-grounds works team have been helping the council with their weed spraying program within townships and around infrastructure.

## **Weed Management Plan for the Central Highlands**

This year we have been working on a revised and updated Weed Management Plan for the Central Highlands for the next 5 years.

This month we had our first stakeholder meeting to review the draft Central Highlands Weed Management Plan 2021-2026. The new plan includes an increase in the area we will target for weed control which will increase the weed management buffer for the original zones. Eradication zones in the 2016-2021 plan (see attached) will be managed as 'watch and act' zones in the new plan as most primary weed control has been completed in these areas.

## **Ouse River Recovery Program – Landcare Action Grant funded by DPIPW through the TFGA**

This project aims to remove weeds and rehabilitate areas of the Ouse River as part of our Landcare Action Grant.

Following heavy rains in the region this month and flooding, we were worried that our native plantings may have been washed away.

Fortunately, checks by our team revealed that most of the plants had survived.

Our on-grounds work team did some post-flood clean up and infill where any plants were missing. Over the coming weeks we will review all the plantings along the Ouse River that were planted as part of the grant to restore the Ouse River.



*Flood damage and surviving plantings along the banks of the Ouse River.*



## Platypus Walk

Floods in the region also impacted areas of the Platypus walk that we have been revegetating. We will return to plant more natives to restore damaged banks in the coming months.

## Agri best Practice

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

### **Derwent Pasture Network – funded by NRM South through the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program**

The Derwent Pasture Network, our dryland focused ag program, continues to work alongside pasture managers to tackle the challenges of grazing in the semi-arid regions of the catchment.

The program taps into local knowledge, supported by our pasture expert Peter Ball, to overcome the challenges of improving productivity and reducing erosion in the rugged low-rainfall environments that we have throughout the Derwent region.

We have demonstration sites, workshops, pasture courses and field days on the go.

Peter continues to roll out the second series of our dry land grazing time course. Field day activities are being planned for November and early December. The next Grazing Time course session will focus on assessing production limits of pasture and how to address these for greater productivity.



*Differences in pasture productivity at our fertilizer demonstration site. Note the abundant sub clover growth in the top portion of the photo that has add nutrients added.*

We continue to investigate ways to improve pasture productivity in the region. We have established a series of different demonstration sites testing the effect of different management treatments on pasture productivity.

This month we have assessed our fertiliser demonstration strips that were established in autumn. The sites are graphically demonstrating that addressing key nutrient deficiencies greatly increases pasture growth. We have found that additional phosphorus and potassium has led to abundant sub clover growth. This is exciting as it demonstrates that with the right management there is potential for greater pasture productivity in the region.

At our steep north-facing slope demonstration site, there has been seedling establishment of perennial grasses and legumes after seeds were sown just prior to rain. Monitoring their survival will be ongoing. A larger demonstration activity is being scoped to investigate this further utilising drone technology.

Additionally, we are monitoring the establishment of diverse multi-species forage crops which will be contrasted with a simple forage mix.

### **Pasture Condition Score Tool – funded by DPIPWE**

We have developed a pasture condition guide to help graziers assess and manipulate pasture condition on farms (better pasture = increased productivity and reduced erosion).

We are pleased to announce that our Pasture Condition Tool is public. It was officially launched by Mark Shelton MP at our AGM at the end of last month. We are so excited to share this information with graziers and to continue working with them to put the tool into practice.

The tool is available on our website <https://www.pasturenetwork.org/pasture-condition.html>

## **Strategic Planning**

### **Biosecurity preparedness in a changing climate: regional planning for the Derwent Catchment – funded by Tasmanian Climate Change Office**

*Strategic Actions: 4.6 Strive to provide a clean and healthy environment 5.6 Support existing businesses to continue to grow and prosper*

This project aims to undertake research to prepare agricultural and tourism businesses in the Derwent Catchment for biosecurity impacts under predicted changes in climate. Last year, we established a Derwent Catchment Biosecurity Working Group for this project. This working group include stakeholders from the region's horticultural, livestock and tourism sectors, local and State government, representatives from aquaculture and fisheries, hydro-electric power generation, cropping, pollination services and natural area management. The first meeting of this working group was in November last year. Through this group we identified key threats to their industries.

Using this information, and state and national biosecurity databases we established a threat assessment for these industries. This process included a desktop analysis of regional vulnerability that involved conducting a vulnerability assessment of biosecurity threats that impact on aquaculture and fisheries, freshwater infrastructure, and natural values management. We have completed assessments of ~600 potential biosecurity threats to the Derwent Catchment. The draft plan will be submitted this week for review.



## Grant applications and progress

***Smart Farms Soils Extension Project – Farmer-led soil monitoring and testing hubs- facilitating farmer-led capacity and knowledge building in soils across Australian regions (lead Soils for Life, DCP as Tasmanian partner) \$225,000 over 2 years. (pending)***

Many landholders are unsure what soil tests they need, how to sample, and how to interpret results to support soil health decisions and/or carbon farming. This project will create local support networks that will encourage scientific collection of key soil information at a farm level that also contributes to larger regional information e.g., moisture, depth, season, groundcover etc. The project will initiate and support soil testing hubs among landholders and soil practitioners to embed ongoing collaboration, innovation, learning and peer-support to increase soil testing and monitoring knowledge, centered around local soil demonstration sites.

***Cattle Hill Community Grants – Central Highlands Community Weed Management Program \$120,000 (\$60,000 a year for 2 years) . (pending)***

This project will fill a much-needed gap in providing support to small land holders and community through awareness and education about weed management and will support those most in need of coordinated assistance to undertake control in areas that have been prioritised by the Central Highlands Weed Management Program through accessing grant opportunities. Community working bees and ‘how to’ sessions will also be held in key regional locations to support the development of awareness, skills and knowledge about local weed threats, harnessing community good will and offering social connection whilst working on creating positive change in the local landscape.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Josie Kelman, Executive Officer, The Derwent Catchment Project 0427 044 700

Eve Lazarus, NRM Co-ordinator, The Derwent Catchment Project 0429 170 048



# Central Highlands Weed Management Plan

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2016 -2021

For further information about this plan please contact the Derwent Catchment Natural Resource Management Committee via: [facilitator@derwentcatchment.org](mailto:facilitator@derwentcatchment.org).

This plan was compiled by Josie Kelman & Eve Lazarus.

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## Introduction

This weed management plan is a working document which can be updated as new information becomes available. The plan uses a prioritisation process to identify high value areas for protection from weed infestations and invasion. It also documents the known weed distributions in the Central Highlands.

The focus of the plan is to support stakeholders in their ongoing weed management and investment into the region. To reflect this, a series of tables in Section 7 provide priority sites for weed control by stakeholder.

This document is designed to allow incorporation of on-going stakeholder input via the collection of data which can be integrated into this plan as activities are progressively implemented. This process aims to ensure all weed priorities are recorded so control works can be more effectively planned and budgeted into the future.

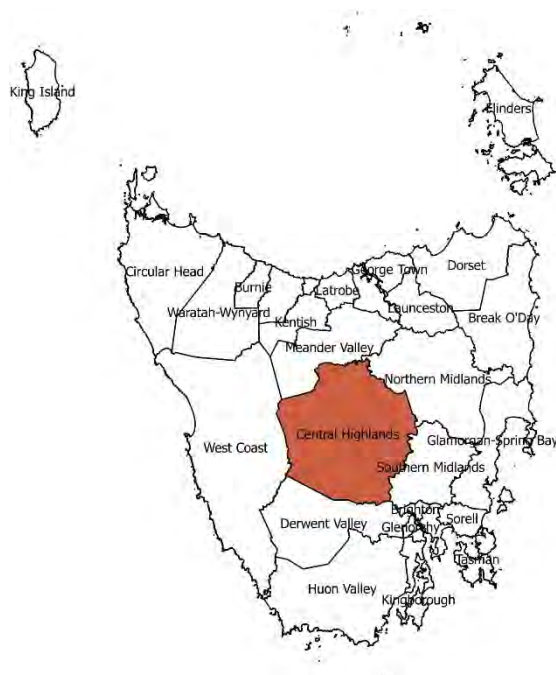
This plan also supports the implementation of individual Statutory Weed Management Plans and relies on the Southern Tasmanian Weed Management Strategy for the larger scale direction. The plan provides a strategy for managing weed threats on-ground by identifying priority weeds and the regionally specific causes of weed spread.

## Background

### 1.1 The region

The Central Highlands municipality encompasses 7,976 km<sup>2</sup> and is located in the center of Tasmania. It shares borders with the municipalities of Meander Valley to the north, Central Highlands to the South, West Coast to the West and the Southern and Northern Midlands to the east.

Land use is varied and includes agriculture (production of beef, sheep, poppies, freshwater aquaculture and dairying), forestry (plantation and native forest harvesting), conservation and tourism (including Cradle Mountain, Central Plateau Conservation Area, Walls of Jerusalem and the Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers National Park), hydroelectricity production and urban/rural residential areas.



### 1.2 Legal requirements of landholders

The *Weed Management Act 1999* was proclaimed on 1 September 2000. It is the principal legislation concerned with the management of declared weeds in Tasmania. This legislation states that “landholders must take all reasonable measures to prevent their land being infested with a declared weed and prevent a declared weed on their land from spreading. All landholders must also meet the management requirements as outlined in Statutory Weed Management Plans in order to comply with the *Weeds Management Act 1999*”.

The objectives of the Act are:

- (a) minimise negative effects of weeds on the sustainability of Tasmania's productive capacity and natural ecosystems;
- (b) promote a strategic and sustainable approach to weed management;
- (c) encourage community involvement in weed management; and
- (d) promote the sharing of responsibility for weed management between government, natural resource managers, the community and industry in Tasmania.

### *1.3 Principles of weed management*

Best practice principals are based on minimising weed spread and reducing the risk of new introductions. Preventing the introduction and spread of weeds is the most effective form of weed management. Many thousands of dollars can be saved by basic precautions, most importantly good hygiene practices.

Weed management requires a continuous, long-term commitment. Early detection of weed infestations followed by immediate control is the most successful weed management practice. It is also important to work from areas of low infestation and to address individual outliers before moving to more dense infestations. This approach ensures that light infestations do not become more difficult to address or provide a source of on-going infestation. Topography should also be considered moving from upslope to downslope to reflect the movement of water (and seed) in the landscape. It is also important to factor in maintenance of weed control efforts as part of budget allocation to successfully tackle weed problems.

In planning weed control works the environmental setting and local sensitivity should be considered. For example, in or near wetland areas foliar spray of large plants is inappropriate and mechanical control or hand control methods such as cut and paste or drill and fill should be undertaken. It may be that foliar spray is required on small plants after initial control measures due to large numbers of small seedling appearing. If so, herbicide should be water and frog safe e.g. Round Up Bioactive.

A key component of successful weed management is cooperation between landholders and land users to ensure a strategic approach. Legally, landholders and land users are both responsible for weed management and collective action is necessary where boundaries meet and adjacent landholder's impact upon or are impacted by others. Similarly, cooperation between government agencies and landholders is vital to establish the research, educational and legislative framework required for successful weed management. This plan focuses on Council and landholder responsibilities however additional efforts will be made to ensure that all stakeholders are engaged in the process and informed of weed control activities to develop a collaborative approach across the Municipality and between municipalities.

## **2 Plan objectives**

This plan has been undertaken by the Derwent Catchment NRM Committee with the objective of supporting government agencies to budget on longer time frames for weed management. In the past, the annual program has required lobbying and reactive responses dependent on available



resources. It is hoped by developing a longer term plan that weed control works can be budgeted and factored into strategic control with more reliable funding.

The plan draws together information across the municipality with the objective of identifying weed distribution at a broader landscape level to support strategic management and identify priorities. This information has been collected in a survey of all roadsides conducted in 2016 and from data entered into the Natural Values Atlas post September 2011.

A key objective of the plan was also to ensure that weed control priorities focus on places of high conservation value and significant agricultural areas in the region. It was anticipated that a refinement of priorities and weed management using a staged approach would provide a strategy based on budget realities.

### 3 Highlands and Upper Derwent Lakes weed management program

The Central Highlands Weed Management Program, facilitated by the Derwent Catchment Natural Resource Management (NRM) Committee, has been coordinating a collaborative weed control program across the Highlands and Upper Derwent lakes for the previous 5 years. This program supports a strategic approach to weed control by consulting with major landholders including State Government departments, businesses, Local Government and private landholders who manage land across the municipality. The NRM facilitation role has been important because on the organizational focus on whole of catchment rather than an individual landowner or manager focus which make coordination unviable. The strategy for weed control to date has been to target outlying populations of weeds and weed infestations in high value areas. Refer to Appendix I for a table of proposed actions for 2015-16 and whether actions were implemented. A precis for the key stakeholders in the program follows.

#### *3.1 Key stakeholders*

The Central Highlands Council is the principal manager of local community infrastructure including roads, waste collection, public recreation facilities and area planning. The Council is responsible for weed management across council owned land and council managed roads.

The Department of State Growth is responsible for maintenance and works along the State managed road network.

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), Biosecurity Section is responsible for the “protection of industries, environmental and public well-being, health, amenity and safety from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds”. Biosecurity Tasmania work in

partnership with community and industry. Invasive species management is part of their portfolio. DPIPW is also responsible for National Parks which form a large component of the Central Highlands Municipality. This responsibility includes weed management across the protected area estate.

NRM South are a regional NRM body who partner with government, landholders, research organisations and community groups to help manage Tasmania's natural resources. Biosecurity and weed management is a focus area of investment and program activity for NRM South. Private land makes up 52% of all land in the municipality and NRM South aim to support local landholders in NRM activities. The Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) manages a range of reserved lands that include national parks, regional reserves and conservation areas across Tasmania. PWS is responsible for management of 34% of land in the Central Highlands region. Parks have an ongoing commitment to weed control across this region and have also provided a substantial cash contribution to support the Poatina Fire Area Ragwort Program to the east of Great Lake which began last season.

Crown Land Services (CLS) facilitates the appropriate management, use and development of Crown land, including the licensing, leasing and sale of Crown properties. CLS is also responsible for management of unallocated Crown land.

Fifteen percent of land in the Central Highlands region is owned by forestry operations. Forestry Tasmania is a Tasmanian Government Business Enterprise responsible for management of large areas of forest across the State. Recent down turn in forestry activities has meant a reduction in on-ground weed management. Norske Skog also has plantation areas, which often adjoin State Forest. Norske Skog are a global company who operate a newsprint mill at Boyer on the outskirts of New Norfolk in the Central Highlands municipality. Norske are actively involved in weed management across their plantation estate.

Hydro Tasmania (Hydro) is a Tasmanian Government Business Enterprise and Australia's largest producer of renewable energy. Hydro are responsible for the management of land associated with extensive water infrastructure across the Central Highlands municipality.

TasNetworks is a Tasmanian Government Business Enterprise that supplies power from the generation source to homes and businesses through a network of transmission towers, substations and powerlines. They undertake weed control and vegetation maintenance under transmission lines as part of their contract as land managers.

Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) has jurisdiction over fish in all inland waters in the State. They are responsible for the management of the Recreational Fishery, Commercial Fishery and biodiversity, which covers native fish conservation, pest fish management and freshwater habitat protection.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) is a Tasmanian environmental organisation that owns and manages areas of high conservation value across the State. The Five Rivers is an 11,000-hectare reserve located within the Central Highlands municipality that encompasses the Nive, Serpentine, Pine, Little Pine and Little Rivers. Part of the Five Rivers Reserve is in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (WHA). The TLC have an active volunteer membership who participate annually in weed control within the reserve.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre own and manage trawtha makuminya which comprises 6,878 ha of land, previously known as Gowan Brae. This land connects the TLC reserves at Skullbone Plains and Five Rivers and the Tasmanian Wilderness WHA. Active weed management is ongoing across this site.

Many agricultural land managers are active in weed management outside the bounds of State Forest and the Protected Area system where agriculture is the predominant land use.

Southern Highlands Progress Association and the Angler's Alliance are community groups with active members who invest time in weed eradication within the region. There are other small community groups and many individual landholders who contribute to weed management in the area.

### *3.2 High conservation value areas*

Representing one of Australia's few alpine regions, the Central Plateau and the highlands region is considered to be highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Projected temperature rises are likely to increase threats from pests and disease. Increased shrub and tree invasion could lead to significantly transformed alpine ecosystems. It is anticipated that the changing role of fire will present considerable challenges. Unlike many other terrestrial ecosystems in Australia, Tasmanian alpine ecosystems have evolved largely in the absence of fire.

#### *3.2.1 Threatened Vegetation Communities of the Highlands*

There are 21 threatened vegetation communities found in the Central Highlands municipality of these 11 have more than 10% of their total distribution within the Highlands. Of the 11 communities, Highland *Poa* grassland, Highland grassy sedgeland and *Sphagnum* peatland have the majority of their extent within the region. For this reason alone, they form a priority for protection from weed invasion. Furthermore, the Highlands grassy sedgeland and Highland *Poa* grasslands are

at higher risk of weed invasion lying across a mixture of tenure types and close to roads. These areas form a high priority for conservation and weed management in the Central Highlands program. The *Diplarrena latifolia* rushland and wetlands occur across multiple tenures and are close to areas of known weed infestations. *Diplarrena latifolia* is an endemic species and these rushland communities are unique. The distribution of the communities across mixed tenures and close to roads increases the risk of weed invasion. More remote locations within protected areas have a lower risk of weed invasion and therefore generally require less control effort, unless outliers of priority weeds are identified close to these threatened communities.

**Table 3.1 Threatened vegetation communities in the Central Highlands**

Threatened Community	CHC total (ha)	State total (ha)	% in CHC
Highland grassy sedgeland	14669	18672	79%
Highland <i>Poa</i> grassland	16652	26094	64%
<i>Sphagnum</i> peatland	1938	3476	56%
<i>Athrotaxis cupressoides</i> open woodland	7368	16275	45%
<i>Eucalyptus tenuiramis</i> forest and woodland on sediments	18896	48113	39%
<i>Athrotaxis cupressoides</i> / <i>Nothofagus gunnii</i> short rainforest	1553	4501	34%
<i>Athrotaxis cupressoides</i> rainforest	1014	3578	28%
Subalpine <i>Diplarrena latifolia</i> rushland	309	1247	25%
Cushion moorland	615	3162	19%
Wetlands	2809	17933	16%
Riparian scrub	401	3124	13%

### 3.2.2 Individual Threatened Flora Species

There are 103 threatened flora species recorded in the Central Highlands, of these 21 are endemic to Tasmania. These species are listed as threatened under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 2000* (EPBC) and the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1985* (TSPA). Of the 103 species, 14 are listed under the EPBC Act the remainder are listed under the TSPA (See Appendix II for full species listings). Under the TSPA, 12 flora species are listed as endangered, 13 as vulnerable and the remainder as rare. All of these species have a wide distribution across the region and are frequently associated with threatened communities.

### 3.3 Significant agricultural areas

A core objective of this plan is to provide protection to key assets both natural and agricultural. Bothwell, Hamilton and Ouse districts contain the majority of the cropping land in the Derwent Catchment and are considered key agricultural assets. All irrigated cropping land and irrigated pastures have been identified as key assets in this plan. The protection of these areas is important

from an economic standpoint and significant investment in agricultural infrastructure has occurred. It is estimated that weeds cost Australian farmers around \$1.5 billion a year in weed control activities and a further \$2.5 billion a year in lost agricultural production (Commonwealth of Australia 2016). The minimisation and prevention of the spread of weed species within the agricultural areas is a priority in this plan.

## 4 Methodology

Weed distribution data (points and polygons) were collected using Global Positioning System (GPS) & Geographical Information System (GIS) by vehicle along Central Highlands Council maintained roads, council land and private land adjacent to roadways in core areas of the municipality. State Growth roads were also mapped in order to capture a holistic picture of weed distributions. The survey was conducted in late summer to autumn. Information was collected on the area occupied by the weed, the number of individuals and the infestation density, in accordance with the Natural Values Atlas record proforma (DPIPWE).

The focus of the mapping was declared weed species listed under the Tasmanian *Weed Management Act 1999*. Other weeds of significance were captured to create a more comprehensive picture of the extent of commonly occurring invasive species (Table 4.1). Where recent records exist in the Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas (NVA) on land beyond roadsides, this information has been included to build a broader understanding of weed distribution. We have also erred on the side of caution and included records of species recently recorded in the NVA but which may not have been observed due to seasonality.

The following list of recorded weed species are categorized as to whether they are: declared under the *Weed Management Act 1999*; recognised environmental weeds; or introduced species which are non-declared weeds. These non-declared species are often weeds of road sides and degraded areas.

**Table 4.1 Recorded weed species**

<b>Species name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Slender thistle	Declared
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	Saffron thistle	Declared
<i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i>	Tree lucerne	Environmental weed
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Californian thistle	Declared
<i>Cortaderia</i> species	Pampas grasses	Declared
<i>Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	Montbretia	Environmental weed
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	English broom	Declared
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Paterson's curse	Declared
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Canadian pondweed	Declared
<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Spanish heath	Declared
<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>	Caper spurge	Environmental weed
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Declared
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Canary broom	Declared
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holy	Environmental weed
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Ragwort	Declared
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Whiteweed	Declared
<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>	Shasta daisy	Non-declared
<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	Tree lupin	Environmental weed
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	African boxthorn	Declared
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Horehound	Declared
<i>Onopordum</i> sp.	Cotton thistles	Declared
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star of Bethlehem	Non-declared
<i>Pittosporum</i> x	<i>Pittosporum</i>	Environmental weed
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Radiata pine	Non-declared
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Sweet briar	Non-declared
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Blackberry	Declared
<i>Salix</i> species	Willow	Declared
<i>Typha</i> species	Cumbungi	Non-declared
<i>Ulex europeaus</i>	Gorse	Declared
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great mullein	Non-declared
<i>Vicia major</i>	Blue periwinkle	Environmental weed

Note: X signifies hybrid

The weed distribution information collected was used to identify priority areas for control and areas suitable for eradication zones by identifying outliers which require priority control.

The term eradication zone is used to describe areas that will be targeted for the removal of all declared and priority weeds. Priority sites are locations identified as critical in reducing risk of weed spread. The areas that require priority management within the region were determined by assessing the significance of natural and agricultural values (See section 6).

## 5 Limitations and assumptions

Although all care was taken to capture data of weed locations, the nature of this survey (being undertaken by vehicle driving slowly along the road) means the possibility of smaller stature weeds, some grasses and weeds not in flower may have been overlooked.

Due to budget constraints, a comprehensive survey across all land tenures was not possible. To address this, weed distribution data in the NVA was added to data collected during the survey. It will not be comprehensive and many weeds will have more extensive distribution than mapped in this project. However, we can only plan, based on the information available and treat this document as a living document to be added to when new priority weeds and locations for control arise.

## 6 Regional priorities

This section of the plan identifies:

- high conservation value areas as weed eradication zones;
- likely causes of weed spread around the region; and
- priority weed species for eradication.

We recommend a *two phase approach* to begin to address the weed issues in the Central Highlands.

**Phase 1** aim to eradicate priority weed outliers and priority weeds within priority zones and

**Phase 2** link priority zones with buffer areas and focusing on the WHA.

Phase1 identifies both sites and zones for control. Neither have priority over the other as outlier control is considered fundamental to best practice weed management. The zones are also vital as they prioritise weed control based on conservation and agricultural value protection.

Recommendation for control timing is included in the tables. Priority sites are listed in both table and map form to provide easily accessible location and distribution information. Eradication zones for ongoing weed eradication efforts are provided in map form with tables specifying the weed types and extent of individual infestations (see Maps 5-10).

Roadsides are currently maintained by Council and State Growth however the focus is on the road verges for safety reasons. This means that the remaining area of road easement often does not have an active weed control program. The majority of weeds observed were found to occur in these areas beyond the road verge and were often associated with fence lines. Roads act as a major pathway through the landscape for weed dispersal. Although not all roads or the entire lengths of a road are identified as priorities the weed control works in these areas are important. They are important because roads play such as important role in the transport and pathways of weeds into priority zones. The priority zones are instead a means of focusing investment to ensure key values are maintained as a matter of first preference.

### 6.1 *Threatened species and community areas of overlap*

To highlight high value conservation areas requiring a focus for weed control efforts we undertook an analysis of where threatened flora species and threatened communities overlapped. This approach was undertaken to help rationalise control efforts for those stakeholders with large areas of roads and reserved areas. The WHA and a 10 km buffer is also considered to be a high value area for control. These high value areas are recommended to be eradication zones. There were easily observable cluster areas where this occurred:1. Waddamana to Lake Echo, 2. Shannon to Lagoon of



Islands, 3. Lake Augusta, 4. Interlaken wetlands and Ramsar, 5. Poatina Fire Area, 6. Pine Tier to Derwent Bridge, 7. Osterley to Waddamana Road and 8. Marked Tree area (see Figure 6.1).

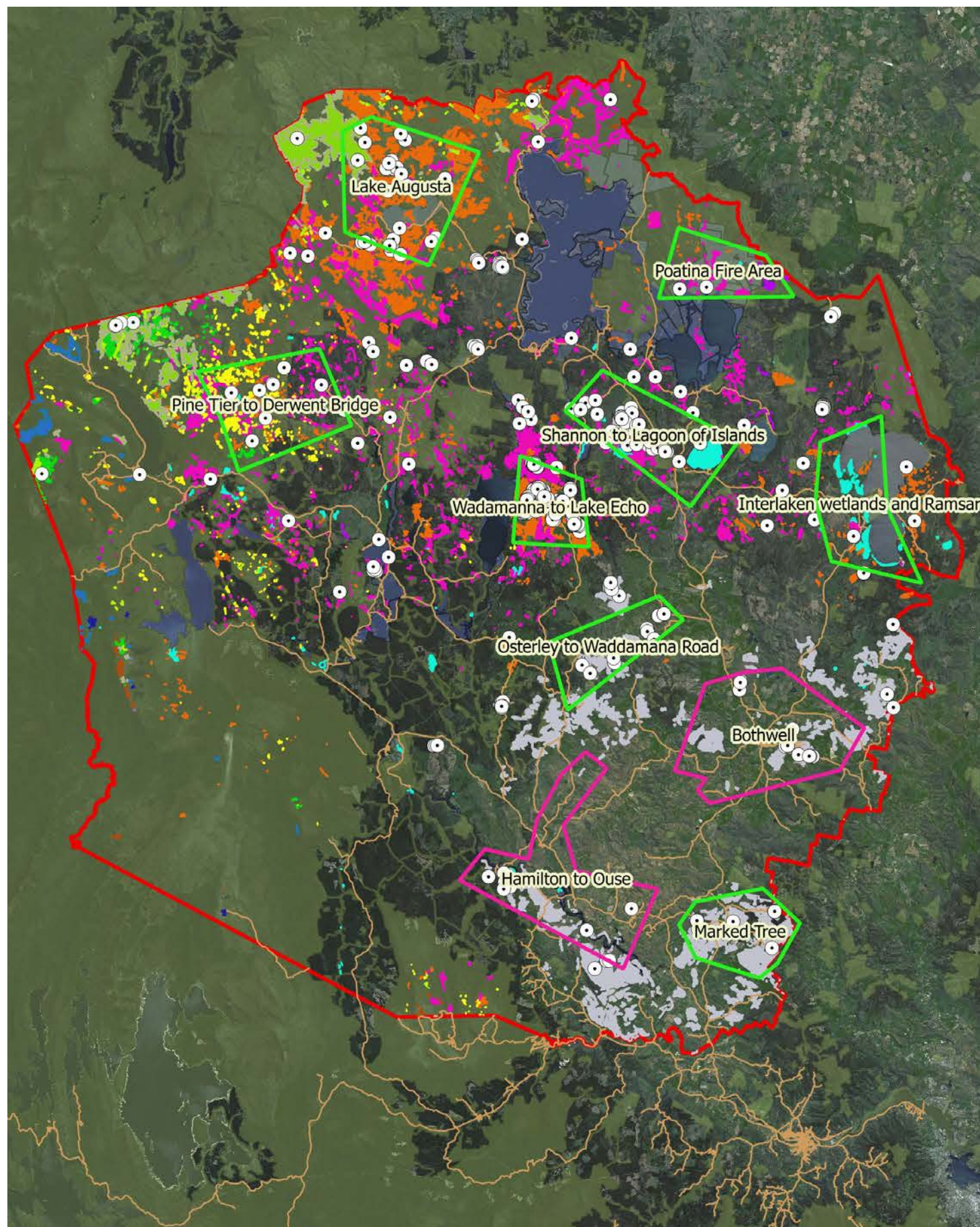
- 1) **Waddamana to Lake Echo** has extensive areas of highland grassy sedgeland and highland *Poa* grassland with numerous records for the orchid species *Prasophyllum crebriflorum* and *Pterostylis pratensis* both of which have their main populations within the Highlands. There are also records of *Discaria pubescens*, *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* which also have the majority of their population within the Highlands. *Brachyscome radicata* and *Asperula Scoparia* var. *scoparia* recorded in this location have wider distributions.
- 2) **Shannon to Lagoon of Islands** contains significant wetlands and highland sedgey grasslands. Similar to the Waddamana lake to Lake Echo region, it has records of: *Pterostylis pratensis*, *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* and *Asperula scoparia* var. *scoparia*. In addition, a broader range of other species are found: *Isoetes humilior* (CHC restricted), *Scleranthus brockiei*, *Ranunculus pumelo* var. *pumelo*, *Calocephalus lacteus* (CHC and Midlands restricted), *Plantago glacialis*, *Amphibromus neesii*, *Stellaria multiflora*, *Eucalyptus gunnii* var. *divaricata* (CHC restricted), *Colobanthus curtisiae*.
- 3) **Lake Augusta** has extensive areas of highland *Poa* grassland. Threatened species recorded include *Ranunculus jugosus* (CHC restricted), *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*, *Viola cunninghamii*, *Australopyrum velutinum*, *Ranunculus collicola*, *Planocarpa nitida* (CHC restricted), *Uncinia elegans*, *Scleranthus brockiei*, *Epilobium willisii* (CHC main population).
- 4) **Interlaken wetlands and Ramsar** contains many smaller wetlands as well as the Interlaken Ramsar site and it is for this reason identified as a priority. Threatened species include: *Ranunculus pumelo* var. *pumelo*, *Colobanthus curtisiae*, *Scleranthus brockiei*, *Eucalyptus gunnii* subsp. *divaricata* and *Baumea gunnii*.
- 5) **Poatina Fire Area** is unique in having contiguous sections of the highland *Diplarrena latifolia* rushland as well as highland sedgey rushland. It is primarily for this reason that this area has been highlighted as a priority. In addition, the threatened species *Agrostis australiensis* and *Ranunculus jugosus* are found in the highland *Poa* grassland of this area.
- 6) **Pine Tier to Derwent Bridge** reaches from private land at Pine Tier through Gowan Brae and into the Central Plateau Conservation Area. This region contains large areas of highland grassy sedgeland and *Sphagnum* peatland. Threatened species in these communities include: *Isoetes humilior*, *Viola cunninghamii*, *Pterosphaera hookeriana*, *Carex capillacea* (CHC restricted), *Uncinia elegans*, *Hovea montana* (main population) and *Carex gunniana*.

- 7) **Osterley to Waddamana Road.** This area has a large area of *Eucalyptus tenuiramis* forest/woodland and contains *Ranunculus sessiliflorus*, *Discaria pubescens* (main population), *Cryptandra amara*, *Colobanthus curtisiae*, *Barbarea australis*, *Scleranthus fasciculatus*.
- 8) **Marked Tree.** This section is predominated by *Eucalyptus tenuiramis* forest and numerous threatened species are found in the area including: *Vittadinia muelleri*, *Vittadinia cuneata* var. *cuneata*, *Vittadinia gracilis*, *Austrostipa nodosa*, *Eucalyptus perriniana*, *Pentachondra ericifolia*, and *Poa mollis*.

## 6.2 Agricultural priority zones

Two zones for weed control have been identified as agricultural priority zones due to high value cropping and irrigated pasture infrastructure. This includes the area around Bothwell and Ouse to Hamilton. The increasing infrastructure associated with the Bothwell Irrigation Scheme means that over time this area is likely to increase and will need to be reviewed. These areas have a high level of weed invasion due to a long history of settlement and associated disturbance. The focus of recommended control is on species which have an ongoing and or potential impact on the costs of production for the agricultural industry. It is anticipated that once key weed infestations within these two priority zones are under control, the focus would shift to connecting these areas along Hollow Tree Road. This will also fit with the increased infrastructure investment associated with the Bothwell irrigation scheme.





## Legend

### Priority Zones

□ Agricultural

□ Conservation

○ Threatened Flora & Threatened Veg Community overlap

— Roads

### Threatened Veg Communities

■ Athrotaxis cupressoides open woodland

■ Athrotaxis cupressoides rainforest

■ Athrotaxis cupressoides/Nothofagus gunnii short rainforest

■ Athrotaxis selaginoides rainforest

■ Athrotaxis selaginoides subalpine scrub

■ Athrotaxis selaginoides/Nothofagus gunnii short rainforest

■ Cushion moorland

■ Eucalyptus tenuiramis forest and woodland on sediments

■ Highland grassy sedgeland

■ Highland Poa grassland

■ Sphagnum peatland

■ Subalpine Diplarrena latifolia rushland

■ Wetlands

□ CHC municipality

0 10 20 30 km



Figure 6.1 Priority Weed Management Zones



### 6.3 *Causes of weed spread*

Weeds are typically spread by propagules which can be transported by wind, water, animals and people. Understanding the life cycles of weed species is important in implementing effective management. This relates to timing for control, removal of plants and developing appropriate hygiene protocols. Hygiene protocols for reducing weed spread are currently limited for the Municipality. This is seen as a key cause for increasing weed spread. Weed hygiene protocols and their delivery to key weed control and asset management staff is a critical tool to accompany this plan and for ensuring this plan is as effective as possible. It is anticipated that most key stakeholder will have existing protocols however it is important to ensure that these are continually delivered to changing staff and improved knowledge of weed hygiene and management is updated for all staff.

#### 6.3.1 Vehicles, machinery & equipment

Machinery and vehicles are known to be a major vector for weed spread. Earthmoving equipment or maintenance machinery, such as slashers, can carry thousands of viable seeds and fragments to new areas.

#### 6.3.2 Contaminated sand and gravel

Another major vector is contaminated sand and gravel. Road maintenance often includes the movement of material from quarries around the Municipality. This is a common problem associated with all road construction across Australia. It is vital that all quarries, including informal quarries, are not contaminated with weeds.

Stockpile areas should be established with appropriate drainage and maintained free of weeds and should not be established in areas known to be weed infected e.g. Lyell Hwy at Butlers Rd intersection. Managing quarry sites and sand and gravel stockpiles is a key component of effective weed hygiene.

#### 6.3.3 Transported livestock feed

Due to fire or drought events, there are times where feed is required to be brought in from other regions. Unfortunately, this is also a pathway for unwanted weeds to be introduced to an otherwise clean area. There are commonly accepted strategies for managing this risk:

- Check the origin of your hay or grain stock feed and ask whether it has come from a known weed infested area?
- Keep records of purchased hay or grain stock feed.

- Store and feed-out in a confined area away from drainage lines (stock containment areas) to reduce the likelihood of weeds being spread throughout your property.
- Monitor storage and feed-out areas regularly and be suspicious of unfamiliar plants that germinate for the next 12 months.

It is important to consider these strategies and to communicate widely about control methods at times of drought, fire and flood to prevent unwanted weed introductions.

#### 6.3.4 Garden escapes

Environmental weeds are often garden escapes and are usually spread by: birds, suckering of the plants to nearby areas; and garden waste dumped inappropriately. In the past 30 years, at least 35% of all plants that have become environmental weeds in Tasmania were deliberately introduced as garden plants. Strategies to combat this problem include: community education programs and green waste collection schemes.

Montbretia is a good example of a garden escapee which is an environmental weed that is spreading in the region, particularly within drains and areas of low lying water. This species is a hybrid of two tropical South African species which originates from France. Montbretia is very hard to eradicate as it can re-sprout from small fragments of bulbs (corms). Although this species is not declared, it is an emerging threat as it easily out-competes native plants, particularly in native bushland and riparian areas. It should be monitored and removed where possible.

## 7 Results

This section provides a list of priority weed species (Table 7.1) surveyed and for which distribution was mapped (Appendix III). It also details the control measures required in priority zones based on survey information. Costs of control are provided based on estimated time required for control at each location.

### 7.1 Weed species status

Eighteen declared weeds and five non-declared weeds under the Tasmanian *Weed Management Act 1999* were recorded during the survey. Eight environmental weeds were also recorded in the municipality.

Thirteen species have been identified in this plan as priority weeds for whole of municipality control. These species have been selected as priority weeds due to the lesser extent of occurrence across the Municipality and/or the threat that they represent. Other species have been identified for control at specific sites as they represent outliers or are acting as a major seed source to local areas where there are few other records.

**Table 7.1 Status assigned to weed species in the Central Highlands**

Weed name	Priority	Action for Central Highlands	Reasons	Status
African boxthorn	Whole municipality	Eradication all sites	WONS - Limited distribution, achievable target - high priority weed for the Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy	Declared weed
African lovegrass	Whole municipality	Eradication all sites	Limited distribution, achievable target	Declared weed
Blackberry	Site specific action	Control &/or monitor in priority zones, control outliers	WONS - Control further spread, impacting conservation & agricultural priority zones	Declared weed
Blue periwinkle	Recorded from one site	Eradication all sites	Limited distribution, achievable target	Environmental weed
Brooms	Site specific action	Control in priority zones, control outliers	WONS - Control achievable in highland lakes areas	Declared weed
Canadian pondweed	Beyond scope of plan	Beyond scope of plan	Widespread distribution in waterways, very hard to control	Declared weed

Weed name	Priority	Action for Central Highlands	Reasons	Status
Cumbungi	Site specific action	Control in priority zones	Limited distribution in highland lakes area, control achievable	Non-declared weed
Declared thistles (Saffron, Winged/Slender, Californian)	Site specific action	Control in priority zones	High risk weeds, potential to impact both conservation and agricultural values	Declared weed
Elisha's Tears	Whole municipality	Eradication all sites	Limited distribution, achievable target	Declared weed
Euphorbia	Recorded from one site	Eradication all sites	Limited distribution, achievable target	Environmental weed
Fennel	Whole municipality s	Control in priority zones, control outliers	High risk weed, potential to impact agricultural values	Declared weed
Foxglove	Whole municipality	Eradication all sites	Limited distribution, achievable target, toxic weed	Environmental weed
Gorse	Site specific action	Control in priority zones, control outliers	WONS - Control further spread in priority zones	Declared weed
Holly	Whole municipality	Eradication all sites	Limited distribution, achievable target	Environmental weed
Horehound	Site specific action	Control in priority zones, control outliers	High risk weed, potential to impact agricultural values	Declared weed
Montbretia	Whole municipality	Eradication all sites	Limited distribution, achievable target	Environmental weed
Mullein	Site specific action	Control as part of roadside maintenance	Widespread distribution along roadsides	Non-declared weed
Orange hawkweed	Whole municipality	Eradication all sites	Limited distribution, achievable target - Australian Alert List for Environmental Weeds	Declared weed
Pampas Grass	Whole municipality	Eradication all sites	Limited distribution, achievable target	Declared weed
Patterson's curse	Whole municipality	Control in priority zones, control outliers	High risk weed, potential to impact agricultural values	Declared weed
<i>Pittosporum</i> sp.	Recorded from one site	Eradication all sites	Limited distribution, achievable target	Environmental weed

Weed name	Priority	Action for Central Highlands	Reasons	Status
Ragwort	Site specific action	Control in priority zones, control outliers	High risk weed impacting conservation priority zones - high priority weed for the southern region NRM strategy	Declared weed
Spanish heath	Whole municipality	Eradication all sites	Limited distribution, achievable target - high priority weed for the Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy	Declared weed
Star of Bethlehem	Whole municipality	Eradication all sites	Known from one site, achievable target	Non-declared weed
Sweet briar	Beyond scope of plan	Beyond scope of plan	Naturalised, control opportunistically	Non-declared weed
White weed	Whole municipality	Eradication all sites	High risk weed, potential to impact agricultural values	Declared weed
Willows	Site specific action	Control in high value conservation priority zones	WONS - Impacting conservation & agricultural priority zones	Declared weed



Below is a description of the species identified as priorities for control (see Appendix III for distribution maps of weed species).

**African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*)** is a woody shrub reaching up to 4 m in height, with glossy leaves and an extensive root system incorporating a long branched taproot. The trunk and branches are light brown and smooth when young, turning darker brown or grey with age. The twigs end in a hard, sharp spike or thorn.

The white flowers are usually produced in summer, although flowering can occur through most of the year. The fruit is an oblong berry approximately 10 mm long, going from a smooth green appearance to bright orange-red when ripe. Fruits contain numerous small, oval, flattened seeds. Seeds germinate at any time of the year and generally take two years to reach flowering stage (DPIPWE 2016).

ABT is found throughout most agricultural areas of Tasmania it is common along fence lines and beneath overhead wires as well as a long roadsides railways and waterways. Surprisingly only 8 sites were recorded as part of the roadside survey, and although the Statutory Weed Management Plan for African Boxthorn indicates this species is classed as Zone B - 'widespread infestations'. The recent on-ground survey results indicate it is less widespread and therefore a priority for eradication.

**African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)** is a densely tufted, perennial (long-lived) grass growing from 30 to 120 cm high. The leaves are dark green to blue-green, narrow, and 25 to 35 cm long. The flowering stems rise above the tufted leaves and carry a loose fanlike grey-green flower-head. It is not well recognized and awareness of the species is low in Tasmania. The distribution of African lovegrass is limited in Tasmania. Targeted surveys and treatment have been undertaken by Department of State Growth between Hayes and Ouse. The heaviest infestation is the northern approaches to Gretna. It is seen as a high risk species as climate models based on its known distribution in Africa show that the majority of Tasmania with the exception of the South-west is suitable for the species.

African lovegrass prefers disturbed soils on roadsides, riverbanks and waste places, from which it can invade adjacent degraded pastures and native grasslands. African lovegrass is generally unpalatable, produces copious seed, and can rapidly spread over and dominate degraded pastures. It competes with native species during regeneration after fire; it can also out compete pasture species. It becomes unpalatable to stock as it ages and contains low (3%) levels of protein, causing stock that graze on it to do poorly.

The Central Highlands is a Zone A municipality under the African Lovegrass Statutory Weed Management Plan. It was not recorded in the region when that weed plan was written. This has obviously changed and its eradication is a high priority.

**Blue periwinkle (*Vinca major*)** has broad-leaved runners that form a dense mat, shading out native plants and competing for moisture and nutrients. Its growth is particularly vigorous in riparian and other moist habitats. It competes with native plants for moisture, light, nutrients and recruitment niches. Its growth is particularly vigorous in riparian and other moist habitats. Once established, periwinkle's rampant growth is very difficult to control, especially in bushland. Blue periwinkle is native to the Mediterranean region. It is widespread in Tasmania but does not extend into the alpine zones. Blue periwinkle expand spreads by means of creeping stems that take root at the nodes and tips. New infestations can establish from plant fragments when broken off and transported by dumping of garden waste, soil movement or floods. It spreads from gardens, roadsides, nature strips, firebreaks, fence lines and neglected rubbish dumps into the bush and along waterways.

**Elisha's tears (*Leycesteria formosa*)** occurs in wetter forests and woodlands in Tasmania's north-east, north-west, west and south. Elisha's tears invades cool moist forests, woodlands and riparian areas. Elisha's tears can invade both disturbed and undisturbed bush, and can form dense thickets that smother other vegetation and prevent regeneration. Elisha's tears is not killed by shading from other plants, so the establishment of competition is not an effective means of control. Mature plants can produce hundreds of fruit over summer and autumn, with each fruit containing up to 100 seeds. Seed is dispersed by birds and possibly by foxes and possums, in water, by slashing and during removal of the weed (DPIPWE 2016).

Stem layering occurs where stems contact moist soil and send down roots. Dislodged fragments of stem that fall on moist soil may also regenerate. Vegetative material can be spread by slashing and during removal of the weed (DPIPWE 2016)

Central Highlands is a Zone A municipality for Elisha's tears meaning that is a weed for eradication in the region.

**Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)** is a biennial herb with a rosette of soft, blue-grey hairy leaves that produces a tall flower spike of white, pink or purple tubular flowers with dark mottling. It can be dispersed by wind, water, and soil because it has very small seeds. It invades wet forests, riparian and alpine areas, where it replaces native herbs. Extremely toxic to livestock and humans. It has a widespread distribution due to its popularity as a garden plant. It is typically mostly seen along

roadsides and rivers in the Highlands where disturbance is common but it can heavily invade and become dominant. It is also difficult to control due to its toxic nature and persistence.

**Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)**, Fennel is a significant weed of open, exposed sites like roadsides, railways, wastelands, channels and drains which receive abundant water or runoff. Fennel is also grown as a commercial crop in Tasmania. Fennel is a declared weed in Tasmania under the *Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999*. The Central Highlands is a Zone B municipality and commercial crops are grown. However, the main distribution is around Hamilton to Ouse. The distribution of wild fennel is impacting on the industries capacity to grow Fennel as a seed crop and it is recommended that this weed be treated as a priority in the agricultural zones.

**Holly (*Ilex quifolium*)** is a much-branched shrub or small tree; leaves glossy and deep green, often with wavy edges and sharp spines. Flowers, small, pinkish-white in clusters of three. Bright red berries in Autumn. Its seed is dispersed by birds and animals; may also spread vegetatively. It invades cool, damp forest, replacing native plants and shrubs. It is particularly invasive on riversides. It is best controlled by cut and painting or drilling and filling. It can be difficult to control due its ability to re-sprout from root stock. This species has been identified as suitable for listing as a Weed of National Significance.

**Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*)** was only located from a couple of surveyed sites, however it has been observed more widely and is likely that this species occurs across the agricultural zones. It is listed as a Zone B species according to the Statutory Weed Management Plan. Horehound is weed of pasture and crops and is particularly troublesome in the Midlands grazing areas. Due to the minimal infestation observed on roadsides and recorded in the NVA it is recommended as a priority for control.

**Montbretia (*Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*)** originates from Africa. It is a stiff, leafy, clump-forming, evergreen perennial with underground rhizomes. It has light brown corms with a fibrous cover and which form clusters at the stem base. Orange flowerheads are tall and zig-zag shaped. It produces few seeds, but corms and rhizomes multiply rapidly and it also grows from fragments. Tolerates frost and heat, damage and grazing, damp, most soils, and moderate shade. It is spread by soil movement (road graders, fill), vegetation dumping and water movement spreads this weed from roadsides, slips, wasteland and exotic plantations. It competes with groundcovers and small shrubs, and inhibits the establishment of native plant seedlings. Specialised low-growing species may be displaced, especially in wet places and riparian margins. It is a serious threat to the Highlands Sedgeland and

Grassland communities, as it mostly invades low-growing habitats, riparian areas, fernland, short tussock, and wetlands.

Controlled best digging out very small sites and on larger sites by weed wiping or foliar spray (depending on the environmental constraints). It thrives on disturbance as corms and rhizomes readily re-sprout. It is also fire tolerant. Sites regenerating to canopy over 2 m can normally be left alone, and may benefit from thinning where the weed is dense. Follow up is required 6-monthly. Replanting with dense groundcover is a useful method to minimise re-sprouting.

**Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)** appears on the National Alert List for weeds. Orange hawkweed is a hairy herb with leaves in a basal rosette. When broken, its stems and leaves exude a milky sap. Individual plants spread via lateral leafy shoots (stolons) which take root and produce new leaf tufts. Its leaves are in basal tufts, about 150 mm long and 30 mm wide, broadest slightly above midway and lacking a conspicuous stalk. The margins entire or indistinctly toothed. Both leaf surfaces bearing fine, spreading hairs about 4 mm long. Its flower heads are quite densely clustered at the end of an erect leafless stem about 350 mm long which is covered with spreading hairs. Each flower head is about 15 to 30 mm in diameter, consisting of several rows of bright reddish-orange florets, all surrounded by one or two rows of narrow green bracts up to 8 mm long.

Orange hawkweed is established in Kosciuszko National Park in New South Wales. In Victoria it has also spread from Falls Creek Alpine Village to surrounding alpine and subalpine vegetation, at least as far as Basalt Hill, approximately 4 km southeast from the village, and has also been found at Mt Buller. In Tasmania, it has established in the Central Highlands and Southern Midlands, and around Hobart where the largest infestation occurs in the vicinity of the suburb of Fern Tree at the foot of Mt Wellington (Commonwealth of Australia 2016).

Orange hawkweed colonises spaces between tussock grasses, often in higher altitude areas, and can be extremely invasive (DPIPWE 2016). On the mainland of Australia, particularly in the Australian Alps, heavy infestations form large swards which prevent regeneration and survival of native species and reduce productivity in grazing areas. It is for this reason Orange hawkweed is seen as a high risk weed, particularly to the Central Highlands threatened highland *Poa* and sedgeland communities.

**Pampas grasses (*Cortaderia* spp.)** are aggressive environmental weeds. There are three species of pampas in Tasmania: *Cortaderia selloana* (common pampas grass) *C. jubata*, (pink pampas) and *C. richardii* (toe toe). They have been treated in this plan as a single species for simplicity. All are large, vigorous, dense, tussocky perennials. Pampas leaves grow up to 2 m long, are thin and tapered to a

fine tip. The large and showy, plume-like flower heads can reach 4 metres in height and vary in colour from white-yellow-pink. Pampas flowers and sets seed in autumn (DPIPWE 2016).

Pampas can rapidly colonise disturbed or burnt areas in a range of vegetation types where it readily out-competes native vegetation. Pampas is problematic for the forestry industry, and can impede access along roads and walking tracks. Pampas is also highly flammable and poses a significant fire hazard (DPIPWE 2016).

Central Highlands is a Zone A municipality for Pampas Grasses meaning that is a weed for eradication in the region.

**Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*)** occurs across Tasmanian agricultural areas as small scattered infestations. It is a significant pasture weed. Paterson's curse is an erect plant around 60 to 90 cm high. Seedlings appear in autumn and develop into a rosette (a flat whorl of leaves close to the ground) in winter. One or several flowering stems are produced in late winter and flowering occurs in spring. Flowers are trumpet shaped and usually blue/purple, but may be pink or white (DPIPWE 2016)

Infestations of Paterson's curse are known from the roadside and properties adjacent to the Derwent River on Meadowbank Dam. The Statutory Weed Management Plan for Paterson's curse indicates that in the Central Highlands this species is classed as Zone B - 'localized infestations'. The spread of Paterson's curse from the municipality or neighboring clean properties must be prevented. It is toxic to stock where it becomes dominant in pasture and when it is in flower. It can heavily invade disturbed areas becoming pervasive in degraded pasture. It is difficult to control with herbicide and opportunistic grazing before flowering can be an important tool for control. It is typically spread by machinery, livestock and livestock feed.

**Spanish Heath (*Erica lusitanica*)** has significant infestations in many areas of Tasmania. It is most commonly found on degraded pastures, neglected areas and roadsides. Spanish heath will invade native vegetation, particularly where there has been soil disturbance. Spanish heath is a fire hazard as it is extremely combustible. The Statutory Weed Management Plan for Spanish heath indicates this species is classed as Zone B - 'widespread infestations'. The spread of Spanish heath from the municipality must be prevented. Priority infestations identified in this plan are currently manageable in eradication terms and would prevent this species from becoming a bigger problem.

**Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*)** is a lesser known weed which has been recorded in the Bothwell area. The Star of Bethlehem is a perennial bulb, up to 30 cm tall, annual leaves with a

white stripe down the middle and clusters of white flowers with a green band down the back of the petals. The true stem is underground. The Star of Bethlehem grows from seeds, bulbils and bulbs. Flowers in spring and spreads by seed and bulbils which will travel in water flows and/or are transported by ants. The main spread is by intentional planting, the dumping of garden refuse, earthworks and tillage. It is a weed of disturbed areas, rotation crops, perennial crops and grass land. Bulbs contain alkaloids which are toxic to grazing animals.

Star of Bethlehem is typically found in no-till production but can also be found in reduced-tillage systems with germination of bulbs from 3 to 4 inches deep. The thick vegetation and bulb density impedes planting practices and can reduce crop establishment and vigor. Infestations impact on crop growth and mechanical operations due to the high bulb density and dense foliage. Bulb densities are estimated to be up to 15 million bulbs per hectare which reduces the total soil volume, seed to soil contact and root to soil contact of crop species. Star of Bethlehem is often misidentified because of a low level of awareness by landholders. Star of Bethlehem also acts as an alternative host for barley leaf rust.

**Whiteweed (*Cardaria draba*)** is closely related to crop plants such as cabbages and rapeseed. It is an erect, herbaceous (non-woody) plant growing to 90 cm high with white, umbrella shaped flower heads which appear in October and November. Individual flowers are 4 mm in diameter with 4 white petals (DPIPWE 2016). White weed appears to be spreading in the Highlands, especially along roadsides in the Bothwell area.

Whiteweed is a significant weed of crops in Tasmania, reducing yields through competition with crop plants for moisture and nutrients. It is very difficult to control once it has become established in cropping paddocks. Whiteweed is also thought to taint the meat and milk of grazing animals (DPIPWE 2016). Central Highlands is a Zone A municipality for White Weed meaning that is a weed for eradication in the region

## *7.2 Sites of significance as seed sources*

### Wayatinah

The Wayatinah township has had a long history of use and was established as part of Hydro development in 1950s. The town and surrounds impacted by weeds covers a range of tenures including Hydro, Council, Private, Forestry and State Growth. There are a broad range of weed species including those not recorded elsewhere in the vicinity and there is evidence of spread of these species down adjoining roads. English broom was particularly abundant and this area is acting as a seed source. A comprehensive survey was beyond the scope of this plan, however we identified a need for a clear strategy to reduce the spread of weeds from this area.

### Dee Lagoon

The area around the Dee dam wall has a large infestation of English Broom and Gorse. The site stretches for approximately 1km on either side of the wall along Victoria Valley Road and along Lake Echo Road for several hundred meters. A comprehensive survey of the site was beyond the scope of this plan. It was observed that the surrounding areas are in the majority weed free. This site is acting as a major seed source. The land is owned by Forestry Tasmania. However, the transmission lines which have heavy infestations of Broom are acting as transport corridors for the weed. The transmission lines are managed by TasNetworks.

## *7.3 Weed control recommendations for each stakeholder*

A selection of priority sites has been identified based on whether they are outliers in a weeds known distribution or occur within a high value conservation zone or a high value agricultural zone. These sites are part of a collaborative program which is supported by each stakeholder as well as action on private land. Due to privacy issues we have identified landholders in the table as the number involved in identified sites. The tables below provide this information separately for each stakeholder with an estimate of cost per control at each site. These costs are based on time required at each site for two staff at \$70/hour and do not include herbicide or travel times. The estimate per site is based on the type of weed and the size and density of the infestation. Please note that the ordering of the tables is not indicative of priorities, the tables detail the designated years for control recommended.

The program is designed to be collaborative with the combined efforts focusing on priority zones and weed outliers. There are two requests for collaborative investment into individual site weed management plans:

1. Revised weed management plan for Dago Point (joint investment from NRM South and Crownland Services) and
2. Combined investment for a weed management plan for Wayatinah where the township and surrounding area are heavily infested with a range of weeds including priority species.

Investment for this weed plan is requested from CHC, Hydro, Forestry Tasmania and Crownland Services.

You will notice that in most instances year 4 and 5 actions and investment are to be determined by monitoring unless the infestation is large and well established. There is a plan to undertake an evaluation in year 4, refer to Section 8 for more information.



#### 7.4 Central Highlands Council recommendations for weed control

The Central Highlands Council has the largest recommended program due to the extensive road network that they are responsible for managing (see Tables 6.1 and 6.2). The Derwent Catchment NRM Committee will support their activities by contacting landholders with weed infestations adjacent to proposed works and also as one of Council's designated weed officers as and when required. DCNRMC will also support activities with monitoring and small infestation control efforts.

Please note there is a request to fund a detailed weed management plan for Wayatinah which has extensive weed infestations which are gradually expanding. The plan would cover a mixture of tenure Council, Crownland, Hydro and Forestry.

**Table 7.1 Central Highlands Council – Weed control recommendations – Priority Zones**

Weed	Priority Zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs	\$
African boxthorn	Bothwell	Barrack Hill, Bothwell	1	Control	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Blackberry	Bothwell	Croakers Lane, river through town	2	Follow up	4	560	Follow up	5	700	Follow up	5	700	Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Blackberry	Hamilton/Ouse	Ellendale Rd, 500m from Dunrobin	-							Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Blackberry	Hamilton/Ouse	Dawson Rd, several sites	1							Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Blackberry	Hamilton/Ouse	Victoria Valley Rd, several sites through waterways	2				Monitor	DCNRMC		Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Blackberry	Marked Tree	Pelham Road, 2 sites before CHC boundary stops	2				*Control	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Determined by monitoring		
Blackberry	Osterley to Waddamana Rd	Osterley (Church Street, 2 sites - McGuire's Marsh Rd, 2 sites - Victoria Valley Rd 1 site)	2				Control	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Determined by monitoring		
Blue periwinkle	Hamilton/Ouse	Victoria Valley Rd, 150 m north of Lanes Tier junction on roadside bank	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Brooms	Bothwell	Meadsfield Rd, 4 sites	2	*Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Brooms	Hamilton/Ouse	Lanes Tier Rd (close to Victoria Valley Rd intersection, 4 sites)	1				Control	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Determined by monitoring		
Brooms	Osterley to Waddamana Rd	Church Road, 2 sites	1															
Brooms	Osterley to Waddamana Rd	Victoria Valley Road/MacGuire's Marsh Road, 2 sites	-															
Brooms	Osterley to Waddamana Rd	Waddamana Road, Hermitage, 4 sites	2	*Control	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Brooms	Shannon to Lagoon of Islands	Interlaken Rd	-	*Control	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Declared thistles	Bothwell	Hollow Tree Rd 1.5 km from town	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		

Weed	Priority Zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs	\$
Declared thistles	Bothwell	Meadsfield Rd - Dennistoun Rd (several sites)	5	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Declared thistles	Bothwell	Nant Lane, 2 sites	2	*Control														
Declared thistles	Bothwell	Woodspring Road 5km from Dennistoun road turn-off	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Declared thistles	Hamilton/Ouse	Ellendale Rd near Dunrobin Park	1	1 HR														
Declared thistles	Hamilton/Ouse	Ellendale Rd - 2 sites near John's Tier past Charlies Hill	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Declared thistles	Hamilton/Ouse	Langhloh Rd, multiple sites	1															
Declared thistles	Hamilton/Ouse	Tor Hill Rd, several sites	1	Control	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Declared thistles	Hamilton/Ouse	Victoria Valley Rd near Kenmere Marsh	3	*Control														
Declared thistles	Interlaken Wetlands & Ramsar	Dago Point, 4 sites on roads	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Declared thistles	Interlaken Wetlands & Ramsar	Interlaken Rd, 2 sites	3	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Declared thistles	Interlaken Wetlands & Ramsar	Lake Crescent Rd near Lake	1	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Declared thistles	Marked Tree	Several sites on Pelham Rd, Marked Tree Rd and Thousand Acre Lane	2	*Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Declared thistles	Shannon to Lagoon of Islands	Interlaken Rd, 1 South past Steppes Conservation Area	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Declared thistles	Waddamana to Lake Echo	Waddamana Rd, (upper loop) 1.5 km from centre	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Fennel	Bothwell	Dennistoun Rd - intersection of Woodspring Rd	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Fennel	Hamilton/Ouse	Victoria Valley Rd near Watson's Marsh	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Fennel	Hamilton/Ouse	Langloh Rd - 3 sites	1	*Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		

Weed	Priority Zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs	\$
Gorse	Bothwell	Meadsfield Rd - some dense areas	2							*Control	5	700	Follow up	5	700	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Gorse	Bothwell	Dennistoun Rd – 140 metres north of Woodspring Rd intersection	-							Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Gorse	Hamilton to Ouse	Lanes Tier Road - 2 sites	-							Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Follow up	2	280
Gorse	Hamilton to Ouse	Victoria Valley Road	1	Control	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	DCNRMC	
Gorse	Interlaken wetlands and Ramsar	Multiple sites on Interlaken Road, part of on-going program	3	Follow up	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC		To be determined by monitoring			To be determined by monitoring	DCNRMC	
Gorse	Interlaken wetlands and Ramsar	Multiple sites on Dennistoun Road (6 sites uncontrolled)	2							Control	16	2240	Follow up	16	2240	Follow up	16	2240
Gorse	Marked Tree	Marked Tree Road - Pelham West Nature Reserve	-							Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Gorse	Marked Tree	Marked Tree Rd / Dickinson's Road, 2 sites	2							*Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Gorse	Marked Tree	Pelham Road - Multiple sites	Norske Skog +3							Control	16	2240	Follow up	16	2240	Follow up	16	2240
Gorse	Osterley to Waddamana Rd	Victoria Valley Rd	-							Control	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Gorse	Osterley to Waddamana Rd	Waddamana Rd, 2 sites	2							Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Horehound	Bothwell	Wentworth Street in Bothwell	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Horehound	Bothwell	Woods Spring Road - 1 site	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Horehound	Bothwell	Meadsfield road - 2 sites near Horse Gully	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Horehound	Bothwell	1.4km from Nant lane intersection, Dennistoun Rd	-	Control	1													
Horehound	Hamilton to Ouse	Property adjacent to Upper Mill Road - near quarry - Large infestation	3	*Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Horehound	Hamilton to Ouse	Langloh Road - 3 sites North of Ellangowan Creek	-				Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Horehound	Osterley to Waddamana Rd	Waddamana Rd, Hermitage,	1	Control	1													

Weed	Priority Zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs	\$
Whiteweed	Bothwell	Dennistoun Rd, 1.8km from Woodspring road travelling north	1	Control	2													
Whiteweed	Interlaken wetlands and Ramsar	Road near Point of Chillon, Lake Sorell	-															
					<b>Total</b>	<b>8960</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>13020</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>12180</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>11480</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>4760</b>

\* denotes Control should only occur if landholder has agreed to undertake control

**Table 7.2 Central Highlands Council – Recommendations for weed control – Outlier sites**

Weed	Outlier sites	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs	\$
African boxthorn	Tor Hill Road - Cawood fence line	1	Control	1	140	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
African boxthorn	Lower Marshes Road, on road, Glenmore	1	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Brooms	Flintstone , 3 sites	3	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring		
Fennel	Tor Hill Road	2				*Control	5	700	Follow up	5	700	Follow up	5	700	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Foxglove	Ellendale Road - Near Risby's Road turnoff		Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Gorse	Arthurs Lake Road (has been controlled previously)		Follow up	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	DCNRMC	
Horehound	Arthurs Lake Rd, 2 sites	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Horehound	Bluff Rd, Gretna, before turnoff to Gray's Rd	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Holly	14 Mile road	-	Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Holly	Dry Poles Road	2	Control	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Holly	The Avenue	1	Control	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Holly	Rayner's Road	1				Control	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Multiple weeds	Wayatinah - cost to be split by CHC, FT, CLS & Hydro	14	Survey and prepare plan	66	1155	Determined by plan											
Montbretia	Highland Lakes Road south of Lower Marshes Road junction	-	Control	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring		
Montbretia	Ellendale, Monto's Creek bridge	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring		

Weed	Outlier sites	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs	\$
OHW	Miena, Theissen Crescent	2	Follow up	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Pampas Grass	Bluff Road	-	Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Pampas Grass	Ellendale - Holmes Road	-	Control	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Pampas Grass	Ellendale - The Avenue	-	Control	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Paterson's curse	Meadowbank Rd, several sites	2	Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Pittosporum sp.	14-mile road, 500 m before Laughing Jacks turnoff	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Caper spurge	Lyell Hwy, 2.5 km before Black Bobs turn off	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Whiteweed	Strickland Road, 300 m from Victoria Valley Rd turnoff	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring		
Whiteweed	Dennistoun Rd, multiple locations	1	Follow up	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring		
Whiteweed	Ellendale Rd, 2 locations - Rockmount Rd, 1 location	-	Control	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring		
				<b>Total</b>	<b>10395</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>12320</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>4480</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1820</b>			

### 7.5 Forestry Tasmania recommendations for weed control

Forestry Tasmania has extensive lands adjoining the Tasmanian Wilderness WHA and management of weeds in these areas is critical for maintaining values. Please note that the Broom infestations at Dee and the Tarraleah are a major seed source for the surrounding areas which are largely free of broom. The broom infestation at Tarraleah stretches across multiple tenures and requires a collaborative effort for control.

There is a request to fund a detailed weed management plan for Wayatinah which has extensive weed infestations which are gradually expanding. The plan would cover a mixture of tenure Council, Crownland, Hydro and Forestry.

**Table 7.4 Forestry Tasmania – Recommendations for weed control – Priority zones**

Weed	Priority Zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs	\$
Declared thistles	Shannon to Lagoon of Islands	Road between Arthurs Lake and Lagoon of Islands	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		To be determined by monitoring		
					<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>						

**Table 7.5 Forestry Tasmania – Recommendations for weed control – Outlier sites for control**

Weed name	Outlier sites	Private land owners/managers	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs	\$
Brooms	Dee	TasNetworks	Control**	120	8400	Control/follow up	120	8400	Control/follow up	120	8400	Control/follow up	120	8400	Control/follow up	120	8400
Brooms	Tarraleah	-	Control	24	1680	Follow up	24	1680	Follow up	24	1680	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring		
Multiple weeds	Wayatinah - cost to be split by CHC, FT, CLS & Hydro	14	Survey and prepare plan	66	1155	Determined by plan											
Spanish heath	Woods Lake Road	-	Follow up	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring		
				<b>Total</b>	<b>11515</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>10360</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>10360</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>8400</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>8400</b>

\*\* Costing based on control undertaken by 2 teams of 3 with metal blade brush-cutters, one to brush-cut, one to move weed debris whilst the third applies herbicide to stump with back pack spray unit.

### 7.6 Hydro Tasmania recommendations for weed control

Hydro has made significant investment into weed control in the past season supporting ragwort control in the Poatina fire affected area and around Great Lake. This program is slated to continue to ensure the control measures are effective, this program has been a collaborative effort between, Hydro, Parks, TasNetworks and State Growth.

Please note there is a request to fund a detailed weed management plan for Wayatinah which has extensive weed infestations which are gradually expanding. The plan would cover a mixture of tenure Council, Crownland, Hydro and Forestry.

**Table 7.6 Hydro – Recommendations for weed control – Priority zones**

Weed	Priority Zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5
Blackberry	Hamilton/Ouse	Lake Repulse dam, 2 sites	-	DCNRMC to confirm	? Unsure of population size											
Brooms	Hamilton/Ouse	Lake Repulse dam, 2 sites	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		To be determined by monitoring			To be determined by monitoring
Declared thistles	Hamilton/Ouse	Lake Repulse dam, several sites	-	Control	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC		To be determined by monitoring			To be determined by monitoring
Declared thistles	Poatina Fire Area	West of Cowpaddock Bay & Allison Marshes	-	Follow up as part of ragwort control	18	2520	Follow up	18	2520	Monitor	DCNRMC		To be determined by monitoring			To be determined by monitoring
Declared thistles	Shannon to Lagoon of Islands	Lagoon of Islands (Stockyard and Barn Shore)	-	Follow up	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		To be determined by monitoring			To be determined by monitoring
Fennel	Hamilton/Ouse	Lake Repulse dam, near bridge	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		To be determined by monitoring			To be determined by monitoring
Ragwort	Lake Augusta	Along roadside <5% density	-	Follow up	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		To be determined by monitoring			To be determined by monitoring
Ragwort	Poatina Fire Area	Multiple sites	-	Follow up	192	15680	Follow up	192	15680	DCNRMC helicopter survey	3000		To be determined by monitoring			To be determined by monitoring
					<b>Total</b>	<b>20160</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>20160</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3000</b>					

**Table 7.7 Hydro – Recommendations for weed control – Outlier sites**

Weed	Outlier sites	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs
Blackberry	Miena, Brady's, Wayatinah, Catagunya	-	DCNRMC to confirm	? Not sure of population size												
Brooms	Miena (lake shore near Highland lakes Rd & Marlborough Rd intersection)	-	Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring	Determined by monitoring		Determined by monitoring	Determined by monitoring
Brooms	Brady's Lake several sites	-	Follow up/control	? Unsure of population size												
Fennel	Catagunya	-	DCNRMC to confirm	? Unsure of population size												
Foxglove	Brandum Creek, Great Lake	-	DCNRMC to confirm	? Unsure of population size												
Foxglove	Butlers Gorge Road - Bakers Creek	-	DCNRMC to confirm	? Unsure of population size												
Gorse	Miena (near Marlborough Rd & Highlands Lakes Road intersection)	-	DCNRMC to confirm	? Unsure of population size												
Gorse	Brady's Lake	-	DCNRMC to confirm	? Unsure of population size												
Holly	Butlers canal	-	DCNRMC to confirm	? Unsure of population size												
Holly	Dee lagoon	-	DCNRMC to confirm	? Unsure of population size												
Multiple weeds	Wayatinah - cost to be split by CHC, FT, CLS & Hydro	14	Survey and prepare plan	66	1155	To be determined by plan										
OHW	Pumphouse Bay near Flume Road, Shannon, Butlers Gorge, Tarraleah	-	Follow up/control	40	5600	Follow up/control	40	5600	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring	Determined by monitoring		Determined by monitoring	Determined by monitoring
Spanish heath	Lake Echo canal	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring	Determined by monitoring		Determined by monitoring	Determined by monitoring
Spanish heath	Bronte Lagoon Spillway	-	Follow up/control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring	Determined by monitoring		Determined by monitoring	Determined by monitoring
				<b>Total</b>	<b>7735</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>6580</b>								



### 7.7 Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service recommendations for weed control

Parks have one of the largest land holdings in the region but much of this land is untracked and weed records are limited and are more likely to be restricted to disturbed areas. The information provided here are known sites close to roads and infrastructure based on recent survey efforts of roadsides, NVA records and anecdotally provided information. A more comprehensive survey of Parks land would provide a more accurate record.

**Table 7.8 Parks & Wildlife Service – Recommendations for weed control – Priority zones**

Weed	Priority Zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs
Ragwort	Lake Augusta	Along roadside <5% density	-	Follow up	2	140	Follow up	2	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	
Ragwort	Poatina Fire Area	Multiple sites	-	Follow up	192	15680	Follow up	192	15680	Monitor	DCNRMC helicopter survey	3000	Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	
					<b>Total</b>	<b>15820</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>15820</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>3000</b>					

**Table 7.9 Parks & Wildlife Service – Recommendations for weed control – Outlier sites**

Weed name	Outlier sites	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs	\$
Declared thistles	West of Brady's Lookout, 2 sites, large	-	Control	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Foxglove	Poatina Road - Near Hydro Creek in great lake Conservation Area	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Montbretia	Taffy's Creek	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Montbretia	Griffiths Creek - Surprise Valley lookout	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
OHW	Derwent Bridge, Butlers Gorge, Lyell Hwy west of Griffiths Creek	-	Control	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
				<b>Total</b>	<b>3080</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>3080</b>									

### 7.8 Department of State Growth recommendations for weed control

State Growth has an ongoing program in the area and information on the size of some of the populations is unavailable and a cost estimate has not been provided in these instances. The estimates provided in Tables 6.9 and 6.10 do not cover on-going roadside maintenance programs but are instead specific locations for control based on priorities identified in this plan.

Please note there is a request to fund a detailed weed management plan for Wayatinah which has extensive weed infestations which are gradually expanding. The plan would cover a mixture of tenure Council, Crownland, Hydro and Forestry.

**Table 7.103 State Growth – Recommendations for weed control – Priority zones**

Weed	Priority zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs	\$
African boxthorn	Hamilton/Ouse	Lyell Hwy - roadside sites x 4 between Hamilton & Ouse	-	Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
African lovegrass	Hamilton/Ouse	Several sites between Langloh Rd & Woodmoor Rd Lyell Hwy	2	Follow up	5	700	Follow up	5	700	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Blackberry	Hamilton/Ouse	Lyell Hwy, several sites between Hamilton & Ouse	-							Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Follow up	2	280
Brooms	Bothwell	Highland Lakes Rd, 4 sites	2				Control	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Monitor	DCNRMC	
Brooms	Hamilton/Ouse	Lyell Hwy, 4 sites between Woodmoor Rd & Norley Rd	-															
Brooms	Hamilton/Ouse	Lyell Hwy near Woodmoor Rd	-	Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Declared thistles	Bothwell	Highland Lakes Rd, several sites	2															
Fennel	Hamilton/Ouse	Lyell Hwy, several sites between Hamilton & Ouse	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Fennel	Hamilton/Ouse	Lyell Hwy, between town and Thousand Acre Lane	-	Control	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Follow up	8	1120	Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Fennel	Hamilton/Ouse	Lyell Hwy, several sites between Hamilton & Ouse	-	Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Gorse	Bothwell	Highlands Lakes Rd - East of Bothwell 2 sites	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Gorse	Shannon to Lagoon of Islands	Highlands Lake Rd near Ripple Creek - 2-5 plants	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Gorse	Shannon to Lagoon of Islands	Highland Lakes Rd isolated gorse near Steppes Conservation Area	-	Control	1	140	Follow up	1	140	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
Whiteweed	Bothwell	Highland Lakes Rd, 2.5 km from town	-	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring		
					<b>Total</b>	<b>4480</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>5600</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>3080</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1400</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>

**Table 7.11 State Growth – Recommendations for weed control – Outlier sites**

Weed	Outlier sites	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	
African boxthorn	Lyell Hwy 3 km from Marked Tree Rd junction, Norton Mandeville	1	Control	3	420	Follow up	3	420	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	
African boxthorn	Lyell Hwy, 1km south of Thousand Acre Lane junction	1	Control	2	280	Follow up	2	280	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	
African lovegrass	Several sites around Gretna	2	Follow up	5	700	Follow up	5	700	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	
Fennel	Big Snake Hill, Lyell Highway	-	Control	4	560	Follow up	4	560	Monitor	DCNRMC		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	
Foxglove	Lyell Hwy near King William Creek	-	Follow up	? Unsure of population size		Follow up						Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	
Foxglove	Butlers Gorge Road - near Mossy Marsh dam	-	Follow up	? Unsure of population size		Follow up						Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	
Multiple weeds	Wayatinah - cost to be split by CHC, FT, CLS & Hydro		Survey and prepare plan	66	1155	Determined by plan										
Spanish heath	Lyell Hwy -Black Bobs, Fourteen Mile Junction, three sites between Clarence River & Derwent Bridge, Navarre River Bridge.	-	Follow up	? Unsure of population size		Follow up						Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	
OHW	Pumphouse Bay near Flume Road, Miena Theissen Crescent, The Shannon, Derwent Bridge, Butlers Gorge, Lyell Hwy west of Griffiths Creek, Tarraleah	-	Follow up	? Unsure of population size		Follow up						Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	
				<b>Total</b>	<b>3115</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1960</b>								

7.9 TasNetworks recommendations for weed control

TasNetworks whilst not a land owner is responsible for preventing the spread of weeds under transmission lines. The sites identified in Table 6.11 and 6.12 are acting as major seed sources and are part of collaborative works programs.

Table 7.124 TasNetworks – Recommendations for weed control – Priority zones

Weed	Priority Zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Hrs	\$
Gorse	Poatina Fire Area	Underneath transmission lines	-	Control	?Unsure of population size												
Ragwort	Poatina Fire Area	Underneath transmission lines	-	Follow up		10000	Follow up		10000	Monitor	DCNPMC helicopter survey		Determined by monitoring			Determined by monitoring	
					Total	10000		Total	10000								

Table 7.13 TasNetworks – Recommendations for weed control - Outlier sites

Weed	Outlier sites	Comments	Private land owners	Year 1	Hrs	\$	Year 2	Hrs	\$	Year 3	Hrs	\$	Year 4	Hrs	\$	Year 5	Hrs	\$
Brooms/gorse	Dee	Underneath transmission lines	-	Control	60	4200	Control/follow up	60	4200	Control/follow up	60	4200	Control/follow up	60	4200	Control/follow up	60	4200
Brooms	Tarraleah	Underneath transmission lines	-	Control	12	840	Follow up	12	840	Follow up	12	840	Monitor	DCNPMC		Monitor		Determined by monitoring
					Total	5040		Total	5040		Total	5040		Total	4200		Total	4200

### 7.10 Derwent Catchment NRM Committee recommendations for weed control

These recommendations match closely with the CHC weed control recommendations and support for Derwent Catchment NRM Committee's role in the region. There are also key activities linked to State Growth's plan. Other activities will be to complete a weed management plan for Wayatinah and Interlaken Ramsar providing funding can be secured to undertake this work. Derwent Catchment NRM Committee will also undertake an evaluation of the plan in Year 4 of the program.

**Table 7.14 Derwent Catchment NRM Committee - Recommendations for weed control – Priority zones**

Weed name	Priority Zone	Private land owners	Sites in Priority Zones	Year 1 Action	Cost	Year 3-4
African boxthorn	Hamilton/Ouse	1	Tor Hill Road - Cawood fence line	CHC to control on roads & DCNRM to contact private landholder	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	Evaluation of plan actions
Brooms	Bothwell	2	Highland Lakes Rd, 4 sites	State Growth to control on roads & DCNRM to contact private landholder	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	Evaluation of plan actions
Brooms	Bothwell	2	Schaw St & Barrack Hill	Large infestations on private land - CHC to control on roads & DCNRM to contact private landholder	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	
Brooms	Bothwell	2	Meadsfield Rd, 4 sites	Control if landholder has agreed to undertake control	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	Evaluation of plan actions
Brooms	Shannon to Lagoon of Islands	2	Interlaken Rd	Control if landholder has agreed to undertake control	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	Evaluation of plan actions
Declared thistles	Hamilton/Ouse	3	Victoria Valley Rd near Kenmere Marsh	CHC to control on roads & DCNRM to contact private landholder	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	
Declared thistles	Marked Tree	2	Several sites on Pelham Rd, Marked Tree Rd and Thousand Acre Lane	Control if landholder has agreed to undertake control	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	Evaluation of plan actions
Gorse	Hamilton/Ouse	2	Lyell Hwy, approach to town from East	Infestations on private land - DCNRM to coordinate control with private landholder	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	
Gorse	Shannon to Lagoon of Islands	1	Poatina Rd, 600m from Highland Lakes intersection	Infestation on private land - DCNRM to coordinate control with private landholder	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	
Horehound	Bothwell	1	Wentworth Street in Bothwell	CHC to control on roads & DCNRM to contact private landholder	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	Evaluation of plan actions
Horehound	Bothwell	1	Woods Spring Road - 1 site	CHC to control on roads & DCNRM to contact private landholder	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	Evaluation of plan actions
Horehound	Hamilton to Ouse	1	Property adjacent to upper mill road - near quarry - Large infestation	Control if landholder has agreed to undertake control	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	Evaluation of plan actions
Star of Bethlehem	Bothwell	1	1.5 km east of Bothwell	Organise working bee to assist private landowner	Part of DCNRM weed officer position	Evaluation of plan actions

**Table 7.15 Derwent Catchment NRM Committee - Recommendations for weed control – Outlier sites**

Weed name	Outlier sites	Private land owners	Action	Cost
Pampas grass	Bluff Road	1	CHC to control on roads & DCNRM to contact private landholder	Part of DCNRM weed officer position
Elisha's tears	Ellendale	1	Contact landowner to initiate control	Part of DCNRM weed officer position
Paterson's curse	Meadowbank Rd, several sites	3	CHC to control on roads & DCNRM to contact private landholder	Part of DCNRM weed officer position
Willow	North of Bronte Park, near Serpentine Rivulet	1	Contact landowner to initiate control	Part of DCNRM weed officer position

### 7.11 NRM South recommendations for weed control

NRM South are not land owners or managers but are key investors into the region. Their main focus is on maintaining and improving high conservation values. The following are two key recommendations: 1. focused on a priority weed in the WHA which is part of an ongoing program of control and 2. A plan and associated program of control at the Interlaken Ramsar site

**Table 7.16 NRM South - Recommendations for weed control – Priority zones**

Weed name	Priority Zone	Private land owners	Sites in Priority Zones	Year 1 Action	Cost	Year 2 Action
Gorse	Interlaken wetlands and Ramsar	-	Dago Point	Revise weed management plan	2240	To be determined by plan
				<b>Total</b>	<b>2240</b>	

**Table 7.17 NRM South - Recommendations for weed control – Outlier sites**

Weed name	Outlier sites	Private land owners	Year 1 Action	Estimated cost @ \$70 hour	Year 2 Action	Cost	Year 3 Action	Cost	Year 4 Action
Orange hawkweed	Butlers Gorge	-	Follow up	3360	Follow up	3360	Monitor	DCNRMC	Determined by monitoring
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3360</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3360</b>			

### 7.12 Crownland Services recommendations for weed control

Crownland services are responsible for a disparate range of land parcels across the region from large to very small areas. Two key areas are identified as part of the prioritization process undertaken. These areas are part of an ongoing program.

**Table 7.5 Crownland Services - Recommendations for weed control – Priority zones**

Weed name	Priority Zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Year 1 Action	Cost	Year 2 Action	Cost	Year 3 Action	Cost
Gorse	Interlaken wetlands and Ramsar	Dago Point - large infestation and multiple outliers	-	Develop weed plan for Dago Point	2240	Determined by plan		Determined by plan	
Orange hawkweed	Shannon to Lagoon of Islands	Shannon River Reserve	-	Part of ongoing program, follow up	2240	Follow up	2240	Monitor	DCNRMC
Whiteweed	Interlaken wetlands and Ramsar	Interlaken Rd, Dago Point Camping Ground	-	To be included in Dago Point plan					
				<b>Total</b>	<b>4480</b>		<b>2240</b>		

### 7.13 Inland Fisheries recommendations for weed control

Inland fisheries are responsible for the management of the inland waters and have an active program in the area working in the Interlaken wetlands & Ramsar priority zone and also on Great Lake to support volunteer efforts.

**Table 7.19 Inland Fisheries - Recommendations for weed control – Priority zones**

Weed name	Priority Zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Year 1 Actions	Cost	Year 2 Action	Cost	Year 3 Action	Cost	Year 4 Action
Gorse/Brooms	Interlaken wetlands & Ramsar	Crescent canal and overflow screen	-	Follow up	140	Follow up	140	Monitor	IFS	To be determined by monitoring
Cumbungi (& Plantago)	Interlaken wetlands & Ramsar	Andrews Bay, Lake Crescent & Point of Chillon	-	Control/monitor	280	Follow up	280	Monitor	IFS	To be determined by monitoring
				<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>			

Table 7.20 Inland Fisheries - Recommendations for weed control – Outlier sites

Name	Outlier sites	Comments	Private land owners	Year 1 Action	Cost	Year 2 Action	Cost	Year 3 Action	Cost	Year 4 Action	Cost	Year 5 Action	Cost
Ragwort	Great Lake Shore	IFS has offered to provide in-kind support ongoing Ragwort program with Anglers Alliance volunteers and use of IFS boat	-	Control	1750	Control	1750	Control	1750	Control	1750	Control	1750
				Total	1750	Total	1750	Total	1750	Total	1750	Total	1750

7.14 Norske Skog recommendations for weed control

Weed name	Priority Zone	Sites in Priority Zones	Private land owners	Total	Year 1 Actions	Cost	Year 2 Action	Cost	Year 3 Action	Cost	Year 4 Action
Gorse	Marked Tree	Pelham Road, 1 site on plantation	-	Total	Control	420	Follow up	420	Monitor	Norske Skog	Determined by monitoring
				Total	Total	420	Total	420			

Name	Outlier sites	Private land owners	Year 1 Action	Cost	Year 2 Action	Cost	Year 3 Action	Cost	Year 4 Action	Cost	Year 5 Action	Cost
Foxglove	Holmes Road in Ellendale, 2 sites	-	Control	240	Control	240	Monitor	240	Determined by monitoring	Norske Skog		
			Total	240	Total	240	Total	240				

7.15 Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre recommendations for weed control

trawtha makuminya (Gowan Brae) lies within the priority zone ‘Pine Tier to Derwent Bridge’. There is an active program of weed control for ragwort with an estimated cost \$4,000 per year. This program is slated to continue until ragwort is eradicated from the reserve.

7.16 Tasmanian Land Conservancy recommendations for weed control

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy has several permanent reserves in the region. They have active weed management programs working with volunteers. The table below identifies key weeds and sites for control which are part on ongoing programs and are presumed to be continuing until eradications within the reserves is achieved.

Table 7.6 TLC - Weed management locations

Weed name	Outlier sites
Ragwort	Bronte & Silver Plains Reserves - several sites
Californian thistle	Bronte & Silver Plains Reserves - several sites
Foxglove	Pine Tier Rd, Bronte
Gorse	Silver Plains, several sites

## 8 Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring & evaluation is an important part of effective weed management as it provides a measure for tracking progress and determining which control methods are successful. It also allows accurate budgeting of annual works associated with weed management. In the past, a criticism of the program has been an inability to report on effectiveness, to overcome this issue a monitoring program will be implemented and an evaluation of the successes and failures will be undertaken in Year 4. This evaluation will consider the level of implementation of planned actions and the effectiveness of control at each site. We now have a baseline in the form of the number of plans and whether the plants are mature and the area affected for the majority of sites. This will allow us to make comparisons over time.

We also request that information collected by agencies include the area controlled and an estimate of the number of plants in each season. This information is a basic version of what is required for NVA reporting and allows us to more consistently track control efforts each year. A re-survey of sites will be undertaken in Year 4 to ensure data quality and to collect information on additional weed spread.



## 9 References

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## 10 Appendix I

### Program of Works for 2015-16

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## 1. State Growth program works 2015-16

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Gretna/Hamilton	African lovegrass	Survey and control		Yes	Extent of control unknown
Black Bobs, Fourteen Mile Junction, three sites between Clarence River & Derwent Bridge, Navarre River Bridge.	Spanish Heath	Follow up Required Pull & cut & paint juvenile plants in September, spray where possible. Water likely to be present in drains. Monitor and conduct spraying late February early March.	Spanish Heath seedlings, Derwent Bridge, Clarence Lagoon track, Clarence River, 14 Mile Rd junction & Black Bobs.	yes	Navarre Bridge?
	English Broom, Blackberry, Briar Rose, Gorse	Monitor for follow up of juvenile plants October or November		Not in report but presumed done	Was monitored in 2015-16 and follow up wasn't required. Will monitor again undertake follow up if required.
Lyell Highway Ouse to Derwent Bridge	Mullein	Boom spray as Stornoway maintenance contract details & monitor & control individual plants February.	Twiggy Mullein & Great Mullein present but very sparse	yes	This was monitored following boom spray work by Stornoway, recommended for further follow up in 2016-17.

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Lyell Highway Ouse to Derwent Bridge	Orange Hawkweed	Monitor and undertake follow up early January.	Orange Hawkweed reducing in plants at Griffiths Creek, Derwent Bridge, Tungatinah & Wayatinah. Plants no longer present at Brady's Shacks turnoff. Primary treatment on road reserve infestation Tarraleah.	yes	Completed by Whispering Landscapes. No plants present at Brady's Lake in 2015-16. Mt Arrowsmith - Griffiths Creek, Derwent Bridge, Tungatinah, Wayatinah, Tarraleah
Griffiths Creek, Derwent Bridge, Brady's Lake, Tungatinah, Wayatinah, Tarraleah					
	Fennel	To initiate a control program on Fennel before it flowers (October or November). Fennel is observed to be spreading its range due to ineffective control methods before and after seeding.		No	Recommendations provided to State Growth Maintenance area to improve roadside practices. Not a big priority for 2016-17 work.
Hamilton to Black Bobs	Foxglove	New work	Treatment	Yes	
King William Creek		Follow up urgently required from Lower Marshes Road to Bothwell, October or November.		Not in report but presumed done	Recommendations provided to State Growth Maintenance area to improve roadside practices.

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Lakes Secondary Road	English/Canary Broom, Gorse, Briar Rose, Yellow lupins	Monitor for seedling & juvenile plants, control as required along section from Bothwell to end of Marlborough Road junction.		Not in report but presumed done	Monitoring undertaken for juvenile plants, no follow up required for 2015-16. will be checked again for 2016-17.
Lake Secondary Road	Mullein	Boom spray as Stornoway maintenance contract details & monitor & control individual plants February.	Twiggy Mullein & Great Mullein sparsely dispersed	yes	Will be assessed for 2016-17. Monitoring completed by Whispering Landscapes. No work required for 2015-16
Lake Secondary Road	Ragwort, Mignonette & Thistle	Monitor & undertake follow up January. Volunteers still continued to pull and treat late (March, April) ragwort plants (as they came into flower)	Spear & Californian Thistle constant in some areas but otherwise sparsely dispersed - Ragwort regular plants predominately through TWWHA & CA	yes	
Lake Secondary Road	Foxglove	New work	Treatment at Brandum Creek	Yes	
Lake Secondary Road (WHA)	Spanish Heath	New work	Treatment at Project Bluff	Yes	Completed by Whispering Landscapes as part of costing which included Ragwort, Mignonette and Thistles. Follow-up to be included.

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Lake Secondary Road	Gorse	Monitor for follow up as required in December/ January. Knapsack 100's juvenile gorse plants present amongst slashed road verge vegetation near Pumphouse Bay Campground Rd junction.	Juvenile gorse	Yes	
Poatina Main Road	Ragwort, Thistle, Mullein, Cotoneaster, Orange Hawkweed	Monitor and undertake follow up January. Boom spraying of Mullein as Stornoway maintenance contract details is not recommended, as water may still be present in drains. Monitor & control	Orange Hawkweed reducing in plants at Flintstones Water treatment plant - Ragwort only two plants through Poatina Burn area - Twiggly Mullein & Great Mullein constant but are reducing in numbers - Spear & Californian Thistles sparse through Poatina Burn area	yes	
Poatina Main Road	Spanish Heath	Monitor in September & March and undertake control if required.		Not in report but presumed done	
Poatina Main Road	English Broom	Monitor and undertake follow up hand spraying in December if necessary.	Juvenile English Broom plants Bronte Park.	Yes	

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Poatina Main Road	Ragwort	Monitor and undertake follow up January as necessary, volunteers control late plants March & April.	Ragwort sparse Miena to Little Pine	Yes	
Marlborough Secondary Road	Mullein & Mignonette	Monitor and undertake follow up January.	Twiggy Mullein Oscarville, Ouse River Bridge area, Serpentine Rivulet	Yes	
Marlborough Secondary Road	Gorse	New work	Mature Gorse plants, Little Pine	Yes	

## 2. Crownland Services program works 2015-16

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Bronte Lagoon	English broom	Southern Highlands Progress Association members to monitor and control English Broom seedlings.		No	
Brady's Lake	English broom	Southern Highlands Progress Association members to monitor and control English Broom seedlings.		Yes	Volunteers look after fire trail behind shacks. Edges of hydro land. Control gorse and broom.
Dee Lagoon	English broom	Southern Highlands Progress Association members to monitor and control English Broom seedlings.		No	
Great Lake Crown Land at Dud Bay & Beaumont Memorial	Canary broom	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to seek funds to control juvenile & seedling English Broom plants at Dud Bay. PWS to monitor & control new plants at Beaumont Memorial.		No	
Shannon River Reserve	Orange hawkweed	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to seek funds to continue to survey & treatment of OHW within the Shannon River Reserve.	Re-surveyed and treated	Yes	Recommended that this site attracts continued investment until the infestation is eradicated.



Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Interlaken Ramsar Site	Gorse	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to seek funds to continue to undertake primary treatment of Gorse behind Lake Sorell Campground at Dago Point.		No	Put off because CLS upgrading Dago Point campground. Funds focused on Poatina Fire project
Interlaken Ramsar Site	Gorse	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to lobby neighbouring land owners to participate in gorse control program.		No	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead. Interlaken Ramsar Site requires updated management plan
Interlaken Ramsar Site	Gorse	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to provide opportunity for community to participate in weed control at Lake Sorell & Crescent.		No	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead. Interlaken Ramsar Site requires updated management plan

### 3. Hydro program works 2015-16

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Tungatinah dam	Mullein			Yes	
Lagoon of islands	Californian thistle			Yes	
Dee Lagoon	Gorse & English Broom	Continue implementing the Dee Lagoon Weed Plan across all land tenures.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	
		Monitor for seedlings & juvenile plants, undertake treatment as required.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	
		Continue to seek funding to assist the Southern Highlands Progress Association Weed Working Bees.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	
		Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to facilitate a meeting between Hydro Tasmania, TasNetworks, Council and Forestry to ensure weed control continues to occur on the main infestation around the Dee Dam Wall.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	
Brady's Lake	Gorse & English Broom	Monitor for seedlings & juvenile plants, undertake treatment as required.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	
		Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to continue to support the Southern Highlands Progress Association Weed Working Bees.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Bronte Lagoon Woodwards Canal area	English Broom & Yellow lupins	Monitor for seedlings & juvenile plants, undertake treatment as required.			The lupins here are a sensitive issue with the local volunteers - they see them as cultural heritage.
Bronte Lagoon Spillway	Spanish Heath	Survey and control.		yes	
Great Lake, Dud Bay, Swan Bay	English Broom & Gorse	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to lobby NRM South to ensure funds for the WHA buffer program continue		No	NRMS not priority
		Monitor for seedlings & juvenile plants, undertake treatment as required.		No	NRMS not priority
		Progress along shoreline of Swan Bay with primary weed control.		No	NRMS not priority
		Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to continue to liaise with the Miena community & encourage weed control on private land within Swan Bay and surrounds.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	
Great Lake, Howells Neck, Elizabeth Bay, Burney's Island, Muddy Bay, Howells Creek	Ragwort	Seek advice from Hydro in regard to other emerging weed issues (Californian thistle etc.).	Extra funds from Hydro spent on control works.	Yes	Jarrah and Axel at Cramps Bay

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
		Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to develop Adopt a shore program	Adopt-shore program ran as Naturally Inspired Grant 2015-16	Yes	Due to extremely low lake levels volunteer take up was limited.
		Undertake control of Ragwort rosettes in January, survey and control flowering plants early March.	Extra funds from Hydro spent control works Jarrah and Axel at Cramps Bay	Yes	
Great Lake, sections of shoreline from Brandum boat ramp to Halfmoon Creek entry to Great Lake	Ragwort	Encourage volunteers to participate in Adopt a shore program to ensure compliance with insurances etc.	Adopt-shore program ran as Naturally Inspired Grant 2015-16	Yes	
		Continue providing control of flowering plants & rosettes.	Adopt-shore program ran as Naturally Inspired Grant 2015-16	Yes	
Great Lake Reynolds Neck area	Gorse	Survey shore line between Reynolds Neck and Brandum bay for possibly sighted new infestations. Undertake control as required.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	
Quarry behind back house Lake Augusta Road	Thistle & Mullein	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to continue organising and providing volunteer assistance to control weeds at this site.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Lake Augusta Road	Ragwort, thistle & Mullein	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to lobby PWS to ensure weed control works for WHA buffer program continues.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	
Liawenee Canal	Thistle & Mullein	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to lobby Hydro Tasmania to fund annually weed control along canal as part of the WHA buffer program.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	
Arthurs Lake Pumphouse Bay Campground Area	Gorse & Spanish Heath	Gorse will not require follow up this season.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	
		Monitor & control as required Spanish Heath in September & March.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead.	No	
Arthurs Lake Gunns Marsh Road	Ragwort, Mullein & Thistle	Lobby Hydro with regard to thistle control as it is prohibiting the regeneration of native species post fire.	Prioritised Poatina Fire Area instead. Cal thistle control undertaken in this region.	No	
Poatina Fire Area	Ragwort	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to provide quote and long term management recommendations to Hydro Tasmania, TasNetworks & the Parks & Wildlife Service on the 10,000-hectare infestation.	Undertaken primary control at 155 separate sites across 5067 ha of Hydro land	yes	
		Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to work with land management authorities and seek investment opportunities to support long term control.			

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Poatina Fire Area	Californian thistle		New work identified as part of Poatina Fire project	Yes	
Tarraleah	Orange Hawkweed	Undertake follow up control		Yes	
		Continue to remain vigilant for new infestations.			
Shannon Hydro Village	Orange Hawkweed	Research method of control of dense infestation		Yes	
		Change herbicide to ensure resistance does not occur			
		Undertake follow up control			
		Continue to remain vigilant for new infestations.			
Butlers Gorge	Orange Hawkweed	Research method of control of dense infestation		yes	\$9,000 OHW
		Change herbicide to ensure resistance does not occur			
		Undertake follow up control			
		Continue to remain vigilant for new infestations.			
Butlers Gorge Road	Gorse	????		Controlled?	

#### 4. Parks and Wildlife Service Program works 2015-16

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Completed	Report	Comments
Derwent Bridge and Griffiths Creek	Orange Hawkweed	PWS to continue to support WHA buffer program with survey work.	Yes	Vastly improved situation, 3 sites, Derwent Bridge vicinity of pub - a couple of spots around Mt Arrowsmith decent, another on 14-mile road - on-ground control by Kathy – Barry keeping an eye on it.	Not much for 2 years now. Only the occasional plant. Barry manages out as far as Squires Creek.
Taffy's creek 100-200 m Queenstown side southern side of road - road reserve land and PWS	Montbretia	Ongoing work by Barry Batchelor	Yes		Trim the leaves and then spray - not in CHC but important
Derwent bridge side of King William creek - northern side of road	Montbretia	ongoing work by Barry	Yes		
Between Griffiths creek and Surprise Valley lookout, multiple sites in drains	Montbretia	ongoing work by Barry	Yes		
Lyell Highway Wild Rivers National Park	Gorse, Fox Glove, Spanish Heath	PWS to continue to undertake survey and control	Yes		Area around Squires Creek - Barry monitors this
Steppes Conservation Area	Gorse	PWS to continue to undertake survey and control	Yes		This year has been difficult - fire & floods.
Steppes Historic Site	Thistle & Mullein	PWS to continue to undertake survey and control	Yes	thistle and willow work. Work to do re: pine wildlings	

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Completed	Report	Comments
Investigate report of weeds, Wild Dog Tier	Heather		Yes	No heather seen year before	
Investigate report of weeds, 4-wheel drive track to Pillians	Cumbungi	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to lobby Anglers Alliance volunteers to monitor	?		
Spray Lake Augusta Road	Thistles & Mullein	PWS to continue to undertake survey and control	Yes	thistles taken - mullein not visible	..
Undertake ragwort control Western Lakes	Ragwort	PWS to continue to undertake survey and control	Yes	Completed - required continued follow up	Western lakes?
Five Mile Pinnacle Conservation Area	Ragwort	PWS to continue to undertake survey and control	No	not done this year	peak of fire period, not done
Great Western Tiers Conservation Area (Poatina Fire)	Ragwort	PWS to continue to undertake survey and control	Yes		Part of project as follows
Poatina Fire Area	Ragwort, Scotch Thistle	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to provide quote and long term management recommendations to Hydro Tasmania, TasNetworks & the Parks & Wildlife Service on the 10,000-hectare infestation.	Yes	Undertaken primary control at 147 separate sites across 4628 ha of Parks land.	



Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Completed	Report	Comments
		Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to work with land management authorities to seek investment opportunities to support long term control.	Yes		

## 5. Norske Skog Program works 2015-16

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
14 Mile Road coups	Ragwort, Great & Twiggy Mullein, Gorse, Canary & English Broom	Norske Skog to provide ongoing annual control of Mullein & Ragwort.	218 ha ragwort control Uxbridge	Yes	Gorse not mentioned in data
		Norske Skog to monitor for broom & gorse seedlings control as required.		Yes	
Ellendale Peter Murphy's private land	Spanish Heath	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to seek additional external funds to provide ongoing control at site. Further Greening Australia findings on effective control of Spanish Heath by completing comprehensive trials at site. Share knowledge with land management/owners.	Naturally Inspired grant successful to continue work at the site.	Yes	work to be completed this season

## 6. Inland Fisheries Program Works 2015-16

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Interlaken, Lake Crescent & Sorell	Gorse, Plantago, Cumbungi, Canary Broom	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to liaise with IFS to ascertain when accommodation is available for volunteers or weed spraying contractors.	Plantago sprayed in the vicinity of the Crescent Canal & follow up spray of English Broom (25mins) re-shoots behind the Crescent overflow screen	Partially	
Great Lake	Ragwort	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to lobby IFS to ensure ongoing support of Ragwort control program Great Lake.		No	

## 7. Tasmanian Land Conservancy Program Works 2015-16

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Viormy, Serpentine, London Marshes, Cockatoo Hill, Skullbone Plains, Roscarborough, Pine Tier	Ragwort, Great & Twiggy Mullein, Mignonette, Horehound	TLC is committed to seeking external funding and providing volunteer programs on their land that contribute to the WHA weed buffer	Extensive. See documents.	Yes	
Silver Plains, Jinks Tier & Soldiers Marsh	Ragwort, Mullein, Gorse	TLC is committed to seeking external funding and providing volunteer programs on their land that contribute to the Interlaken Ramsar weed buffer	Extensive. See documents.	Yes	
Big Den State Forest, Connorville, Paradise Plains & Interlaken Estate.	Ragwort	TLC will continue to participate in a collaborative ragwort control program that includes the following neighbouring properties; Big Den State Forest, Connorville, Paradise Plains & Interlaken Estate. Continue to build relationships and encourage participation with the smaller land owners that are within the collaborative ragwort program range. Continue to encourage the shooting group on TLC Silver plains property to participate in ragwort control			

## 8. TasNetworks Program Works 2015-16

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Dee Lagoon	English Broom & Gorse	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to continue to lobby to ensure primary & follow up work is carried out under the wooden & metal power pole lines		No	
Great Lake Miena	English Broom	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to continue to lobby to ensure primary weed control is carried out under wooden power poles.		No	
Arthurs Lake, Gunns Marsh Road	Ragwort, Great & Twiggy Mullein	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to lobby to ensure weed control occurs under high voltage power lines Arthurs Lake area.		Yes	Part of Poatina fire project
Waddamana	Gorse	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to lobby to ensure control occurs on a small clump of mature gorse plants under powerlines between the Top Village and Waddamana Power Station		No	
Tarraleah	English & Canary Broom	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to lobby Tas-networks & Aurora to provide resources to control weeds under powerlines at Tarraleah Estate.			

## 9. Forestry Tasmania Program Works 2015-16

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Dee Lagoon	English Broom & Gorse	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to continue to lobby to ensure primary & follow up work is carried out under the wooden & metal power pole lines		No	
Woods Lake Road	Spanish Heath	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to lobby FT to ensure staff are available to provide effective control of juvenile plants.		No	
Big Den, Eastern Den, Scrubby Den, Inches Gully, Wild Hop Hill, Lawrence Plain & Snowy Knob	Ragwort, Great & Twiggy Mullein	Re-establish networks with Forestry Tasmania (Peter Bird) to ensure weed control patrols continue to occur in the Big Den State Forest area. Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to continue to facilitate planning, networking and share outcomes between TLC, Roderic O'Conner, Interlaken Estate (Downie), Paradise Plains (Hastrap) and Forestry Tasmania.		No	
Butlers Gorge	Orange Hawkweed	In-kind 8 hours' support provided by revision of SFAA.		?	
Tarraleah	Broom	None		No	
Wayatinah	Broom	None		No	

# 10. Central Highlands Council Program Works 2015-16

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
Interlaken Road	Gorse	Continue with survey & control of juvenile gorse plants in areas that have received primary treatment.		Yes	Follow up
14 Mile Road, Theissan Crescent, Shannon River bridge on the Waddamana Road	Orange Hawkweed	Ongoing survey & control of juvenile OHW plants		Yes	Follow up
Hollow Tree Road	Briar Rose	Council to provide follow up of weeds on these roads		No	
Dry Poles Road	Blackberries	Council to provide follow up of weeds on these roads		Partially	Follow up
Lower Marshes Road	Gorse	Council to provide follow up of weeds on these roads		Yes	Follow up
Dennistoun Road	White weed, Gorse	Bothwell Council staff to provide ongoing control of White Weed at bud stage September, October or November		Gorse Yes	
Mt Adelaide	English Broom	Continue on with survey & control of juvenile & seedling plants		Yes	
Hamilton Quarry	Radiata Pine	Council to remove large mature pine trees	Under management plan		

Location	Species	Action 2015-16	Report	Completed	Comments
	Horehound, Thistle, African Box Thorn, Radiata Pine seedlings, Mignonette	Contractor to provide control on other weeds	Under management plan		
Victoria Valley Road	English Broom & Gorse	Ongoing control of seedling plants specifically section from dam wall to Spillway Bay sheds on Dee Lagoon	Done	Yes	
Arthurs Lake Road & waste transfer site	Thistle, Ragwort & Mullein	Primary treatment urgently required on disturbed ground associated with road works	Done	Yes	
Arthurs Lake Road	Gorse	No	??	???	
Hermitage Road	Gorse & English Broom	Follow up treatment urgently required		No	Follow up treatment urgently required

## 11 Appendix II

### Threatened Flora of the Central Highlands

Family	Species name	Common Name	State	EPBC	Biogeography
Adiantaceae	Anogramma leptophylla	annual fern	vulnerable		Native
	Pellaea calidirupium	hotrock fern	rare		Native
Asteraceae	Argyrotegium fordianum	soft cottonleaf	rare		Native
	Argyrotegium poliochlorum	greengreen cottonleaf	rare		Native
					Within
					Australia,
					occurs only in
					Tasmania
	Brachyscome radicata	spreading daisy	rare		Native
	Brachyscome rigidula	cutleaf daisy	vulnerable		Native
	Calocephalus lacteus	milky beautyheads	rare		Native
	Hyalosperma demissum	moss sunray	endangered		Native
	Leptorhynchus elongatus	lanky buttons	endangered		Native
	Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor	grassland paperdaisy	endangered	Endangered	Native
	Rhodanthe anthemoides	chamomile sunray	rare		Native
	Senecio squarrosus	leafy fireweed	rare		Native
	Taraxacum aristum	mountain dandelion	rare		Native
	Vittadinia cuneata var. cuneata	fuzzy new-holland-daisy	rare		Native
		woolly new-holland-daisy			
	Vittadinia gracilis	narrowleaf new-holland-daisy	rare		Native
	Vittadinia muelleri	eastcoast everlasting	rare		Native
	Xerochrysum bicolor	swamp everlasting	rare		Native
	Xerochrysum palustre		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Native
Brassicaceae	<b>Barbarea australis</b>	<b>riverbed wintercress</b>	<b>endangered</b>	<b>Endangered</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	Lepidium hyssopifolium	soft peppergrass	endangered	Endangered	Native
Callitrichaceae	Callitriche umbonata	winged waterstarwort	rare		Native
Campanulaceae	Lobelia pratioides	poison lobelia	vulnerable		Native

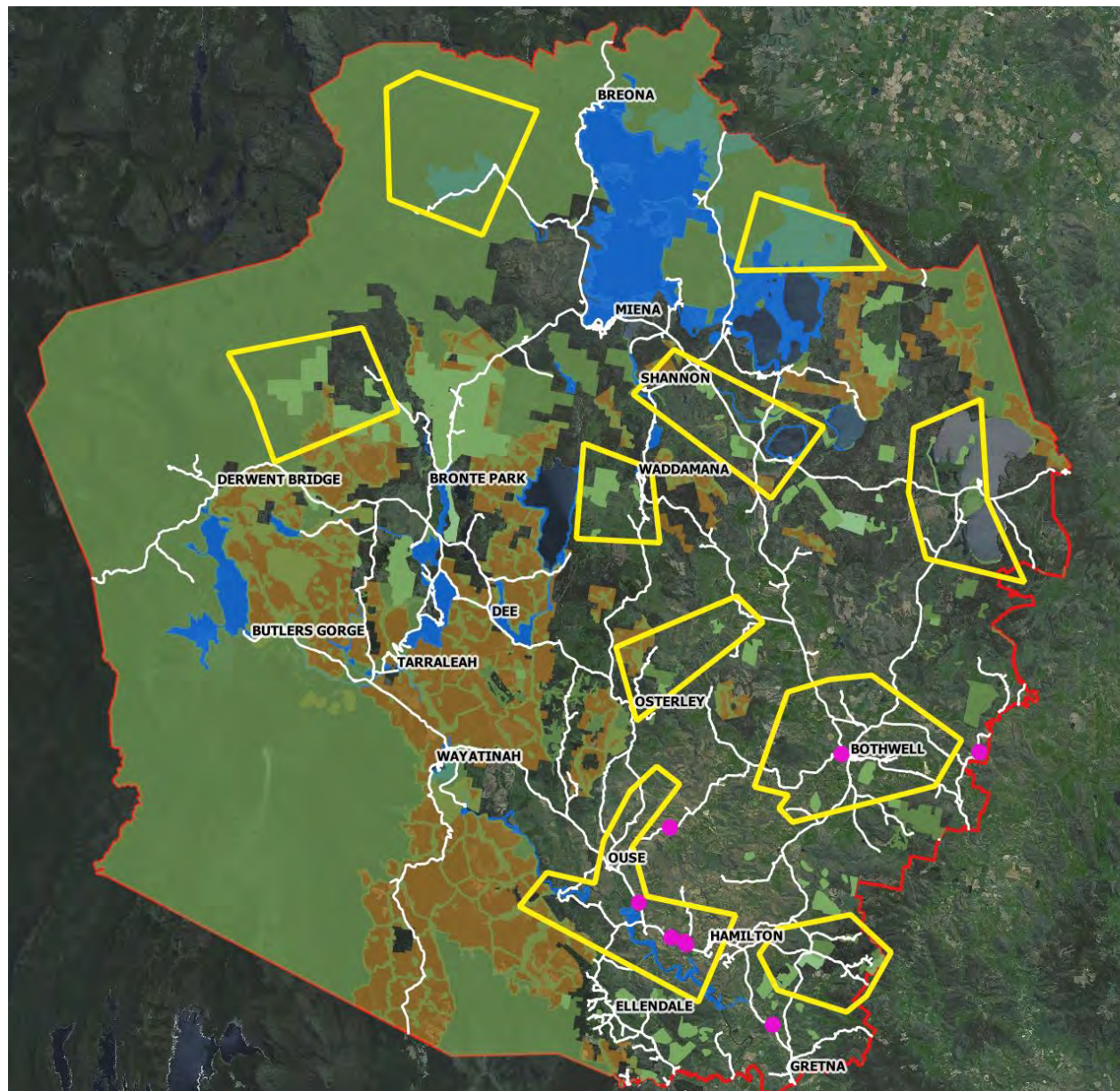


Caryophyllaceae	Colobanthus curtisiae	grassland cupflower	rare	Vulnerable	Native
	Colobanthus pulvinatus	cushion cupflower	rare		Native
	Scleranthus brockiei	mountain knawel	rare		Native
	Scleranthus fasciculatus	spreading knawel	vulnerable		Native
Centrolepidaceae	Aphelia pumilio	dwarf fanwort	rare		Native
Cyperaceae	Baumea gunnii	slender twigsedge	rare	Vulnerable	Native
	Carex capillacea	yellowleaf sedge	rare		Native
	Carex gunniana	mountain sedge	rare		Native
	Carex longebrachiata	drooping sedge	rare		Native
	Carex tasmanica	curly sedge			Native Within Australia, occurs only in Tasmania
	Uncinia elegans	handsome hooksedge	rare		
Epacridaceae	<b>Monotoca submutica var.</b>				
	<b>autumnalis</b>	<b>roundleaf broomheath</b>	<b>rare</b>		<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	<b>Pentachondra ericifolia</b>	<b>fine frillyheath</b>	<b>rare</b>		<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	<b>Planocarpa nitida</b>	<b>black cheeseberry</b>	<b>rare</b>		<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	<b>Planocarpa sulcata</b>	<b>grooved cheeseberry</b>	<b>rare</b>		<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
Fabaceae	Glycine latrobeana	clover glycine	vulnerable	Vulnerable	Native
	Hovea montana	mountain purplepea	rare		Native
	<b>Hovea tasmanica</b>	<b>rockfield purplepea</b>	<b>rare</b>		<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	Pultenaea humilis	dwarf bushpea	vulnerable		Native
	Pultenaea prostrata	silky bushpea	vulnerable		Native
Goodeniaceae	Velleia paradoxa	spur velleia	vulnerable		Native
Haloragaceae	Haloragis heterophylla	variable raspwort	rare		Native
	Myriophyllum integrifolium	tiny watermilfoil	vulnerable		Native
Hydatellaceae	Trithuria submersa	submerged watertuft	rare		Native
	Isoetes drummondii subsp.				
Isoetaceae	drummondii	plain quillwort	rare		Native
<b>Isoetaceae</b>	<b>Isoetes humilior</b>	<b>veiled quillwort</b>	<b>rare</b>		<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
Juncaceae	Juncus amabilis	gentle rush	rare		Native
	Juncus prismatocarpus	branching rush	rare		Native

	Luzula atrata	slender woodrush	rare		Native
<b>Lamiaceae</b>	<b>Westringia angustifolia</b>	<b>narrowleaf westringia</b>	<b>rare</b>		<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
Lepidoziaceae	Pseudocephalozia paludicola			Vulnerable	
Liliaceae	Caesia calliantha	blue grasslily	rare		Native
	Dianella amoena	grassland flaxlily	rare	Endangered	Native
Loganiaceae	Phyllangium divergens	wiry mitrewort	vulnerable		Native
Lythraceae	Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife	vulnerable		Native
Marsileaceae	Pilularia novae-hollandiae	austral pillwort	rare		Native
<b>Mimosaceae</b>	<b>Acacia axillaris</b>	<b>midlands wattle</b>	<b>vulnerable</b>	<b>Vulnerable</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	Acacia siculiformis	dagger wattle	rare		Native
<b>Myrtaceae</b>	<b>Eucalyptus gunnii subsp. divaricata</b>	<b>miena cider gum</b>	<b>endangered</b>	<b>Endangered</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	Eucalyptus perriniana	spinning gum	rare		Native
Onagraceae	Epilobium willisii	carpet willowherb	rare		Native
Orchidaceae	Corunastylis nuda	tiny midge-orchid	rare		Native
	<b>Prasophyllum crebriflorum</b>	<b>crowded leek-orchid</b>	<b>endangered</b>	<b>Endangered</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	<b>Prasophyllum sp. Arthurs Lake</b>	<b>mountain leek-orchid</b>	<b>endangered</b>		<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	Prasophyllum tadgellianum	tadgells leek-orchid	rare		Native
	<b>Pterostylis pratensis</b>	<b>liawenee greenhood</b>	<b>vulnerable</b>	<b>Vulnerable</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	<b>Pterostylis wapstrarum</b>	<b>fleshy greenhood</b>	<b>endangered</b>	<b>Critically Endangered</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
Parmeliaceae	Xanthoparmelia amphixantha		endangered		
	Xanthoparmelia willisii		endangered		
Pittosporaceae	Rhytidosporum inconspicuum	alpine appleberry	endangered		Native
Plantaginaceae	Plantago glacialis	small star plantain	rare		Native
Poaceae	Agrostis australiensis	southern bent	rare		Native
	<b>Agrostis diemenica</b>	<b>flatleaf southern bent</b>	<b>rare</b>		<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	Amphibromus neesii	southern swampgrass	rare		Native
	Australopyrum velutinum	velvet wheatgrass	rare		Native
		doublejointed			
	Austrostipa bigeniculata	speargrass	rare		Native
	Austrostipa scabra	rough speargrass	rare		Native
	Deyeuxia brachyathera	short bentgrass	rare		Native

	Deyeuxia minor	small bentgrass	rare	Native
	<b>Poa mollis</b>	<b>soft tussockgrass</b>	<b>rare</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	Rytidosperma indutum	tall wallabygrass	rare	Native
<b>Podocarpaceae</b>	<b>Pherosphaera hookeriana</b>	<b>Mount Mawson pine</b>	<b>vulnerable</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
Polygonaceae	Muehlenbeckia axillaris	matted lignum	rare	Native
	Rumex bidens	mud dock	rare, uplisting to vulnerable pending	Native
<b>Proteaceae</b>	<b>Orites milliganii</b>	<b>toothed orites</b>	<b>rare</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	<b>Persoonia muelleri subsp. angustifolia</b>	<b>narrowleaf geebung</b>	<b>rare</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
Ranunculaceae	Myosurus australis	southern mousetail	endangered	Native
	<b>Ranunculus collicola</b>	<b>lake augusta buttercup</b>	<b>rare</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	<b>Ranunculus jugosus</b>	<b>twinned buttercup</b>	<b>rare</b>	<b>Endemic in Tas</b>
	Ranunculus pumilio var. pumilio	ferny buttercup	rare	Native
Rhamnaceae	Cryptandra amara	pretty pearlflower	endangered	Native
	Discaria pubescens	spiky anchorplant	endangered	Native
	Pomaderris elachophylla	small-leaf dogwood	vulnerable	Native
	Spyridium vexilliferum var. vexilliferum	helicopter bush	rare	Native
Rubiaceae	Asperula minima	mossy woodruff	rare	Native
	Asperula scoparia subsp. scoparia	prickly woodruff	rare	Native
	Asperula subsimplex	water woodruff	rare	Native
Scrophulariaceae	Euphrasia scabra	yellow eyebright	endangered	Native
	Glossostigma elatinoides	small mudmat	rare	Native
Thymelaeaceae	Pimelea curviflora var. gracilis	slender curved riceflower	rare	Native
				Within Australia, occurs only in Tasmania
Violaceae	Viola cunninghamii	alpine violet	rare	

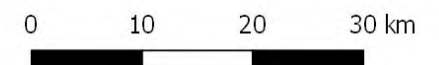




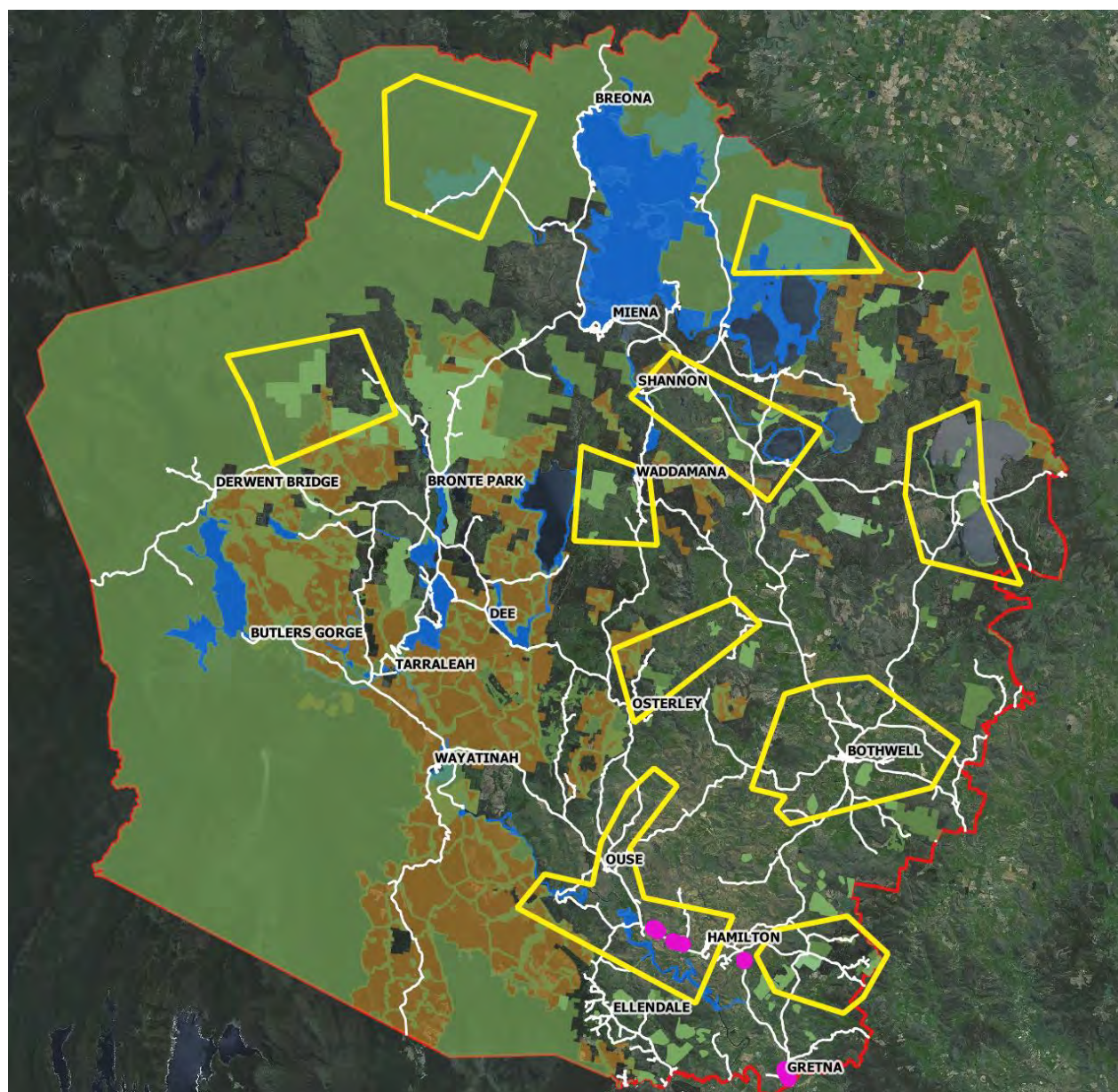
# DISTRIBUTION OF AFRICAN BOXTHORN IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- African Boxthorn
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



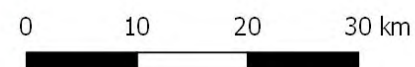




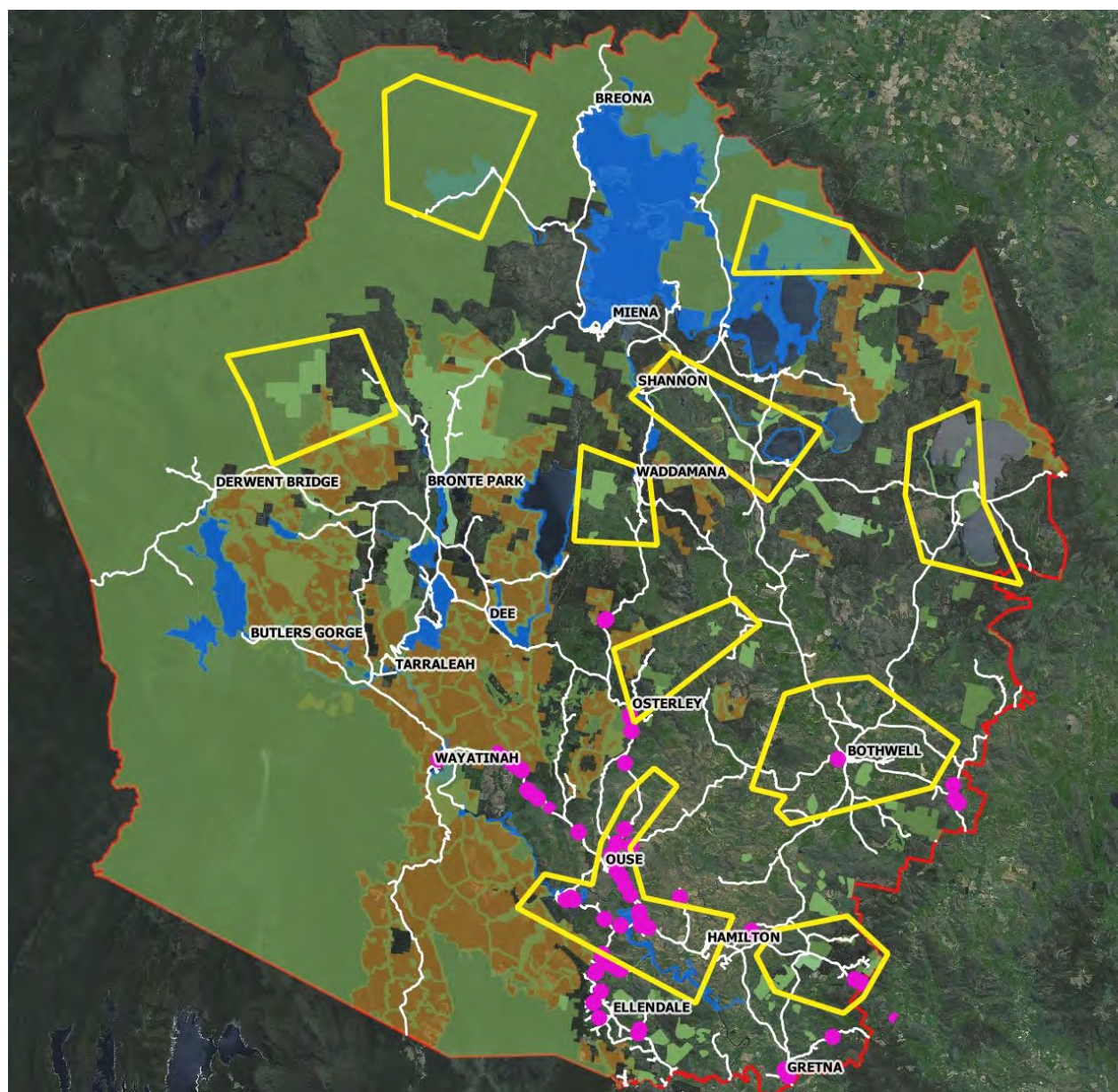
# DISTRIBUTION OF AFRICAN LOVEGRASS IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- African lovegrass
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



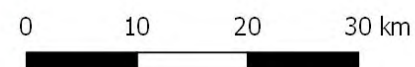




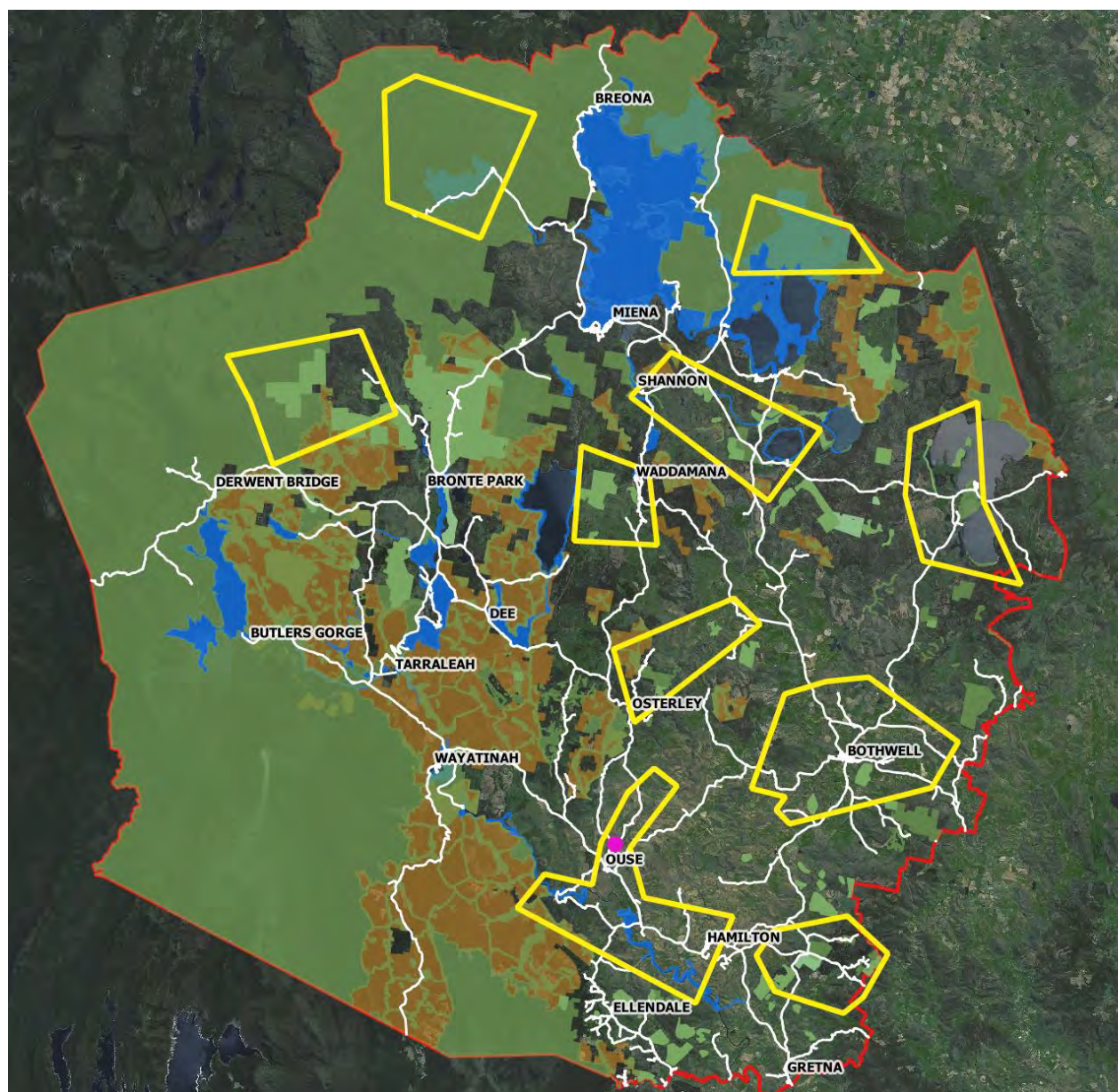
# DISTRIBUTION OF BLACKBERRY IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Blackberry
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands







# DISTRIBUTION OF BLUE PERIWINKLE IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

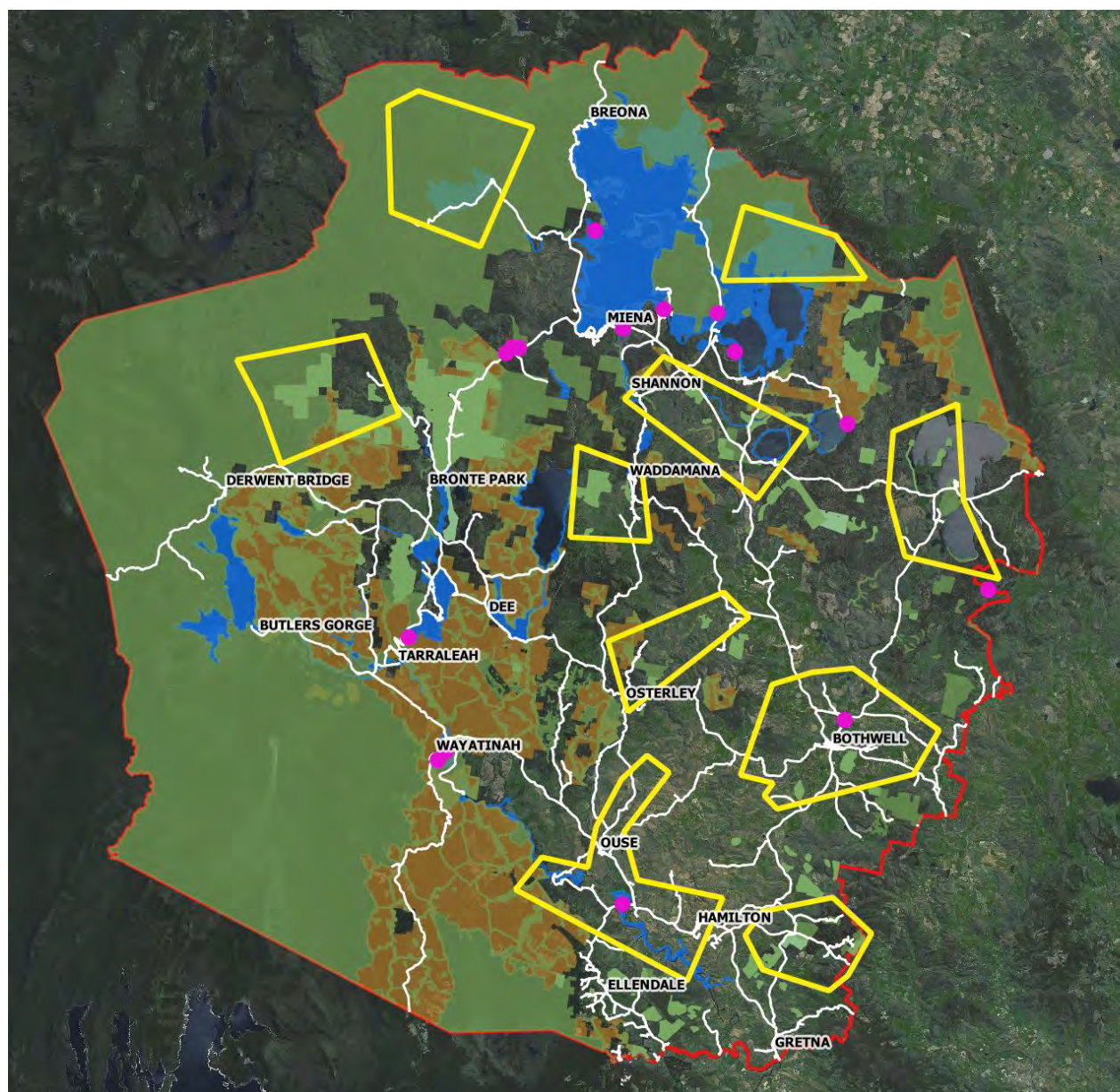
## Legend

- Blue Periwinkle
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands

0 10 20 30 km



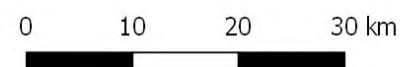




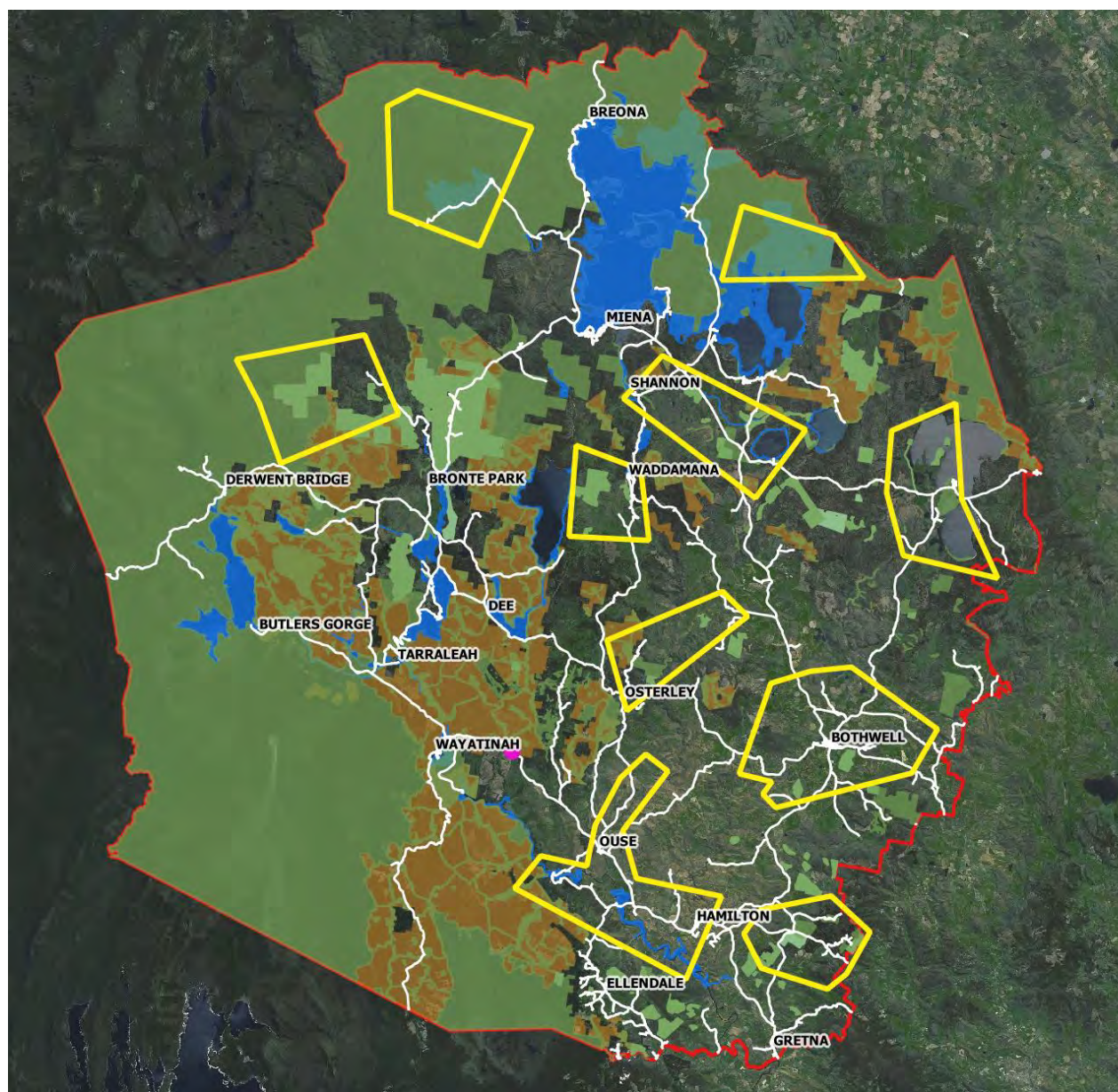
# DISTRIBUTION OF CANADIAN PONDWEED IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Canadian pondweed
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands







# DISTRIBUTION OF CAPER SPURGE IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

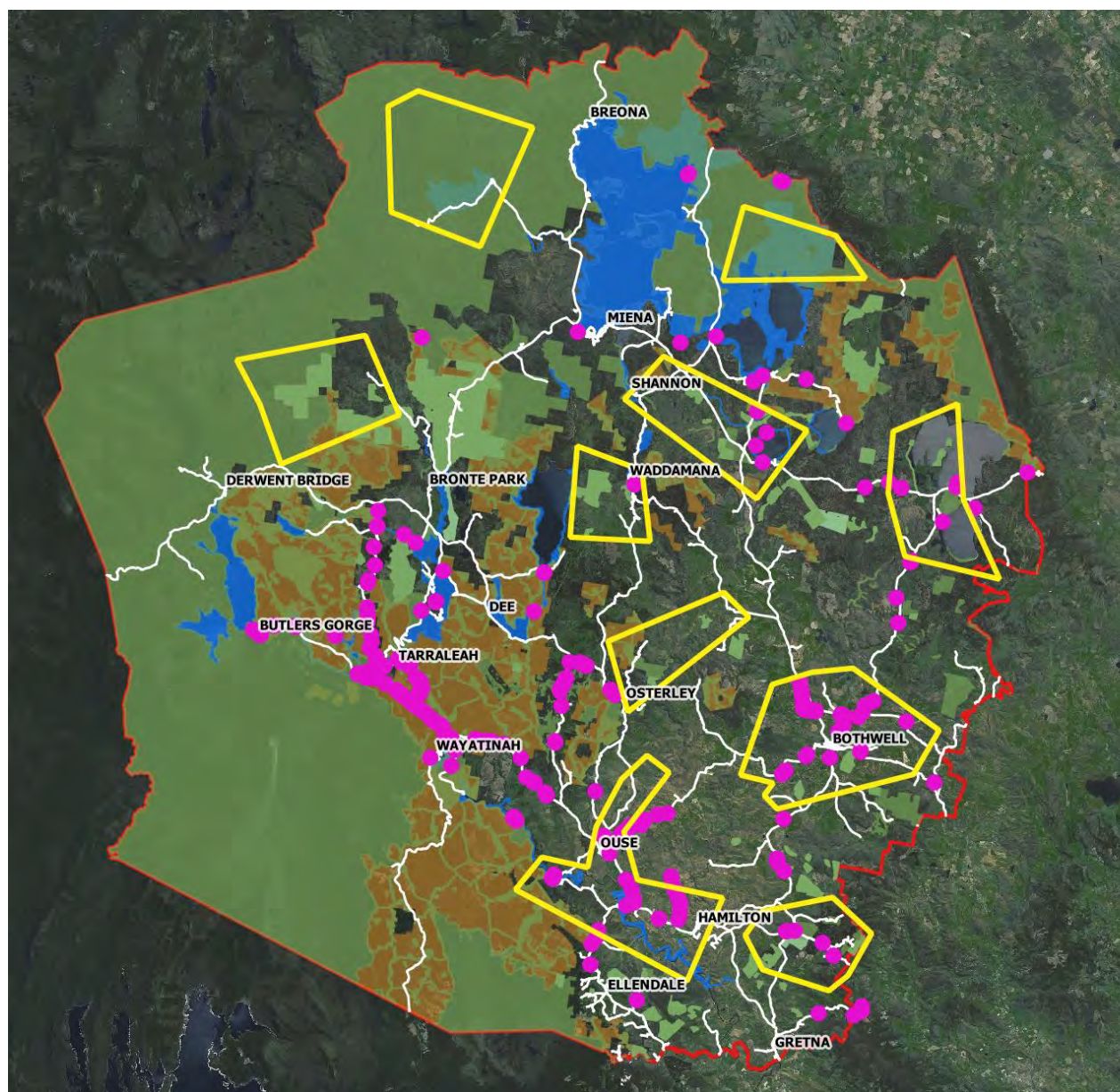
## Legend

- Caper spurge
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands

0 10 20 30 km







## DISTRIBUTION OF DECLARED THISTLES IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

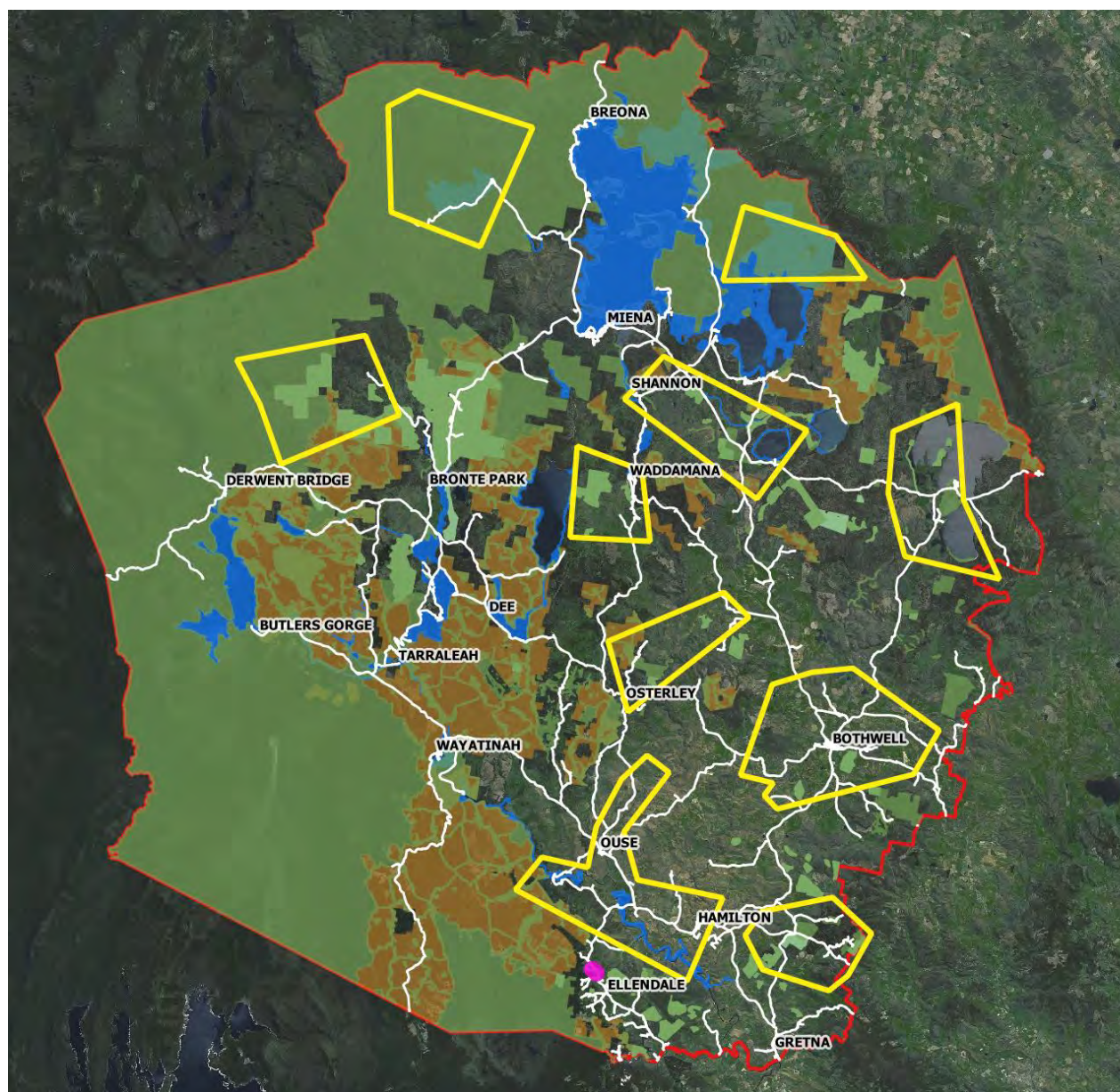
### Legend

- Declared thistles
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands

0 10 20 30 km



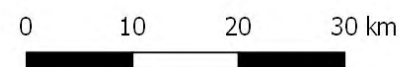




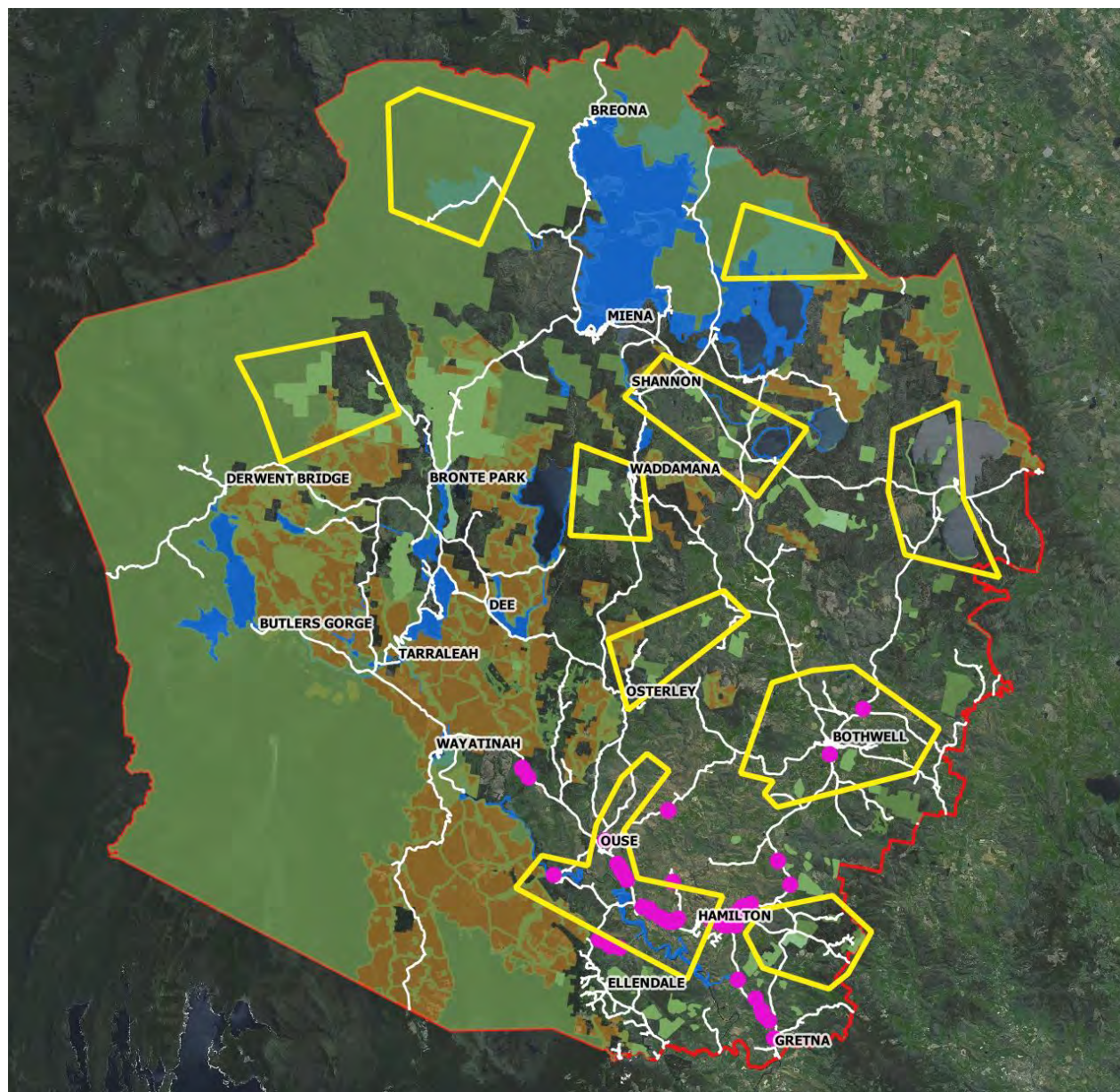
# DISTRIBUTION OF ELISHA'S TEARS IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Elisha's tears
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



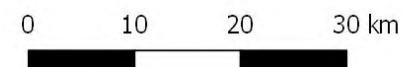




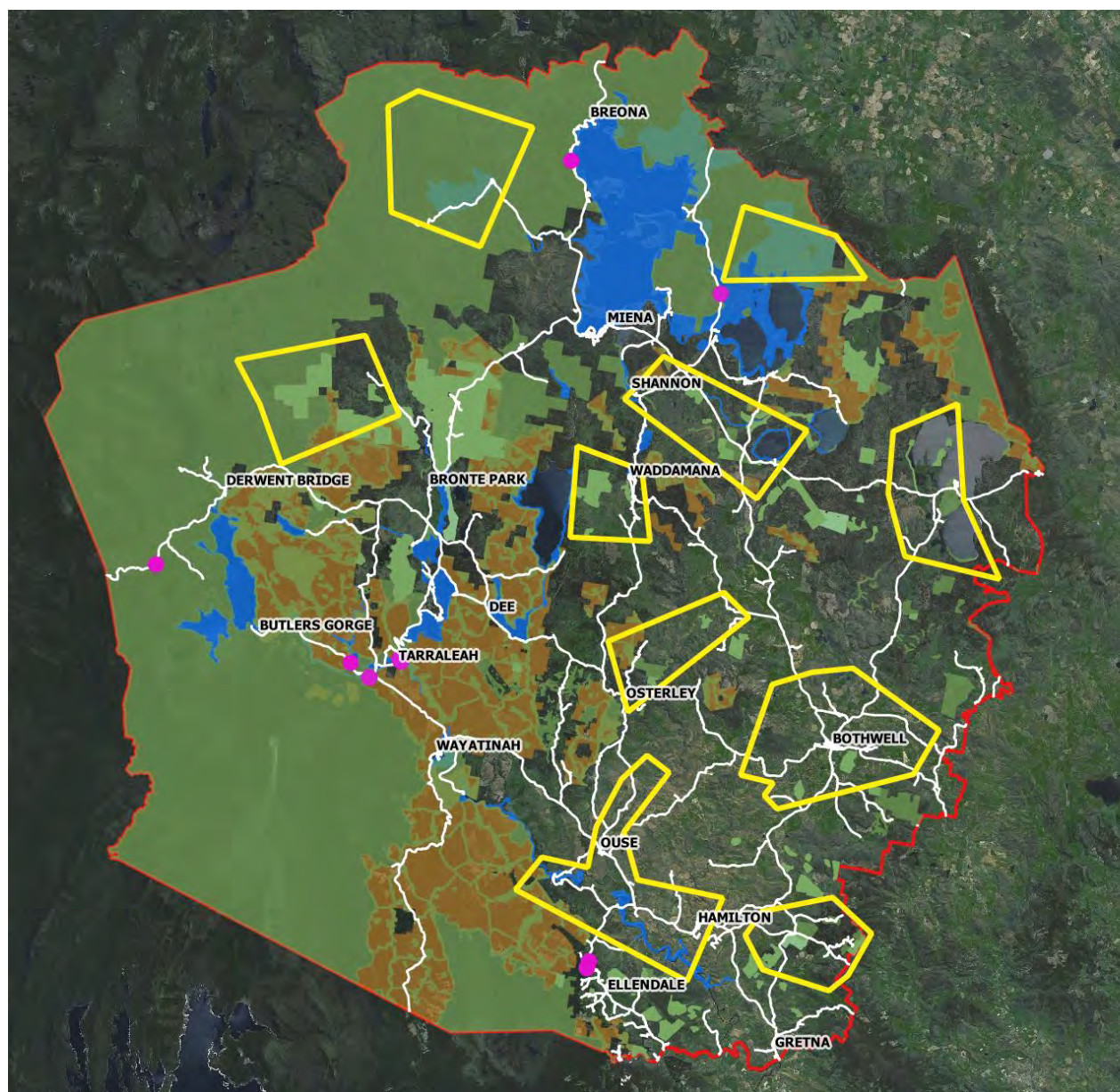
# DISTRIBUTION OF FENNEL IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Fennel
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



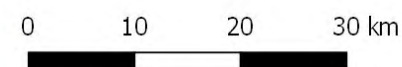




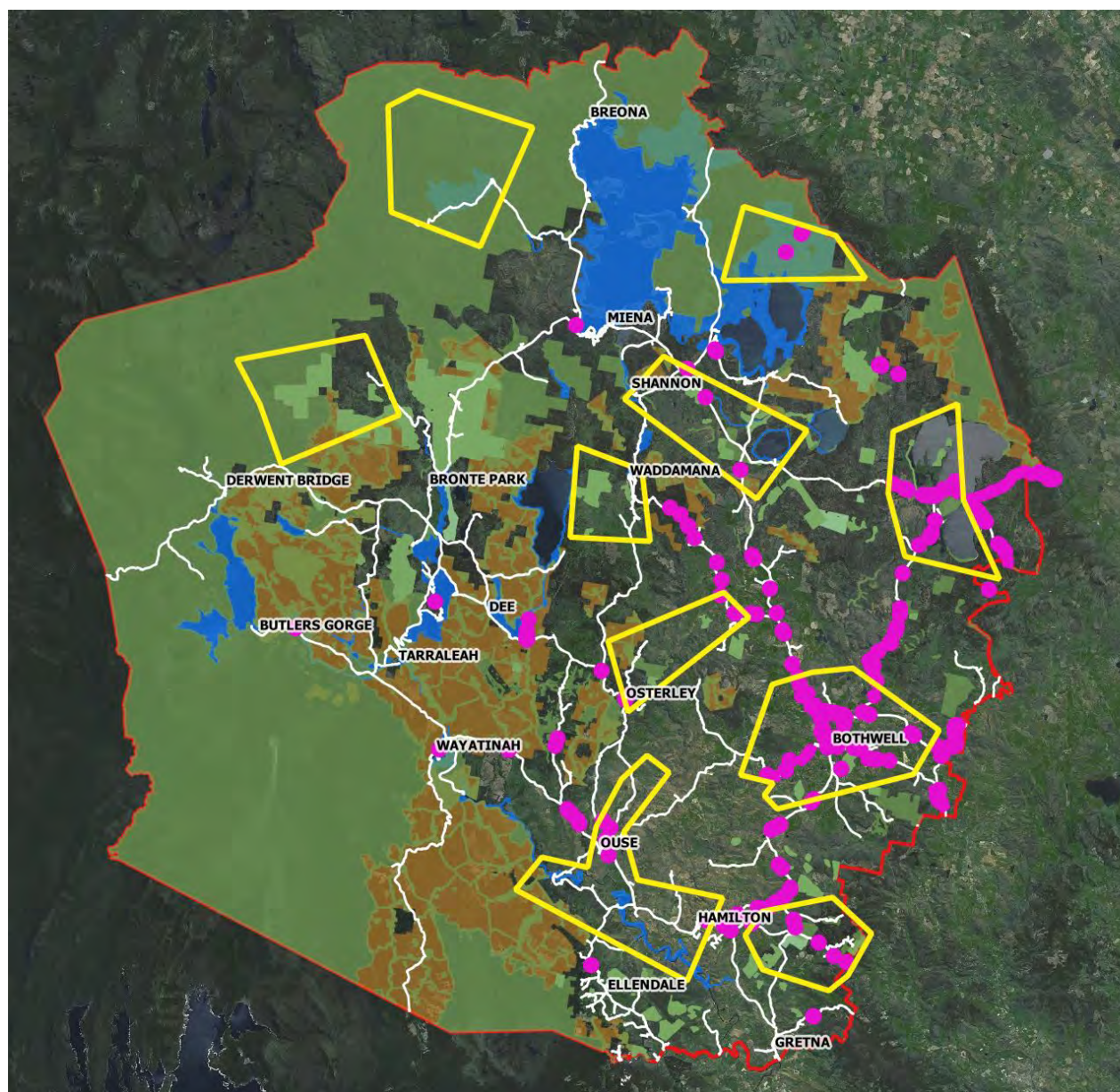
# DISTRIBUTION OF FOXGLOVE IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Foxglove
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



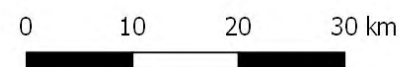




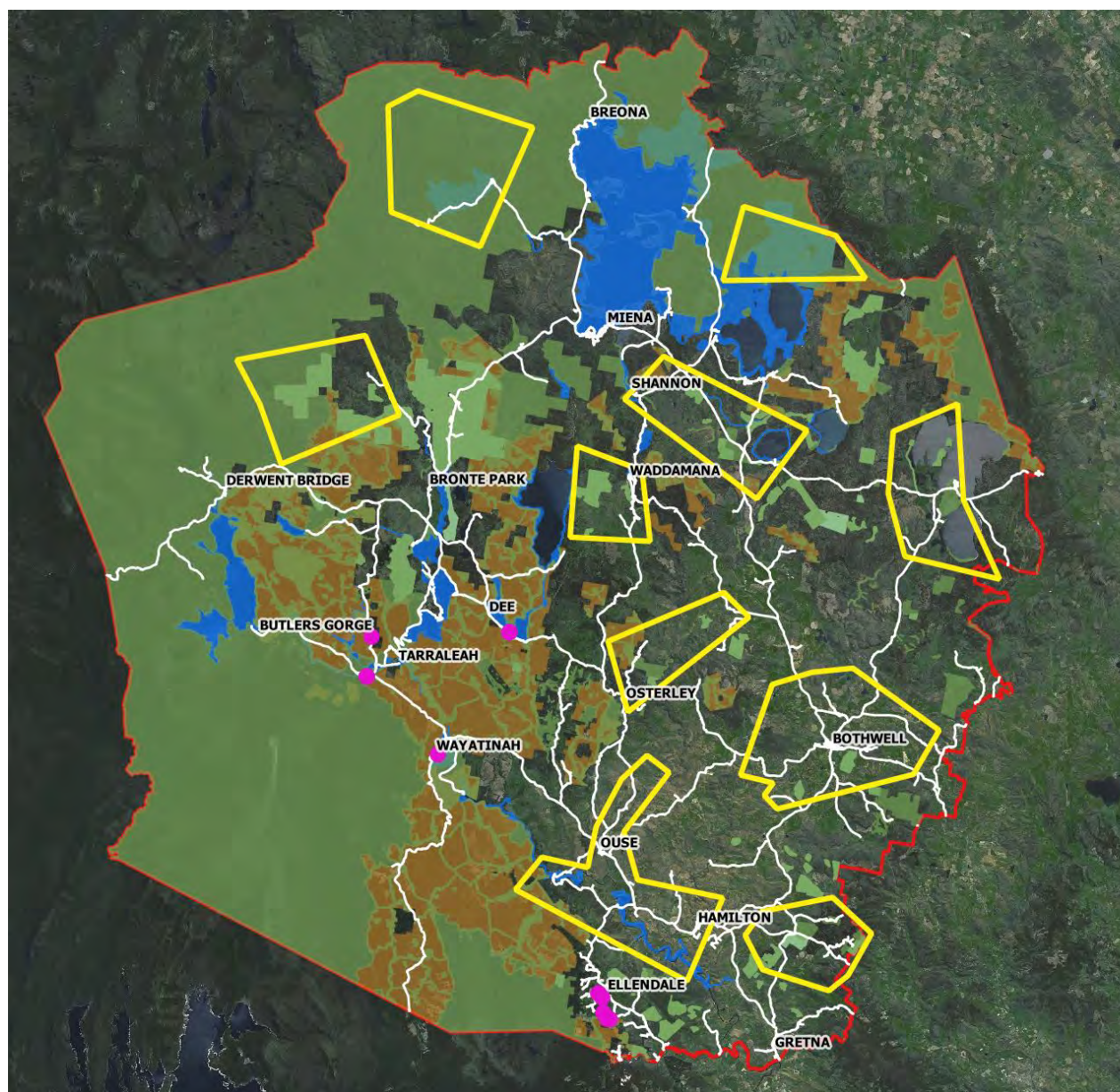
# DISTRIBUTION OF GORSE IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Gorse
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



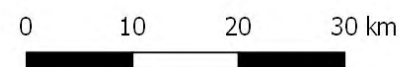




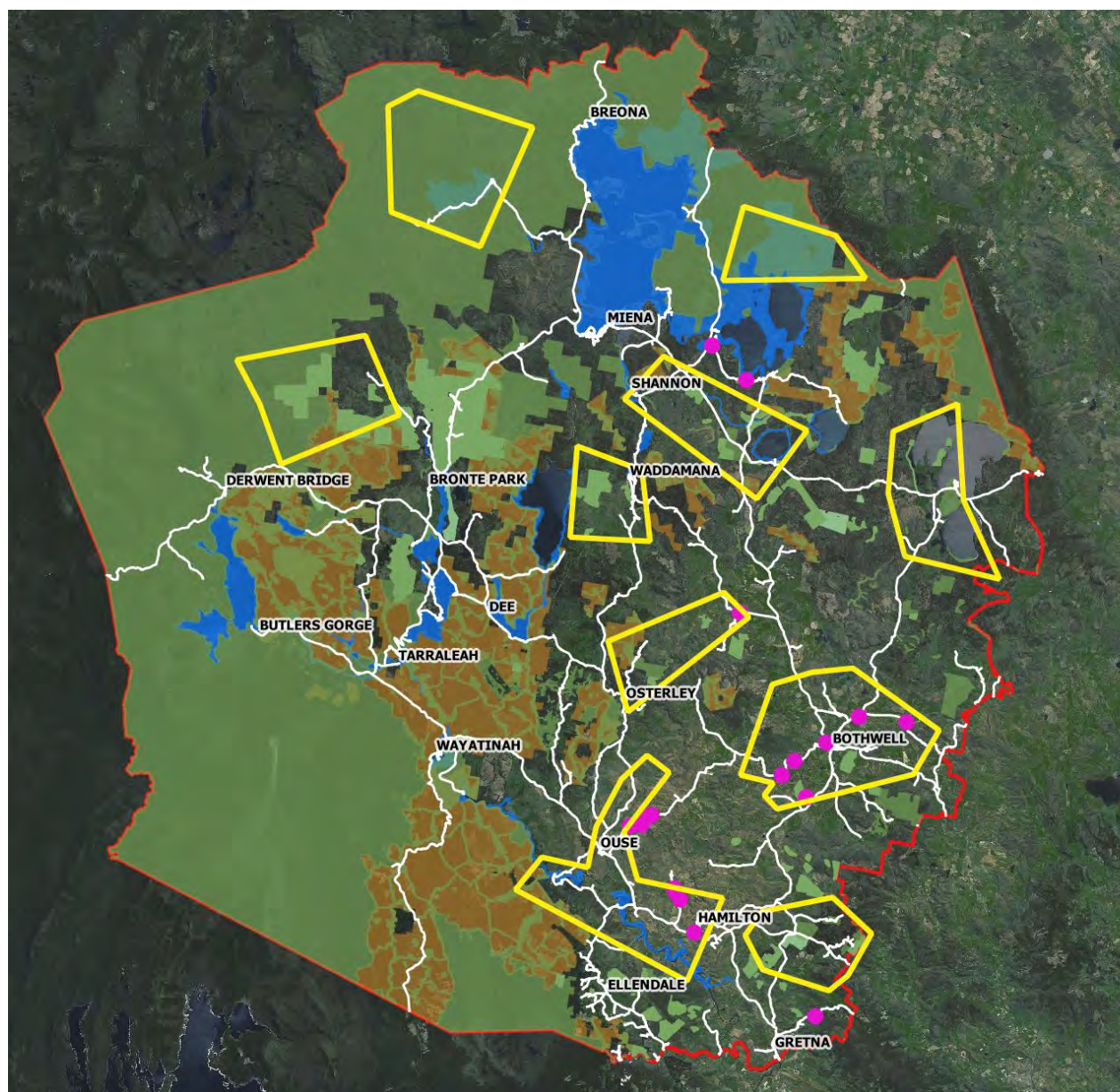
# DISTRIBUTION OF HOLLY IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Holly
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



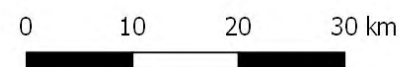




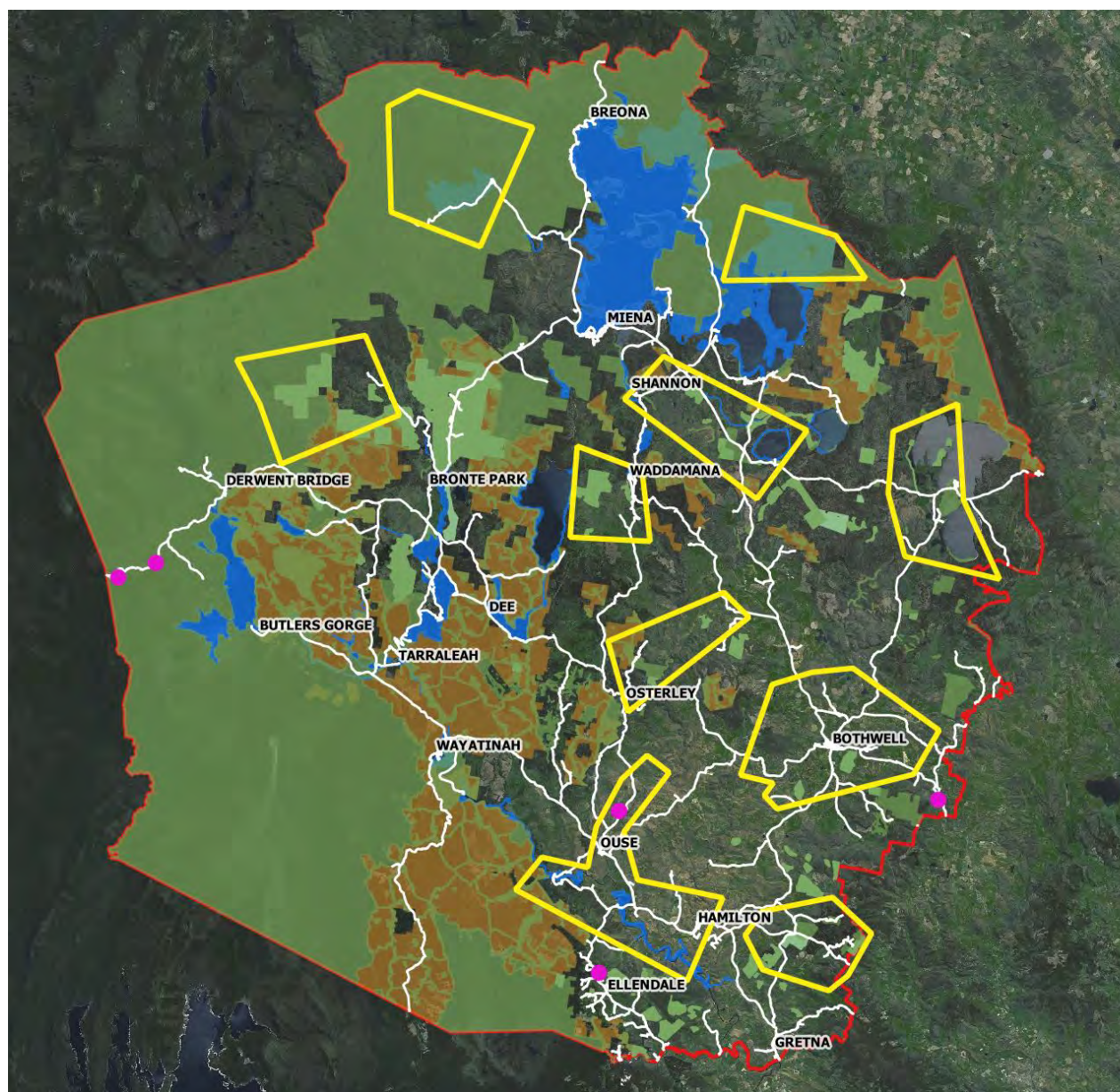
# DISTRIBUTION OF HOREHOUND IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Horehound
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



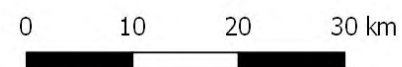




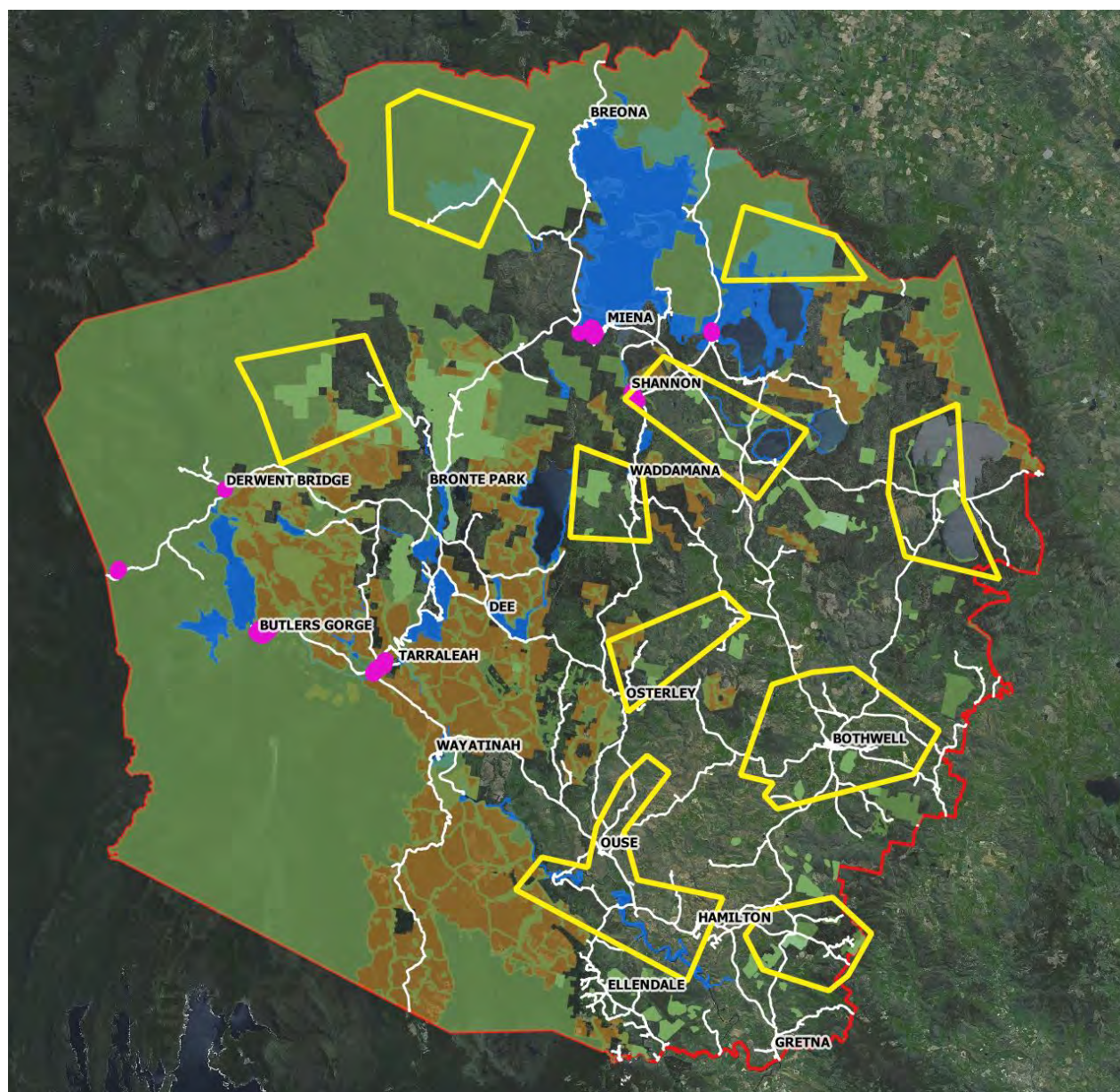
# DISTRIBUTION OF MONTBRETIA IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Montbretia
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



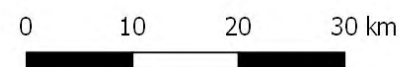




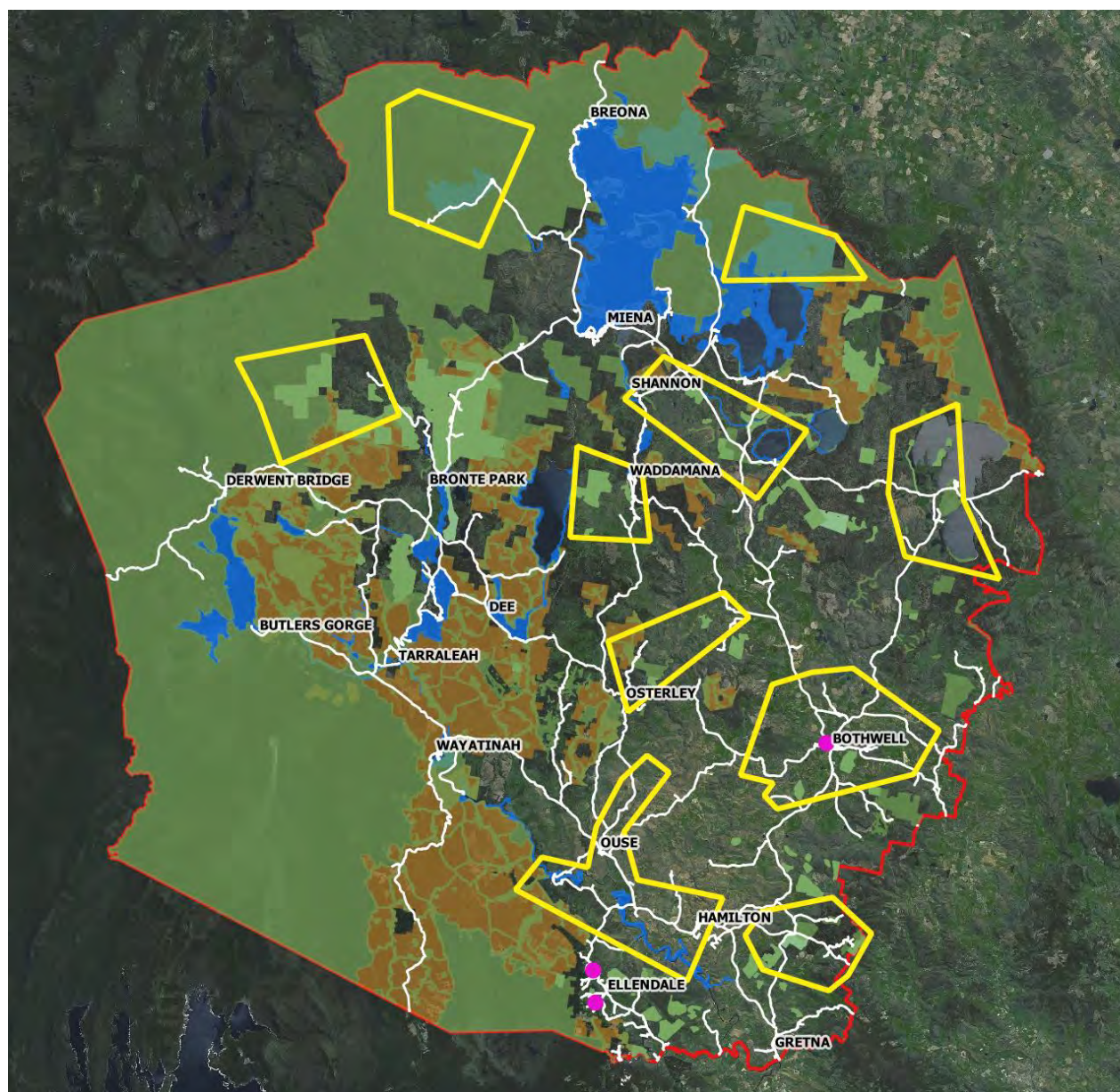
# DISTRIBUTION OF ORANGE HAWKWEED IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Orange hawkweed
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



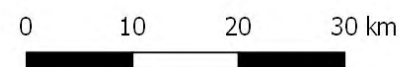




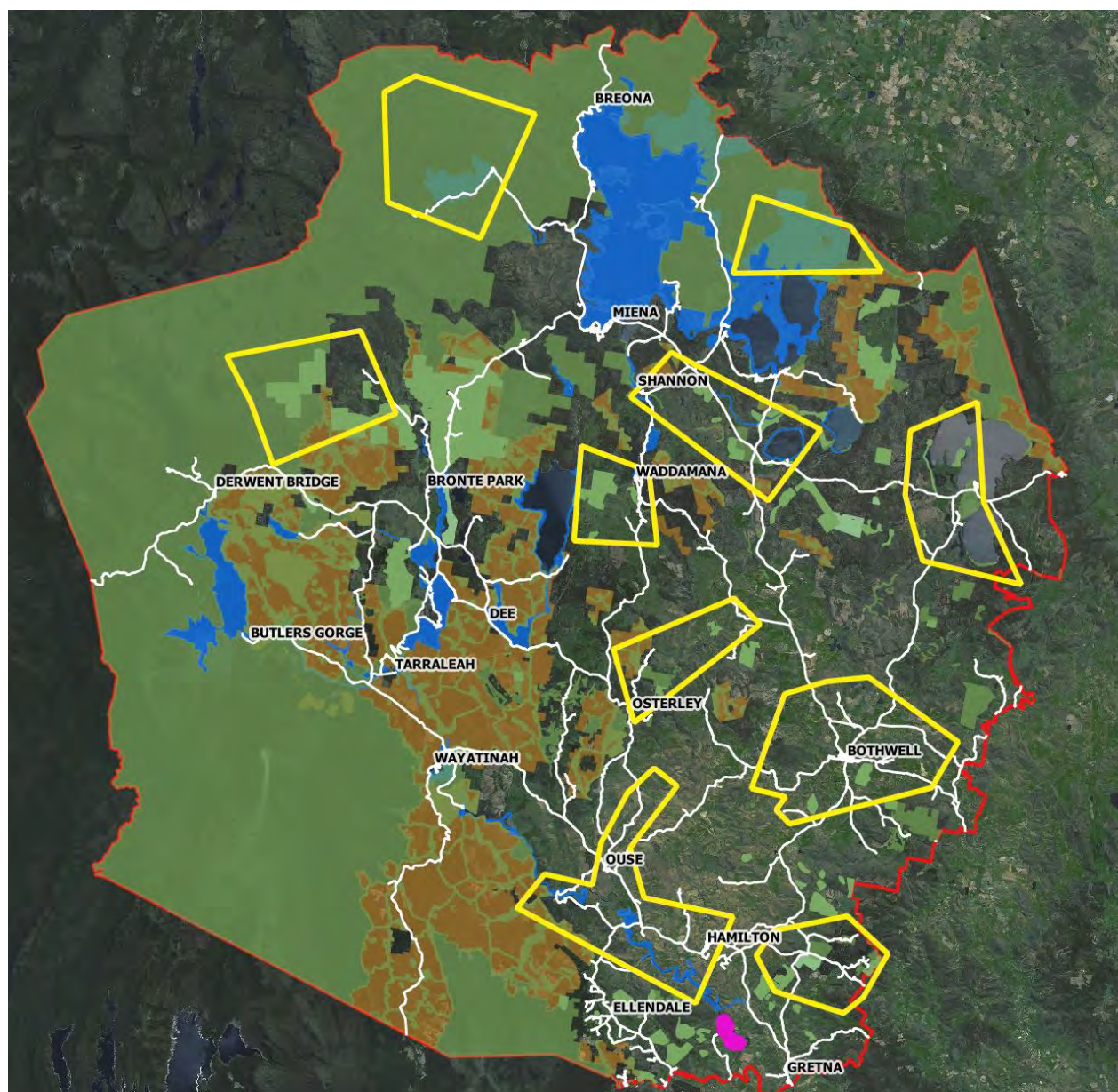
# DISTRIBUTION OF PAMPAS GRASS IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Pampas grass
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



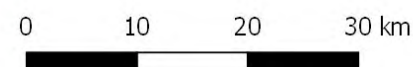




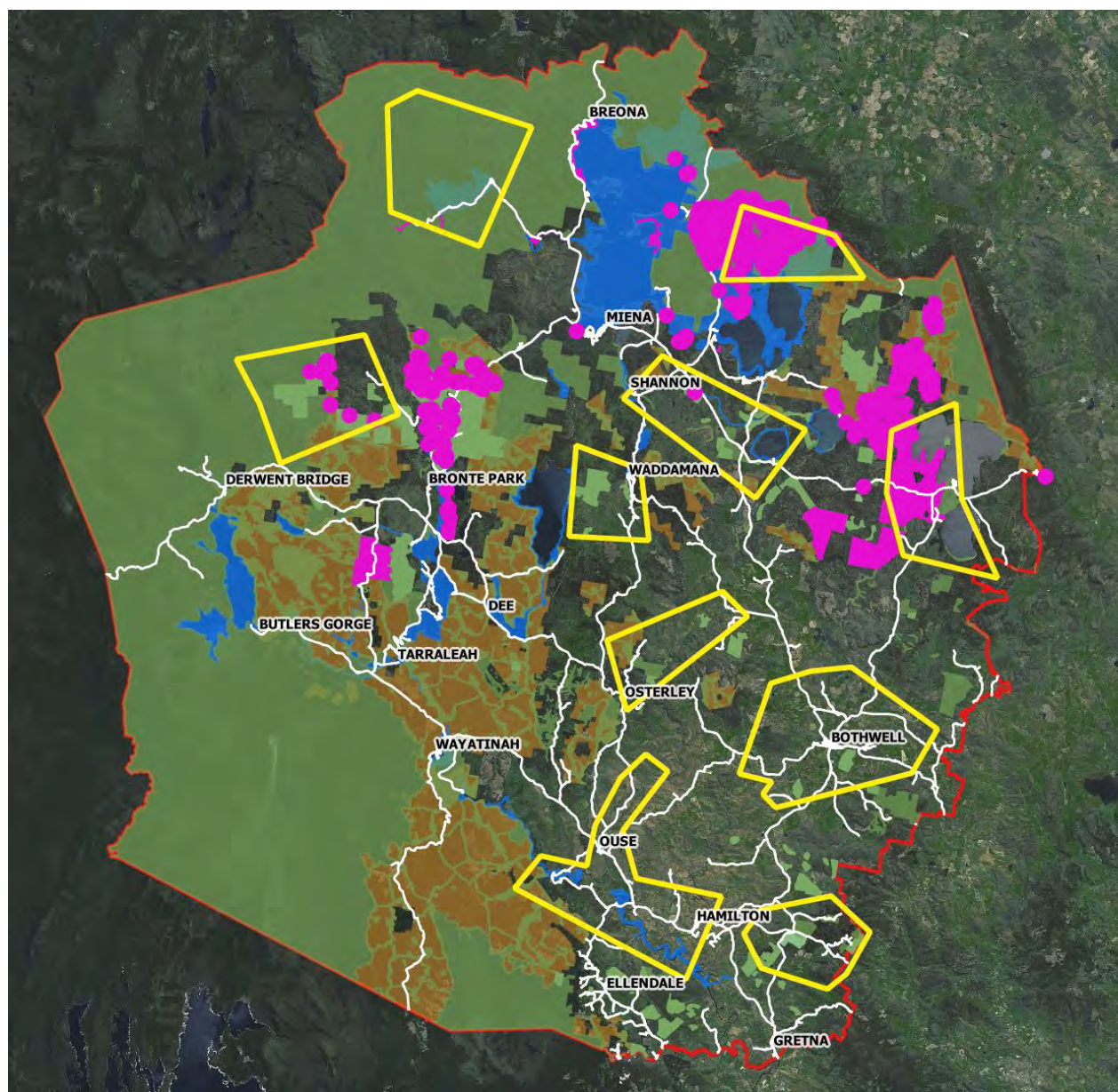
# DISTRIBUTION OF PATTERSONS CURSE IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Pattersons curse
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



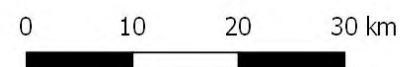




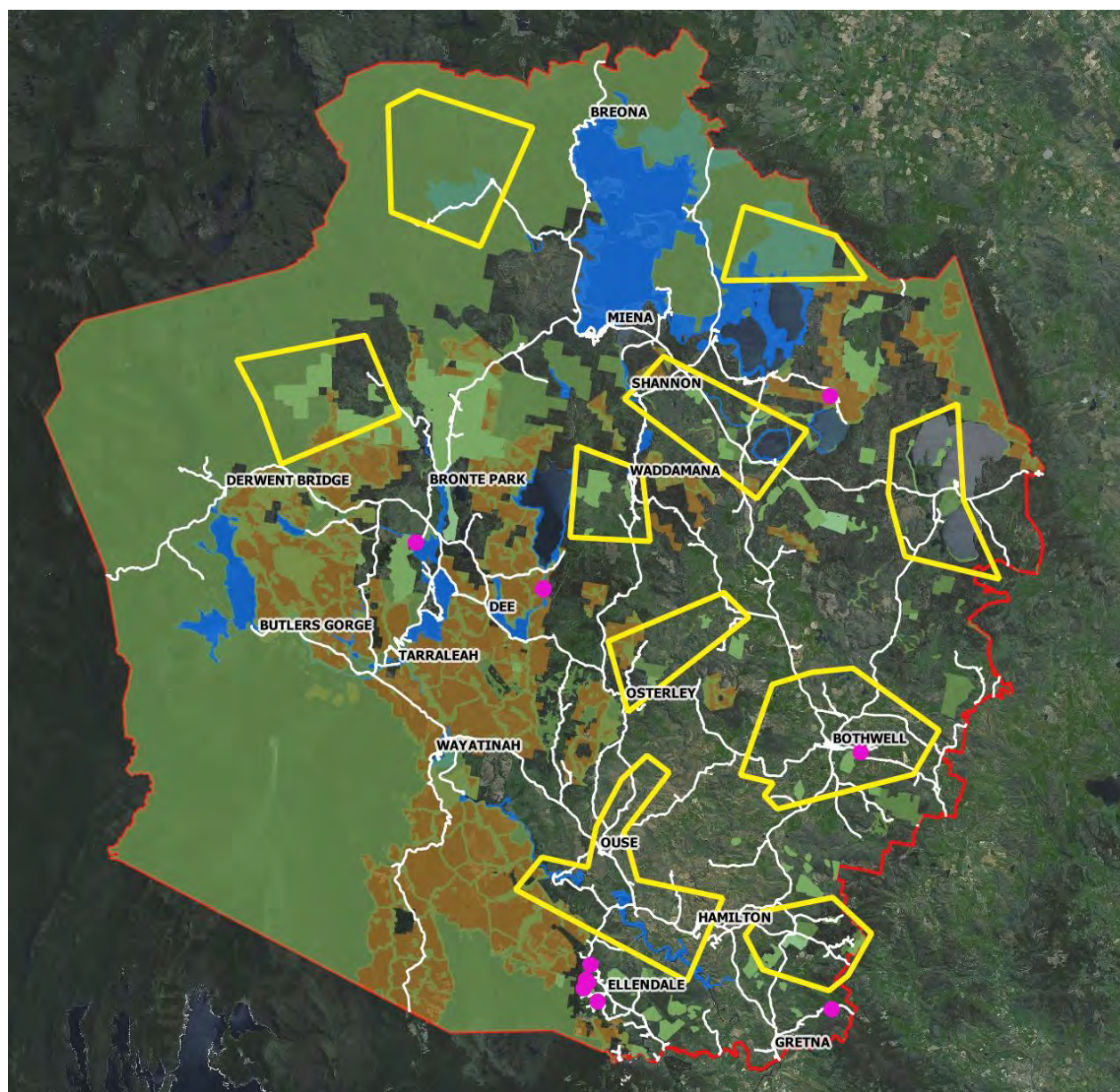
# DISTRIBUTION OF RAGWORT IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Ragwort
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



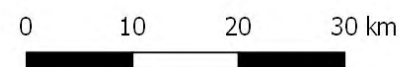




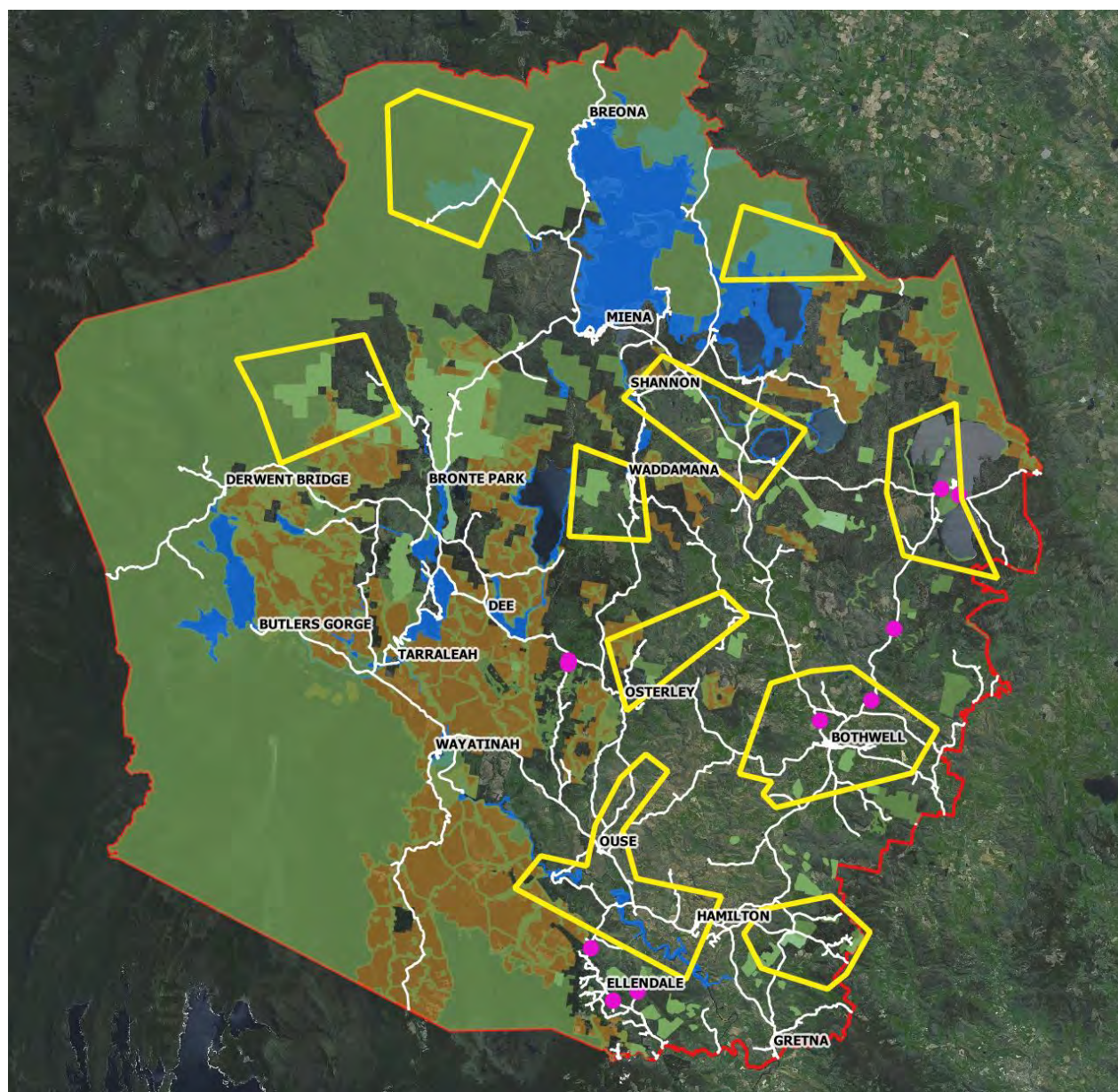
# DISTRIBUTION OF SPANISH HEATH IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Spanish heath
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands



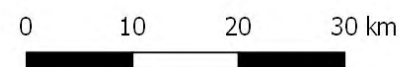




# DISTRIBUTION OF WHITEWEED IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUNICIPALITY

## Legend

- Whiteweed
- Tas Reserve Estate 2016
- Private reserves
- Hydro land
- Forestry land
- Priority Zones
- Central Highlands





# **ATTACHMENT**

**DRAFT CENTRAL HIGHLANDS LOCAL PROVISIONS SCHEDULE**

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

**REPRESENTATIONS ASSESSMENT TABLE**

**9 November 2021**

**DRAFT CENTRAL HIGHLANDS LOCAL PROVISIONS SCHEDULE**

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

**REPRESENTATIONS ASSESSMENT TABLE**

**9 November 2021**

NOTE: IN THE TABLE, 'LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY' REFERS TO COUNCIL ACTING IN THAT CAPACITY UNDER THE *LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS ACT 1993*

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
1.	Tree Alliance Private Forests Tasmania Penny Wells, CEO	Advises that Private Forests Tasmania's comments will be submitted as part of the Department of State Growth's submission	Noted. <u>Local Planning Authority View:</u> No action required.
2.	TasRail Jennifer Jarvis Manager Group Property & Compliance	Notes several aspects of the Draft LPS, including the inclusion of the Road & Rail Assets Code. No objections.	Noted. <u>Local Planning Authority View:</u> No action required.
3.	Tony Donaghy	<p>460 Dry Poles Road, Ellendale. PID 3389090</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerned that property is proposed to be rezoned to Agriculture. 7.269 ha and not part of a larger farm. States that it is 'too small to be viable farm'.</li> <li>Used as a 'rural dwelling' and 'should be zoned either Rural Living or Rural.</li> <li>Aerial images provided.</li> </ul> <p>449 Dry Poles Road, Ellendale. PID 1661759</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Block across road owned by Mr Donaghy's parents.</li> <li>Even smaller than 460 Dry Poles Rd and proposed to be Agriculture also.</li> <li>Same concerns.</li> </ul> <p>Considers the propose zoning to be an error.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>These lots are on the edge of the broader boundary between Rural and Agriculture Zoned areas.</p> <p>Small lots in such locations and clearly incapable of accommodating a commercial farming enterprise and used, or intended to be used, for rural living purposes, should be in the Rural Zone.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of both properties should be amended to Rural.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
4.	Reliance Forest Fibre Darryn Crook, Technical Manager	<p>Reliance Forest Fibre manages large areas of plantation forestry.</p> <p>Concerned that their land holdings are split between Rural and Agriculture Zones, and notes that plantation forestry is 'no permit required' in the Rural Zone.</p> <p>Notes that it is desirable from a forest management perspective to have all plantation properties in the Rural zone to avoid conflict where areas are not covered by a Private Timber Reserve.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Areas dominated by forestry and other non-agricultural use, whether PTRs exist or not, should be zoned Rural.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of all properties owned or managed by Reliance Forest Fibre should be amended to Rural.</p>
5.	Stuart & Karen Philp	<p>Owners of Lot 1 Lyell Highway, Bronte Park, PID 3054354, CT 241850/1</p> <p>124.9 ha property, 116.1 ha of which is covered by a Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of Lot 1 Lyell Highway, Bronte Park, PID 3054354, CT 241850/1 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
6.	Conservation Landholders Tasmania John Thompson obo the Board of Trustees, CLT Trust.	<p>Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) describes themselves as 'an educational trust'.</p> <p>CLT has identified 13 Conservation Covenant areas in Central Highlands that it believes should be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone, instead of the proposed Rural Zone in the Draft LPS, 'subject to landowner agreement'.</p> <p>These are listed in table provided in the submission.</p>	<p>It appears that CLT have contacted the owners of the Conservation Covenant areas and requested them to consider supporting the idea that the zoning of the land be changed from Rural to Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Seven of the landowners have separately made submissions making this request. These are submissions No. 5, 8, 14, 15, 19, 25 and 33. All except No. 8 requested that the entirety of their titles change to Landscape Conservation with No.8 requesting that just the covenanted area change.</p> <p>As detailed above in relation to submission No. 5, Council has indicated it would be receptive to changing the zone of covenanted areas if requested by the landowners. Therefore, it is recommended that this submission by CLT be supported insofar as the proposed zoning changes are supported by the landowners concerned.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of the subject properties where landowner consent has been given should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
7.	<p>TasWater Jason Taylor Development Assessment Manager</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Requests that several water reservoir tank facilities be zoned Utilities. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ouse Reservoir Tank</li> <li>• Bronte Park (Various Tanks).</li> </ul> <p><b>B.</b> Requests that Attenuation Area buffers around Sewerage Treatment Plants not be mapped and that the system rely on the distances specified in the code. In support of this, the submission noted that several mapped Attenuation Areas do not match that specified in the code, and that TasWater is planning upgrade works on various facilities which would alter other appropriate attenuation distances.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree. Key infrastructure such as township water reservoir tanks should be zoned Utilities.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Disagree. The policy for the depiction of Attenuation Areas on the LPS overlay maps is determined by the State Government. The downside of relying on the written description for buffer areas is that they can be missed – by members of the public, Council planners, consultant planners, people involved in conveyancing, etc. If they are mapping into an overlay, such mistakes are much less likely. The overarching policy embedded within the state planning system is that codes should be applied by mapped overlay wherever possible. The depiction of bushfire prone areas is one notable example of this that Councillors will be familiar with. This is a matter for statewide consistency, and not for individual councils to determine, and it is recommended that Council not support this suggestion. <u>Local Planning Authority View:</u> <b>A.</b> The zoning of the land containing the TasWater-owned Ouse Reservoir Tank and Bronte Park Tanks should be amended to Utilities <b>B.</b> Amending the Attenuation Area maps to remove buffer areas around active Sewerage Treatment Plants is not supported.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
8.	Daniel Lee	<p><b>A.</b> Owner of Lot 1 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264618, CT 166564/1 41.9 ha property, 39.3 ha of which is covered by a Conservation Covenant. Proposed to be zoned Rural. Requests that the covenanted area be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone, but that the 2.5 ha portion of non-covenanted land be retained as Rural Zone. If split zoning is not possible, then the preference is to retain the Rural Zone for the entire property. This property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p> <p><b>B.</b> The submitter also notes that two adjoining forested properties are proposed to be zoned Agriculture, yet they contain substantial areas of significant environmental values – the same values that led the government agreeing to the conservation covenant on Lot 1 Marked Tree Road. The submitter requests that this neighbouring land be zoned Rural so that the Priority Vegetation Overlay of the Natural Values Code can apply to provide a level of protection. Aerial mapping provided.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree. Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change. This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do. If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally. Agree to the covenanted portion only being changed to Landscape Conservation and the remainder being Rural Zone.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Agree. This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'. The titles identified in the submission are a case in point. Agree that the two neighbouring titles (RF 171934/1 and FR 108593/1) be zoned Rural.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u> <b>A.</b> The zoning of the covenanted area on Lot 1 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264618, CT 166564/1 should be amended to Landscape Conservation. <b>B.</b> The zoning of the neighbouring land referred to in Point B should be amended to Rural, subject to landowner consent.</p>



No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
9.	<p>Department of Justice Consumer, Building &amp; Occupational Services Peter Graham, Executive Director</p>	<p>Notes that the Bushfire Prone Areas mapping will be introduced into the Central Highlands via the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, (once the Local Provisions Schedule is finalised by the TPC).</p> <p>Requests that Council consider introducing it into the current scheme, the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015.</p>	<p>Disagree.</p> <p>The Bushfire Prone Areas mapping could only be introduced into the current planning scheme via a planning scheme amendment process. This would take months – possible as long, or longer, than to complete the Local Provisions Schedule process.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>Amending the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015 to include the Bushfire Prone Areas mapped overlay is not supported as it would likely take a similar time to the finalisation of the LPS and the subsequent incorporation of this mapping in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme for the Central Highlands municipal area.</p>
10.	<p>Department of Police, Fire &amp; Emergency Management State Emergency Services Andrew Lea, Director.</p>	<p>Notes that there is no Flood Prone Areas overlay in the Draft LPS, and further notes that Council advised that this is because there is no reliable spatial data.</p> <p><b>A.</b> Advises that a state-wide project is underway to produce flood prone area mapping for areas that do not yet have it and asks Council to consider incorporating the mapping into the appropriate overlay in the planning scheme in the future.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Notes that, despite there being no overlay in the LPS, the Flood Prone Areas code applies anyway, via the ordinance. The submission advises that the Department of Justice / State Emergency Service is working on a guidance document for Councils to help them determine when a development application should trigger consideration under the Flood Prone Areas code.</p> <p>The submission further notes a range of information that Council officers can utilise whilst awaiting the above.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree in principle, noting that this is not a matter for Council to determine as part of the current Draft LPS process. Flood prone areas mapping, if available, should be incorporated into the appropriate overlay in the planning scheme.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Noted, and welcomed. Under C12.2.3 of the State Planning Provisions, planning authorities may ask for a flood hazard report. In the absence of a mapped overlay of flood prone areas, there is no specific trigger for Council to ask for such a report. A guidance document would be of great assistance to Council planning officers whilst awaiting the introduction of a mapped overlay.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>These matters are noted and agreed in principal.</p> <p>It is noted that no action is required in regard to the Draft Local Provisions Schedule.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
11.	Michael Stevens & Fiona McOwan	<p>Owners of property at 370 Strickland Rd, Strickland. PID 7710494, CT 160316/1. 70 acres.</p> <p>Rural lifestyle block with hobby-farm level agriculture. No intention to use for commercial agriculture.</p> <p>Concerned about the restrictions on use of proposed Agriculture Zone and has requested the Rural Zone apply.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Whilst this patch is cleared, the property is part of a broader landscape dominated by forest.</p> <p>It is a relatively small lot close to the edge of the broader boundary between Rural Zone and Agriculture Zone.</p> <p>This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'. This is a case in point.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of 370 Strickland Rd, Strickland, PID 7710494, CT 160316/1, should be amended to Rural.</p>
12.	Humbie Pastoral Paul Ellis & Shauna Ellis	<p>Owners of St Patricks Plains, PID 5000165.</p> <p>2,143 ha property. Class 6 agricultural land. 900m above sea level. Fit for dry sheep grazing only. Runs 1 sheep to 3 to 5 acres. Severe winters (average maximum temperatures do not exceed 10 degrees C. Widespread inundation in winter, with rocky land elsewhere. 434 ha of FCF covenanted land.</p> <p>Maps and BOM data provided.</p> <p>The submitters strongly question the application of the Agriculture Zone to this area, as it is poor farmland. The future, they say, is in tourism, recreation and, potentially, renewable energy. Not farming.</p> <p>The Rural Zone is much more suitable to this land.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>High altitude central plateau land such as this is clearly some of the poorest and most marginal land in Tasmania. It is several orders of magnitude poorer than some of the hinterland on the northwest coast that has been allocated the Rural Zone. A core outcome of the entire state-wide single planning scheme project is consistency. In the interest of this alone, this land should be Rural Zone.</p> <p>Recommend that this land, and the other areas of proposed Agricultural Zone in this landscape, be changed to Rural.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, alluded to in the submission, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of St Patricks Plains, including PID 5000165, should be amended to Rural.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
13.	Greg Pullen	<p>Resident of the Central Highlands.</p> <p>Concerned that too much land is proposed to be zoned Agriculture instead of Rural.</p> <p>Agriculture Zone up the boundaries of settlements will make future expansion all but impossible.</p> <p>The Agriculture Zone also removes consideration of natural values, as the Priority Vegetation overlay cannot apply in this zone. This will lead to ill-considered developments.</p> <p>Cites the proposed wind farm at St Patricks Plains as an example – on land proposed to be Agriculture Zone yet contains many significant natural values.</p> <p>Concerned the inability of councils to ‘tidy up ... historical anomalies’ in the planning scheme through this process will be at a substantial cost to ratepayers through the need for multiple minor planning scheme amendments in the future.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>This accords with Council’s view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as ‘land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone’</p> <p>The submission is correct in that the Priority Vegetation overlay cannot apply in the Agriculture Zone. This is reasonable in the case of genuine productive agricultural land, as such land was invariably cleared and farmed many years ago and therefore contains little or no natural values.</p> <p>Many large areas of proposed Agricultural Zone in the Central Highlands, conversely, are inherently poor from an agricultural perspective and there have not been subject to wholesale clearance over the course of the last 200 years and retain very substantial levels of significant natural values. This is indicative of the poor ‘fit’ of the Agriculture Zone to such land.</p> <p>Recommend that the extent of the proposed Agriculture Zone be substantially reviewed using the ‘decision tree’ document that the Southern councils jointly developed.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely and covers relatively poor quality land and land hard-up against townships where it will lead to land use conflict and make township expansion considerations more onerous than the quality of the land warrants. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
14.	ECO-NOMY P/L Dean Brampton, Director.	<p>Owner of 'Bronte Park 2', Lyell Highway, Bronte Park, PID 2304227, CT 243948/1</p> <p>15.09 ha property, 14.08 ha of which is covered by a Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of 'Bronte Park 2', Lyell Highway, Bronte Park, PID 2304227, CT 243948/1 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>
15.	PC Jacques & MJ Jacques	<p>Owner of property off Dennistoun Road, Bothwell, PID 1843865, CT 126437/1</p> <p>Property containing a Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of the property off Dennistoun Road, Bothwell, PID 1843865, CT 126437/1 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
16.	Tas Fire Service Tom O'Connor Senior Planning & Assessment Officer	<p>TFS is broadly supportive of the Draft LPS.</p> <p>The TFS points out that, since the Bushfire Prone Areas Code was reviewed in 2017, it no longer applies to Visitor Accommodation use. It is therefore suggested that clause P1.2(b) in the proposed Lake Meadowbank Specific Area Plan be amended to remove specific reference to the Code and simply refer to 'bushfire protection':</p> <p><i>(b) the extent of clearing is the minimum necessary to meet the requirements of the Bushfire Prone Areas Code for bushfire protection.</i></p> <p>TFS consider that this change will enable proposed Visitor Accommodation Use to be subject to bushfire risk mitigation considerations.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Whilst this change seems counter-intuitive, the recommendation is based on the practical experience of TFS working with the Code.</p> <p>It is somewhat inexplicable that the 2017 revision of the Code removed Visitor Accommodation from its operation, as fire emergencies are even more threatening to people unfamiliar with an area.</p> <p>The proposed change is supported.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The following change should be made to clause P1.2(b) in the proposed Lake Meadowbank Specific Area Plan to remove specific reference to the Code and simply refer to 'bushfire protection':</p> <p><i>(b) the extent of clearing is the minimum necessary to meet the requirements of the Bushfire Prone Areas Code for bushfire protection.</i></p>
17.	Venesser Oakes	<p>Owner of 168 Risbys Road, Ellendale. PID 7147419.</p> <p>12.17 ha 'steeply sloped property, with approximately 50% natural bush' and with electrical infrastructure running through it. Too small and steep to be successfully used for anything more than a small-scale hobby farm.</p> <p>Concerned that the land is proposed to be Agriculture Zone. The Rural Zone is more appropriate.</p> <p>Expressed dissatisfaction with the formatting and layout, and general usability of the various documents on display as part of the Draft LPS public exhibition.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>This property is approximately 50% cleared and is relatively steep. It is part of a cluster of Rural Zoned similar-sized lots to the north and west, whilst it abuts a much larger Agriculture Zone property to the east.</p> <p>It is a relatively small lot on the edge of the broader boundary between Rural Zone and Agriculture Zone.</p> <p>The submission accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'. This is a case in point.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of 168 Risbys Road, Ellendale, PID 7147419, should be amended to Rural.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
18.	TasNetworks ?	<p><b>A.</b> Requests the Derwent Bridge substation and nine communication sites be zoned Utilities.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Requests that no land with Electricity Transmission Corridors over it be zoned Landscape Conservation.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Requests Priority Vegetation Overlay be removed from 18 infrastructure sites where the vegetation has already been substantially modified.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Notes several problems with the State Planning Provisions that could cause safety issues - - mainly exemptions. It is suggested that there be exceptions to these exemptions in the Electricity Transmission Corridors overlay – similarly to the exceptions associated with the Local Historic Heritage Code.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree. Substantial infrastructure sites such as these should be zoned utilities.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Agree. The Landscape Conservation Zone is incompatible with Electricity Transmission Corridors. Whilst there is no Landscape Conservation Zone in the draft LPS, this may change with a number of owners of conservation covenanted land requesting this zoning. The existence of an Electricity Transmission Corridor would need to be checked in these cases.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Agree. The Priority Vegetation Overlay on substantially modified infrastructure sites is unnecessary and problematic.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Noted. As this matter relates to the State Planning Provisions, it is not within Council's current role to form a view on this matter.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> The zoning of TasNetworks' Derwent Bridge substation and nine listed communication sites should be amended to Utilities</p> <p><b>B.</b> Any areas amended to Landscape Conservation Zone that include Electricity Transmission Corridors should have these areas excluded from the Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p><b>C.</b> The Priority Vegetation Overlay should be removed from the 18 listed infrastructure sites where the vegetation has already been substantially modified.</p> <p><b>D.</b> This a matter for the State to consider.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
19.	Malcolm Grant	<p>Owner of Lot 3 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3268969, CT 166563/3</p> <p>40.1 ha property, 27.43 ha of which is covered by a Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of Lot 3 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3268969, CT 166563/3 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>



20.	Jim Allwright	<p><b>A.</b> Concerned about the large extent of proposed Agriculture Zone, covering land that is unsuitable to agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural lifestyle areas around Ellendale and Westerway.</li> <li>• High-altitude seasonal grazing land, better suited to other (non-agricultural) pursuits.</li> </ul> <p>The Agriculture Zone will reduce landowners' ability to further use and development of these areas in the future.</p> <p>Applying the Agricultural Zones to marginal areas such as these is at odds with the zoning of much better agricultural potential land in the northwest as Rural, and one of the stated key aims of this entire planning reform project to achieve state-wide consistency.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Concerned that the Planning Commission has directed that Council's modified Lake Meadowbank Specific Area Plan be removed from the Draft LPS. The lake, with all its users and values, including Aboriginal heritage, needs contemporary planning arrangements.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Concerned that Council's attempts to remove minor split-zonings has not been permitted, so far, by the Commission, despite State guidance to the effect that split zoning is to be avoided if at all possible.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Concerned that this planning reform process has not allowed the removal of minor redundant anomalies, such as the removal of the Attenuation Area around the now non-existence sewerage treatment ponds at Great Lake Hotel.</p>	<p><b>A. Agree.</b></p> <p>This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Large areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'.</p> <p>Recommend that areas with these characteristics be changed to the Rural Zone, in accordance with the 'decision tree' document adopted by the Southern councils.</p> <p><b>B. Agree.</b></p> <p>The amendments to the Lake Meadowbank Specific Area Plan would enable it to function more efficiently, better fit with the SPP format and protect significant Aboriginal Heritage values.</p> <p>Recommend that Council continue to argue for its inclusion at the Commission hearings.</p> <p><b>C. Agree.</b></p> <p>The split zone titles that Council wishes to adjust so that they are entirely one zone constitute minor changes and ought to be possible.</p> <p><b>D. Agree.</b></p> <p>Council has not been able to undertake a general 'scheme renovation' for twenty years. In the late 2000s, Council was about to embark on a new planning scheme when the Regional Planning Reform process began, and Council chose to join that process. Midway through the process it was announced by the State that the interim schemes being created had to be 'like-for-like', and hence scheme renovation was not permitted. The current Statewide planning reform process has also been designed to be a 'like-for-like' transition and, hence, general scheme renovation is similarly not allowed.</p> <p>The outcome of all of this is that schemes have become full of redundant or out-of-date components, and it will take a great deal of local government and state government resources to fix these matters through a long series of planning scheme amendments.</p>
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No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
			<p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> The Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely and covers relatively poor quality land and land hard-up against townships where it will lead to land use conflict and make township expansion considerations more onerous than the quality of the land warrants. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p> <p><b>B.</b> The modified Lake Meadowbank Specific Area Plan should be reinstated into the LPS, for the reasons previously detailed by Council including justifications under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993.</p> <p><b>C.</b> The minor changes to zoning to remove unnecessary split zones, as previously proposed in the Draft LPS, should be reinstated.</p> <p><b>D.</b> The redundant Attenuation Area buffer around the now non-existent sewerage treatment ponds at the Great Lake Hotel should be removed, as previously proposed in the Draft LPS.</p>
21.	Eco-Nomy P/L Dean Brampton	<p>Proposes the creation of a Scenic Road Corridor (possibly a Scenic Protection Area) under the Scenic Protection Code of the State Planning Provisions.</p> <p>The area would extend 20km along the Lyell Highway, extending to the furthest skyline or 2 km if the skyline is very distant. Detailed maps and extensive landscape values analysis are provided in the submission.</p>	<p>Potentially agree.</p> <p>Whilst the proposal may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or the impacted landowners in particular regarding this specific proposal.</p> <p>A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The establishment of the mooted Scenic Road Corridor (or alternatively a Scenic Protection Area) under the Scenic Protection Code along the Lyell Highway should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
22.	S&K Superannuation Fund Stuart & Karen Philp	<p>Proposes the creation of a Scenic Road Corridor (possibly a Scenic Protection Area) under the Scenic Protection Code of the State Planning Provisions.</p> <p>The area would extend 20km along the Lyell Highway, extending to the furthest skyline or 2 km if the skyline is very distant. Detailed maps and extensive landscape values analysis are provided in the submission.</p> <p>The submission is identical to No. 21.</p>	<p>Potentially agree.</p> <p>Whilst the proposal may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or the impacted landowners in particular regarding this specific proposal.</p> <p>A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The establishment of the mooted Scenic Road Corridor (or alternatively a Scenic Protection Area) under the Scenic Protection Code along the Lyell Highway should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>
23.	PDA Surveyors Justine Brooks Senior Planning Consultant.	<p>Pertains to an approved subdivision on the northern edge of Bothwell, for Clyde River Holdings Pty Ltd. PID 3240245, CT 164767/1.</p> <p>The subdivision for 16 residential lots and the amalgamation of a number of adjacent large rural titles was approved prior to the advent of the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015. The small lots have not yet been created but the approval has “substantial commencement” and therefore remains alive.</p> <p>The submission states that the land was zoned Village prior to the 2015 interim scheme and that this zoning was changed to Rural Resource by that scheme. It is now proposed to be Agriculture under the draft LPS.</p> <p>It is requested that the land subject to the 16 approved small lots be changed back to Village, to appropriately suit the future development and use of this land.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The land accommodating the 16 approved residential lots at Bothwell on PID 3240245, CT 164767/1 be changed to Village, in line with the zoning that existed prior to the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
24.	Alexandra Brock & Garry Daud.	<p>Owners of 571 Thousand Acre Lane, Hamilton.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural. (The submitters are content with that zoning.)</p> <p>Concerned about the rezoning of neighbouring land to Agriculture.</p> <p>Their land and the neighbouring properties form a cluster of rural lifestyle lots that retain substantial areas of remnant native bush, embedded within a broader pastoral farming landscape that is predominantly cleared.</p> <p>The native bush has priority vegetation values, both on the submitters land and on the neighbouring rural lifestyle blocks. These values are not protected on the neighbouring land, due to the Agriculture Zoning.</p> <p>It is requested that these neighbouring titles be zoned Rural.</p> <p>The submitters also express broader concerns over the proposed far-ranging application of the Agriculture Zone in Central Highlands, where they consider there will be many other cases where high-value native vegetation areas are so zoned, and therefore omitted from the Priority Vegetation Overlay.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Subject to landowner consent.</p> <p>The submission accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Large areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'. This is a case in point.</p> <p>Recommend that Council contact the owners of the neighbouring rural-lifestyle blocks to ascertain their views. Where agreed, support change to the Rural Zone.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The two land parcels (neighbouring 571 Thousand Acre ) be changed to Rural Zone, subject to landowner consent.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
25.	Peter & Michelle Cassar Smith.	<p>Owners of Lot 3 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264626, CT 166564/3. (Note: a different Lot 3 to Submission No.19)</p> <p>138.9 ha property containing a Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Advises that they are selling the property and that they have notified the purchasers of this issue and that the purchasers agree with the Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of Lot 3 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264626, CT 166564/3 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>
26.	<p>Department of State Growth</p> <p>James Verrier</p> <p>Director, Transport Systems and Planning Policy</p>	<p>Generally, in agreement with the draft LPS.</p> <p>Several aspects of the State Planning Provisions are noted and endorsed.</p> <p><b>A.</b> Requests amending the zoning of a new road lot to Utilities. CT 46/6704, Highland Lakes Road near Ripple Creek.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Notes that some mining leases are proposed to be zoned Agriculture and suggests that the Rural Zone might be more appropriate.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree.</p> <p>The road easements of major roads such as Highland Lakes Road should be Utilities.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Not agree.</p> <p>Council liaised with Mineral Resources Tasmania regarding all mining leases. Where a lease is for a relatively minor operation within a larger agricultural title, it was agreed not to spot-zone to Rural.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> The zoning of CT 46/6704, Highland Lakes Road, should be changed to Utilities.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Mining leases for minor mining facilities should be zoned as per the subject title, as agreed with Mineral Resources Tasmania.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
27.	Tasmanian Land Conservancy James Hatton, CEO	<p><b>A.</b> Requests all land owned by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy to be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone. In Central Highlands this is multiple properties covering 20,000 ha. Protected by conservation covenants. Much of this land is currently proposed to be Rural. Some is proposed to be a mix of Environmental Management, Agriculture and Rural. Nevertheless, all TLC land is requested to be Landscape Conservation.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Request Council to implement a process of continually revising, updating and re-evaluating natural assets overlay mapping.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Requests that the Priority Vegetation Overlay apply to all zones.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Request that the Natural Assets Code be reviewed – principally to remove exemptions.</p> <p><b>E.</b> Suggest that all covenanted land be zoned landscape Conservation.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Agree. Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change. This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Not relevant to the current statutory process. It is noted that such work is best carried out at the regional or state level.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Not within Council's purview. This pertains to the State Planning Provisions. The State has directed that these are specifically outside the scope of the current process.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Not within Council's purview. This pertains to the State Planning Provisions. The State has directed that these are specifically outside the scope of the current process.</p> <p><b>E.</b> Not agree. If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> The zoning of all land owned by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p> <p><b>B.</b> This is not relevant to the Draft LPS.</p> <p><b>C.</b> This is a matter for the State.</p> <p><b>D.</b> This is a matter for the State.</p> <p><b>E.</b> It is not agreed that all land subject to a conservation covenant be rezoned to Landscape Conservation. If this was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
28.	Greg & Jane McGann Hatlor Pty Ltd	<p>Owners of a home on 70 acres at Arthurs Lake.</p> <p><b>A.</b> Concerned about the proposed rezoning from Rural Resource to Agriculture, and the 'unintended negative impacts' that could result.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Questions why the Scenic Protection Code has not been used, given the area's natural beauty.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> The submitters appear to hold the same concerns that Council has in regard to the proposed inappropriate rezoning of large areas of land to Agriculture. Council's view is that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Large areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Council has not sought to introduce a Scenic Landscape Area into the scheme via this Tasmanian Planning Scheme establishment process. Whilst this may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage. There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or potentially impacted landowners.</p> <p>A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process, and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p><b>C.</b> The Supporting Report details this State Government-initiated project. This can be provide to the submitters.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> The Agriculture Zone has been applied far to widely and covers relatively poor quality land often accommodating uses such as forestry and natural values conservation. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Council has agreed to explore the use of the Landscape Conservation Code as potential planning scheme amendments, pursuant to specific proposals submitted by a number of other representors.</p>



No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
29.	Dominica Sophia Tannock	<p>Melbourne resident who has recently purchased a property in the Central Highlands lakes area.</p> <p><b>A.</b> Concerned about the rezoning of this area from Rural Resource to Agriculture. Specifically, the potential impact on landscape.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Proposes the use of the Scenic Protection Code</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Council's established view is that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Council view therefore accords with the general concerns of the submitter.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Not agree.</p> <p>Whilst the creation of scenic protection areas may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or impacted landowners in particular. A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process, and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> The Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely and covers relatively poor quality land often accommodating uses such as forestry and natural values conservation. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Council has agreed to explore the use of the Landscape Conservation Code as potential planning scheme amendments, pursuant to specific proposals submitted by a number of other representors.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
30.	<p>GHD</p> <p>David Cundall, Senior Planner obo Geoffery Herbert</p>	<p>3 Adelaide Street, Bothwell. CT 245881/1.</p> <p>Land zoned Low Density Residential and proposed to transition to the new Low Density Residential zone.</p> <p>Existing approval for subdivision of 8 lots, ranging in size from 1547m2 to 2446m2.</p> <p>Notes that this land is adjacent to five existing village-sized lots (around 900m2) and proposes that 3 Adelaide Street should also be Village Zone.</p> <p>Requests Council to commit to a structure planning process for Bothwell to consider the most appropriate zoning for the various parts of the town into the future.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Many rural towns around the State have been subject to structure planning projects over the last ten years.</p> <p>It would appear to be many decades since Bothwell has had the benefit of such a process.</p> <p>Structure plans often recommend rezonings, and they are then used to support planning scheme amendments.</p> <p>Recommended that Council pursue a structure plan for Bothwell once the LPS work is completed, potentially with financial support from the State Government.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>A structure plan for the township of Bothwell, with input from the local community should be developed. This should follow completion of the Local Provisions Schedule development process and is to set out the preferred future development of the town and any subsequent zoning changes that ought to be made.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
31.	Ian Fitzgerald	<p>Concerned for the preservation of the natural landscapes around The Steppes, St Patricks Plains, Thousand Lakes Wilderness Area and the Great Lake and associated water bodies.</p> <p>Specifically, concern is expressed about the possible impacts of the mooted windfarm at St Patricks Plains / Steppes.</p>	<p>The submitter is not specific in suggesting how the Draft LPS could be modified to address these concerns. The creation of Scenic Protection Areas under the SPP's Scenic Protection Code would potentially address them.</p> <p>Whilst the creation of Scenic Protection Areas may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or impacted landowners in particular. A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The submission is not sufficiently detailed in regard to proposed changes to the Draft LPS for a definitive view to be formed. However, Council has formed views on related matters regarding the zoning of this land and possible Scenic Protection Areas.</p>
32.	Mary Louise Ashton Jones	<p>Concerned for the preservation of the natural landscapes around Central Highlands.</p> <p>Request that the Scenic Protection Code be utilised in the LPS.</p>	<p>Potentially agree.</p> <p>Whilst the creation of Scenic Protection Areas may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or impacted landowners in particular. A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code in this area should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
33.	Natalie Fowell	<p>Owner of Lot 2 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264597, CT 166564/2.</p> <p>41.64 ha property containing a 38.19 ha Conservation Covenant.</p> <p>Proposed to be zoned Rural.</p> <p>Requests that it be zoned Landscape Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Note that this property is also part of the Conservation Landholders of Tasmania (CLT) submission.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Council's policy on this issue is that all covenanted land would be proposed to be zoned Rural in the Draft LPS, and that Council would consider alternate zoning if the owners submitted a request to change.</p> <p>This policy was adopted in light of the fact that Council was anecdotally aware that many landowners specifically do not want their land rezoned as a consequence of entering into such a covenant, whilst others do.</p> <p>If rezoning was an automatic consequence of entering into a conservation covenant, many such covenants would not have been created, leading to reduced environmental outcomes generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of Lot 2 Marked Tree Road, Hamilton, PID 3264597, CT 166564/2 should be amended to Landscape Conservation.</p>
34.	Victoria Onslow & William Phipps Onslow	<p>Concerned for the preservation of the natural landscapes around Central Highlands.</p> <p>Request that the Scenic Protection Code be utilised in the LPS.</p> <p>Cites the need to protect the area's world class trout fishing, tourism and recreation industries.</p> <p>Particularly mentions the Steppes area.</p>	<p>Potentially agree.</p> <p>Whilst the creation of Scenic Protection Areas may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or impacted landowners in particular. A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The establishment of the mooted Central Highlands Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code along the Highland Lakes Road and Waddamana Road should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
35.	David Ridley	<p>Concerned for the preservation of the natural landscapes around Central Highlands.</p> <p>Requests that the Scenic Protection Area be created in the LPS covering those parts of the Central Plateau visible from Highland Lakes Road and Waddamana Road.</p> <p>Provides a very detail report “Central Highlands Scenic Protection Area (SPA), Tasmania”. This includes maps, photographs and a detailed and thorough analysis of landscape values.</p> <p>The submitter points out that the existing Rural Resource Zone contains some provisions pertaining to landscape protection whilst the new Rural and Agriculture Zones do not.</p>	<p>Potentially agree.</p> <p>Whilst the creation of Scenic Protection Areas may have merit, the introduction of such a significant planning mechanism cannot be undertaken in this process at this stage.</p> <p>There has been no formal consultation with the community generally or impacted landowners in particular. A proposed change of this magnitude should only be considered through a specific planning scheme amendment process and be based on a professional study by a suitably qualified person to define the area(s).</p> <p>The point that the transition from the existing Rural Resource Zone to the new Rural and Agriculture Zones will result in the removal of clauses pertaining to landscape impact is well made, and should be relevant to Council’s future consideration of this matter generally.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The establishment of the mooted Central Highlands Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code along the Highland Lakes Road and Waddamana Road should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>
36.	Irene Inc Jacqui Blowfield, Senior Planner obo the No Turbine Action Group Inc (Central Highlands).	<p>Concerned that the mooted windfarm will significantly impact on the significant natural values of the areas around Liawenee, Todds Corner and St Patricks Plains.</p> <p>Supporting the submission is a biodiversity values assessment and a statement on the impact on Wedge-tailed eagles.</p> <p>Of particular focus is the proposed zoning of these areas to Agriculture and the subsequent omission of the Priority Vegetation Overlay of the Natural Assets Code. These areas have important natural values that ought to be protected in the new scheme.</p> <p>Suggests that the Landscape Conservation Zone is the most appropriate zone.</p>	<p>Partially agree.</p> <p>Recommended that the Rural Zone, and therefore the Priority Vegetation Overlay of the Natural Assets Code, apply to these areas.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>A change of zoning to Landscape Conservation is not supported.</p> <p>The zone should be changed to Rural.</p> <p>The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code in this area should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
37.	Red Seal Urban & Regional Planning Trent Henderson, Principal Planner obo Jonathon Dorkings	<p>Jonathon Dorkings is owner of 204 Meadowbank Road, Meadowbank, PID 7516181, CT 35385/2.</p> <p>The subject land is a small 3079m2 rural lifestyle block, part of a cluster with seven similar -sized lots.</p> <p>Concern centres on the proposed Agriculture Zone.</p> <p>Request that the zone be Rural Living Zone to match the use and development of this land.</p> <p>The request is supported by a detailed planning report and an agricultural capability assessment by a qualified consultant – Geo-Environmental Solutions (GES).</p> <p>The GES report concludes the land is Class 6 agricultural land, i.e.: poor, with no capacity for cropping.</p> <p>Concludes that the subject land and the seven similar-sized adjacent lots should be Rural Living Zone.</p>	<p>Agree that the Agriculture Zone is inappropriate for this land and the seven similar adjacent titles.</p> <p>Recommend Rural Zone, however, not Rural Living Zone.</p> <p>Although small clusters of Rural Living Zone or Low Density Residential Zone are not uncommon, with many such small clusters around the Highland lakes.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of 204 Meadowbank Road, Meadowbank, PID 7516181, CT 35385/2 should be amended to Rural.</p> <p>The zoning of the similar lots in the same strip should be changed to Rural, subject to landowner consent.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
38.	John Toohey	<p>A regular visitor to the Central Highlands.</p> <p>Concerned that the intrinsic values, scenic values, aboriginal heritage, unique character and landscape values of the Highlands is maintained and protected.</p> <p>Suggests these tables in the LPS should not be left blank:</p> <p><b>A.</b> Table C6.1 Local Heritage Places</p> <p><b>B.</b> Table C6.3 Local Historic Landscape Precincts</p> <p><b>C.</b> Table C6.4 Places or Precincts of Archaeological Potential</p> <p><b>D.</b> Table C6.5 Significant Trees</p> <p><b>E.</b> Table C8.1 Scenic Protected Areas</p> <p><b>F.</b> Table C8.2 Scenic Road Corridors</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Disagree.</p> <p>As Councillors will be aware, Council's preference is to include the existing Local Heritage Places list in the new LPS – but with spatial extents modified to match the revised equivalent listings on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. To transfer them without doing this would result in thousands of hectares of farmland unnecessarily listed for non-existent heritage values. This was apparently not possible, so the decision was made to remove the local list. It is noted that all places remain on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, and so remain protected.</p> <p><b>B. C. D. E &amp; F</b> Disagree.</p> <p>These various precincts, places and areas are not in the current planning scheme and there has been no work done to identify any and/or liaise with community and potentially impacted landowners. Council is not in a position to propose the introduction of these mechanisms as part of this current process.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> Table C6.1 Local Heritage Places should not be utilised as Council has been unable to manage the spatial extents of the listed properties to match the Tasmanian Heritage Register listings and the key areas of all properties are, in any case, listed on the THR, rendering the local list redundant.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Table C6.3 Local Historic Landscape Precincts should not be utilised.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Table C6.4 Places or Precincts of Archaeological Potential should not be utilised.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Table C6.5 Significant Trees should not be utilised.</p> <p><b>E. and F.</b> The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area and a Scenic Road Corridor under the Scenic Protection Code should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act, as per specific proposals subject of other representations.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
39.	Jacob Smith	<p>Owner of the former Principal's Cottage of Ouse School at 7011 Lyell Highway.</p> <p>States that this land is not zoned Village despite being part of the village of Ouse, next to the school.</p> <p>Under the Draft LPS it is proposed to be zoned Agriculture and is currently Rural Resource Zone.</p> <p>Notes that Council's Supporting Report states that there is insufficient need for more Village Zone land in Ouse pursuant to the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy. However, the submitter argues that this strategy is out-of-date, being developed eleven years ago prior to the recent population boom in Tasmania which has led to a general shortage of housing supply.</p> <p>The land is unsuitable for an agricultural enterprise, being relatively small, adjacent to the school and unirrigated.</p> <p>Allowing the land to be subdivided would, in contrast, likely strengthen the school through increased student numbers.</p> <p>Request change to Village Zone.</p>	<p>Agree that the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy is badly out of date.</p> <p>However, a structure plan or similar settlement analysis would need to be undertaken at Ouse to support a rezoning to Village.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the Agriculture Zone is considered inappropriate for the reasons raised by the submitter.</p> <p>Smaller titles such as this that are, in practice, part of villages but not zoned as such should be zoned Rural, as a 'holding zone'. This would allow easier consideration of town expansion in the future and to create a buffer around the townships.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The zoning of 7011 Lyell Highway should be changed to Rural, as this will negate potential for land use conflict, especially in such close proximity to the school, and it will perform the function of a 'holding zone' in the short term.</p> <p>A structure plan for the township of Ouse, with input from the local community should be developed. This should follow completion of the Local Provisions Schedule development process and is to set out the preferred future development of the town and any subsequent zoning changes that ought to be made.</p>



No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
40.	<p>Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water &amp; Environment.</p> <p>Tim Baker, Secretary</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Does not support the zoning of the western half of the Interlaken Canal as Utilities Zone. Requests that it be Environmental Management Zone.</p> <p>States that the EMZ zones is necessary to protect the RAMSAR wetland <i>“from further encroachment and/or hydrological impact by the canal and associated works, now and in the future”</i>.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Requests that a Public Reserve, PID 5475283, on the Lyell Highway be changed from Rural Zone. (Not stated which zone is requested).</p> <p><b>C.</b> Request unallocated Crown Land at Brady’s Lagoon (PID 2541169) be changed from Agriculture Zone to Environmental Management Zone, as it contains threatened native vegetation.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Notes that all references to the National parks and Reserves Land Regulations 2009 should be updated to the national Parks and reserves management regulations 2019.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Not agree:</p> <p>Council has zoned the eastern half of the canal as Utilities Zone. This section is on an adjacent title outside the RAMSAR area.</p> <p>In the Supporting Report, Council indicated its preference for the entire canal to be zoned Utilities, reflecting the reality on the ground and providing greater certainty that this key component of the Clyde irrigation district can continue operating properly into the future.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Agree.</p> <p>Public Reserves are generally appropriately zoned Environmental Management Zone.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Agree.</p> <p>Change to the Environmental Management Zone.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Noted.</p> <p>A matter for the State Government to address within the State Planning Provisions.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p><b>A.</b> Council maintains its view that the whole canal should be zoned Utilities, reflecting the reality on the ground.</p> <p><b>B.</b> The zoning of Public Reserve, PID 5475283, should be changed to Environmental Management.</p> <p><b>C.</b> The zoning of unallocated Crown Land at Brady’s Lagoon (PID 2541169) should be changed to Environmental Management.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Noted.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
41.	<p>Susanne and Dean Klower</p> <p>Received at 8:58pm, 22 October 2021. After the advertised deadline of close of business 22 October 2021.</p> <p>The Planning Commission have advised it is up to Council to decide if late submissions will be accepted.</p>	<p>Owens land at 735 Arthurs Lake Road, Arthurs Lake.</p> <p>Concerned with the proposed extent of rezoning to the Agriculture Zoning in the area, and that this will lead to loss of important values.</p> <p>Cites the proposed wind farm at St Patricks Plains as an example – on land proposed to be Agriculture Zone yet contains many significant natural values.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'.</p> <p>Recommend that the extent of the proposed Agriculture Zone be substantially reviewed using the 'decision tree' document that the Southern councils jointly developed.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The late submission should be accepted.</p> <p>The Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely and covers relatively poor quality land and land dominated by natural values and forestry. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p> <p>The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code in this area should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
42.	<p>T.L Wood</p> <p>Received at 5:27pm, 22 October 2021. After the advertised deadline of close of business 22 October 2021.</p> <p>The Planning Commission have advised it is up to Council to decide if late submissions will be accepted.</p>	<p>Concerned with the proposed extent of rezoning to the Agriculture Zoning in the area, and that this will lead to loss of important values.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'.</p> <p>Recommend that the extent of the proposed Agriculture Zone be substantially reviewed using the 'decision tree' document that the Southern councils jointly developed.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The late submission should be accepted.</p> <p>The Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely and covers relatively poor quality land and land dominated by natural values and forestry. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
43.	<p>Odile Foster</p> <p>Received on 23 October 2021. After the advertised deadline of close of business 22 October 2021.</p> <p>The Planning Commission have advised it is up to Council to decide if late submissions will be accepted.</p>	<p>Owner of shack at Miena</p> <p>Concerned with the proposed extent of rezoning to the Agriculture Zoning in the area, and that this will lead to loss of important values.</p> <p>Cites the proposed wind farm at St Patricks Plains as an example – on land proposed to be Agriculture Zone yet contains many significant natural values.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>This accords with Council's view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as 'land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone'.</p> <p>Recommend that the extent of the proposed Agriculture Zone be substantially reviewed using the 'decision tree' document that the Southern councils jointly developed.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The late submission should be accepted.</p> <p>The Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely and covers relatively poor quality land and land dominated by natural values and forestry. The application of the Agriculture Zone should be reviewed across the municipal area in accordance with the AK Consulting Decision Tree adopted by all Southern Councils.</p> <p>The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code in this area should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>

No.	From	Key Issues Raised	Assessment and Recommendation to Council
44.	<p>William John Gunn</p> <p>Received on 25 October 2021. After the advertised deadline of close of business 22 October 2021.</p> <p>The Planning Commission have advised it is up to Council to decide if late submissions will be accepted.</p>	<p>Owner of house at Miena.</p> <p>Concerned with proposed changes to the planning scheme “as it appears to be mainly to allow the development of many more wind towers”.</p> <p>Concerned of the impact on the natural landscape ‘over the whole community’.</p>	<p>Agree, generally.</p> <p>It is assumed the changes to the planning scheme referred to are the rezoning of large areas of Highland Lakes land to Agriculture, rather than Rural, especially at St Patricks Plains.</p> <p>This underlying sentiment accords with Council’s general view that the Agriculture Zone has been applied far too widely within Central Highlands, covering land that is clearly not agricultural land of any significance. Significant areas of land that are dominated by rural lifestyle blocks, forestry and/or nature conservation have been inappropriately mapped as ‘land potentially suitable for the Agriculture Zone’. This includes St Patricks Plains.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed windfarm, it is noted that as the Local Planning Authority, Council must not pre-judge a possible development application upon which it may need to statutorily sit in judgment.</p> <p><u>Local Planning Authority View:</u></p> <p>The late submission should be accepted.</p> <p>The establishment of a Scenic Protection Area under the Scenic Protection Code in this area should be explored through a planning scheme amendment process potentially pursuant to Section 35KB of the Act.</p>
45	<p>Sue Chandler</p>	<p>Raises general concerns about the impact of development on wilderness values.</p> <p>The representation does not propose any specific changes to the Draft LPS.</p>	<p>No view can be formed.</p>

Mrs. Christina Mackeen,  
ELLENDALE. 7140

16th July,

84

Dear Madam,

re: Portion Refuse Disposal Site, Ellendale.

Further to our recent conversation, the Council have now considered the terms of the lease of approximately 2 acres of land on the northern end of the above site for use as a water storage site.

It has been decided to lease the area to you at an annual rental of \$1 per annum if demanded for a period of twenty years.

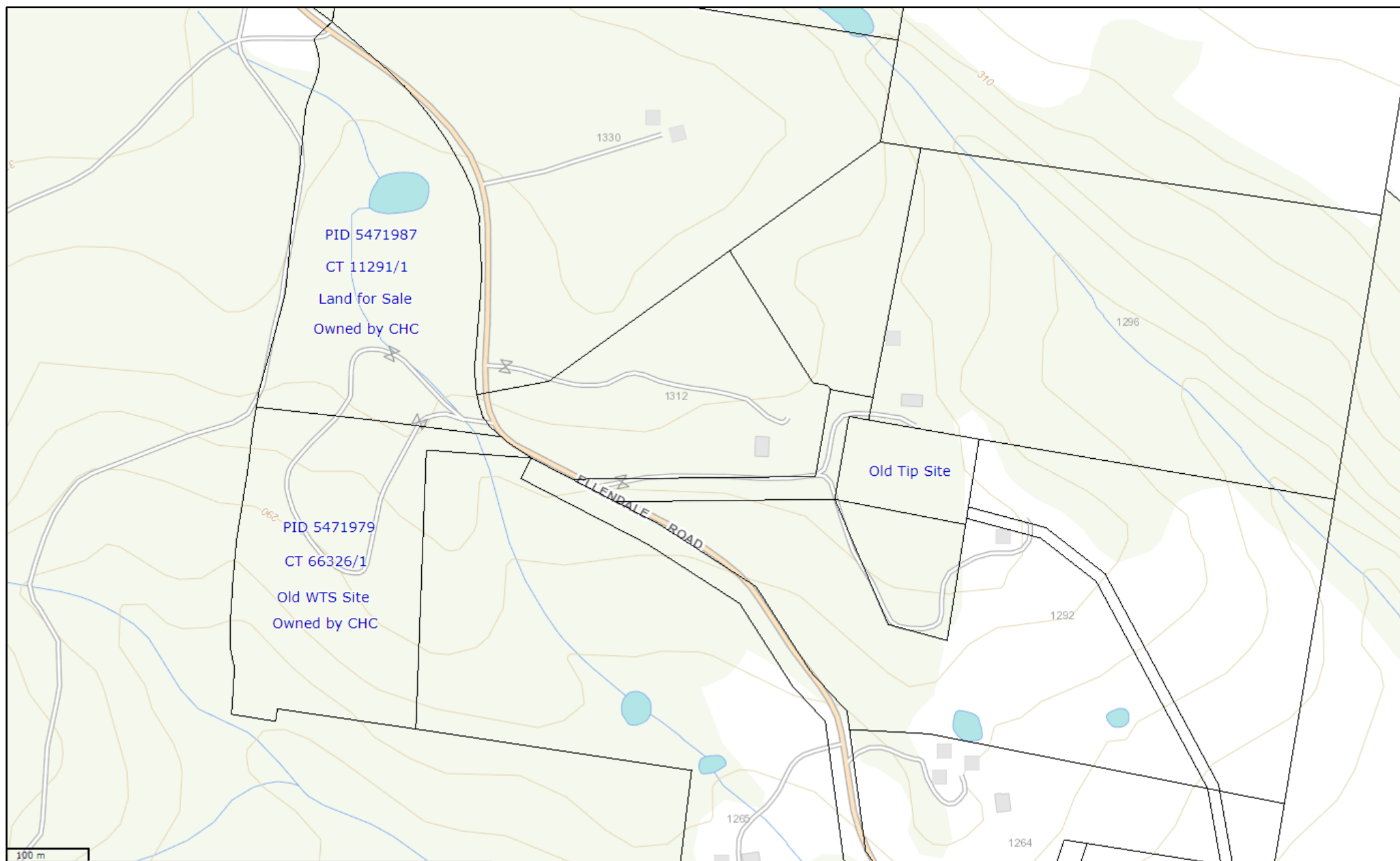
At the expiration of this term you may have the option of renewal for a similar period or alternatively you may apply to purchase the area at Government valuation.

During the term of the lease, you will be obliged to allow water to be drawn from the storage area for the purposes of fire fighting.

Please advise me if the above terms will be suitable to you.

Yours faithfully,

(V.L. Bailey)  
Council Clerk



## Proposed roadside library at Bothwell District High

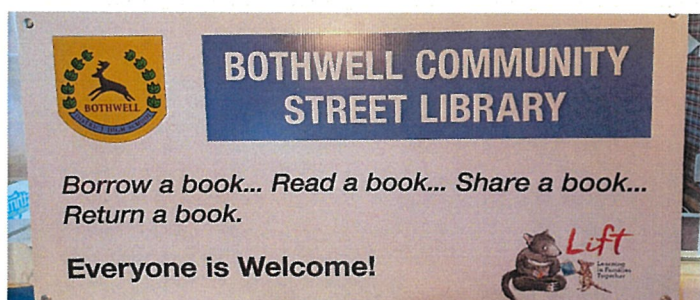


Dimensions of Library are

Height 1530 mm

Width 740 mm

Depth 660 mm



Dimensions of signage 1200 wide x 600 high

One sign to be located on the fence facing main road

One sign on fence facing Mary street



Location for the library is on Mary Street main entrance to the school.





## **Policy No. 2014 - 23**

# **Maintenance of Roads & Bridges behind locked gates on Council Roads Policy**

Document:	Start Date: 19 Nov 2019	Page Reference:
Maintenance of Roads & Bridges behind locked gates on Council Roads Policy	Review Date: 31 Dec 2022	Page <b>1</b> of <b>2</b>

## INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out the procedures for Council staff to access sites to perform works beyond gates on Council owned roads.

## ACCESS TO SITE

Where access is required beyond a gate on a Council road, Council's Works & Services Manager shall:

- Wherever possible, schedule roadworks or bridgeworks in advance
- Contact the landowner and advise the date and time that Council require access

## LOCKS ON GATES

Council recognise that it is illegal for a landowner to lock a gate on a Council Road.

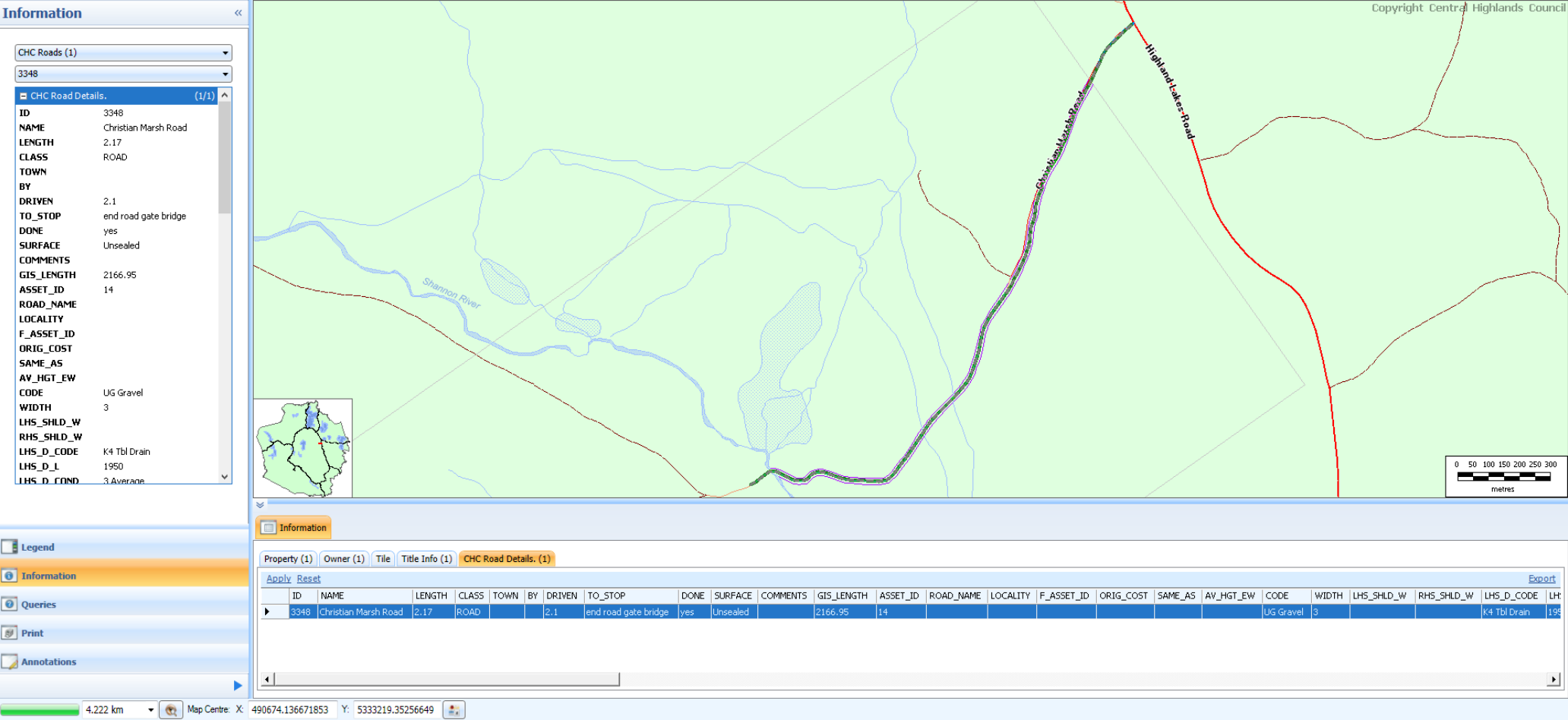
Where arrangements have been made with the landowner for access, and access is unavailable due to a lock being placed on the gate:

- Council employees shall advise their immediate supervisor or the Works and Services Manager;
- The Works and Services Manager will advise the landowner of the action taken or required; and
- The matter will be reported in the Works & Services Report for the next ordinary meeting of Council.

## EMERGENCY ACCESS

In cases where emergency access is required, the Works & Services Manager shall take what action he/she deems necessary to gain legal access to alleviate the emergency.

Document:	Start Date: 19 Nov 2019	Page Reference:
Maintenance of Roads & Bridges behind locked gates on Council Roads Policy	Review Date: 31 Dec 2022	Page <b>2</b> of <b>2</b>



## COVID-19 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Guidelines – Phase 3

<b>Opening date:</b>	<b>October 2021</b>
<b>Commonwealth policy entity:</b>	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
<b>Administering entity</b>	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
<b>Enquiries:</b>	Any questions should be directed to: Program Manager Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program <a href="mailto:LRCIP@infrastructure.gov.au">LRCIP@infrastructure.gov.au</a>
<b>Date guidelines released:</b>	<b>October 2021</b>
<b>Type of grant opportunity:</b>	Demand-driven (Eligibility-based)

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# 1. Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Process

## **The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives**

This grant opportunity is part of the LRCI Program, which contributes to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication's (The Department) Outcome 3.2. The Department works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017*.



## **The grant opportunity opens**

The Department will provide Eligible Funding Recipients with the Program Guidelines for this grant opportunity (Phase 3) and publish them on [GrantConnect](#).



## **Grant decisions are made**

The Eligible Funding Recipients for the LRCI Program have been pre-identified. The Deputy Prime Minister approves the allocation of funding under the Program, based on a formula. The Delegate will approve the award of the grant.



## **Eligible Funding Recipients are notified of the outcome**

Eligible Funding Recipients are sent a letter of offer and Grant Agreement signed by the Department.



## **Eligible Funding Recipients sign the Grant Agreement**

Eligible Funding Recipients must execute the Grant Agreement and return it to the Department.



## **Nomination of projects to be undertaken**

Eligible Funding Recipients will submit a draft Work Schedule nominating projects to be funded through the LRCI Program.



## **The Department assesses nominated projects to ensure project eligibility requirements are met**

The Department will notify Eligible Funding Recipients if nominated projects are approved by providing an Approved Work Schedule. If projects are ineligible, Eligible Funding Recipients can nominate alternative projects for assessment.



## **Delivery of grant**

Eligible Funding Recipients undertake Eligible Projects set out in their Approved Work Schedules. The Department manages the grant by working with Eligible Funding Recipients, monitoring progress and making payments.



## **Evaluation of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program**

The Department will evaluate the LRCI Program as a whole. The Department will base this on information Eligible Funding Recipients provide, as well as from other sources.

## 1.1 Introduction

These Guidelines contain information for Phase 3 of the LRCI Program grants.

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program was announced on 22 May 2020. Through the 2020-21 Budget, the Australian Government announced an extension of the LRCI Program, now referred to as LRCI Program Phase 2.

On 11 May 2021, as part of the 2021-22 Budget, the Australian Government announced a further \$1 billion for the continuation of the LRCI Program Phase 3. The grant opportunity set out in these Program Guidelines is for LRCI Program Phase 3 only.

The LRCI Program supports Eligible Funding Recipients to create jobs by delivering priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant opportunity;
- the eligibility criteria;
- how Eligible Funding Recipients will be monitored and evaluated; and
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the grant opportunity.

The LRCI Program is administered by the Department.

## 2. About the LRCI Program – Phase 3

The purpose of the LRCI Program is to support local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Phase 3 of the LRCI Program will open from 20 October 2021. At this time, Grant Agreements will be sent to Eligible Funding Recipients to be executed, and Project Nominations can be submitted to the Department.

From 3 January 2022, the construction time period commences, and eligible payments will be made from this time. Project construction can commence once Project Nominations are approved by the Department with projects required to be physically completed by 30 June 2023.

Phase 3 of the LRCI Program continues a temporary, targeted stimulus measure responding to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The LRCI Program assists a community-led recovery from COVID-19 by supporting local jobs, firms, and procurement.

As with the earlier Phases of the LRCI Program, Eligible Funding Recipients can select a broad range of projects to fund so that communities can continue to be provided with the infrastructure they require. It is expected that Eligible Funding Recipients will use local businesses and workforces to deliver projects wherever possible to ensure stimulus funding flows into local communities.

The LRCI Program is a demand driven (eligibility based) grant program.

The LRCI Program will be delivered under Outcome 3.2 of the Department's Portfolio Budget Statement 2021-2022:



- the local government program supports regional development and local communities through delivery of policy advice to the Australian Government and financial assistance to local governments to strengthen local government capacity and better support local communities.

The objective of the LRCI Program is to maintain and create jobs by stimulating additional infrastructure construction activity in communities across Australia.

The intended outcomes of the LRCI Program are to:

- provide stimulus to protect and create local short-term employment opportunities through funding construction projects following the impacts of COVID-19; and
- deliver benefits to communities, such as improved road safety, accessibility and visual amenity.

The Department will administer the LRCI Program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017 \(CGRGs\)](#).

### 3. Grant amount and grant period

The Australian Government has committed total funding of \$1 billion for Phase 3 of the LRCI Program.

Eligible Funding Recipients will receive a grant amount called a 'Nominal Funding Allocation'.

The formula used to calculate a Nominal Funding Allocation has been modelled on funding allocations under the Roads to Recovery Program (R2R) and the local road component of the Financial Assistance Grants Program. The formula used to determine a state/territory's share of funding under the LRCI Program follows the same state/territory allocation process as these programs. Within a state/territory's share of funding, the calculation of each Eligible Funding Recipient's Nominal Funding Allocation has been derived based on recommendations from the relevant Local Government Grants Commission, and takes into consideration factors such as population estimates and road length in each local governing body area. This is similar to how individual shares of R2R funding and local road component of the Financial Assistance Grant Program is calculated.

The formula has been consistently applied to determine the Nominal Funding Allocation of each Eligible Funding Recipient under the LRCI Program.

Co-contributions are not required under the LRCI Program, but Eligible Funding Recipients may expend their own funds on Eligible Projects.

This grant opportunity will open on 20 October 2021 and close on 31 December 2023. The First Instalment of the Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation will be paid after the Eligible Funding Recipient's Work Schedule has been approved, and not before 3 January 2022.

### 3.1 Phase 3 – ‘use it or lose it’ principle

If:

- an Eligible Funding Recipient has not applied for the full amount of their Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation in a draft Work Schedule by 30 June 2022; or
- savings related to Eligible Projects have not been reallocated under an Eligible Funding Recipient’s Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation before 30 June 2023, then;

the Australian Government has the right to not pay the amount of the Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation not applied for or reallocated by the Eligible Funding Recipient.

## 4. Eligibility criteria

Only Eligible Funding Recipients are able to participate in Phase 3 of the LRCI Program. Eligible Funding Recipients will receive a letter of offer to participate in Phase 3 of the LRCI Program.

### 4.1 Who is eligible for a grant?

Eligible Funding Recipients are the same as for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the LRCI Program.

550 Eligible Funding Recipients have been selected for this grant opportunity to fund and provide local council services to communities directly. By providing funding to the level of government closest to communities, the Australian Government can ensure that the economic boost is felt throughout every community across Australia.

### 4.2 Who is not eligible for the Grant Program?

Organisations are not eligible for the LRCI Program unless they have been identified by the Australian Government as an Eligible Funding Recipient (see 4.1).

General applications by other organisations will not be accepted. Applications by Eligible Funding Recipients reasonably understood to be on behalf of, or for the benefit of another otherwise ineligible organisation, will not be accepted.

## 5. What the grant money can be used for

Grant money can only be used on Eligible Projects, which are projects that are Local Road Projects or Community Infrastructure Projects (see 5.1). Eligible Projects must meet the Eligible Project Requirements set out in subsections 5.2 to 5.6, and deliver benefits to the community.

### 5.1 Eligible Grant Activity

#### Local Roads Projects

Eligible Local Road Projects are projects that involve the construction or maintenance of roads managed by local governments. Local governments are encouraged to consider works that support improved road safety outcomes.

This could include projects involving any of the following associated with a road:

- traffic signs;
- traffic control equipment;
- street lighting equipment;
- a bridge or tunnel;
- a facility off the road used by heavy vehicles in connection with travel on the road (for example, a rest area or weigh station);
- facilities off the road that support the visitor economy; and
- road and sidewalk maintenance, where additional to normal capital works schedules.

### Community Infrastructure Projects

Eligible Community Infrastructure Projects are projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council-owned assets (including natural assets) that are generally accessible to the public.

'Generally accessible to the public' means that the project, or the amenity provided by the project, is generally accessible to the public at large. Some areas are clearly publicly accessible as they are areas that are open to all members of the public such as parks, playgrounds, footpaths and roads.

Projects will also be considered generally publically accessible if they are in a location that is:

- generally publically accessible to the wider public undertaking a specific activity (for example council operated sporting fields); or
- generally publically accessible for a limited age group of the community as a whole i.e. a kindergarten building; or
- used for the provision of an essential service or community service, as determined by the Department, and the amenity of the asset is publicly accessible and benefits the community.

All projects whether carried out on council owned land, or another type of public land, must deliver benefits to the community, such as improved accessibility, visual amenity, and/or safety. Examples of eligible works include:

- Closed Circuit TV (CCTV);
- bicycle and walking paths;
- painting or improvements to community facilities;
- repairing and replacing fencing;
- improved accessibility of community facilities and areas;
- landscaping improvements, such as tree planting and beautification of roundabouts;
- picnic shelters or barbeque facilities at community parks;
- community/public art associated with an Eligible Project (Eligible Funding Recipients will need to provide a clear description of the conceptual basis of the artwork);

- playgrounds and skate parks (including all ability playgrounds);
- noise and vibration mitigation measures; and
- off-road car parks (such as those at sporting grounds or parks).

### Other Public Land

Projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to state/territory and Crown owned land/assets, and Commonwealth owned land/assets, can also be eligible projects where the Council can confirm that they have the authority of the land or asset owner to undertake the project at the nominated site(s) and the site(s) are accessible to the public (including natural assets).

## 5.2 Maintaining Overall Capital Expenditure

As an economic stimulus measure, the intent is that Eligible Funding Recipients undertake infrastructure projects which are additional to projects that they had planned to undertake using either their own funds or funds already available to the Eligible Funding Recipients by another opportunity. The funding is not intended to replace existing expenditure commitments but rather to enable further, additional expenditure as economic stimulus.

Under Phase 1, projects would be considered Eligible Projects if they were additional to the Eligible Funding Recipient's existing work plan for 2020-21; simply, LRCI funds could not be used on existing projects.

Under Phase 2, Eligible Funding Recipients were required to maintain their overall capital spending on roads and community infrastructure, funded by their own revenue, at or above their 2020-21 capital spending level.

Under Phase 3, Eligible Funding Recipients will be required to maintain their overall capital spending on roads and community infrastructure, funded by their own revenue, at or above their 2021-22 capital spending level. The focus on overall capital spending provides Eligible Funding Recipients with greater flexibility to set and deliver the infrastructure priorities in their communities.

Proof of maintaining capital expenditure may be a requirement for an Eligible Funding Recipient to receive their full Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation. The Department will consider, in exceptional circumstances, exemptions to this requirement.

## 5.3 Co-contributions

Co-contributions are not required under the LRCI Program, but are allowed to be used for projects. A project can be funded by a combination of LRCI Program funds, the Eligible Funding Recipient's funds, and other government program funds (including state government programs), as long as the combined funding for the project does not exceed the estimated cost of a project.

An Eligible Funding Recipient using co-contributions for a project also needs to meet the conditions of other funding programs from which funds are sourced. Eligible Funding Recipients are responsible for determining if the funding conditions of another program would permit the use of LRCI Program funding towards that project.

## 5.4 Eligible Construction Time Period

The eligible construction time period to undertake construction activity on Eligible Projects must be undertaken between 1 January 2022 and 30 June 2023. If a Phase 3 Grant Agreement is executed and the project is in a Phase 3 Approved Work Schedule, then construction may commence prior to 1 January 2022.

In general, requests to extend the construction time period beyond 30 June 2023 will not be granted. Exceptional circumstances that may directly delay and result in an extension to the eligible construction time period, will require case-by-case consideration. Planning issues, contractor availability, and general delays associated with project commencement or completion, are not considered exceptional circumstances, and Eligible Funding Recipients should take these into consideration when nominating a project.

Consideration of any requests for an extension to the Eligible Construction Time Period is at the discretion of the Delegate (see 6.1) If the Delegate decides that extensions will be considered, application forms will be published on the Department's website. Applications for extension must be in the manner and form stipulated by the Department and include sufficient information for the delegate to make a decision.

## 5.5 Combined Projects – Completed LRCI Phase 1 and Phase 2 Projects

Eligible Funding Recipients can nominate discrete later stages of projects that are already receiving funding under the LRCI Program. The Phase 3 nomination must be a new, separate and previously unfunded project stage. The component funded under Phase 1 or Phase 2 must not be amended without approval by the Delegate and must maintain eligibility under the relevant program guidelines.

## 5.6 What the grant money cannot be used for

Eligible Funding Recipients cannot use grant money to pay for business as usual activities and costs, or any other activities and costs not associated with Eligible Projects. These activities are Ineligible Projects or Ineligible Expenditures.

The following are examples of Ineligible Projects and Ineligible Expenditures:

- costs incurred in the preparation of a Work Schedule or related documentation;
- costs incurred in the preparation of reporting documentation including Audit requirements;
- general administrative overheads and staff salaries not connected with Eligible Projects funded under the Program;
- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone, rent, or costs incurred by the Council as a Landlord in the general course of a lease;
- commencement ceremonies, opening ceremonies or any other event associated with Eligible Projects;
- transport planning studies;
- road rehabilitation studies (if not part of an Eligible Project);
- road building plant or other capital equipment especially moveable equipment (e.g. graders or trailers);

- land;
- purchase of or improvement to assets that will be 'handed off' to ineligible funding recipients under a cost sharing or minimisation strategy, or similar;
- training (if not part of an Eligible Project);
- public liability insurance;
- fringe benefits tax;
- GST payable component of a supply;
- finance leases on equipment;
- depreciation, except for depreciation of plant and equipment directly attributable to a grant funded Eligible Project;
- preliminary planning and stand-alone design that do not relate to an Eligible Project
- operating lease charges where the rental expense cannot be directly linked to the grant project (e.g. a grader may be hired for a period for a variety of tasks, only charges that specifically relate to the funded Eligible Project can be charged against the grant funds);
- overseas travel; and
- the covering of retrospective project costs undertaken prior to work schedule approval.

## 6. The grant selection process

### 6.1 Who will approve grants?

A person occupying a position of SES Band 1, Assistant Secretary, within the Infrastructure Investment Division (the Delegate) will approve grants on the basis that the organisation is an Eligible Funding Recipient as identified in section 4.1.

The Department considers that Eligible Projects provide value for money as a proportional response to the actual and anticipated nation-wide economic impacts resulting from COVID-19.

The amount of grant money awarded to an Eligible Funding Recipient will be determined by the Department in accordance with the formula outlined at section 3.

The Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant; and
- the grant amount.

There is no appeal mechanism for the decision to approve or not approve a grant.

### 6.2 How to seek a variation to project nominations?

If an Eligible Funding Recipient requires an amendment to their Approved Project cost or scope of works, the Eligible Funding Recipient will be required to resubmit their Phase 3 Work Schedule.

Edit and annotate the most recently submitted Phase 3 Work Schedule on Microsoft Word, using track changes.

## 6.2 How to seek an extension to approved project construction timeframes?

If an Eligible Funding Recipient needs to amend the start or end date of an Approved Project, this can be done via the Quarterly Report. If your Approved Project end date is past 30 June 2023, please contact the Department via email at [LRCIP@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:LRCIP@infrastructure.gov.au).

In general extensions past 30 June 2023 will not be granted. Though in exceptional circumstances, they may be considered at the discretion of the Delegate. If the Delegate decides that extensions will be considered, application forms will be published on the Department's website. Applications for extension must be in the manner and form stipulated by the Department and include sufficient information for the delegate to make a decision.

## 7. Letter of offer process

All Eligible Funding Recipients will receive an offer to participate in Phase 3 of the LRCI Program. This offer will:

- a) specify the Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation;
- b) include a Grant Agreement that sets out the terms and conditions of Phase 3 of the LRCI Program executed by the Australian Government;
- c) provide information on the submission of Work Schedules.

Before accepting the offer, Eligible Funding Recipients must read and understand these Guidelines and the Grant Agreement. The Guidelines can be found on the Department's website and on [GrantConnect](#). Any alterations and addenda<sup>1</sup> will be published on GrantConnect and the Department's website. By registering on GrantConnect, organisations will be automatically notified of any changes to the Guidelines.

Eligible Funding Recipients can return signed Grant Agreements and submit Work Schedules for their first projects between 1 October 2021 and 30 June 2022. As construction needs to be completed by 30 June 2023, after 1 July 2022 the Department expects to only be managing variations or additional project nominations to ensure that an Eligible Funding Recipient is able to fully utilise their Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation.

## 8. Notification of outcomes

All Eligible Funding Recipients will receive a letter of offer to participate in Phase 3 of the LRCI Program and a Grant Agreement.

## 9. Successful grantees

### 9.1 The Grant Agreement

An Eligible Funding Recipient must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Australian Government by signing the Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement used for Phase 3 of the LRCI Program will be supplied to Eligible Funding Recipients. The Grant Agreement has standard terms and conditions that cannot be changed.

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<sup>1</sup> Alterations and addenda include but are not limited to: corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications, and Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents

The Grant Agreement may also contain conditions specific to an Eligible Funding Recipient in a Schedule.

To accept the offer, the Eligible Funding Recipient must sign the Grant Agreement:

- provide all the information requested; and
- return the Grant Agreement to the LRCI Program - Program Manager.

The Department is not responsible for any of an Eligible Funding Recipient's expenditure until a Grant Agreement is executed and a Work Schedule is approved for the Eligible Funding Recipient. A Grant Agreement must be executed with the Australian Government before any payments can be made.

Eligible Funding Recipients should keep a copy of the Grant Agreement and any supporting documents.

The Australian Government may recover grant funds from an Eligible Funding Recipient if the Grant Agreement has been breached. If an Eligible Funding Recipient fails to meet the obligations of the Grant Agreement, the Grant Agreement may be terminated.



## 9.2 How we pay the Grant

**Table 1 Grant Payment Overview**

<b>Payment milestone</b>	<b>Grant payment date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
First Instalment:  Work Schedule approval payment	The First Instalment of the Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation will be paid after 3 January 2022 and after the Eligible Funding Recipient's Work Schedule has been approved.	The First Instalment will be equal to 50 per cent of an Eligible Funding Recipient's Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation, unless the Eligible Funding Recipient is the recipient of a Low Value Grant.  For Low Value Grants, Eligible Funding Recipients will receive 75 per cent of their Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation in their First Instalment.
Progress Instalments:  Eligible Funding Recipients can receive multiple progress payments.	Within four weeks of the Department's acceptance of a complete and accurate Quarterly Report	A Progress Instalment will be equal to the Eligible Funding Recipient's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• actual expenditure until the end of the period covered by the relevant Quarterly Report; and</li> <li>• projected expenditure on Eligible Projects in an Approved Work Schedule to the end of the subsequent quarter;</li> </ul> <p><b>less:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• received instalments; and</li> <li>• 10 per cent of the Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation.</li> </ul> <p>For Low Value Grants, Eligible Funding Recipients can apply to receive the residual of grant funds at the time of a Quarterly Report being submitted provided they also submit completed acquittal documentation.</p>
Final Instalment:  Final payment	Within four weeks of the Department's acceptance of a complete and accurate Annual Report and decision to release the Final Instalment.	The Final Instalment will equal the smaller of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the residual amount of an Eligible Funding Recipient's Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation; or</li> <li>• the total eligible expenditure and projected expenditure to the end of the Eligible Projects;</li> </ul> <p><b>less</b> instalments paid to date.</p>

## Submission of a Work Schedule

Eligible Funding Recipients will nominate projects they intend to spend LRCI grant money on in their draft Work Schedule.

Eligible Funding Recipients are required to submit a draft Work Schedule in the manner and form stipulated by the Department. The manner and form for submitting a draft Work Schedule will be provided to Eligible Funding Recipients and made available on the Department's website.

- Eligible Funding Recipients should submit their draft Work Schedule when they return their signed Grant Agreement. Work Schedules can be submitted between 20 October 2021 and 30 June 2022, but failure to promptly return a Work Schedule will result in release of grant funds being delayed.
- In order for Eligible Funding Recipients to receive their full Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation, they must have submitted a draft Work Schedule for the total amount of their Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation by 30 June 2022.
  - If an Eligible Funding Recipient has not applied for their full Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation in a draft Work Schedule by 30 June 2022, or savings related to Eligible Projects have not been reallocated under their Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation before 30 June 2023, the Australian Government has the right to not pay the amount of the Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation not yet applied for or reallocated by the Eligible Funding Recipient.

The draft Work Schedule must contain the following information in relation to each of the nominated projects the Eligible Funding Recipient proposes to undertake using the grant:

- project description, including details of how the project meets the Project Eligibility Requirements detailed in Section 5;
- proposed timeframes for the project, including construction commencement date and estimated construction completion date;
- detail of any conflicts of interest and management actions to manage these conflicts;
- the amount of grant funding required and details of any other contributions to the total costs of the project, along with details of all proposed expenditure including confirmation that none of the proposed expenditure is Ineligible Expenditure;
- expected number of full-time equivalent jobs supported by the project over the construction period;
- meet mapping requirements notified by the Department;
- whether the project involves Indigenous employment of Business use; and
- Work Category, Outcome Category

If some of the jobs supported by a project are new jobs/redistribution of personnel in the Eligible Funding Recipient's own workforces, labour costs for work undertaken must be derived from timesheets or via an equally acceptable method. Project management time included in the expected number of jobs supported by a project must not include Ineligible Expenditure or costs associated with Ineligible Projects, and a clear and definable model needs to be in place to apportion these costs.

The total amount of grant funding sought under a draft Work Schedule cannot exceed the amount of the grant specified in the Grant Agreement.

### Approval of a Work Schedule

The Department will assess whether projects included in an Eligible Funding Recipient's Work Schedule meet the Eligible Project Requirements set out in these Guidelines and that all requested information has been provided.

If the Work Schedule or projects do not meet requirements, an Eligible Funding Recipient may submit an updated Work Schedule that includes additional nominated projects for approval. The Department may contact an Eligible Funding Recipient to request further information.

The Department will make a recommendation to the Delegate to approve/not approve the Work Schedule.

If an Eligible Funding Recipient nominates projects with a total value of more than 50 per cent of their Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation and the Work Schedule is approved, the Delegate will approve release of the First Instalment of grant funds. The decision to release funds will be made on the basis of their assessment of the information provided by an Eligible Funding Recipient and any other information in the Program Guidelines. Approval may be subject to conditions detailed in the Grant Agreement. Only approved Eligible Projects will be included in the Approved Work Schedule.

Eligible Funding Recipients will be advised in writing if their Work Schedule and release of the First Instalment has been approved.

### First Instalment

The First Instalment will be paid to an Eligible Funding Recipient from 3 January 2022 or within four weeks of the Work Schedule and release of the First Instalment being approved by the Delegate, provided this date is after 3 January 2022.

The value of the First Instalment will be 50 per cent of an Eligible Funding Recipient's Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation.

### Low Value Grants

A Low Value Grant is a Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation under \$750,000. In application of the proportionality principle, different requirements relating to Instalments and Reporting apply to these grants.

For a Low Value Grant, the process for Work Schedule approval is the same as detailed above. However, Low Value Grant recipients can receive 75 per cent of their Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation as their First Instalment provided they have nominated projects totaling 75 per cent or more of their Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation.

## Progress Instalments

Progress Instalments will be made following submission of a complete and accurate Quarterly Report.

The Delegate will approve release of a Progress Instalment on the basis of:

- the Department's assessment of, and the information provided in, relevant Quarterly Report/s;
- whether or not an Eligible Funding Recipient is in breach, or suspected of being in breach, of the Grant Agreement; including
- consideration of other relevant information, including whether the Eligible Funding Recipient has engaged with relevant local MPs as required by these guidelines.

Further relevant information may be requested by the Department at this stage and considered by the Delegate.

If the Delegate approves release of a Progress Instalment, payment will be made within four weeks of the Delegate making this decision. Eligible Funding Recipients will be advised in writing of the decision to release a Progress Instalment.

The payment value for a Progress Instalment will equal:

- actual expenditure up until the end of the relevant quarter; plus
- projected expenditure to the end of the next quarter.

### less:

- the first instalment; and
- 10 per cent of the Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation.

For Low Value Grants, Eligible Funding Recipients can apply to receive the residual of grant funds (10 per cent) at the time of a Quarterly Report being submitted, provided they also submit completed acquittal documentation (see 11.4).

## Final Instalment

The Delegate will decide whether to approve release of the Final Instalment on the basis of:

- an assessment of compliance with the Grant Agreement, including any investigations or audit reports;
- the information provided in the Annual Report;
- information in the Work Schedule and relevant Quarterly Reports; and
- any other relevant information, including whether the Eligible Funding Recipient has engaged with relevant local MPs as required by these guidelines.

The Final Instalment will be the lesser of:

- the residual amount of an Eligible Funding Recipient's Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation and the total actual expenditure, and;
- projected expenditure to the end of the Eligible Projects, less instalments paid to date.

Projected expenditure should be limited to invoices for completed construction activities which are yet to be paid, or; expenses expected to be incurred post 30 June 2023, which are not construction costs, unless otherwise agreed by the Department.

Further information may be requested by the Department at this stage and considered by the Delegate. The Final Instalment will be paid within four weeks of the Delegate's decision to release the grant payment.

### 9.3 Grant Payments and GST

In accordance with the Terms of the Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2, payments made under the LRCI Program, which are payments made by a government related entity to another government related entity, and for which the amount of the grant does not exceed the cost of providing the goods or services, do not attract GST. Consequently, the actual and projected expenditure Eligible Funding Recipients report to the Department must exclude the GST component on goods and services, and the payments the Department makes to Eligible Funding Recipients to cover the costs of the program will not include GST.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

## 10. Announcement of grants

The Department will publish details of the grants awarded on GrantConnect within 21 days after the date of effect of the Grant Agreement as required by section 5.3 of the [CGRGs](#).

The Department may also publish details of grants on its website or other government websites, including individual projects funded, underway or complete. This information may include, but is not limited to:

- title of the project;
- description of the project and its aims;
- amount of funding received and funding allocation; and
- project outcomes including estimates of jobs supported.

## 11. Reporting requirements

Eligible Funding Recipients must submit reports in line with the Grant Agreement and these Guidelines. The Department will remind Eligible Funding Recipients of their reporting obligations before reports are due.

Eligible Funding Recipients must also update their Work Schedules as required and in accordance with any other requirements notified by the Department.

The Department will monitor progress by assessing submitted reports and may conduct site visits to confirm details in Quarterly Reports and Work Schedules if necessary. Occasionally, the Department may need to re-examine claims, seek further information, or request an independent audit of claims and payments on a risk based or sampling basis.

### 11.1 Quarterly Reports

Eligible Funding Recipients must submit Quarterly Reports throughout the Grant Period.

Quarterly Reports must be submitted per the timeframes in **Table 2 – Reports** and in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

Quarterly Reports are used to provide the Department with information on the progress of Eligible Projects and are a requirement for the receipt of funds for payment of Progress and Final Instalments of grant payments. Quarterly Reports must be submitted in the manner and form specified by the Department and include required details.

Eligible Funding Recipients must provide the following information in a Quarterly Report:

- the amount of grant funding spent (actual expenditure) for the eligible construction time period commencing on 1 January 2022 (unless agreed by the Department) and ending on the last day of the quarter to which the Quarterly Report relates;
- the amount of grant funding (proposed expenditure) which the Eligible Funding Recipient intends to spend on Eligible Projects in the quarter following the report;
- details of progress towards completion of Eligible Projects; including any evidence required per the Grant Agreement;
- changes to construction start or end dates, and
- estimated and/or confirmed jobs supported by the grant funding.

The figures in the Quarterly Reports should be prepared on an accrual basis. Quarterly Reports must be submitted within the period specified in the Grant Agreement.

If an Eligible Funding Recipient has expended their Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation or returned any unspent grant funding, after providing the Quarterly Report for the quarter in which this occurs, an Eligible Funding Recipient will not be required to provide further Quarterly reports but will still be required to provide the Annual Report.

For a Low Value Grant, if the Eligible Funding Recipient has expended their Phase 3 Nominal Funding Allocation or returned any unspent grant funds, after providing the Quarterly Report for the quarter in which this occurs, an Eligible Funding Recipient will not be required to provide further Quarterly reports. An Eligible Funding Recipient with a Low Value Grant can file acquittal documentation at this time.

**Table 2 – Reports**

<b>Lodgement period for Reports</b>	<b>Actual expenditure period</b>	<b>Report</b>
1–30 April 2022	1 January – 31 March 2022	Actual expenditure and eligible project updates for the period commencing on 1 January 2022 and ending on the last day of the quarter to which the Quarterly Report relates. Projected Expenditure for the next quarter.
1–31 July 2022	1 April – 30 June 2022	Actual expenditure and eligible project updates for the period commencing on 1 January 2022 and ending on the last day of the quarter to which the Quarterly Report relates. Projected Expenditure for the next quarter.
1–31 October 2022	1 January 2022– 30 June 2022	<b>Annual Report</b> Actual expenditure and eligible project updates from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2022.
1–31 October 2022	1 July – 30 September 2022	Actual expenditure and eligible project updates for the period commencing on 1 January 2022 and ending on the last day of the quarter to which the Quarterly Report relates. Projected Expenditure for the next quarter.
1–31 January 2023	1 October – 31 December 2022	Actual expenditure for the period commencing on 1 January 2022 and ending on the last day of the quarter to which the Quarterly Report relates. Projected Expenditure for the next quarter.
1–30 April 2023	1 January – 31 March 2023	Actual expenditure for the period commencing on 1 January 2022 and ending on the last day of the quarter to which the Quarterly Report relates. Projected Expenditure for the next quarter.
1–31 October 2023	1 January 2022– 30 June 2023	<b>Annual Report</b> Actual expenditure and eligible project updates from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

The Department must be informed of any reporting delays or significant delays affecting Eligible Projects on an Approved Work Schedule as soon as Eligible Funding Recipients become aware of them.

## 11.2 Ad hoc Report

If an Eligible Funding Recipient has spent all of their First Instalment in advance of the lodgement period, they can submit an Ad hoc report to access a further instalment early. The submission of an Ad hoc report does not negate the requirement to submit Quarterly Reports or an Annual Report.

An Ad hoc report must be in the manner and form required by the Department and contain the following information:

- the amount of grant funding spent from 1 January 2022 until the date specified in the Ad Hoc Report;



- the amount of grant funding which the Eligible Funding Recipient intends to spend on Eligible Projects on an Approved Work Schedule following the report until 30 June 2023;
- details of progress towards completion of funded Projects; including any evidence required per the Grant Agreement; and
- council or contractor jobs supported by the grant funding.

## 11.2 Annual Report

Eligible Funding Recipients must provide the Department with Annual Reports no later than 31 October 2022 and 31 October 2023 unless otherwise agreed by the Department. The Annual Report will need to be in the manner and form specified by the Department. The Annual Report will need to include the following information:

1. Total amount of grant funding made available and subsequently received over the financial year;
2. Total amount of grant funding spent on Eligible Projects;
3. Total amount (if any) of grant money unspent and either returned or will be returned to the Department:
  - a) a written Financial Statement by the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent officer however named. The Financial Statement must be in the form specified by the Department and include:
    - i. the amount of Phase 3 grant payments which remained unspent from the financial year;
    - ii. the amount of Phase 3 grant payments received by the Eligible Funding Recipient in the financial year;
    - iii. the amount of grant payments available for expenditure by the Eligible Funding Recipient on Eligible Projects in an Approved Work Schedule in that year;
    - iv. the amount spent by the Eligible Funding Recipient during that year out of the grant payments available for expenditure by the Eligible Funding Recipient during that year;
    - v. the amount (if any) retained at the end of that year by the Eligible Funding Recipient out of grant payments available for expenditures by the Eligible Funding Recipient during that year and which remained unspent at the end of that year.

Note: The figures in the Chief Executive Officer's financial statement should be calculated on an accrual basis.
  - b) The Department may ask Eligible Funding Recipients to make a declaration that the grant funding was spent in accordance with the Grant Agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money.

## 11.3 Audited financial statements

Eligible Funding Recipients are required to submit a report in writing and signed by an appropriate auditor providing the auditor's opinion on the use by Eligible Funding Recipients of proper accounts and records and preparation of financial statements.



In meeting this audit requirement, the Department requires that Eligible Funding Recipients also engage the auditor to consider the appropriateness of accounts and keeping of records that relates to any Phase 3 funding received during the financial period Financial Year 2021-22 or Financial Year 2022-23.

As part of the Annual Report process outlined in section 11.2 above, the Department requires that Eligible Funding Recipients submit a report in writing and signed by an appropriate auditor stating whether, in the auditor's opinion:

- i. the Chief Executive Officer's financial statement included with the Annual Report (refer section 11.3) is based on proper accounts and records;
- ii. the Chief Executive Officer's financial statement is in agreement with the accounts and records;
- iii. the expenditure has been on Eligible Projects under the LRCI Program;
- iv. the amount certified by the Chief Executive Officer in the Chief Executive Officer's financial statement as the Eligible Funding Recipient's own source expenditure is based on, and in agreement with, proper accounts and records.

#### 11.4 Acquittal process for Low Value Grants

For a Low Value Grant, the Eligible Funding Recipient can complete an Acquittal Report as soon as they have expended all funds. An Acquittal Report must include:

- (1) Total amount of grant funding made available and subsequently received over the calendar year;
- (2) Total amount of grant funding spent on Eligible Projects;
- (3) Total amount (if any) of grant money unspent and either returned or will be returned to the Department:
  - (a) a written Financial Statement by the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent officer however named. The Financial Statement must be in the form specified by the Department and include:
    - (i) the amount of grant payments which remained unspent from the grant period;
    - (ii) the amount of grant payments received by the Eligible Funding Recipient over the duration of the grant period;
    - (iii) the amount of grant payments available for expenditure by the Eligible Funding Recipient on Eligible Projects in an Approved Work Schedule over the duration of the grant period;
    - (iv) the amount spent by the Eligible Funding Recipient over the duration of the grant period;

Note: The figures in the Chief Executive Officer's financial statement should be calculated on an accrual basis.
- (4) photographs of projects completed using grant payments.

## 11.5 Reconciliation Process

If any amount of grant funding provided to the Eligible Funding Recipient is not spent on Eligible Projects on an Approved Work Schedule before 30 June 2023, the Department may require the Eligible Funding Recipient to repay that amount to the Department within four weeks of receiving such notice.

## 11.6 Compliance visits and Record Keeping

Eligible Funding Recipients must create and keep accurate and comprehensive records relating to grant payments received and retain those records for a minimum of five years.

Eligible Funding Recipients must, when requested to do so by the Department, provide, in the manner and form requested by the Department:

- copies of any or all of the records referred to in this subsection; and
- photographs (geo tagged if possible) of projects completed using grant payments.

The Department may visit the Eligible Funding Recipient during or at the completion of the grant program to review compliance with the Grant Agreement. Eligible Funding Recipients will be provided with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

The Department may also inspect the records Eligible Funding Recipients are required to keep under the Grant Agreement.

## 11.7 Fraud

Eligible Funding Recipients must comply with fraud provisions in the Grant Agreement.

## 11.8 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards.

Eligible Funding Recipients must comply with all relevant laws and regulations in undertaking Eligible Projects on an Approved Work Schedule. The Eligible Funding Recipient may also be requested to demonstrate compliance with relevant legislation/policies/industry standards detailed in the Grant Agreement, including Environment and Planning Laws detailed below.

### **Environment and Planning laws**

Projects on which grant payments are spent must adhere to Australian Government environment and heritage legislation including the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Construction cannot start unless the relevant obligations are met.

Eligible Funding Recipients must also meet other statutory requirements where relevant. These may include, but are not limited to: Native title legislation; State government legislation - for example, environment and heritage; and local government planning approvals.

## 12. How we monitor your grant activity

### 12.1 Keeping the Department informed

Eligible Funding Recipients must notify the Department of significant changes that are likely to affect an Eligible Project or their participation in the LRCI Program.

This includes any key changes to the Eligible Funding Recipient's organisation, particularly if it affects their ability to complete an Eligible Project, carry on their business and pay debts due.

Eligible Funding Recipients must also inform the Department of any changes to their:

- name;
- addresses;
- nominated contact details; or
- bank account details.

An Eligible Funding Recipient's bank account details for Phase 3 of the LRCI Program is the bank account the Eligible Funding Recipient currently uses for the LRCI Program. Any changes to an Eligible Funding Recipient's name, addresses, nominated contact details and bank account details must follow the process stipulated by the Department.

If an Eligible Funding Recipient becomes aware of a breach of terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement, or they cannot meet their obligations, they must contact the Department immediately. For example, if a funded Eligible Project is at risk of not being physically completed by 30 June 2023.

## 12.2 Department Contact Details

Email the mailbox at: [LRCIP@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:LRCIP@infrastructure.gov.au)

Mail to: Program Manager

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

Infrastructure Investment Division

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

GPO Box 2154

CANBERRA ACT 2601

## 12.3 Evaluation

The Department will evaluate the LRCI Program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. Information provided by Eligible Funding Recipients, including through Work Schedules, submitted Quarterly and Ad hoc reports, and interviews may be used for evaluation purposes.

The Department may contact Eligible Funding Recipients up to two years after completion of projects to assist with this evaluation.

## 12.4 Public information conditions

Formal public statements, media releases or statements, displays, publications and advertising made by Eligible Funding Recipients must acknowledge and give appropriate recognition to the contribution of the Australian Government to that project.

If Eligible Funding Recipients propose to issue any media release relating to an Eligible Project under Phase 3 of the LRCI Program, they must:

- Invite the relevant local Federal Member of Parliament to participate in the public information activity; and
- at least five business days prior to its proposed release, unless otherwise agreed by the Department, provide a copy of the proposed media release to the Department and obtain the Department's agreement to the media release.

## 12.5 Signage

Eligible Funding Recipients must ensure that signs are erected for each funded Eligible Project, at the time work on the Eligible Project commences unless the Eligible Projects are less than \$10,000. Signs are not needed for projects under \$10,000 in an Approved Work Schedule.

Signage guidelines are available on the Department's website.

Eligible Funding Recipients must ensure that all signs erected as required by these Guidelines remain in place for the duration of the project to which they relate and for a minimum period of six months, after the day on which the project is completed.

## 12.6 Project Events

If an Eligible Funding Recipient proposes to hold a works commencement ceremony, opening ceremony, or any other event in relation to an Eligible Project they must inform the Department and the relevant local Federal Member of Parliament of the proposed ceremony or event at least two weeks before the proposed ceremony or event is to be held. The Eligible Funding Recipient should provide details of the proposed ceremony or event, including proposed invitees and order of proceedings.

If requested by the Department or the relevant local Federal Member of Parliament, Eligible Funding Recipients must arrange a joint Australian Government/Eligible Funding Recipient works commencement ceremony, opening ceremony or any other event.

If requested by the Minister, a member of the Minister's staff, the relevant local Federal Member of Parliament, or the Department, Eligible Funding Recipients must invite and, if the invitation is accepted, arrange for an Australian Government representative (nominated by the Minister or a member of the Minister's staff) to participate in any works commencement ceremony, opening ceremony or any other event proposed to be held in relation to a funded project.

## 13. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair; conducted according to the published Guidelines; incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct; and, is consistent with the CGRGs.

These Guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by the Department. In the event of a change to the Guidelines, the revised Guidelines will be published on GrantConnect and the Department's website.

### 13.1 Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, the Department can be contacted at [LRCIP@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:LRCIP@infrastructure.gov.au).

Frequently Asked Questions may be published at [https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure\\_investment/local-roads-community-infrastructure-program/index.aspx](https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure_investment/local-roads-community-infrastructure-program/index.aspx)

To provide feedback or to make a complaint; the Department can be contacted at [Clientservice@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Clientservice@infrastructure.gov.au). Complaints will be referred to the appropriate manager.

Alternatively, complaints can be directed to:

Assistant Secretary  
Program, Policy and Budget Branch  
GPO Box 2013  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

If persons do not agree with the way the Department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Department.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (toll free): 1300 362 072

Email: [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)

Website: [www.ombudsman.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au)

### 13.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program.

Eligible Funding Recipients must disclose if any of their personnel:

- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict them/the Eligible Funding Recipient from carrying out the proposed activities and/or implementing the Work Schedule fairly and independently; or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which may be awarded work in relation to a Eligible Project or is otherwise be involved on the implementation of the Work Schedule.

An Eligible Funding Recipient must include the following information in the Work Schedule:

- any details of any real, apparent, or potential conflicts of interests that may arise in relation to the Eligible Projects or the program;
- details of how they propose to manage these or any other conflicts of interest that may arise; or
- that to the best of their knowledge there are no conflicts of interest.

If an Eligible Funding Recipient later identifies an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, they must inform the Department in writing immediately.

### 13.3 How we manage conflicts of interest

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the [Australian Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13 \(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Australian Government officials including decision makers, must also declare any conflicts of interest.

Conflict of interest requirements form part of the Grant Agreement. Breach of conflict of interest requirements may result in termination of the Grant Agreement.

### 13.4 Privacy

The Department treats personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#). This includes advising:

- what personal information is collected;
- why personal information is collected; and
- who personal information is given to.

Personal information can only be disclosed to someone for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about Eligible Funding Recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

The Department may share information it is provided with other Australian Government entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

Eligible Funding Recipients must declare their ability to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that Eligible Funding Recipients engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information collected, used, stored, or disclosed in connection with the activity. Accordingly, Eligible Funding Recipients must not do anything, which if done by the Department would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

### 13.5 Confidential Information

Other than information available in the public domain, Eligible Funding Recipients agree not to disclose to any person, other than to the Department, any confidential information unless in accordance with these Guidelines or the Grant Agreement. The obligation will not be breached where required by law, Parliament, or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

The Department may at any time, require Eligible Funding Recipients to arrange for their employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form the Department considers acceptable.

The Department will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all the three conditions below:

- information is clearly identified as confidential and it has been explained why it should be treated as confidential;
- the information is commercially sensitive; and
- revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to the Eligible Funding Recipient or someone else.

The Department will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- the Minister and other Australian Government employees and contractors to help the Department manage the program effectively;
- employees and contractors of the Department so it can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities;
- employees and contractors of other Australian Government agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery;
- other Australian Government, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations;
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner;
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary; and
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

### 13.6 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [\*Freedom of Information Act 1982\*](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

Freedom of Information Coordinator  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications  
GPO Box 2154  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6274 7111  
Fax: (02) 6275 1347  
email: [foi@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:foi@infrastructure.gov.au)



## 14. Consultation

The Australian Government sought assistance from local councils to identify potential projects that could be fast-tracked given the economic impacts being experienced from the COVID-19 pandemic. Projects nominated by councils have informed the scope of the LRCI Program. These Guidelines have also been influenced by engagement with local councils, feedback provided, and administrative improvements identified during Phase 1 and Phase 2.

## 15. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (PGPA Act)
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes
appropriate auditor	has the meaning provided in <i>the National Land Transport Act 2014</i> Section 4 - Definitions
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
completion date	the expected end date for the grant activity
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant.
Eligible Funding Recipient	the organisation that is eligible to receive funding under the LRCI Program
Eligible Project	A project that meets the Eligible Project Requirements contained in section 5 of these Guidelines
Eligible Project Requirements	The Eligible Project Requirements are the requirements contained in section 5 of these Guidelines



Term	Definition
grant	<p>for the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>under which relevant money<sup>2</sup> or other <u>Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF)</u> money<sup>3</sup> is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and</li> <li>which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives</li> </ol>
Grant Agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant
<u>GrantConnect</u>	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs
Capital Expenditure	the money an Eligible Funding Recipient spends on purchasing and maintaining fixed assets, i.e. infrastructure, roads etc
Maintaining Overall Capital Expenditure	maintaining your overall capital spending amount, funded by your own revenue, at or above current levels, on roads and community infrastructure.
Personal information	<p>has the same meaning as in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) which is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable;</li> <li>whether the information or opinion is true or not; and</li> <li>whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not</li> </ul>
Approved Work Schedule	the Work Schedule that outlines Eligible Projects that the Eligible Funding Recipient can use grant money to pay for.
Work Schedule	a list of projects that an Eligible Funding Recipient proposes to be funded under the LRCI Program

<sup>2</sup> Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

<sup>3</sup> Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

## **Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant Agreement**

between the Commonwealth represented by

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and  
Communications**

And

**The Grantee**

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## Grant Agreement

Once completed and executed by the Parties, this document, together with the Commonwealth Standard Grant Conditions (Schedule 1) forms an Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.

## Parties to this Agreement

### The Grantee

Full legal name of Grantee	<i>Central Highlands Council</i>
Australian Business Number (ABN)	<i>30 472 494 899</i>

### The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth of Australia represented by the  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications  
of 111 Alinga Street, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

ABN 86 267 354 017

### Background

The Commonwealth has agreed to enter this Agreement under which the Commonwealth will provide the Grantee with a Grant for the purpose of assisting the Grantee to undertake the associated Activity.

The Grantee agrees to use the Grant and undertake the Activity in accordance with this Agreement.

### Scope of this Agreement

This Agreement comprises:

- (a) this document;
- (b) the Supplementary Terms (if any);
- (c) the Standard Grant Conditions (Schedule 1);
- (d) the Grant Details;
- (e) the COVID-19 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Guidelines – Phase 3;
- (f) any other document referenced or incorporated in the Grant Details.

If there is any ambiguity or inconsistency between the documents comprising this Agreement in relation to the Grant, the document appearing higher in the list will have precedence to the extent of the ambiguity or inconsistency.

This Agreement represents the Parties' entire agreement in relation to the Grant provided under it and the relevant Activity and supersedes all prior representations, communications, agreements, statements and understandings, whether oral or in writing.

Certain information contained in or provided under this Agreement may be used for public reporting purposes.

## Grant Details

### A. Purpose of the Grant

The Grant is being provided as part of Phase 3 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI Program).

The objective of the LRCI Program is to stimulate additional infrastructure construction activity in local communities across Australia to assist communities to manage the economic impacts of COVID-19.

The Phase 3 extension of the LRCI Program is a temporary, targeted stimulus measure responding to the serious, ongoing economic impacts of COVID-19. The LRCI Program assists a community-led recovery from COVID-19 by supporting local jobs, firms, and procurement.

The intended outcomes of the LRCI Program are to:

- provide stimulus to protect and create local short-term employment opportunities through funded projects following the impacts of COVID-19; and
- deliver benefits to communities, such as improved road safety, accessibility and visual amenity.

The LRCI Program is administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, referred to as 'the Department' throughout this agreement.

### B. Activity

- 1 The Grantee is required to use the Grant funds to undertake the Eligible Projects set out in the approved Work Schedule. The Grantee must also meet the requirements set out in the Phase 3 Guidelines.

#### 2 Work Schedule

2.1 The Grantee must submit a draft Work Schedule in the manner and form notified by the Commonwealth, and in accordance with the requirements in this Agreement and the Phase 3 Guidelines.

2.2 The total amount of Grant funding sought under the draft Work Schedule cannot exceed the amount of the Grant specified at Item D (Payment of the Grant).

- 3 The Commonwealth will review the draft Work Schedule following the process detailed in the Phase 3 Guidelines (as in force at the time the decision to approve the Work Schedule is made).

3.1 The Grantee will be advised in writing if its Work Schedule is approved.

3.2 The Commonwealth's approval of the draft Work Schedule may be subject to conditions, including: the removal of some of the nominated projects where the Commonwealth does not consider they are Eligible Projects or otherwise meet the requirements of this Grant Agreement or the objectives of the LRCI Program – in which case the Grantee may submit an updated Work Schedule that includes additional nominated projects for approval at any time.

3.3 The Commonwealth's decision regarding the approval of the draft Work Schedule and/or any conditions is at its absolute discretion and is final. Once approved, the Work Schedule forms part of this Grant Agreement. The approval of the Work Schedule is a condition for release of the First Instalment of Grant money.

**4** The Grantee can only spend Grant money on Eligible Projects detailed in an Approved Work Schedule. Grant money cannot be used for Ineligible Projects or Ineligible Expenditure as set out in Section 5 of the Phase 3 Guidelines.

## **5 Conflicts of Interest**

5.1 The Grantee must disclose if any of their personnel:

5.1.1 has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the Grantee from carrying out the Activities and/or implementing the Work Schedule fairly and independently; or

5.1.2 has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation which may be awarded work in relation to a nominated project or is otherwise to be involved in the implementation of the Work Schedule.

5.2 The Grantee must include in the Work Schedule:

5.2.1 any details of any real, apparent, or potential conflicts of interest that may arise in relation to the Grantee's nominated projects, or the program;

5.2.2 details of how the Grantee proposes to manage these or any other conflict of interest that may arise; or

5.2.3 that to the best of their knowledge, there are no conflicts of interest.

5.3 The Grantee must provide the Commonwealth with details of the arrangements it will implement to effectively manage conflicts of interest in relation to the conduct of projects if requested.

## **6 Changes to Grantees and Eligible Projects**

6.1 Grantees must notify the Commonwealth of significant changes that are likely to affect an Eligible Project or their participation in Phase 3 of the LRCI Program. This includes any key changes to the Grantee's organisation, particularly if it affects their ability to complete an Eligible Project, carry on their business and pay debts due.

## **C. Duration of the Grant**

Activity start date	Activity Completion Date
20 October 2021	31 December 2023

## **7 Activity Timeframe**

7.1 Construction activity on Eligible Projects must be undertaken between 1 January 2022 and 30 June 2023, other costs associated with Eligible Projects may continue to 31 December 2023.

7.2 The Agreement starts on the date that the last party to this Agreement signs.

7.3 The Agreement ends on 31 December 2023 which is the **Agreement End Date**.

## **D. Payment of the Grant**

**8** The total maximum amount of the Grant is \$1,178,256. This is the Grantee's Phase 3 Allocation.

8.1 The Grantee's bank account for Phase 3 of the LRCI program is the bank account the Grantee uses for the LRCI Program. A change to a bank account must follow the process notified by the Commonwealth.

8.2 In order for the Grantee to receive the full Grant amount, the Grantee must have submitted a draft Work Schedule for the total Grant amount by 30 June 2022.

8.3 If the Grantee has not applied for the full Grant amount in a draft Work Schedule by 30 June 2022, the Commonwealth has the right to not pay the Grantee the amount of the Grant not applied for by the Grantee.

## **9 Grant Instalments**

9.1 Subject to 9.2, Grant Instalments will be paid in accordance with the instalments set out in Table 1 below, subject to:

9.1.1 receipt of required Reports by the Commonwealth;

9.1.2 the Commonwealth's decision on Reports and information provided therein;

9.1.3 the required information contained in Work Schedules;

9.1.4 the Commonwealth's consideration of other relevant information;

9.1.5 compliance by the Grantee with its obligations under this Agreement; and

9.1.6 the requirements in the Phase 3 Guidelines (as in force at the time the decision to make a payment is made) being met.

9.2 A Low Value Grant is a Grant of \$750,000 or less. Low Value Grantees can receive 75 per cent of their Grant amount as their First Instalment provided they have nominated projects totaling 75 per cent or more of their Grant amount.

## 10 Payments will be paid in accordance with Table 1: Grant Payments

**Table 1 Grant Payment Overview**

Payment milestone	Grant payment date	Amount
First Instalment:  Work Schedule approval payment	The First Instalment of the Grant will be paid after 1 January 2022 and after the Grantee's Work Schedule has been approved.	The first payment will be equal to 50 per cent of the Grant, unless the Grantee is the recipient of a Low Value Grant.  For Low Value Grant, the Grantee will receive 75% of their Grant in their first instalment.
Progress Instalments:  The Grantee can receive multiple progress payments.	Within four weeks of the Department's acceptance of a complete and accurate Quarterly Report.	A Progress Instalment will be equal to the Grantee's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• actual expenditure until the end of the period covered by the relevant Quarterly Report; and</li> <li>• projected expenditure on Eligible Projects in an Approved Work Schedule to the end of the subsequent quarter;</li> </ul> <p><b>less:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• received instalments; and</li> <li>• 10 per cent of the Grant.</li> </ul> <p>For a Low Value Grant, the Grantee can apply to receive the residual of grant funds at the time of a Quarterly Report being submitted provided they also submit completed acquittal documentation.</p>
Final Instalment:  Final payment	Within four weeks of the Department's acceptance of the complete and accurate Annual Report and the decision to release the Final Instalment	The Final Instalment will equal the smaller of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the residual amount of the Grant; or</li> <li>• the total eligible expenditure and projected expenditure to the end of the Eligible Projects;</li> </ul> <p><b>less</b> instalments paid to date.</p>



## E. Reporting

- 11 The Grantee agrees to update Work Schedules in accordance with:
  - 11.1 the Phase 3 Guidelines as in force from time to time; and
  - 11.2 any other requirements notified by the Commonwealth.
- 12 The Grantee agrees to create the following reports in the manner and form specified by the Commonwealth and provide the reports to the Commonwealth representative:
  - 12.1 Quarterly Reports; and
  - 12.2 Annual Reports.
- 13 The Grantee must provide Reports in accordance with the timeframes at **Table 2: Reports** unless 14 or 15 applies.
- 14 If the Grantee has expended their Grant and/or returned any unspent Grant funding, after providing the Quarterly Report for the quarter in which this occurs, the Grantee is not required to provide further Quarterly reports but will still be required to provide the Annual Report.
- 15 For a Low Value Grant, if the Grantee has expended their Grant and/or returned any unspent grant funds, after providing the Quarterly Report for the quarter in which this occurs, the Grantee is not required to provide further Quarterly reports. A Grantee with a Low Value Grant can file acquittal documentation at this time.

<b>Table 2 Reports</b>		
<b>Lodgement period for Quarterly Reports</b>	<b>Quarter: Actual expenditure period</b>	<b>Quarterly Report</b>
1–30 April 2022	Commencement – 31 March 2022	Actual expenditure and eligible project updates for the period commencing on the date of the executed Grant Agreement and ending on the last day of the quarter to which the Quarterly Report relates. Projected Expenditure for the next quarter.
1–31 July 2022	1 April – 30 June 2022	Actual expenditure and eligible project updates for the period commencing on 1 January 2022 and ending on the last day of the quarter to which the Quarterly Report relates. Projected Expenditure for the next quarter.
1–31 October 2022	1 January 2022– 30 June 2022	<b>Annual Report</b> Actual expenditure and eligible project updates from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023.
1–31 October 2022	1 July – 30 September 2022	Actual expenditure and eligible project updates for the period commencing on 1 January 2022 and ending on the last day of the quarter to which the Quarterly Report relates. Projected Expenditure for the next quarter.
1–31 January 2023	1 October – 31 December 2022	Actual expenditure for the period commencing on 1 January 2022 and ending on the last day of the quarter to which the Quarterly Report relates. Projected Expenditure for the next quarter.
1–30 April 2023	1 January – 31 March 2023	Actual expenditure for the period commencing on 1 January 2022 and ending on the last day of the quarter to which the Quarterly Report relates. Projected Expenditure for the next quarter.
1–31 October 2023	1 January 2022– 30 June 2023	<b>Annual Report</b> Actual expenditure and eligible project updates from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023.

## 16 Quarterly Reports

16.1 Quarterly Reports must be in the manner and form notified by the Commonwealth in accordance with the Phase 3 Guidelines.

## 17 Annual Reports

17.1 Annual Reports must be in the manner and form notified by the Commonwealth in accordance with the Phase 3 Guidelines.

## 18 Acquittal Process for Low Value Grants

- 18.1 The Acquittal Process must be in the manner and form notified by the Commonwealth in accordance with the Phase 3 Guidelines.

## F. Party representatives and address for notices

### Grantee's representative and address

The Grantee's Representative is the Grantee's Formal Contact under the Roads to Recovery program unless otherwise agreed by the Commonwealth.

### Commonwealth representative and address

Name of representative	Benjamin Meagher
Position	Assistant Secretary, Program, Policy and Budget Branch
Postal address	GPO Box 594, Canberra Australian Capital Territory 2601
Physical address	111 Alinga Street, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory 2601
Business hours telephone	02 6274 7111
Email	Benjamin.Meagher@infrastructure.gov.au

The Parties' representatives will be responsible for liaison and the day-to-day management of the Grant, as well as accepting and issuing any written notices in relation to the Grant.

## G. Activity Material

N/A.

## **Supplementary Terms from Clause Bank**

### **1. Other Contributions**

N/A

### **2. Activity budget**

N/A

### **3. Intellectual property in Activity Material**

N/A

#### **3A. Intellectual property – research**

N/A

#### **3B. Creative Commons licence**

N/A

### **4. Access/Monitoring/Inspection**

- 4.1. The Grantee agrees to give the Commonwealth, or any persons authorised in writing by the Commonwealth:

(a) access to premises where the Activity is being performed and/or where Material relating to the Activity is kept within the time period specified in a Commonwealth notice; and  
(b) permission to inspect and take copies of any Material relevant to the Activity.

- 4.2. The Auditor-General and any Information Officer under the *Australian Information Commissioner Act 2010* (Cth) (including their delegates) are persons authorised for the purposes of clause CB4.1.

- 4.3. This clause CB4 does not detract from the statutory powers of the Auditor-General or an Information Officer (including their delegates).

### **5. Equipment and Assets**

N/A

### **6. Specified Personnel**

N/A

### **7. Relevant qualifications, licences, permits, approvals or skills**

- 7.1. The Grantee agrees to ensure that personnel performing work in relation to the Activity: and

(a) are appropriately qualified to perform the tasks indicated;  
(b) have obtained the required qualifications, licences, permits, approvals or skills before performing any part of the Activity and  
(c) continue to maintain all relevant qualifications, licences, permits, approvals or skills for the duration of their involvement with the Activity.

### **8. Vulnerable Persons**

N/A

9. **Child safety**

N/A

10. **Commonwealth Material, facilities and assistance**

N/A

11. **Jurisdiction**

N/A

12. **Grantee trustee of Trust**

N/A

13. **Fraud**

13.1. In this Agreement, Fraud means dishonestly obtaining a benefit, or causing a loss, by deception or other means, and includes alleged, attempted, suspected or detected fraud.

13.2. The Grantee must ensure its personnel and subcontractors do not engage in any Fraud in relation to the Activity.

13.3. If the Grantee becomes aware of:

(a) any Fraud in relation to the performance of the Activity; or

(b) any other Fraud that has had or may have an effect on the performance of the Activity;

then it must within 5 business days report the matter to the Commonwealth and all appropriate law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

13.4. The Grantee must, at its own cost, investigate any Fraud referred to in clause CB13.3 in accordance with the Australian Government Investigations Standards available at [www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au).

13.5. The Commonwealth may, at its discretion, investigate any Fraud in relation to the Activity. The Grantee agrees to co-operate and provide all reasonable assistance at its own cost with any such investigation.

13.6. This clause survives the termination or expiry of the Agreement.

14. **Prohibited dealings**

N/A

15. **Anti-corruption**

15.1. In this Agreement:

**Illegal or Corrupt Practice** means directly or indirectly:

(a) making or causing to be made, any offer, gift, payment, consideration or benefit of any kind to any party, or

(b) receiving or seeking to receive, any offer, gift, payment, consideration or benefit of any kind from any party, as an inducement or reward in relation to the performance of the Activity, which would or could be construed as an illegal or corrupt practice.

- 15.2. The Grantee warrants that the Grantee, its officers, employees, contractors, agents and any other individual or entity involved in carrying out the Activity have not, engaged in an Illegal or Corrupt Practice.
  - 15.3. The Grantee agrees not to, and to take all reasonable steps to ensure that its officers, employees, contractors, agents and any other individual or entity involved in carrying out the Activity do not:
    - (a) engage in an Illegal or Corrupt Practice; or
    - (b) engage in any practice that could constitute the offence of bribing a foreign public official contained in section 70.2 of the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth).
  - 15.4. The Grantee agrees to inform the Commonwealth within five business days if the Grantee becomes aware of any activity as described in CB15.3 in relation to the performance of the Activity.
16. **Step-in rights**  
N/A
17. **Grant Administrator**  
N/A
18. **Management Adviser**  
N/A
19. **Indemnities**  
N/A
20. **Compliance with Legislation and policies**
- 20.1. In this Agreement: Legislation means a provision of a statute or subordinate legislation of the Commonwealth, or of a State, Territory or local authority
  - 20.2. The Grantee agrees to comply with all Legislation applicable to its performance of this Agreement.
  - 20.3. The Grantee agrees, in carrying out its obligations under this Agreement, to comply with any of the Commonwealth's policies as notified, referred or made available by the Commonwealth to the Grantee (including by reference to an internet site).
21. **Work health and safety**
- 21.1. The Grantee agrees to ensure that it complies at all times with all applicable work health and safety legislative and regulatory requirements and any additional work health and safety requirements set out in the Grant Details.
  - 21.2. If requested by the Commonwealth, the Grantee agrees to provide copies of its work health and safety management plans and processes and such other details of the arrangements it has in place to meet the requirements referred to in clause ST21.1.
  - 21.3. When using the Commonwealth's premises or facilities, the Grantee agrees to comply with all reasonable directions and procedures relating to work health and

safety and security in effect at those premises or facilities, as notified by the Commonwealth or as might reasonably be inferred from the use to which the premises or facilities are being put.

**22. Transition**

N/A

**23. Corporate governance**

N/A

**23A. Incorporation requirement**

N/A

**24. Counterparts and execution**

24.1. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts. All counterparts, taken together, constitute one instrument. A Party may execute this Agreement by signing any counterpart.

24.2. The Parties confirm that, without limiting the ways in which this Agreement may exist or be executed, they consent to this Agreement and any counterparts of this Agreement being executed and/or exchanged electronically.

**25. Employees subject to SACS Decision**

N/A

**26. Program interoperability with National Disability Insurance Scheme**

N/A

**27. Rollover of surplus and uncommitted funds**

N/A

**28. Secret and Sacred Indigenous Material**

N/A

## Signature



Executed as an agreement:

### Grantee

Full legal name of the Grantee <name of the grantee> <ABN of the grantee>	
Signatory Name	
Signature	
Date	
Witness Name	
Signature and date	



## Commonwealth

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	
Name	Benjamin Meagher
Position	Assistant Secretary, Program, Policy and Budget Branch
Date	21 October 2021
Signature	
Witness Name The witness is not a party to this deed. The witness witnessed the affixing of the above delegate's electronic signature to the master form of agreement from which this Agreement was generated	Kieran Vassallo
Signature and date	 21 October 2021

## **Schedule 1: Commonwealth Standard Grant Conditions**

### **1. Undertaking the Activity**

- 1.1. The Grantee agrees to undertake the Activity for the purpose of the Grant in accordance with this Agreement.
- 1.2. The Grantee is fully responsible for the Activity and for ensuring the performance of all its obligations under this Agreement in accordance with all relevant laws. The Grantee will not be relieved of that responsibility because of:
  - (a) the grant or withholding of any approval or the exercise or non-exercise of any right by the Commonwealth; or
  - (b) any payment to, or withholding of any payment from, the Grantee under this Agreement.

### **2. Payment of the Grant**

- 2.1. The Commonwealth agrees to pay the Grant to the Grantee in accordance with the Grant Details.
- 2.2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Commonwealth may by notice withhold payment of any amount of the Grant and/or take any other action specified in the Supplementary Terms if it reasonably believes that:
  - (a) the Grantee has not complied with this Agreement;
  - (b) the Grantee is unlikely to be able to perform the Activity or manage the Grant in accordance with this Agreement; or
  - (c) there is a serious concern relating to the Grantee or this Agreement that requires investigation.
- 2.3. A notice under clause 2.2 will contain the reasons for any action taken under clause 2.2 and, where relevant, the steps the Grantee can take to address those reasons.
- 2.4. The Commonwealth will only be obliged to pay a withheld amount once the Grantee has addressed the reasons contained in a notice under clause 2.2 to the Commonwealth's reasonable satisfaction.

### **3. Acknowledgements**

- 3.1. The Grantee agrees not to make any public announcement, including by social media, in connection with the awarding of the Grant without the Commonwealth's prior written approval.
- 3.2. The Grantee agrees to acknowledge the Commonwealth's support in all Material, publications and promotional and advertising materials published in connection with this Agreement. The Commonwealth may notify the Grantee of the form of acknowledgement that the Grantee is to use.
- 3.3. The Grantee agrees not to use the Commonwealth Coat of Arms in connection with the Grant or the Activity without the Commonwealth's prior written approval.

#### **4. Notices**

- 4.1. Each Party agrees to promptly notify the other Party of anything reasonably likely to adversely affect the undertaking of the Activity, management of the Grant or its performance of any of its other requirements under this Agreement.
- 4.2. A notice given by a Party under this Agreement must be in writing and addressed to the other Party's representative as set out in the Grant Details or as most recently updated by notice given in accordance with this clause.
- 4.3. A notice is deemed to be effected:
  - (a) if delivered by hand - upon delivery to the relevant address;
  - (b) if sent by post - upon delivery to the relevant address; or
  - (c) if transmitted electronically - upon actual receipt by the addressee.
- 4.4. A notice received after 5.00 pm, or on a day that is a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, in the place of receipt, is deemed to be effected on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in that place.
- 4.5. The Commonwealth may, by notice, advise the Grantee of changes to the Agreement that are minor or of an administrative nature, provided that any such changes do not increase the Grantee's obligations under this Agreement. Such changes, while legally binding, are not variations for the purpose of clause 8.

#### **5. Relationship between the Parties**

A Party is not by virtue of this Agreement the employee, agent or partner of the other Party and is not authorised to bind or represent the other Party.

#### **6. Subcontracting**

- 6.1. The Grantee is responsible for the performance of its obligations under this Agreement, including in relation to any tasks undertaken by subcontractors.
- 6.2. The Grantee agrees to make available to the Commonwealth the details of any of its subcontractors engaged to perform any tasks in relation to this Agreement upon request.

#### **7. Conflict of interest**

- 7.1. Other than those which have already been disclosed to the Commonwealth, the Grantee warrants that, to the best of its knowledge, at the date of this Agreement neither it nor its officers have any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest in relation the Activity.
- 7.2. If during the term of the Agreement, any actual, perceived or potential conflict arises or there is any material change to a previously disclosed conflict of interest, the Grantee agrees to:
  - (a) notify the Commonwealth promptly and make full disclosure of all relevant information relating to the conflict; and
  - (b) take any steps the Commonwealth reasonably requires to resolve or otherwise deal with that conflict.

## **8. Variation, assignment and waiver**

- 8.1. This Agreement may be varied in writing only, signed by both Parties.
- 8.2. The Grantee cannot assign its obligations, and agrees not to assign its rights, under this Agreement without the Commonwealth's prior approval.
- 8.3. The Grantee agrees not to enter into negotiations with any other person for the purposes of entering into an arrangement that will require novation of, or involve any assignment of rights under, this Agreement without first consulting the Commonwealth.
- 8.4. A waiver by a Party of any of its rights under this Agreement is only effective if it is in a signed written notice to the other Party and then only to the extent specified in that notice.

## **9. Taxes, duties and government charges**

- 9.1. The parties have entered into this Grant Agreement on the understanding that the Commonwealth and the Grantee are both government related entities, and that the amount of the Grant and anything else the Grantee receives from another entity in relation to any supply under this Agreement does not exceed the Grantee's cost of making that supply. On this basis, and in accordance with GSTR 2012/2 the parties rely on s.9-17 of the GST Act for no GST being imposed in connection with a supply made under this Agreement. Consequently, the actual and projected expenditure the Grantee reports to the Commonwealth must exclude the GST component on goods and services, and the payments the Commonwealth makes under this Agreement will not include GST.
- 9.2. The Grantee agrees to pay all taxes, duties and government charges imposed or levied in Australia or overseas in connection with the performance of this Agreement, except as provided by this Agreement.
- 9.3. If Goods and Services Tax (GST) is payable by a supplier on any supply made under this Agreement, the recipient of the supply will pay to the supplier an amount equal to the GST payable on the supply, in addition to and at the same time that the consideration for the supply is to be provided under this Agreement.
- 9.4. If at the commencement of the Agreement the Grantee is not registered for GST and during the term of the Agreement the Grantee becomes, or is required to become, registered for GST, the Grantee agrees to notify the Commonwealth in writing within 7 days of becoming registered for GST.

## **10. Spending the Grant**

- 10.1. The Grantee agrees to spend the Grant for the purpose of performing the Activity and otherwise in accordance with this Agreement.
- 10.2. Within one month after the Activity Completion Date, the Grantee agrees to provide a statement signed by the Grantee in a form specified by the Commonwealth verifying the Grant was spent in accordance with this Agreement.

## **11. Repayment**

- 11.1. If any amount of the Grant:
  - (a) has been spent other than in accordance with this Agreement; or

(b) is additional to the requirements of the Activity; then the Commonwealth may by written notice:

(c) require the Grantee to repay that amount to the Commonwealth;

(d) require the Grantee to deal with that amount as directed by the Commonwealth;

or

(e) deduct the amount from subsequent payments of the Grant or amounts payable under another agreement between the Grantee and the Commonwealth.

11.2. If the Commonwealth issues a notice under this Agreement requiring the Grantee to repay a Grant amount:

(a) the Grantee must do so within the time period specified in the notice;

(b) the Grantee must pay interest on any part of the amount that is outstanding at the end of the time period specified in the notice until the outstanding amount is repaid in full; and

(c) the Commonwealth may recover the amount and any interest under this Agreement as a debt due to the Commonwealth without further proof of the debt being required.

## **12. Record keeping**

12.1. The Grantee agrees to keep financial accounts and other records that:

(a) detail and document the conduct and management of the Activity;

(b) identify the receipt and expenditure of the Grant separately within the Grantee's accounts and records so that at all times the Grant is identifiable; and

(c) enable all receipts and payments related to the Activity to be identified and reported.

12.2. The Grantee agrees to keep the records for five years after the Activity Completion Date or such other time specified in the Grant Details and provide copies of the records to the Commonwealth upon request.

## **13. Reporting and Liaison**

13.1. The Grantee agrees to provide the Reporting Material specified in the Grant Details to the Commonwealth.

13.2. In addition to the obligations in clause 13.1, the Grantee agrees to:

(a) liaise with and provide assistance and information to the Commonwealth as reasonably required by the Commonwealth; and

(b) comply with the Commonwealth's reasonable requests, directions and monitoring requirements,  
in relation to the Activity.

13.3. If the Commonwealth acting reasonably has concerns regarding the performance of the Activity or the management of the Grant, the Commonwealth may by written notice require the Grantee to provide one or more additional reports, containing the information and by the date(s), specified in the notice.

13.4. The Grantee acknowledges that the giving of false or misleading information to the Commonwealth is a serious offence under the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth).

#### **14. Privacy**

- 14.1. When dealing with Personal Information in carrying out the Activity, the Grantee agrees:
- (a) to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth); and
  - (b) not to do anything which, if done by the Commonwealth, would be a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle.

#### **15. Confidentiality**

- 15.1. The Parties agree not to disclose each other's confidential information without the other Party's prior written consent unless required or authorised by law or Parliament to disclose.
- 15.2. The Commonwealth may disclose the Grantee's confidential information where;
- (a) the Commonwealth is providing information about the Activity or Grant in accordance with Commonwealth accountability and reporting requirements;
  - (b) the Commonwealth is disclosing the information to a Minister of the Australian Government, a House or Committee of the Commonwealth Parliament; or
  - (c) the Commonwealth is disclosing the information to its personnel or another Commonwealth agency where this serves the Commonwealth's legitimate interests.

#### **16. Insurance**

- 16.1. The Grantee agrees to maintain adequate insurance for as long as any obligations remain in connection with this Agreement and provide proof of insurance to the Commonwealth upon request.

#### **17. Intellectual property**

- 17.1. Subject to clause 17.2, the Grantee owns the Intellectual Property Rights in Activity Material and Reporting Material.
- 17.2. This Agreement does not affect the ownership of Intellectual Property Rights in Existing Material.
- 17.3. The Grantee provides the Commonwealth a permanent, non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free licence to use, modify, communicate, reproduce, publish, adapt and sub-license the Reporting Material for Commonwealth Purposes.
- 17.4. The licence in clause 17.3 does not apply to Activity Material.

#### **18. Dispute resolution**

- 18.1. The Parties agree not to initiate legal proceedings in relation to a dispute arising under this Agreement unless they have first tried and failed to resolve the dispute by negotiation.
- 18.2. Unless clause 18.3 applies, the Parties agree to continue to perform their respective obligations under this Agreement when a dispute exists.
- 18.3. The Parties may agree to suspend performance of the Agreement pending resolution of the dispute.
- 18.4. Failing settlement by negotiation in accordance with clause 18.1, the Parties may agree to refer the dispute to an independent third person with power to intervene

and direct some form of resolution, in which case the Parties will be bound by that resolution. If the Parties do not agree to refer the dispute to an independent third person, either Party may initiate legal proceedings.

- 18.5. Each Party will bear their own costs in complying with this clause 18, and the Parties will share equally the cost of any third person engaged under clause 18.4.
- 18.6. The procedure for dispute resolution under this clause does not apply to any action relating to termination, cancellation or urgent interlocutory relief.

## **19. Reduction, Suspension and Termination**

### **19.1. Reduction in scope of agreement for fault**

- 19.1.1. If the Grantee does not comply with an obligation under this Agreement and the Commonwealth believes that the non-compliance is incapable of remedy, or if the Grantee has failed to comply with a notice to remedy, the Commonwealth may by written notice reduce the scope of the Agreement.
- 19.1.2. The Grantee agrees, on receipt of the notice of reduction, to:
  - (a) stop or reduce the performance of the Grantee's obligations as specified in the notice;
  - (b) take all available steps to minimise loss resulting from the reduction;
  - (c) continue performing any part of the Activity or the Agreement not affected by the notice if requested to do so by the Commonwealth; and
  - (d) report on, and return any part of, the Grant to the Commonwealth, or otherwise deal with the Grant, as directed by the Commonwealth.
- 19.1.3. In the event of reduction under clause 19.1.1, the amount of the Grant will be reduced in proportion to the reduction in the scope of the Agreement.

### **19.2. Suspension**

#### **19.2.1. If:**

- (a) the Grantee does not comply with an obligation under this Agreement and the Commonwealth believes that the non-compliance is capable of remedy;
  - (b) the Commonwealth reasonably believes that the Grantee is unlikely to be able to perform the Activity or manage the Grant in accordance with this Agreement; or
  - (c) the Commonwealth reasonably believes that there is a serious concern relating to the Grantee or this Agreement that requires investigation;
- the Commonwealth may by written notice:
- (d) immediately suspend the Grantee from further performance of the Activity (including expenditure of the Grant); and/or
  - (e) require that the non-compliance or inability be remedied, or the investigation be completed, within the time specified in the notice.

#### **19.2.2. If the Grantee:**

- (a) remedies the non-compliance or inability specified in the notice to the Commonwealth's reasonable satisfaction, or the Commonwealth reasonably concludes that the concern is unsubstantiated, the Commonwealth may direct the Grantee to recommence performing the Activity; or

(b) fails to remedy the non-compliance or inability within the time specified, or the Commonwealth reasonably concludes that the concern is likely to be substantiated, the Commonwealth may reduce the scope of the Agreement in accordance with clause 19.1 or terminate the Agreement immediately by giving a second notice in accordance with clause 19.3.

**19.3. Termination for fault**

19.3.1. The Commonwealth may terminate this Agreement by notice where the Grantee has:

- (a) failed to comply with an obligation under this Agreement and the Commonwealth believes that the non-compliance is incapable of remedy or where clause 19.2.2.b applies; or
- (b) provided false or misleading statements in relation to the Grant; or
- (c) become bankrupt or insolvent, entered into a scheme of arrangement with creditors, or come under any form of external administration.

19.3.2. The Grantee agrees, on receipt of the notice of termination, to:

- (a) stop the performance of the Grantee's obligations;
- (b) take all available steps to minimise loss resulting from the termination; and
- (c) report on, and return any part of, the Grant to the Commonwealth, or otherwise deal with the Grant, as directed by the Commonwealth.

**20. Cancellation or reduction for convenience**

20.1. The Commonwealth may cancel or reduce the scope of this Agreement by notice, due to:

- (a) a change in government policy; or
- (b) a Change in the Control of the Grantee which the Commonwealth reasonably believes will negatively affect the Grantee's ability to comply with this Agreement.

20.2. On receipt of a notice of reduction or cancellation under this clause, the Grantee agrees to:

- (a) stop or reduce the performance of the Grantee's obligations as specified in the notice;
- (b) take all available steps to minimise loss resulting from that reduction or cancellation;
- (c) continue performing any part of the Activity or the Agreement not affected by the notice if requested to do so by the Commonwealth; and
- (d) report on, and return any part of, the Grant to the Commonwealth, or otherwise deal with the Grant, as directed by the Commonwealth.

20.3. In the event of reduction or cancellation under this clause, the Commonwealth will be liable only to:

- (a) pay any part of the Grant due and owing to the Grantee under this Agreement at the date of the notice; and
- (b) reimburse any reasonable and substantiated expenses the Grantee unavoidably incurs that relate directly and entirely to the reduction in scope or cancellation of the Agreement.



- 20.4. In the event of reduction, the amount of the Grant will be reduced in proportion to the reduction in the scope of the Agreement.
- 20.5. The Commonwealth's liability to pay any amount under this clause is:
- (a) subject to the Grantee's compliance with this Agreement; and
  - (b) limited to an amount that when added to all other amounts already paid under the Agreement will not exceed the total amount of the Grant.
- 20.6. The Grantee will not be entitled to compensation for loss of prospective profits or benefits that would have been conferred on the Grantee but for the cancellation or reduction in scope of the Agreement under clause 20.1.
- 20.7. The Commonwealth will act reasonably in exercising its rights under this clause.

## 21. **Survival**

The following clauses survive termination, cancellation or expiry of this Agreement:

- clause 10 (Spending the Grant);
- clause 11 (Repayment);
- clause 12 (Record keeping);
- clause 13 (Reporting);
- clause 14 (Privacy);
- clause 15 (Confidentiality);
- clause 16 (Insurance);
- clause 17 (Intellectual property);
- clause 19 (Reduction, Suspension and Termination);
- clause 21 (Survival);
- clause 22 Definitions; and
- Any applicable provisions included from the clause bank; and
- Any other clause which expressly or by implication from its nature is meant to survive.

## 22. **Definitions**

In this Agreement, unless the contrary appears:

- **Activity** means the activity described in the Grant Details and includes the provisions of the Reporting Material.
- **Activity Completion Date** means the date or event specified in the Grant Details.
- **Activity Material** means any Material, other than Reporting Material, created or developed by the Grantee as a result of the Activity and includes any Existing Material that is incorporated in or supplied with the Activity Material.
- **Agreement** means the Grant Details, Supplementary Terms (if any), the Commonwealth Standard Grant Conditions and any other document referenced or incorporated in the Grant Details.
- **Agreement End Date** means the date or event specified in the Grant Details.
- **Australian Privacy Principle** has the same meaning as in the *Privacy Act 1988*.

- **Change in the Control** means any change in any person(s) who directly exercise effective control over the Grantee.
- **Commonwealth** means the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Commonwealth entity specified in the Agreement and includes, where relevant, its officers, employees, contractors and agents.
- **Commonwealth Purposes** includes the following:
  - a. the Commonwealth verifying and assessing grant proposals, including a grant application;
  - b. the Commonwealth administering, monitoring, reporting on, auditing, publicising and evaluating a grant program or exercising its rights under this Agreement;
  - c. the Commonwealth preparing, managing, reporting on, auditing and evaluating agreements, including this Agreement; and
  - d. the Commonwealth developing and publishing policies, programs, guidelines and reports, including Commonwealth annual reports;
 but in all cases:
  - e. excludes the commercialisation (being for-profit use) of the Material by the Commonwealth.
- **Commonwealth Standard Grant Conditions** means this document.
- **Existing Material** means Material developed independently of this Agreement that is incorporated in or supplied as part of Reporting Material or Activity Material.
- **Grant** means the money, or any part of it, payable by the Commonwealth to the Grantee for the Activity as specified in the Grant Details.
- **Grantee** means the legal entity other than the Commonwealth specified in the Agreement and includes, where relevant, its officers, employees, contractors and agents.
- **Grant Details** means the document titled Grant Details that forms part of this Agreement.
- **Intellectual Property Rights** means all copyright, patents, registered and unregistered trademarks (including service marks), registered designs, and other rights resulting from intellectual activity (other than moral rights under the *Copyright Act 1968*).
- **Material** includes documents, equipment, software (including source code and object code versions), goods, information and data stored by any means including all copies and extracts of them.
- **Party** means the Grantee or the Commonwealth.
- **Personal Information** has the same meaning as in the *Privacy Act 1988*.
- **Phase 3 Guidelines** means the 'COVID-19 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Guidelines – Phase 3'
- **Records** includes documents, information and data stored by any means and all copies and extracts of the same.
- **Reporting Material** means all Material which the Grantee is required to provide to the Commonwealth for reporting purposes as specified in the Grant Details and includes any Existing Material that is incorporated in or supplied with the Reporting Material.



## **Policy No 2014 - 22**

### **Customer Service Charter**

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This Customer Service Charter is in compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and outlines Central Highlands Council's commitment to customers in accordance with our vision and mission statement articulated in the Strategic Plan. It outlines customers' rights, the standards customers can expect when dealing with Council and what a customer can do if dissatisfied with Council decisions or actions including providing a formalized process for making complaints.

## **OUR COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMER SERVICE**

The Central Highlands Council is committed to the provision of timely, efficient, consistent and quality services provided by polite and helpful Officers that meet our customers' expectations.

The Central Highlands Council places great emphasis on the efficient handling of complaints. Our aim at all times is to provide a quality service. We may not be able to provide complete satisfaction but we will be trying for the best possible solution.

To achieve this customers are encouraged to voice their complaints and for Council to work toward increasing customer satisfaction and continuously improve our services by responding to customer complaints as efficiently and effectively as possible.

## **WHO IS A CUSTOMER**

A customer is any person or organisation having dealings with the Central Highlands Council.

## **OUR SERVICE STANDARDS**

### **At all times we aim to:**

- Treat customers courteously and with respect;
- Deal with customers in a polite and helpful manner;
- Listen to customers and take their views into account;
- Provide customers with necessary and relevant information;
- Treat customers fairly and take account of the customer's particular needs;
- Act on our commitments in a timely manner;
- Value customer's privacy by treating all personal information confidentially;
- Leave a "visit card" with our name and contact number following a visit to a customer's residence if that customer is absent at the time; and
- Be punctual for meetings and appointments.

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### **When a customer visits or telephones the Council**

We will attend the counter and answer the telephone promptly, courteously and deal with an enquiry directly without unnecessary referrals or transfers. If we cannot deal with the enquiry we will provide the customer with the name of the person the request or enquiry will be referred to or, if that information is not readily available, will request the relevant person to contact the customer directly. Telephone calls will be returned at the first opportunity however where information is not readily available verbal enquiries will be answered within 5 (five) working days. The person concerned will be informed of the reason (s) for the delay.

### **When a customer writes or emails**

We will acknowledge all written requests or enquiries within 3 (three) working days. Such acknowledgement will generally be in writing but may be by telephone if appropriate. We will respond to these written requests as promptly as circumstances allow taking into account the Council meeting cycle and the complexity of the information sought and its availability. Most requests will be answered within 15 (fifteen) working days. All correspondence will be as prompt as possible, courteous and written in plain English.

### **OUR EXPECTATIONS OF THE CUSTOMER**

To help us assist you, our customer, in providing our services we ask you to:

- Treat Council Officers with respect;
- Respect the privacy, safety and needs of other members of the community;
- Have a note pad and pen by the phone;
- Provide accurate and complete details;
- Phone to make an appointment for a complex enquiry or a need to see a specific Officer; and
- Phone the Officer nominated on correspondence sent to the customer and quoting the reference on the letter.

### **Abusive Customers**

No Council employee is required to abide threatening, abusive or insulting conduct from customers. In cases where a customer behaves in such a way, the Council employee may immediately terminate dealings with them.

If dealing with a customer face to face, we will advise you that we are terminating the conversation with you due to your behaviour, ask you to leave the premises and then the Officer will walk away.

If on the telephone, we will advise you that we are terminating the conversation with you due to your behaviour, and then the Officer will terminate the call.

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If it is an email, the address you sent the email from may be blocked to prevent further contact after advising the customer that this will happen.

The General Manager may decide to limit or cease responses to any person, who is abusive in his or her dealings or refuses to accept that Council has done all that it can to assist. A decision of this nature will be communicated in writing to the person.

If an Officer feels threatened by the language or behaviour of the customer, they may notify the Police.

## **COMPLAINTS**

### **What is a complaint?**

A complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction with a decision (outside of a structured process), level or quality of service, or behaviour of an employee or agent, which can be investigated and acted upon.

A structured process is where legislation (Act, Regulation, Rule or By-law) specifically makes provision for an appeal, internal or external review of a decision.

### **What is not a complaint?**

- A request for service (unless there was no response to a first request for service);
- A request for information or an explanation of a policy or procedure;
- Disagreement with the policy of a Council;
- An appeal or request for internal or external review of a decision for which a structured process applies, other than that made as a result of a complaint;
- An expression concerning the general direction and performance of Council or its Councillors;
- An expression of dissatisfaction with the behaviour of a Councillor;
- Reports of damaged or faulty infrastructure; and
- Reports about neighbours, noise, dogs, nuisances, unauthorised building work or similar issues that fall into the regulatory aspect of our service.

Many of the issues above are called 'complaints' when a customer contacts us. They are called complaints because a customer is unhappy about the situation and wants something done. The actions we take to resolve many 'complaints' are an everyday part of organisational life due to the nature of services we provide and will be dealt with apart from the formal complaints management process.

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## Complaints Management Process

The Manager of each Department of the Council is responsible for handling complaints relevant to that Department.

Whilst most problems can usually be solved at an early stage, there are times when they require detailed investigation. If a complaint is of a very serious nature, it will be referred to the General Manager.

Irrespective of the manner in which the complaint was received a response to the complaint can be expected within 20 (twenty) working days. If a Councillor has submitted a complaint on a customer's behalf we will also respond to the Councillor within 20 (twenty) working days.

There are times when it's not possible to meet this deadline, e.g. where a complaint is a complex one and Councillors are to be briefed on the outcome of the investigations. In these cases we will endeavour to keep the customer informed of progress.

### Form of Complaint

A complaint may be lodged orally (by telephone or at the counter) and may be responded to orally by phoning or by meeting with the Manager of the relevant Department to discuss the complaint.

If the complaint relates to a complex matter or there is no resolution from discussing the matter with the relevant Manager a statement should be made in writing setting out the complaint as simply as possible.

To assist Council in dealing with your complaint a customer should include the following if relevant:

- (a) dates, times and location of events
- (b) what happened
- (c) to whom the customer has spoken (names, position in Council and dates)
- (d) copies or references to letters or documents relevant to the complaint
- (e) state what the customer hopes to achieve as an outcome to the complaint.

### Internal Review

Whilst most complaints can usually be resolved quickly by the relevant Officer, there are times when a detailed investigation is required.

If a person is not satisfied with the outcome, they may request, in writing, a review of the complaint by the General Manager.

The General Manager will inform the customer of the findings on completion of an investigation.

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## **Consideration of a Complaint**

In considering a complaint the relevant Manager or General Manager will:

- Examine and analyse the information already available and follow up points requiring clarification;
- Look at the Council Policies which might have a bearing on the complaint;
- Consider whether or not the Council is at fault;
- Consider any necessary action to be taken to correct the faults identified; and
- Consider a review of the Council's procedures to avoid recurrence of any similar complaint in the future if necessary.

The relevant Manager or the General Manager may enter into informal discussions or mediation on a complaint with a view to resolution.

## **Vexatious Complaints**

All complaints received by Council will be treated with the utmost seriousness however if a complaint is found to be malicious, frivolous or vexatious no further action will be taken on the complaint. The customer will be informed of this decision in writing by the General Manager.

## **Anonymous Complaints**

While we will receive anonymous complaints, we will generally only act on them where the matter is considered to be serious and there is sufficient information in the complaint to enable an investigation to be undertaken.

## **Protection of Customer**

We will take all care to ensure that the reporting of complaints will not result in a customer experiencing any form of victimisation or retribution as a result of the complaint.

## **What if a customer is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint?**

Council is confident that the majority of complaints received can be resolved; however we understand that we may not be able to satisfy every customer on every occasion.

Sometimes Councils have to make difficult and complex decisions involving many people and individual customers do not get the outcome they want.

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If a complaint remains unresolved or a customer is dissatisfied with our process in dealing with a complaint other avenues remain for the customer to explore which include:

- Available Administrative Appeals Process
- *The Judicial Review Act 2000*
- Contact external agencies which can review actions and decisions taken by the Council, these include:
  - ❖ The Ombudsman who is an Officer responsible to parliament for investigating complaints made about administrative actions (or inactions) of Tasmanian Government Departments, most Statutory Authorities and Local Government. The Ombudsman is located at 86 Collins Street, Hobart Tasmania 7000. Phone 1800 001 170 (free call).
  - ❖ Local Government Division, Level 5, 15 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000 (GPO Box 123 Hobart, Tas 7001). Phone 1300 135 513 .

While a customer is entitled to refer a complaint directly to these Bodies at any time, customers are encouraged to allow the Council to investigate the complaint first.

## HOW YOU CAN CONTACT US

You can contact us to make an enquiry or complaint:

- In person by visiting Council's Offices at 19 Alexander Street, Bothwell during the hours of 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday or 6 Tarleton Street, Hamilton during the hours of 7.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday;
- By telephone on (03) 6286 3202 during the hours of 7.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday;
- By Email to [council@centralhighlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:council@centralhighlands.tas.gov.au)

## PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION

Council has a commitment to the protection of Personal Information provided by a customer to Council in accordance with the requirements of the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* and the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

## REPORTING

The General Manager is to provide Council with a report at least once a year of the number and nature of complaints received in accordance with Section 339F(5) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

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## AVAILABILITY

This Customer Service Charter is available:

- For public inspection at the Council Office during normal office hours;
- On the Council's web-site free of charge; and
- For purchase from the Council Office

## REVIEW

A Council is to review its Customer Service Charter within 12 months after a Council election in accordance with Section 339F(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

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## **Policy No. 2014- 27**

# **Donations and Financial Assistance Policy**

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## 1. DEFINITION

This policy applies to various forms of financial assistance provided by Council to assist organisations and individuals within the Central Highlands by providing assistance, which may comprise cash or 'in kind', support.

The policy aims to support local clubs & organisations, local educational facilities, and individuals in an open, equitable and accountable manner.

## 2. CATEGORIES OF SUPPORT

### Individuals

A donation, to the maximum value as per the Central Highlands Donation Program Guidelines, may be provided to:

- (a) Individual residents living within the Central Highlands that are chosen to represent Tasmania in interstate or international competition or activity. The donation shall be to contribute towards the cost of travel, accommodation or entry fees. The following qualifications will apply:
  - Donations only apply to individual participants or competitors. Applications from teams or team officials are ineligible.
  - The applicant must be an established resident of the Central Highlands municipal area.
  - The participant must be participating as an amateur.
  - A maximum of one donation per individual per financial year applies.
- (b) An individual resident living within the Central Highlands that is suffering a medical condition that requires ongoing medical treatment or rehabilitation. The donation shall be to contribute towards the cost of recognised medical treatment or rehabilitation as a result of a medical condition.

### Local Clubs and Organisations

Applications for funding to support community organisations and sporting clubs will be assessed on the following criteria and only following receipt of the organisation's annual statement:

- Benefit to the community;
- Projects or services for which there is a demonstrable community need;

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- Have a significant benefit for a wide range of Central Highlands residents and businesses;
- Are unique within the Central Highlands;
- Are supporting Community projects; and
- Are a Central Highlands representative sporting team.

The Maximum funding available per application is as per the Central Highlands Community Grants Program Guidelines.

Applications will not be accepted from State or Federal Government Departments or Agencies.

Council will provide assistance towards Public Liability Insurance for community events to a maximum of \$500 per financial year. An example of an eligible event is the Hamilton Show.

“In kind” support, although free to a group or organisation, does have a cost to Council. In-kind support will be taken into account when applications for funding are assessed. In-kind support includes provision of photocopying facilities, laminating, typing of community brochures, fliers. etc., use of Council sporting or community facilities at subsidised/no cost, provision of council labour or plant hire for projects or events, delivery or collection of bins, erection of barricades etc. The cost to Council of any in-kind assistance will be calculated and costed against the application.

### **Community Church Grants**

Council will make an annual budget allocation to provide financial assistance to church parishes to assist with conserving the heritage value of churches within the Central Highlands municipal area.

Funding will be provided for the church building only.

Separate applications must be lodged for each church.

The maximum funding available per application is as per the Central Highlands Community Grants Program Guidelines.

### **Educational**

Council will make an annual allocation of an amount to be determined at each budget to Bothwell District High School, Ouse District School, Glenora District High School and Westerway Primary School to assist with providing activities, materials or support for the

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pupils. Council will not consider any further funding requests from schools or associated parent groups for assistance.

Council will provide a Further Education Bursary of an amount to be decided at each budget to a Central Highlands Council student continuing to higher education from the following schools:

- Bothwell District High School;
- Glenora District High School; and
- New Norfolk High School.

The recipient of the award will be advised by the school.

Council will provide a Bursary of an amount to be decided at each budget to assist a primary student continuing secondary education from the following schools:

- Ouse District Primary School; and
- Westerway Primary School

The recipient of the award will be advised by the school.

Council will provide a Mayors Citizenship Award each year to a student from the following schools:

- Bothwell District High School;
- Ouse District Primary School;
- Glenora District High School; and
- Westerway Primary School

Council will provide a book to the following schools to commemorate Anzac Day:

- Bothwell District High School;
- Ouse District Primary School;
- Glenora District High School;
- Westerway Primary School

### **Other Donations/Support**

Council will provide a Bi-annual grant towards the International Highland Spin-in provided the event is held at Bothwell.

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Council will provide an annual allocation of cash and in-kind support to Ouse Online Community Access Centre to be used towards the printing and distribution of the “Highlands Digest”.

Requests for funding or in-kind support that fall outside the above guidelines will be considered by Council only if sufficient funds are available in Council’s budget.

**Note: The above levels of support are to be reviewed annually at each budget.**

### **3. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING OR SUPPORT**

- Education allocations will be made automatically by Council.
- Applicants should read the relevant guidelines before lodging an application.
- Applications will only be considered if submitted on the approved form.
- The applicant must complete all questions on the application form.
- Council will not consider any application for funding that is retrospective.
- Council will only consider applications as per the schedule included in the relevant Guidelines.

### **4. ACQUITTAL**

Recipients of donations and funding (excluding educational and medical funding) assistance from Council under this policy will be required to complete an Evaluation Form.

The Evaluation Report is to be submitted within 60 days of the completion of the project/activity.

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## **Policy No. 2015- 37**

# **Records Management Policy**

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## 1 DEFINITIONS

### **Access**

Right, opportunity, means of finding, using, or retrieving information

### **Accountability**

Principle - that individuals, organisations, and the community are responsible for their actions and may be required to explain them to others

### **Action tracking**

Process in which time limits for actions are monitored and imposed upon those conducting the business.

### **Archival authority**

Agency or programme responsible for selecting, acquiring and preserving archives, making them available, and approving destruction of other records

### **Classification**

Systematic identification and arrangement of business activities and/or records into categories according to logically structure conventions, methods, and procedural rules represented in a classification system.

### **Conversion**

Process of changing records from one medium to another or from one format to another.

### **Destruction**

Process of eliminating or deleting records, beyond any possible reconstruction.

### **Disposition**

Range of processes associated with implementing records retention, destruction or transfer decisions which are document in disposition or other instruments

### **Indexing**

Process of establishing access points to facilitate retrieval of records and/or information.

### **Metadata**

Data describing context, content and structure of records and their management through time.

### **Migration**

Act of moving records from one system to another, while maintaining the records' authenticity, integrity, reliability and useability.

### **Preservation**

Processes and operations involved in ensuring the technical and intellectual survival of authentic records through time.

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## **Records**

Information created, received, and maintained as evidence and information by an organisation or person, in pursuance of legal obligations or in the transaction of business.

## **Records Management**

Field of management responsible for the efficient and systematic control of the creation, receipt, maintenance, use and disposition of records, including processes for capturing and maintaining evidence of information about business activities and transactions in the form of records.

## **Records Systems**

Information system which captures, manages and provides access to records through time.

## **Registration**

Act of giving a record a unique identified on its entry into a system

## **Tracking**

Creating, capturing and maintaining information about the movement and use of records

## **Transfer**

Change of custody, ownership and/or responsibility for records. Moving records from one location to another.

## **Permanent Records**

Are those that will be transferred to the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office to be retained as State Archives.

## **Temporary Records**

Are those that can be destroyed under the authority of the Schedule (Disposal Schedule for functional records of Local Government DA No 2200 amended 10/06/2014) after a minimum retention period, or once certain requirements have been met.

## **Ephemeral Records**

Documents that have no lasting value to the organisation. They include (but are not limited to) copies of documents, company brochures, drafts, or information produced by other businesses (price lists). Messages may also be considered ephemeral, and may not need to be recorded into Council's record system.

## **Preservation of Records**

Section 10 (1) (a) of the *Archives Act 1983* requires agencies to preserve records until they are dealt with under the Act. This places a statutory obligation on agencies to ensure that all records, regardless of format, remain accessible while they are in the custody of the agency.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

The Central Highlands Council's Records Management Policy has been produced to provide a practical guide for staff involved in the creation, management and/or use of corporate records. This includes all staff engaged in activities directly associated with the

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business of the Central Highlands Council regardless of whether they are permanent employees or employed through a contract arrangement.

The information resources of an organisation, particularly corporate information, are one of its most valuable assets. Proper information management provides the level of transparency and accountability demanded by its key stakeholders.

## 2.1 PURPOSE OF THE MANUAL

The purpose of this manual is to describe:

- the responsibilities of all staff in relation to records management activities;
- the statutory requirements governing records management practices;
- policy statements enabling the Central Highlands Council to comply with statutory requirements; and
- procedures to be followed in fulfilment of each policy.

## 2.2 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

There are various legislative requirements for managing government records in Tasmania. The primary legislation relating to the keeping of public records is the *Archives Act 1983*, which compels each state and local government agency to have in place a comprehensive record keeping framework that covers the management of records from their inception through to their final archiving or destruction.

Under the *Archives Act 1983* s3, a *government record* is defined as

“means a document, or an object, in any form (including any electronic form) that is, or has been, kept by reason of”:

- (a) any information or matter that it contains or that can be obtained from it; or
- (b) its connection with any event, person, circumstance or thing.

It is the responsibility of all employees and contractors to ensure that they create and maintain government records in accordance with the Central Highlands Council Record Policy. Failure to comply with this requirement is deemed to be an offence and could attract a penalty.

Some other examples of legislation that impacts upon records management include:

- *Criminal Code 1914*
- *Electronic Transactions Act 2000 (Tas)*
- *Evidence Act 2001 (Tas)*
- *Audit Act 2008*
- *Right to Information Act 2009 (Tas)*
- *Limitation Act 1974 (Tas)*

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## **2.3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **2.3.1 Elected Members**

All elected members are to create and maintain records relating to their role as a Councillor of the Central Highlands Council in a manner commensurate with legislation and State policies and procedures for the management of records. Party political and personal records of Councillors are exempt.

### **2.3.2 General Manager**

The General Manager is required under the *Archives Act 1983* to ensure that there is a system for the maintenance and management of records that is compliant with records management legislation and State guidelines and procedures. The General Manager is also required under the Act to ensure that no records are destroyed or disposed of except in accordance with an approved retention and disposal schedule.

### **2.3.3 Managers**

All managers are to ensure that officers are aware of and comply with records management policy and procedures.

### **2.3.4 All staff**

All staff will create and retain records relating to the business activities they perform. They are required to:

- make records to document and support business activities and decisions;
- ensure that records are captured and registered into the records management system; and
- ensure that records are secure at all times.

Officers must not:

- destroy, delete or alter records without proper authority;
- remove official records from the Central Highlands Council without permission; or
- lose, misuse or pass records to an unauthorised person.

### **2.3.5 Deputy General Manager**

The Deputy General Manager is responsible for:

- ensuring that the records of the Central Highlands Council comply with the legal and professional obligations.
- ensuring that policies are implemented within the department; and
- ensuring that staff are supported in terms of training and development in adhering to Records Management Policy and procedures.

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### 3 RECORDS MANAGEMENT POLICY

#### 3.1 POLICY STATEMENT

The Central Highlands Council is committed to making and keeping full and accurate records of its business transactions and its official activities. Records created and received by Council personnel and contractors, irrespective of format, are to be managed in accordance with the Council's Record Keeping Plan and this Records Management Policy and Procedures Manual. Records will not be destroyed except by reference to the *Disposal Schedule for functional records of Local Government, Disposal Authorisation No. DA2200*.

#### 3.2 RATIONALE

The *Archives Act 1983* compels each government agency to have in place a comprehensive record keeping framework referred to as a *Record Keeping Plan* that covers the management of *government records* from their inception to through to their final disposition by destruction or archiving.

Under the *Archives Act 1983* s3, a *government record* is defined as

“means a document, or an object, in any form (including any electronic form) that is, or has been, kept by reason of”:

- (a) any information or matter that it contains or that can be obtained from it; or
- (b) its connection with any event, person, circumstance or thing.

It is the responsibility of all employees and contractors to ensure that they create and maintain government records in accordance with the Central Highlands Council's Record Management Policy. Failure to comply with this requirement is deemed to be an offence and could attract a penalty.

#### 3.3 GUIDELINES

The Central Highlands Council has implemented systematic records management policies, procedures and practices to ensure the capture and management of all its records, irrespective of format. All elected members and staff will ensure that full and accurate records are created to reflect business transactions and decisions.

The Central Highlands Council has implemented an electronic Records Management System, InfoXpert. This system centres around a Business Classification Scheme, an index based on Keywords for Councils.

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that records created or received are properly recorded within the InfoXpert system. This process includes registering hard-copy documents as scanned documents, or recording electronic documents, such as emails, directly into the system.

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Corporate records will only be disposed of in accordance with the *Disposal Schedule for functional records of Local Government, Disposal Authorisation No. DA2200*.

## **4 RECORDS CREATION**

### **4.1 POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that the business, operational and administrative activities of the Central Highlands Council are appropriately documented and that records are created and maintained in fulfilment of legislative requirements.

### **4.2 RATIONALE**

Records should be compliant, adequate, complete, meaningful, comprehensive, accurate, authentic and inviolate. For records to be meaningful, the links between records documenting a sequence of actions should be maintained.

Records are required:

- To provide evidence of a transaction;
- To prove that policies, procedures or guidelines have been followed in arriving at a decision or outcome;
- To enable others to know what action occurred, what was decided, when it occurred, who was involved and the sequence of actions, therefore providing continuity and consistency in administration; and
- To defend against potential claims or future legal actions, for example workers compensation or breach of contract.

Records that must be captured into the official record keeping system include those that show:

- what happened;
- what was decided or recommended;
- what advice or instruction was given;
- when it happened;
- who was involved; or
- the order of events and/or decisions.

### **4.3 PROCEDURES**

Records may be created and accumulated as part of a business process, for example responding to correspondence, issuing of invoices. In other circumstances, active steps are required to create the record, as is the case with a telephone conversation. Some specific examples are:

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### **Decisions and recommendations**

Any decision impacting on the operations of Central Highlands Council, or for which the organisation may be held accountable, should be adequately documented to show who made the decision and on what basis it was made. This includes the background information and research that led to the decision.

### **Oral decisions and commitments**

Any decision that is reached, or any commitment or transaction made verbally (i.e. person to person, or via telephone), should be adequately documented.

### **Meetings**

The Minutes of a meeting are the record of the meeting, and should accurately document decisions made at the meeting. The minutes should include a copy of the agenda and all documents considered at the meeting, decisions taken and any other background papers involved in reaching the decision. This includes external meetings attended by a representative of Central Highlands Council.

### **Records of Correspondence**

Sending or receiving a memorandum or piece of correspondence internally or externally, by letter, facsimile or electronic mail is a record and should be captured in the records management system.

## **5 RECORDS CAPTURE AND CONTROL**

### **5.1 POLICY STATEMENT**

All *government records*, irrespective of format, are to be registered and captured into the Central Highlands Council records systems. All correspondence should be registered within the appropriate folder in the Business Classification Scheme.

### **5.2 RATIONALE**

To maintain integrity as evidence over time, records should be managed in an official records system, which can maintain and demonstrate the connection between a record and the business it documents. Within the Central Highlands Council, official records systems include paper-based filing systems (soon to be obsolete) and business systems that manage records. Examples include the Microsoft Dynamics Navision Financial system, the PropertyWise Property database, and the InfoXpert Records management system. Capturing records involves registering documents into the appropriate business classification scheme folder, recognising development applications and filing into a Development Application folder, and using business systems to record transactions.

Records capture and control helps to ensure that records are:

- Accessible to all who require them, subject to any restrictions that may apply;
- Controlled and managed in accordance with policy and procedures;
- Secured against tampering, unauthorised access or unlawful deletion; and

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- Disposed of promptly in accordance with legal authority.

### 5.3 PROCEDURES

#### 5.3.1 Mail Management and Registration

For the purposes of this document, “mail” includes the following:

- items distributed from Australia Post;
- items delivered by courier;
- hand delivered items;
- facsimiles; and
- electronic mail and attachments.

#### Incoming Mail

- All incoming mail addressed to the Central Highlands Council, including mail addressed to individuals (unless clearly marked as personal and/or confidential) will be opened. To avoid embarrassment, personal mail should be directed to a private address.
- Mail will be sorted into three groups – letters, invoices and cheques.
- When processing incoming mail containing cheques, money or money orders, two staff members should be present if possible. Cheques will be receipted by the Senior Administration Officer.
- All incoming correspondence will be date stamped to validate receipt. Care will be taken not to deface legal documents or papers that may need to be returned to the sender.
- Invoices will be stamped with the invoice stamp, which contains a date stamp.
- Records of a corporate nature received directly by staff via facsimile or electronic mail transmission, through a courier service, or “by hand” (for example at meetings, presentations etc.) will be registered appropriately by the receiver into the records management system.

#### Registration

- Records will be registered into InfoXpert and given a unique document identification number and brief description.
- The following material is not registered:
  - promotional and advertising material;
  - invitations;
  - newspapers and magazines; and
  - cheques and invoices.
- Registration of the record will link the record to descriptive information about the context of the record, and to related records. The following information will be included as a minimum:
  - Unique document identifier

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- Date of receipt
- Document name or title (for example, the subject line)
- Date of creation
- Author
- Recipient

The unique document number will be recorded on the original hard copy document (if it is necessary to print a hard copy) and recorded as metadata about registered electronic copy.

### **Mail Distribution**

All mail is delegated to the officer responsible at the point of registration into InfoXpert. The mail has the relevant document identification number and disposal information recorded on it and filed into day boxes at the Records Officer's workstation. Mail is delegated as follows:

<b>REQUEST TYPE</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
	<b>OFFICER</b>
<b>Corporate</b>	
Complaints - CC&S Staff	General Manager
Complaints - Staff - Development Services	General Manager
Complaints - Staff - Assets & Engineering	Works & Services Manager
Complaints - Policy	Deputy General Manager
Rates Enquiries	Senior Admin Officer
Valuation Enquiries	Senior Admin Officer
Pension Rebates	Senior Admin Officer
Change of Address	Senior Admin Officer
Rates Searches	Senior Admin Officer
Change of Owners	Senior Admin Officer
Property Queries	Senior Admin Officer
Payroll Queries	Senior Admin Officer

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Accounts Payable	Senior Admin Officer
Accounts Received	Senior Admin Officer
<b>Public Amenity</b>	
Dog Complaints	Animal Control Officer
Livestock	Animal Control Officer
Fire Hazards(including backyard burning)	DES Manager
Abandoned Motor Vehicles	Works & Services Manager
Overgrown Land	DES Manager
Commercial Water Carters	Environmental Health Officer
Onsite Waste Management Systems	Environmental Health Officer
Public Health Risk Activities (Tattoos etc.)	Environmental Health Officer
Notifiable Diseases	Environmental Health Officer
Immunisation	Environmental Health Officer
<b>Noise Complaints</b>	
Fowl/Animal	Animal Control Officer
Machinery	DES Manager
Motorbikes	DES Manager
Chainsaws etc.	DES Manager
<b>Other Complaints</b>	
Odour	Environmental Health Officer

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Food	Environmental Health Officer
Air/Dust	Environmental Health Officer
<b>Licence/Permits</b>	
Food (Van/Mobile)	Environmental Health Officer
Temporary Food Premises	Environmental Health Officer
Food (Premises)	Environmental Health Officer
Place of Assembly	Environmental Health Officer
Trade Waste	Environmental Health Officer
Place of Assembly	Environmental Health Officer
Temporary Place of Assembly	Environmental Health Officer
Leases/Licences Council & Crown Land	Deputy General Manager
<b>Other Requests</b>	
Hire of Park	Admin Officer
Hire of Hall	Admin Officer
<b>Development</b>	
Advertising Signs	DES Manager
Developments (General Requests)	DES Manager
Illegal Buildings	DES Manager
Building Enquiries	DES Manager

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Plumbing Inspections	DES Manager
Plumbing Enquiries	DES Manager
Town Plan Enquiries	DES Manager
Zone/Land Use	DES Manager
Planning Scheme	DES Manager
Town Plan General	DES Manager
Planning Permits	DES Manager
Council Properties	DES Manager
<b>Council Buildings</b>	
Hire Of Halls	Admin Officer
Hire of Civic Centre	Admin Officer
Maintenance	Works & Services Manager
<i>Festivals/Events</i>	
Organisation	Admin Officer
Bookings	Admin Officer
Halls	Admin Officer
Civic Centre	Admin Officer
<i>Recreation</i>	
Football	Admin Officer
Cricket	Admin Officer
General	Admin Officer
<b>Risk Management</b>	
Falls (External)	All Managers

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Falls (Internal)	All Managers
Accidents - General	All Managers
Property Damage	All Managers
Motor Vehicle Accident	All Managers
<b>Engineering</b>	
<b>Roads</b>	
Road funding	Works & Services Manager, Deputy General Manager
Road signage	Works & Services Manager
Street/road names	DES Admin Officer
Street/road cleaning	Works & Services Manager
Footpaths	Works & Services Manager
Road use data	Works & Services Manager
Council road enquiries and information	Works & Services Manager
Line marking and pavement management	Works & Services Manager
Roadside management (inc. nature strips)	Works & Services Manager
Road Opening Permits (Telstra/Aurora etc.)	Works & Services Manager
Road closures	Works & Services Manager
Rural road numbering	DES Admin Officer

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<b>Electricity</b>	
Requests for lighting	Works & Services Manager
<b>Telephone Services</b>	
Intention to perform work	Works & Services Manager
Telecommunications network	Works & Services Manager
<b>Bridges and Structures</b>	
Bridges	Works & Services Manager
Boat ramps	Works & Services Manager
<b>Waste Management</b>	
Refuse disposal facilities	DES Manager
Recycling	DES Manager
Kerbside recycling collection	DES Manager
Domestic refuse collection (MG Bins)	DES Manager
<b>Drainage</b>	
Rural drainage/culverts	Works & Services Manager
<b>Traffic and Transport</b>	
Bus services	Works & Services Manager
Railways	Works & Services Manager

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Traffic management	Works & Services Manager
Black Spot Program	Works & Services Manager
Overweight vehicles	Works & Services Manager
<b><i>Works Facilities and Materials</i></b>	
Works Depot	Works & Services Manager
Annual tenders - materials	Works & Services Manager
Annual tenders - plant hire	Works & Services Manager
<b><i>Vehicles, Plant and Equipment</i></b>	
Sedans and wagons	Works & Services Manager
Vans and utilities	Works & Services Manager
Light trucks	Works & Services Manager
Medium trucks	Works & Services Manager
Heavy trucks	Works & Services Manager
Special purpose trucks	Works & Services Manager
Tractors and mowers	Works & Services Manager
Earthmoving and road making equipment	Works & Services Manager

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Miscellaneous equipment	Works & Services Manager
Fuel	Works & Services Manager
Registrations	Works & Services Manager
<b><i>Natural Resource Management</i></b>	
Playgrounds and equipment	Works & Services Manager
Trees and vegetation (removal and planting)	Works & Services Manager
Weeds	Weeds Officer
<b><i>Emergency Management</i></b>	
Emergency management plans	DES Manager
SES	DES Manager
<b><i>Council Buildings and Facilities</i></b>	
Public toilets	Works & Services Manager
BBQ facilities	Works & Services Manager
<b><i>Engineering Administration</i></b>	
Vandalism (including graffiti)	Works & Services Manager
Crossovers	Works & Services Manager

### **Outgoing Mail**

- Documents created by Central Highlands Council staff, including internal memoranda, minutes and reports, and outgoing correspondence, will quote a document identification number, obtained upon registration to the records management system.

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### **5.3.2 Electronic Records**

An electronic document becomes an electronic record when it takes part in a business transaction. For example, a report prepared using a word processing application remains an electronic document until it is submitted.

All electronic documents, plans, images etc. which constitute a record, as defined under the *Archives Act 1983*, must be captured into a corporate approved system which meets the record keeping requirements under the *Archives Act*.

Elected members and staff, including contractors, will ensure that electronic records created outside corporate approved systems, for example in office applications such as word processing, spreadsheets etc., are scanned and/or directly recorded into the Central Highlands Council's records management system as soon as possible.

It is not necessary to print documents that are captured in the Council's records management system, as this creates duplicate records.

### **5.3.3 Email Management**

Emails created or received by elected members or staff, in connection with their official Central Highlands Council business, are the property of the Central Highlands Council. They are *government records* and are subject to the same record keeping requirements as government records in other formats.

Electronic messages, like records in other formats, are subject to legislation such as the *Right to Information Act 2009* and to legal processes such as discovery and subpoenas. The records may also be required by Royal Commissions, the Courts, auditors and other people or bodies to whom or which they may be subject.

Elected members and staff are responsible for managing their own email documents manually. Incoming and outgoing messages should be registered into the Central Highlands Council's records management system under the appropriate Business Classification Scheme folder, and such messages include:

- messages documenting business of the Central Highlands Council;
- formal communications between staff, for example a Minute, report or submission; and
- messages which have continuing value for the Council, its ratepayers and the community (refer Section 1 – Definitions for explanation of records of continuing value).

### **5.3.4 Document Management**

Central Highlands Council's corporate records will be stored in day boxes and managed by the records management system. The physical movement of hard copy documents will not be permitted, except at the request of the General Manager or Deputy General Manager.

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### **Business Classification Scheme – Folder List**

The Folder List is maintained in InfoXpert and holds documents specific to that folders' subject. It is derived from Keywords for Councils, based around the functions performed by Local Governments, and developed specific to the Central Highlands Council.

### **New folder creation**

Additional Folders are only created by the Records Officer upon consultation with Keywords for Council, to avoid duplication of folders, and to maintain disposal information. New Folders are created when:

- There is no appropriate existing folder; or
- A new Significant Project is created.

New folders will be created by the Records Officer and have recorded a Disposal Schedule from the *Disposal Schedule for functional record of Local Government, Disposal Authorisation No. DA2200*.

### **Document Location**

- The primary place to house all original hard copy documents will be the day boxes.

### **Attachment to File**

- Documents must be registered to a folder as soon after creation or receipt as possible.
- The following material should not be registered unless otherwise directed:
  - Incoming promotional and advertising material;
  - Duplicates of documents, unless they contain handwritten notes or comments;
  - Blank forms;
  - Reports, magazines or newsletters published by other organisations; and
  - Vendor brochures.

### **File Audit**

- A regular audit will be conducted of all folders in the records management system.
- The audit will confirm that documents are registered to their appropriate folder in the business classification scheme.
- The audit will also identify documents or folders that have not had disposal information applied to them.

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### **5.3.5 Website Management**

The Central Highlands Council municipal website is hosted on-site at the Council Chambers. Updates and changes of the content on Council's website are undertaken by the site Webmaster, and software application updates are outsourced.

Nightly backups are performed from the Web Server to tape.

Records of posted content on Council's Website are only maintained through the physical documents (PDF, etc.) which are stored on Council's Global Drive.

### **5.3.6 Metadata Management**

Metadata is data about data and it describes who, what, where, when and why records about a business activity or transaction were created. The Central Highlands Council is responsible for ensuring that all metadata elements associated with its record keeping system (InfoXpert) are captured, stored and made accessible at all times.

Record keeping metadata ensures that records can be effectively retrieved over time and across platforms and systems as they are changed. Metadata is represented by the fields used to capture information about the record. Examples of information about records which must be captured are as followed:

- How the record was created, i.e. the application;
- The creator, or author, of the record;
- The date and time of the record creation or receipt;
- The relationship one record has with another, if any (its associations);
- The provenance of the record, that is the organisational context in which it was created;
- The level of security access held by each user of the record keeping system;
- The title of the record; and
- The changes made to a record:
  - For electronic records, who made the change and the nature of the change;
  - For hard copy records and files, movements from location or person to another location should be tracked.

Each identified record and its associated metadata must be inextricably linked for as long as the record is required, as defined under the applicable approved Records Retention and Disposal Schedule

## **6 SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF RECORDS**

### **6.1 POLICY STATEMENT**

The Central Highlands Council is responsible for the security and protection of all records created or captured as part of the Council's day to day operations. All Council staff and

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contractors have a responsibility to apply the following security and protection measures to all records created or received when carrying out the Council's business.

## **6.2 RATIONALE**

Records should be maintained in a safe and secure environment ensuring their useability, reliability, authenticity and preservation for as long as they are needed. By implementing this policy and guidelines, based on national and international best practice, the Central Highlands Council will be able to protect and use its records as corporate assets.

Providing a safe and secure environment for Central Highlands Council's records ensures that records are:

- accessible to all who have the required security access;
- secure from unauthorised disclosure which could damage the Central Highlands Council's corporate security or individual privacy, give unfair commercial advantage or cause harm to an individual or organisation;
- secured against tampering, unauthorised access or unlawful deletion;
- protected in appropriate environmental conditions ensuring the availability of records as long as they are required;
- stored in a cost-effective manner;
- secure and accessible for as long as they are required to meet business, and accountability needs and community expectations; and
- able to assist the Central Highlands Council to meet its recordkeeping requirements under the *Archives Act 1983* and other relevant legislation.

## **6.3 PROCEDURES**

### **File Security**

- The Central Highlands Council's offices have a security alarm fitted and the building is locked outside office hours. After-hours access is by access code restricted to specified staff.
- Issue of keys is restricted and details are maintained in a Key Register.
- Individual officers are responsible for the security of records held in their offices

### **Confidentiality**

All Central Highlands Council Staff and Contractors must treat Council information as confidential and not release it in any form to third parties, without relevant approval.

### **Computer Systems**

Access to the Central Highlands Council's entire computer network is via a 'login' and each person has their own login.

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### **Location**

It is the responsibility of the Records Officer to verify that each storage area meets the requirements under the *Principles and Standards* and the Australian Standard AS ISO 15489.2 for Records Management. Sites should be weatherproof, have good drainage, be dedicated to the storage of records, and be intruder resistant and access controlled.

Central Highlands Council staff and contractors must not store records in areas that are not authorised. Records should be returned to authorised storage areas as soon as possible after use.

### **Environmental control**

Records must be stored in an environment appropriate for their format and the period they are required to be kept. Records must be kept in areas that:

- have reasonable temperature and humidity levels
- exclude direct sunlight
- have good air quality and circulation, and
- in the case of magnetic media, are free from magnetic fields.

Central Highlands Council staff and contractors should return records to authorised storage areas after use, so that they are kept in suitable environments. Whilst records are in use, they should not be exposed to direct sunlight or other risks.

### **Shelving and packaging**

All shelving and packaging used for records storage should protect them from deterioration. Shelving and packaging should:

- be clean
- be in a good state of repair
- be strong enough to withstand the weight of the records
- be of appropriate quality suitable for the record's format and its period of retention
- meet occupational health and safety requirements.

Council staff and contractors should notify the Records Section of inappropriate or damaged shelving and containers, or WH&S risks. Records should be returned carefully to their proper containers and shelving after use.

### **Careful handling**

To prevent damage to records from poor handling:

- Staff will be informed of the proper handling techniques for the record formats they use;
- Records will be handled properly when they are temporarily removed from the organisation for legitimate business purposes, such as when they are taken to building sites; and
- Records will be protected while they are being converted to other formats, for example, when they are imaged.

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### **6.3.1 Systems Management**

The Records Officer is responsible for maintaining the Business Classification Scheme held in InfoXpert. Access to the Business Classification Scheme and other Indexes is handled by security attached to documents and folders, and by Microsoft Windows Server authentication with appropriate logins and password.

Security to the networked computer system used within the Central Highlands Council is controlled through Microsoft Windows Server authentication with appropriate logins and password.

The Council runs several Servers which holds all files and documents created by Officers.

The Council's IT Contractor is responsible for the general maintenance, upgrades and security to these systems.

### **6.3.2 Migration Strategy**

On replacement or upgrade of any Central Highlands Council corporate system containing corporate information and records, all legacy data, information and records which constitute corporate records will be migrated and preserved into the replacement system.

Both financial software (accounting and rating) are SQL based. During the migration of data, both systems - new and old will be run concurrently until the new system has proven fully operational and the integrity of the data (both historical and current) can be relied upon. Backups of both systems would continue as outlined above.

Where no replacement system exists, the Central Highlands Council will ensure all legacy data, information and records which constitute corporate records will be migrated to a system which will ensure the integrity of the data, or the current system will be maintained and operational so that information and records may be accessed as long as required under Retention and Disposal requirements.

## **7 ACCESS TO RECORDS**

### **7.1 POLICY STATEMENT**

Access to the Central Highlands Council's records by staff and contractors will be in accordance with designated access and security classifications. Access to the Council's records by the general public will be in accordance with the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

### **7.2 RATIONALE**

Central Highlands Council is responsible for the protection, safe custody and care of all State records under its control. Requests for access to records will be received from different groups and for different reasons. Providing access to records-based information is achieved through the provision of effective recordkeeping which supports business operations and enables the Central Highlands Council to meet statutory and other requirements.

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## 7.3 PROCEDURES

### Internal access to records

- Records must be available to all Elected Members, staff and contractors who require access to them for business purposes of the Central Highlands Council.
- Some records created by the Central Highlands Council will be of a sensitive or confidential nature and will require access to them to be restricted to one or more people.
- Right of access to each record will be determined by the security classification attached to the record.
- Confidential records will be restricted to those entitled to have access.

### External access to records

Access to Central Highlands Council records by members of the public will be in accordance the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

### Accessibility

- Records will be stored in a way that they can be identified and retrieved easily and quickly by Central Highlands Council staff and contractors.
- Records will be housed in locked cupboards or areas which are not accessible to the public or other unauthorised personnel.
- The location of the records must not impede retrieval requirements

As a general rule, no Central Highlands Council records should be removed from Central Highlands Council premises. However, it is sometimes necessary to remove files such as Building Applications and Licences. Where records are removed from Central Highlands Council premises, the loan to the individual concerned must be recorded and the care of the record is the responsibility of the person to whom the record has been loaned.

## 8 APPRAISAL, RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF RECORDS

### 8.1 POLICY STATEMENT

Records will only be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by reference to the *Disposal Schedule for functional records of Local Government* issued by the Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office, and following authorisation from the Records Officer and the General Manager. Records identified as a State Archive should be transferred to the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office in accordance with the requirements of the *Disposal Schedule for functional records of Local Government Disposal Authorisation No DA2200*.

### 8.2 RATIONALE

The appraisal, retention and disposal of records should be handled in a systematic and consistent manner to ensure that records are:

- retained:
  - to satisfy operational, administrative or evidential purposes;
  - to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements; or
- are destroyed when they have no further use.

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### 8.3 PROCEDURES

- The Records Officer or their delegate will appraise records in accordance with the *Disposal Schedule for functional records of Local Government Disposal Authorisation No DA2200*. on an annual (old records) and weekly (current incoming records) basis.
- Disposal of records, either by destruction or by archiving, will occur only with the written approval of the General Manager. Such disposal will occur in accordance with *Disposal Schedule for functional records of Local Government Disposal Authorisation No DA2200*.
- Records will generally be destroyed once they have reached the end of a specified retention period, but only if the record is no longer required for administrative or business use.
- Records due for destruction will be destroyed, after formal approval, in a manner that is environmentally friendly and irreversible, with no risk of the records being recoverable. A Certificate of Destruction must be obtained and attached to file.
- Records will not be destroyed if they are required for an inquiry, investigation or legal action.
- Records which are State Archives will be transferred to the Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office in accordance with the specified retention periods in the *Disposal Schedule for functional records of Local Government Disposal Authorisation No DA2200*.
- The disposal of any record, either by destruction or transfer to the Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office for permanent retention, must be documented in the records management system by completion of the Disposal Register for documents identified for disposal.

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# Review of the *Fire Service Act 1979*

## OPTIONS PAPER: FIRE SERVICE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

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## BACKGROUND

In the lead up to the 2021 State election, the Tasmanian Government committed to initiating a consultation process on the development of a contemporary new Fire Service Act within 100 days of being elected. The aim of this commitment was to ensure that the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) is underpinned by contemporary legislation that reflects the service delivery that is expected by the community now and into the future.

As part of this commitment, the Government is undertaking community consultation. Significant work has already been undertaken through the Review of the *Fire Service Act 1979* led by Mr Mike Blake (the Blake Fire Service Act Review (Blake Review)) and the previous work undertaken by the House of Assembly Standing Committee Inquiry into the State Fire Commission (SFC).

Due to the alignment of roles and functions, the Blake Review also included consideration of future arrangements for the State Emergency Service (SES).

The Blake Review includes 45 recommendations for reform, including 16 Financial Management Recommendations (Recommendations 10-25). A copy of the Blake Review is available at <https://www.dpfem.tas.gov.au/consultation-fire-service-act.html>.

The Blake Review was released for consultation on 26 August 2021. At the time, the Government also committed that, as part of the consultation process, the Department of Treasury and Finance (Treasury) would release a separate Options Paper for consultation on potential funding models for the TFS and SES to ensure that fire and emergency services are funded in an equitable, transparent and sustainable way.

## PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This options paper has been developed following the release of the Blake Review for public consultation. Given the Blake Review contained 16 financial management recommendations, Treasury is seeking specific feedback on the most appropriate funding model for an integrated fire and emergency services function, taking into account the objective of ensuring future funding arrangements that are more sustainable, equitable and commensurate with future functions and the business operating model.

The purpose of this paper is to outline the current operation of the *Fire Service Act 1979* as it relates to funding arrangements, detail the various alternative funding models raised in the Blake Review, and raise a number of issues and questions for consideration.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the issues and questions raised in this paper.

Submissions should provide evidence and reasoning as to the support/non-support of the Blake Review recommendations.

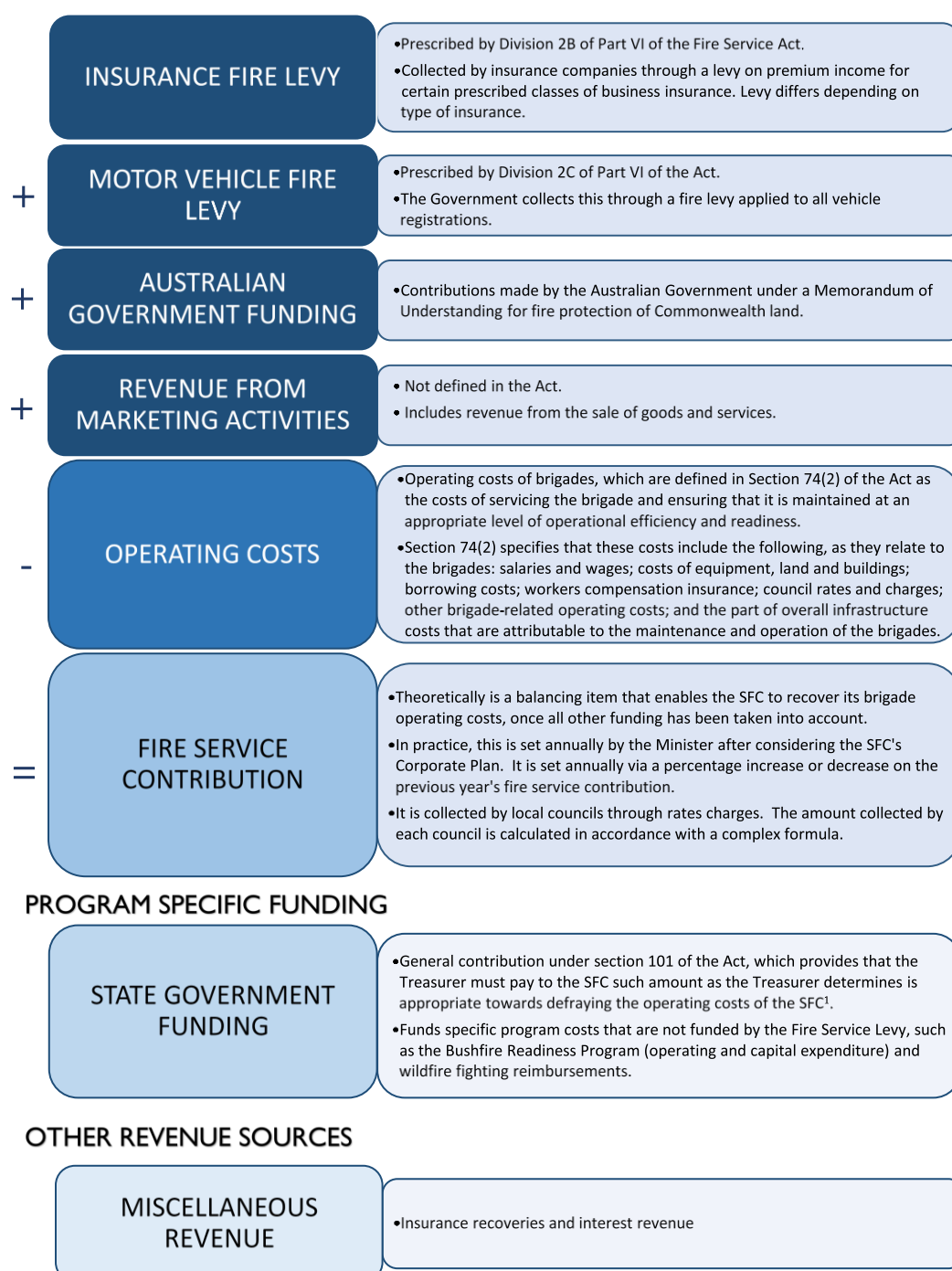
Submissions on the potential funding models are to be provided to [act.review@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:act.review@fire.tas.gov.au) by 5pm on 6 December 2021 and may be published.

## CURRENT FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Fire Service Act prescribes the current funding arrangements for the 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 the Fire Service Contribution, the Motor Vehicle Fire Levy and the Insurance Fire Levy, together with funding from a number of other sources, including the Australian Government, State Government and internally generated income. The Fire Service Contribution and the two levies made up 82 per cent of the SFC's total revenue of \$122 million in 2020-21.<sup>1</sup> The levies are expected to make up a similar percentage of revenue in 2021-22.<sup>2</sup>

The interactions between the funding sources are shown in the following diagram.



<sup>1</sup> Based on the SFC's Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the SFC's 2021-22 Corporate Plan.

Further detail in relation to the Insurance Fire Levy, the Motor Vehicle Fire Levy and the Fire Service Contribution is included in Attachment A, including revenue collected from each of these sources in 2020-21.

Funding arrangements for the SES also lack clarity and are uncertain. As with the State Fire Commission, funding also comes from a range of sources, including from local government via provisions in the *Emergency Management Act 2006*, which stipulates that councils are responsible for the establishment and maintenance of local SES units. The remaining funding sources are largely via annual appropriation to the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management. Funding for the SES is expected to be in the order of \$2.9 million in 2021-22.<sup>3</sup>

## BLAKE FIRE SERVICE ACT REVIEW - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Blake Review was required, among other things, to assess the SFC's funding base and identify future funding options and undertake an analysis of those options against the following criteria.

Provide sufficient funding to ensure the fire and emergency services can perform the functions agreed by Government.

Be administratively simple to calculate and collect.

Be stable and predictable.

Be equitable so that those who receive the various services contribute to the costs; levy payers in rural fire districts and all other asset owners receive benefits that reflect their needs and contribution; and minimise distortions in investment decisions, insurance price and coverage.

Provide recommendations for the SFC's future funding base so it can be more sustainable, stable, simple, equitable and commensurate with future functions and the business operating model, including how improvements could be made to the current insurance-based levy; and whether there are any other viable funding sources.

The Blake Review recommended that any model should raise sufficient revenue to pay for the services of an integrated fire and emergency services function. It was also proposed that such a model should also include the full range of activities undertaken by the entity, including administration costs.

The Blake Review recommended the following four funding models.

1. Base case - continuation of the current model.
2. A single property-based levy.
3. A property-based levy combined with a vehicle levy.
4. Fully funded by annual appropriation.

With the underlying assumption that funds raised are fully ring-fenced for use by the entity.

<sup>3</sup> Based on the SFC's 2021-22 Corporate Plan.

The Blake Review includes discussion of the four options at a high level. As part of this, it is acknowledged that the current system is complex and not fit-for-purpose, but it is likely there will be winners and losers as a result of any proposed reform.

The current funding arrangements were developed in 1979 and do not take into consideration recent developments, including greater interoperability, technology changes, longer fire seasons and the impact of climate change.

The Blake Review notes that any future funding model needs to take into account these differing circumstances and, at the same time, be future-proof.

It is also noted in the Review that the Insurance Fire Levy should be replaced with a single property-based levy or another funding source. This is generally consistent with arrangements in other jurisdictions, where most jurisdictions use property-based levies to at least partially fund fire service costs.

Arrangements in other jurisdictions are summarised in Attachment B, together with a brief discussion in relation to recent commentary around insurance levies.

The Blake Review also acknowledges that, while there is a case for retaining the current Motor Vehicle Levy, a single property-based levy is preferred.

The Review indicated that further modelling would be required to determine the quantum of the impact on businesses and individuals for each of the options.

The Blake Review also proposed that local government continue to collect any new property-based levy and be paid a renegotiated collection fee for doing so. The current fee is 4 per cent of the Fire Service Contribution collected, which is approximately \$2 million per annum.

An alternative approach may be for the levy to be collected by the State Revenue Office, which may result in some savings due to internal efficiencies, and allow for greater control and transparency over the collection and distribution of the levy. However, the SRO does not currently invoice all property owners and mechanisms would need to be developed.

## MODELLING OF OPTIONS

### Modelling limitations

Treasury has undertaken high-level modelling of the options proposed in the Blake Fire Service Review. The results of this are detailed below.

There is a range of significant limitations in relation to the outcomes of this modelling and the results are therefore only indicative of the potential impact on individual taxpayers.

A significant limitation of the modelling undertaken by Treasury is the inability to accurately model the impact of a change in the funding model for individual stakeholders. Treasury does not hold all necessary information in relation to the actual cost for individual ratepayers under each of the three elements of the current funding model, given this revenue is collected by third parties. For instance, as the current Fire Service Contribution is collected by local councils, Treasury does not have access to information or data in relation to amounts charged to individual ratepayers.

Similarly, the current Insurance Fire Levy is collected by insurance companies and passed directly to the SFC, meaning Treasury also does not hold this data. However, given the current Insurance Fire Levy rate of 28 per cent for some insurance policies, this is likely to significantly impact on the cost of insurance for businesses that are insured and in some cases, act as a deterrent to businesses being appropriately insured.

### Key assumptions

Given the limitations detailed above, indicative modelling has been undertaken of the expected impact on groups of taxpayers arising under Options 2 and 3, based on average residential property values and average commercial property values.

The Treasury modelling assumes that in the order of \$100 million would need to be raised under each option, which broadly includes current revenue collected from the Fire Service Contribution, the Motor Vehicle Fire Levy and the Insurance Fire Levy. It is assumed that revenue from other sources, such as the Australian Government and internal activities, would continue at their existing levels. It is also assumed that existing support measures from local councils would continue in relation to the operation and maintenance of SES assets and functions.

The modelling does not make any assumptions around the future cost of an integrated fire and emergency services function, and the costs largely reflect current arrangements. Treasury has not undertaken any type of analysis in relation to ongoing or future expenditure needs of an integrated fire and emergency services function to verify this assumption.

It is also assumed that a property-based levy will continue to be collected by local government and the costs for collection would continue at the existing rate of 4 per cent of the total revenue collected. As noted above, an alternative approach may be for the levy to be collected by the State Revenue Office, which could result in some savings, although this is unlikely to materially impact the outcomes of the modelling.

It is assumed that any existing exemptions and concessions will remain under any new funding arrangement. This includes the existing 20 per cent discount for eligible pensioners on residential properties.



The property-based levies outlined in Options 2B and 3B propose a differential rate dependent on property classification. The rate applied in Treasury modelling is highest for industrial and commercial properties.

Similarly, Treasury modelling proposes a higher bushfire prone area (BPA) charge rate for industrial, residential and primary production classifications, with lower rates for community services and other categories. This is for demonstrative purposes only and subject to further consultation.

Transition measures will be an important part of implementing any new funding arrangement. It is expected that such measures would be phased in over a reasonable period to support those persons or entities that are most affected by the change. However, the impacts of any targeted transition measures are not reflected in the modelling.

As noted previously, the modelling has been undertaken at a high level based on a range of assumptions. In the event a decision is made to proceed with reform of the funding arrangements, specific details would need to be considered, including the impact on individual taxpayers.

## OPTION 1: RETAIN CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

Option 1 is provided for comparative purposes.

This option assumes the continuation of current arrangements. However, it is assumed that funding is extended to cover the cost of an integrated fire and emergency services function. Existing exemptions and concessions would also continue.

As noted previously, Treasury does not hold detailed information in relation to amounts charged to individual ratepayers for the Fire Service Contribution. Treasury also does not have access to Insurance Fire Levy amounts levied on individual business's insurance policies.

Based on Treasury's modelling, it is expected that the Fire Service Contribution on a mid-range residential property would be in the range of \$54-\$303, and a mid-range commercial property would be in the range of \$131-\$689,<sup>4</sup> noting that the actual amount will vary depending on the municipality, assessed annual value (AAV) of the property and the type of fire brigade service (permanent, composite or volunteer). The minimum Fire Service Contribution, which is indexed in line with movements in the consumer price index (\$42 in 2021-22), would also apply.

It is assumed that the Motor Vehicle Fire Levy continues at the flat rate of \$19 per vehicle (based on 2021-22 costs). As such, the total contribution from a household or business will depend on the number of vehicles owned.

While Treasury is not able to provide any indication of the likely cost to businesses on their insurance, for some businesses it is likely to be material, particularly for those with high value properties or those in high risk industries or high risk locations.

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<sup>4</sup> Based on mid-range residential property AAV of \$11 960, and mid-range commercial residential property AAV of \$25 840.

## Commentary

As noted previously, the Blake Review found that the current arrangements are unclear, complicated and made it difficult for both the TFS and the SES to appropriately plan. Given the complexity of the funding arrangements, there is also an overall lack of transparency of the fire service funding model.

The current arrangements place a higher burden on businesses, with some businesses likely to be paying the Fire Service Contribution, the Motor Vehicle Fire Levy and the Insurance Fire Levy. For some of those businesses, the Insurance Fire Levy may be a material annual expense, particularly at a time when insurance costs are rising due to the increase in frequency of natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. This cost may act as a disincentive for businesses to adequately insure, with the potential for some businesses choosing non-insurance or self-insurance.

The Insurance Fire Levy also fails to take into account that a number of businesses may also have sophisticated in-house fire risk mitigation arrangements in place.

Further, the Insurance Fire Levy is only payable on traditional insurance policies, meaning those who maintain a mutual fund or who insure offshore are able to avoid a contribution due to legislative loopholes; thereby not contributing to the cost of fire services in the same manner as other businesses.

The brigade rating districts (permanent, composite or volunteer) used to calculate individual property owner's contributions for the Fire Service Contribution lack relevance and do not adjust over time with changes in actual resource allocation. This is an outdated approach that does not take into account more modern mobile firefighting capabilities such as the ability to deploy brigades between districts state-wide, both via road and air. Brigade rating districts also do not reflect the level of fire risk attached to a property.

These arrangements do not meet the sustainability, stability, simplicity or equity criteria against which the models are being assessed.

### Questions

1. Do you support retaining the current arrangements? If not, why?
2. Does the Insurance Fire Levy act as a disincentive to your business being appropriately insured?

## OPTION 2: A SINGLE PROPERTY-BASED LEVY

Instead of the three levies currently in operation, an alternative is to introduce one levy which is calculated based on the value of a property.

There are a range of alternatives for the calculation of a single levy that is solely property-based.

Treasury has developed two single property-based levy options based on a property's AAV. The options include:

- *Option 2A:* a single fixed charge and a single variable rate applied to all properties; and
- *Option 2B:* a differential fixed charge and a differential variable rate applied on the basis of a property's classification.

In Tasmania, 41 per cent of properties are classified as being in bushfire prone areas.<sup>5</sup> As such, both Option 2A and 2B also include an additional variable charge on properties that are considered to be in a bushfire prone area (BPA charge).

As noted previously, all exemptions would continue to apply, noting that the current Fire Service Contribution does not apply to State and local governments, Government businesses and religious and charitable bodies. Property owned by the Australian Government is also exempt. To minimise the impact on existing property owners from any changes, consideration could be given to extending the new property-based levy to a broader range of property owners.

### Option 2A - single fee structure

Under option 2A, each property, regardless of its classification, would be subject to an annual amount that includes a fixed and a variable charge. The variable charge is calculated using a single rate based on the AAV of the property.

For those properties in bushfire prone areas a further variable charge would also apply, calculated using a single rate on the AAV of the property.

Under option 2A, the average residential property owner would pay a property-based levy of \$273. This would increase to \$335 for those subject to the BPA charge.

The average commercial property owner would pay a property-based levy of \$473; or \$607 for those subject to the BPA charge.

### Option 2B - differential fee structure based on land classification

Under option 2B, a differential fixed charge and a differential variable rate would be payable on the AAV of properties based on the property classification.

Property classifications include:

- residential;
- commercial;

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<sup>5</sup> Further information regarding bushfire prone areas is available at: <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/Show?pageld=colBushfireProneAreas>

- industrial;
- primary production;
- community services (ie community halls and sporting facilities); and
- other (ie vacant land and recreation land).

Properties in bushfire prone areas would also be subject to the additional BPA charge. The BPA charge would also be levied at a variable rate, depending on a property's classification.

Under option 2B, the average residential property would pay a property-based levy of \$288. This would increase to \$348 for those properties subject to the BPA charge.

The average commercial property owner would pay a property-based levy of \$450; or \$528 if subject to a BPA charge.

## Commentary

Both options 2A and 2B use a combination of fixed and variable charges to ensure that all property owners, regardless of the value of property, are contributing to the funding of an integrated fire and emergency services function.

Both options also include a BPA charge to account for the increased fire risk in bushfire prone areas. This also takes into account the fact that bushfire prone areas can also be harder for fire crews to access and resource in the event of an emergency.

The key difference between option 2A and option 2B is the fact that option 2B applies a differential rate depending on the property classification.

Option 2A is simple to calculate. However, the levy applies an equal rate to all property classifications, which means a higher burden is placed on residential and primary production property owners compared to the current arrangements.

The variable rate applied in option 2B applies a lower rate to residential properties compared to commercial properties, consistent with the current funding arrangements. However, given the relatively high rate of the current Insurance Fire Levy, option 2B may still result in savings for businesses compared to the current arrangements.

Overall, a single property-based levy would generally be considered an efficient tax, given it does not tend to alter business or individual behaviours and would provide stable revenue growth based on property value growth. Tying funding arrangements to property values is equitable and sustainable, would simplify the administration and collection of fire service funding, and would ease complexity for all stakeholders.

A single property-based levy meets the sustainability, stability, simplicity and equity criteria and provides a growing source of revenue to ensure that adequate resources continue to be available in the future to maintain an appropriate level of fire and SES capability in Tasmania. Option 2A is a simpler model and is likely to be more equitable across all property owners, irrespective of property usage.

## OPTION 3: PROPERTY AND MOTOR VEHICLE-BASED LEVIES

Option 3 proposes that the existing Motor Vehicle Levy is retained in conjunction with a property-based levy.

The approach explored in option 3 is consistent with the options under option 2. However the variable rates and the fixed charges applied are lower to reflect the lower amount of revenue to be collected through the property-based levy. This is because the property-based levy in option 3 will be supplemented by the motor vehicle levy, compared to option 2 which relies solely on a property-based levy.

The two alternatives include:

- *Option 3A:* a single fixed charge and a single variable rate applied to all properties, plus the existing motor vehicle levy; and
- *Option 3B:* a differential fixed charge and a differential variable rate applied on the basis of a property's classification, plus the existing motor vehicle levy.

The BPA charge applied under options 2A and 2B would similarly apply to options 3A and 3B, to reflect the inherent risk in properties located in bushfire prone areas.

The motor vehicle levy would apply in the same manner as it does under the current funding arrangement. Note that once again, all exemptions and concessions would continue to apply.

### Option 3A - single fee structure

Under option 3A, each property, regardless of its classification, would be subject to an annual amount that includes a fixed and a variable charge. The variable charge is calculated using a single rate on the AAV of the property.

Option 3A also imposes a BPA charge on those properties located in a bushfire prone area.

The motor vehicle charge, currently levied at \$19 per vehicle, would also be payable. The total contribution from a household or business will depend on the number of vehicles owned.

Under option 3A, the average residential property owner would pay an annual property-based levy of \$249. This would increase to \$311 for properties subject to a BPA charge.

The average commercial property owner would pay a property-based levy of \$403; or \$538 for those subject to a BPA charge.

### Option 3B - differential fee structure based on land classification

Under option 3B, a differential fixed charge and a differential variable rate would be payable on the AAV of properties based on the property classifications detailed under option 2B. The BPA charge would also be levied where applicable.

The motor vehicle charge, currently levied at \$19 per vehicle, would also be payable. The total contribution from a household or business will therefore depend on the number of vehicles owned.

Option 3B would result in the average residential property owner paying an annual property-based levy of \$261, plus \$19 per motor vehicle. The property-based levy would increase to \$320 with a BPA charge.

The average commercial property owner would pay a property-based levy of \$388, plus \$19 per motor vehicle. The property-based levy would increase to \$465 with a BPA charge.

### Commentary

Comparisons between the property-based levy under option 3A compared to 3B will be in line with the commentary above in respect of options 2A and 2B.

The key question in comparing these approaches is whether it is equitable to levy a differential rate based on property classifications, particularly given the manner in which this shifts the financial burden between different classes of taxpayers. The differing rate is also more complex compared to the standard single rate for all property classifications.

The Blake Review acknowledged that the continuation of the motor vehicle levy may detract from transparency, add complexity and raise equity considerations. On the other hand, it reduces the amount of revenue needed to be raised from the property-based levy, which results in the benefit of being able to lower property-based levy rates, relative to options 2A and 2B.

The Blake Review also found that the motor vehicle levy had only marginal volatility and represented a fair contribution to an integrated fire and emergency services function given the number of car-related incidents that either the SES or TFS are required to attend.

### Questions

3. Do you consider that a single property-based levy would provide a more stable, simple and equitable approach to funding an integrated fire and emergency services function?
4. If so, do you support a standard single-fee structured property-based levy as proposed in options 2A and 3A, or the differential rates based on a property's classification as proposed in options 2B and 3B?
5. If differential rates based on a property's classification are adopted, which classifications do you think should have higher rates when compared to others?
6. Do you support the use of a bushfire prone area charge for higher risk fire areas?
7. If a property-based levy was introduced, is it also appropriate to retain the Motor Vehicle Levy?

## OPTION 4: ANNUAL APPROPRIATION

Consistent with other publicly provided services, option 4 proposes that emergency services be funded by an annual appropriation from the State Government via the Department for Police, Fire and Emergency Management.

The implementation of this model would mean significant change, both legislatively and administratively. This model would ensure that the SFC budget is consistent with overall Government budget policy. This would require annual expenditures to be appropriated by Parliament, thus enhancing clarity and accountability.

However, an integrated fire and emergency services function would be dependent on annual budget processes and would not have dedicated funding available each year. The Government would also lose a significant source of revenue with around \$100 million collected from the Fire Service Contribution, Insurance Fire Levy and Motor Vehicle Fire Levy per annum. Other sources of revenue would need to be considered, or services reduced in other important areas of Government service delivery.

Alternatively, options 1, 2 or 3 could be adopted, with funding directed to the Public Account rather than directly to the integrated fire and emergency services function.

### Question

8. Should an integrated fire and emergency services function receive dedicated funding each year rather than being subject to annual budget processes?

## COMPARISON OF OPTIONS

The tables below compare the estimated cost to residential and commercial property owners under options 1, 2 and 3, as per Treasury modelling.

**Table 1: Residential property owners**

	Option 1	Option 2A	Option 2B	Option 3A	Option 3B
<b>Property-based levy</b>	\$54 - \$302	\$273 - \$335*	\$288 - \$348*	\$249 - \$311*	\$261 - \$320*
<b>Motor vehicle-based levy</b>	\$19 per vehicle	N/A	N/A	\$19 per vehicle	\$19 per vehicle
<b>Insurance-based levy</b>	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* Note the higher range amount is for those properties subject to a bushfire prone area charge.

**Table 2: Commercial property owners**

	Option 1	Option 2A	Option 2B	Option 3A	Option 3B
<b>Property-based levy</b>	\$130 - \$685	\$473 - \$607*	\$450 - \$528*	\$403 - \$538*	\$388 - \$465*
<b>Motor vehicle-based levy</b>	\$19 per vehicle	N/A	N/A	\$19 per vehicle	\$19 per vehicle
<b>Insurance-based levy</b>	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



\* Note the higher range amount is for those properties subject to a bushfire prone area charge.

### Questions

9. Which of the proposed funding model options in this paper do you prefer, and why?
10. Are there any other funding models which you would propose instead?
11. Are there any other sources of funding that haven't been considered?
12. Do you have any other feedback for the Government in relation to the funding model?

## CONCLUSION

This Options Paper demonstrates the outcome of high-level financial modelling of the impact of the four options for funding an integrated fire and emergency services function detailed in the Blake Review.

As noted previously, there are a range of limitations in relation to the outcome of this modelling and the results are therefore only indicative of the potential impact on individual taxpayers.

Notwithstanding this, based on the outcomes of this modelling, it is likely that there would be an increase in the property-based levy for residential properties under options 2 and 3, compared to the current arrangements.

However, businesses that are required to pay the Insurance Fire Levy under the existing model would be likely to receive a significant benefit under options 2 and 3. Taxes on insurance products are generally inequitable, make insurance more expensive and act as an incentive for businesses to under-insure or self-insure.

Options 2 and 3 are more likely to meet the criteria of administrative simplicity, equity, stability and sustainability, compared to the current arrangements.

However, any change is likely to be complex. Even if a new funding model is implemented on a revenue-neutral basis, any change will shift the burden from one group to another, thereby creating winners and losers.

Transition measures may need to be considered in the event of a change in the funding model. The Blake Review recommended that, in the event that the Review's recommendations are accepted, suitable transition arrangements should be identified and implemented over a reasonable period. This would assist in supporting those who are most affected by any change in regime, and help minimise any cash flow impacts on taxpayers. This could include consideration of current concession arrangements.



## ATTACHMENT A: CURRENT FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

The current funding arrangements were developed in 1979 and are no longer fit for purpose. They do not take into consideration recent developments, including greater interoperability, technology changes, demographic changes, longer fire seasons and the impact of climate change.

The Blake Review notes the funding model needs to take into account these differing circumstances and, at the same time, be future-proof.

### Insurance Fire Levy

The Insurance Fire Levy is collected by insurance companies through a levy on premium income on certain prescribed classes of business insurance. Contributions are received monthly with an approved lodgement return. The Insurance Fire Levy is paid directly to the SFC by insurers.

The current Insurance Fire Levy is 2 per cent on marine cargo insurance, 14 per cent on aviation hull insurance, and 28 per cent on other classes of insurance. The rates are prescribed in the *Fire Service (Finance) Regulations 2017*.

\$29.2 million was collected from the Insurance Fire Levy in 2020-21.

### Motor Vehicle Fire Levy

The Motor Vehicle Fire Levy is collected through a levy applied to all registered vehicles. This is collected by the Department of State Growth as part of the vehicle registration fee and forwarded to the SFC. The Motor Vehicle Fire Levy is not applied on registrations of motor cycles, trailers, caravans or horse floats.

In 2021-22, the Motor Vehicle Fire Levy is set at \$19 per vehicle, with a pensioner rate of \$13 per vehicle. The pensioner rate is available to people who hold a Services Australia or DVA Pensioner Concession Card. The levy is adjusted annually in line with CPI.

\$9.2 million was collected from the Motor Vehicle Fire Levy in 2020-21.

### Fire Service Contribution

The Fire Service Contribution is calculated on an annual basis with the total amount approved by the Minister for Police and Emergency Management as part of the SFC's corporate planning process.

The Fire Service Contribution amount is calculated as the difference between the SFC's annual operating costs and the funds it expects to receive from other income sources. In effect, the Fire Service Contribution is a balancing item that enables the SFC to recover its brigade operating costs, once the SFC's other funding has been taken into account. Therefore an increase in one component of the funding should result in a decrease in the Fire Service Contribution - assuming operating costs remain constant. It is therefore likely to change annually.

The Fire Service Contribution is collected by local councils through rates, and paid directly to the SFC. Councils are entitled to retain a 4 per cent collection fee.

The amount charged to property holders is calculated according to a complex formula which takes into account the assessed annual value (AAV) of the property and the type of fire brigade available in the area (permanent, composite or volunteer). A minimum Fire Service Contribution per property applies, which is indexed in line with movements in the consumer price index (\$42 in 2021-22). Eligible pensioners are entitled to a 20 per cent discount on their Fire Service Contribution.

The Fire Service Contribution currently has a range of exemptions for State and local governments, government business enterprises and religious and charitable bodies. Property owned by the Australian Government is also exempt.

\$48.1 million was collected from the Fire Service Contribution in 2020-21.

## ATTACHMENT B: FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

With the exception of the Northern Territory, which funds its fire service entirely through the consolidated fund, all states and territories use property-based taxes to at least partially fund fire service costs. States' property levies vary based on location, level of fire brigade service, land use type and land value.

In general, states have moved away from insurance based taxes, with only New South Wales and Tasmania using an insurance levy to contribute towards the cost of fire services.

Taxes on insurance are widely considered an inefficient tax given the tax imposes significant costs on insurance premiums and may distort business behaviour through deterring businesses and people from getting sufficient insurance.

In 2013, following a recommendation from the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, Victoria removed its Fire Service Levy from insurance policies after the Royal Commission considered:

*“the fundamental problem with the current funding model is that it is inequitable: those who do not insure or who under-insure avoid making a proportionate contribution to the funding of fire services but are afforded the same protection as those with insurance. A disproportionate share of the cost of providing fire services benefiting the entire community falls on insurance policy holders” (the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Final Report).*

In 2017, the New South Wales Government introduced legislation to remove its insurance levy, which was responsible for over 70 per cent of the Fire and Rescue NSW's revenue at the time. Fire and Rescue New South Wales intended to move to a solely property-based levy, however the transition to a property-based levy was deferred in 2017 due to the expected impact on some businesses of the proposed changes.

In August 2020, the New South Wales Government's Review of Federal Financial Relations recommended that all specific taxes on insurance products, including the Emergency Services Levy, should be abolished and replaced by more efficient and broader tax bases, to improve the affordability and uptake of insurance. The Review found that:

*“a broad-based property levy is a far more efficient approach: it makes insurance more affordable and ensures all property owners contribute to funding fire and emergency services. By including uninsured properties and reducing the contribution required from insured properties, it can in principle be fairer as well”.*

The Review recommended that the New South Wales Government reconsider applying a levy on property owners. The New South Wales Government continues to consider the recommendations of the Review.

Only South Australia and Tasmania use a mobile property-based levy such as the motor vehicle fire levy to fund fire services.

Specific details in relation to each state's fire service funding arrangements is included in the following table.

## Other Jurisdictions' Fire Service Funding Arrangements

	Property based	Insurance based	Vehicle based
<b>NSW</b>	Councils recover property charges indirectly through general rates	Levy based on market share of property policies	
<b>VIC</b>	<p>Fixed charge plus a variable rate based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Properties classification (residential, commercial etc)</li> <li>Capital improved value</li> </ul> <p><i>Concessions:</i> Pensioners and DVA Gold Card holders receive a flat rate (\$50) concession on their principal place of residence</p>		
<b>QLD</b>	<p>Fixed charge based on levy group (property type and use).</p> <p>From 1 July 2021, all similar properties will contribute equally, due to change in district resourcing.</p> <p><i>Concessions:</i> Pensioners and Repatriation Health Card holders receive a 20 per cent discount for their principal place of residence</p>		
<b>WA</b>	<p>Charge which varies between minimum and maximum based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gross rental value</li> <li>Emergency Services Levy category based on level of services (1-5).</li> </ul> <p><i>Concessions:</i> Pensioners, Seniors or Concession card holders receive a rebate on their rates of up to 50 per cent, limited to a maximum capped amount of \$750.</p>		
<b>SA</b>	<p>Fixed charge plus a variable rate based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital value</li> <li>Land use</li> <li>Brigade service</li> </ul> <p><i>Concessions:</i> Pensioners or holders of other related cards from Services Australia or DVA receive up to a maximum concession of \$46</p>		Levy varies by vehicle type (includes all mobile property)
<b>TAS</b>	<p>Minimum charges plus a variable rate based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brigade service</li> <li>Assessed Annual Value</li> </ul> <p>Rates vary by council due to caps.</p> <p><i>Concessions:</i> Services Australia or DVA Pensioner Concession Card holders receive a 20 per cent discount.</p>	Levy based on varying proportion of commercial premiums	<p>Flat levy on motor vehicles (excludes some mobile property ie motorcycle, trailers, caravan)</p> <p><i>Concessions</i> Services Australia or DVA Pensioner Concession Card holders receive a \$6 discount.</p>
<b>NT</b>	Funded directly from consolidated fund		

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**ACT** Fixed charge for residential and rural properties.  
Commercial properties have a rate that varies based on Average unimproved value.  
Average is based on 5-year average of unimproved value  
*Concessions:*  
*Pensioners eligible for a rates rebate will receive a rebate on the levy capped at \$98.*

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18 September 2020

Mr Mike Blake  
Independent Chair  
Fire Services Act Review

Email: [blakem995@gmail.com](mailto:blakem995@gmail.com)

Dear Mr Blake

**Fire Service Act 1979 Review**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the draft proposals as part of the *Fire Services Act* Review. This submission has been prepared by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) on behalf of the Local Government Sector in collaboration with our Members, 18 of the 29 Local Council have provided feedback on the draft proposals.

LGAT is incorporated under the *Local Government Act 1993* and is the representative body and advocate for Local Government in Tasmania. Where a Council has made a direct submission to this process, any omission of specific comments made by that Council in this submission should not be viewed as lack of support by the LGAT for that specific issue.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Georgia Palmer at [Georgia.Palmer@lgat.tas.gov.au](mailto:Georgia.Palmer@lgat.tas.gov.au) or on (03) 6146 3745

Yours sincerely,



Katrena Stephenson  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## **LGAT Submission - *Review of the Fire Services Act 1979***

### **Introduction**

LGAT provided the draft table of proposals to its 29 member councils. We supported our request for feedback by providing LGAT commentary against each of the proposals. The commentary was based on sector feedback in response to the issues papers and conversations with several of the councils you consulted directly as part of your review.

Several councils raised concern in relation to the consultation process and the timeframes given to comment on the proposals. The level of concern was further exacerbated by the omission of the report developed for the Minister to provide context to the draft proposals.

### **General Comments**

#### **Levy**

There was general agreement from most councils to the proposed property levy however concern was raised in relation to a number of issues which need to be addressed as part of the bill.

- The Levy should not constitute the majority of base funding for the FEST, the State Government needs to commit to this essential service through appropriation.
- A property-based levy was generally supported but it should be noted that not all councils use the AAV model so there would need to be flexibility to allow councils to use their own method of determining rates. The current differential approach to the levy between urban and rural services was of concern to many councils. This was reflected in the LGAT submission to the issues paper in 2018.
- A sustained education campaign from the State Government is needed 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. This fee not only supports the administration of the fee but also the management of complaints that are received by councils about the fee. If the State Government were going to administer the levy the costs would be significantly greater than 4%.
- A move to recover the value of the current insurance levy through the property based fire services levy was not supported by all councils who provided feedback. Additionally it is important that combining the two levies doesn't add another level of complexity to the collection process.

- One council did not support an extension to the levy nor did they support the development of FEST or the new legislation.

### Centralisation of SES Volunteer Units

- There was general support from councils for the centralisation of SES volunteer units. This aligns with feedback from the sector in previous reviews.
- Importantly the asset transfer arrangements need to be agreed prior to being written into legislation.
- The key issues and considerations around the centralization are captured in the table below.
- Many councils also raised concern about the identity of SES volunteers and the need to maintain the local community service aspect. This needs to be managed as part of the centralization.
- One council did not support centralisation.

### Specific Comments

The specific feedback relating to sections of the draft proposals are provided below however, are kept concise for ease of reference.

### Draft Proposals- review of Fire Service Act

Proposal number	Proposal	Comments / Concerns
1	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New legislation integrates the organisations, functions and activities of the TFS and SES; and</li> <li>• there be consequential amendments to the EM Act.</li> </ul>	<p>General support from the sector- noting one council, Central Highlands, did not support.</p> <p>Within the new integrated service it will be necessary to preserve and recognise the role of volunteers in order to ensure future capability at a community level, particularly in a crisis situation.</p>



2	<p>That, the functions of the proposed new FEST entity include, subject to appropriate resource allocation and training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First responder capability for medical emergencies;</li> <li>• The functions currently performed by the SES (flood, storm/tempest, earthquake, tsunami, space debris re-entry, and search and rescue); and</li> <li>• continue to provide support roles at events like road crash rescue, responding to heatwaves and counter terrorism.</li> </ul>	<p>It is important to note that Ambulance is not part of FEST, therefore it needs to be clear that the first responder capability for medical emergencies is a support function to Ambulance as the management authority. It should also be noted that in some remote areas of the state SES volunteers already perform road rescue.</p> <p>Some concern was raised around first responder capability for medical emergencies and the need for specialist skills to support this. Especially in locations serviced by volunteer units.</p> <p>Without seeing the detailed report, this proposal, as written, seems to be in conflict with proposal 24.</p> <p>Training in regard to emergency management has been difficult to source and support over recent years. The training function of the FEST would need to be reviewed to provide for both general and activity specific based training.</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>
3	<p>That new legislation confirms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The functions for FEST</li> </ul> <p>Subject to finalisation of governance proposals, the functions and roles of the Chief Officer as outlined in Section 3.5.3.</p>	<p>General support, as the scope of the Act will change to incorporate the function of the FEST it may be necessary to change the title of the legislation.</p> <p>Difficult to comment on the second dot point without access to section 3.5.3 of the report.</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>

4	<p>That the fire-fighting capabilities of PWS and STT not be combined with those of the FEST but that the inter-operability protocol be formalised as a code of practice as envisaged in the <i>National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002</i>.</p> <p>In the event that the code of practice is not a mechanism suitable for interoperability arrangements as envisaged, then the inter-operability protocol be broadened to include, as a minimum, DPFEM and DPAC as applicable and be approved by the Minister.</p>	<p>No comment</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>
5	<p>That, subject to the outcome of proposal 4, in future the Inter-Agency Fire Management Protocol be negotiated inclusive of other relevant emergency services entities and the State Controller and be approved by the Minister.</p>	<p>No comment</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>
6	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPAC's role in recovery remain unchanged; and</li> <li>• FEST's support role continue as outlined.</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

7	<p>That the governance model best suited to an effective FEST would be the departmental model but with suitable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ring-fencing arrangements for levies raised to fund the FEST;</li> <li>• Inclusion of suitable reporting arrangements between the head of FEST and Minister; and</li> <li>• Arrangements requiring the establishment of an Advisory Board supporting the Minister.</li> </ul>	<p>General support from the sector, noting that one council, Central Highlands, did not support.</p> <p>Ring fencing must be established in legislation and transparency in the levy is paramount. Under the current arrangements there is a lack of transparency around levy increases and therefore stakeholders question how reflective the increases are around increased costs.</p> <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 proposed advisory board given Local Government's role in collecting the levy, emergency management and in supporting community preparedness and building community resilience.</p> <p>The revised model should provide for a base level of funding support direct from the State, as per other essential service departments such as police and ambulance. This arrangement would also result in the levy remaining affordable and equitable across our communities.</p>
8	<p>That:</p> <p>One:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SFMC be established in as an advisory board or committee of the FEST under terms of reference (including proposed membership) approved by the FEST;</li> </ul>	<p>This was not generally supported.</p> <p>Requiring a permit for all fires is fraught with problems. Qld defines a fire requiring a permit as one of a dimension greater than 1mx1mx1m in size and all fires are banned in days of extreme FDI. This proposal would require full-time and dedicated permit</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SFMC must recommend the establishment of Fire Management Area Committees;</li> <li>• Fire Permit Officers be appointed by the Chief Officer (or delegate) under a clear approval process which is responsive to responsible agencies' (TFS/PWS/STT) operational needs; and</li> <li>• A requirement that, regardless of the size of a fire, all fires require a permit when the permit system is in force.</li> </ul> <p>Or:</p> <p>As for One, but that these roles be fulfilled by the proposed Advisory Board with its membership to include those bodies currently represented on the SFMC.</p>	<p>officers and a much better system than the current permit book.</p> <p>It would also impact on the red tape associated with campfires. This would likely cause community concern. Campfires and other fires contained within specified requirements should be permitted unless a total fire ban is in place. A permit requirement regardless of size of fire runs the very real risk of being an unreasonable and unenforceable scheme.</p> <p>Any permit system, would need to be clear in regard to the issue of permits and compliance management. Local Government does not have resources to monitor or enforce any expanded permit system.</p> <p>All permits issued need to be electronically transferred from FireCom or to FireCom for notification and management.</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>
9	<p>That all current sources of SES funding be removed and replaced by a single property-based levy. In the event this is not supported or sustainable, appropriation based funding should be explored.</p>	<p>Local Government has expressed support for the centralisation of SES volunteer units. Funding should be in line with the current funding by council both financial and in-kind.</p> <p>There is NO support for the use of the levy to fund management roles previously funded by appropriation.</p> <p>Any move to an increase and expansion in the levy must be supported by an education</p>

		<p>campaign and make it clear that it is a state tax and not Local Government revenue.</p> <p>It is important that any change does not shift or increase the burden to our communities. Any new funding arrangement must be transparent and reflect an equitable method of distributing the cost of the service across Tasmanian communities.</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>
10	That the Insurance Levy be discontinued and replaced by a property-based levy or another funding source providing similar, and consistent (predictable) levels of funding.	<p>The insurance levy (restricted to commercial insurance) currently provides \$25 million/year towards the State Fire Commission. The rationale for removal is that the levy de incentivizes insurance. It is unknown whether the removal of the levy will correspond to decreased insurance costs to the customer. It is noted that commercial property owners are likely to still pay the levy but councils will collect it through the property levy.</p> <p>A council raised concern around adding another level of complexity to commercial operators with a levy.</p> <p>A property levy must ensure equity. Modelling should be undertaken to demonstrate the impact on property owners of an increased property- based levy. Especially important in the context of COVID recovery.</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>

11	The Motor Vehicle Levy be continued and, if any expansion or broadening of this levy to other types of vehicles is supported, that it be based on a cost benefit analysis.	<p>General Support</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>
12	The contributions from the Australian Government continue but not regarded as a source of base-level funding for the FEST.	<p>The draft proposal recommends 80 % of the base level funding be supported by a property levy. There needs to be clear accountability and transparency around what constitutes base level funding with mechanisms embedded to ensure creep/cost shifting doesn't occur in what constitutes base funding over time.</p> <p>Base level funding by the State and the Federal Governments should continue. Base level funding represents the Government's commitment to provision of these essential services to the community. An over-reliance on a property level model risks an exacerbation of perceived inequities between city and rural communities that cannot be easily addressed through a funding model based predominantly upon a levy system.</p> <p>Base funding components need to be agreed and embedded within legislation.</p>
13	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FEST's sources of funding from its marketing and regulatory roles and its miscellaneous revenue continue but these must be self-funded and not be part of base-level funding,</li> </ul>	<p>If revenue streams from MAIB are discontinued, the state needs to be certain the community see a reduction in MAIB premiums to offset increased cost they will be paying through the FEST property levy.</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revenue streams from the MAIB for both the TFS and SES be discontinued.</li> </ul>	
14	The contributions from the State Government continue but not regarded as a source of base-level funding for the FEST.	Disagree- State Government should contribute to base funding through appropriation to support core public service policy roles and intergovernmental relations within the agency. This should be the case in any departmental model.
15	That levy or Appropriation sources of revenue for the FEST include up to \$5m per annum to pay for those functions and services transitioned from Local Government to FEST.	<p>General Support.</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>
16	<p>That, on balance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The property-based levy continues to provide the bulk of FEST's funding and that it be based on a property's AAV as determined by the Valuer-General from time to time with movements in the levy to be determined by Treasury annually; and</li> <li>The levy collected be ring-fenced for use by FEST.</li> </ul>	<p>The determination made by Treasury must be transparent and limited to base load funding.</p> <p>There are a number of councils who do not use AAV as their valuation base. The <i>Local Government Act</i> allows a council to choose their method of valuation and rating and therefore it is suggested that the proposed property-based levy be based on a property's LV, CV or AAV as determined by the council (based on their own particular circumstances). For example, it would be legislatively and practically difficult (currently) to levy other rates using CV and this levy using AAV.</p> <p>Recommend a minimum contribution to the property-based levy continues (there is currently a minimum) to ensure small properties continue to pay a minimum share.</p>

		<p>Movements in the levy determined by Treasury should be transparent and widely communicated to the community so it is clear why, by how much and for what, the levy is increasing.</p> <p>Movements in the levy should be communicated to councils well in advance of preparing their annual budget.</p> <p>Suggest forward estimates of increases in the levy are provided to councils for the purposes of long-term financial planning.</p> <p>Currently a remission is provided for properties in certain parts of the municipal area. The remissions reflect the different type of fire service provided in that area. It is unclear from the proposals whether this would continue as a means of reflecting different service levels available in different parts of the municipal area. A number of councils are not in favor of a differential model.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement, including Local Government must be included in the annual review.</p> <p>Ring fencing must be legislated.</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>
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17	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current concessions be quantified and funded as a CSO; and</li> <li>• Current exemptions for payment of the FSC be quantified and removed for the proposed FEST Levy except for Crown Land, land managed by STT and land and buildings owned by Local Government councils and by Government entities funded predominantly by Appropriation.</li> </ul>	<p>Generally supported.</p> <p>This proposal would appear to remove exemptions for jetty's, slipways, small unimproved land and applicable charities. While agreed that this type of levy should be paid by most properties, there may need to be some consideration to marine facilities and what proportion of a levy should be paid.</p> <p>Removal of the exemption from any property, particularly a charity, will have an impact on that particular property and that impact will need to be managed and appropriate notice provided.</p>
18	<p>Discontinue Local Government funding of SES and support for local units and transition all councils' associated resources to the FEST and a transition plan to be developed with councils.</p>	<p>Generally supported.</p> <p>The issue of SES volunteer unit funding has been explored with the sector through several past reviews including the review of the <i>Emergency Management Act</i>.</p> <p>There was general consensus that resourcing for SES volunteer units should be centralised. As part of any centralisation it is important that the conditions of transfer are agreed prior to it being enshrined in legislation.</p> <p>Key issues raised by the sector in the past in relation to centralisation include the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish mechanisms to ensure that there is a strong link between SES volunteer units and the Municipal Emergency Management Committees (MEMC). e.g MOU's and representation on the MEMC;</li> <li>• arrangements associated with the transfer of plant and equipment;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council ownership of SES volunteer unit Head Quarters and future lease arrangements.</li> </ul> <p>Some councils have invested significantly in equipment in recent years, there may be some concern if those resources are redirected to another area given the rate payers have funded them.</p> <p>It should be noted that the community also needs to retain a sense of 'ownership' or stake despite centralisation.</p> <p>One of the benefits of volunteer organisation is the involvement of local communities. Volunteering also develops a sense of local identity. This must not be lost.</p> <p>Municipal funding was based on services provided. The centralisation has potential to remove that direct link, putting greater distance administratively between local SES Units and Local Government.</p> <p>Non-emergency functions should be identified and addressed specifically within the funding model. E.g risk mitigation activities such as fuel reduction burns, flood mitigation works and other related activities that assist communities to maintain a level of preparation.</p> <p>Central Highlands Council did not support this proposal.</p>
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19	<p>On balance, and while the full Appropriation option satisfies most criteria, that FEST not be funded by Appropriation because doing so may disincentivize property owners from properly insuring their properties or being appropriately prepared.</p>	<p>FEST has roles which are broader than planning for, and responding to, an emergency, such as government policy and intergovernmental relations. These roles should be funded by the State Government - not a levy.</p> <p>The link between motivation for insurance uptake and use of levies is not readily apparent. Unless a property-based levy will be dramatically and substantially reduced for appropriately insured properties there is not support for this suggestion.</p> <p>The assumption that a fully funded emergency service will be able to assist everyone individually during an emergency still persists within the community (see Final Report of the NSW Bushfire Enquiry 2020).</p> <p>This assumption will not be broken merely by relying on levies rather than appropriation as a source of funding. This requires a separate (or range of) strategy. Therefore, a mix of appropriations and levy would be a valid funding model for FEST.</p>
20	<p>That Treasury be responsible for calculating, but not on its own determining (determination will require input from the FEST), the amount to be collected from the property-based levy annually and who pays what.</p>	<p>Stakeholders must be consulted as part of the annual review and this consultation must be legislated. Any increase in the levy must be aligned with community expectation and take into account the cost of living pressures in the community.</p> <p>Moving from the current method of calculating a council's contribution (rolling AAV average) may impact on the proportion of the property based levy an individual council needs to pay. It will be important that the proportion of the levy that an individual council pays does not provide a price shock for the community.</p>

		<p>Transparency regarding the levy is crucial. FEST, in many respects, should be regarded as a monopoly provider of emergency services.</p> <p>With that in mind, calculating contributions over a 5-year timeframe may be an option. This would be similar to the way TasNetworks are required to submit 5 year capital and opex plans to a Regulator in order to determine appropriate charge rates.</p> <p>Such an option would allow for certainty over the period but also allow for numerous parties to make submissions to any review before a determination is made</p>
21	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Government continue to collect the proposed FEST property-based levy and continue to be paid a renegotiated collection fee for doing so; and</li> <li>The Treasurer or Minister to make clear annually, in a public manner, how the levy is constructed, reasons for increases and the fact that it is collected by Local Government for a fee.</li> </ul>	<p>Councils will <b>not support</b> a decrease to the collection fee. Councils are acting as the collection agency for the State Government and must be funded to do so. The cost to council is not just the processing cost but also customer service queries and complaints.</p> <p>The cost of the State Government establishing an alternative would be significantly greater than 4% of the levy.</p> <p>An education campaign would need to be developed to make it clear that councils are collecting the tax on behalf of the State Government. The campaign would need to be on going so each year the community understands the levy .</p> <p>The campaign should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain what the levy is for;</li> <li>How it is calculated; and</li> <li>How it is distributed.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It should also include information about the expansion of the levy from the current fire service levy.</li> </ul>
22	That levies collected by Local Government are paid into Consolidated Fund but ring-fenced for use by FEST.	Ring fencing of the levy must be legislated. There must also be transparency as to what constitutes base funding. Core government roles and responsibilities must not be funded by the levy.
23	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers and volunteering be recognised and enshrined in legislation and the legislation include a requirement for a Volunteer Charter to be developed by the FEST and endorsed by the Volunteer Associations and the Minister;</li> <li>Legislation provide good faith protection from liability for FEST volunteers, authorised volunteers and permanent staff; and</li> <li>There are no legislative barriers that would preclude the expansion of volunteer roles to include both response and non-response roles.</li> </ul>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The change to SES volunteers should manage any risk which could cause attrition in number of volunteers.</p> <p>Attrition of volunteers across the broad spectrum is currently in focus, particularly noting the impacts and community demands post COVID.</p> <p>The state needs to develop a strong framework to attract, train and retain the volunteer base.</p> <p>The role of volunteers versus paid members should be clear and unambiguous. The legislative framework should ensure that petty demarcations are avoided (such as seen in the CFA dispute in Victoria). For property owners (who pay for the services via the levy), their expectation of a seamless, unified organisation should be paramount.</p> <p>Volunteer charters have been in place in other states for some time.</p>

24	That the mandate of the FEST not include a legislated provision for emergency medical response but that this should be entirely a matter of policy. However, legislation should allow for additional functions that fire and emergency management services may perform consistently with an overarching responsibility for public safety, property and the environment.	Supported, however additional functions which are currently performed by other agencies must not be funded by the levy. Clear parameters must be established.  Note that proposal 2 mentions the function of FEST as first medical responder.
25	Maintain current levels of indemnity and broaden the mandate of the Entity to include the power to confer specified functions, powers and indemnities on individuals and organisations inside and outside the Entity including interstate and international personnel. In this context, new legislation must empower the new Entity with the functions, powers and indemnities that reflect its broader role in emergency management and response.	Supported
26	That: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New legislation addresses conflicting, duplicated or gaps in roles of the proposed FEST, PWS, STT and private entities involved in dealing with fires;</li> <li>• New legislation allowing</li> </ul>	Generally supported, noting that damage caused to private property to access fire grounds has in the past been an issue. Need to ensure that the powers are not abused, and that responsibility not handed to another body.

	<p>non-FEST officers in charge of fire suppression to have access to, and to deal with, a fire as soon as possible;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mandate of the proposed FEST include the power to confer specified functions and powers on individuals and organisations inside or outside of the Entity;</li> <li>• A Head of Power, exercisable at the discretion of the FEST, be included in the legislation requiring protocols be developed to manage the relationship between the Entity and other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ land management agencies; and</li> <li>○ emergency services agencies including TasPol;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• New legislation provide firefighters, SES workers and other delegated agencies/people protection from liability (as occurs currently in section 51 of the EM Act<sup>1</sup>). Other delegated agencies/people needs to be 'loosely' defined so as to provide protection</li> </ul>	<p>It should also be noted that some councils (for example, the City of Hobart) play a role in fire prevention and response.</p> <p>Is the reference to other delegated agencies or people including Local Government?</p>
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<sup>1</sup> The EM Act achieves this by making provisions for "emergency management worker" which can include people assisting an authorised officer (s51). All 'emergency management workers' are covered by the protections in Part 4.

	<p>for the range of persons involved in fire and emergency services management but who are non-firefighters/non-emergency workers/not public servants; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional powers should be legislated authorising FEST, PWS and STT to close roads to protect public safety during a fire, flood or storm hazard and to have a power to regulate traffic, not just close a road.</li> </ul>	
27	<p>That the decision making and nomination process to appoint permit officers should be left to the senior management of the relevant responsible agencies, depending on their specific responsibilities in regards, for example, to the land tenure with which it is concerned as permit officers are represented throughout the fire industry.</p>	<p>Unsure how this impacts on Local Government and private land. We would need to refer to detail in report which were not provided.</p> <p>Permit officers in a Local Government area should be the TFS District officer and that relationship works well in cases where the engagement is sound. Unlikely to be any real issues with this strengthening of the authority for them to act but that will depend on changes to the legislation relating to the powers to require mitigation works on private land.</p>
28	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision for the establishment of Fire and Emergency Risk Area Committees (FERAC) in the Terms of Reference of the State Fire Emergency Management Sub-</li> </ul>	<p>Agree that there are synergies between the work of FMACS (to be renamed FERACs) and Regional and Municipal Emergency management committees, particularly in risk assessment and treatment.</p> <p>Emergency management committees have a much broader remit across PPRR (Prevention, Preparation, Response and Recovery).</p>



	<p>Committee including the number and geographical boundaries of FERACs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing community engagement by inclusion of their representation on FERACs without increasing numbers on these Committees;</li> <li>Removal of the requirement to Gazette geographical boundaries; and</li> <li>continuance of identifying synergies between FERACs and Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Committees.</li> </ul> <p>However, these arrangements do not require legislative support and instead be promulgated under a head of power and detailed, where necessary, in doctrine/TEMA.</p>	<p>The inclusion of community representatives (especially conservation peak bodies) could provide a forum to resolve potential criticisms of proposed works and enhance confidence in emergency preparedness plans developed by the FERAC.</p> <p>The role of the FERAC needs to be carefully defined as the FMAC has a very key role in preparing, assessing and developing bushfire risk mitigation plans.</p>
29	<p>That new legislation should provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For FEST to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and abolish brigades/units</li> <li>Determine the membership of those brigades/units</li> <li>Define the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Industry Brigades need clear definition and statement of role. It is not appropriate for an industry Brigade to be at the direction of the Chief Officer except for when a response is required that is relevant to the interests of that entity. Triggers, roles, responsibilities and funding of response costs would need to be defined and agreed to before registration.</p>

	<p>structure, functions, powers and responsibilities of brigades/units, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to include such other powers and functions as may be necessary for the effective management of, and response to fire and other prescribed emergencies;</li> <li>• FEST with the powers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register/de-register volunteer members;</li> <li>• Appoint unit managers, brigade chiefs, establish standards for things like equipment, training, facilities etc;</li> <li>• Establish protocols for cooperation; and</li> <li>• appointment of industry brigades, their registration with clarity that they be under the control of FEST.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>In maintaining a link between local units/brigades and local communities, consider the potential for requiring consultation with Local Government on such matters.</p> <p>The need for these provisions to exist is understood but how they are administered, and stakeholders engaged, becomes important.</p> <p>It should be noted that Central Highlands Council strongly opposed this proposal.</p>
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30	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is implementation of the recommendations of the review of the Fire Permit System in the new legislation as appropriate, including arrangements for total fire bans;</li> <li>• However, in doing so, that the legislation include scope to modify or change these arrangements if once implemented it is determined adjustments to processes are required; and</li> <li>• No fire permits be issued when total fire bans are in place.</li> </ul>	<p>Seems appropriate</p> <p>Hot work permits are still required during total fire bans and issued on a case by case basis.</p>
31	<p>That the new FEST entity be expected to, and resourced to, provide education to the community on how best to prepare for fire and relevant emergency risks but that this expectation not be dealt with in any new legislation.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>It would be good to see a link/collaboration between community education in emergency management provided by FEST and that provided as a part of community development by Local Government.</p> <p>It is important that the expertise in community education is maintained in fire and further enhanced in SES. It should be noted that the expertise needed to build community resilience to fire is different to flood and that this separate expertise is maintained.</p>

32	<p>That, TFES maintains legislative responsibility for issuing permits to install, maintain or repair fire protection equipment, subject to a review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the current regulatory arrangements; and</li> <li>• conflicts of interest arrangements.</li> </ul>	No comment.
33	<p>Any new legislation should not provide for building fire evacuation systems but a requirement be established in law or regulation that high risk facilities should have their emergency response procedures reviewed and approved by the agency with the most contemporary knowledge and experience in emergency response which in this case is the FES.</p> <p>In the event that this proposition is not adopted, that the FES plays an advisory role.</p>	No comment

34	<p>The current offence and penalty provisions should be reviewed to determine if they remain appropriate, enforceable and contemporary and should reflect the expanded role of TFS and SES (and therefore the FEST).</p> <p>In doing so, consideration of provisions in the Police Offences Act 1935 is needed.</p>	No comment
35	<p>New legislation should provide for the FEST to establish a chain of command (including appointment of incident controllers) for response by means of regulations or a statutory instrument, so that it can be easily amended from time to time.</p>	No comment
36	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New legislation be drafted to replace the FS Act;</li> <li>• In order for any proposed legislation to be contemporary, flexible and sufficiently forward looking, it needs to be principles based providing a head of power to a proposed integrated FEST; and</li> <li>• The functions and mandate of the</li> </ul>	<p>A greater focus on principles-based legislation brings with it concerns that prescription will be introduced through related regulatory instruments without the same level of engagement or consultation with councils. Inclusion of a provision such as currently exists at Section 28AA of the Local Government Act would go some way to addressing this concern.</p> <p>Further, pushing much of the detail into separate instruments would be at odds with an accessible, easy to read legislative approach. A balance is required.</p>

	proposed new Entity should deliver an authorising and enabling environment facilitating a broad range of fire and prescribed non-fire related emergency services activities, including multi-hazard, that are aligned with and support the EM Act in legislation.	
37	That the legislation make provision for a secondary process to change or add mandated functions in the future without the need to amend legislation, but on the proviso that the core legislation cannot be undone without full review by the Parliament and public input.	There is concern that having this flexibility may allow the government to devolve responsibilities to the FEST and have costs covered by the Levy. Provisions must exist so that this cannot happen without proper and considered consultation.
38	<p>That the new legislation create an integrated fire and appropriate emergency management services Entity the principal objectives of which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To preserve human life;</li> <li>• To build resilient communities that actively participate in prevention, preparedness and response to fire and other relevant emergencies;</li> <li>• To limit the economic, environmental (including climate change impacts), social</li> </ul>	<p>General Support, noting that Central Highlands support the existing legislation.</p> <p>"Fire and appropriate emergency", "fire and other relevant emergencies" are somewhat awkward phrases. It also might create a perception that fire is emphasised or is not like other emergencies.</p> <p>The objectives are also broad and encompass those that many other emergency service providers aspire to. What is unique to FEST?</p>

	<p>and physical impact of fire and other emergencies on the Tasmanian community;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To recognise that our environment has inherent value for the Tasmanian community;</li> <li>• To ensure/facilitate effective inter-agency interoperability both inter and intra State; and</li> <li>• with clarity that the proposed Entity not be the lead agency responsible for recovery.</li> </ul>	
39	That new legislation be drafted which is short, forward looking and principles based, with detail addressed in regulations.	Refer to comments under recommendation 36

# Fire Services Act Review

## Papers for Comment

28 October 2021

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### **Fire Services Act Review – Next steps**

Following a significant period of inactivity in relation to the Fire Services Act review, the State Government has recently released two documents for consultation.

The two documents include the:

1. [Blake Fire services Act Review](#); and
2. [Treasury Options Paper- Fire Service Funding Arrangements](#)

#### **Blake Fire Services Act Review – governance and organisational recommendation**

LGAT engaged broadly with the sector in 2020 on the draft recommendations developed as part of Blake Fire Services Act Review. (LGAT submission to draft Blake report attached). It is pleasing to note that many of the issues raised by LGAT in its response to the draft have been captured in the final Blake report.

In this round of consultation, the Government is particularly interested in input around the future structure and functions of the State Fire Commission and whether the State Fire Commission should remain a representative based commission or transition to a skills based commission. This was covered in the draft Blake report and the sectors response is provided in table 1 below [here](#).

[Table 1](#) includes the Blake recommendations of significance to Local Government (excluding financial recommendations) and we ask that councils review the LGAT comment, agreed as part of the review of the draft, to ensure that the position is still supported. If your council has additional comments, please include them in the table below.

#### **Blake Review – financial recommendations**

In addition to the operational and governance issues covered by the Blake review, 16 financial management recommendations (10-25) were included. These focused on issues such as an increased levy, ring fencing of the levy, centralisation of SES volunteer units among other things. The Financial recommendations are of particular importance to councils given councils current and potential future role in collecting the levy, the implications on councils of the centralisation of SES volunteer units, and the importance of an equitable and fair levy system. [Table 2](#)

below includes the 15 financial recommendations from the Review and LGAT comment based on previous consultation with the sector. If your council has additional comments, please include in the section provided.

#### Treasury Options Paper- Fire Services Funding Arrangements

The Treasury options paper also relates to the 16 Financial Management recommendations outlined in the Blake review. The options paper includes a number of discussion questions and Treasury is seeking specific feedback on proposed funding models for an integrated fire and emergency services. The various funding models will be of significant interest to local government. LGAT has outlined the key options in [Table 3](#) and has provided comment against each of the option. Please review the paper and provide your councils comments against each of the options.

**Table 1 Blake Review Feedback**

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Legislate to integrate the organisation, functions and activities of TFS and SES.</b></p> <p><b>Make consequential amendments to the Emergency Management Act 2006, having regard to Recommendation 26 that the new integrated service preserve and recognise the role of volunteers/units in order to ensure future capability at a community level.</b></p>	<p>Generally supportive of legislative change to integrate SES and TFS.</p> <p>Supportive of consequential change to the <i>Emergency Management Act 2006</i>.</p> <p>It will be necessary to preserve and recognise the role of volunteers in order to ensure future capability at a community level, particularly in a crisis situation.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Prescribe in the regulations to the new legislation – or equivalent mechanism – the following as functions of the proposed new Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) entity (subject to appropriate resource allocation and training):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• activities currently undertaken by SES (flood, storm/tempest, earthquake, tsunami, space debris re-entry, and search and rescue)</li> </ul>	<p>General support</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provision of support at events like road crash rescue, response to heatwaves, and counter-terrorism.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Include all relevant emergency management entities in negotiations toward the Inter-Agency Fire Management Protocol, with approval and/or oversight by the State Controller.</p>	Supported	
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Develop a governance model for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) that transitions it to a division within the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suitable ring-fencing arrangements for levies raised to fund TFES</li> <li>• appropriate reporting arrangements between the head of TFES and the Minister</li> <li>• broadening the role, and revisiting the membership, of the State Fire Management Council (SFMC).</li> <li>• Revisiting membership should include relevant membership transitioned from the State Fire Commission (SFC)</li> <li>• Abolishing the SFC.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government has dismissed this recommendation and made a commitment to retain the State Fire Commission.</p> <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 proposed advisory board given Local Government's role in collecting the levy, emergency management and in supporting community preparedness and building community resilience.</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Confirm in legislation the continued existence of the State Fire Management Council (SFMC) under a charter to be approved by the Secretary Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) and the Minister.</b></p>	<p>Supported</p>	
<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Recognise and enshrine in legislation the contribution of volunteers and volunteering (including SES units) and include a requirement for a Volunteer Charter to be developed by Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) Volunteer Associations and the Minister.</b></p> <p><b>Legislate to provide good faith protection from liability for TFES volunteers/units, authorised volunteers, and permanent staff.</b></p> <p><b>There are no legislative barriers that would preclude the expansion of volunteer/unit roles to include both response and non-response roles.</b></p>	<p>The change to SES volunteers should manage any risk which could cause attrition in number of volunteers.</p> <p>Attrition of volunteers across the broad spectrum is currently in focus, particularly noting the impacts and community demands post COVID.</p> <p>The state needs to develop a strong framework to attract, train and retain the volunteer base.</p> <p>The role of volunteers versus paid members should be clear and unambiguous. The legislative framework should ensure that petty demarcations are avoided (such as seen in the CFA dispute in Victoria). For</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
	<p>property owners (who pay for the services via the levy), their expectation of a seamless, unified organisation should be paramount.</p> <p>Volunteer charters have been in place in other states for some time.</p>	
<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Do not include a legislated provision for emergency medical response in the mandate of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES); this should be entirely a matter of policy.</b></p> <p><b>Ensure legislation allows for additional functions that fire and emergency services personnel may perform, subject to appropriate training and credentialing, with an overarching responsibility for public safety, property and the environment.</b></p> <p><b>Ensure that, while Ambulance Tasmania remains the primary agency for emergency medical response, legislation does not prohibit it from entering into arrangements with TFES for training and credentialing relevant emergency response activities.</b></p>	<p>Supported, however additional functions which are currently performed by other agencies must not be funded by the levy. Clear parameters must be established.</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Legislate to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>address conflicting, duplicated or gaps in the roles of the proposed Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES), Parks and Wildlife (PWS), Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) and private entities involved in dealing with fires</b></li> <li>• <b>allow non-TFES officers in charge of fire suppression to have access to, and to deal with, a fire as soon as possible</b></li> <li>• <b>include in the mandate of TFES the power to confer specified functions and powers on individuals and organisations, including interstate or international personnel, inside or outside of the entity</b></li> <li>• <b>include a Head of Power, exercisable at the discretion of TFES, allowing protocols to be developed to manage the relationship between the entity and other land management agencies and emergency services agencies, including Tasmania Police</b></li> </ul>	<p>Generally supported, noting that damage caused to private property to access fire grounds has in the past been an issue. Need to ensure that the powers are not abused, and that responsibility not handed to another body.</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide firefighters, SES workers and other delegated agencies/people with protection from liability (as occurs currently in section 51 of the Emergency Management Act). Other delegated agencies/people be 'loosely' defined so as to provide protection for the range of persons involved in the provision of fire and emergency services but who may be non-firefighters/non-emergency workers/not public servants</li> <li>• authorise TFES, PWS and STT to close roads to protect public safety during a fire, flood or storm hazard and to have a power to regulate traffic, not just close a road.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Leave the decision-making and nomination process to appoint fire permit officers to the senior management of the relevant responsible agencies, depending on their specific responsibilities in regards, e.g. to the land tenure with which it is concerned.</b></p>	<p>Permit officers in a Local Government area should be the TFS District Officer and that relationship works well in cases where the engagement is sound. Unlikely to be any real issues with this strengthening of the authority for them to act but that will depend on changes to the legislation relating to the powers</p>	



Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
	to require mitigation works on private land.	
<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>Include, in the Terms of Reference for the State Fire Emergency Management Sub-Committee, provision for the establishment of Fire and Emergency Risk Area Committees (FERAC), including the number and geographical boundaries of these committees.</b></p> <p><b>Enhance community engagement through community representation on FERACs, without increasing numbers on these committees.</b></p> <p><b>Remove the requirement to Gazette geographical boundaries.</b></p> <p><b>Continue to identify synergies between FERACs and Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Committees.</b></p> <p><b>Note that these arrangements do not require legislative support and could instead be</b></p>	<p>Agree that there are synergies between the work of FMACS (to be renamed FERACs) and Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Committees, particularly in risk assessment and treatment.</p> <p>Emergency management committees have a much broader remit across PPRR (Prevention, Preparation, Response and Recovery).</p> <p>The inclusion of community representatives (especially conservation peak bodies) could provide a forum to resolve potential criticisms of proposed works and enhance confidence in emergency preparedness plans developed by the FERAC.</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<p><b>promulgated under a Head of Power and detailed, where necessary, in doctrine/Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA).</b></p>	<p>The role of the FERAC needs to be carefully defined as the FMAC has a very key role in preparing, assessing and developing bushfire risk mitigation plans.</p>	
<p><b>33</b></p> <p><b>Legislate to provide a Head of Power for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>establish and abolish brigades/units</b></li> <li>• <b>determine the membership of brigades/units</b></li> <li>• <b>recommend locations of brigades/units</b></li> <li>• <b>define the structure, functions, powers and responsibilities of brigade/units</b></li> <li>• <b>exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary for the effective management of, and response to, fire and other prescribed emergencies.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Legislate to provide TFES with the power to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>register/de-register volunteer/unit members</b></li> </ul>	<p>Industry Brigades need clear definition and statement of role. It is not appropriate for an industry Brigade to be at the direction of the Chief Officer except for when a response is required that is relevant to the interests of that entity. Triggers, roles, responsibilities and funding of response costs would need to be defined and agreed to before registration.</p> <p>In maintaining a link between local units/brigades and local communities, consider the potential for requiring consultation with Local Government on such matters.</p> <p>The need for these provisions to exist is understood but how they are</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appoint unit managers, brigade chiefs, and establish standards, for things like equipment, training, facilities, etc.</li> <li>• establish protocols for cooperation.</li> </ul>	administered, and stakeholders engaged, becomes important.	
<p><b>34</b> Include the recommendations of the review of the fire permit system into new legislation as appropriate, including arrangements for total fire bans.</p> <p>Ensure that new legislation includes scope to modify or change these arrangements if once implemented it is determined adjustments to processes are required.</p> <p>Ensure that, subject to exemptions granted by the Chief Officer, no fire permits are issued when total fire bans are in place.</p>	Hot work permits are still required during total fire bans and issued on a case by case basis.	
<p><b>35</b> Expect, but do not legislate for, Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to provide education to the community on how best to prepare for fire and relevant emergency risks.</p>	<p>Supported.</p> <p>It would be good to see a link/collaboration between community education in emergency management provided by TFES and that provided as</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
	<p>a part of community development by Local Government.</p> <p>It is important that the expertise in community education is maintained in the TFS and further enhanced in SES. It should be noted that the expertise needed to build community resilience to fire is different to flood and that this separate expertise is maintained.</p>	
<p><b>42</b></p> <p><b>Draft new legislation to replace the Fire Service Act 1979, keeping in mind that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>in order for any proposed legislation to be contemporary, flexible and sufficiently forward-looking, it needs to be principles-based, providing a Head of Power to Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES)</b></li> <li>• <b>the functions and mandate of the new entity should deliver an authorising and enabling environment facilitating a broad range of fire and prescribed non-fire related emergency services activities, including multi-hazard, that are aligned</b></li> </ul>	<p>A greater focus on principles-based legislation brings with it concerns that prescription will be introduced through related regulatory instruments without the same level of engagement or consultation with councils. Inclusion of a provision such as currently exists at Section 28AA of the Local Government Act would go some way to addressing this concern.</p> <p>Further, pushing much of the detail into separate instruments would be at odds with an accessible, easy to</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
with and support the Emergency Management Act 2006 in legislation.	read legislative approach. A balance is required.	
<b>43</b> Legislate to make provision for a secondary process to change or add mandated functions in the future without the need to amend legislation, but on the proviso that the core legislation cannot be undone without full review by the Parliament, and with public input.	There is concern that having this flexibility may allow the government to devolve responsibilities to the FEST and have costs covered by the Levy. Provisions must exist so that this cannot happen without proper and considered consultation.	
<b>44</b> Develop new legislation to establish an integrated fire and prescribed emergency services entity, the principal objectives of which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to preserve human life</li> <li>• to build resilient communities that actively participate in prevention, preparedness and response to fire and other relevant emergencies</li> <li>• to limit the economic, environmental (including climate change), social and physical impacts of fire and other emergencies on the Tasmanian community</li> </ul>	General Support.  The objectives are also broad and encompass those that many other emergency service providers aspire to.	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to recognise that our environment has inherent value for the Tasmanian community</li> <li>to ensure/facilitate effective inter-agency interoperability both inter and intra State.</li> </ul> <p>Clarify, in the new legislation, that the proposed entity is not the lead agency responsible for recovery.</p>		
<p>45</p> <p>Draft new legislation to be short, forward-looking and principles-based, with detail addressed in regulations.</p>	<p>Refer to comments for Recommendation 42.</p>	

**Table 2 Blake review- Financial recommendations**

<b>Recommendation (Blake Report)</b>	<b>LGAT Comment</b>	<b>Council Comment</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Broaden the definition in the Fire Service Act of 'brigade costs' to include non-brigade costs.</b>	No comment	
<b>11</b> <b>Replace all current sources of State Emergency Service (SES) funding with a single, property-based levy.</b>  <b>Explore Appropriation-based funding for SES as an alternative if a single, property-based levy is not supported or sustainable</b>	<p>A property levy must ensure equity. Modelling should be undertaken to demonstrate the impact on property owners of an increased property- based levy. This is especially important in the context of COVID recovery.</p> <p>A property based levy should be supplemented with a motor vehicle levy and government appropriation for administrative and policy responsibilities.</p>	
<b>12</b> <b>Replace the Insurance Levy with a property-based levy or another funding source providing similar, and consistent (predictable), levels of funding.</b>	<p>The insurance levy (restricted to commercial insurance) currently provides \$25 million/year towards the State Fire Commission. The rationale for removal is that the levy de incentivizes insurance. It is unknown whether the removal of the levy will correspond to decreased insurance costs to the customer. It is noted that commercial property owners are likely to still pay</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<p><b>Ensure that the Insurance Levy continues to be charged and collected until suitable transition arrangements are identified and implemented.</b></p>	<p>the levy but councils will collect it through the property levy.</p> <p>A council raised concern around adding another level of complexity to commercial operators with a levy.</p>	
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Continue the Motor Vehicle Levy.</b></p> <p><b>Base any expansion of the Motor Vehicle Levy to other types of vehicles on a cost-benefit analysis.</b></p>	<p>General support for the continuation of the Motor Vehicle Levy.</p>	
<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Continue contributions from the Australian Government but do not regard this as a source of base-level funding for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).</b></p>	<p>Base level funding by the State and the Federal Governments should continue. Base level funding represents the Government's commitment to provision of these essential services to the community.</p> <p>An over-reliance on a property level model risks an exacerbation of perceived inequities between city and rural communities that cannot be easily addressed through a funding model based predominantly upon a levy system. Base funding components need to be agreed and embedded within legislation.</p>	



Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Continue to source funding from the marketing and fire prevention functions of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) and miscellaneous revenue, with these being self-funding and not part of base-level funding.</b></p> <p><b>Discontinue revenue streams from the Motor Accident Insurance Board (MAIB) for both TFS and SES.</b></p>	<p>If revenue streams from MAIB are discontinued, the state needs to be certain the community see a reduction in MAIB premiums to offset increased cost they will be paying through the TFES property levy.</p>	
<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Continue contributions from the State Government but do not regard this as a source of base-level funding for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).</b></p>	<p>The State Government should contribute to base funding through appropriation to support core public service policy roles and intergovernmental relations within the agency. This should be the case in any departmental model.</p>	
<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Include up to \$5 million per annum in levy or Appropriation sources of revenue for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to pay for those State Emergency Service (SES) related functions and services transitioned from local government to TFES.</b></p>	<p>General support for the levy or appropriation sources revenue in TFES to include up to \$5m per annum to pay for those functions and services transitioned from Local Government to TFES.</p>	
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Continue a property-based levy to provide the bulk of funding for Tasmania Fire and</b></p>	<p>There are a number of councils who do not use AAV as their valuation base. The <i>Local Government Act</i> allows a council to choose their</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<p><b>Emergency Services (TFES), basing it on a property's Average Annual Value (AAV) as determined by the Valuer-General from time to time, with movements in the levy determined by Treasury annually.</b></p> <p><b>Determine the make-up of the levy, including consideration of fixed and variable components.</b></p>	<p>method of valuation and rating and therefore it is suggested that the property-based levy be based on a property's LV, CV or AAV as determined by the council (based on their own particular circumstances). For example, it would be legislatively and practically difficult (currently) to levy other rates using CV and this levy using AAV.</p> <p>Recommend a minimum contribution to the property-based levy continues (there is currently a minimum) to ensure small properties continue to pay a minimum share.</p> <p>Movements in the levy determined by Treasury should be transparent and widely communicated to the community so it is clear why, by how much and for what, the levy is increasing.</p> <p>Movements in the levy should be communicated to councils well in advance of preparing their annual budget. Suggest forward estimates of increases in the levy is provided to councils for the purposes of long-term financial planning.</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
	<p>Currently a remission is provided for properties in certain parts of the municipal area. The remissions reflect the different type of fire service provided in that area. It is unclear from the proposals whether this would continue as a means of reflecting different service levels available in different parts of the municipal area. A number of councils are not in favour of a differential model.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement, including Local Government must be included in the annual review.</p>	
<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Quantify and fund current concessions as a Community Service Obligation.</b></p> <p><b>Quantify and remove current exemptions for payment of the Fire Service Contribution (FSC) levy, except for Crown Land, land managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) and land and buildings owned by Councils and by Government entities funded predominantly by Appropriation</b></p>		

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Ensure that funds raised for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) are paid into the Consolidated Fund and then ring-fenced for use by TFES.</p>	<p>Ring fencing must be legislated.</p>	
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Develop transition arrangements that mitigate the impacts on property owners of an increase in a property-based levy.</p> <p>Engage with the Insurance Council of Australia and property owners to quantify benefits from lower insurance premiums and consider how these might be shared with the broader community.</p>	<p>Support for transition arrangements</p> <p>The link between motivation for insurance uptake and use of levies is not readily apparent. Unless a property-based levy will be dramatically and substantially reduced for appropriately insured properties there is not support for this suggestion.</p>	
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Discontinue local government funding of SES and their support for local units.</p> <p>Transition all Councils' associated resources to Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).</p> <p>Develop a transition plan with Councils</p>	<p>The issue of SES volunteer unit funding has been explored with the sector through several past reviews including the review of the <i>Emergency Management Act</i>.</p> <p>There was general consensus that resourcing for SES volunteer units should be centralised. As part of any centralisation it is important that the conditions of transfer are agreed prior to it being enshrined in legislation.</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
	<p>Key issues raised by the sector in the past in relation to centralisation include the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish mechanisms to ensure that there is a strong link between SES volunteer units and the Municipal Emergency Management Committees (MEMC). e.g MOU's and representation on the MEMC;</li> <li>• Arrangements associated with the transfer of plant and equipment;</li> <li>• Council ownership of SES volunteer unit Head Quarters and future lease arrangements.</li> </ul> <p>Some councils have invested significantly in equipment in recent years, there may be some concern if those resources are redirected to another area given the rate payers have funded them.</p> <p>It should be noted that the community also needs to retain a sense of 'ownership' or stake despite centralisation.</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
	<p>One of the benefits of volunteer organisation is the involvement of local communities. Volunteering also develops a sense of local identity. This must not be lost.</p> <p>Municipal funding was based on services provided. The centralisation has potential to remove that direct link, putting greater distance administratively to local SES.</p>	
<p><b>23</b>  <b>Do not fund Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) by Appropriation – because doing so may disincentivise property owners from properly insuring their properties or being appropriately prepared.</b></p>	<p>TFES has roles which are broader than planning for, and responding to, an emergency, such as government policy and intergovernmental relations. These roles should be funded by the State Government - not a levy.</p> <p>The link between motivation for insurance uptake and use of levies are not readily apparent. Unless a property-based levy will be dramatically and substantially reduced for appropriately insured properties there is not support for this suggestion.</p> <p>The assumption that a fully funded emergency service will be able to assist everyone</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
	<p>individually during an emergency still persists within the community (see Final Report of the NSW Bushfire Enquiry 2020).</p> <p>This assumption will not be broken merely by relying on levies rather than appropriation as a source of funding. This requires a separate (or range of) strategy. Therefore, a mix of appropriations and levy would be a valid funding model for TFES.</p>	
<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Have Treasury be responsible for calculating, but not on its own determining – determination will require input from Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) – the amount to be collected by local government from the property-based levy annually.</b></p>	<p>Stakeholders must be consulted as part of the annual review and this consultation must be legislated. Any increase in the levy must be aligned with community expectation and take into account the cost of living pressures in the community.</p> <p>Moving from the current method of calculating a council's contribution (rolling AAV average) may impact on the proportion of the property based levy an individual council needs to pay. It will be important that the proportion of the levy that an individual council pays does not provide a price shock for the community.</p>	

Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
	<p>Transparency regarding the levy is crucial. TFES, in many respects, should be regarded as a monopoly provider of emergency services.</p> <p>With that in mind, calculating contributions over a 5-year timeframe may be an option. This would be similar to the way TasNetworks are required to submit 5-year capital and opex plans to a Regulator in order to determine appropriate charge rates.</p> <p>Such an option would allow for certainty over the period but also allow for numerous parties to make submissions to any review before a determination is made</p>	
<p><b>25</b> Continue to have local government collect the proposed Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) property-based levy and be paid a renegotiated collection fee for doing so.</p>	<p><b>Councils will not support a decrease to the collection fee. Councils are acting as the collection agency for the State Government and must be funded to do so. The cost to council is not just the processing cost but also customer service queries and complaints.</b></p> <p>The cost of the State Government establishing an alternative would be significantly greater than</p>	



Recommendation (Blake Report)	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
	<p>4% of the levy. An education campaign would need to be developed to make it clear that councils are collecting the tax on behalf of the State Government. The campaign would need to be on going so each year the community understands the levy</p> <p>The campaign should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain what the levy is for;</li> <li>• How it is calculated; and</li> <li>• How it is distributed.</li> </ul> <p>It should also include information about the expansion of the levy from the current fire service levy.</p> <p>Ring fencing of the levy must be legislated. There must also be transparency as to what constitutes base funding. Core government roles and responsibilities must not be funded by the levy.</p>	

**Table 3 -Treasury Options Paper- Fire Services Funding Arrangements**

Options Paper Discussion Question	LGAT Comment	Council Comment
<p><b>Do you support retaining the current arrangements? If not, why?</b></p>	<p>Concern has been raised in terms of the current levy structure and the equity associated with having three different rating districts (e.g. composite brigade district, volunteer brigade district and general land).</p> <p>The transparency around levy increases are also limited and have been in excessive of CPI for many years for many council areas.</p> <p>The current annual levy determination lacks transparency and levy increases are not in line with community expectations. Any changes to the levy must be transparent and have mechanisms in place to ensure the levy is appropriate and transparent to the community.</p> <p>Stakeholders must be consulted as part of the annual review and this consultation must be legislated. Any increase in the levy must be aligned with community expectation and take into account the cost of living pressures in the community.</p>	

<p><b>Do you consider that a single property-based levy would provide a more stable, simple and equitable approach to funding an integrated fire and emergency services function?</b></p>	<p>No. A levy should not be the sole mechanism for funding an integrated fire and emergency service function. A fire and emergency service organisation has roles which are broader than planning for, and responding to, an emergency, such as government policy and intergovernmental relations. These roles should be funded by the State Government -not a levy.</p>	
<p><b>If so, do you support a standard single-fee structured property-based levy as proposed in options 2A ( each property, regardless of classification is subject to an annual amount that includes a fixed and variable charge. THE Variable charge is based on AAV plus an additional charge if you live in a Bushfire prone areas) and 3A (same as 2A but includes keeping the motor vehicle based levies), or the differential rates based on a property's classification as proposed in options 2B( a differential fixed charge and differential variable rate based on AAV and property classification eg commercial, residential, industrial primary production etc. properties in bushfire zones would have an additional charge) and 3B (same as 2B but includes keeping the motor vehicle based levies)?</b></p>	<p>Support retaining the motor vehicle based levy.</p> <p>Some councils have raised concern in the past around various property classifications.</p>	

<p><b>If differential rates based on a property's classification are adopted, which classifications do you think should have higher rates when compared to others?</b></p>	<p>Need to be guided by the sector in relation to this. It would seem appropriate that community services assets pay less than industrial property.</p> <p>Property classifications include: Residential, commercial, industrial, primary production ,community services (community and sporting facilities), other (vacant recreation land).</p>	
<p><b>Do you support the use of a bushfire prone area charge for higher risk fire areas?</b></p>	<p>The proposed agency is broader than fire and supports planning for and response to motor vehicle crash, storm, flood etc. Equity is an important consideration in the future levy. An increased levy based on higher risk needs to be supported by high quality and transparent data. It is unclear whether this exists across the hazards supported by the agency.</p> <p>The risk associated with paying a premium for the service may be an expectation that an increased service will be provided in the event of an emergency. This needs to be part of any consideration as well as the potential to discourage individual action to mitigate property risk, or oppose resilience.</p>	

	<p>The link between motivation for insurance uptake and use of levies are not readily apparent. Unless a property-based levy will be dramatically and substantially reduced for appropriately insured properties there is not support for this suggestion.</p> <p>Noting the potential impacts to market signalling in these instances.</p>	
<b>If a property-based levy was introduced, is it also appropriate to retain the Motor Vehicle Levy?</b>	General support for the continuation of the Motor Vehicle Levy.	
<b>Should an integrated fire and emergency services function receive dedicated funding each year rather than being subject to annual budget processes?</b>	Moving from the current method of calculating a council's contribution (rolling AAV average) may impact on the proportion of the property based levy an individual council needs to pay. It will be important that the proportion of the levy that an individual council pays does not provide a price shock for the community.	

	<p>Transparency regarding the levy is crucial. TFES, in many respects, should be regarded as a monopoly provider of emergency services.</p> <p>With that in mind, calculating contributions over a 5-year timeframe may be an option. This would be similar to the way TasNetworks are required to submit 5-year capital and opex plans to a Regulator in order to determine appropriate charge rates.</p> <p>Such an option would allow for certainty over the period but also allow for numerous parties to make submissions to any review before a determination is made</p>	
<b>Which of the proposed funding model options in this paper do you prefer, and why?</b>	LGAT does not have a position on this. <b>Councils need to provide advice as to the preferred option.</b>	
<b>Are there any other funding models which you would propose instead?</b>		

<b>Are there any other sources of funding that haven't been considered?</b>	No comment.	
<b>Do you have any other feedback for the Government in relation to the funding model?</b>		

# **Review of the *Fire Service Act 1979***

**Report by Mike Blake**

**October 2020**



The Hon. Mark Shelton  
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management  
Level 5, Salamanca Building, 4 Salamanca Place  
Hobart TAS 7000

Mr Darren Hine  
Secretary  
Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management  
Level 9, 47 Liverpool Street  
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Minister and Secretary,

**Review of the *Fire Service Act 1979***

I attach my report into my review of the *Fire Service Act 1979*. While this review did not explicitly include consideration of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*, I found it difficult to review one without the other. As a result, some of my recommendations, if adopted, will have consequences for the Emergency Management Act.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Blake  
Independent Chair, Steering Committee  
Review of the *Fire Service Act 1979*

28 October 2020

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## Foreword

A strength of the review of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (this Review) was its leadership by a Steering Committee comprising very experienced public servants from multiple state entities, including from the State Fire Commission (SFC) and Tasmania Fire Service (TFS). This enabled expert input into the many structural, operational and funding aspects associated with a contemporary fire and emergency services entity. Deliberations were also supported by well-reasoned submissions made to the Review. These submissions were made on two occasions: initially, to an Issues Paper released for comment in June 2018 and then, more recently, in response to targeted consultation undertaken by me as Independent Chair of the Steering Committee overseeing the Review.

All submissions were taken into account and, although suggestions were not always actioned because I reached different conclusions, the submissions will provide a useful resource as Government considers legislation and regulation. Importantly, some of the proposals contained in the submissions can be actioned without requiring new or amended legislation.

Without in any way criticising existing arrangements, an example of the timeliness of a process of reform is the need for TFS to establish, at no extra cost, an executive structure aimed at minimising the risk that very senior personnel are engaged fulltime, on occasion for lengthy periods, when major bushfires occur. This might facilitate completion of very important projects currently underway which have the opportunity to inform operational and structural decisions. For example, projects for completion include the resource-to-risk model, asset management and workforce plans, all of which should have in mind better integrating TFS and State Emergency Service (SES) and their respective volunteers and units.

The 'Steering Committee' approach to this Review enabled different perspectives to be brought to some key issues. This was particularly the case regarding the preferred governance model. Four options are discussed in Section 4, with my conclusion being that a departmental approach is needed. While in no way connected, COVID-19 has highlighted how important it is for the public service to be fit-for-purpose, able to respond quickly, comprehensively and flexibly as required to meet the needs of all Tasmanians. Having fire and prescribed emergency services within a broader police, fire and emergency services entity is, in my view, more likely to achieve this.

That is not to say that current governance arrangements do not work – there is no silver governance bullet. When exploring governance arrangements, regard was had to those in other jurisdictions and, subject to scale, their transferability to Tasmania.

Should Government support the need for change as proposed in this review report (Report), there will be implications for the SFC, TFS, SES, volunteers and units, local government and the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM). It has been suggested to me that transition arrangements will need to be carefully managed – I agree, but the objectives and purpose will need to be clear and agreed in advance.

In this regard, while differing points of view were raised, I was, during my discussions with many stakeholders, very encouraged by their willingness to engage. I thank them for this.

Another important feature of this Review was the need to address complicated and multiple funding sources for TFS and SES. A matter that evolved during the course of examining funding options, discussed in Section 5, was whether or not TFS and SES are adequately funded. While I explored and endeavoured, unsuccessfully, to determine a reasonable base level of funding for each, adequacy of existing funding was not an objective of this Review. However, concerns were expressed to me that reasons for increases in the Fire Service Contribution were not clearly articulated. This surprised me. The SFC must, and does, prepare annually a Corporate Plan and its budget forms part of the annual State budget process, providing opportunity for scrutiny during the Estimates process. Needed, and recommended, is clarity about increases and ownership of this levy when Councils issue rates notices.

During the course of this Review, Government initiated development of the Bushfires Mitigation Measures Bill 2020. I have not had regard to this Bill in making my recommendations and I acknowledge there may be overlaps.

The *Fire Service Act 1979* has worked well for Tasmania, as has the SFC and TFS. I anticipate that preparation and finalisation of that legislation in 1979 required difficult decisions as is likely to be the case today. Recommendations made now are aimed at proposing fire and prescribed emergency services arrangements that will remain relevant for the next 40 years.

I am thankful for the opportunity to play a part in this Review. Thank you to the Steering Committee for their time and invaluable advice. Thank you also to those who provided me with secretarial and administrative support.

Mike Blake  
Independent Chair, Steering Committee  
28 October 2020

# Executive summary

## Context

Recent fire seasons and other emergencies such as flood events in Tasmania and elsewhere in Australia have highlighted the need to revisit related legislation and resources allocated to these functions. Objectives of such consideration include the need to better protect our citizens and businesses, while at the same time assuring stronger community resilience and understanding. Multiple after-event reviews of these emergencies all suggest a need for change, as do likely emerging impacts of changes in our climate.

However, it needs to be accepted that bushfires occur, and will continue to occur, in the Tasmanian landscape. Bushfire does not recognise tenure. Consequently, all landowners, occupiers and managers have a responsibility to work cooperatively to reduce its impacts<sup>1</sup>.

Recent events have provided a unique opportunity for significant change to the way we manage bushfire and its impacts in Tasmania.

This Report is the outcome of a review of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (Review). The Report comprises this Executive Summary, followed by a summary of Recommendations arising from the Review. The rest of the Report describes the processes followed, the information gathered, and the factors considered in developing the Recommendations.

While there are many Recommendations, they all address one important question – What changes does Government need to make to best protect our State?

A summary of the information contained in each Section of this Report is provided below.

## About this Review (Section 1)

On 24 April 2017, Cabinet approved this Review. The State Government appointed a Steering Committee to carry out the Review and to provide independent advice to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management (the Minister) about how Government can achieve:

- a clear mandate and operating platform for fire services' functions
- an effective and efficient fire service operation that will provide value for money in the future
- a sustainable, stable, and equitable funding system for fire and other appropriate emergency services<sup>2</sup>.

While this Report is the outcome of the Review, it expresses the views of the Independent Chair of the Steering Committee, which are not necessarily the views of all other members of the Steering Committee. Reasons for this are detailed in Sections 1.1.4 and 1.2.6 of this Report.

## A case for change (Section 2)

The discussion in this Section confirms the need for the Fire Service Act to be reviewed and updated. The additional roles and functions that Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) now undertakes, which were not foreseen when the Fire Service Act was written, has led to a wider range of service delivery being expected by the community. This, in turn, puts increasing pressure on TFS to respond and confirms

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<sup>1</sup> From the 2019-2020 Inter-Agency Bushfire Management Protocol.

<sup>2</sup> 'and other appropriate emergency' added to make it explicit that the role of SES was considered as part of this Review.

the deficiencies in supporting legislation. Importantly, the existing legislation does not consider the provision of emergency services in a holistic manner.

### Functions and operating platform (Section 3)

Section 3 recommends full integration of TFS and SES into a new entity – Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES), and outlines the roles and functions that a contemporary fire and emergency services entity should, and should not, perform.

The recommendations in this Section highlight the need to clarify TFES's role as it would relate to:

- a first responder role and capability for medical emergencies
- recovery, or transition to recovery, in that the new entity should have no explicit role other than support as outlined by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) and in the Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA)
- its role in recovery as it relates to environmental recovery following fuel reduction activities, and where TFES infrastructure is damaged, or its employees or volunteers hurt.

This Section also explores the potential for combining the firefighting capabilities of the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) with those of TFES.

The conclusion is made that this should not occur. Instead, it is recommended that the Interoperability Protocol between TFS, PWS and STT be formalised and broadened to include, as a minimum, the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM), the State Fire Commission (SFC), the State Fire Management Council (SFMC) and DPAC, with approval and oversight the responsibility of the State Controller.

### Governance – An effective and efficient governance structure (Section 4)

This Section explores four governance options: an amended statutory authority, the establishment of TFES within DPFEM, a standalone TFES department and a tailored approach which explores the establishment of Statutory Office Holders within DPFEM. These options were evaluated against the following criteria:

- surge capacity
- power to act
- policy advice
- commercial imperative
- scale/efficiency
- who is in charge
- ring-fenced funding
- accountability and transparency
- resource allocation
- complexity
- coordination in times of emergencies
- coordinated investments
- effectiveness and fit-for-purpose
- independence

- affordability
- volunteer risk
- whether the proposed model will stand the test of time.

Regard was given to governance arrangements in other Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand, along with authoritative guidance in Victoria and from the Australian Government.

Conclusions reached are that the governance model best suited to an effective TFES would be the model under which TFES resides within DPFEM but with suitable:

- ring-fencing arrangements for levies raised to fund TFES
- inclusion of suitable reporting arrangements between the head of TFES and the Minister
- continuation of the SFMC, but with revised membership, under a charter to be approved by the Secretary DPFEM and the Minister.

Adoption of this model would result in the need to abolish the SFC but, as proposed in Recommendation 8, membership of the SFMC should include relevant membership transitioned from the SFC.

While transitioning TFES will result in change, this should not be significant in view of existing arrangements including TFS' participation on the Agency Management Group and support provided by DPFEM's Business Executive Services.

## Financial management (Section 5)

It is essential that TFES be appropriately funded but it needs to be acknowledged that resources available to governments are limited and must be allocated fairly for all services that governments provide. Governments are held to account for decisions on how and where available resources are allocated through its agencies.

Having allocated resources, it is then incumbent on all service providers to transparently spend those resources and manage associated assets and liabilities. This is not to say the current SFC/TFS and SES organisations do not currently do so.

Current arrangements for funding the SFC and SES are unclear, complicated and make it difficult for either entity to appropriately plan. Adoption of the recommendations outlined in this Section would ensure stronger accountability, transparency, clarity and simplicity and, to the extent possible, guaranteed funding for TFES both now and in the longer term. These factors can best be achieved by:

- introduction of simpler sources of funding for TFES, being property and motor vehicle-based levies
- the levies being paid into the Consolidated Fund and then ring-fenced – doing so ensures accountability to the community rests where it should lie, i.e. with the Government – this arrangement will make more transparent how much has been collected from these levy sources and then where they are allocated and spent
- Treasury playing a central role in determining the proposed levies
- clarifying identification of, and funding of, concessions and exemptions
- transferring all emergency services assets currently owned by local government to TFES with local government then not expected to resource such activities in future



- continuing current arrangements whereby the property-based levy is collected by local government for a fee to be renegotiated and the Motor Vehicle Levy collected by State Growth
- when the property-based levy is determined, a public announcement be made by the head of TFES and Minister
- exploring further the nature and allocation of the property-based levy, including consideration of a higher fixed charge which would likely improve equity
- determining, in consultation with the Insurance Council of Australia and commercial property insurers, savings in insurance premiums and how best to share these savings across the State.

## Volunteers (Section 6)

Volunteers, and volunteer organisations in both TFS and SES have played essential roles for many years in protecting the citizens of Tasmania. New legislation must facilitate continuation of this. It will be essential that:

- volunteers and volunteering is recognised and enshrined in legislation and the legislation include a requirement for a volunteer charter to be developed
- legislation provides good faith protection from liability for TFS and SES volunteers, authorised volunteers and permanent staff
- there are no legislative barriers that would preclude the expansion of volunteer roles to include both response and non-response roles.

## Operational and other matters (Section 7)

Section 7 deals with a number of operational matters, all of which require clarity and therefore consideration when new legislation is drafted. Each matter in this Section stands alone, with conclusions on each resulting in recommendations 27 to 41.

## Legislation and initial transition implications (Section 8)

Discussion in Section 8 confirms the need for new legislation to be drafted to replace the Fire Service Act and for such new legislation to be principles-based, taking into account all factors identified in this Report.

Such new legislation should:

- provide for an integrated fire and emergency service entity (with awareness that consequential amendments to the *Emergency Management Act 2006* will likely be required)
- make provision for a secondary process to change or add mandated functions in the future without the need to amend legislation, but on the proviso that the core legislation cannot be undone without full review by the Parliament and public input
- create an integrated fire and appropriate emergency services entity, the principal objectives of which are:
  - to preserve human life
  - to build resilient communities that actively participate in prevention, preparedness and response to fire and other relevant emergencies

- to limit the economic, environmental (including climate change impacts), social and physical impact of fire and other relevant emergencies on the Tasmanian community
  - to recognise that our environment has inherent value for the Tasmanian community
  - to ensure/facilitate effective inter-agency interoperability both inter and intra State
- provide clarity that the proposed entity will not be the lead agency responsible for recovery.

## Summary of Recommendations

This summary lists the recommendations arising from this Review and includes cross-references to further detail provided in this Report.

Recommendation		See Report	
		Section	Page
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislate to integrate the organisation, functions and activities of TFS and SES.</li> <li>Make consequential amendments to the <i>Emergency Management Act 2006</i>, having regard to Recommendation 26 that the new integrated service preserve and recognise the role of volunteers/units in order to ensure future capability at a community level.</li> </ul>	3	34
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the functions carried out by the Director SES continue to be performed as outlined in the <i>Emergency Management Act 2006</i>, in particular sections 25-28 inclusive of that Act.</li> </ul>	3	34
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribe in the regulations to the new legislation – or equivalent mechanism – the following as functions of the proposed new Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) entity (subject to appropriate resource allocation and training):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>activities currently undertaken by SES (flood, storm/tempest, earthquake, tsunami, space debris re-entry, and search and rescue)</li> <li>provision of support at events like road crash rescue, response to heatwaves, and counter-terrorism.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	3	38
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislate to confirm:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the functions for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) as outlined in Section 3 of this Report</li> <li>(subject to finalisation of governance recommendations outlined in Section 4 of this Report), the functions and roles of the Chief Officer (or equivalent) as outlined in Section 3.5.3 of this Report, but having regard to the alternative view offered in Section 3.5.4.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	3	39
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not combine the firefighting capabilities of Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Sustainable Timber Australia (STT) with those of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).</li> </ul>	3	42
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include all relevant emergency management entities in negotiations toward the Inter-Agency Fire Management Protocol, with approval and/or oversight by the State Controller.</li> </ul>	3	43
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the role in recovery of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) remains unchanged.</li> <li>Acknowledge the support role in recovery to be taken by Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES), as outlined in Section 3.6.5 of this Report.</li> </ul>	3	45

Recommendation		See Report	
		Section	Page
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a governance model for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) that transitions it to a division within the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) that includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>suitable ring-fencing arrangements for levies raised to fund TFES</li> <li>appropriate reporting arrangements between the head of TFES and the Minister</li> <li>broadening the role, and revisiting the membership, of the State Fire Management Council (SFMC). Revisiting membership should include relevant membership transitioned from the State Fire Commission (SFC)</li> <li>abolishing the SFC.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	4	56
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm in legislation the continued existence of the State Fire Management Council (SFMC) under a charter to be approved by the Secretary Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) and the Minister.</li> </ul>	4	59
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broaden the definition in the Fire Service Act of 'brigade costs' to include non-brigade costs.</li> </ul>	5	62
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace all current sources of State Emergency Service (SES) funding with a single, property-based levy.</li> <li>Explore Appropriation-based funding for SES as an alternative if a single, property-based levy is not supported or sustainable.</li> </ul>	5	66
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace the Insurance Levy with a property-based levy or another funding source providing similar, and consistent (predictable), levels of funding.</li> <li>Ensure that the Insurance Levy continues to be charged and collected until suitable transition arrangements are identified and implemented.</li> </ul>	5	69
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the Motor Vehicle Levy.</li> <li>Base any expansion of the Motor Vehicle Levy to other types of vehicles on a cost-benefit analysis.</li> </ul>	5	71
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue contributions from the Australian Government but do not regard this as a source of base-level funding for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).</li> </ul>	5	71
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to source funding from the marketing and fire prevention functions of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) and miscellaneous revenue, with these being self-funding and not part of base-level funding.</li> <li>Discontinue revenue streams from the Motor Accident Insurance Board (MAIB) for both TFS and SES.</li> </ul>	5	72
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue contributions from the State Government but do not regard this as a source of base-level funding for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).</li> </ul>	5	73

Recommendation		See Report	
		Section	Page
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include up to \$5 million per annum in levy or Appropriation sources of revenue for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to pay for those State Emergency Service (SES) related functions and services transitioned from local government to TFES.</li> </ul>	5	73
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue a property-based levy to provide the bulk of funding for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES), basing it on a property's Average Annual Value (AAV) as determined by the Valuer-General from time to time, with movements in the levy determined by Treasury annually.</li> <li>Determine the make-up of the levy, including consideration of fixed and variable components.</li> </ul>	5	79
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantify and fund current concessions as a Community Service Obligation.</li> <li>Quantify and remove current exemptions for payment of the Fire Service Contribution (FSC) levy, except for Crown Land, land managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) and land and buildings owned by Councils and by Government entities funded predominantly by Appropriation.</li> </ul>	5	80
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that funds raised for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) are paid into the Consolidated Fund and then ring-fenced for use by TFES.</li> </ul>	5	80
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop transition arrangements that mitigate the impacts on property owners of an increase in a property-based levy.</li> <li>Engage with the Insurance Council of Australia and property owners to quantify benefits from lower insurance premiums and consider how these might be shared with the broader community.</li> </ul>	5	81
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinue local government funding of SES and their support for local units.</li> <li>Transition all Councils' associated resources to Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).</li> <li>Develop a transition plan with Councils.</li> </ul>	5	83
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not fund Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) by Appropriation – because doing so may disincentivise property owners from properly insuring their properties or being appropriately prepared.</li> </ul>	5	84
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have Treasury be responsible for calculating, but not on its own determining – determination will require input from Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) – the amount to be collected by local government from the property-based levy annually.</li> </ul>	5	85
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to have local government collect the proposed Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) property-based levy and be paid a renegotiated collection fee for doing so.</li> </ul>	5	87

Recommendation		See Report	
		Section	Page
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have the Head of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) and the Minister make clear annually, in a public manner, how the levy is constructed, reasons for increases, and the fact that it is collected by local government for a fee.</li> <li>Pay levies collected by local government into the Consolidated Fund but ring-fence them for use by TFES.</li> </ul>		
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise and enshrine in legislation the contribution of volunteers and volunteering (including SES units) and include a requirement for a Volunteer Charter to be developed by Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) and endorsed by the Volunteer Associations and the Minister.</li> <li>Legislate to provide good faith protection from liability for TFES volunteers/units, authorised volunteers and permanent staff.</li> <li>Ensure there are no legislative barriers that would preclude the expansion of volunteer/unit roles to include both response and non-response roles.</li> </ul>	6	94
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not include a legislated provision for emergency medical response in the mandate of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES); this should be entirely a matter of policy.</li> <li>Ensure legislation allows for additional functions that fire and emergency services personnel may perform, subject to appropriate training and credentialing, with an overarching responsibility for public safety, property and the environment.</li> <li>Ensure that, while Ambulance Tasmania remains the primary agency for emergency medical response, legislation does not prohibit it from entering into arrangements with TFES for training and credentialing relevant emergency response activities.</li> </ul>	7	97
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop legislation that empowers Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) with functions, powers and indemnities that reflect its broader role in emergency management and response, and which:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maintains current levels of indemnity</li> <li>broadens TFES' mandate to include the power to confer specified functions, powers and indemnities on individuals and organisations inside and outside TFES, including interstate and international personnel</li> <li>provides authority and indemnity that allows for quick response to fires in the landscape without waiting for formal instruction from TFES, and approval to enter private land to address fire response. This should apply not just for Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) and Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), but also the private forest industry and any other potential first responders, e.g. appropriately resourced private land managers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	7	100

Recommendation		See Report	
		Section	Page
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides clarity regarding authority to act and indemnity, including linkages with existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) arrangements with private forests and in circumstances where authority to act may be automatic, such as fires reported through FireComm.</li> </ul>		
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislate to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>address conflicting, duplicated or gaps in the roles of the proposed Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES), Parks and Wildlife (PWS), Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) and private entities involved in dealing with fires</li> <li>allow non-TFES officers in charge of fire suppression to have access to, and to deal with, a fire as soon as possible</li> <li>include in the mandate of TFES the power to confer specified functions and powers on individuals and organisations, including interstate or international personnel, inside or outside of the entity</li> <li>include a Head of Power, exercisable at the discretion of TFES, allowing protocols to be developed to manage the relationship between the entity and other land management agencies and emergency services agencies, including Tasmania Police</li> <li>provide firefighters, SES workers and other delegated agencies/people with protection from liability (as occurs currently through section 51 of the Emergency Management Act). Other delegated agencies/people to be 'loosely' defined so as to provide protection for the range of persons involved in the provision of fire and emergency services but who may be non-firefighters/non-emergency workers/not public servants</li> <li>authorise TFES, PWS and STT to close roads to protect public safety during a fire, flood or storm hazard and to have a power to regulate traffic, not just close a road.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	7	103
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leave the decision-making and nomination process to appoint fire permit officers to the senior management of the relevant responsible agencies, depending on their specific responsibilities in regards, for example, to the land tenure with which it is concerned.</li> </ul>	7	104
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include, in the Terms of Reference for the State Fire Emergency Management Sub-Committee, provision for the establishment of Fire and Emergency Risk Area Committees (FERAC), including the number and geographical boundaries of these committees.</li> <li>Enhance community engagement through community representation on FERACs, without increasing numbers on these committees.</li> <li>Remove the requirement to Gazette geographical boundaries.</li> <li>Continue to identify synergies between FERACs and Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Committees.</li> </ul>	7	107



Recommendation		See Report	
		Section	Page
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that these arrangements do not require legislative support and could instead be promulgated under a Head of Power and detailed, where necessary, in doctrine/Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA).</li> </ul>		
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider, as an alternative to, or in addition to, Recommendation 31:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>having the secretariat function currently fulfilled by SES performed instead by relevant administrative personnel within an agency with primary responsibility for statewide emergency management, such as the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) or the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM)</li> <li>transferring SES's Emergency Management Unit (EMU) functions associated with statewide risk assessments, emergency planning, and emergency management policy to either DPAC or DPFEM.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	7	109
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislate to provide a Head of Power for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establish and abolish brigades/units</li> <li>determine the membership of brigades/units</li> <li>recommend locations of brigades/units</li> <li>define the structure, functions, powers and responsibilities of brigades/units</li> <li>exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary for the effective management of, and response to, fire and other prescribed emergencies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Legislate to provide TFES with the power to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>register/de-register volunteer/unit members</li> <li>appoint unit managers, brigade chiefs, and establish standards, for things like equipment, training, facilities, etc.</li> <li>establish protocols for cooperation</li> <li>appoint industry brigades, making clear that they be under the control of TFES.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	7	113
34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include the recommendations of the review of the fire permit system into new legislation as appropriate, including arrangements for total fire bans.</li> <li>Ensure that new legislation includes scope to modify or change these arrangements if once implemented it is determined adjustments to processes are required.</li> <li>Ensure that, subject to exemptions granted by the Chief Officer, no fire permits are issued when total fire bans are in place.</li> </ul>	7	116
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect, but do not legislate for, Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to provide education to the community on how best to prepare for fire and relevant emergency risks.</li> </ul>	7	117



Recommendation		See Report	
		Section	Page
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislate for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) responsibility for issuing permits to install, maintain or repair fire protection equipment, subject to a review of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the current regulatory arrangements</li> <li>conflict-of-interest arrangements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	7	120
37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not provide for building fire evacuation systems in any new legislation; instead, establish in law or regulation that high-risk facilities should have their emergency response procedures reviewed and approved by WorkSafe Tasmania and that, in view of its contemporary knowledge and experience in emergency response, advice be sought where needed from Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).</li> </ul>	7	124
38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review current offence and penalty provisions to determine if they remain appropriate, enforceable and contemporary and reflect the expanded roles of TFS and SES and, therefore, Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES). In doing so, consider provisions in the <i>Police Offences Act 1935</i>.</li> </ul>	7	127
39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislate to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to establish a chain of command for response (including appointment of Incident Controllers) by means of regulations or a statutory instrument, which can, when necessary, be amended</li> <li>make clear that all emergency responders who are present at an incident are, in all respects, subject to the Incident Controller's direction</li> <li>give power to, or require, TFES to ensure that an endorsement or accreditation process is in place for incident management staff that provides authority, accountability, indemnity, consistency and efficiency of process</li> <li>update the roles and responsibilities for emergency management to be consistent with those prescribed in the <i>Emergency Management Act 2006</i> (because command and control arrangements will apply to SES as well as TFS, and therefore to TFES).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	7	128
40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to have capability, or access to capability, to advise on, or participate in the development of, strategies aimed at identifying risks associated with changes in our climate and proposed mitigations.</li> </ul>	7	129
41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a review of contemporary and suitable legislation from other fire jurisdictions across Australia to consider, within the Tasmanian context, how best to allow a more proactive and pragmatic approach to fire safety compliance in the built environment.</li> </ul>	7	131

Recommendation		See Report	
		Section	Page
42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft new legislation to replace the <i>Fire Service Act 1979</i>, keeping in mind that:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ in order for any proposed legislation to be contemporary, flexible and sufficiently forward-looking, it needs to be principles-based, providing a Head of Power to Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES)</li> <li>○ the functions and mandate of the new entity should deliver an authorising and enabling environment facilitating a broad range of fire and prescribed non-fire related emergency services activities, including multi-hazard, that are aligned with and support the <i>Emergency Management Act 2006</i> in legislation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	8	135
43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislate to make provision for a secondary process to change or add mandated functions in the future without the need to amend legislation, but on the proviso that the core legislation cannot be undone without full review by the Parliament, and with public input.</li> </ul>	8	139
44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop new legislation to establish an integrated fire and prescribed emergency services entity, the principal objectives of which are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ to preserve human life</li> <li>○ to build resilient communities that actively participate in prevention, preparedness and response to fire and other relevant emergencies</li> <li>○ to limit the economic, environmental (including climate change), social and physical impacts of fire and other emergencies on the Tasmanian community</li> <li>○ to recognise that our environment has inherent value for the Tasmanian community</li> <li>○ to ensure/facilitate effective inter-agency interoperability both inter and intra State.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Clarify, in the new legislation, that the proposed entity is <b>not</b> the lead agency responsible for recovery.</li> </ul>	8	139
45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft new legislation to be short, forward-looking and principles-based, with detail addressed in regulations.</li> </ul>	8	140

## About this Review

### 1.1 Introduction

#### 1.1.1 Purpose of this Review

Section 1: On 24 April 2017, Cabinet approved a review of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (Review). The State Government appointed a Steering Committee to carry out this Review and to provide independent advice to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management (the Minister) about how the Government can achieve:

- a clear mandate and operating platform for fire services' functions
- an effective and efficient fire service operation that will provide value for money in the future
- a sustainable, stable, and equitable funding system for fire and other appropriate emergency services<sup>3</sup>.

The Review's Terms of Reference are included at Appendix 1.

#### 1.1.2 The problem, as defined in this Review's Terms of Reference

The Fire Service Act was proclaimed in 1979 following the amalgamation of the Rural and Urban Fire Services into the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS). The Fire Service Act has not been comprehensively reviewed since proclamation. A minor review was undertaken in 1999 to comply with the Competition Principles Agreement which required the State Government to review and, where appropriate, reform all legislation that restricted competition. The minor review of the Act complied with the principles as outlined in the Legislation Review Program at that time.

Over the years, the current legislative framework has become fragmented, overly complex and process-driven.

A comprehensive review of the Fire Service Act, and all subordinate legislation is now considered timely. This is particularly the case with the State Emergency Service (SES) now reporting to the Chief Officer, TFS and the resultant opportunities for further alignment of TFS and SES to be reflected in legislation. The requirement for change is explored further in Section 2 of this *Review of the Fire Service Act 1979* Report (Report)

#### 1.1.3 Outside scope

The Review's Terms of Reference made clear that the following matters were outside scope:

- TFS should maintain its core fire-related role.
- Tasmania should continue to have a single fire service.

This requirement was satisfied.

<sup>3</sup> 'and other appropriate emergency' added to make it explicit that the role of SES was considered as part of this Review.

### 1.1.4 Deliverables

The Review's Terms of Reference required the Steering Committee to develop a project plan to meet four stages of work.

1. Problems identified and substantiated by evidence
2. Range of potential options identified
3. Key options identified
4. Options fully developed and assessed, and recommendations drafted

These matters were to be addressed in:

- a Steering Committee-approved project plan
- an Issues Paper developed by the Steering Committee for public consultation, and analysis of submissions to that Issues Paper
- a Draft Discussion Paper.

The original intent of this Review was for the Steering Committee-approved Draft Discussion Paper to be provided for consideration by the Department of Police and Emergency Management (DPFEM) and by Cabinet. Following this, there was to be publication of a Discussion Paper, a call for submissions, analysis of those submissions and, finally, preparation of a final Review Report.

However, in the interests of timeliness, publication of a Discussion Paper was replaced with targeted stakeholder consultation<sup>4</sup> recognising that all stakeholders would have the opportunity to comment on proposed legislation when drafted. The outcome of targeted consultation is discussed in Section 1.2.6.

### 1.1.5 Other reviews

The activities of TFS and SES have been the subject of multiple reviews in recent years. As a result, this Review had regard to several reports, including the following.

- The House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development's Inquiry (the HofA Inquiry) into the State Fire Commission (SFC). This inquiry made seven recommendations, all of which have been considered in this Review.
- The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council's (AFAC) Independent Operational Review – an independent review of the management of the Tasmanian fires of January 2016, commissioned by TFS, Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT).
- The AFAC Independent Operational Review: *A review of the management of the Tasmanian fires of December 2018 – March 2019*.
- Department of Justice 2016 review.
- Multiple reviews on strategy, governance and financial matters relating to both TFS and SES.

<sup>4</sup> Targeted consultation was directed to organisations that responded to the Issues Paper.

### 1.1.6 Implications of this Review for SES and the *Emergency Management Act 2006*

While not an explicit objective for this Review, but because this was identified as an issue during the course of this work, the Steering Committee took this opportunity to assess not only the operations of TFS, but also those of SES. The Review explored possible full integration of these functions. This is discussed further in Sections 2.2 and 3.2.

## 1.2 Approach taken to this Review

### 1.2.1 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for this Review, which details members of the Steering Committee appointed to carry it out, are noted in Appendix 1. These Terms of Reference drove this Review. However, refer to Section 1.2.6 for more information regarding this.

### 1.2.2 Issues Paper

The Terms of Reference required the Steering Committee to provide the Minister with an Issues Paper within six months of the appointment of an Independent Chair (Chair), outlining the analysis undertaken to date under the stages of work detailed above.

An Issues Paper, which asked 35 questions, was released on 30 May 2018 and discussed key themes including:

- establishing a clear mandate and operating platform
- governance arrangements
- development of a sustainable funding model
- operational considerations.

There was extensive consultation with stakeholders on the issues identified and submissions were encouraged to ensure that all views were considered. The Issues Paper was issued for public consultation for a three-month period. A total of 40 submissions were received from a broad range of stakeholders. These included local government, unions, volunteer associations, government agencies, industry groups, other fire and land management agencies, members of the forest industry, the SFC, TFS, the State Fire Management Council (SFMC), SES, AFAC, environmental groups, DPFEM, the Departments of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), State Growth, Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), the Insurance Council of Australia and members of the public.

With one exception<sup>5</sup>, all submissions were made public by including them on the Review website at [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au).

The submissions canvassed a wide variety of views about the future role of the SFC, TFS and SES, including, but not limited to:

- governance and purpose of TFS
- role of the SFC
- role of the SFMC

<sup>5</sup> One government agency made a submission on the basis that it remains confidential.

- how SES should be included in any new legislation
- the most appropriate funding model
- the relationship between TFS and other fire agencies, e.g. PWS and STT
- building safety
- community education
- response and command and control arrangements
- volunteers
- the permit system
- the evacuation system
- penalties.

All matters raised in submissions were considered and, if relevant, informed the recommendations made in this Report.

In addition, during stakeholder consultations, several possible amendments to the Fire Service Act were suggested that were not discussed in the Issues Paper nor in this Report. A detailed register of these issues is being kept by TFS.

### 1.2.3 Research undertaken

This Review involved document reviews, engagement with stakeholders, research into practices in other Australian jurisdictions and in New Zealand. The focus was primarily on funding and governance models, engagement of independent advice relating to governance, and identification of base costs needed to run a contemporary fire and emergency services entity.

### 1.2.4 Engagement with stakeholders

The Terms of Reference required the Steering Committee to ensure thorough engagement with all interested stakeholders. Public consultation occurred following release of the Issues Paper. As noted in Sections 1.1.4 and 1.1.6, in the interests of timeliness, a Discussion Paper was not prepared. It was replaced by targeted stakeholder consultation.

### 1.2.5 Core issues identified

Responses to the Issues Paper, and research undertaken, identified the following core issues relevant to establishing a contemporary fire and emergency services entity needing to be addressed as a result of this Review.

- Functions (Section 3)
- Governance (Section 4)
- Financial management (Section 5)
- Volunteers (Section 6)
- Operational and other matters (Section 7)
- Legislation (Section 8).

This is not to suggest that these are the only important factors and that others will not emerge should steps be taken to draft new legislation. Relevant is that these core issues align with this Review's Terms of Reference.

### 1.2.6 Responsibility for completing this Review and targeted consultation outcomes

The decision, noted in Section 1.1.4, to replace consultation on a Discussion Paper with targeted stakeholder engagement also resulted in a request that the Chair of the Steering Committee complete this Report. The impact of this is that this Report reflects the Chair's views, not necessarily those of other members of the Steering Committee.

Targeted consultation, which took place in August and September 2020, resulted in discussions with, and/or submissions from, the following entities:

- SFC \*
- TFS
- SFMC\*
- AFAC (discussion only)
- PF Olsen (discussion only)
- Insurance Council of Australia (discussion only)
- Local Government Association of Tasmania\*
- Kingborough, Huon Valley, Burnie City, Devonport City and Latrobe Councils (Burnie City provided a written response)\*
- Ambulance Tasmania (discussion only)\*
- Australian Workers Union Tasmania Branch\*
- United Firefighters Union of Australia – Tasmania Branch\*
- Sustainable Timber Tasmania (discussion only)\*
- Tasmanian SES Volunteers Association\*
- Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association\*
- Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association\*.

\* In these cases, consultation involved a PowerPoint presentation, provision of draft proposals and discussions about possible governance models. Targeted consultation did not include discussions with those members of the Steering Committee that represented various government departments because their views were already well-known and had already been taken into account.

Outcomes from all discussions and submissions, where relevant, have been considered.



## 1.3 Approach taken to preparing this report

### 1.3.1 Reporting

This Review's Terms of Reference required preparation of various reports as follows:

#### 1.3.1.1 Report

Provision of a report to the Department<sup>6</sup> within six months of the closing date for public submissions on the Issues Paper. However, and as noted in Section 1.1.4, a report for discussion with stakeholders was not prepared. The timeline for completion of this Report did not meet the original timeframes mainly due to the appointment of a new Steering Committee Chair in January 2019.

#### 1.3.1.2 Final Report (and actions taken up to and including finalisation of this Report)

Provision of advice to the Minister no later than six months of the closing date for public submissions on the Discussion Paper, in the form of a final report with recommendations<sup>7</sup>. This final Report was provided to the Minister, via the Secretary DPFEM, on 30 October 2020.

### 1.3.2 Format of this Report

This Report is structured along the lines of the core issues identified in Section 1.2.5. Sections 3, 4 and 5 start by noting the outcomes anticipated in the Terms of Reference. Section 7 addresses, in part, Outcome 2, while Outcome 4 is addressed throughout the Report; in particular, in Sections 4 and 5.

### 1.3.3 Recommendations and options outlined in this Report

Matters addressed in this Review are complex, with the Steering Committee not always agreeing on single recommendations. As a result, this Report has been prepared by the Chair, following research and discussion with all Steering Committee members. Recommendations in this Report are primarily concerned with threshold issues that will fundamentally shape new legislation although, for completeness, a range of more operational issues are included in Section 7.

The recommendations made are aimed at ensuring that stakeholders understand the direction being proposed for new legislation.

### 1.3.4 Transition arrangements

The Terms of Reference did not require consideration of transition arrangements. Transition arrangements refer to matters that need to be addressed should legislation be promulgated as proposed by this Review. For example, should the proposed funding arrangements for SES be agreed, resulting in the need for local government to transfer resources to the proposed integrated entity, then transition arrangements related to these resources, including volunteers, will require consideration.

As a result, transition arrangements will need to be identified and explored prior to developing legislation. Some initial transition considerations are outlined in Section 8.

<sup>6</sup> This is the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management.

<sup>7</sup> Refer Sections 1.1.4 and 1.2.6 outlining the change in approach to the need for a Discussion Paper



## A case for change

While this Section makes a case for change to the Fire Service Act, that is not to say that the current legislation is broken, or that it prevents TFS (and SES) from appropriately responding to fires and other relevant emergencies. While current arrangements do work, they require review for the reasons outlined below.

### Section 2:

#### 2.1 Existing legislation as this impacts the SFC and TFS

Under existing legislation, the SFC's primary purpose is to minimise the social, economic and environmental impact of fire on the Tasmanian community<sup>8</sup>. This is achieved through TFS implementing strategies to develop community self-reliance to prevent and prepare for fires, supported by timely and effective responses to emergencies. However, the Fire Service Act has not kept up with the changing role of TFS.

- Some functions performed by TFS are not clearly supported by the Fire Service Act or another source of legislative power. These include:
  - road crash rescue in assigned areas
  - managing incidents involving hazardous materials
  - undertaking urban search and rescue
  - carrying out community training and trading activities
  - providing a response to terrorist incidents involving chemical, biological and radiological agents.
- The Fire Service Act does not provide adequate mechanisms to enforce compliance or penalise non-compliance with fire safety obligations.
- The Fire Service Act:
  - does not reflect the considerable change emergency services have undergone in the past 40 years, nor does it support operational efficiencies or reflect how emergency services organisations operate in modern communities
  - largely reflects the prevailing influences at the time it was enacted and, as time passes, becomes less and less reflective of the fire and emergency services environment in Tasmania
  - will hinder the ability of fire and emergency services providers and the community to implement and effectively execute contemporary strategies to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies
  - may not effectively deal with the changing demographic environment in Tasmania
  - may not have suitable flexibility in responding to changing climatic circumstances.
- There is overlap between the Fire Service Act and other laws, leading to uncertainty in key operational and regulatory frameworks, including:
  - roles played by, and integration with, agencies with land tenure responsibilities such as PWS and STT (discussed in Section 3)

<sup>8</sup> Section 8 of the Fire Service Act.

- the fire permit system (Fire Service Act, *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* and local government by-laws and building safety laws (General Fire Regulations 2010, *Building Act 2016* and Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012<sup>9</sup>).

## 2.2 Implications for the Emergency Management Act 2006

This Review identified that amending the Fire Service Act as proposed must have implications for the *Emergency Management Act 2006*. This Report proposes continuance of separate, high-level, non-prescriptive, emergency management legislation with detailed requirements continuing to be dealt with by regulation.

The Emergency Management Act would be retained as the primary piece of legislation for describing whole-of-government emergency management control, coordination and risk management arrangements. However, consequential legislative changes that may arise as a result of this Review are likely to require a broader review of the Emergency Management Act, including to adopt more of an all-hazard approach.

In any event, separate emergency management legislation will continue to be needed, especially because the proposed integrated entity must not be expected to respond to all kinds of emergencies.

## 2.3 Other Fire Service Act related factors since 1979

Factors having an impact on, or impacted by, the Fire Service Act since 1979 include, but are not limited to:

- the limited ability of TFS to quickly reallocate capital to align resources to risk
- constantly changing structural fire and wildfire fighting methods and technologies which are impacting on capital and other resource requirements
- the trend in Tasmania and elsewhere for bushfires to be more extreme, last longer and occur at different times during the year, not just in the summer months
- the need to develop a personnel management plan that covers both the employed workforce (TFS and SES) and the volunteer workforce (TFS and SES)
- the need for a resource-to-risk model to explicitly address –
  - demographic changes – population growth is uneven, with almost two thirds of the growth in the south of Tasmania, some of which is not urban
  - climatic changes
  - uncertainty in relation to how SES will continue to be funded, given there have been no additional State Government contributions beyond 2017-18
- funding based on types of brigades, and where they are or are not located, relevant in 1979, but less so today.

<sup>9</sup> Some of the gaps were also noted by the HofA Inquiry into the SFC.

### 2.3.1 Multiple entities involved in fire and emergency services related activities in Tasmania

Responsibility for fire and emergency services related activities falls across several agencies including TFS, PWS, STT, SES, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), DPFEM, DPAC, State Growth, the Department of Health (which includes Ambulance Tasmania) and local government. DPAC's Climate Change Office provides policy advice and research on climatic factors, which are already more evident in fire and emergency services activities and which may have to be addressed in future legislation.

Respective responsibilities and accountabilities of all these entities require clarification in new legislation or, preferably, in the Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA) which replaced the Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan version 8 (TEMP).

### 2.3.2 January 2016 AFAC review

As evidenced by actions taken following receipt of the report by the AFAC Independent Operational Review into the Tasmanian fires in January 2016<sup>10</sup> (the AFAC Review), work is ongoing between TFS, PWS and STT to continually improve the management of severe fire events, including pre-season engagement in order to ensure communities have a better understanding of fire management tactics.

In recent years, pre-season engagement included, but was not limited to, environmental groups. In addition, in the 2018-19 fire season, many operational improvements were successfully applied, in particular improved community communication and information-sharing, and the National Resource Sharing arrangements, including aircraft.

### 2.3.3 Use of volunteers

The January 2016 AFAC Review included in its 12<sup>th</sup> recommendation that 'a review be undertaken of the benefits and costs of training a cadre of Tasmanian volunteer firefighters in remote area firefighting, with reference to the experience of jurisdictions interstate that already do so.'

Discussions with TFS about this recommendation indicated that its implementation would provide Remote Area Team (RAT) surge capacity for firefighting and that this concept was validated by the level of interstate assistance required for remote area firefighting in Tasmania in the 2016 fire season, and was reinforced during the 2019 bushfire activity. RATs are now in place but this Report does not explore the effectiveness of these arrangements nor whether legislative change is needed regarding this.

Arrangements relating to volunteers are not explicit in the Fire Service Act but are explicit in the Emergency Management Act. This is discussed further in Section 6.

<sup>10</sup> This piece of work was commissioned by TFS, PWS and STT.

### 2.3.4 Establishment of auxiliary brigades and similar arrangements

Auxiliary brigades are established and operated by PWS and STT. For the purposes of workplace health and safety legislation, persons engaged in such brigades are classified as 'workers', addressing, therefore, indemnity concerns.

Persons engaged on private properties to respond to fires and who are properly trained to do so, could be required to operate under instruction of TFS, but this is not currently legally permissible.

On the other hand, TFS currently has arrangements in place with the farming community to appoint farmers as 'spontaneous volunteers' which is allowed for under the Fire Service Act.

New legislation needs to deal with these anomalies and/or reconfirm them, including protection for non-TFS, PWS, STT and other personnel.

### 2.3.5 Other developments

Additional developments include, but are not limited to, the following.

- The commencement of national and international arrangements. In this respect, TFS coordinates support from national and international agencies when they assist Tasmania to respond to wildfires and other emergencies. While these arrangements have existed for some time, national resource sharing is a more recent initiative, often involving multiple agreements.
- Climate – while this Review did not set out to form a view regarding this matter, it is evident that changes in our climate are taking place with consequences for fire and emergency services.

## 2.4 Conclusions

The discussion in this Section, read alongside recommendations from the HofA Inquiry referred to in Section 1.1.5, confirm the need for the Fire Service Act to be reviewed and updated.

The additional roles and functions that TFS now undertakes, which were not foreseen when the Fire Service Act was written, has led to a wider range of service delivery being expected by the community. This puts increasing pressure on TFS to respond and confirms deficiencies in supporting legislation.

Importantly, the existing legislation does not consider the provision of emergency services in a holistic manner.

## Functions and operating platform

### 3.1 Introduction

Outcome 1 of this Review as anticipated in the Terms of Reference was that:

- Section 3:
- TFS has a clear mandate and operating platform for the functions it performs, and that it is clear how those align with functions performed by other emergency services providers, in particular, SES.

It required that this Review:

- assess current TFS functions and how these align with roles of other emergency management agencies and service providers
- provide recommendations on future statutory and non-statutory functions for TFS, including the impacts of those recommendations on other services and how they might be managed.

This Section considers these matters as follows.

- Current statutory and non-statutory TFS functions and their alignment
- Future statutory and non-statutory functions of an integrated entity
- Impacts on other services and how, and by who, these should be managed.

Related operational matters are discussed in Section 7.

#### 3.1.1 Objective of this Section

The objective adopted by the Steering Committee Chair in developing this Section was to identify the functions that need to be provided by a fire and appropriate emergency services entity in the best interests of the Tasmania community.

In particular, there will need to be a transparent mechanism to (i) define and (ii) amend from time-to-time the specific functions to be performed by the integrated entity

One means by which an appropriate level of certainty, transparency and oversight could be achieved is to provide a Head of Power enabling the specific functions of the integrated entity to be prescribed in regulations.

The legislation should be framed in such a manner that appropriate indemnities apply in relation to the performance of any and all of the integrated entity's prescribed functions.

In addition, functions and powers of the integrated entity should:

- facilitate effective management of fire and prescribed emergency risk, including consistent planning and mitigation activities
- build community capacity and awareness, through collaborative community development and engagement
- promote interoperability, operational effectiveness, planning and asset management of vegetation fire management activities and effective response and allocation of firefighting and prescribed emergency management resources
- provide opportunity for collaborative policy development and implementation
- allow for clear advice to the Secretary DPfEM, the Minister and key stakeholders.

## 3.2 An integrated fire and emergency services entity

Before considering current and proposed TFS functions, the future of SES needs to be resolved. SES is now administratively aligned to TFS and the Fire Service Act could not, therefore, be the sole focus of this Review.

As part of the 2014 State Budget, the Minister announced that there would be a change for TFS and SES, in that the SES Director would report to the TFS Chief Officer (who in turn reports to the Secretary DPFEM and to the SFC) but that, as part of these arrangements, the SES identity needed protection. One outcome of this was that annual resourcing of elements of (but not all) SES activities were incorporated into the SFC budget<sup>11</sup>.

As a result, from operational and administrative perspectives, SES is now broadly aligned with the TFS senior management structure<sup>12</sup>. It would be illogical to undo this important step towards true integration by reverting to previous reporting arrangements. The current arrangements have now been in place for over five years and legislation creating an integrated entity will enable a more consolidated approach to financial and annual reporting, as well as strategic and business unit planning.

### 3.2.1 Chair's initial view regarding an integrated entity

The Chair supported moving beyond alignment, preferring integration and noting one integrated entity will provide a strategic framework for the operation of relevant emergency services. SES and TFS already work together and have many synergies; both have a large pool of dedicated volunteers, respond to emergency incidents, operate within the same regional boundaries and have many colocated premises. Many initiatives for closer collaboration and resource sharing have already been identified within the areas of emergency management policy and planning, operations and training, facilities and assets, learning and development, and community education and awareness.

The proposed change would assist in resolving current difficulties, including the following.

- While the Director SES reports to the Chief Officer TFS, and some synergies in operations are occurring, this does not reflect a truly integrated fire and emergency service entity.
- While funding is partially provided through the SFC, the current model does not yet support a fully integrated and centralised funding model. In this regard, some costs incurred by SES are separately funded by DPFEM.
- Currently, SES works within a number of governance arrangements of DPFEM, including both Business Executive Services and TFS, while still maintaining statutory functions specific to SES.
- As noted, the Director SES currently reports to the Chief Officer TFS; however, under the Emergency Management Act, the Director SES reports to the State Controller (the

<sup>11</sup> In the form of an annual contribution by the SFC to the activities of SES. Resourcing SES is explored in Section 5.

<sup>12</sup> Currently, SES is aligned with TFS structures, but not “integrated into the TFS”. However, TFS has no authority over SES. The Chief Officer TFS only has authority over the Director SES due to Ministerial edict. Under s28 of the Emergency Management Act, the Director SES is ultimately responsible for the management of SES.

Commissioner of Police), primarily in the capacity as Executive Officer of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).

- Financial accountabilities and reporting frameworks require further resolution in line with discussions concerning the most appropriate funding model. For example, the financial statements of SES are reported in the DPFEM Annual Report while the achievements of SES against the Strategic Directions document are reported in the TFS/SFC Annual Report.
- Under workplace health and safety legislation, the Crown is the Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) for SES, while the SFC is the PCBU for TFS.

### 3.2.2 Stakeholder views

The majority of stakeholders who responded to this issue in the Issues Paper supported an integrated entity in the new legislation. However, some respondents specified that the discrete identities, brands and culture identities of TFS and SES should be retained, at least at a community level. There was considerable disparity among submissions about how an integrated entity would appropriately be funded. Other stakeholders saw benefit in fully integrating TFS and SES, including their branding and identities.

As noted by Emergency Management Australia, with the increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards, the challenges faced by Tasmania will evolve to be more complex. Therefore, Tasmania's fire and emergency services governance needs to be flexible. The ability to direct State resources to major incidents and to provide additional support to remote locations will be paramount and an integrated fire and emergency service will facilitate a total view of the entity's people, places and resources, enabling evidence-based planning. One leadership team will be able to manage the entity more strategically. Emergency Management Australia also noted that "...we encourage Tasmania to develop a single, unified governance model for all fire and emergency services which provides clarity around roles and responsibilities for service heads in times of complex crises".<sup>13</sup>

### 3.2.3 Options considered

The Chair considered the following options.

1. Comprehensively integrate TFS and SES as a fire and emergency services entity under a single piece of legislation<sup>14</sup>.
2. Retain the status quo with SES administratively contained within TFS but with legislative authority for SES remaining in the Emergency Management Act.
3. SES reverts to being administered, and funded, by DPFEM, with the Director SES reporting to the Commissioner of Police/Secretary of DPFEM.

<sup>13</sup> Department of Home Affairs

<sup>14</sup> Under s28 of the Emergency Management Act, regardless of the governance model, the Director SES is still referred to. Depending on the selected model, there could be consequential changes required to the Emergency Management Act.



The Chair supported Option 1. This is fundamental to modernising TFS and SES in relation to appropriate emergency response. Several independent reviews have also suggested that this option should be further considered<sup>15</sup>.

- The HofA Inquiry into the SFC noted that the Fire Service Act should recognise SES and incorporate sections of the Emergency Management Act<sup>16</sup>.
- The AFAC independent operational review of the 2016 Tasmanian fires recommended that further conversations take place between TFS and SES to identify what skills and capabilities may be transferable between agencies, not just in the event of a future fire, but in case of future hazards for which SES is the primary response agency, including flood, earthquake and tsunami<sup>17</sup>.

It is not unusual for multiple and different emergencies to occur simultaneously and, where this is the case, resource and personnel availability must be considered from a regional or State perspective. TFS and SES often respond to incidents together and provide mutual support and assistance. Greater combined expertise and experience in key functional areas that contribute to an efficient multi-agency, multi-hazard approach and reduced duplication in emergency management planning across Tasmania would now seem to be appropriate. The legislation must support rather than hinder this mode of operation.

The functions of an integrated entity would focus on fire and relevant emergency service prevention, preparedness and response. Primary responsibility for community recovery from emergencies would be excluded as this is managed by other organisations across the three tiers of government<sup>18</sup>.

To achieve an integrated entity, much of the content of Part 2, Division 4 and Part 3, Division 5 could be moved from the Emergency Management Act into the new legislation.

### 3.2.4 Conclusions regarding TFS/SES integration

There are many similarities between TFS and SES in terms of the nature of the services they provide, their command structures, the need to maintain and use specialist equipment, and a strong culture of volunteerism in both organisations.

The creation of an integrated fire and emergency service encompassing and expanding on the functions of both TFS and SES will facilitate efficiency and more complete coverage of prevention, preparedness, response and transition to recovery from fire and other prescribed emergencies.

Within the new integrated service, it will be necessary to preserve and recognise the role of volunteers in order to ensure future capability at a community level, particularly in a crisis situation.

<sup>15</sup> The ACT Standing Committee on Legal Affairs concluded that a standalone statutory authority is an appropriate model for effective emergency management. August 2008 p. 110.

<sup>16</sup> House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development Inquiry into the SFC.

<sup>17</sup> AFAC Independent Operational Review: *A Review of the Management of Tasmanian Fires in January 2016*, Recommendation 5.

<sup>18</sup> This is not to suggest that TFS and/or SES or an integrated TFS/SES have no responsibility for community recovery. Clearly they do, but in a support, rather than primary, role.



**Recommendation 1**

- Legislate to integrate the organisation, functions and activities of TFS and SES.
- Make consequential amendments to the *Emergency Management Act 2006*, having regard to Recommendation 26 that the new integrated service preserve and recognise the role of volunteers/units in order to ensure future capability at a community level.

The remainder of this Report has been prepared on the basis that integration of TFS and SES is a given and that the proposed new entity be called, at least for the purposes of this Report, Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).

TFES can establish an overarching identity and also retain local TFS and SES identities, at least as an interim step. These would be matters to be addressed by the new entity. The same applies to respective volunteers. It is noted that, at the time Government decided the Director SES report to the Chief Officer of TFS, Government agreed the SES identity required protection. However, that does not mean this cannot be revisited.

A matter requiring clarification prior to full integration of SES and TFS, and drawing conclusions regarding how an integrated TFES should be funded, is the role played by DPAC in emergency management. The SES Emergency Management Unit and DPAC work collaboratively, along with Special Response and Counter Terrorism, and currently operate from the same premises. DPAC's responsibilities regarding emergency recovery/transition to recovery is addressed in Section 3.6.5.

### 3.2.5 Implications for the role of the Director SES

Integration of TFS and SES may or may not have implications for how emergency services are managed within TFES and/or the role played by the Director SES. In any event, the functions carried out by the Director SES as outlined in the *Emergency Management Act*, in particular sections 25-28 inclusive, must continue to be performed.

**Recommendation 2**

- Ensure that the functions carried out by the Director SES continue to be performed as outlined in the *Emergency Management Act 2006*, in particular sections 25-28 inclusive of that Act.

### 3.3 Services to be provided by TFES

Table 1, read alongside Appendix 2, notes the intended essential services that must be mandated in legislation and related regulation.

To be provided	Not to be provided
Prevention, preparedness and responses to fires, flood, earthquake, tsunami, training, community education, advice relating to emergency management, road crash rescue, rescue and retrieval when or as authorised by the State Controller, and recruitment and training of volunteers.	Activities related to biosecurity, animal and human disease, such as pandemics.

Table 1 – Services to be provided by TFES<sup>19</sup>

### 3.4 Current statutory and non-statutory functions and their alignment

The current statutory functions and powers of TFS/SFC<sup>20</sup>, are to:

- formulate the policy in respect of the administration and operation of TFS
- coordinate and direct the development of all statewide fire services
- develop effective statewide fire prevention and protection measures
- develop and promulgate a State fire protection plan
- standardise, as far as is practicable, fire brigade equipment throughout the State
- establish and maintain training facilities for brigades
- conduct necessary investigations into fires and prepare reports and recommendations for the Minister
- conduct necessary investigations into the use of fire, instruct the public in the wise use of fire, and disseminate information regarding fire protection measures and other related matters
- advise the Minister on such matters relating to the administration of the Fire Service Act as may be referred by the Minister and on matters that the SFC believes should be brought to the attention of the Minister
- exercise such other functions vested in or imposed on it by the Fire Service Act or functions relating to the preventing or extinguishing of fires as may be imposed on it by the Minister from time to time.

In addition:

- any land proposed to be acquired by the SFC under the authority of section 7(2) of the Fire Service Act may, with the consent of the Governor, be taken in accordance with the provisions of the *Land Acquisition Act 1993* and the purpose for which the land is so taken shall be deemed to be an authorised purpose within the meaning of that Act

<sup>19</sup> This does not include support functions which are dealt with in Section 4.

<sup>20</sup> Summarised from Section 8 of the Fire Service Act.

- the SFC is to perform its functions in respect of Wellington Park as outlined in the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and with any management plan in force in respect of Wellington Park
- the SFC is to perform its functions in respect of any reserved land, as defined in the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which the reserved land is set aside under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and with any management plan in force in respect of the reserved land.

This Review does not propose any changes to these provisions. In particular, it is essential that Section 8(7) of the Fire Service Act is retained because it is necessary for TFES to have regard, and not do anything contrary, to both the Nature Conservation Act and the National Parks and Reserves Management Act.

Also relevant in the National Parks and Reserves Management Act is its Section 88A 'Code of practice for managing fires in reserve land'; wherein it is stated that:

"the Minister may approve a code of practice for the purposes of providing practical guidance to –

(a) the managing authority<sup>21</sup> in respect of its functions in relation to preventing, managing or controlling fire in reserved land, having regard to the management objectives for that reserved land; and

(b) any other person involved in the undertaking of any such functions<sup>22</sup>".

The benefits of developing a code of practice as envisaged is discussed in Section 3.6.4.

## 3.5 Future statutory and non-statutory functions

### 3.5.1 Discussion

Bearing in mind the discussion above regarding the current functions carried out by the SFC/TFS, new legislation should establish TFES as the lead authority for prevention, preparedness, response and transition to recovery<sup>23</sup> for fire and other prescribed emergency 'incidents' (meaning Level 1, 2 and 3 incidents under the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) framework and other emergency functions outside incident management, such as Strategic Command).

The Emergency Management Act framework will be retained for disaster scale ('state of emergency') events which exceed the ordinary powers and functions of TFES.

New legislation should establish the core functions of TFES as the following.

Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead and coordinate fire and prescribed emergency response including directing other agencies and volunteer organisations assisting in the response.</li> <li>• Develop and maintain physical and human resources to respond</li> </ul>
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<sup>21</sup> Managing Authority means the managing authority for reserved land, as specified in [section 29](#) of this Act.

<sup>22</sup> The inter-agency fire management protocol between TFS, STT and PWS is discussed in Section 3.7.

<sup>23</sup> Transition to recovery is discussed in Section 3.6.5; suffice to say that local government and DPAC are responsible for community recovery.

Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent and/or limit the impact of fire and other prescribed emergencies through a range of strategies, including mitigation programs, community education and development, community readiness, regulation and enforcement.</li> </ul>
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversee fire and emergency planning and governance, including for climate change and other emerging risks, and intra-state, interstate and international collaboration.</li> <li>Provide relevant community programs, including education for communities to plan for fire and other prescribed emergencies.</li> <li>Undertake activities in readiness, including prepositioning aircraft at airfields.</li> <li>Help to build resilient communities that actively participate in prevention and preparedness so that they are ready to respond to fire and other prescribed emergencies.</li> <li>Support communities to transition to recovery through the prompt return of normal business and essential services.</li> </ul>

Importantly, new legislation should express these functions in broad rather than prescriptive terms to ensure flexibility and adaptability into the future. A possible list of functions is included in Appendix 3.

In any event, future legislation must be principles-based – this is discussed in Section 8.2.

With regards to the ability of TFES to direct other agencies and volunteer organisations assisting in a response, this power must be subject to retention of the development requirement in section 8(7) of the Fire Service Act.

### 3.5.2 Further detail on response functions

In relation to response, the Emergency Management Act will continue to define lead combat. The following will apply to TFES.

- Lead response for the functions currently performed by TFS (fire, Hazmat, technical rescue)
- Lead<sup>24</sup> response for all of the functions currently performed by SES (flood, storm/tempest, earthquake, tsunami, space debris re-entry, and search and rescue)
- Continue to support Tasmania Police by providing road crash rescue functions
- Continue to support Ambulance Tasmania and consider expanding services to include a 'first responder' capability for medical emergencies.

The Emergency Management Act may also provide for TFES to support other agencies in responding to incidents for which those agencies have the lead response role, e.g. supporting the Department of Health in responding to heatwaves and Tasmania Police in counter terrorism events, although these support roles are already addressed in the TEMA.

<sup>24</sup> SES is not currently the 'lead' response management authority for flood, storm/tempest, earthquake, tsunami, space debris re-entry and search and rescue. New legislation will need to clarify who will be the lead response management authority. For purposes of this Review, it is assumed this will be TFES.

**Recommendation 3**

Prescribe in the regulations to the new legislation – or equivalent mechanism – the following as functions of the proposed new Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) entity (subject to appropriate resource allocation and training):

- activities currently undertaken by SES (flood, storm/tempest, earthquake, tsunami, space debris re-entry, and search and rescue)
- provision of support at events like road crash rescue, response to heatwaves, and counter-terrorism.

### 3.5.3 Further detail on TFES roles and those of the Chief Officer (or equivalent)

The following matters should also be addressed in new legislation.

- Establish the necessary Heads of Power under which details can be prescribed and amended from time to time in schedules, regulations or other statutory instruments under a TFES Act.
- Require TFES to ensure that operational plans and directives are in place.
- Provide for TFES to establish and approve response command and control arrangements. To ensure flexibility and currency of the arrangements, they should be contained in doctrine rather than prescribed in the new Act.
- Enable safe decision-making and protections for those deployed and operating within the Tasmanian chain of command, including the whole Incident Management Team.
- Capture the responsibilities of other fire and emergency incident response authorities and local government resources.
- Recovery agencies to capture the range of players responsible for recovery, including DPAC.
- Enable and indemnify interstate and local support agencies under the authority of TFES.
- Subject to confirming governance arrangements, including associated position titles:
  - establish the Chief Officer (or equivalent) as the head of the chain of command for response
  - provide for the Chief Officer to authorise/designate a person or persons to act as the Deputy Chief Officer in the Chief Officer's absence (without the need for an acting appointment to be made by the relevant Minister) and to have all the powers, functions and authorities of the Chief Officer at such times<sup>25</sup>
  - confer power on the Chief Officer to delegate his or her functions, responsibilities and powers
  - provide for the Chief Officer to make regulations or a statutory instrument to establish the response chain of command
  - retain the power of the Chief Officer to confer specialised functions, powers and indemnities on people within TFES to exercise certain powers or authorities as part of their role

<sup>25</sup> In the event that a departmental model (as discussed in Section 4) is adopted, this authority should rest with the Secretary DPFEM but in coordination with the Chief Officer.

- create a new power of the Chief Officer to confer specified functions, powers and indemnities on individuals and organisations outside of TFES and/or to appoint individuals as officers or equivalent.

#### Recommendation 4

Legislate to confirm:

- the functions for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) as outlined in Section 3 of this Report
- (subject to finalisation of governance recommendations outlined in Section 4 of this Report), the functions and roles of the Chief Officer (or equivalent) as outlined in Section 3.5.3 of this Report, but having regard to the alternative view offered in Section 3.5.4.

#### 3.5.4 Alternative view

In making the above recommendation, regard was given to how internal governance arrangements, specifically the roles and functions of the Chief Officer (or equivalent) might differ in the event that Government decides to adopt an amended statutory authority governance model.

An option proposed to the Chair was that, under an amended statutory authority model for TFES, as this relates to the internal governance arrangements, the role and functions of the Chief Officer (or equivalent), would comprise either:

1. a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as the head of the internal governance structure, with a Chief Officer below this position as head of the chain of command but not responsible for corporate governance; or
2. the Chief Officer having responsibility both for leading the chain of command and for corporate governance.

The second option is recommended.

It was also proposed that the legislation must provide flexibility for TFES to establish an appropriate organisational management structure. In particular, the legislation should not limit the number of Deputy Chief Officers that may be appointed and that TFES must also be able to ensure it has sufficient resources to maintain continuity of corporate governance functions during fire season and other major incidents.

In having regard to this proposal, the Chair concluded that:

- for reasons outlined in Section 4, the amended statutory authority model is not the preferred governance model
- in the event that Government supports the amended statutory authority model, the Chief Officer having responsibility both for leading the chain of command and for corporate governance is appropriate, however –
  - legislation should confirm the need for a Chief Officer (or equivalent) to be appointed and by whom

- how or what the Chief Officer or TFES establish as an appropriate organisational management structure (including the number of Deputy Chief Officers [or equivalent]) should not be established in legislation. These are matters for the Chief Officer and TFES
- it is the responsibility of TFES and its Chief Officer to manage TFES in such a way, consistent with government policy, as to ensure it has sufficient resources to maintain continuity of corporate governance functions during fire season and other major incidents.

### 3.5.5 Business Executive Services

Business Executive Services is a division within DPFEM that provides corporate-type services to DPFEM and SFC/TFS and has done so since about 2015, an objective being to facilitate efficiencies in the provision of such services. The role played by this division only has relevance in the event that Government supports the amended statutory authority model.

This Review has not explored whether or not Business Executive Services provides an efficient or effective service to SFC/TFS.

Importantly, outsourcing such services as currently occurs does not shift responsibility for these functions from SFC/TFS to DPFEM.

## 3.6 Impacts on other services and how these should be managed

Multiple entities, in both the public and private sectors, play roles in fire and emergency services related activities, including DPFEM, TFS, SES, PWS and STT, as well as recovery agencies. Significant detail about the roles played and entities involved is outlined in the TEMA. The authority for emergency management related activities sits in the Emergency Management Act, with detail outlined in the TEMA and/or the State Fire Protection Plan<sup>26</sup>.

### 3.6.1 Alignment of current functions

Those public sector entities with fire-related prevention, preparedness and response responsibilities are TFS, PWS and STT, with the TEMA specifying respective roles and responsibilities.

Factors requiring clarification before finalising roles for TFES include the following.

- The possible lack of coordination and collaboration between these agencies when major fire emergency events arise.
- It was not always clear as to who was in charge, disparate processes may be applied, incident management arrangements may be replicated and there is a risk of there being no 'State' view when major fire incidents arise. A suggestion made was that in the case, for example, of the 2018-19 bushfires, the land tenure agencies may have been overwhelmed and changes are needed, probably based on trigger events, managed by the Chief Officer and through him/her the Police Commissioner in his/her capacity as the State Controller.

<sup>26</sup> The most recent State Fire Protection Plan was approved by the SFC on 28 February 2020.



- TFS, currently, does very little remote area firefighting. PWS responds to fires in these areas and carries out planned burns for ecological outcomes and they now increasingly carry out cultural-related burning. These practices are not necessarily linked to fuel reduction objectives. Should it be decided that the land tenure responsibilities of PWS (and of STT but noting that STT acquires the services of contractors to assist in managing forests including burns) be merged into TFES, that new entity would have to take on these roles.

### 3.6.2 Roles of TFS, PWS and STT under the proposed models

During the course of this Review, a proposition was made that the bush firefighting capabilities of TFS, PWS and STT be merged within TFES. This clearly has issues associated with land tenure but might assure a more coordinated response to bushfires, ensuring there are no gaps. It might also provide clarity as to whether a fire is being tackled or not and, more importantly, who is in charge and when circumstances warrant intervention by the State Controller.

From a community safety/protection point of view, it may be in the best interests of the Tasmanian community for this change to be made. This possibility was explored with the following issues noted.

- To an extent, coordination is already addressed by current interoperability arrangements.
- PWS manages bushfires and uses fire (planned burns) to achieve land management outcomes prescribed under the National Parks and Reserves Management Act. This is significant and often glossed over and was particularly evident in 2016 when conservation groups felt that insufficient firefighting resources were directed to protecting natural values.
- TFS has traditionally just put fires out until, in recent years, it has become involved in implementing statewide fuel reduction programs around built assets. PWS has a Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area fuel reduction program but, due to a lack of resources, is finding it is constantly drawn into undertaking asset protection burns rather than strategic burning. This could well result in a catastrophic situation in Tasmania where fires ignited in the west sweep eastward and burn out the rest of Tasmania. Past AFAC reviews have highlighted this risk.
- The environment making up the reserve system in Tasmania is reliant on periodic burning. The competencies required to undertake this work are equivalent to a firefighter. In other words, bushfire suppression is one of a number of fire management actions required to maintain our parks and reserves.
- PWS works well with STT in recovery, finding it more efficient to carry out rehabilitation immediately following a bushfire incident because machinery and personnel are already available.
- Even if it is concluded that PWS and or STT bushfire capabilities should merge with TFES, a residual bush firefighting workforce will need to remain within each of these two entities.
- TFS does not have a role to play in rehabilitating infrastructure, this being the responsibility of land management agencies and State Growth.



- STT has a role to play in recovery of its own forestry assets – essential to supporting businesses relying on wood supplies. In the main, STT must be left alone to manage its own assets.
- Private forests need to be handled quite separately.

Initial conclusions from this are that, in line with the need to ensure structural arrangements support functions, functional requirements need to be understood and as result, current arrangements should remain unchanged. Solutions assuring better integration and response might be to:

- better understand respective resource capabilities
- clarify, and keep simple, response-trigger events requiring greater coordination and by whom
- clarify which ‘smaller’-scale events require no coordination
- explore the involvement of more than only TFS, PWS and STT in developing future versions of the Interoperability Protocol
- finalise an arrangement along the lines of a code of practice.

#### Recommendation 5

- Do not combine the firefighting capabilities of Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Sustainable Timber Australia (STT) with those of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).

### 3.6.3 Inter-Agency Fire Management Protocol (now the Inter-Agency Bushfire Management Protocol 2019-2020)

The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Inter-Agency Bushfire Management Protocol (Protocol) was signed in November 2019. The Protocol is the operating agreement between the three organisations most closely involved with the management of bushfires in Tasmania: TFS, PWS, and STT (collectively referred to in the Protocol as the ‘fire agencies’). It is aimed at underpinning the cooperative spirit which exists to ensure that the management and suppression of fires in Tasmania is safe, efficient and cost-effective.

The Protocol recognises the close working relationship that exists across the fire agencies in Tasmania. It recognises the importance of a seamless, integrated approach to prevention, preparation, response and recovery for bushfires in the State. Its purpose is to enable the safe and effective control of bushfires on public and private land across Tasmania to achieve a range of community, cultural, agricultural, silvicultural and environmental objectives.

Bushfires occur, and will continue to occur, in the Tasmanian landscape. Bushfire does not recognise tenure. Consequently, all landowners, occupiers and managers have a responsibility to work cooperatively to reduce its impacts.

The Protocol maintains and explicitly recognises the following principles.

- The most able firefighting resource of any agency will be deployed immediately to a reported fire as a priority, regardless of the land tenure involved.
- There is one statewide point of command for major unwanted fires burning in the State of Tasmania – the State Operations Centre. This will include a single voice for public communications. Relevant to this point is recommendation 5 of AFAC's review of the 2018-19 fire season. That review:

*explicitly recognises the right of each of TFS, PWS and STT to have their objectives prioritised in incident action planning and adequate resources applied to those objectives, and provides a mechanism for executive decision-makers from TFS, PWS and STT to come together and agree objectives and resourcing levels that will then be operationalised by whole-of-State control structures.*

- The fire agencies will work collaboratively to make strategic decisions, organise, prepare, and enable collective capability and capacity building.
- Each of the fire agencies will have their objectives for management heard and accounted for in incident action planning, with adequate resources applied to meet those objectives. Where there are insufficient resources available, all objectives will be considered through an agreed triaging framework.

The Protocol goes on to spell out roles and responsibilities to be undertaken by each of TFS, PWS and STT, with an objective being to ensure the resources of the State are used in suppression efficiently, using a structured risk-based approach to decision-making. Put simply, the Protocol fulfils operational requirements involving PWS, STT and TFS, nothing more. If the emergency event gets beyond the capacity of these organisations, they work under the Emergency Management Act.

Not explored by this Review, although it is assumed to operate in practice, is the need to ensure decisions are informed immediately by the State Operations Centre based on the nature of a fire. For example, PWS, STT and private landowners are expected to be better placed to inform immediate action needed in the case of bushfires.

However, a gap in current arrangements concerning this Protocol is that it is approved in isolation from other relevant emergency management entities, in particular the SFC, DPAC, DPFEM, SFMC and SES. Formalising the current Protocol by engaging with these other entities and persons, and requiring approval and/or oversight by the State Controller, would facilitate enhanced coordination and surge capacity by more than just the fire agencies.

#### **Recommendation 6**

- Include all relevant emergency management entities in negotiations toward the Inter-Agency Fire Management Protocol, with approval and/or oversight by the State Controller.

### 3.6.4 Code of practice for managing fires in reserve land

Section 88A 'Code of practice for managing fires in reserve land' of the National Parks and Reserves Management Act envisages the development of a Code requiring approval by the responsible Minister. The Code would be specific to how to deal with fire on reserved land to achieve management objectives, but one has not been developed.

The Protocol may achieve objectives similar to the Code but it has no legislative authority. Formalising the Protocol as envisaged by the Code could be an important mechanism to managing fires on reserved land in a consistent way to ensure compliance with the National Parks and Reserves Management Act, regardless of who is managing the fire – TFS, STT or PWS.

No recommendation is made. In any event, TFS, PWS and STT should work together to prepare such a Code, perhaps as a more formal replacement of the Protocol. Doing so would require Ministerial support for the Protocol/Code, probably leading to stronger accountability.

### 3.6.5 Role in recovery

Evident during the course of this Review was a lack of clarity regarding the role played by TFS and or SES (and therefore by a proposed new entity) in recovery during and following an emergency incident.

The definitive situation, provided by DPAC, is that TFS and SES do not currently have a role in recovery and DPAC does not support TFES having any statutory responsibility for recovery or that this be proposed for consultation.

In accordance with emergency management arrangements, recovery is managed through regional structures, supported by government agencies such as DPAC, the Department of Health, State Growth and DPIPWE, as required. At a state level, DPAC is responsible for whole-of-government coordination of recovery. These existing arrangements remain appropriate, and were recently reviewed, resulting in amendments to the Emergency Management Act and the TEMA. The TEMA now recognises that response and recovery agencies work in partnership with individuals and communities to ensure the safety of Tasmanians during and after emergencies.

DPAC notes the following.

- Current transitional arrangements involve a transition from emergency management authorities (i.e. Regional Controller or State Controller) to a recovery authority, rather than from a Regional Management Authority (i.e. TFS/SES).
- TFS and SES undertake important work to inform recovery, primarily through undertaking Rapid Impact Assessments and sharing data, but DPAC considers that these functions relate to the conclusion of response activities.
- Any new entity should continue to have a responsibility for undertaking the rehabilitation of damage caused by response (counter-disaster) operations. This remedial work related to damages incurred as part of the operational response is important both for community relations and for reducing disruption and trauma to affected communities.
- Under the TEMA, DPIPWE/PWS may have a role in environmental recovery.

The position described by DPAC is accepted and no recommendations are made.

However, this is not to say that TFS (and PWS) has no leading role in environmental recovery following fuel reduction activities. If TFS infrastructure was damaged, it would have a leading role in its recovery. If its firefighters were sick because of firefighting or Hazmat operations, it would take a lead with their recovery. SES and TFS roles in Rapid Impact Assessment following bushfires or floods are a leading function in recovery.

Clearly, therefore, and as proposed by DPAC, TFES will play an important support role in recovery. However, this Review supports the current role played by DPAC.

#### Recommendation 7

- Ensure the role in recovery of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) remains unchanged.
- Acknowledge the support role in recovery to be taken by Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES), as outlined in Section 3.6.5 of this Report.

### 3.6.6 Responsibility for all hazard/multi-hazard activities

A hazard is defined in the TEMA as:

*a place, structure, source or situation that may potentially endanger, destroy or threaten to endanger or destroy human life, property or the environment further defined by the Emergency Management Act 2006.*

The TEMA defines a hazard advisory agency as one which:

*provides subject matter expertise and advice about risk and key mitigation strategies relating to particular hazards and emergencies. Hazard advisory agencies may have legislative and strategic policy responsibilities in Tasmania and nationally.*

This section was included here to clarify the often-used terms 'all hazard' and or 'multi-hazard'. Clarification is needed because many hazards will not involve either TFS or SES – pandemics, for example. Table 1 and Appendix 3 are included in an effort to address this – they outline respective responsibilities for managing emergencies. No recommendations are made regarding this.

## 3.7 Conclusions

Section 3 recommends full integration of TFS and SES into TFES and outlines the roles and functions that a contemporary fire and emergency services entity should, and should not, perform. These recommendations must be addressed when drafting legislation to replace the Fire Service Act.

The recommendations in this Section highlight the need to clarify the role of TFES as it relates to:

- a first responder role and capability for medical emergencies
- recovery, or transition to recovery, in that it should have no explicit role other than support as outlined by DPAC and in the TEMA

- an acknowledgement that TFES has a role in recovery as this relates to environmental recovery following fuel reduction activities it may be involved in and where TFES infrastructure is damaged, or its employees or volunteers hurt.

This Section also explored combining the firefighting capabilities of PWS and STT with those of TFES, but concluded that this should not occur. Instead, the Interoperability Protocol between TFS, PWS and STT should be formalised and broadened to include, as a minimum, DPFEM, SFC, DPAC and SFMC as applicable and be approved and/or overseen by the State Controller.

## An effective and efficient governance structure

### 4.1 Introduction

Outcome 2 of this Review as anticipated in the Terms of Reference was that:

- Section 4:
- The Commission (meaning the SFC) and TFS are organised and operating as effectively and efficiently as possible to provide the best outcomes to the community in terms of prevention, preparedness, response and community stabilisation and will provide value for money in the future.

It required that this Review:

- consider and analyse options for governance and structure that would enable TFS/SES to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible to provide the best outcomes to the community in terms of prevention, preparedness, response and community stabilisation while taking into account –
  - the economic value that government and communities receive from volunteers in our fire services, and measures to enable and encourage volunteers' service
  - the SFC's capital investments (including asset replacement), including the building types and location of fire stations, and the types of fire appliances, communications systems and other investments<sup>27</sup>
- provide recommendations on how the SFC's business operating model could be improved, as well as when and how any such changes could be implemented.

#### 4.1.1 Objective of this Section

The objective adopted by the Chair in developing this Section was to recommend a governance model that:

- will stand the test of time
- results in the most coordinated and informed response to fires and relevant emergencies
- has simpler lines of reporting
- is in the best interests of Tasmania
- recognises where accountabilities must reside.

A word of caution. There is no silver bullet in recommending a particular model.

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<sup>27</sup> Dealt with in Section 5 Financial Management. The transfer of assets between TFS and SES, and potentially between Councils and TFES, could be addressed through transitional arrangements.

## 4.1.2 Context

### 4.1.2.1 Change or stand still?

Section 2 of this Report makes a case for change to the Fire Service Act, just as there must have been such a case made in 1979. As outlined previously, much has changed in Tasmania since that time. The opportunity now exists for this Review to propose governance arrangements that will stand the test of time. This requires questioning whether current arrangements may be suitable in the longer term.

### 4.1.2.2 Bureaucratic versus autocratic decision-making

The ability to efficiently and effectively respond to emergencies requires clear protocols on who can do what. Overly bureaucratic decision-making processes can significantly slow a response. Conversely, an autocratic decision could result in action that causes irreversible damage to a natural environment. It is acknowledged that when lives are at stake, autocratic decisions are appropriate. The trick is to develop and implement systems that find the right balance, and which are not reliant on personalities or organisational cultures. Also essential is that in times of emergencies, responses be coordinated maximising use of available resources.

### 4.1.2.3 Starting point

The starting point for designing the governance framework of TFES should be:

- clarity regarding its functions
- simplicity, with clear communication and reporting lines that allow for flexible and efficient coordination of normal business activities and a unified command structure during times of emergency
- a unified command structure, in particular during emergencies such as bushfires and floods that require a statewide response, must facilitate effective surge capacity and recognition of the oversight role and responsibility of the State Controller and ultimate accountability by the State Government.

The objective here is that emergency services must be seamless in that, from a Tasmanian community perspective, who or what responds to an emergency for which TFES has responsibility is irrelevant. Somebody must respond, and be in charge, in a coordinated and effective manner. The governance arrangements proposed in this Section have this as an overriding objective. Cost and funding considerations must be borne in mind and are addressed in Section 5.

### 4.1.2.4 Accountability must be clear

Once there is clarity on functions, costs and funding, regard is needed to responsibility and accountability to the Tasmanian community. This Review affirms the need for recognition that, ultimately, it is the State Government, through the appointed Minister, which is responsible and accountable. Proposed governance models must reflect this.

#### 4.1.2.5 Current arrangements

Assuming clarity regarding the role of the Minister, it is worth reflecting on current arrangements which, in brief, include:

- the establishment of the SFC which runs/oversees the operations of TFS
- the SFC as a representative board with an independent Chair reporting to the Minister
- the Chief Officer being a public servant appointed by the Governor. This position is a member of the SFC and has multiple reporting lines including to the:
  - SFC
  - Minister
  - Head of the State Service (Secretary of DPAC) and through her/him to the Premier
  - Secretary DPFEM. The Chief Officer is a member of the Agency Management Group chaired by the Secretary of DPFEM
- the Head of SES reporting to the Chief Officer (on SES operational activities) and the State Controller (on emergency management matters relating to SEMC business)
- the Chief Officer and his/her Deputy taking a lead role when emergencies arise
- the establishment of comprehensive committee structures within DPFEM aimed at integrated management of police, terrorist, fire and other emergency-related matters (including SES). These arrangements are not addressed in the Fire Service Act but they seem to work well when emergencies arise, supported by specifications in the TEMA
- the need for recognition, in a small jurisdiction like Tasmania, that persons holding senior positions are likely to, and do, hold more than one position or fulfil more than one role as is the case with our Commissioner of Police. He is also the Secretary of DPFEM, chairs the Agency Management Group, and is the State Controller.

#### 4.1.3 Initial conclusions

The current arrangements outlined above can give rise to tensions as to who is in charge in emergency circumstances and who is accountable. These tensions are unlikely to be in the best interests of our State.

This Section explores options on how best to address this.

### 4.2 Options for governance and structure

#### 4.2.1 Introduction

This Review examined several possible governance options. Regard was had to arrangements in other jurisdictions which vary and include both statutory authority-type models and departmental arrangements. For completeness, regard was also had to the following.

- Recommendations made by John Uhrig AO in his report *Review of the Corporate Governance of Statutory Authorities and Office Holders*, released on 12 August 2004. The following two recommendations have some relevance to this Review.
  - The role of portfolio departments as the principal source of advice to Ministers should be reinforced by requiring statutory authorities to provide relevant information to departmental secretaries, in parallel to that information being provided by statutory authorities to Ministers.



- Boards should be used only when they can be given full power to act. It is not feasible to have a board in authorities where Ministers play a key role in the determination of policy. In this case, governance can best be provided by executive management.
- Outcomes from the *2006 Commonwealth Review of the Corporate Governance of Statutory Authorities and Office Holders*<sup>28</sup>, from which the following are noted.
  - In comparison to the direct relationship between a Minister and his/her portfolio department, statutory authorities often operate with a greater level of separation. It is this separation, or 'independence', that creates the need for robust governance structures.
  - The need for governance increases when independence is combined with power. Consequently, statutory authorities should be created only where there is sufficient need for:
    - efficiency: that is, a clear purpose is required to achieve objectives and it is considered beneficial to undertake functions outside the portfolio department
    - independence: when functions require a level of separation from government to ensure objectivity.
- Initial conclusions from the 2006 Commonwealth Review include that:
  - operating independently can result in coordination difficulties, lack of clarity regarding decision-making and who is, overall, in charge, especially during emergencies. Separate 'objectivity' is not suitable in emergency circumstances
  - efficiencies are more likely where entity activities are conducted within a department primarily due to scale of operations both as this relates to operating costs and investment in capital
  - where statutory authorities undertake a narrow set of functions (fight fires, respond to emergencies), delegation to an executive group, coupled with an appropriate framework of governance (not a board) will be the most practical and effective arrangement to achieve alignment between operations and the priorities of government
  - a board does not provide an appropriate governance structure for statutory authorities operating in fields of service provision or regulation, as it is unlikely that such a board can be delegated full power to act. In these types of authorities, Government typically retains, and is expected to retain, control of policy and approval of strategy. Creativity by the statutory authority is limited to achieving the most efficient methods of executing the service provision or regulatory function. A board in these circumstances is likely to struggle with establishing an effective role for itself and may dilute accountability by adding a layer between Ministers and management.

However, organisational forms or structures are not an end in themselves. There is no perfect organisational structure, with performance very much dependent on sound relationships, behaviours and cultures.

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<sup>28</sup>

[https://web.archive.org/web/20070212151317/https://www.finance.gov.au/governancestructures/corporate\\_governance\\_report.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20070212151317/https://www.finance.gov.au/governancestructures/corporate_governance_report.html)

## 4.2.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

Submissions to this Review on these matters were mixed but two stand out.

- Strong support for the new entity to retain its status as a Statutory Authority and to have this recognised in the *State Service Act 2000*.
- That it would be inappropriate for the new entity to be a statutory authority unless it had full authority to act on all aspects of TFS and SES business.

## 4.2.3 A way forward

This Section explores and evaluates four options.

1. Establishment of an amended statutory authority model.
2. Integration of TFES into a departmental model. This governance model would see TFES become a division in DPFEM with the Chief Officer reporting to the Secretary DPFEM.
3. Integration of TFES into a standalone departmental model.
4. A tailored departmental approach.

Research indicated use in other Australian jurisdictions and in New Zealand of (1) (2) and (3) models and, in the case of option (3), with its own 'ring-fenced' source of funding.

## 4.2.4 Amended statutory authority model

The amended statutory authority model envisages continuation of the SFC but with the following characteristics.

- A skills-based (rather than representative-based) board appointed by, and reporting to, the Minister.
- The board will establish its own governance arrangements, including committee structures and shared services (if any) arrangements.
- The board will be responsible for strategy and risk.
- The board will be responsible for the financial sustainability of the proposed organisation and, in doing so, be funded as envisaged in Section 5; in particular, that funds raised to cover base level (level 1) costs would be under the control of the board and its management, providing it with the independence, and associated accountability, to manage its own financial affairs.
- The board will annually prepare a Corporate Plan for public approval by the Minister and Treasurer with an Annual Report outlining achievements against that plan.
- The board appoints a skills-based Chief Officer or chief executive who:
  - will report to the Board and Minister
  - will not be a public servant as envisaged under the State Service Act
  - will report to the State Controller and continue to be a member of the Agency Management Group.
- DPFEM would provide policy advice to the Minister.

A weakness of this model is that it does not firmly resolve the circumstance under which the Chief Officer has multiple lines of reporting. A solution is to remove the requirement for the

Chief Officer to report to the State Controller or be a member of the Agency Management Group. However, removing this requirement adds to the risk of the Minister and community not knowing who is in charge and making critical and timely decisions in emergencies.

Should this model be adopted by Government, it would be necessary to change the current DPFEM by dropping the reference in its title, and responsibilities, to 'fire', with clarity then needed as to DPFEM's role in prescribed and other emergencies. This is unlikely to be a good outcome and could give rise to confusion as to responsibility and accountability.

A proposed organisational chart for this model is included at Appendix 4.

#### **4.2.4.1 Amended statutory authority model proposed by the SFC**

In response to the targeted consultation undertaken as part of this Review, the SFC (with support from TFS in its submission) proposed adoption of the amended statutory authority model. The SFC also proposed the role for the Chief Officer (or chief executive) as outlined in Section 3.5.4.

There is little doubt that these proposals could work but they would not, in the view of the Chair, provide the best outcome in line with the objective noted in Section 4.1.1 and based on the criteria applied in Section 4.2.9.

#### **4.2.5 Departmental model**

Government departments are machinery of government arrangements under which governments establish agencies through which public services are provided and resourced through appropriated funds. They are not in their own right legal entities. Examples are the departments of education, justice and health.

For the purposes of TFES, this model would have the following characteristics.

- Led by the Secretary DPFEM/Commissioner of Police.
- Establishment of a division – as occurs currently in DPFEM in relation to the Deputy Secretary responsible for police matters – responsible for fire and emergency management at the Deputy Secretary level, with the level to be appropriately classified.
- The relevant Deputy Secretary will report to the Secretary/Commissioner on day-to-day operational matters and to both the Secretary/Commissioner and Minister when fire and prescribed emergency events occur.
- The Secretary/Commissioner will be responsible for all financial controls, recognising that monies raised to fund the fire and emergency services division will be ring-fenced for application to fire and emergency services related activities. However, funds raised will be subject to the same budget management principles as apply currently, and from time to time, to all government departments.
- With the Secretary/Commissioner responsible for all financial controls, the Deputy Secretary responsible for fire and emergency management will focus on that position's core business of fighting fires and managing other prescribed emergencies.
- The role of the SFMC will be broadened to include advising the Secretary DPFEM and Minister on emergency management related matters.

- The provision of policy advice to the Minister; and importantly, as is the case with all departments, clear lines of reporting to the responsible Minister.
- Abolishment of the SFC but with relevant membership transitioned into the SFMC.

This is the Chair's preferred approach because this model would facilitate absolute clarity regarding decision-making and accountability during emergencies – that will rest with the Secretary/Commissioner and through this person, the responsible Minister. However, it would still be possible, and appropriate, under this model, for the head of TFES (in this case, the Deputy Secretary) to have a direct reporting relationship with the Minister, in particular during periods of relevant emergencies. At a minimum, this should be catered for in appropriate statements of duties.

Under these arrangements, it would still be very appropriate for interoperability arrangements to continue, amended as proposed in this Report.

A proposed organisational chart for this model is included at Appendix 5.

#### 4.2.6 Standalone departmental model

This model might be called the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and would have the following characteristics.

- Led by a Secretary (the Chief Officer would have to transition into this role).
- The Secretary will establish, working with the State Service, his/her organisational arrangements.
- The Secretary will be responsible for all financial controls, recognising that monies raised to fund the department will be ring-fenced for application to fire and emergency services related activities. However, funds raised will be subject to the same budget management principles as apply currently, and from time to time, to all government departments.
- Likely to continue to use the services of Business Executive Services as outlined in Section 3.5.5.
- The role of the SFMC will be broadened to include advising the Secretary DPFEM and the Minister on emergency management related matters.
- The provision of policy advice to the Minister; and importantly, as is the case with all departments, clear lines of reporting to the responsible Minister.
- Abolishment of the SFC but with relevant membership transitioned into the SFMC.

This model might better reflect the very important roles played, and economic value contributed, by volunteers in both SES and TFS, but this is a transition matter that could be resolved regardless of the model adopted.

This model would facilitate clarity regarding decision-making and accountability during fire and prescribed emergencies – that will rest with the Secretary and through this person, the responsible Minister.

Under these arrangements, it would still be very appropriate for interoperability arrangements to continue, amended as proposed in this Report.

Should this model be adopted by Government, it would be necessary to change the current DPFEM by dropping the reference in its title, and responsibilities, to 'fire', with clarity then

needed as to DPFEM's role in prescribed and other emergencies. This is unlikely to be a good outcome and could give rise to confusion as to responsibility and accountability.

A proposed organisational chart for this model is included at Appendix 6.

#### 4.2.7 Tailored approach

This approach is the same as a departmental model (not the standalone departmental model) but introduces independent statutory office holders established under legislation. The objective here is to lock in a relationship for them with the Minister, especially during times of emergencies but without diluting the role of the Secretary/Commissioner. It has the advantage of reducing the multiple reporting arrangements for the Chief Officer under the amended statutory authority model and at the same time improving coordination and decision-making during emergencies.

The tailored approach envisages inclusion within the departmental structure referred to previously, with the following governance aspects.

- Establishment of the statutory position of a Commissioner of Fire and Emergency Management held in conjunction with a statutory State Service Office (in this case the Deputy Secretary responsible for fire and prescribed emergency services).
- As a statutory position holder, the Commissioner will have a reasonably high level of independence, e.g. as this might relate to policy advice to Government, in relation to fires and prescribed emergencies<sup>29</sup>.
- This position will be a member of the Senior Executive Service, reporting to the Secretary DPFEM, but to the Minister when fires and prescribed emergencies occur.
- The Secretary DPFEM will continue to be the Head of Agency.
- The Commissioner will appoint a Deputy who would also be a statutory office holder and act up when necessary.

A proposed organisational chart for this model is included at Appendix 7.

Further assessment as part of this Review indicated that, in at least one Tasmanian department, the role of Statutory Officers had the effect of, on occasion, confusing accountabilities, and such roles had been absorbed into core business.

Should this model be adopted, it will also result in abolishing the SFC but with relevant membership transitioned into the SFMC.

#### 4.2.8 State Fire Management Council

The two departmental approaches and the tailored approach would see abolishment of the SFC, resulting in the Minister perhaps not having access to the full suite of policy advice he/she may need.

This role could most suitably be achieved by expanding the role of the SFMC and by reviewing its membership, which would include relevant members of the SFC.

<sup>29</sup> These arrangements propose that the Commissioner's Deputy would automatically act in the Commissioner's role in his/her absence.

### 4.2.9 Summary of governance options and conclusion

While some initial conclusions are provided above, the advantages and disadvantages of each of the four governance options was explored by reference, in no particular order, to the criteria noted in Table 2 below. Scoring was limited to higher or lower capability or not applicable (note that, other than ring-fenced funding, funding considerations are not addressed until explored in Section 5). When ranking each model, regard was had to the factors outlined in Section 4.2.1.

Criteria	Amended statutory authority	Department	Standalone department	Tailored
Surge capacity	Lower	Higher	Higher	Higher
Power to act	Lower	Higher	Higher	Higher
Policy advice	Lower	Higher	Higher	Higher
Commercial imperative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scale, efficiency	Lower	Higher	Lower	Higher
Ring-fenced funding	Higher	Lower	Lower	Lower
Accountability and transparency	Lower	Higher	Higher	Higher
Resource allocation	Lower	Higher	Higher	Higher
Complexity	Higher	Lower	Lower	Higher
Coordination in times of emergencies, who is in charge	Lower	Higher	Lower	Higher
Coordinated investments	Lower	Higher	Higher	Higher
Effectiveness and fit-for-purpose	Lower	Higher	Higher	Higher
Independence	Higher	Lower	Lower	Lower
Affordability	Lower	Higher	Lower	Higher
Volunteer risk	Lower	Higher	Higher	Higher
Stand test of time	Lower	Higher	Lower	Higher

Table 2: Governance options ranked

Table 2 suggests that, subject to suitable funding arrangements being agreed upon, the departmental model is superior but that the standalone and tailored approaches could work.

This is not to suggest that the amended statutory authority model may not be suitable but that the two other options are superior, based on the above criteria.

In the event that any of the departmental approaches are adopted, risks associated with volunteer workforces will need careful management and transition.

While the standalone departmental model is a valid option, a risk with it includes the possibility that machinery of government changes might find it absorbed into DPFEM in time.

**Recommendation 8**

- Develop a governance model for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) that transitions it to a division within the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) that includes:
  - suitable ring-fencing arrangements for levies raised to fund TFES
  - appropriate reporting arrangements between the head of TFES and the Minister
  - broadening the role, and revisiting the membership, of the State Fire Management Council (SFMC). Revisiting membership should include relevant membership transitioned from the State Fire Commission (SFC)
  - abolishing the SFC.

## 4.3 State Fire Management Council

### 4.3.1 Discussion

The SFMC is currently established under section 14 of the Fire Service Act. It is an independent body that has the responsibility of providing advice to the Minister and the SFC about the management of vegetation fire across Tasmania, particularly in the areas of prevention and mitigation of fires. It also formulates and promulgates policy in relation to vegetation fire management within Tasmania as this relates to bushfire fuels and mitigation.

The primary function of the SFMC is to develop a State Vegetation Wildfire Management Policy that is used as the basis for all fire management planning.

The SFMC recently reviewed their role and their strategic direction framework. The outcome was their view that the SFMC has a clear role to play in the provision of advice and advocacy, rather than in the operational sphere.

Some of the strengths of the SFMC identified in its review included provision of quality advice, actions linked to strategies for preparedness and prevention, the formulation of the Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy and increasing public awareness and acceptance in relation to bushfire management. Its broad representation across public and private landholders is a significant contributor to the value of the SFMC.

The SFMC concluded that a key strength is its inter-agency and broad representation, facilitating coordinated approaches, strategies, advocacy, research and community development.

Opportunities for improvement were also identified, including reform of the Fire Service Act, clarity regarding the role and reporting lines of the SFMC and lack of linkages to the emergency planning framework. The SFMC also did not consider it appropriate that they continue to appoint fire permit officers.

The SFMC coordinating Fire Management Area Committees is an element of a model that is adopted in several other jurisdictions<sup>30</sup>.

<sup>30</sup> Emergency Management Victoria oversees regional and municipal fire management plans in conjunction with local government. In South Australia, the State Bushfire Coordination Committee is responsible for bushfire

#### 4.3.1.1 Chair views

The Chair had regard to the role played by the SFMC and noted differing points of view including the following.

- The SFMC includes representation by persons working for entities with land management responsibilities; this puts it in a good position to carry out effective work.
- It is unclear who the SFMC reports to, with the proposal made that, subject to the outcome of the governance model discussion earlier in this Section, it should report to whomever heads TFES.
- The new Act should provide for TFES and/or the Minister to establish such other advisory councils as necessary to manage other hazards (such as flood/storm risk and climate change threats).
- The Head of TFES could also establish underlying committees to support the operation of the new councils (like the role of the Fire Management Area Committees [FMAC] for the State Fire Management Council today).
- Acknowledging the SFMC in the TFES Act as the peak multi-agency body advising TFES on its management of bushfire hazard and risk in rural and urban areas.
- Providing in the TFES Act for the SFMC to have a function of advising on joint initiatives across fire agencies.
- Expanding the remit of SFMC to include advising on operational matters relating to bushfire and urban interface fire that need collective agency endorsement.
- Facilitating interagency bushfire management functions and collaborations (i.e. the functions of the current Multi-Agency Committee<sup>31</sup>), including research.
- The SFMC could be turned into an advisory board/council with no decision-making role and its current functions transferred to TFES.
- If a departmental governance model is determined, the SFMC could become advisory with its membership reviewed.
- The new Act could identify the functions of FMACs but how that is achieved and managed should lie with TFES.
- There could be a requirement in the new Act for a statewide vegetation fire management plan to be established but it would be up to TFES as to how that is achieved.
- At least one Steering Committee member supported the recommendation in regard to the continued existence of this committee but that the development of any Terms of Reference should be a requirement for any committee/sub-committee formed under legislation.

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management planning. The Committee has divided the State into nine Bushfire Management Areas. There is a sub-committee for each area that is responsible for the preparation of a Bushfire Management Area Plan. The *Fire and Emergency Act 2005* requires the Committee to prepare a State Bushfire Management Plan. New South Wales also has a Bushfire Management Committee which provides a forum for cooperative and coordinated bushfire management in a local area. A range of stakeholders sit on the Committees in order to ensure the whole community has a say on bushfire management activities. They include landowners, land managers, fire authorities and community organisations.

<sup>31</sup> Is a coordinating committee referred to in the interagency protocol between TFS, PWS and STT.



- That committees should be able to be created as required by a Service Head, or Head of Agency (or Board, should there be one).

Clear from this discussion is that there are varying views about the role for a body such as the SFMC, including how it is established and who it reports to. Also evident is that its role, membership, functions and powers in relation to vegetation fire management policy are primarily an operational question for TFES.

#### 4.3.1.2 Chair's further considerations

Submissions to the Chair following targeted consultation were persuasive, resulting in the need to have regard to the following.

- Not losing the effective role already played by the SFMC. SFMC has demonstrated the provision of consistent and timely advice as required by the Minister and key stakeholders, both internally and, more importantly, externally.
- Not losing the ability of the SFMC to independently report directly to the Minister and/or the Secretary DPfEM because this allows issues and suggestions to be promptly raised at the highest level of government without the need for feedback to be sanctioned.
- The indicated lack of structural linkages between either the SFMC, FMACs and Emergency Management Committees and that membership of these three committees overlaps.
- Confirm that bushfire is the most significant natural hazard in Tasmania, and that a statewide strategic approach to vegetation fire risk management continues to be needed.
- Acknowledgment that the other significant natural hazard in Tasmania is flood, including floods arising from severe weather and storm events and that, therefore, a statewide strategic approach to flood risk management is also warranted.

Some of these matters are beyond the scope of this Review but will be relevant should Government support the establishment of TFES. If that occurs, Government could take the opportunity this Review offers to allocate the strategic risk management functions for both vegetation fire and flood within Emergency Management Committee structures, ideally at State and Regional levels.

This may require amendment of the Emergency Management Committee Terms of Reference to expressly include:

- strategic management of vegetation fire risk
- strategic management of flood risk.

Implications will include reviewing the membership of Emergency Management Committees to expressly include relevant land managers.

This approach would reduce the number and complexity of committee arrangements in relation to fire and emergency risk management, whilst providing more effective arrangements encompassing all relevant stakeholders. These proposals may require consequential amendments to the Emergency Management Act.

No recommendation is made because these proposals, while included here for consideration, have not been tested as this relates to impacts on non-fire or flood type emergencies for which the Minister, Ministerial Emergency Management Committee and State and Regional

Emergency Management Committees have responsibility. However, this Review supports the need for FMACs to continue and for there to be better linkages with Emergency Management Committees, recognising that bushfires and floods occur over very different boundaries.

#### 4.3.1.3 Chair's conclusions

In any event, should TFES be established within a departmental arrangement as proposed, there will be a need for an advisory body, with the SFCM model being the most appropriate. Legislation should reflect continuation of the role of the SFMC under a charter to be developed and approved by the Secretary DPFEM. Such a charter should be explicit concerning:

- the SFMC's scope of responsibilities, advisory role and reporting requirements
- appointment of an independent chair
- membership from volunteer organisations (including SES volunteers), private land owners (including the farming community and other private land owners), the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania, the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT), a representative of the Secretary DPFEM and a person with expertise in flood risk management and, possibly, a person representing environmental risks
- administrative support.

The representation proposed above does not mention nominees from either PWS or STT (both currently represented on the SFMC). Their membership should be revisited once a decision is made regarding the membership or formality of Recommendation 6 discussed in Section 3.

The role played by the SFMC in relation to FMACs and appointment of fire permit officers is addressed separately in Section 7, but its charter should continue to include its current role in relation to management of vegetation fire across Tasmania. This role may be broadened to include other prescribed emergency risks. Should this occur, SFMC's name would have to change to reflect this.

This Review has not had regard to implications of the Bushfire Mitigation Measures Bill currently under development.

#### Recommendation 9

- Confirm in legislation the continued existence of the State Fire Management Council (SFMC) under a charter to be approved by the Secretary Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) and the Minister.

## 4.4 Conclusions

This Section explored four governance options: an amended statutory authority, establishment of TFES within DPFEM, a standalone TFES department and a tailored approach which explores the establishment of Statutory Office Holders within DPFEM. These options were evaluated against the following criteria:

- surge capacity
- power to act
- policy advice

- commercial imperative
- scale/efficiency
- who is in charge
- ring-fenced funding
- accountability and transparency
- resource allocation
- complexity
- coordination in times of emergencies
- coordinated investments
- effectiveness and fit-for-purpose
- independence
- affordability
- volunteer risk
- whether the proposed model will stand the test of time.

Regard was given to governance arrangements in other Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand, along with authoritative guidance in Victoria and through the Australian Government.

Conclusions reached are that the governance model best suited to an effective TFES would be the model whereby TFES resides within DPFEM but with:

- ring-fencing arrangements for levies raised to fund TFES
- inclusion of suitable reporting arrangements between the head of TFES and the Minister
- continuation of the SFMC, but with revised membership, under a charter to be approved by the Secretary DPFEM and the Minister.

Adoption of this model would result in the need to abolish the SFC but, as proposed in recommendation 8, membership of the SFMC should include relevant membership transitioned from the SFC.

While transitioning TFES will result in change, this should not be significant in view of existing arrangements including TFS' participation on the Agency Management Group and support provided by DPFEM's Business Executive Services.

## Financial management

### 5.1 Introduction

Outcome 3 of this Review as anticipated in the Terms of Reference was that:

#### Section 5:

- There is sustainable, stable, simple and equitable funding for TFS and SES, with the sources of that funding aligning with the functions and associated risks<sup>32</sup> that they need to perform.

It required the Review to:

- assess the SFC's funding base data and identify future funding options
- undertake an analysis of future funding options against the following criteria –
  - provide sufficient funding to ensure the fire and emergency services can perform the functions agreed by Government
  - be administratively simple to calculate and collect
  - be stable and predictable
  - be equitable so that:
    - (a) those who receive the various services performed by TFS and SES contribute to the costs for both fire and other relevant emergency services related activities
    - (b) levy payers in rural fire districts and all other asset owners receive benefits that reflect their needs and contribution
    - (c) minimise distortions in investment decisions, insurance price and coverage
- provide recommendations for the SFC's future funding base so it can be more sustainable, stable, simple, equitable and commensurate with future functions and business operating model, including:
  - how improvements could be made to the current insurance-based levy
  - whether there are other viable funding sources.

#### 5.1.1 Objective of this Section

The objective adopted by the Chair in developing this Section was to recommend a funding model that is sustainable, stable, predictable and commensurate with future functions and business operating model. Achieving an equitable model proved more difficult. Equity is only achievable if TFES is fully funded by the State, which is not proposed.

The funding approach applied in Western Australia was identified as worth considering (see Appendix 8) but was not explored here.

<sup>32</sup> Added because it is evident that there needs to be a link between the risk of fire and other relevant emergency services functions and who pays more or less for these activities

### 5.1.2 Context

The revenue model developed in 1979 took into account fire and bushfire risks at that time. While there were significant fire events prior to this date (the 1967 fire event, for example), many things have changed since then, including greater interoperability, both locally and nationally, use of aircraft in fighting fires, much-improved technology, demographic changes, longer fire seasons and likely impacts of climate change.

As a result, the funding model used to fund fire and emergency services needs to take into account these differing circumstances and, at the same time, be future-proof.

### 5.1.3 Linkage with governance

Funding models must have regard to the proposed governance models discussed in Section 4, which were:

- the amended statutory authority model – subject to completion of a costs and benefits study, and application of DPAC's framework for fees paid to members of a skills-based board, this model is likely to be a marginally more expensive model<sup>33</sup>
- departmental models and the tailored approach – considered together because likely to involve similar costs although a standalone department is likely to be marginally more costly.

However, while any proposed governance has relevance to costs and funding, this should not necessarily drive development of the most appropriate funding model.

### 5.1.4 SES integration

This Section assumes any proposed funding model must raise funds to pay for the services of an integrated TFES.

### 5.1.5 Brigade operating costs

A concern identified during the course of this Review was that the sources of funding identified below (refer Table 3), inclusive of the Fire Service Contribution (FSC), only cover brigade costs as defined in the Fire Service Act. It is understood that this definition does not include, for example, costs associated with administration, community education or trading activities. In practice, however, the FSC has been used to fund all level 1 costs and the SFC's contribution to DPFEM towards the costs of running SES. This practical interpretation and application of 'brigade costs' requires clarity. The SFC (and TFES) cannot operate without an administration which must be paid for from funding sources.

#### Recommendation 10

- Broaden the definition in the Fire Service Act of 'brigade costs' to include non-brigade costs.

<sup>33</sup> Based on fees currently paid to members of the SFC, assuming secretarial support of about one FTE and associated administration costs, this is estimated at approximately \$160 000 per annum.

### 5.1.6 Initial overview

The sustainable funding of emergency service activities is an important consideration. The legislation should support a suitable revenue stream to fund the provision of fire and prescribed emergency services to an acceptable level to achieve an effective service delivery which supports the community's safety while at the same time encouraging community resilience. The model should be equally applicable in similar risk/service provision situations, and not discourage property owners' resilience-building activities, such as the taking out of an appropriate level of insurance. Nor should the model devalue the contribution of volunteers or result in differing levels of service delivery based on the ability to fund the specific services, as opposed to the level of risk. The funding system implemented should be aimed at securing funds to directly contribute to the operation of the legislatively defined emergency services.

The process used should consider levy options in which citizens' and users' dependent on these services make an equitable contribution towards these services. That is not to say that existing or proposed levies must be determined by TFES or collected by it. Alternatively, and consistent with other publicly provided services, emergency services could be funded by annual Appropriation.

## 5.2 Current SFC/TFS funding arrangements

### 5.2.1 Funding sources and quantum

Prior to exploration of funding arrangements, there must be understanding of how the SFC is currently funded to meet its costs other than costs associated with fighting bushfires which are funded separately by Treasury.

While the quantum of revenues and costs currently earned/incurred by the SFC is clear (total recurrent funds earned by the SFC was \$86,121<sup>34</sup> million in 2018-19 and costs in that year totalled \$85.212 million, inclusive of depreciation totalling \$6.169 million), there is uncertainty regarding:

- impacts on fires of variations in our climate
- impacts of COVID-19 and recovery investments by governments
- amounts needed to fund prescribed non-fire emergency services (discussed in Section 5.3.1).

For the purposes of this Review, it was concluded that at least \$100 million<sup>35</sup> is currently needed to fund the activities of TFES. This amount is used when exploring funding options and impacts on citizens and businesses expected to pay or in proposing exemptions and/or funded Community Service Obligations.

The Fire Service Act prescribes various sources of funding for the SFC. These are articulated – in the order in which they arise in the Fire Service Act – in Table 3 below. The first four sources of funding are aimed at identifying the amount that the FSC needs to amount to in order that the SFC can cover brigade operating costs.

<sup>34</sup> Revenues and costs exclude bushfire related items, capital contributions, the SFC's contribution towards SES, fuel reduction costs and borrowing costs.

<sup>35</sup> TFS +/- \$86m (rounded to \$90m) plus SES +/- \$10m.

Funding source	%
Insurance Fire Levy	25
Motor Vehicle Fire Levy	10
Australian Government funding	0
Revenue from marketing/fire prevention activities	7
Operating costs (includes depreciation)	(99)
Fire Service Contribution	53
State Government funding (general funding only)	2
Other/miscellaneous revenue	3
<b>Net surplus</b>	<b>1</b>

Table 3: SFC's prescribed funding sources – percentages are those relating to the 2018-19 financial year

## 5.2.2 Funding requirements

Any discussion about funding sources must be cognisant of total costs which, as noted, totalled about \$85 million in 2018-19, excluding a contribution in that year of about \$2.7 million towards the costs of running SES. Also excluded, other than direct costs of providing uniforms and equipment, are in-kind costs associated with volunteering.

Of note is that the \$85 million referred to relates only to 'level 1' costs. That is, costs associated with responding to level 2 and 3 wild-fire related costs are excluded. These totalled about \$59 million in 2018-19.

When exploring alternative funding sources, it is assumed that on-going level 1 costs associated with running TFS components of TFES will total about \$90 million per annum, inclusive of depreciation.

## 5.2.3 Excluded functions

Not included in funding considerations or costs are activities like fuel reduction or similar prevention initiatives which are assumed will continue to be separately funded.

## 5.3 Funding the State Emergency Service

Before considering funding for TFES, discussion about funding SES is needed and is explored here. At the outset, the following assumptions are made.

- Proposed funding will be simplified. Current arrangements are unclear and uncertain.
- SES-related costs will also likely be impacted by climatic changes but any such costs are ignored here – the intent is to arrive at a base level of costs
- Additional roles associated with SES' flood and storm prevention and mitigation responsibilities, including facilitating community awareness and resilience, are not currently funded but need to be.
- SES costs, inclusive of depreciation, should represent about 10% of TFES' costs. This is not unreasonable and includes all those costs currently incurred by local government – and, if this assumption is in fact reasonable, would mean costs of about \$9 million per annum (for the purposes of this Section, rounded to \$10 million).

### 5.3.1 Funding SES activities

#### 5.3.1.1 Unclear and uncertain funding arrangements

The current funding model for SES relies on several revenue streams which in 2018-19 included the following.

- Contribution by the SFC sourced by an increase in its FSC
- Appropriation via DPFEM
- Local government
- Treasury assistance to the SFC
- Contributions from time to time by the Australian Government
- Donations and other fundraising activities
- Motor Accident Insurance Board (MAIB) payments to SES (via DPFEM).

While not completely clear regarding costs or revenues, it is estimated that the contribution by the SFC (\$2.7 million in 2018-19) and DPFEM (about \$0.9 million in 2018-19) make up the bulk of direct SES funding. This ignores cash and in-kind resources associated with volunteers and/or provided by local government.

#### 5.3.1.2 Costs to be funded

Various exercises carried out in recent years have proven inconclusive in trying to identify what it costs (both capital and operating), statewide, to run a contemporary SES. Of particular concern is the difficulty in quantifying amounts, and benefits of, contributions (in cash or in-kind terms for both operations and capital) made by local government. Incomplete estimates suggest this could vary between \$3 million and \$5 million per annum.

These arrangements are clearly unsuitable, especially if SES is expected to provide a statewide service benefiting all Tasmanians. The role played by local government in providing emergency services is explored further below and, for the purposes of this Section, it is assumed that, in the main, emergency services related functions transition to TFES. Doing so will enable TFES to take on a statewide responsibility for fire and prescribed emergency activities.

#### 5.3.1.3 Clarity about who currently funds SES

Prior to the submission of this Report to Government, there was commentary suggesting a lack of understanding of how SES is currently funded. On the assumption that the \$5 million referred to above is correct, then the community is already funding the bulk of SES-related costs as follows:

	<u>\$ million</u>
Funded via local government (therefore rates)	5
Funded via the SFC (therefore from the FSC)	3
Funded via annual Appropriation to DPFEM	1
Other sources – estimate/rounded	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 (or 10%)</b>



#### 5.3.1.4 Discussion

Funding for SES lacks clarity and is uncertain. It is proposed that all funding of SES be by way of a property-based levy so that it has a single, predictable funding source. A property-based levy represents sound policy because the work SES carries out generally relates to damage to property, including vehicles. An alternative also explored in this Report is full Appropriation funding.

#### Recommendation 11

- Replace all current sources of State Emergency Service (SES) funding with a single, property-based levy.
- Explore Appropriation-based funding for SES as an alternative if a single, property-based levy is not supported or sustainable.

### 5.4 Funding level needed

This Review notes that robust efforts at identifying the full amount required to fund a contemporary TFES are inconclusive and it is assumed that the proposed revenue sources explored below will raise approximately \$100 million per annum in 2018-19 dollars.

### 5.5 Funding models – TFES

This section explores four funding options.

1. Base case – continuation of the current integrated approach for the SFC, which includes the interdependencies between the main funding sources and assumes the FSC funds the entirety of costs associated with administration and SES
2. A single property-based levy
3. A property-based levy combined with a vehicle levy
4. Fully funded by annual Appropriation.

Regardless of the option chosen, it is assumed that:

- funds collected or appropriated are ring-fenced for use by TFES
- the Department of Treasury and Finance (Treasury) are directly involved in calculating the amounts to be collected/Appropriated.

Table 4 summarises these options, with each evaluated in accordance with the criteria associated with their sustainability, stability, simplicity and being equitable. In all four options, it is assumed that the funds to be raised will be sufficient to fund both TFS and SES in an integrated TFES and the funding required totals \$100 million. This also assumes no funding is provided by local government.

Revenue sources	Notes	Base case	Single property-based levy	Property and vehicle-based levies	Appropriation
Insurance levy	5.5.1	Yes	No	No	N/A
Motor vehicle fire levy	5.5.2	Yes	No	Yes	N/A
Australian government funding	5.5.3	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marketing/fire prevention activities	5.5.4	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
FSC/Property-based levy	5.5.7	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
State government	5.5.5	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Miscellaneous	5.5.4	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
SES funding	5.3	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Council support for SES	5.5.6	Yes	No	No	N/A
Appropriation	5.7	In part	No	No	No
Ring-fenced capability		N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sustainability		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stability (predictability)		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Simplicity (less complex)		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Equitable		No	Subject to transition	Subject to transition	No
<b>Ranking conclusion</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

Table 4: Comparative funding options

While Appropriation-based funding appears attractive, it may result in unintended consequences including lower community resilience. It is not, therefore, the preferred option.

## 5.5.1 Retain/ discontinue the fire insurance levy

### 5.5.1.1 Discussion

This levy generated \$21.389 million in 2018-19 (\$18.652 million in 2017-18) and averaged \$17.4 million per annum over the past five years to 2017-18. It represented 25% of TFS' funds in 2018-19.

The levy is prescribed by Division 2B of Part VI of the Fire Service Act and is collected by insurance companies through a levy on premium income for certain prescribed classes of business insurance. The levy differs depending on the type of insurance, with the amount added to insurance premiums varying from 2% to 28%.

When considering the continuation of this levy, the following were noted.

- This levy currently represents more than 25% of SFC revenue.
- It is only paid on certain classes of business insurance.
- It is not paid by entities that are insured by mutual insurers.
- This levy can have unintended consequences, including under-insured properties and, in some cases, property holders paying more than one levy.

- While there are provisions in the Fire Service Act under which the SFC may conduct audits of insurers to ensure the correct levies are always charged, in practice this is not done and it is probably unrealistic to think that it would be.
- The collectible amount is not predictable.
- This levy does not satisfy any of the sustainability, stability, simplicity or equitable tests.

An alternative view provided was that this levy be:

- reviewed and analysed with a view to simplifying the current arrangements
- continued but remove 'loopholes' and enhance stability/predictability of funds generated.
- indexed to CPI.

### 5.5.1.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

Submissions included the following points.

- There was strong support for the removal of the levy on insurance policies, with one submission accepting that this may lead to an increase in an Emergency Service Levy which may require transitional arrangements to be put in place.
- It was acknowledged that businesses that choose to insure are effectively paying the existing FSC twice. That is, they pay the FSC *and* the insurance levy.
- Some Councils did not support fire and emergency services being funded through a levy system.
- There were indications that the insurance levy should be replaced by a fire and emergency services land title levy, applied as a flat rate across all titles and tenure and that it should not delineate between different types of brigade coverage.

### 5.5.1.3 Relevant national considerations

The NSW Review of Federal Financial Relations (NSW Review) noted that Victoria shifted to a property-based levy following the recommendations of the 2009 Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission. This resulted in NSW being the last mainland state still taxing insurers to fund fire and emergency services<sup>36</sup>. The NSW Review also noted that:

- there is no principled case for applying a special tax on insurance
- insurance taxes are inefficient: they drive up premiums and discourage consumers from adequately insuring
- taxes in insurance are also inequitable – insurance taxes should be abolished, with replacement revenue sourced from more efficient and equitable taxes.

The Insurance Council of Australia estimates only 60% of businesses have building insurance. In Tasmania, this means 20% to 25% of SFC funding is sourced from only 60% of businesses.

A recent White Paper on tax from the Australian Government stated that insurance levies are highly inefficient as they have the potential to discourage households from taking out appropriate levels of insurance (especially amongst demographic groups that are vulnerable to

<sup>36</sup> NSW Review of Federal Financial Relations Draft Report July 2020.

a significant loss)<sup>37</sup>. For these reasons, there has been a nation-wide trend away from insurance-based levies and a general move towards property-based levies.

The Economic Regulation Authority of Western Australia cites evidence that rates of insurance by property owners increased after replacing insurance-based levies with property-based ones both in Western Australia and South Australia<sup>38</sup>.

Also relevant is that a report by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research noted that, of 12 reports produced since 1993, almost all recommended moving away from an insurance-based levy to at least partial use of alternative bases, including greater use of general tax revenue funding<sup>39</sup>. Nevertheless, the reforming legislation in 2017 retained the use of an insurance levy as the principal means of funding fire services in New Zealand; however, this is currently under review in that country.

#### 5.5.1.4 Mutual insurers

Under the current arrangements, the FSC is only liable to be paid by those who have a traditional insurance policy. Those who maintain a mutual fund or who insure offshore are often able to avoid a contribution due to legislative loopholes. This arises from the fact that mutual insurance companies are not currently governed by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA). Furthermore, how insurers recover costs from policyholders is usually at their discretion, which means that similar properties can be charged different amounts, depending on the particular policy.

#### Recommendation 12

- Replace the Insurance Levy with a property-based levy or another funding source providing similar, and consistent (predictable), levels of funding.
- Ensure that the Insurance Levy continues to be charged and collected until suitable transition arrangements are identified and implemented.

### 5.5.2 Retain and expand the Motor Vehicle Levy

#### 5.5.2.1 Discussion

The Motor Vehicle Levy raised \$8.810 million in 2018-19 (\$8.164 million in 2017-18) and averaged \$7.686 million per annum over the past five years to 2017-18. This levy represented 10% of TFS' funds in 2018-19.

The levy is prescribed by Division 2C of Part VI of the Fire Service Act and is collected by Government through a fire levy applied to all motor vehicle registrations. It is not currently payable for motorcycle, trailer, caravan, commercial marine vessels or watercraft registrations.

<sup>37</sup> *Re-think – Tax Discussion Paper*, the Australian Government, March 2015.

<sup>38</sup> Economic Regulation Authority, Western Australia, *Review of the Emergency Services Levy 2017*

<sup>39</sup> *Better ways of funding fire services in New Zealand*, April 2013 p. ii

Regarding this levy, the Chair noted the following.

- The levy reflects and supports TFES's functions and service provision in relation to road crash rescue, marine fire and rescue and vehicle fire response, but its application could be expanded to include all registered vehicles, including motorcycles, trailers, caravans and watercraft.
- While an objective of the levy is to fund road crash rescue, allocation to road crash rescue should not be a prescribed requirement as long as TFES continues to provide this service.
- The levy should be indexed to CPI.
- The Registrar of Motor Vehicles should continue to collect the levy.

#### 5.5.2.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

Submissions were generally supportive of the retention of the Motor Vehicle Levy.

#### 5.5.2.3 Options Considered

The Chair considered two options.

1. Retain and expand the Motor Vehicle Levy
2. Discontinue the Motor Vehicle Levy

The Chair supported option 1. This levy has marginal volatility. While there is no price variance, there are variances in the number of vehicle registrations.

It is appropriate that the Motor Vehicle levy be retained as road crash rescue and motor vehicle accident incidents are frequent and attendance at these incidents should reflect this<sup>40</sup>. It is also appropriate that such a levy fund not only fire-related road crash rescue but also the roles that other relevant emergency services personnel have in relation to road crash rescue.

The Motor Vehicle Levy does not currently apply to all vehicles (it excludes caravans, horse floats, motorcycles, and trailers). The impact on revenue of these exclusions is estimated to be in the order of \$2 million per annum after allowing for concession discounts. Charging the levy on these vehicles would bring the levy more into line with the road safety levy, registration fees, motor tax and the MAIB premium. It also supports TFES' functions (both fire and other prescribed emergency services roles) and service provision in relation to road crash rescue, marine fire and rescue and vehicle fire response.

However, while on face value introducing such a levy might meet an equity test, doing so may have unintended consequences which have not been explored. Until this is done, no such levy should be introduced, especially having regard to the relatively minor amount that may be collected.

Another related revenue source might be a levy on boat owners in relation to which TFS has in recent times had a growing involvement. Consideration (if not already implemented) could be given to applying a similar levy formula (as used on vehicles) on boat/vessel registrations administered by Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) through either motor boat registrations

<sup>40</sup> South Australia currently has a Motor Vehicle Levy and the 2003 Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance's *Review of Victoria's Fire Services Funding Arrangements* recommended the introduction of a charge on motor vehicles in recognition of the role played by Victorian Fire Authorities in motor vehicle callouts and events.

or annual infrastructure administration fees for commercial vessels. Before doing so, a cost-benefit analysis would need to be completed, including an assessment of amounts that may be collected.

It is, however, acknowledged that the continuation of the Motor Vehicle Levy may detract from transparency, add complexity and raise equity considerations, given that a cohort of people would pay multiple levies if they were both landowners and vehicle owners. However, there is no link between property risk and motor vehicle risk.

On balance, it was concluded that retention of the Motor Vehicle Levy meets the sustainability, stability, simplicity and equitability tests but expanding it to cover other forms of vehicle would fail these tests. There is a case for retaining the current levy which is estimated will fund about 10% of TFES activities but, as outlined later, a single property-based levy is preferred.

#### **Recommendation 13**

- Continue the Motor Vehicle Levy.
- Base any expansion of the Motor Vehicle Levy to other types of vehicles on a cost-benefit analysis.

### **5.5.3 Australian Government funding to the SFC**

The Australian Government contributes funding to the SFC under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the protection of Commonwealth land (\$0.306 million in 2017-18, nil in 2018-19). Contributions in recent years have included volunteer grants (\$0.343 million in 2018-19, \$0.002 million in 2017-18). While not significant, it seems reasonable that the Australian Government should make a contribution for protection of its property a/s intended by the MoU.

However, on the basis of materiality, this level of financial support does not meet the sustainability, stability, simplicity tests although being required to make payments would be equitable.

#### **Recommendation 14**

- Continue contributions from the Australian Government but do not regard this as a source of base-level funding for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).

### **5.5.4 Marketing/fire prevention activities and miscellaneous (MAIB) funding**

Review of recent annual financial statements of both TFS and SES suggest three things.

1. Miscellaneous sources of funding are evident but do not meet the sustainability, stability or simplicity tests.
2. Marketing and fire prevention functions that TFS carries out provide essential services to the Tasmanian community but at best they break even, not having a profit motive.

3. Road crash rescue costs recovered from the MAIB and an annual contribution by the MAIB to SES of circa \$330 000.

The revenue sources mentioned in 1 and 2 above primarily comprise provision of fire safety services, sale of fire safety equipment, alarm-related fees, inspection fees, insurance recoveries, donations and interest earned. This Review supports continuation of these revenue streams but notes they lack predictability, sustainability or stability and therefore have been ignored in arriving at a base level of funding for TFES.

Regarding funding provided by the MAIB:

- a) Road crash rescue – claims for recoveries from the MAIB have legislative backing (under the *Motor Accidents (Liabilities and Compensation) Act 1973*, the MAIB must accept claims associated with extricating persons from vehicles) and in 2018-19 the SFC reported revenue from this source of \$0.207 million (2017-18: \$0.208 million).
- b) The contribution of circa \$330 000 per annum arises under an MoU between SES and MAIB.

Regarding a), despite it being a legislative responsibility of the MAIB to make these payments, subject to receipt by them of a valid claim issued by TFS, the amounts involved are immaterial, represent unnecessary administrative burden and are not predictable. Discussions with the MAIB indicate support for removing this legislative requirement.

Regarding b), discussions with the MAIB again support removal of this funding as a formal source of revenue. This is not to say that the MAIB sees no role for it in supporting road safety and emergency services but that, as an alternative, this be justified on a case-by-case basis.

#### Recommendation 15

- Continue to source funding from the marketing and fire prevention functions of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) and miscellaneous revenue, with these being self-funding and not part of base-level funding.
- Discontinue revenue streams from the Motor Accident Insurance Board (MAIB) for both TFS and SES.

### 5.5.5 State Government funding for the SFC

This funding comprises three components:

- general contributions under Section 101 of the Fire Service Act, which provides that the Treasurer must pay to the SFC such amount as the Treasurer determines is appropriate towards defraying the operating costs of the SFC
- funds for specific program costs that are not funded by the FSC, such as the Bushfire Readiness Program (operating and capital expenditure) and wildfire fighting reimbursements
- non-wildfire related funding provided by other agencies such as Ambulance Tasmania.

In addition, Section 107 of the Fire Service Act specifies that the Chief Officer may, in any financial year, expend out of the funds of the SFC any sum of money for any purpose

approved by the Minister, notwithstanding that that expenditure may not be authorised under any other provision of the Act. This Section of the Fire Service Act was used when the Minister 'enabled' the SFC to make annual contributions to DPFEM towards the costs of running SES.

General (non-capital related) contributions made by the State Government totalled \$2.009 million in 2018-19 (\$3.299 million in 2017-18) and contributions made by agencies totalled \$0.757 million in 2018-19 (\$0.756 million in 2017-18). Assuming 2017-19 are representative, on average and in total, this is about \$3.410 million per annum and it is assumed these sources of funding will continue. These amounts ignore election commitments which should not be assumed to be part of base funding.

However, while the amounts involved are not inconsequential, they do not meet the sustainability, stability or simplicity tests. No assessment was made as to the equitability of this source of funding.

#### **Recommendation 16**

- Continue contributions from the State Government but do not regard this as a source of base-level funding for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).

### **5.5.6 Revenue from local government**

#### **5.5.6.1 Discussion**

On the assumption that arguments made in this Section are accepted, \$5 million has been included in the \$100 million base level funding for TFES that needs to be generated from sources identified in Table 4 in this Section. Necessary transition issues are considered in Section 8.

On the basis that this \$5 million fails all of the sustainability, stability and simplicity tests, it should be generated from property-based levies or Appropriation. Also relevant is that SES support by Councils to Tasmanian citizens is not equitable – Councils across Tasmania provide very different levels of SES-based support.

#### **Recommendation 17**

- Include up to \$5 million per annum in levy or Appropriation sources of revenue for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to pay for those State Emergency Service (SES) related functions and services transitioned from local government to TFES.



## 5.5.7 Property-based levy (currently the Fire Service Contribution)

### 5.5.7.1 Fire Service Contribution (FSC)

Under current arrangements, the FSC is, effectively, the balancing number in that it is aimed at ensuring the SFC meets all of its costs (including asset replacement or depreciation), with the objective that, at worst, a break-even result is achieved. Costs to be recovered includes the annual contribution made in 2018-19 by the SFC towards the costs of running SES – about \$2.7 million in that financial year. The amount of the FSC is approved annually by the Minister via approval of the SFC's Corporate Plan.

The SFC is subject to Parliamentary scrutiny in that its budget forms part of the State Budget – refer Chapter 26 in Part 3 of the 2019-20 Budget Papers. However, that budget provides no breakdown of levies to be collected by SFC.

The Fire Service Act outlines how the FSC is to be determined and paid with Councils advised of the amounts each must collect. Of relevance is that amounts to be collected will depend on the nature of brigades (permanent brigades, composite brigades, volunteer brigades and general land).

Based on the FSC collected in 2019-20 (\$48 145 187) and the number of properties in respect of which a FSC was levied (229 224 properties), the average FSC per property was \$201.02. However, and not unexpectedly, the FSC per property varies considerably across the State, with a high of \$477.27 per property in Hobart City Council and a low of \$52.79 per property in Tasman Council. And yet, all properties, and persons, in Tasmania are entitled to the same level of fire or other prescribed emergency service as would be the case with health, ambulance or education services, although recognising that service provision to outlying centres can take longer.

The current FSC is complex to calculate and may not be equitable for all property owners in Tasmania.

### 5.5.7.2 Discussion

A revised funding model is needed, although views about how this might look were mixed. The following issues were noted.

- The funding model should continue to be a direct funding model.
- The basis for collection of income could be modernised to ensure the funding base is equitable and sustainable, and to better enable appropriate recovery of costs to be incurred in providing core services.
- Funding streams must ensure that TFES has enough funding to adequately cover the costs of an efficiently managed entity and any identified additional expenses associated with new functions of an integrated fire and emergency service.
- Ratepayers who own more expensive houses pay a higher level of FSC than those with less expensive houses, yet their access to fire and prescribed emergency services they expect to receive should be similar.
- The FSC does not reflect the scope of services carried out by the SFC/TFS, with a rising proportion of activities undertaken by TFS involving responding to non-fire emergencies.

- Currently there is some inequity due to relative Average Annual Values (AAV). All properties in each Council are revalued on five-year cycles by the Valuer-General. Councils that aren't revalued have an index factor applied to them by the Valuer-General. Despite this indexation, if a large Council has all its properties revalued in a given year, then the contribution increase in smaller Councils tends to be much lower than the State increase. If smaller Councils are revalued upwards, and larger Councils aren't, the smaller Councils can have a much larger increase than the total State increase. This was addressed some years ago by a smoothing formula, limiting the variance to +/- 5% of the total State increase. Prior to this, if the total State increase was 5%, there were Councils with increases over 20% and others with decreases. Even now, with a 5% State increase, some Councils may have no increase and others can have increases of up to 10%.
- There is, apparently, a lack of transparency in the application of the FSC and calculations are complex, making it difficult for stakeholders and ratepayers to understand how particular rates for the FSC are calculated.
- There will need to be some flexibility to adjust for unforeseen costs of integration but which should be one-off.
- It is anticipated that, by integrating fire and emergency services, efficiencies will be identified through better alignment of capabilities and service provision, e.g. colocation of premises for TFS brigades and SES units<sup>41</sup>, centralised asset management and shared utilisation of command centres.

### 5.5.7.3 Submissions to the Issues Paper

Relevant submissions included the following points.

- Property-based levies were used extensively in other jurisdictions.
- The 4% commission that local governments receive for collecting the FSC could provide additional funding for fire and emergency services if it was replaced with a fee for service arrangement.
- Councils raised concerns around the rating of districts and the disparity in the FSC between residents who are serviced by a metropolitan brigade compared to a voluntary brigade. The current model assumes the two services operate exclusively within their rating district, where, in reality, the resources are dispatched to where the need exists at the time of an event, which is as it should be.
- Compensation for the provision of Government-agreed Community Service Obligations was also raised, with the TFS submission noting that TasFire Equipment and TasFire Training should not be considered as revenue streams as their sole purpose should be to provide services to remote and isolated areas or communities who otherwise would not be able to receive these services.

<sup>41</sup> Colocation of premises and facilities has or is happening – an outcome of which has been less reliance on Councils.

#### 5.5.7.4 Initial conclusions

The FSC as currently implemented does not satisfy the sustainability, stability, simplicity or equitability tests. However, a property-based levy is congruent with the nature of fire and prescribed emergency events in that they impact properties. In the absence of TFES being funded in full by annual Appropriation, a property-based levy remains a valid means of funding. However, its basis needs to be changed to ensure stability, predictability and equity.

#### 5.5.7.5 Options considered

The following two options were considered.

1. Introduce a TFES property-based levy to replace the current FSC, Insurance Levy and local government contributions to SES units
2. Retain the current FSC model.

The Chair supported option 1.

A TFES property-based levy should be designed to replace the current FSC, the local government contribution (in the case of capital and recurrent costs of SES units) and the Insurance Levy. Therefore, the new levy would not be an additional funding source or tax.

No explicit proposal as to what a levy of this nature might look like is made but the following two examples are provided for illustrative purposes.

##### A) Fixed and variable rate

1. a fixed charge which may be different for residential and non-residential properties and will increase from time to time based on a business case developed for approval by the Minister, plus
2. a variable rate based on a property's:
  - location
  - classification – there could be six property classifications: residential commercial, industrial, primary production, public benefit and vacant.

This variable rate applies the AAV approach but, for those Councils that elect to determine rates by applying an improved capital value (ICV) methodology, the value of land and buildings and any other capital improvements to the property, which could be determined by a general valuation process, could be allowed.

##### B) Minimum rate based on the average at 30 June 2020

Apply a minimum fixed charge for all property owners based on the average of the FSC paid by all properties in Tasmania in the 2019-20 financial year plus a variable rate for properties that contributed above this rate in 2019-20 based on AAV.

The average FSC on all non-exempt 229 244 properties in 2019-2020 was \$210.02 and in this financial year the FSC contributed \$48.146 million to the SFC. However, 47% (or 107 008) of these properties contributed less than \$210.02 per property and the range in contributions is considerable – from a low of \$52.79 to a high of \$477.27. On the assumption that all property owners pay not less than the current average of \$210.02, considerable additional funds could be raised.

The current fixed charge in Tasmania is \$41. Doubling this would generate an additional \$9.4 million and go some way towards more equitable arrangements across Tasmania. However, this is simplistic and requires further work.

No conclusions are drawn or explicit recommendations made. A model that seemed transferable to Tasmania, also based on a departmental governance model, is that applied in Western Australia by its Department of Fire and Emergency Services. In any event, this Review found that change is needed, with the existing FSC complex in nature and not resulting in equitable levies across Tasmania.

#### 5.5.7.6 Comparative assessments of property type levies

There are two types of property-based levies – AAV (currently in use) and ICV.

- AAV – the gross annual rental value of a property excluding GST, municipal rates and land taxes, but is not to be less than 4% of the capital value<sup>42</sup>.
- ICV – the total value of a property, excluding plant and machinery, and includes the land value.

In order to properly explore these two options, documents were reviewed and discussions held, as follows.

- Valuation of local government rating in Tasmania: a robust framework for the future, October 2010 by Access Economics, which concluded that:
  - there is a strong case for shifting the valuation base employed for local government rating to either capital value or land value
  - ultimately, the choice between the two valuation bases rests with policymakers, as it hinges on the significance placed on, primarily, capacity to pay considerations (the Chair noted that capacity to pay is an even greater issue today when compared with 2010 in particular, due to higher property prices and rentals caused by various factors)
  - regardless of which valuation base is preferred by policymakers, the specific design of an optimal rating strategy will vary between Councils based on local characteristics (as noted below, discussions with selected Councils indicated differing approaches to the use of fixed charges and use of AAC or ICV).
- *Division of Local Government's (in DPAC) Valuation of Local Government Rating Review final report April 2013* which seems to have resulted in Councils in Tasmania being given an option as to which of AAV or ICV to adopt in setting rates.
- Local Government – report August 2016 – Review of the Local Government Rating System in NSW by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal which proposed, based on its view of the need to give Councils more flexibility to better meet the needs of the community, integrating the use of the CIV valuation method into the local government rating system.
- DPAC's current review of Tasmania's Local Government legislation framework. The opportunity was taken to meet with the team undertaking this work, with the intention of ascertaining the appetite for any changes to the *Local Government Act 1993* regarding

<sup>42</sup> Both definitions taken from the Division of Local Government's (in DPAC) Valuation of Local Government Rating Review final report April 2013.

the use of AAV or ICV. While no decision had been made, it seemed unlikely that current arrangements would change.

- Discussions with three Tasmanian Councils regarding the use of either AAV and or ICV – both approaches were being used, with differing views as to which was superior.
- Discussions with a former Council executive.
- Consultation with the Valuer-General who advised his office can provide valuation services applying either model.

Other relevant factors noted from this work included:

- confirmation that disclosure of the FSC on local government rates notices was an issue in particular explaining, and providing accountability for, increases
- possible duplication and conflict between the Fire Service Act and Local Government Act.

#### **5.5.7.7 Conclusion regarding the nature of a property-based levy**

There is a need for a revised fire and emergency services property-based levy which should be aimed at addressing the following.

- The proposal must be equitable, transparent and understandable.
- It should result in greater clarity of funding for TFES.
- Any proposed levy must ensure every property owner contributes (subject to funded concessions determined by Government).
- ICV is likely to be more equitable and efficient because the cost of fire and emergency services relates more closely to protecting the capital on a property rather than the property itself. Using this as a base for the levy is more consistent with efficiency and equity principles as the benefits received from emergency services increase with market value as new capital is invested. Furthermore, it better meets the 'ability to pay' principle as it is highly correlated with levy payers' assets and wealth<sup>43</sup>.
- Because most Councils apply AAV, this approach to determining the FSC levy should be allowed to continue.
- GST and stamp duty should not be charged on the levy.
- As with the Victorian model, the property levy should apply to all property. Properties that are currently exempt from council rates should be subject to the proposed new property levy.
- Such a levy is likely to provide for a stable and predictable source of funding. A levy on property values would provide a stable funding base that would increase with the rising value of property. This option would avoid distortions to the insurance market, potentially increasing incentives for people to insure their properties and ensuring that those who chose not to insure, still pay the levy.

<sup>43</sup> Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW *Review of the Local Government Rating System*, August 2016, 85 per cent of developed countries use a market value approach which makes basing the levy on improved capital value consistent with international best practice (although this report referenced levy payers' income and wealth. This has been changed to 'assets and wealth' because levy payers can be asset rich but income poor).

- It is essential that this is a user pays levy linked to risk and services (including readiness, response and prevention/mitigation), addressing relevant hazards including flood, fire, rescue and hazmat<sup>44</sup>.

#### Recommendation 18

- Continue a property-based levy to provide the bulk of funding for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES), basing it on a property's Average Annual Value (AAV) as determined by the Valuer-General from time to time, with movements in the levy determined by Treasury annually.
- Determine the make-up of the levy, including consideration of fixed and variable components.

### 5.5.8 Revisit current exemptions, concessions or rebates

#### 5.5.8.1 Discussion

This Section is prepared on the basis that TFES will be required to respond to all fires and prescribed emergencies so all properties are protected, meaning that all property owners must contribute. However, it is accepted that the State Government will wish to support selected communities/organisations. The principle should be that exemptions, concessions or rebates should only be considered where alternative mechanisms are in place to contribute to protection from fire and prescribed emergencies.

Currently, various exemptions, concessions and rebates are provided as follows.

- Those entities that are exempt from paying local government rates do not pay the FSC, the continuation of which needs to be, where applicable, accommodated.
- Pensioners and health care card holders receive discounts on the FSC and motor vehicle fire levy<sup>45</sup>. It is anticipated that this will also apply to any proposed TFES property-based and/or continued vehicle levy but that the amount would be explicitly identified and funded as a Community Service Obligation by the State Government (in a manner similar to arrangements currently existing for power concessions provided by Aurora Energy Pty Ltd).
- As a result of the exemptions provided under current legislation, some Tasmanian Statutory Authorities and Government Businesses appear to make no direct contribution to the operating costs of fire brigades or emergency services where relevant.
- The basis on which these exemptions are made is not consistent (e.g. Hydro Tasmania is required to pay the FSC while no other Government Businesses are so required<sup>46</sup>). Those who are exempt do not necessarily contribute to fire protection through other means.

<sup>44</sup> Hazmat is an abbreviation for hazardous materials.

<sup>45</sup> For 2018-19 the amounts, as reported in the SFC's annual report, were: Pensioner rebates (municipal) - \$1.337 million; Pensioner rebates (transport) - \$0.504 million

<sup>46</sup> Hydro is required to pay the FSC as it is listed in Schedule 8 of the *Government Business Enterprise Act 1995*, specifying that it is not the Crown.

Conclusions from this analysis are that current exemptions for payment of the FSC should be quantified and removed for the proposed TFES property-based levy except for Crown Land, land managed by STT, land and buildings owned by Councils and by Government Departments and Statutory Authorities funded predominantly by Appropriation. Once this is done, and impacts assessed as to levels of exemptions, concessions and rebates Government may wish to provide – in particular to disadvantaged communities – the amounts to be raised by a property-based levy could be determined and impacts on individual citizens and entities assessed.

#### Recommendation 19

- Quantify and fund current concessions as a Community Service Obligation.
- Quantify and remove current exemptions for payment of the Fire Service Contribution (FSC) levy, except for Crown Land, land managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) and land and buildings owned by Councils and by Government entities funded predominantly by Appropriation.

#### 5.5.9 Ring-fencing

Considerable concern was expressed by various parties to the effect that under a departmental governance model, or Appropriation funding model, funds raised, from whichever source, especially if in the first instance these are paid to Treasury, and therefore into the Consolidated Fund, might not be collected for, or given to, TFES. A high element of certainty can be provided by ensuring all funds raised are ring-fenced for use by TFES. Ring-fencing means that the funds must be used for the purpose intended and by the entity intended.

Regarding the suitability of introducing ring-fenced arrangements, it is noted that the Road Safety Levy (the Levy) is an annual fee charged as part of vehicle registration and is used to fund Government road safety initiatives and support the Towards Zero – Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy 2017-2026. The Levy was introduced on 1 December 2007 for a period of five years and has since been extended until 30 June 2027.

#### Recommendation 20

- Ensure that funds raised for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) are paid into the Consolidated Fund and then ring-fenced for use by TFES.

However, in making this recommendation, this Review found that property-based fire and emergency services levy in WA is collected by local government and paid directly to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, thus avoiding the need for ring-fencing arrangements.

### 5.5.10 Implications of introducing a property-based levy

On the assumption that this Review's recommendation is accepted that TFES be funded predominantly via a property and vehicle-based levy (the levies) with the Insurance Levy removed, this would mean increasing the levies to address the \$25 million gap generated by the Insurance Levy. In round terms, this is 25% of TFES income.

Government will need to enter into transition arrangements over a reasonable period to support those persons or entities required to pay more, in particular if the fixed and variable components are introduced.

Such transition arrangements would likely involve discussions with local government should Recommendation 17 be adopted although the impact of this Recommendation on individual Councils is likely to be difficult to quantify and probably not material.

Discussions will also be needed with the Insurance Council of Australia. Discussions with this body indicate that they have done modelling on what the impact might be on commercial property insurance premiums should the insurance levy be removed. At the time of writing this Report, details of this modelling were outstanding. It may well be reasonable to expect that, should commercial property insurance premiums decrease, those property owners be expected to pay a higher property levy. This should be explored as part of the transition arrangements referred to above.

#### Recommendation 21

- Develop transition arrangements that mitigate the impacts on property owners of an increase in a property-based levy.
- Engage with the Insurance Council of Australia and property owners to quantify benefits from lower insurance premiums and consider how these might be shared with the broader community.

## 5.6 Discontinue local government funding and support for SES units

### 5.6.1 Discussion

Discontinuation of local government support for SES units received some support from Steering Committee members as did the need to fund SES in full via TFES levies, therefore reducing reliance on support from local government. However, still unclear is the quantum of support by local government in both operating and capital costs. For the purposes of this Section, it is assumed that the contribution varies between \$3 million and \$5 million per annum.

Section 5.3 argues for SES to be funded from a single source. Inconsistencies in the support given to SES across local government became evident during the course of this Review. Standardisation of local government contributions is likely to be difficult, with existing arrangements not being equitable as, for example, ratepayers in larger Councils are contributing less than those in smaller Councils. However, based on Council feedback in the past, if the future funding model involves the Councils making funding contributions towards



SES (now TFES), they will want each Council's contribution to only go towards each 'donor' Council and not spent by SES on a statewide basis. This proposition is rejected on the basis that:

- every Tasmanian citizen or entity should be expected to receive access to the same level of service
- SES is unable to budget effectively as it is unable to forecast revenue streams or contributions from local government giving rise to SES funding risk
- while Councils are required to establish units and provide certain levels of equipment and/or facilities, it is the Director SES who is responsible for the units and their outcomes. This creates a potential conflict with the Director having limited capacity to influence the appropriateness of resourcing yet being accountable for outcomes
- SES lacks direct control over the procurement and management of its assets and, to a large extent, relies on the goodwill of Councils
- current governance and financial arrangements with Councils limit the ability of SES to strategically manage their financial and physical assets.

However, any transition of resources would need to ensure the strong goodwill that currently exists between Councils and SES continues. Relationships between local government and SES (now TFES) should still be maintained through emergency management arrangements.

### 5.6.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

Comments from submissions were mixed and included the following points.

- Several submissions supported the centralisation of the SES budget to fund volunteer facilities, fleet and operational expenses to ensure appropriate and consistent management.
- One submission advocated that local government contributions should be maintained but be restructured to facilitate centralised management.
- Funding of local facilities by local government is considered appropriate by some proponents as the facilities exist primarily to support and implement emergency management arrangements.

A move to a single funding model would need to be supported by an asset transition plan to be agreed with the appropriate local government authorities and extensive consultation with Councils would be necessary to formulate an agreed plan.

### 5.6.3 Words of caution

Council support for SES units should only cease if adequate funding is provided from elsewhere (e.g. the property-based levy discussed and proposed earlier in this Report). It is understood that the State Government will only support related changes to the Emergency Management Act if an asset transition plan from Councils to SES is developed and agreed and that SES has a sustainable and adequate funding model to centrally manage all SES unit assets that are currently owned and funded by Councils (facilities, vehicles etc).

There should still be avenues for local government to provide 'support' to SES volunteer units where appropriate. For example, local government support could involve access to council land for staging areas, bushfire/flood evacuation centres, works depot sand for sandbagging and so on.

#### Recommendation 22

- Discontinue local government funding of SES and their support for local units.
- Transition all Councils' associated resources to Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).
- Develop a transition plan with Councils.

## 5.7 Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) funding

### 5.7.1 Discussion

The implementation of this model would mean significant change but could be operated to both a standalone statutory authority and/or a departmental model. This model has the advantage of ensuring that the TFES budget is consistent with overall Government budget policy, with the proposed property-based levy discussed above being paid into the Consolidated Fund, but ring-fenced for use by TFES. This would require annual expenditures to be appropriated by Parliament, thus enhancing clarity and accountability.

In a time of significant change in community expectations about the emergency services they receive, accountability for those services, and who pays, needs to rest with the Parliament, and through the Parliament, the government of the day. The current statutory authority governance model and its funding arrangements result in a lack of clarity around who is responsible, especially for determining resource capability, resource allocation and who pays. Despite this, current arrangements seem to work aided by interoperability and other frameworks. Changes in governance and funding would better embed these arrangements as business-as-usual.

However, the Appropriation funding model was not supported by any stakeholder involved in the provision of fire services, who saw it as a significant threat to the maintenance of volunteer input into the service. In their view, the amended statutory authority model, supported by a simpler funding model (based on revenue sources outlined above), is the preferred model. A more strongly empowered board could satisfy appropriate clarity and accountability.

A concern expressed was that removal of independent financial powers and not ring-fencing revenue streams raised by levies might compromise the activities of TFES. In any event, regardless of the organisational structure or funding sources, it is essential that funding be transparently expended through, as a minimum, the development of a robust Corporate or Strategic Plan outlining the budget position and spending priorities and which must be approved by the Minister and by the Parliament as part of the Budget process (not separate from it).

Despite this, full Appropriation-based funding is likely to be the option that best satisfies all of the sustainability, stability, simplicity tests and equitability tests. It is noted that:

- as already outlined, circumstances in Tasmania are very different to what they were in 1979 in various respects and we should anticipate further changes will arise
- more frequent and, probably, longer and more severe fire events are likely
- response to bushfire events is not currently funded by levies and these events are a growing and more regular threat and cost
- fuel reduction costs are now commonly incurred by fire entities including TFS and are not funded by levies
- other strategies will need to be explored and implemented to address what appears to be a growing threat of changes to climatic conditions in Tasmania –TFES cannot address these matters on its own nor should levies imposed on the community be expected to fund this
- TFS is already constrained in its capacity to keep pace, on a day-to-day basis, with changing technologies, emerging approaches to dealing with emergencies and acquiring relevant assets
- funding via Appropriation provides better flexibility and accountability.

However; funding via Appropriation has the risk of leading to:

- unintended consequences, including properties being under (or not) insured
- less community preparedness or resilience
- less community engagement.

#### Recommendation 23

- Do not fund Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) by Appropriation – because doing so may disincentivise property owners from properly insuring their properties or being appropriately prepared.

## 5.8 Determination and collection of the proposed levy

### 5.8.1 Discussion

On the assumption that the recommendations outlined above are accepted, decisions are then needed as to who will determine the levies, who will pay and who will collect. These matters are explored here with the focus being on the TFES property-based levy.

### 5.8.2 Who determines

Under current arrangements, it is the SFC that determines FSC levies payable based on arrangements outlined in the Fire Service Act. As has been articulated, these arrangements are complicated, inequitable and are alleged to lack accountability and transparency.

A better and likely more accountable and transparent arrangement is where the proposed property-based levy is calculated by the Treasury. Treasury would then also determine who

pays and advise Councils of amounts to be collected. However, Treasury would not on its own set the policies associated with calculating the levy or how it is distributed. This needs input from TFES. Councils would then pay monies collected to Treasury.

This approach would result in a budget outcome line, consistent with all outcomes in the outcome budget process currently adopted in Tasmania, termed TFES in the budget papers and in the DPFEM annual report (assuming the departmental model is adopted).

Treasury would, however, determine who the property-based levy is to be paid by and the amounts to be paid by them. This would mean that the levy is not necessarily connected to local government rates and Treasury could appropriately deal with concessions and exemptions.

It might be argued that by proposing this option, taxes will increase. This is not the case. The existing levies, including the Insurance Levy, are already a form of taxation.

#### Recommendation 24

- Have Treasury be responsible for calculating, but not on its own determining – determination will require input from Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) – the amount to be collected by local government from the property-based levy annually.

### 5.8.3 Who collects

#### 5.8.3.1 Discussion

Currently, local government collects the FSC and charges 4% for doing so in recognition of the administrative costs incurred in collection. This fee amounted to approximately \$1.7 million in 2018-19 and was established at the time the FSC was introduced. It now appears high in terms of administrative effort required for collection by local government. This was noted by several submissions to the Issues Paper. Relevant is that when the 4% fee quantum was first established, this was when all processing was manual.

Tasmania's bigger Councils receive larger amounts for collecting the levy compared to the smaller Councils. Once systems are in place, collection is partially, or almost completely, automated, with a single quarterly payment to SFC. In 2016-17, the five largest Councils were paid collection commission amounts from \$101 000 up to \$389 000, while the lowest amount paid to a small Council was \$2 400 and the eight smallest Councils received less than \$10 000. The collection fee charged by Councils has, in total, increased from \$780 000 in 2001-02 to \$1 640 000 in 2016-17. This is more than if CPI indexation was applied. However, a question that needs answering is – if the percentage drops, who benefits? It is assumed this will indirectly be the community because the proposed TFES levy could be reduced accordingly.

Councils are not required to use the amount collected to support either the development of fire management plans or mitigation activities or to support SES units.

Given it is proposed that responsibility for supporting SES units be removed from Councils and funded centrally through a TFES Levy, the question that then arises is whether or not local

government should continue to collect this type of levy and, if so, what is a reasonable collection fee for them to do so that is fair to all Councils and to TFES.

An alternative process for collection of the property-based levy was explored – by the State Government Revenue Office. Discussions with this office indicated its systems are not currently suitable for this purpose and considerable investment would be needed to make them so. Given that in all other Australian jurisdictions, local governments fulfil this function, and Tasmania's Councils already carry this out successfully, an investment in the Revenue Office's systems is considered unnecessary and wasteful. Tasmania was not considered sufficiently different from other Australian jurisdictions to warrant an alternative collection service.

An argument provided by local government for not collecting this levy is the apparent lack of transparency and accountability for this levy and its high increases, especially in recent years. This could be remedied by the Minister and TFES making clear annually, in a public manner, how the levy is constructed, reasons for increases and the fact that it is collected by local government for a fee.

### 5.8.3.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

The following points were noted from submissions to the Issues Paper.

- LGAT, representing many Councils, argued that Councils not be required to collect the levy because it is the State Government and the SFC that must be accountable for this (FSC) levy and increases in it.
- The requirement for Councils to collect the fire service levy on behalf of the Government has long been an issue of contention and many Councils believe that the State Government should be the collection agent.

Of relevance is that discussions with some Councils during the course of this Review who made no submissions indicated ambivalence about collecting the FSC. Some saw this as a simple exercise resulting in revenue for the Council, while others supported collection by another party, mainly because of ratepayer objection or lack of understanding.

### 5.8.3.3 Options considered

The Chair considered two options, that the proposed TFES levy is:

1. collected by local government
2. not collected by local government but through another mechanism.

The Chair supported option 1. Councils are well placed to collect the levy by virtue of established property ratings systems and they currently collect the FSC. The support and involvement of local government is a significant feature in fire and emergency management, particularly in local areas, and involvement in the collection of the levy will maintain this relationship.

The levy would not have to form part of local government rates; it must be separate and distinct from rates and clearly identified as a levy solely for the provision of fire and emergency services. Issue of rates notices would need to be accompanied by public statements by the head of TFES and the Minister explaining the nature, purposes, calculation and ownership of the levy and movements in it.

Local authorities may object to the fact that they are required to collect funding when they have no say in how it is spent. However, the same is true of the Australian Taxation Office and most tax collection agencies. The critical issue is the purpose for which, and transparency of how, the funds collected are spent, not the collection mechanism itself.

Any mechanisms that provide local government with some say in how funding is spent will undermine the advantages of a centrally managed fire and emergency service.

#### Recommendation 25

- Continue to have local government collect the proposed Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) property-based levy and be paid a renegotiated collection fee for doing so; and
- Have the Head of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) and the Minister make clear annually, in a public manner, how the levy is constructed, reasons for increases, and the fact that it is collected by local government for a fee; and
- Pay levies collected by local government into the Consolidated Fund but ring-fence them for use by TFES.

## 5.9 Other matters relevant to funding

### 5.9.1 Level 2 and 3 fire events continue to be funded from Consolidated Fund

#### 5.9.1.1 Discussion

TFS currently utilises AIIMS to classify every fire incident attended as either Level 1, 2 or 3 as follows.

- Level 1 incidents are generally able to be resolved using local or initial response resources only.
- Level 2 incidents are of medium complexity in size, resource requirements and risk.
- Level 3 incidents, by their very nature, provide a degree of complexity that requires the establishment of divisions for the effective management of the situation. Operational costs for Level 2 and 3 incidents are currently reimbursed from Treasury (although initially funded by DPFEM). In addition, TFS is refunded by PWS and STT for costs incurred in assisting to fight fires on their properties.

SES does not get reimbursed for operational expenses for responding to significant events unless a political decision is made, or it is covered under the *Australian Government's Disaster Relief Funding Arrangements*<sup>47</sup> when certain natural disaster cost thresholds are met. Under these arrangements, which are administered by DPAC, the Australian Government provides financial assistance up to 75% of costs incurred to Tasmania in respect of eligible expenditure on relief and recovery assistance. The level of financial assistance depends on the type of assistance provided and the level of expenditure incurred by the State within a financial year.

<sup>47</sup> Changed in November 2018 from *Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements* (NDRRA) to the *Tasmanian Relief and Recovery Arrangement: Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy* (NDRLGP).

Also, while SES has a lead role as this relates to many emergencies, like floods, it receives support from all relevant agencies including State Growth, DPAC and DPIPWE.

Under the Tasmanian Relief and Recovery Arrangement: Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy (NDRLGP), financial assistance is provided to local governments affected by a natural disaster. This assistance is paid to Councils rather than to SES directly.

The following were noted when discussing this matter.

- The scale (and length) of events TFES is likely to encounter cannot be reliably budgeted for.
- It is essential for there to be in place accountability mechanisms under which TFES is accountable for its expenditure decisions in the event of it dealing with level 2 and 3 events.
- One would have to question why some level 2 incidents can't be internally funded, especially were they are not protracted and the resources allocated to them are mostly drawn from within DPFEM business groups.
- Currently, PWS and STT incur costs when fighting fires which are recovered from the SFC and vice versa.

#### 5.9.1.2 Options considered

Current arrangements work and should continue with no recommendation needed.

### 5.10 Conclusions

It is essential that TFES be appropriately funded but recognising this requires acknowledgement that resources available to governments are limited and must be allocated fairly for all services that governments provide. Governments are held to account for decisions on how and where available resources are allocated through its agencies.

Having allocated resources, it is then incumbent on all service providers to transparently spend those resources and manage associated assets and liabilities. This is not to say the current SFC/TFS and SES organisations do not currently do so.

Current arrangements for funding the SFC and SES are unclear, complicated and make it difficult for either entity to appropriately plan. Adoption of the recommendations outlined in this Section would ensure stronger accountability, transparency, clarity and simplicity and, to the extent possible, guaranteed funding for TFES both now and in the longer term. These factors can best be achieved by:

- introduction of simpler sources of funding for TFES, being a property and motor vehicle-based levy
- the levies being paid into the Consolidated Fund and then ring-fenced – doing so ensures accountability to the community rests where it should, in the first instance, lie, i.e. with the Government – this arrangement will make more transparent how much has been collected from these levy sources and then where they are allocated and spent
- Treasury playing a central role in determining the proposed levies
- clarifying identification of, and funding, concessions and exemptions

- transferring all emergency services assets currently owned by local government to TFES with local government then not expected to resource such activities in future
- continuing current arrangements whereby the property-based levy is collected by local government for a fee to be renegotiated and the Motor Vehicle Levy be collected by State Growth as is currently the case
- when the property-based levy is determined, this be publicly announced by the head of TFES and Minister
- exploring further the nature and allocation of the property-based levy including consideration of a higher fixed charge which would likely improve equity
- determining, in consultation with the Insurance Council of Australia and commercial property insurers, savings in insurance premiums and how best to share these savings across the State.



# Volunteers

## 6.1 Introduction

Section 6: Volunteer brigades or units comprise approximately 90% (100% for SES) of the total TFS brigades and SES personnel. Without doubt, these volunteers/units play essential roles in protecting our community. Any legislation must not inhibit this. The creation of an integrated fire and emergency service encompassing and expanding on the functions of both TFS and SES must build on the roles played by volunteers, not compromise them. Both organisations have a strong culture of volunteerism.

TFS and SES, and therefore TFES, recognise the essential role played by volunteers in delivering all of their services. TFS is understood to be preparing a 'volunteers sustainability strategy' – this is supported and should be concluded.

There is no doubt, however, that in creating TFES, there is potential to affect the morale of a heavily volunteer-dependent workforce and create dislocation of staff with significant expertise in specialised areas – this must not be jeopardised. Therefore, this Review, and changes that may arise as a result of it, acknowledges the unique cultures and identity of both services, and that establishment of TFES will not involve a takeover of one entity by another.

It is, however, acknowledged that any merger of the type proposed will involve the need for cultural shift and transition may not be easy.

In addition, it is unreasonable to expect volunteers to rely on multiple and sometimes inconsistent legislation in order to perform emergency services functions. Some volunteers are members of both TFS and SES and the legislation guiding these volunteers must be clear, comprehensive and consistent. With this in mind, and subject to motivations people have for wishing to become volunteers and their competencies, consideration needs to be given to frontline services being cross trained to maximise response, especially for disaster-scale events.

### 6.1.1 Objective of this Section

The objective adopted by the Chair in developing this Section was that legislation and resulting transition arrangements recognise the essential role played by volunteers in Tasmania and not compromise the effective work that they do. This does not, however, mean that some change might not be a good thing.

## 6.2 Volunteering

TFS and SES are volunteer-based services that do not fit the stereotype of a public service agency. TFS currently has about 5 018 volunteers and SES about 665 in addition to the +/- 450 permanent staff. The volunteer workforce saves a significant amount that would otherwise be spent on work hours. If each volunteer was considered to be 0.2 of an FTE, then TFES would have, in effect, equivalent to +/- 1 586 FTE.

Tasmanian geography, together with a limited population based in regional areas, results in the only economically viable model being a primarily volunteer-based emergency response. Therefore, it is essential that the unique needs of a volunteer-based organisation are recognised.

While TFS and SES staff are all public servants, the recruitment, retention and development of volunteers is outside public sector approaches. However, these arrangements require the ability to design and purchase operating systems and technologies and independent training/accreditation systems that primarily cater for a volunteer workforce. This includes consideration of literacy, access and security levels.

The opportunity that a new Act presents is to be able to provide a framework where the volunteers of both TFS and SES can be managed in a holistic and unified way to provide a significant service to the community through preparedness, response and education to fire, flood and related emergencies.

Regarding SES, it is noted that its total first response workforce comprises volunteers, while TFS relies on a combination of career (salaried) firefighters and volunteers for first response. This Review recognises that SES and TFS volunteers currently have different identities but that this may not need to always be the case.

## 6.3 Economic value provided by volunteers

### 6.3.1 Discussion

The Review's Terms of Reference requires an assessment of the economic value that government and communities receive from volunteers in our fire services, and measures to enable and encourage volunteers' service. It has proven difficult to ascribe an economic value to volunteering. The observation made above that each volunteer may represent 0.2 of an FTE is believed reasonable but unpacking direct costs associated with volunteers has proven more difficult to identify.

Analysis provided to this Review by TFS indicates a range of between \$86 million and \$115 million, based on 5 000 volunteers and varying other assumptions such as:

- \$17 261 cost per volunteer per annum
- All volunteer activity included (i.e. emergency response, operational activities, brigade management, administration, training, community services, and both formal and informal standby arrangements)
- Varying numbers of hours contributed per annum, depending on high to low levels of activity and based on estimated hourly wage rates in this example being \$39.71 per hour.

This Review identified research papers quantifying economic value but noted difficulty experienced by DPFEM personnel responsible for assisting SFC's financial reporting in arriving at a reliable, and auditable, estimate of services provided by volunteers, free of charge, for inclusion in financial statements.

## 6.4 Acknowledgement of volunteers in legislation

### 6.4.1 Discussion

Volunteer brigades or units are essential in the provision of fire and prescribed emergency services in Tasmania. The House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development's Inquiry into the SFC noted that volunteer firefighters are at risk of being undervalued and underrated and recommended that the Government should use best endeavours to ensure the full acknowledgement and recognition of these services<sup>48</sup>.

This Review concurred but noted other options as follows.

- That a statement of commitment to volunteers would be more appropriate sitting under a new Act as a policy, as it is a broad and dynamic subject. A charter would outline how TFES would recognise, respect and promote the contribution of volunteers to the performance and exercise of its functions, duties and powers and to the maintenance of the wellbeing and safety of volunteers. It would also specify consultation requirements and the requirement to develop policy and organisational arrangements that encourage, maintain and strengthen the capability of TFES volunteers.
- A well-equipped, skilled and sustainable volunteer workforce is critical for long-term, cost-effective delivery of emergency services and the legislation should express an unwavering commitment to volunteerism. In particular, the functions of TFES should include provisions to the effect that the service will:
  - support, train and equip volunteers to deliver frontline, operational, management and support services
  - place obligations on volunteers or set an expectation of volunteer commitment to service
  - continue to provide good faith protections for volunteers and staff consistent with provisions already in place in the Emergency Management Act<sup>49</sup>
  - include supportive arrangements (to be established administratively) for the establishment of training standards, codes of conduct and provision for election of volunteer officers.
- It is unlikely that a volunteer charter on its own will sufficiently address issues around volunteers in the services with more substantive change needed.
- Volunteers and volunteering should be recognised and enshrined in legislation.
- Legislation should set the framework for developing a charter and giving authority for a charter.

<sup>48</sup> Recommendation 9

<sup>49</sup> Refer Part 3 of the Emergency Management Act.

### 6.4.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

Submissions to the Issues Paper expressed wide-ranging views, including the following.

- Legislation should recognise the intrinsic role volunteers play in Tasmania's emergency service architecture but a statement of commitment to volunteers as discussed in the Issues Paper is unlikely, in isolation, to meaningfully change the way volunteers are treated or how they see themselves and the extent to which they are supported by the Government.
- If a statement of commitment to volunteers is contemplated, consideration should be given as to whether that statement should go beyond consultation mechanisms to also include a commitment to allow volunteers to contribute their expertise across the agency's functions.
- It is unclear how a legislative document could communicate a statement of commitment to volunteers in a practical sense, other than to reflect they are a significant and valued component of the fire and emergency service workforce.
- A more effective use of the new legislation would be to describe the procedures required to ensure volunteers' work health and safety protections, and a consultation process provided for, along with ensuring there is a clear protection of volunteers from liability (where they have not deliberately acted criminally or negligently) in performing their duties.
- The legislation needs to acknowledge the existence of volunteers within TFS and SES workforces and make provisions that specifically supports them on an equal footing as employees.
- Legislation should include compensation arrangements for the occurrence of current and future injury or illness which is attributable to their involvement in emergency services activities.
- The Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (TVFBA) stated that the Association should be recognised in the legislation in terms of being the representative body which advocates on behalf of and promotes engagement and welfare for volunteers.

### 6.4.3 Conclusions

This Review supported these views in principle, concluding that:

- legislation should provide for best possible legislated protections for TFES volunteers, including workers compensation, legal protections and protection of employment rights
- volunteers and volunteering should be recognised and enshrined in legislation and the legislation include a requirement for a Volunteer Charter to be developed by TFES and endorsed by the Volunteer Associations, TFES and the Minister
- the requirement to develop a charter would be an important step in recognising a unified framework for TFES volunteers
- legislation should provide good faith protection from liability for volunteers, authorised volunteers and permanent staff.

Liability provisions in the current Fire Service Act and the Emergency Management Act with respect to volunteers and units should be maintained.

**Recommendation 26**

- Recognise and enshrine in legislation the contribution of volunteers and volunteering (including SES units) and include a requirement for a Volunteer Charter to be developed by Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) and endorsed by the Volunteer Associations and the Minister.
- Legislate to provide good faith protection from liability for TFES volunteers/units, authorised volunteers and permanent staff.
- Ensure there are no legislative barriers that would preclude the expansion of volunteer/unit roles to include both response and non-response roles.

## 6.5 Conclusions

Volunteers, and volunteer organisations in both TFS and SES have played essential roles for many years in protecting the citizens of Tasmania. New legislation must facilitate continuation of this.

## Operational and other matters

### 7.1 Introduction

The Review's Terms of Reference noted that it may also provide advice on any other issues determined are relevant. Several matters were identified in submissions to the Issues Paper and during analysis undertaken for this Review.

#### Section 7:

A general principle has been applied in this Report that operational matters, by their nature, will be handled through the drafting of Heads of Power or alternative doctrine (or in the TEMA) that concern the delivery of services which should then be addressed in subordinate legislation. In this respect, part of Recommendation 28 is repeated here:

‘broadens TFES’ mandate to include the power to confer specified functions, powers and indemnities on individuals and organisations inside and outside TFES, including interstate and international personnel’

To facilitate this, a TFES Act should provide non-specific reference to creating variations to service delivery. For example, TFES will determine suitable service delivery outputs as required with details to be outlined in regulation or doctrine. In any event, a TFES Act should:

- establish the necessary Heads of Power, under which details can be prescribed and amended from time to time in schedules, regulations or other statutory instruments
- require the head of TFES to ensure that operational plans and directives are in place
- provide for the head of TFES to establish and approve response command and control arrangements. However, to ensure flexibility and currency of the arrangements, they will be contained in doctrine rather than prescribed in the Act
- enable safe decision-making and protections for those deployed and operating within the Tasmanian chain of command, including the whole Incident Management Team
- capture the responsibilities of other fire and emergency incident response authorities and local government resources
- enable and indemnify interstate (and international) support agencies under the authority of TFES (also referred to as providing TFES with the ‘authority to act’ or enabling other relevant entities, STT for example, to act).

#### 7.1.1 Objective of this Section

Outcome 2 for this Review specifies that the SFC and TFS are organised and operating as effectively and efficiently to provide the best outcomes to the community in terms of prevention, preparedness, response and community stabilisation and will provide value for money in the future. This Section includes several operational matters that if appropriately dealt with in legislation, regulation, policy or doctrine can lead to a more effective and efficient TFES.

## 7.2 Emergency Medical Response

### 7.2.1 Discussion

Under a 'first responder model, TFES could be empowered to task nearby available resources to reduce intervention time in responding to critical life-threatening medical cases. This already occurs to some extent in some areas of Tasmania with the provision of defibrillators to TFS volunteers and co-response by career firefighters when requested by Ambulance Tasmania if resources are available. On the basis of an expectation by the Tasmanian community that TFES provides this first responder function, this Review supports its inclusion as long as the expected medical functions to be performed are clearly articulated (e.g. first aid type functions), with appropriate training provided to TFES personnel and subject to seeking the views of Ambulance Tasmania.

However, Ambulance Tasmania is and must remain the 'management authority' for this function. Discussions with Ambulance Tasmania indicated support for TFES personnel to continue to provide first responder assistance, but subject to:

- appropriate credentialing arrangements
- relevant training for TFES personnel (including volunteers)
- the arrangements being pursued under an MoU between TFES and Ambulance Tasmania.

In a similar context, Ambulance Tasmania saw benefit in entering into an MoU with TFES regarding respective roles in urban search and rescue, in particular where circumstances require TFES personnel and Ambulance Tasmania paramedics to work together in emergency situations. New legislation should not prohibit the developments of MoUs of this nature.

When considering the role to be played by a contemporary fire and emergency services entity, this Review noted that a function of TFES should include emergency medical response but that:

- medical support be limited to first aid treatment and fire, road crash rescue and other incidents where TFES personnel are first responders and are first on scene
- the level of training must reflect these arrangements and be suitably resourced
- Ambulance Tasmania should remain the agency responsible for response to medical emergency within the community but this should not preclude the provision of potentially lifesaving first response services in specific circumstances as an operational decision in support of Ambulance Tasmania
- these arrangements could be dealt with as policy or in the TEMA.

### 7.2.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

Ambulance Tasmania indicated its support of TFS assisting as a co-responder emergency medical response in support of ambulance services, to specified life-threatening cases. In this respect, the Review noted that the Council of Ambulance Authorities has worked with AFAC to develop National Guidelines for Emergency Medical Response by fire services. Ambulance Tasmania endorses those guidelines under which a fire service would co-respond with an ambulance service to patients in cardiac arrest or highly likely to deteriorate to cardiac arrest.



However, under the emergency medical response model, fire personnel are not paramedics, nor a substitute for paramedics, but rather responders skilled to basic life support (including Automatic External Defibrillators) to assist paramedics.

Ambulance Tasmania is keen to develop an emergency medical response capacity with TFS. This Review supports this occurring.

### 7.2.3 Discussion

When finalising this Report, and having regard to TFES' potential role in emergency medical response, and specifically whether firefighters and other emergency services personnel have a role at all, this Review noted:

- this should be entirely a matter of policy, rather than being specified in legislation
- the legislation should allow for additional functions that fire and emergency services personnel may perform consistent with an overarching responsibility for public safety, property and the environment
- Ambulance Tasmania should continue to be the primary agency for emergency medical response
- an appropriate level of medical training, suitably resourced, would be required for firefighters and other emergency management personnel.

#### Recommendation 27

- Do not include a legislated provision for emergency medical response in the mandate of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES); this should be entirely a matter of policy.
- Ensure legislation allows for additional functions that fire and emergency services personnel may perform, subject to appropriate training and credentialing, with an overarching responsibility for public safety, property and the environment.
- Ensure that, while Ambulance Tasmania remains the primary agency for emergency medical response, legislation does not prohibit it from entering into arrangements with TFES for training and credentialing relevant emergency response activities.

## 7.3 Protection from liability

### 7.3.1 Discussion

Section 121 of the Fire Service Act provides protection from liability in respect of death, injury, or damage, if a brigade, officer, firefighter, employee, or agent acted, or, as the case may be, failed to act, in good faith. Protection from liability applies to the performance of any function imposed under the Fire Service Act. Similar protections exist for 'emergency management workers' under Section 58 in Part 4 of the Emergency Management Act. The definition of an 'emergency management worker' includes, inter alia, a member of a statutory service whether for payment of other consideration or as a volunteer.



Any new legislation should retain and contemporise the protections in Section 121 of the Fire Service Act and Part 4 of the Emergency Management Act for TFES personnel exercising legislative functions (not limited to incident response). Additionally, a new Act should:

- extend the same level of protection to apply to:
  - members of other organisations engaged under an Interoperability Protocol established by TFES, irrespective of land tenure
  - individuals and organisations on whom powers or functions are conferred by or under the proposed new Act (e.g. if such individuals or organisations act under the authority of TFES)
- create indemnity from liability under environmental laws for unforeseen damage that occurs during incident response
- require TFES to maintain appropriate professional indemnity insurance (although this will not be necessary under a departmental model, assuming such risk is addressed by the Tasmanian Risk Management Fund managed by Treasury).

### 7.3.2 Issues raised in submissions

The following matters were raised in submissions.

- There was broad consensus that provisions regarding protection from liability need to be clear and adequately cover agencies whose staff may be undertaking roles in relevant operations.
- Provisions need to be broadened to match TFES functions under the new Act and would be wider than fire prevention, preparation and response.
- Protection from liability should be consistent for staff and volunteers across all relevant services.
- Authority and indemnity are required to allow for quick response to fires in the landscape, e.g. first response to fire when able to do so without waiting for formal instruction from TFS, and approval to enter private land to address fire response. This needs to be considered not just for STT and PWS, but the private forest industry and any other potential first responders, e.g. appropriately resourced private land managers.
- Clarity is required around authority to act and indemnity, including the linkages with existing MoU arrangements with private forests.
- Consider looking at indemnity of various actions and what authority can be granted prior to particular actions being taken, e.g. if fire reported through FireComm, automatic authority be given to act.

However, one submission considered the current protections as overly generous. This view is not supported, especially because of the potential uncertainty about indemnity.

### 7.3.3 Options considered

In developing options to consider, the Chair had regard to the following issues.

- All authorised activities outside incident response require the appropriate level of protection for employees, contractors, volunteers and self-presenters.
- Currently, there are grey areas for staff and activities outside the brigade structures, e.g. staff undertaking the fuel reduction program. This needs to be addressed.

With these issues in mind, the Chair considered two options.

1. Maintain current levels of indemnity and, in accordance, with Recommendation 29, include in TFES' mandate the power to confer specified functions, powers and indemnities on individuals and organisations inside and outside TFES
2. Retain the status quo.

The Chair supported option 1.

Section 121 of the Fire Service Act does not deal with any specific activities and there have been some doubts raised as to whether this Section applies to non-firefighting operations of the kind TFS now engages in, e.g. road crash rescue. Furthermore, it is not particularly clear whether risk mitigation activities are covered, as mitigation is not a function specified in the current Fire Service Act.

Furthermore, it is not clear whether employees or contractors of STT or PWS, or employees of private entities engaged by either STT or PWS when assisting TFS at a fire event would be an agent of the entity' and so attract protection<sup>50</sup>. Recommendation 28, if adopted, removes this uncertainty. It will be essential that there is clarity that TFES is the entity approving or instructing such engagement, preferably in writing, and that respective personnel are prepared to take such instruction, with arrangements clear in legislation. These arrangements must apply not only to fire events, but to all events TFES has responsibility for. This will then be relevant to SES units as well as fire brigades and all volunteers.

The Tasmanian Government has on occasions required the assistance of interstate and international firefighting and incident management personnel. Consideration should be given to extension of indemnity from liability to interstate and international personal working in Tasmania under Agreements for Interstate or International Assistance.

<sup>50</sup> The endorsed Policy for the grant of indemnities and legal assistance to Public Officers of the State of Tasmania is that: (i) Public Officers are eligible for an indemnity and/or legal assistance in respect of civil proceedings, arising out of their acts or omissions done in good faith in the course of their public office unless one or more exclusions apply. *Employment Direction 16*.

**Recommendation 28**

- Develop legislation that empowers Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) with functions, powers and indemnities that reflect its broader role in emergency management and response, and which:
  - maintains current levels of indemnity
  - broadens TFES' mandate to include the power to confer specified functions, powers and indemnities on individuals and organisations inside and outside TFES, including interstate and international personnel
  - provides authority and indemnity that allows for quick response to fires in the landscape without waiting for formal instruction from TFES, and approval to enter private land to address fire response. This should apply not just for Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) and Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), but also the private forest industry and any other potential first responders, e.g. appropriately resourced private land managers
  - provides clarity regarding authority to act and indemnity, including linkages with existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) arrangements with private forests and in circumstances where authority to act may be automatic, such as fires reported through FireComm.

## 7.4 Inter-agency cooperation

### 7.4.1 Discussion

The Fire Service Act currently makes specific reference to forest and national parks officers and conveys powers to those officers<sup>51</sup>. However, there is no consistency between the two sets of powers. Forest officers have greater and wider-ranging powers than employees of PWS. This reflects the history of the then Forestry Tasmania<sup>52</sup> and PWS, the different ways in which their involvement in fire management and suppression evolved, and the different times at which these roles were set out in legislation.

It appears that advances in inter-agency cooperation, which have been enshrined in the Protocols and demonstrated by the establishment of Inter-Agency Incident Management Teams, have outstripped the provisions of the Fire Service Act and should not be replicated in any new legislation. These advances are further evidenced by the Fuel Reduction Program which sees the three Agencies cooperating in a tenure-blind approach to bushfire risk mitigation.

The House of Assembly Standing Committee's Inquiry into the SFC recommended the Fire Service Act be reformed to allow for a streamlined approach to firefighting between TFS, PWS, STT and other relevant agencies. The Inquiry recommended that new legislation would contain a Head of Power to confer specified functions, powers and indemnities on individuals and organisations inside and outside the entity – dealt with here in Recommendation 28). Specific powers and functions for organisations would not be prescribed in the legislation, which will enable the provisions to be flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances. This would

<sup>51</sup> Sections 43 and 45.

<sup>52</sup> Now Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT)

enable non-TFS fire crews to act promptly and with authority to defend and save assets when responding to a fire emergency situation, including on private property, with the appropriate limitation of liability, including for mitigation activities<sup>53</sup>.

Current legislation provides powers for TFS officers, on days of total fire ban, to enter private property and extinguish fires. PWS officers patrolling areas of the reserve system across the State are often first on scene and are in a good position to take rapid action on fires on private property restricting overall impact. However, they have no authority under the current Fire Service Act to do so. This would be addressed through the appropriate Head of Power or related provisions in the new legislation.

Changes to land tenure have meant that PWS has responsibility for vegetation fires across Reserved Land and Crown Land, yet PWS personnel do not currently have legislative authority to access or take action to protect life and property. Legislative mechanisms are needed that allows non-TFS Officers in charge of fire suppression to have access to, and to deal with, a fire, regardless of tenure, as soon as possible.

Such a Head of Power could also mitigate the situations concerning road closures and traffic management in remote areas where Tasmania Police is not in a position to effect road closures in a timely manner<sup>54</sup>.

Such a provision would also provide legislative authority to assign powers/responsibilities to interstate/international employees as appropriate.

The new Act would expressly provide TFES (or delegate) with the power to establish protocols for interoperability of relevant agencies and organisations in relation to specific hazard types or geographical areas.

Interoperability Protocols established under the Act would have legal status such that they:

- define responsibilities, along the lines of Section 1 of the current Interagency Protocol between the fire agencies
- confer powers and functions
- establish command and control arrangements
- confer protections from liability on participating organisations and their personnel
- create obligations to act (including fire and emergency response) in accordance with the Protocol.

These Interoperability Protocols will enable TFES to engage the assistance of a wider range of organisations, potentially including:

- forestry industry fire brigades
- industry emergency response teams

<sup>53</sup> Section 23 of the *Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017* provides a good example of how this would look in legislation where the Board may authorise any person to perform or exercise a function, duty or power under the Act and regulations provided they are suitably qualified or trained to perform or exercise the function, duty or power

<sup>54</sup> A key recommendation of the investigation of the Lake Burbury bushfire in January 2014 was to provide PWS officers with the necessary authority and powers to close roads and/or stop traffic under extraordinary circumstances

- volunteer organisations with appropriate skills for particular emergencies, such as the assistance provided by Surf Life Saving Tasmania in the 2016 north-west flood event.

Section 45 of the Fire Service Act specifies the powers of authorised national park officers on PWS reserved land. However, a PWS employee has no legislative authority to initiate works as a first responder, or to direct others to undertake work, on land other than that managed by PWS. This becomes problematic when a PWS employee initiates or oversees operations not wholly on land managed by PWS, in particular in those circumstances where damage is caused.

The powers of a forest officer as set out in section 43 of the Fire Service Act are more comprehensive, but still closely defined. As for an authorized national parks officer, a Forest Officer has no legislative authority to initiate works as a first responder, or to direct others to undertake work in connection with a fire which is not, in his/her opinion, a threat to State Forest or/on Crown Land.

This could this be addressed by authorising such officers during a 'prescribed period' or 'prescribed fire'. In this respect, it is understood that the State of Victoria has blended incident management teams and incident controllers from multiple agencies rotating in and out and, issues around being suitably trained are addressed via AFAC's professionalisation scheme approach. These arrangements could be explored for consideration in Tasmania and are to a large extent addressed by Recommendation 28.

#### 7.4.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

The following matters of relevance were noted from submissions to the Issues Paper.

- STT strongly believes the current legislative authority for Forest Officers should be maintained in the amended legislation. STT considers that the Inter-Agency Fire Management Protocol is an effective framework that aligns STT/TFS and PWS and that these practices should be reflected in legislation.
- That all people, including employees of STT and PWS, undertaking fire control work should have legislative authority (and protections) to undertake fire control work. Others noted that this should also apply to employees and contractors of private forestry companies such as PF Olsen Australia.
- Tasmania Police support legislating to provide consistency of powers and responsibility between PWS officers and STT officers but suggest that care should be taken in legislating these matters as the more prescriptive the legislation regarding specific agencies or authorities, the less flexible and adaptable it will be to changing circumstances.
- Tasmania Police also suggest that additional powers should be examined by the Review to support the expanded roles of TFS, PWS and STT. For example, there have been occasions when PWS officers in remote areas have needed to close roads to protect public safety during a fire, but have not had the power to do so. Similarly, TFS and PWS officers should have a power to regulate traffic not just close a road.

- The Australian Workers Union (AWU) and the United Firefighters Union of Australia – Tasmania Branch (UFU) considered that fire crew members of PWS should be provided with legislative authority and indemnity to undertake their roles effectively and efficiently in the management of fire across Tasmania, which would be more reflective of the current processes.

### 7.4.3 A word of caution

The observations in this Section need to be cognisant of those in Section 3.6.3, in particular the need to ensure that there is one statewide point of command for major unwanted fires burning in the State of Tasmania – the State Operations Centre. This will include a single voice for public communications. Relevant to this point is recommendation 5 of AFAC’s review of the 2018-19 fire season. That review:

*explicitly recognises the right of each of TFS, PWS and STT to have their objectives prioritised in incident action planning and adequate resources applied to those objectives, and provides a mechanism for executive decision-makers from TFS, PWS and STT to come together and agree objectives and resourcing levels that will then be operationalised by whole-of-State control structures.*

#### Recommendation 29

- Legislate to:
  - address conflicting, duplicated or gaps in the roles of the proposed Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES), Parks and Wildlife (PWS), Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) and private entities involved in dealing with fires
  - allow non-TFES officers in charge of fire suppression to have access to, and to deal with, a fire as soon as possible
  - include in the mandate of TFES the power to confer specified functions and powers on individuals and organisations, including interstate or international personnel, inside or outside of the entity
  - include a Head of Power, exercisable at the discretion of TFES, allowing protocols to be developed to manage the relationship between the entity and other land management agencies and emergency services agencies, including Tasmania Police
  - provide firefighters, SES workers and other delegated agencies/people with protection from liability (as occurs currently in section 51 of the Emergency Management Act). Other delegated agencies/people be ‘loosely’ defined so as to provide protection for the range of persons involved in the provision of fire and emergency services but who may be non-firefighters/non-emergency workers/not public servants
  - authorise TFES, PWS and STT to close roads to protect public safety during a fire, flood or storm hazard and to have a power to regulate traffic, not just close a road.

## 7.5 Appointment of permit officers

### 7.5.1 Discussion

The recent review of the fire permit system recommended that the SFMC, as an advisory body, is not able to appoint permit officers and does not hold the authority or accountability for these types of operational decisions. This has been endorsed by the SFMC, the TFS/SES Leadership Team and by the then Minister<sup>55</sup>.

Furthermore, the current process is unwieldy, with permit officers:

- nominated by the region or organisation
- recommended by FMACs (which meet a minimum of two times per year)
- endorsed by the SFMC, (which meets a minimum of four times per year).

This can, and does, lead to delays in appointment, particularly when a permit period is declared and it is necessary to appoint permit officers quickly. For example, the recent appointment of permit officers for the East Coast district had to go through four different FMACs and there is no correlation between FMAC and District boundaries.

The decision-making and nomination process to appoint permit officers should be left to the senior management of the relevant responsible agencies, depending on its specific responsibilities in regards to the land tenure with which it is concerned as permit officers are represented throughout the fire industry. For example, District Officers within TFS could be deemed to be permit officers in the absence of a duly appointed permit officer. This would provide a standing capacity as a secondary source.

#### Recommendation 30

- Leave the decision-making and nomination process to appoint fire permit officers to the senior management of the relevant responsible agencies, depending on their specific responsibilities in regards, e.g. to the land tenure with which it is concerned.

## 7.6 Fire and Emergency Risk Area Committees (currently Fire Management Area Committees)

### 7.6.1 Discussion

The roles of FMACs and Emergency Management Committees (EMC) are different, with the former focusing on prevention and mitigation strategies and the latter on response and recovery. Despite these differences, the role of FMACs should not be considered in isolation from the structures established under the Emergency Management Act. Under that Act, there are established three Regional EMCs and 29 Municipal EMCs. Emergency Management Plans

<sup>55</sup> Wise Lord and Ferguson, *Tasmania Fire Service Review of the Fire Permit System, Final Report, January 2018*, Recommendation 14.

are produced at both the Regional and Municipal levels. In some cases, there is a high level of shared membership between the three Committees.

While FMACs are primarily focused on prevention and mitigation strategies and EMCs are focused on multiple activities, including response and recovery, the opportunity to remove potential duplication and to streamline operations in the new legislation should not be lost. This includes defining how Fire Protection Plans relate to Emergency Management Plans.

It may also be appropriate that any fire management committees (where formed) report their activities and planning strategies through to the relevant Regional Emergency Management Committees, to ensure a holistic approach is taken in regard to risk mitigation and preparedness activities. This is specifically the case in regard to bushfire management which is one of the State's most significant emergency risks.

Changes to the Fire Service Act in 2012 resulted in administrative alignment of the responsibility for the management of bushfire fuels across the State in recognition that it is a shared responsibility across all sectors including the public arena. The principal aim was to bring together the various stakeholders that manage land use across the State, to work together to effectively manage vegetation fuels for the mitigation of bushfires. These Committees also inform resourcing of brigades.

The FMAC structure was reviewed and there are now 10 fire management areas for the State, reflecting the broader landscape and strategic focus that is required. Section 18 of the Act specifies the membership of these Committees.

The focus of each FMAC is to prepare a fire protection plan for the Fire Management Area and to identify and prioritise bushfire vegetation risks and prioritise strategic works to mitigate any perceived risks. These plans are currently submitted to the SFMC for approval.

FMACs and EMCs perform different functions:

- FMACs have a specific focus on managing vegetation fire risk (the most significant natural hazard in Tasmania). They are a forum for collaboration, particularly in relation to mitigation. FMACs have a key role in preparing, assessing and developing bushfire risk mitigation plans, a function that should continue.
- EMCs have functions relating to disaster planning, response and recovery in relation to a wider range of hazards. They also serve an important role during the recovery phase by facilitating the coordination of public and private resources within the relevant community.

The membership of the two types of committees reflects their respective functions.

Membership of FMACs is centred on those who are actively engaged in and/or responsible for land management. Membership of EMCs is broader and includes Tasmania Police, utilities, local government, emergency responders, and recovery providers.

At this stage, vegetation fire risk is the most significant, and commonly recurring, natural hazard in Tasmania and warrants separate attention. Coordination between the committees is, however, required, and it is proposed that the existing EMC structures under the Emergency Management Act be retained. These structures may, however, need to be reviewed once TFES is established to capitalise on identified efficiencies and synergies. Similarly, no change is proposed to the existing FMAC structure. However, to ensure flexibility to adapt to changing



circumstances, the new legislation should not prescribe the numbers or geographical boundaries of relevant committees.

In any event, this Review proposes that:

- FMACs be renamed Fire and Emergency Risk Area Committees (FERAC) in recognition that TFES manages risks associated with fire and prescribed emergencies that may arise and not their management in the first instance
- FMACs (now FERACs) and EMCs must be resourced to meet their obligations.

The risk with this change is that the responsibility for management of risks associated with non-fire or non-prescribed emergencies encapsulated by the Emergency Management Act may be blurred.

### 7.6.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

Submissions to the Issues Paper on this subject included the following points.

- FMACs are operating satisfactorily, with the representation from the rural areas on the FMACs being appreciated.
- It would be good practice to have a wine representative on appropriate FMACs as it would be beneficial in reducing the risks of smoke taint from fuel reduction burns<sup>56</sup>.
- A suggestion that large industrial forest growers and other significant landholders within the FMACs boundaries should be represented.
- A need to streamline and rationalise FMACs in the short to medium term with the possibility to incorporate FMACs into the emergency management structure, and the advantage this would bring.

In a more recent submission from the SFMC, this Review noted and concurred that:

- a form of FMACs should continue, due to their critical role in managing bushfire risk at a strategic level
- the number of Fire Management Areas and linkages between the emergency management committees and FMACs be investigated
- in the absence of the SFMC, or other advisory body involving both government and non-government land managers, the legislation must retain a mechanism to provide direction on the governance and operation of the FMACs. FMACs currently operate to achieve the management of bushfire risk requiring the cooperation of land managers and relevant statutory authorities with the powers to address bushfire risk.

However, others saw the roles and membership of the respective FMACs being mutually exclusive and indicated that integration would not lead to better outcomes given they are comprised of those actively engaged and/or responsible for land management while membership of (Regional and Municipal) EMCs is wider, including Tasmania Police, utilities, emergency responders, local government and recovery providers.

<sup>56</sup> In regard to wine representation, this can happen already if there are large wine industry landholders who own/manage land – requests can be made through SFMC if representatives fit with the Terms of Reference for FMACs – this is also the case for the forest industry

One submission was very critical of the composition and role of FMACs, considering they do not act in the public interest. Another noted that, while FMACs are essential to the coordination of fire activities with other organisations and land managers, for FMACs to achieve real community engagement and satisfactory representation, they require a fit-for-purpose community engagement model, more appropriate structures, careful selection of candidates and training in risk management <sup>57</sup>.

### 7.6.3 Conclusions

This Review, subject to comments in Section 7.7 below, is supportive of the establishment of FERACs, and for broadening their roles to include emergencies other than only fires, providing that:

- this Review provides an opportunity for these arrangements and planning outcomes to be developed in broader consultation with communities and with municipal and regional emergency management committees
- broadening does not increase the number of personnel involved
- doing so does not reduce the focus on vegetation fire management risks
- consideration be given to better linkages (not merging) between FMACs and EMCs and minimising duplication.

Under this option, TFES, on the advice of the State Fire Management Sub-Committee, would have the power to establish Local Advisory Committees, in order to fulfil the relevant functions under new legislation. They would set the boundaries having regard to the efficiency and effectiveness of designated services to operate within the local area and taking into account local risk profiles and the boundaries of other relevant organisations such as Tasmania Police. This model would facilitate moving towards a more integrated approach to fire and other emergencies and facilitate local engagement.

#### Recommendation 31

- Include, in the Terms of Reference for the State Fire Emergency Management Sub-Committee, provision for the establishment of Fire and Emergency Risk Area Committees (FERAC), including the number and geographical boundaries of these committees.
- Enhance community engagement through community representation on FERACs, without increasing numbers on these committees.
- Remove the requirement to Gazette geographical boundaries.
- Continue to identify synergies between FERACs and Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Committees.
- Note that these arrangements do not require legislative support and could instead be promulgated under a Head of Power and detailed, where necessary, in doctrine/Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA).

<sup>57</sup> Parks and Wildlife Service

## 7.7 Alternative proposal regarding FMACs

### 7.7.1 Discussion

In a late submission to this Review, the SFC addressed the:

- emergency management functions currently performed by the Emergency Management Unit within SES
- relationship between the SFMC and FMACs established under the Fire Service Act and the EMC established under the Emergency Management Act.

The submission goes on, under a heading of, 'The SES' existing emergency management functions', to note that the Emergency Management Unit within SES currently performs a range of emergency management functions including secretariat support to the state, regional and municipal EMCs. This secretariat function is neither an efficient nor an effective use of the limited resources within the Emergency Management Unit, which comprises a small number of senior SES managers who have considerable expertise in emergency management.

The SFC considers that this secretariat function would be more appropriately performed by relevant administrative personnel within an agency with primary responsibility for statewide emergency management, such as DPAC or DPFEM.

Other functions of the Emergency Management Unit include statewide risk assessments, emergency planning, and emergency management policy. The SFC suggested two options.

- These functions could be transferred to a department or other agency that is appropriately positioned and resourced to coordinate whole-of-government emergency management (encompassing hazards such as biosecurity, pandemic, terrorism for which TFES would not have primary responsibility). TFES and the relevant department/agency would need to maintain a close and effective working relationship. In this case, TFES would continue to be responsible for emergency planning in relation to the hazards for which it has primary responsibility (e.g. fire and flood). In relation to other hazards, TFES would continue to provide input into operational response planning through participation of appropriate TFES subject matter experts in the EMC structures.
- TFES could continue to perform the risk assessment, emergency planning, and emergency management policy functions currently performed by the Emergency Management Unit. These functions would need to be appropriately resourced.

The SFC noted that the above measures may require consequential amendments to the Emergency Management Act.

**Recommendation 32**

- Consider, as an alternative to, or in addition to, Recommendation 31:
  - having the secretariat function currently fulfilled by SES performed instead by relevant administrative personnel within an agency with primary responsibility for statewide emergency management, such as the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) or the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM)
  - transferring SES's Emergency Management Unit (EMU) functions associated with statewide risk assessments, emergency planning, and emergency management policy to either DPAC or DPFEM.

## 7.8 Brigade and unit management and industry brigades

### 7.8.1 Discussion

#### 7.8.1.1 TFS

Part III of the Fire Service Act provides for the establishment and composition of brigades. The SFC may establish permanent, urban, composite or volunteer brigades and appoint brigade chiefs, fire officers and firefighters as necessary or expedient. It also determines the operational district within which a brigade is to operate. Section 29 of the Fire Service Act outlines the powers and functions of brigade chiefs, including taking any action considered necessary for extinguishing, or preventing the extension of a fire, to protect life and property, cause water to be shut off and give directions to others.

Part III also specifies certain facets of brigade management, including the maintenance of a register of brigade members, training requirements and equipment control.

The Fire Service Act provides for the constitution of Salvage Brigades with the authority of the SFC to salvage property at fires or to extinguish fire on the premises or land owned or occupied by a person or at which that person is employed<sup>58</sup>. This would encompass industry brigades formed by private industries such as mining or large manufacturers for the purpose of providing services in respect of their organisation's premises and land. Under the current provisions of the Fire Service Act, these brigades are not authorised to attend other incidents if they are not on their property. This does not reflect current practice where these brigades may be used outside their industry boundaries to assist in emergency response.

The discussion below has regard to the governance options explored in Section 4, in particular the implications of moving to a departmental model as proposed in that Section.

#### 7.8.1.2 SES

Section 28 of the Emergency Management Act empowers the Director SES to establish SES regional volunteer units and, where this is done, requires the Director to appoint a Unit Manager for the unit. As part of establishing TFES, these arrangements should not be changed.

<sup>58</sup> Fire Service Act 1979, Section 37

### 7.8.1.3 Auxiliary brigades

PWS and STT can establish auxiliary brigades – such brigades are established and operated for purposes of workplace health and safety legislation, and persons engaged in such brigades are classified as ‘workers’ which, therefore, addresses indemnity concerns. Persons engaged on private properties to respond to fires and who are properly trained to do so, could be required to operate under instruction of TFS but this is not currently legally permissible.

On the other hand, TFS currently has arrangements in place with the farming community to appoint farmers as ‘spontaneous volunteers’ which is allowed for under the Fire Service Act.

New legislation needs to deal with these anomalies and/or reconfirm them, including protection for non-TFS, PWS, STT and other personnel.

## 7.8.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

The following issues were noted from submissions to the Issues Paper.

- The provisions relating to brigades contained in the Fire Service Act remain appropriate in terms of the establishment and composition of brigades but the provisions of section 29 of the Act need to be expanded to cover the broadened context of emergency response functions and not inhibit any future roles.
- The provisions of section 26 of the Act are very prescriptive and lead to a lack of flexibility.
- Support for the introduction of a compulsory qualification for brigade chiefs and officers and appointment provisions to be based on merit, similar to arrangements under the *State Service Act 2000*.
- There is little strategic thought or science around the establishment of brigades or their boundaries. For example, Clarence career crew will not respond into the Cambridge volunteer area automatically, even though the boundary is less than 1.5 km from the Clarence station.
- General support for the provision for industry brigades but no consensus as to whether they should operate externally to the industry boundaries.
- Strong support for having industry brigade resources available to an incident controller during an emergency response, similar to the provisions in the current Fire Service Act that states a brigade chief shall have control and direction of any industry fire brigade and of any persons who voluntarily place their services at his or her disposal<sup>59</sup>.
- Strongly advocated that industry brigades be recognised in legislation.

<sup>59</sup> *Fire Service Act 1979* 29(3)(f)

### 7.8.3 Consideration of submissions and other matters

This Review noted the following matters.

- The provisions relating to the creation and operation of SES units should be removed from the Emergency Management Act and TFS brigades and SES units would be treated consistently under the new legislation. Should this occur, then the position (not functions) of the Director SES should be removed from the Emergency Management Act and managed as part of the command structure under the head of TFES.
- Regarding the establishment and composition of brigades, section 26 of the Fire Service Act is very prescriptive, leading to lack of flexibility. The new legislation should provide for the head of TFES to:
  - establish and abolish brigades/units
  - determine the membership of those brigades/units
  - to make regulations or a statutory instrument defining the structure, functions and responsibilities of brigades/units, either generally and/or in relation to specific brigades/units.
- Initially, it is likely that there will continue to be fire brigades (TFS) and SES units; however, over time the legislation needs to allow for the establishment of large multi-functional fire and emergency teams that are responsive to community needs.
- The roles and functions of brigades/units and their members need to be defined more broadly to include response and non-response roles, community engagement functions, and mitigation activities. There is a need to include Community Engagement Officers in brigades/units, as well as other flexible brigade/unit structures and membership. Powers and functions of brigade chiefs/unit leaders should include mitigation activities.
- There is a need to confer power on the head of TFES to establish protocols for interoperability of relevant agencies and organisations in relation to specific hazard types and/or geographical areas.
- There is a need for proposed legislation to include authority for the establishment of Interoperability Protocols<sup>60</sup> such that they:
  - define responsibilities (Section 3.6.3 of current Interagency Protocol between fire agencies)
  - confer protections from liability on participating organisations and their personnel
  - create obligations to act (including emergency response) in accordance with the protocols.

Overall, it was concluded that TFES needs to be able, in the context of preparedness, prevention, response and recovery, to:

- provide surge capacity and a combined permanent/volunteer model needs to exist
- evolve to provide a service-centric approach, not a brigade approach
- authorise the establishment of brigades, including salvage and industry brigades, and then respond under an umbrella approach, regardless of tenure or boundary.

<sup>60</sup> The current Interagency Protocol between TFS, PWS and STT provides an example of the types of arrangements that could be made under this provision.



It was concluded that the legislation should include provision of a power for TFES to establish brigades/units and to determine their membership and structure, and to be able to recommend their location. Location is important in the context that circumstances in Tasmania today are very different to what existed in 1979, including changing demographics. TFES should, as part of its risk management arrangements, be expected to, from time to time, review the nature and location of its brigades to ensure this continues to meet community needs and response capability.

Functions of brigades/units would be broadly defined to encompass operational and non-operational or non-response roles and community engagement functions.

#### 7.8.4 Provide for the establishment of industry brigades in legislation

This Review supports the option whereby legislation provides for the establishment of industry brigades. There may be some value in considering these resources as co-opted resources and incorporate into the legislation the power of the incident controller to co-opt local resources for the purposes of suppressing a fire or responding to an emergency situation.

This sharing of responsibilities between the emergency services, the company or organisation establishing the industry brigade and the broader community improves resilience and creates opportunities to enhance the social capital of all involved. Industry brigades need clear definition and statement of their role. Except when a response is required, that is relevant to the interests of the particular industry, it is not appropriate for an industry brigade to be at the direction of the Chief Officer. Triggers, roles, responsibilities and funding of response costs would need to be defined and agreed to before registration.

However, it is important that industry brigades can assist in emergency response outside industry boundaries in order to assist in suppression and mitigation activities.

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria could provide a useful model. In November 1997, the Victorian Government introduced legislation requiring forest plantation companies to form fire brigades when their plantation assets reached a critical size. These industry-based fire brigades are operated by the plantation company but are under the operational control of CFA. Industry brigades are only required to service the companies' plantation assets for wildfire response and fire management planning. However, if the parent plantation company desires, the brigade is empowered to operate outside their designated area. The operations, apparatus and training requirements for industry brigades are provided for in the Country Fire Authority (Forestry Industry Brigades) Regulations 1998.

South Australia has also considered implementing similar arrangements. A legislative 'head power' has been proposed to facilitate the South Australian Country Fire Service requiring the formulation and maintenance of industry brigades within country areas of South Australia. This proposed Amendment Bill is the first step in the development of a legislative framework that will provide flexibility for the establishment of industry brigades, including those outside of the commercial forestry industry if necessary, in the future.

Also relevant to this discussion is that section 28(2)(c) of the Emergency Management Act makes provision for affiliated organisations to SES and such registered organisations receiving protection.

However, if the establishment of industry brigades is to be progressed, the following will need to be made clear.

- A requirement that they be registered
- Reporting arrangements
- Who pays
- Training requirements and compliance
- Equipment requirements

These arrangements will only work where this is addressed in legislation and reporting is to the head of TFES who must ensure that minimum standards are met. In addition, regarding all brigades, it will be important, when maintaining a link between local units, brigades and local communities, that there be consultation with local government.

### **Recommendation 33**

- Legislate to provide a Head of Power for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to:
  - establish and abolish brigades/units
  - determine the membership of brigades/units
  - recommend locations of brigades/units
  - define the structure, functions, powers and responsibilities of brigade/units
  - exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary for the effective management of, and response to, fire and other prescribed emergencies.
- Legislate to provide TFES with the power to:
  - register/de-register volunteer/unit members
  - appoint unit managers, brigade chiefs, and establish standards, for things like equipment, training, facilities, etc.
  - establish protocols for cooperation
  - appoint industry brigades, making clear that they be under the control of TFES.

This recommendation is consistent with other recommendations in this Report, giving TFES a mandate to confer specified functions, powers and indemnities on individuals and organisations outside of the entity. This option would necessitate removal from the Emergency Management Act of provisions relating to the creation and operation of SES units, resulting in TFS brigades and SES units being treated consistently under new legislation.



## 7.9 Fire permit system and total fire bans

### 7.9.1 Discussion

As a result of the January 2013 bushfires, the Tasmanian Bushfire Inquiry (TBI) recommended that TFS review the current fire permit system as follows (Recommendation 91):

*That Tasmania Fire Service conducts a review of the fire permit system in the Fire Service Act 1979, and implements change to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the system by:*

1. *considering whether it is appropriate to authorise persons or organisations to conduct fuel reduction burning during a permit period*
2. *providing a better match between the period, area and fire risk*
3. *maintaining a timely and efficient process for issuing permits*
4. *naming the period in a way that draws attention to bushfire risk establishing a reporting and accountability process.*

All recommendations of the TBI related to fire permit system review have been endorsed by the Minister. Many of these recommendations will need to be the subject of provisions in the proposed TFES Act.

Total fire bans and some form of fire permit period are important fire safety measures and, as such, are a consistent feature of fire-related legislation across Australia. The parameters for declaring a total fire ban and/or fire permit period are continually improving.

### 7.9.2 Issues raised in submissions

Matters noted from submissions included the following.

- Broad support for implementation of the recommendations of the review of the fire permit system.
- Suggestions that the fire permit system should include risk-based self-regulation mechanisms which are subject to overarching controls such as bans. In this regard, the Forest Industry Fire Management Committee has developed the Procedure: Fire Prevention at Forest Operations with the objective of minimising the incidence of bushfires from forest and related operations. It outlines the minimum fire requirements for forest operations and procedures to follow to reduce the risk of fire including on days of total fire bans. This procedure is in place annually from 1 October to at least 30 April.
- A call for consistency in industry protocols between forestry and agriculture.
- Broad support for the Machinery Operation Guidelines<sup>61</sup>.
- An indication that the development of these guidelines and policy documents should be mandated in legislation.
- Strong support for the retention of the current arrangements for total fire bans.

<sup>61</sup> These guidelines, which are internal, not legislated, provide a mechanism to enable harvesting should total fire bans be in place (normally banned) and monitors local conditions with 'phone trees' informing locals when to desist.

This Review also noted the following.

- One submission did not consider they had been consulted during the fire permit review, in particular regarding the omission of smoke management.
- Another raised concerns that TFS may not have a requirement to verify that the fire permit applicant is the owner of the land.
- Another flagged that the authority to burn should always be restricted to a permit and that the current Fire Service Act does not adequately consider the provisions relating to private land in the Nature Conservation Act.

### 7.9.3 Options considered

The Chair considered two options.

1. Implement the recommendations of the review of the fire permit system in the new legislation as appropriate.
2. Do not implement these recommendations.

The Chair supported the first option.

The review of the fire permit system provided a very comprehensive analysis, capturing considerable input from a large group of stakeholders. The recommendations were endorsed by the SFMC, the TFS/SES Executive Leadership Team and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management. Given the comprehensive nature of that review, and the endorsement of its recommendations, this Review supports acceptance of all the recommendations and considers that this Review should not, other than is outlined under 'lighting fires without a permit' below, revisit the permit system. The implementation of a number of the recommendations will require legislation to implement.

### 7.9.4 Lighting fires without a permit

Currently, if the permit system is in place, citizens can light a fire without a permit if it is less than 1 cubic metre. This Review considered this and concluded no permits be issued when total fire bans are in place.

However, doing so will likely give rise to a range of challenges for various industries and activities on days of total fire ban. In response to these matters, TFS has undertaken detailed analysis to understand the risk, legislative and policy environments. A potential outcome of this will be a more nuanced approach to fire risk management, whereby statutory controls will continue to achieve the desired risk management objective, yet allow certain activities to continue, within reason.

This work is related to a range of activities from the domestic setting to industries such as farming, forestry, mining and construction. The Chief Officer therefore should be able to grant exemptions from the provisions of a total fire ban declaration.

**Recommendation 34**

- Include the recommendations of the review of the fire permit system into new legislation as appropriate, including arrangements for total fire bans.
- Ensure that new legislation includes scope to modify or change these arrangements if once implemented it is determined adjustments to processes are required.
- Ensure that, subject to exemptions granted by the Chief Officer, no fire permits are issued when total fire bans are in place.

## 7.10 Community education

### 7.10.1 Discussion

Prevention programs have been enormously effective in reducing the incidence and impact of fires in Tasmania. TFS and SES have substantial subject matter expertise and are thus well-placed to lead the delivery of these programs. However, while SES has subject matter experts, it is not funded or resourced to lead or conduct prevention programs with affected communities (for flood and storm hazard).

This function in any the new legislation should be broader than education and should encompass 'community safety' so that a wide range of programs can be initiated and undertaken in relation to fire and other hazards.

The new Act could:

- explicitly describe TFES's roles and responsibilities with regard to prevention, mitigation and community preparedness
- acknowledge the range of strategies in hierarchy of controls that may improve prevention/ mitigation and community preparedness. It is not necessary to be exhaustive or include detail of all strategies, unless specifically required for legal protection or authorisation (as per current regulatory compliance)
- provide for certain mitigation activities to be mandatory, with penalties for non-compliance
- ensure that any centralisation of service delivery (including prevention, mitigation and community preparedness strategies) is adequately resourced.

### 7.10.2 Issues raised in submissions

The following matters were raised in submissions.

- Many observations that community education would benefit from a more holistic all-hazards approach to improve community awareness and resilience.
- AFAC indicated that engaging with communities should remain an explicit function of fire and emergency services, believing that it is important that the legislation also reflects that community engagement is a core role of modern fire and emergency services personnel, as most of the workforce capacity to deliver these programs will come from paid operational staff.

- Community education is a key function in increasing risk mitigation and building community resilience to natural disasters.
- Strong support for a centralised, all-hazard, community education approach, focusing on fire, flood and storm, noting community resilience development is an area where the separation of the current Fire Service Act and Emergency Management Act is most significant.

### 7.10.3 Options considered

The Chair considered two options.

1. Community education should be an explicit function of TFES and specified in legislation.
2. Community education is not a mandated function but that TFES, along with other relevant entities, should be expected, and resourced, to undertake this activity.

The Chair supported option 2.

Mandating this explicitly implies that TFES is the only entity responsible, when community education is a shared responsibility capable of being addressed by any number of providers. The need for, and delivery of, community education (as TFS provides currently) is best addressed by embracing a service delivery model addressing all prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPR&R) functions. Doing so will ensure community resilience is broad-based.

The Parliamentary Inquiry into the SFC found that it should be assessed whether the community engagement programs of TFS and SES should be centralised. The Flood Review concurred, stating at its Recommendation 7:

*“That SES and TFS share resources and align their community education programs and adopt an all-hazards approach to awareness.”*

While a requirement for community education can be implemented without legislative or regulatory change, this Review provides an opportunity for enhancing implementation of the Flood Review recommendation.

There are resource and structural implications associated with adoption of this option, but this should not inhibit this important community education and resilience-building function and making it an all-hazard approach. In providing such education, it would be good to see collaboration between community education in emergency management provided by TFES with that provided as part of community development by local government. This will help maintain existing expertise in community education regarding fire, and further enhance capability in SES, although recognising that expertise needed to build community resilience to fire is different to flood.

#### Recommendation 35

- Expect, but do not legislate for, Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to provide education to the community on how best to prepare for fire and relevant emergency risks.

## 7.11 The built environment – permits to install, maintain or repair fire protection equipment

### 7.11.1 Discussion

Under the General Fire Regulations 2010<sup>62</sup> (the Regulations), the Chief Officer may issue a permit for the installation, maintenance or repair of fire protection equipment. There is a very wide range of equipment and systems in this broad category with the Regulations clearly outlining what fire protection systems and equipment are covered under the permit system.

At the same time, TFS has a role in ensuring compliance which may lead to a perceived or actual conflict of interest between the regulatory and compliance role and the operational role.

The permit holder must have appropriate competence in the relevant activity. There is no comprehensive training and qualification framework for the different competencies which includes installation, maintenance, and testing of fire protection equipment. TFS currently has processes in place to ensure the relevant competency is demonstrated and validated through a committee comprised of TFS and industry experts and this must continue. Although in its infancy, the training and qualifications framework within the fire protection industry will provide a good robust approach to ensuring permit holders and contractors within the fire protection industry are appropriately qualified.

TFS administers a system for issuing these permits although the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*, which is administered by the Department of Justice, may provide an alternative mechanism for administering these permits. However, the Occupational Licensing Act is not suitable legislation from which to license and permit contractors working in the fire protection industry.

Therefore, the existing approval process must remain in place to ensure competency standards are upheld, and the results of TFS audits are considered in respect to ongoing maintenance of standards.

Even if the issuing of permits is transferred to the Department of Justice, the following safeguards must be retained.

- The permit system must include requirements for appropriate qualifications/training and continuing professional development.
- TFS expertise in ensuring fire safety be utilised in maintaining the regulatory framework, including through the adoption of the TFS code of practice and related standards.
- Inclusion of TFS representation on the panel that issues permits.

### 7.11.2 Related issue: Chief Officer fire safety compliance certificates

The Building Regulations 2016, regulations 26A and 27, require the Chief Officer to assess whether certain 'notifiable building works' and 'permit building works' meet the fire safety requirements of the National Construction Code, whether by means of 'deemed-to-satisfy' or 'performance' measures, and, if so, to issue a Certificate of Likely Compliance.

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<sup>62</sup> Regulation 8

This function should be retained as a function of TFS; however, a review of the fee structure is needed to better reflect the level of expertise and time required to prepare these assessments, particularly in relation to performance measures. There needs to be a clear policy change from this perspective and a joined-up approach across DPFEM in regard to fees and charges relating to building safety compliance, including direct brigade alarm monitoring.

### 7.11.3 Issues raised in submissions

The following matters were noted from submissions.

- That the new legislation should strive to reduce or remove any potential, or perceived potential, conflicts of interest to ensure community confidence in the governing entity.
- That it was important for this function to be maintained and not privatised.
- That the Regulations must keep abreast with changes to the Building Code of Australia to ensure any conflict between legislative instruments are kept to a minimum.
- Most submissions considered that it was appropriate for the entity to maintain a role in the issue of permits to install, maintain or repair fire equipment, with one noting that the Occupational Licensing Act may provide an alternative mechanism for administering these permits.

### 7.11.4 Options considered

The Chair considered two options.

1. TFES maintains responsibility for issuing permits to install, maintain or repair fire protection equipment subject to a review of:
  - a. the current regulatory arrangements, including conflicts of interest and cost-benefit
  - b. related legislative frameworks.
2. TFES does not maintain responsibility for issuing permits to install, maintain or repair fire protection equipment, but maintains an advisory role.

The Chair supported option 1.

Although current processes for managing fire industry regulation and permits could be seen as a potential conflict of interest, as TFS in some areas is both a provider and regulator of these services, the expertise required in designing, assessing, and monitoring the compliance of building fire safety systems remains an appropriate role of TFS. This is due to its unique nature, and the need to apply specialist knowledge in a practical way to specific buildings, and their risk profile.

Also, relevant to maintaining this option, is that one of the aims of the building legislation was to reduce red tape. Certain plans, as prescribed in the building legislation, would still be provided to the entity for advice and any fire safety concerns could be highlighted at that time. All pre-occupation requirements would be consolidated in the building legislation.

However, some of these functions intersect with other legislative frameworks including the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act, the Building Act, the Occupational Licensing Act (which

may provide an alternative mechanism for administering these permits) and the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* (WHS Act). Clarity is needed, for example:

- in how the WHS Act defines workers as this relates to a safe workplace when attending a fire (which is clearly no longer a safe workplace) and how to address the role(s) of patrons who may be attending that work place
- where TFS is also a regulator, e.g. in relation to approving fire evacuation plans.

Another option is to have this function performed by Consumer, Building and Occupational Services Tasmania, a Division within the Department of Justice. This was not explored.

This Review provides an opportunity to revisit the regulatory functions of TFS, having regard to the most effective use of its expertise and resources, and to review related legislative frameworks to ensure consistency, appropriate alignment of regulatory functions across relevant agencies, to minimise potential or actual conflicts, and to explore costs and who pays.

It was concluded that the Chief Officer must remain legislatively responsible for fire equipment and systems permits. TFS is a key stakeholder in firefighter and building occupant fire safety. At the same time, it is evident that the General Fire Regulations are in need of review and updating to reflect contemporary fire protection industry practices and requirements.

Regarding conflicts of interest, while a valid concern, this is perceived and not actual. There is a clear delineation between the regulator role and the service provider role. There is currently no other government department with the need or expertise to regulate the fire protection industry particularly on behalf of firefighters.

#### **Recommendation 36**

- Legislate for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) responsibility for issuing permits to install, maintain or repair fire protection equipment, subject to a review of:
  - the current regulatory arrangements
  - conflict-of-interest arrangements.

## **7.12 The built environment – evacuation plans**

### **7.12.1 Discussion**

The Fire Service Act provides for evacuation plans in the event of a fire- related emergency. Part 3 Division 2 of the Regulations provides for Fire Evacuation Plans for specified buildings. Specified buildings are defined in Regulation 5 and include buildings capable of accommodating more than 200 people, residential accommodation for persons requiring medical, psychiatric or geriatric care, residential part of a motel or hotel or a childcare centre. There are currently approximately 10 000 specified buildings in the State which place significant operational/management requirements on TFS. These building are not categorized according to risk of potential hazard.



### **7.12.1.1 Whole-of-government approach to Emergency Evacuation Plans**

A whole-of-government approach to the provision of emergency plans covering all risks in a comprehensive way is proposed by this Review. This would go towards ensuring a more robust and best-practice approach to safety in workplaces and the built environment. However, a considerable amount of policy development and resourcing would be required to deliver such a system.

### **7.12.1.2 Ensuring that appropriate evacuation plans are in place**

At present, the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 do not require compliance with appropriate Australian Standards, and the approach taken by the work health and safety (WHS) regulator to the application of these Regulations is generally punitive rather than preventive. For example, the WHS regulator does not routinely undertake audits of emergency plans for existing workplaces. Fire Evacuation Plans are audited by TFS for specified buildings prior to occupancy, but a workplace can be occupied without demonstrating the existence of an Emergency Management Plan.

In the absence of a whole-of-government, all-risk approach to emergency planning in the built environment, TFES must continue to fulfil the role of auditing Fire Evacuation Plans, although this is not ideal in the longer term.

### **7.12.1.3 Level of involvement of TFS in fire evacuation plans**

Currently, TFS has a significant involvement in the compliance and regulatory system for building work, as it relates to emergency planning for building fire and bushfire.

### **7.12.1.4 Overlap of statutory controls for Fire Evacuation Plans**

There is overlap between the provisions of the General Fire Regulations 2010, the Building Act and the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012. This overlap occurs predominantly for specified buildings.

### **7.12.1.5 Categorisation of specified buildings**

The General Fire Regulations 2010 contain a list of 16 descriptors for specified buildings which appear to be based more on function than risk profile. There is scope to review and modernise the approach to defining specified buildings based on risk profile. This work would have to be undertaken in conjunction with the Director of Building Control under the Building Act.

### **7.12.1.6 Related issue: Bushfire emergency planning**

Although building fire safety in many building types and features is captured through the General Fire Regulations 2010, bushfire risk is not. There are many instances of vulnerable sites located in bushfire-prone areas without appropriate (or any) bushfire planning.

The new regulations will include a requirement for prescribed or specified buildings to have bushfire emergency plans which are consistent with the standard provided in the Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire Emergency Planning Guidelines and to have these plans completed, checked and approved by an accredited Bushfire Hazard Practitioner.



### 7.12.2 Issues raised in submissions

The following matters were raised in submissions.

- Many were generally supportive of the opportunity that this Review provides to implement best-practice emergency management in Tasmania and that an all-hazards evacuation system would offer valuable efficiency and effectiveness opportunities.
- Additional information on evacuation plan processes in other states and territories would be useful to inform this issue.
- The use of risk potential to categorise buildings has merit.

### 7.12.3 Matters raised in a subsequent submission from the SFC

Building Safety personnel within TFS currently provide expert input about fire risk to the Tasmanian building regulator (Consumer, Building & Occupational Services within the Department of Justice) for the purposes of building structural assessments and approvals. TFES should continue to provide subject matter expertise about fire (and other) risks in an advisory capacity, with the regulator retaining responsibility for decision-making.

SFC considers that:

- A similar approach should apply to building fire evacuation arrangements. The legal obligation for a person conducting a business or undertaking to have emergency procedures, including effective emergency response and evacuation procedures, arises under clause 43 of the Work Health & Safety Regulations 2012. The WHS regulator is WorkSafe Tasmania.
- WorkSafe Tasmania should retain responsibility for reviewing and approving emergency response procedures for Tasmanian organisations, including high-risk facilities. TFES should be a point of reference for the WHS regulator, to provide advice and guidance about recommended measures for high-risk facilities.
- It would not be appropriate for TFES to be responsible either for reviewing/approving or for providing formal advice to individual organisations about their emergency response procedures.

### 7.12.4 Options considered

The Chair considered two options:

1. Any new legislation should not provide for building fire evacuation systems but a requirement should be established in law or regulation that high-risk facilities should have their emergency response procedures reviewed and approved by WorkSafe Tasmania and that, in view of its contemporary knowledge and experience in emergency response, advice be sought where needed from TFES.
2. Maintain current arrangements for fire evacuations in the new legislation.

The Chair supported option 1, but noted the following.

- The regulation of building fire evacuation plans for specified buildings has been an important role of the Chief Officer. While the risk profile of specified buildings is not documented, there would be a direct correlation in the type of building occupancy and the risk profile.

- Rescue is the highest risk activity that firefighters undertake. Having approved fire evacuation plans ensure there are measures in place to expedite the evacuation of specified buildings in a systematic and approved manner. If the proposal to make it an all-hazard approach is adopted, then the Chief Officer must be included, at least in an advisory capacity, in the approval process from a fire evacuation perspective.
- If an all-hazards approach is adopted and TFES are responsible for this, then additional resources and expertise will be required for this role.
- The fact that considerable operational/management requirements are placed on TFS relating to the 10 000 specified buildings within the State is more reflective of an increase in the risk profile of the State without a parallel and proportionate increase in resources to manage the profile of work.
- The legislation should not be changed to reflect the workload. Instead, the specified buildings list should be reviewed and agreed based on risk.
- An important aspect of the Regulations is the nature of the penalties for non-compliance. They all require legal action in the Magistrates Court that is time consuming and chokes the legal system. The Fire Offences Bill provided an opportunity to issue infringement notices with monetary penalties. The legislative change together with good policy and business practices would enable authorised officers to issue infringement notices rather than prosecution. Prosecution should still be legislatively enabled.
- Support for a requirement that specified buildings within bushfire-prone areas have approved bushfire evacuation plans.

No other Australian state or territory continues with the (preparation of) standalone fire evacuation plans that are undertaken/required in Tasmania. Currently, TFS only considers evacuation in relation to fire but evacuation procedures should also include assessment of procedures to ensure emergency risks, other than fire, are also covered, e.g. bomb threats, active shooter or building infrastructure failure.

The State Controller endorsed a review of the Emergency Evacuation Framework. The Framework was endorsed by the SEMC on 17 July 2018. The Framework is designed to provide guidelines for consideration by planners during planning for evacuation. It is also designed to identify operational roles and responsibilities during evacuation and establishes a state-level evacuation planning framework consistent with nationally agreed principles for evacuation planning. It would seem logical to consider fire evacuation in the context of this framework rather than in the new legislation.

In addition, new legislation provides an opportunity for a broader approach to the provision of emergency management plans. This would go towards ensuring a robust and best-practice approach to safety in workplaces and the built environment.

It is also noted that, whilst building fire safety in many building types and features is captured through the Regulations, bushfire risk is not. There are many instances of vulnerable sites located in bushfire-prone areas without appropriate (or any) bushfire planning.

This Review also identified that the Regulations contain requirements for the preparation of evacuation plans, in the case of fire or fire alarm, only in certain buildings. However, the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 require all workplaces to have an emergency plan

covering all emergencies and is the overriding document if there is any conflict with other legislative instruments.

Given this, and that work health and safety legislation already places an onus on building owners to ensure workers can be safely evacuated, this Review flags the need to revisit the level of oversight needed over those arrangements. Bearing in mind the all-hazards approach to emergency management in Tasmania, it may be appropriate to prescribe a requirement that relevant buildings have an multi-hazard evacuation plan (rather than being fire-specific). It may also be appropriate for organisations other than TFS to be authorised to approve or endorse evacuation plans and therefore for relevant provisions to be housed in other legislation. Doing so could relieve the requirements on TFS.

Taking all of the above into account, it was concluded that high-risk facilities should have their emergency response procedures reviewed and approved by WorkSafe Tasmania but that TFES, due to its range of responsibilities, would be the agency best placed and have most appropriate experts:

- to provide advice when emergency procedures developed for high-risk facilities (denoted as such due to occupant population, design/construction, or activities undertaken) are considered and approved
- to advise on effectiveness of response and coordination measures, especially when factoring in building design and safety features
- to provide emergency coordination.

Using a risk rating system could result in many buildings developing procedures through a process less demanding on the resources of the emergency services, yet at the same time ensuring emergency risk is appropriately addressed.

Providing expert input into planning for emergencies involving storm/flood, natural disasters, fire, hazardous material, structural collapse, coordination of activities and mass gatherings are all in the primary remit of the emergency services contained within TFS/DPFEM. It is proposed that, to ensure public safety, high-risk facilities should have their emergency response procedures reviewed and approved by WorkSafe Tasmania and that, in view of its contemporary knowledge and experience in emergency response, advice be sought where needed from TFES.

#### **Recommendation 37**

- Do not provide for building fire evacuation systems in any new legislation; instead, establish in law or regulation that high-risk facilities should have their emergency response procedures reviewed and approved by WorkSafe Tasmania and that, in view of its contemporary knowledge and experience in emergency response, advice be sought where needed from Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES).

## 7.13 Offences, penalties and enforcement

### 7.13.1 Discussion

This Review supports the need for offences and penalties to be reviewed and improved and in doing so, noted that the fire permit system review recommended:

**R17.** *Change offence, enforcement and authority provisions in the Act to ensure they are effective.*

#### 7.13.1.1 Offences

The new legislation should:

- retain existing offences (simplify if possible)
- incorporate the provisions of the *Fire Service Amendment (Fire Infringement Notices) Act 2016* (to which Royal Assent was given on 10 June 2016 but which was not commenced and has therefore been automatically repealed)
- create offences and penalties in relation to:
  - false alarm callouts, which currently account for 44% of all TFS callouts. Although fees are charged for false alarm callouts, these are not a sufficient deterrent, are not always able to be recovered and are not sufficient to cover the operational costs of attending to the false alarms. Creating offences, in addition to or separate from those already in the *Police Offences Act 1935*, will enable the court process to be activated and higher penalties to be imposed if fines are not paid and/or for repeated offences
  - any accumulation of hazards, or failure to maintain and reduce hazards
  - any reduction in or damage to firefighting resources or equipment or failure to maintain firefighting equipment and resources
  - any potential of cause of fire or escape of fire including negligent activity that may create a fire or hazard
  - threats against fire and emergency responders by others
  - purporting to be or undertaking the work of a bushfire hazard practitioner without appropriate accreditation. This issue is known to be occurring.

Additionally, legislation in other Australian jurisdictions should be reviewed to inform the offences and penalty provisions.

#### 7.13.1.2 Penalties

Penalties for all offences should be reviewed and strengthened to ensure that they are enforceable, scalable, and create a sufficient deterrent. Penalties should be aligned to the level of risk associated with the offence. Additionally, penalties should be set at a level that is greater than the reasonable costs of compliance (to remove incentive for non-compliance).

#### 7.13.1.3 Related issue: Enforcement powers

The new legislation should retain the existing powers of TFS personnel and expand these to empower TFES personnel to take enforcement action such as the issuing of enforceable notices to reduce hazards.

### 7.13.2 Issues raised in submissions

The following matters were noted from submissions.

- Some consensus that a review is required of the current structures and levels of penalties and offences to ensure they are appropriate and effective to address relevant risks.
- The powers of enforcement need to be reviewed and substantially strengthened.
- New offences should be included in legislation, including interfering with a fire appliance or discarding an object that is known to be alight. These should be considered in the context of offences that may already exist under the Police Offences Act and/or the Criminal Code.
- A review of legislation in other Australian jurisdictions should be undertaken to inform the offences and penalty provisions. Such a review could also examine existing powers to enforce compliance to ensure that they are appropriate, adequate and effective.

### 7.13.3 Options considered

The Chair considered two options.

1. Review the current offence and penalty provisions to determine if they remain appropriate, enforceable and contemporary and reflect the expanded roles of TFES.
2. Retain the existing provisions relating to offences, penalties and enforcement.

The Chair supported option 1.

There are several deficiencies in current legislation relating to penalties and offences. For example, there is no provision for daily penalties where there is an ongoing offence, such as failure to undertake hazard mitigation activities. Nor is there provision for graduated penalties. Daily penalties for ongoing non-compliance may serve as an incentive to take remedial action in a timely manner. This would be particularly important in situations that involve public safety and risk mitigation.

The current Fire Service Act also does not provide for graduated or increased penalties for repeat offences. If graduated penalties were applied to first, second or third offences, this may act as increased deterrent.

Any review of offences and penalties would need to incorporate the provisions of the Fire Service Amendment (Fire Infringement Notices) Bill 2015 which passed both Houses of Parliament in April 2016. The Bill is yet to be proclaimed. The Bill:

- provides TFS with more effective options to enforce minor breaches of the Fire Service Act and offers another means of reducing fire-offending behaviour
- reflects the principles of restorative justice, recognising the importance of educating individuals and raising community awareness of fire safe practices, rules and responsibilities
- offers processes to inform, and if necessary, penalise offenders, aiming to prevent further offending.

**Recommendation 38**

- Review current offence and penalty provisions to determine if they remain appropriate, enforceable and contemporary and reflect the expanded roles of TFS and SES and, therefore, Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES). In doing so, consider provisions in the *Police Offences Act 1935*.

## 7.14 Response, command and control, chain of command and endorsement/appointment of Incident Controllers

### 7.14.1 Discussion

The authority to control a fire incident in Tasmania is designated according to the tenure of the land on which the fire burns. Currently, a number of elements of command and control are prescribed outside legislation, including TFS Doctrine, the Inter-Agency Fire Management Protocol and AIIMS.

These provide solid and consistent response command and control practices, and legislation should be reflective of these and provide Incident Controllers with the relevant legal authority to undertake their role and responsibilities. Having response protocols specified in policy and/or doctrine rather than in legislation would allow for more flexibility, while maintaining the legal authority specified in legislation. This approach would provide the flexibility required to make change as the need arises but provide the overarching principles of command and control arrangements and accountabilities.

A basic principle of incident control is that only one person should be in command at any time. Whilst other persons will have responsibilities and provide advice, the person controlling the incident must have a legal basis of authority and be provided with guidance on what can and cannot be delegated. An Incident Controller should have appropriate experience and training and is not necessarily appointed on seniority. Adaptability in incident control arrangements is in line with the recommendations from the Victorian Royal Commission into the Black Saturday Bushfires which the Tasmanian Government has endorsed.

The appointment of the Incident Controller and Deputy Incident Controllers for Level 3 incidents under section 44 of the *NSW Rural Fires Act 1997* provides a useful model. The power to appoint is conferred by legislation and the process and conditions of appointment are determined by policy and at the discretion of the Commissioner from a suite of suitably qualified and experienced staff who hold currency in the relevant level of incident control.

An industry accepted and standards-based approach to capabilities of Incident Controllers should be adopted rather than a legislated approach which has the potential to become a hindrance as structures evolve. The new legislation should make it clear that all emergency responders who are present at an incident are, in all respects, subject to the Incident Controller's direction.

Currently, Incident Controllers are endorsed through a statewide process that includes TFS, SES, PWS and STT staff. The Fire Service Act does not reference Incident Controllers and they are appointed under the more general powers and functions of the Chief Officer or the SFC.

The legislation could give power to, or require, TFES to ensure that an endorsement or accreditation process is in place for incident management staff that provides authority, accountability, indemnity, consistency and efficiency of process.

Section 42 of the Fire Service Act states that the chain of command is 'restricted to members of the fire service and members of brigades'. This does not include people assisting TFS in any other capacity, such as people from other agencies or interstate personnel. This restriction could be removed in the new legislation.

Command and control arrangements will apply to SES as well as TFS and the roles and responsibilities for emergency management should be updated in the new legislation to be consistent with those prescribed in the Emergency Management Act.

The appointment of Incident Controllers, and other relevant positions, in respect of emergency incidents assumes a certain operating model (AIIMS/ICS). In this regard, to ensure TFES can adapt, new legislation should provide for broad Heads of Power under which TFES will establish appropriate command and control arrangements which can be reviewed and updated in line with evolving industry standards.

#### Recommendation 39

- Legislate to:
  - provide for Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to establish a chain of command for response (including appointment of Incident Controllers) by means of regulations or a statutory instrument, which can, when necessary, be amended
  - make clear that all emergency responders who are present at an incident are, in all respects, subject to the Incident Controller's direction
  - give power to, or require, TFES to ensure that an endorsement or accreditation process is in place for incident management staff that provides authority, accountability, indemnity, consistency and efficiency of process
  - update the roles and responsibilities for emergency management to be consistent with those prescribed in the *Emergency Management Act 2006* (because command and control arrangements will apply to SES as well as TFS, and therefore to TFES).

## 7.15 Capacity to respond to climatic changes

This Review did not set out to examine whether or not there are changes to our climate and, if there are, what the causes might be. However, there seems little doubt that emergency incidents (bushfires and flood risks being two examples) are more frequent and severe.

In this regard, the AFAC Independent Operational Review into Tasmania Fires of December 2018-March 2019 (the AFAC Review) states at 3.8:

*Consistent with strong scientific evidence and following the significant fire events in Tasmania in 2013, 2016 and 2019, there is broad acknowledgement and acceptance*



*that projected changes to climatic conditions will result in longer, more severe fire seasons for the State, as with other parts of the country.*

If this is accurate, then TFES should have internal capability, or easy access to, or be expected to work in collaboration with, relevant expertise and research into how changing climatic conditions may impact functions they are responsible for.

There are various ways in which this could be achieved, either on their own or in combination.

- Provide TFES with the resources to carry out research into how climatic events impact its functions, including a predictive capacity, and develop action strategies.
- With the same objective, work with DPAC's Climate Change Office, Cooperative Research Centres or the University of Tasmania.

Relevant is that this not be given token recognition and that research results in no action. When relevant, TFES would be expected to advise on, or participate in the development of, strategies aimed at identifying risks and proposed mitigations.

#### Recommendation 40

- Expect Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) to have capability, or access to capability, to advise on, or participate in the development of, strategies aimed at identifying risks associated with changes in our climate and proposed mitigations.

## 7.16 Warnings

This Review did not set out to examine whether or not current warning arrangements in Tasmania associated with fires and other prescribed emergencies are suitable. However, this Review was made aware of warning principles outlines in *Handbook 16 Public Information Warnings*<sup>63</sup> issued by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience. There are 10 principles which guide the development and use of warnings in Australia. They outline why warnings are important and how warnings are provided most effectively.

The 10 principles are preceded by the following statement:

*The design and use of warnings should be guided by a total warning system, underpinned by clear governance arrangements, operate within an integrated incident management system, and be supported by delivery systems.*

No recommendation is made, but if these principles have not already been adopted in Tasmania, consideration to doing so should be given.

<sup>63</sup> [https://www.aidr.org.au/media/6504/public\\_information\\_and\\_warnings\\_handbook.pdf](https://www.aidr.org.au/media/6504/public_information_and_warnings_handbook.pdf)



## 7.17 Fighting bushfires

This Review supports that the one statewide point of command for major unwanted fires burning in Tasmania should be the State Operations Centre. In saying this, the Chair acknowledges observations made as part of the targeted stakeholder consultation that those who make operational decisions in relation to the fighting of bushfires have the specialist knowledge and understanding required for what is a very different type of firefighting than urban or structural based firefighting. In this regard, attention was drawn to an AFAC review<sup>64</sup> which recommended that:

*... explicitly recognises the right of each of TFS, PWS and STT to have their objectives prioritised in incident action planning and adequate resources applied to those objectives, and provides a mechanism for executive decision-makers from TFS, PWS and STT to come together and agree objectives and resourcing levels that will then be operationalised by whole-of-State control structures.*

*TFS, PWS and STT initiate a discussion among their Australasian peers about good practice around managing new fire starts in remote terrain, to include issues around identification, predictive analysis, risk management and suppression activities. The outcome should be a document which allows for benchmarking to accepted good practice across Australasia, from which Tasmanian fire agencies can develop protocols against which the management of future events can be tested.*

It can be concluded from this that specialist bushfire fighting knowledge is integral to ensuring safe and effective operational decisions are made about bushfire emergencies. Operational decision-makers who are dealing with bushfires in Tasmania must have the specialist knowledge and training about relevant matters, e.g. the local terrain, mountains, gullies and valleys, the types of trees and bush, vegetation and flora and the local weather and wind patterns.

No recommendation is made.

## 7.18 Building safety

### 7.18.1 Discussion

A matter that has arisen late during the course of this Review, and about which there has not been targeted or other consultation, relates to issuing fire orders in connection with building safety. It is understood that TFS has, on a number of previous occasions, raised matters associated with components of the Fire Service Act and the General Fire Regulations in regards to building fire safety matters. Primarily these concerns stem from the need to prosecute matters, even if they appear trivial in nature.

TFS uses the powers in the Building Act and Building Regulations that enable Councils, as Permit Authorities, to issue building orders and evacuation orders, but these mechanisms are used as a last resort and are reliant on local government to prioritise this work.

<sup>64</sup> Also discussed in Sections 3.6.3 and 7.4.3.

In other jurisdictions, fire agencies have other tools that are more direct and pragmatic that allow fire officers to issue fire orders at different levels depending on the nature of a fire safety breach. It is understood that:

- in those jurisdictions, issuing these fire orders is well documented and procedures and accountabilities are clear
- TFS' concerns relate to breaches of fire safety matters outlined in fire service related legislation and regulations.

In addition to issuing fire orders, other jurisdictions also have the capacity to issue infringements with monetary penalties attached to them rather than prosecution. Once again, issuing infringements is well documented, and the process clearly enshrined in doctrine with staff well trained in the process.

#### Recommendation 41

- Undertake a review of contemporary and suitable legislation from other fire jurisdictions across Australia to consider, within the Tasmanian context, how best to allow a more pro-active and pragmatic approach to fire safety compliance in the built environment.

## 7.19 Conclusions

This Section has dealt with a number of operational matters all of which require clarity and therefore consideration when new legislation is drafted. These matters are not summarised here. Each matter in this Section stands alone, with conclusions on each resulting in Recommendations 27 to 41.

## Legislation (and initial transition implications)

### 8.1 Introduction

#### 8.1.1 Objective of this Section

**Section 8:** The objective adopted by the Chair in developing this Section was to develop a vision for a proposed new contemporary fire and emergency services entity that the community will have confidence in and that will remain relevant for the next 40 years.

#### 8.1.2 Context

Section 2 makes the case for change to the Fire Service Act. Also relevant is that multiple pieces of legislation (and, where relevant, associated regulations) currently impact strategies such as fuel hazard reduction burning, all of which may also need review. These include, in no particular order:

- Forest Practices Act 1985
- Threatened Species Protection Act 1995
- Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
- National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002
- Wellington Park Act 1993
- Weed Management Act 1999
- Nature Conservation Act 2002
- Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994
- Work Health and Safety Act 2012
- Aboriginal Relics Act 1975
- Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995

Section 8 brings together legislative impacts of earlier sections but with a focus on recommendations that legislation be high-level and principles-based. In some case, Section 8 therefore repeats concepts discussed earlier in this Report.

The intent here is to ensure flexibility for TFES, with:

- it being granted the relevant Head of Power referred to throughout recommendations in this Report
- operational details included in regulation, the TEMA or doctrine (organisational policies), whichever is the most appropriate
- legislation that is simpler, contemporary and forward-looking.

This Section does not explore a merger of SES and TFS. That was established as a 'given' early in this Report, as was the need for review of consequential implications for the Emergency Management Act.

### 8.1.3 Legislative changes proposed by stakeholders and principles applied elsewhere

This Section does not include recommendations on, or discussion of, all the operational issues that may be contained in the new legislation. Rather, it is primarily concerned with threshold issues that will fundamentally shape the new legislation. However, a list of legislative provisions that have been put forward by stakeholders for possible amendment has been provided to TFS and Appendix 9 includes nationally agreed principles and the principles established by SAFECOM (South Australia).

## 8.2 Principles-based legislation

### 8.2.1 Overview

The functions of an integrated fire and emergency service should be clearly identified in new legislation, providing a clear mandate and operating platform for all functions. New legislation should express these functions in broad rather than prescriptive terms to ensure flexibility and adaptability into the future. New legislation is required to reflect changes in fire risk due to climate, planning and land management practices, local agreements such as the Inter-Agency Fire Management Protocol, national and international agreements such as the Agreement for Interstate Assistance and the Agreement for International Assistance, and development of whole-of-government programs, such as the fuel reduction program, that may not be reflected in current legislation.

Drafting new principles-based legislation will avoid many of the shortcomings of the current legislation which has become overly complex as a result of multiple amendments since proclamation<sup>65</sup>.

In coming to this conclusion, this Review's work was influenced by the following factors.

- Whatever governance, integration or funding models are decided upon, they must ensure accountabilities and reporting lines for TFES are clear and workable.
- The need for arrangements for dealing with/responding to fire and prescribed emergencies are consistent with Tasmania's multi-hazard approach to emergency management and allow for strategic prioritisation of activities within the broader emergency management context.
- Governance and financial management of TFES must be fit-for-purpose, transparent and accountable.

Also noted is that the following approach should guide the development of any new legislative framework pertaining to the provision of emergency services in Tasmania.

- Agreement on the aspirational best-practice model for the delivery of emergency services in Tasmania which appropriately address the current and projected emergency risks the community may face.
- The proposed model must consider the range of services provided, key performance goals, concepts of operation, standards for resource allocation, level of involvement in resilience and preparedness activities, sustainable funding arrangements, interaction with

<sup>65</sup> Since 1979, the Fire Service Act has been amended 45 times, either directly or as a result of consequential amendments.

stakeholders, and processes for capability sharing with other partners with shared responsibilities.

- This aspirational model should then be moderated in recognition of existing cultures, budget realities, staffing profiles and volunteer engagement processes to identify the best achievable model.
- Once the best achievable model is determined, it then guides the legislative reform process. The legislation will need to enable the model including by:
  - establishing a clear mandate and operating platform
  - specifying key governance arrangements, without being prescriptive
  - possibly providing guidance on prioritisation (in anticipation of budget constraints that may apply – from time to time).

The recommendations outlined in Sections 2 to 6, if adopted, are aimed at facilitating the aspirational legislative framework as outlined above.

### 8.2.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

Submissions to this Review on these matters included the following.

- Consensus that the reformed legislation should not be overly prescriptive but that its purpose should be to deliver an authorising and enabling environment, be principles-based and reflect the contemporary role of a fire and relevant emergency services agency/agencies to contribute to the development of community resilience through risk reduction.
- Detailed organisational arrangements should be made through regulation, policy or doctrine development rather than through the primary legislation.
- New legislation should bind the Crown, noting that the current Fire Service Act binds the Crown as does the Emergency Management Act and most other State legislation.

No submission advocated for the retention of the Fire Service Act in its current form.

### 8.2.3 Proposed legislation to be principles-based

Evident from this Review, confirmed by multiple other reviews of fire and emergency services in Tasmania, is the need for replacement legislation to be principles-based, allowing sensible but transparent flexibility for a fire and prescribed emergency services entity to fulfil agreed functions in a responsive, adaptable and timely manner. This should include provision of an appropriate Head of Power<sup>66</sup> for the entity and its partner agencies (e.g. PWS and STT) to fulfil their functions.

Under such proposed principles-based arrangements, legislation would not prescribe operational details that may potentially constrain the operational activities of the proposed entity into the future. Explicit recommendations regarding what principles-based legislation might include are those outlined in the TEMA – refer Appendix 9.

<sup>66</sup> A 'head of power' normally applies to a Parliament's ability to make laws. In this situation, proposed new legislation should provide the proposed new entity with a head of power to deal with relevant aspects of fire and emergency services without seeking Parliamentary or other approval to do so.

**Recommendation 42**

- Draft new legislation to replace the *Fire Service Act 1979*, keeping in mind that:
  - in order for any proposed legislation to be contemporary, flexible and sufficiently forward-looking, it needs to be principles-based, providing a Head of Power to Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES)
  - the functions and mandate of the new entity should deliver an authorising and enabling environment facilitating a broad range of fire and prescribed non-fire related emergency services activities, including multi-hazard, that are aligned with and support the *Emergency Management Act 2006* in legislation.

### 8.2.4 A word of caution

One submission, appropriately, noted that a greater focus on principles-based legislation brings with it concerns that prescription will be introduced through related regulatory instruments without the same level of engagement or consultation with, for example, Councils. Inclusion of a provision such as currently exists at section 28AA of the Local Government Act would go some way to addressing this concern.

In addition, placing much of the detail into separate instruments would be at odds with an accessible, easy to read legislative approach. A balance is required.

## 8.3 Purpose of principles-based legislation

### 8.3.1 Discussion

This Review identified gaps in current legislation which principles-based legislation has the opportunity of addressing, including the following.

- Under current legislation, broad interpretation is required to allow TFS to prepare for, or respond to, non-fire emergencies.
- No person or agency is formally authorised to establish service delivery standards for the type of response provided at these non-fire emergencies.
- Greater clarity is required regarding the authority to expend funds on training and equipment intended solely for the purpose of responding to non-fire emergencies.
- There can be confusion with other emergency service providers as to which is the mandated agency at a particular incident.
- In the event that there is no response, or a delayed or ineffective response, to a non-fire emergency, no-one can be held to account for the failure to deliver the service.

### 8.3.2 Submissions to the Issues Paper

Submissions to the Issues Paper included the following points.

- The legislation should reflect the contemporary role of fire and prescribed emergency services/agencies which contribute to the development of community resilience through risk reduction for the relevant hazards for which those agencies have a legislative responsibility.

- Better reflecting contemporary practice would further assist in authorising and validating the delivery of the range of relevant non-fire specific services being provided to communities and wilderness areas.
- Fire service personnel and emergency service personnel should have a single framework of operational duties derived from a single source.
- The legislation should include activities in the wider organisational scope of the entity such as provision of educational services about fire and natural disaster, building of community resilience to those events and also risk mitigation operations such as the Fuel Reduction Unit.
- Legislation dealing with the roles of TFS and SES should be sufficiently broad to allow for the wide range of response and emergency support activities that the services currently provide, and provide the flexibility and ability for the services to take on additional responsibilities in the future if required but by doing so in a transparent and accountable way.

#### Recommendation 43

- Legislate to make provision for a secondary process to change or add mandated functions in the future without the need to amend legislation, but on the proviso that the core legislation cannot be undone without full review by the Parliament, and with public input.

## 8.4 Advantages of principles-based legislation

There are several advantages in having principles-based, rather than prescriptive, legislation.

- It allows for a greater degree of ‘future-proofing’ and enables TFES to respond to relevant emerging issues as they arise without the need to amend legislation.
- It is focused on outcomes and provides increased flexibility as to how these outcomes are achieved rather than providing detailed rules prescribing how outcomes are to be achieved.
- It fosters more innovative fire and relevant/prescribed emergency services in the interests of both communities and the environment.
- It encourages professional judgement rather than merely complying with a set of prescriptive rules. However, allowing professional judgement, which this Review supports, requires relevant accountability and transparency arrangements.
- Use of generic descriptors would provide coverage for currently known classes of emergencies.

In summary therefore, Recommendation 42 is aimed at legislation that should define the role of the service as a key driver of an all-hazard approach to emergency management reflecting an emphasis on preparedness, prevention and response. That change would move from a narrow focus on extinguishing fires or responding to floods, to the more modern view that the legislation should reflect the contemporary role of fire and prescribed emergency services agencies to contribute to the development of community resilience and environmental protection through risk reduction for the hazards for which TFES has a legislative responsibility. Better reflecting



contemporary practice would further assist in validating the delivery of a range of non-fire specific services currently/already being provided to communities.

The legislation should make provision for a secondary process, as proposed in Recommendation 43, to amend or add mandated functions in the future without the need to amend legislation. This authority could rest with the Minister and would avoid the need to amend legislation if other functions were identified<sup>67</sup>.

## 8.5 Independent research on new fire and emergency management legislation

### 8.5.1 Discussion

To an extent, discussion here overlaps with reasons provided for merging TFS and SES discussed in Section 3. Despite this, this Section notes that several independent reviews have suggested that this option should be considered.

The House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development's Inquiry into the SFC noted that the Fire Service Act should recognise SES and incorporate sections of the Emergency Management Act<sup>68</sup>.

AFAC's independent operational review of the 2016 Tasmanian fires recommended that further conversations take place between TFS and SES to identify what skills and capabilities may be transferable between agencies, not just in the event of a future fire, but in case of future hazards for which SES is the primary response agency, including flood, earthquake and tsunami<sup>69</sup> (but noting that SES is a support organisation for response and is responsible for planning and public education for tsunami).

The submission from Emergency Management Australia noted that "...we encourage Tasmania to develop a single, unified governance model for all fire and emergency services which provides clarity around roles and responsibilities for service heads in times of complex crises"<sup>70</sup>.

### 8.5.2 Further considerations

This Review concluded the following.

- If there is to be change in emergency services delivery to the Tasmanian community, consequential amendments to the Emergency Management Act are inevitable.
- Efficient use of scarce resources, including volunteers, and ensuring maximum effectiveness of those resources, requires integration of fire and emergency services.
- Integration is fundamental to modernising TFS and SES in relation to emergency response. It is an area where efficiencies are available to be made.

<sup>67</sup> Such a provision may be in the form of a disallowable instrument which must be tabled in Parliament and open to Parliamentary veto or disallowable for a set period of time. All new legislative instruments are subject to disallowance unless they have been granted an exemption.

<sup>68</sup> House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development Inquiry into the State Fire Commission 6.40.

<sup>69</sup> AFAC Independent Operational Review: *A Review of the Management of Tasmanian Fires in January 2016*, Recommendation 5

<sup>70</sup> Department of Home Affairs.



- Many seem to fear the combining of TFS and SES will require new livery. This is not a prerequisite for integration to occur although it may be an outcome and should not be precluded from happening.
- Consequential amendments to the Emergency Management Act will require review of the roles played by local government and potentially other legislation.
- One integrated Act will provide a strategic legislative framework for the operation of emergency services.
- Legislating for individual emergency services brigades or units to operate in isolation of others is no longer appropriate, and it does not conform to what actually happens in the field.
- Interoperability is becoming the norm rather than the exception. TFS and SES often respond to incidents together and provide mutual support and assistance; the legislation must support, not hinder this mode of operation.
- Increased interoperability, uniformity and common standards in equipment, resources, procedures, systems and processes that would lead to more effective operations and allocation of resources must be supported in legislation.
- There are efficiencies to be found in combining services that are quite similar in terms of facilities, dispatch, operating systems, administration and asset management.
- It is unreasonable to expect volunteers to rely on multiple and sometimes inconsistent legislation in order to perform emergency services functions.
- Many volunteers are members of both TFS and SES and the legislation guiding these volunteers must be clear, comprehensive and consistent<sup>71</sup>. With this in mind, and subject to motivations people have for wishing to become volunteers and their competencies, consideration needs to be given to frontline services being cross trained to maximise response, especially for disaster-scale events.
- The functions of an integrated TFES would focus on fire and emergency service prevention, preparedness and response.
- Primary responsibility for community recovery from emergencies would be excluded as this is managed by other organisations across the three tiers of government<sup>72</sup> and these arrangements should be aligned to the TEMA.
- The legislation would provide a Head of Power for integration to occur.
- As noted by Emergency Management Australia, it is clear that with the increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards, the challenges faced by Tasmania will evolve to be more complex. Therefore, Tasmania's fire and emergency services governance need to be flexible.
- The ability to direct State resources to major incidents and to provide additional support to remote locations will be paramount and an integrated fire and emergency service will facilitate a total view of TFES' people, places and resources, enabling evidence-based planning.
- One leadership team will be able to manage TFES more strategically.

<sup>71</sup> According to a survey in late 2019, 16% of SES volunteers are also TFS volunteers.

<sup>72</sup> This is not to suggest that TFS and/or SES or an integrated TFS/SES have no responsibility for community recovery. Clearly, they do, but in a support, rather than primary, role with social recovery requiring differing skill sets

- There is already evidence that fire and emergency management personnel are working effectively together and full integration can only enhance this.

#### Recommendation 44

- Develop new legislation to establish an integrated fire and prescribed emergency services entity, the principal objectives of which are:
  - to preserve human life
  - to build resilient communities that actively participate in prevention, preparedness and response to fire and other relevant emergencies
  - to limit the economic, environmental (including climate change), social and physical impacts of fire and other emergencies on the Tasmanian community
  - to recognise that our environment has inherent value for the Tasmanian community
  - to ensure/facilitate effective inter-agency interoperability both inter and intra State.
- Clarify, in the new legislation, that the proposed entity is **not** the lead agency responsible for recovery.

## 8.6 What are the key principles?

### 8.6.1 Research into key principles underpinning new legislation

Research identified the following:

#### 8.6.1.1 Principles already specified in the TEMA

Appendix 9 outlines the principles of emergency management sourced from The Australian Emergency Management Arrangements Handbook – AIDR 2019. These provide an authoritative starting point but are not repeated here.

#### 8.6.1.2 Discussion

This Review proposed the following principles.

- A clear mandate and operating platform for fire and prescribed emergency services in which the community will have confidence.
- Clear governance arrangements ensuring accountability and transparency, through the appropriate Minister, of TFES's functions and services.
- The provision of a properly integrated network of fire and prescribed emergency services based on equitable assessment of community and property risk.
- Strategic alignment of the fire and prescribed emergency services with the common goal of enhanced community and property safety.
- Enhancing community and property safety by providing balanced focus on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery services by TFES in coordination with other emergency service entities including Tasmania Police, DPAC, PWS, and STT.

- Legislation which clarifies and coordinates roles played by TFES, PWS, STT and Ambulance Tasmania.
- A sustainable, simple, stable and equitable<sup>73</sup> funding system for TFES that demonstrably operates efficiently and effectively during extreme and non-extreme emergency events.
- Recognition and protection for volunteers/units.
- Relevant and flexible investment in, and locations of, brigades/units and TFES's assets.
- Identified and validated efficiencies and reforms, resulting in savings transparently reinvesting in TFES.
- Legislation sufficiently flexible so as to facilitate changing demographics within Tasmania, including where and how people live.
- Legislation that facilitates action on climate change risk in the context of the natural disaster risks most common in Tasmania being fires and floods.
- Legislation which is short, forward-looking, principles-based, with detail addressed in regulations.

#### Recommendation 45

- Draft new legislation to be short, forward-looking and principles-based, with detail addressed in regulations.

## 8.7 Transition matters

This Review has not addressed, nor did it set out to, transitional matters that will arise once drafting legislation commences. However, this Section summarises matters that will likely require transitional consideration. They include the following.

- Impacts of transitioning TFS employees. In this respect it is noted that regardless of the model, all TFS employees are already state servants under the State Service Act.
- If a departmental model under which TFES is transitioned into DPFEM is supported, abolishing the SFC and establishing the SFMC as an advisory council reporting to the Minister under a suitable charter. SFMC's membership to be reviewed.
- If a standalone departmental model is pursued, abolishing the SFC and establishing the SFMC as an advisory council reporting to the Minister under a suitable charter. SFMC's membership to be reviewed.
- Transitioning volunteers, including SES units.
- Transitioning assets and associated resources from local government to TFES.
- In the event that the insurance levy is abolished, developing transition arrangements aimed at minimising immediate negative impacts on some property owners of an increase in the property-based levy.

<sup>73</sup> 'Equitable' is aimed at ensuring exemptions from paying any emergency services type levy or tax, assuming such a levy/tax remains in place, is limited to only those persons or organisations most disadvantaged, or most in need, in the Tasmanian community.

- Importantly, transitional matters will require suitable resources to activate and recognition that TFES's costs will increase when, for example, assets previously acquired and managed by Councils, are transferred to TFES. Discussions with Councils will be needed regarding payment, if any, for assets they will be expected to transfer to TFES.
- In addition, a change management process will need to occur to support employees and volunteers during the transition to the new entity and associated arrangements.

## 8.8 Conclusions

Discussion in Section 8, and throughout this Report, confirms the need for new legislation to be drafted replacing the Fire Service Act and that such new legislation be principles-based, taking into account all factors identified in this Report.

Such new legislation should:

- provide for an integrated fire and emergency service entity (with awareness that consequential amendments to the Emergency Management Act will likely be required)
- make provision for a secondary process to change or add mandated functions in the future without the need to amend legislation, but on the proviso that the core legislation cannot be undone without full review by the Parliament and public input
- create an integrated fire and appropriate emergency services entity, the principal objectives of which are:
  - to preserve human life
  - to build resilient communities that actively participate in prevention, preparedness and response to fire and other relevant emergencies
  - to limit the economic, environmental (including climate change impacts), social and physical impact of fire and other relevant emergencies on the Tasmanian community
  - to recognise that our environment has inherent value for the Tasmanian community
  - to ensure/facilitate effective inter-agency interoperability both inter and intra State
- provide clarity that the proposed entity will not be the lead agency responsible for recovery

In addition, when drafting legislation transition consequences should be identified and managed.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 – Review Terms of Reference

### Purpose:

The Steering Committee is appointed to provide independent advice to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management (the Minister) about how the Government can achieve:

- a clear mandate and operating platform for fire services' functions;
- an effective and efficient fire service operation that will provide value for money in the future; and
- a sustainable, stable and equitable funding system for fire services.

### Context:

There is an expectation that modern twenty-first century fire services operates effectively, efficiently, and seamlessly with the roles performed by other emergency service providers. Cabinet has approved a review of the Fire Service Act 1979 (the Act) to ensure the fire service works effectively and efficiently and continues to provide value for money in the future.

Tasmania remains the sole jurisdiction in Australia to have a fully integrated fire service, career and volunteer, urban and rural and is governed by the Act. The Act establishes the State Fire Commission (the Commission) as a Crown Entity and the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS), for which the Commission is responsible.

The House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development's Inquiry into the State Fire Commission recommended that, on the evidence presented, a review of the Act is necessary. The Committee recommended that the Act must be reformed or replaced to allow for:

1. A centralised funding model for the State Emergency Services (SES);
2. Streamlined approach to fire fighting between Tasmania Fire Service, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Tasmania and other relevant agencies;
3. Resources to be allocated according to the risk and not according to local government municipal boundaries;
4. The continuation of Tasmania having a singular fire service;
5. Clear reporting lines;
6. Improved governance structure; and
7. Include the fire permit system and inter- agency protocols.

### The Problem:

The Act was proclaimed in 1979 following the amalgamation of the Rural and Urban Fire Services into the Tasmania Fire Service. The Act has never been comprehensively reviewed since proclamation. A Minor Review of the Act was undertaken in 1999 in order to comply with the Competition Principles Agreement which required the State Government to review and, where appropriate, reform all legislation which restricted competition. The Minor Review of the Act was compliant with the Principles as outlined in the Legislation Review Program.

Over the years, the current legislative framework has become fragmented, overly complex and process driven.

A comprehensive review of the Act, and all subordinate legislation is now considered timely. This is particularly the case with the SES now reporting through to the Chief Officer, TFS and the resultant opportunities for further alignment of TFS and SES to be reflected in legislation.

### Functions of State Fire Commission:

The Commission is a statutory authority created under the Act. The TFS is the operational arm of the Commission, delivering services to the community through career and volunteer brigades and Community Fire Safety. The Commission currently consists of:

- a) the Chief Officer;
- b) a person nominated by the United Firefighters Union of Australia (Tasmania Branch);
- c) a person nominated by the Retained Firefighters Association;
- d) a person nominated by the Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association;
- e) a person nominated by the Secretary of the responsible Department in relation to the Public Account Act 1986; and
- f) two persons nominated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

Legislation has recently passed both Houses of Parliament to enable the appointment of an independent Chair of the Commission by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. Mr Rod Sweetnam has been appointed as the independent Chair of the Commission. The Chief Officer will remain Chief Executive Officer of TFS and in accordance with section 7(3)(a) of the Fire Service Act 1979, the Chief Officer would remain a member of the Commission.

The functions and powers of the Commission are to:

- a) formulate the policy in respect of the administration and operation of the Fire Service;
- b) co-ordinate and direct the development of all fire services throughout the State;
- c) develop effective fire prevention and protection measures throughout the State;
- d) develop and promulgate a State fire protection plan;
- e) standardize, as far as is practicable, fire brigade equipment throughout the State;
- f) establish and maintain training facilities for brigades;
- g) conduct such investigations into fires as it considers necessary, and to prepare reports and recommendations to the Minister arising from those investigations;
- h) conduct such investigations into the use of fire as it considers necessary, to instruct the public in the wise use of fire, and to disseminate information regarding fire protection measures and other related matters;
- i) advise the Minister on such matters relating to the administration of this Act as may be referred to it by the Minister, and on matters that, in the opinion of the Commission, should be brought to the attention of the Minister; and
- j) exercise such other functions vested in or imposed on it by this Act or such other functions relating to the preventing or extinguishing of fires as may be imposed on it by the Minister from time to time.

### Finances of the State Fire Commission:

The major sources of revenue to the Commission are contributions from landowners (fire service contribution), insurance policyholders (insurance fire levy), motor vehicle owners (motor vehicle fire levy)

and the State Government. In addition, the Commission raises revenue through the sale and maintenance of fire equipment, the provision of training services to both the public and private sector, alarm monitoring fees, plan approval fees, avoidable false alarm charges and fire investigation reports.

As part of the 2014 state budget announcements, the Minister announced that there would be a change for TFS and SES in that the SES Director would report to the TFS Chief Officer (who in turn reports to the Secretary DPFEM).

Annual resourcing for the SES is now incorporated into the State Fire Commission budget. The current funding model for SES relies on a number of revenue streams across local, state and federal government levels and also the Motor Accident Insurance Board. Work is currently being undertaken on the development of a sustainable funding model for the SES and this will have ramifications for the SFC and will need to be considered in the context of the Review of the Fire Service Act.

### Governance Arrangements for the Review:

The Review of the Act will be overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of:

- An independent Chair;
- Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service;
- Chair, State Fire Commission;
- Deputy Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service;
- Deputy Secretary, Business and Executive Services, DPFEM;
- Director, State Emergency Service;
- A representative of the Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- A representative of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment;
- A representative of the Department of State Growth; and
- A representative of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Administrative support will be provided by a Project Team from TFS and with the support of the Legislation Development and Review Unit of DPFEM.

### Scope of work:

Cabinet has approved the Steering Committee to provide advice on how the following outcomes might be achieved:

**Outcome 1:** that TFS has a clear mandate and operating platform for the functions it performs, and that it is clear how those align with functions performed by other emergency services providers, in particular, the SES. This will include analysis of any gaps or overlays in the delivery of any TFS / SES services and identify future role and functions for TFS / SES.

**Outcome 2:** that the Commission and TFS are organised and operating as effectively and efficiently as possible to provide the best outcomes to the community in terms of prevention, preparedness, response and community stabilisation and will provide value for money in the future.

**Outcome 3:** that there is sustainable, stable and equitable funding for TFS and SES, with the sources of that funding aligning with the functions that they need to perform.

**Outcome 4:** that governance, accountability and financial management arrangements for the Commission are renewed to facilitate the most effective management of the Commission's resources and the meeting of community and government expectations.

### **Outcome 1: TFS functions and Operating Platform**

The Steering Committee will:

- Assess the current TFS functions and how these align with roles of other emergency management agencies and service providers.
- Provide recommendation on future statutory and non-statutory functions for TFS, including the impacts of those recommendations on other services and how they might be managed.

### **Outcome 2: Effective and Efficiently Organised Tasmania Fire Service**

The Steering Committee will:

- Consider and analyse options for governance and structure that would enable TFS to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible to provide the best outcomes to the community in terms of prevention, preparedness, response and community stabilisation while taking into account:
  - the economic value that government and communities receive from volunteers in our fire services, and measures to enable and encourage volunteers' service;
  - the Commission's capital investments including the building types and location of fire stations, and the types of fire appliances, communications systems and other investments; and
  - the appropriate mechanism for asset management (including depreciation) and renewal, including the level of reserve funds recognising the cyclic nature of income streams.
- Provide recommendations on how the Commission's business operating model could be improved, as well as when and how any such changes could be improved and when, and how, any` changes could be implemented. This may include changes to accelerate the integration of TFS/SES.

### **Outcome 3: State Fire Commission Funding**

The Steering Committee will:

- assess the Commission's current funding base data and identify future funding options;
- undertake an analysis of future funding options against the following criteria:
  - provide sufficient funding to ensure the fire services can perform the functions agreed by Government;
  - be administratively simple to calculate and collect;
  - be stable and predictable; and
  - be equitable so that:
    - a) those who receive the various services performed by the TFS contribute to the costs for both fire and non-fire related activities;
    - b) levy payers in rural fire districts receive benefits that reflect their needs and contribution; and
    - c) minimise distortions in investment decisions, insurance price and coverage.
- provide recommendations for the Commission's future funding base so it can be more sustainable, stable, equitable and commensurate with future functions and business operating model, including:
  - how improvements could be made to the current insurance-based levy; and
  - whether` there are other viable funding sources.



## **Outcome 4: Governance, Accountability and Financial Management Arrangements**

The Steering Committee will:

- ensure that governance, accountability and financial management arrangements for the Commission are renewed to facilitate the most effective management of the Commission's resources and the meeting of community and government expectations.

In addition to the above, the Steering Committee may also provide advice on any other issues it determines are relevant.

### **Outside Scope:**

- TFS should maintain its core fire-related role.
- Tasmania should continue to have a single fire service.

### **Scope Clarification:**

Where the SC and Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (the Department) are unable to determine whether an issue is within scope, or become aware that an interested party has a different view than the Steering Committee and the Department on whether an issue is within scope, the Steering Committee and Department may jointly seek a determination from the Minister as to whether he considers the issue to be within scope.

### **Deliverables:**

The Steering Committee will develop a project plan to meet four stages of work:

- Problems identified and substantiated by evidence;
- Range of potential options identified;
- Key options identified; and
- Options fully developed and assessed, and recommendations ed.

### **Issues Paper**

The Steering Committee will provide the Minister with an Issues Paper within six months of the appointment of an independent Chair, outlining the analysis undertaken to date under the stages of work outlined above.

### **Report**

The Steering Committee will provide a draft report to the Department within six months of the closing date for public submissions on the Issues paper.

### **Final report**

The Steering Committee will provide advice to the Minister no later than six months of the closing date for public submissions on the draft report, in the form of a final report with recommendations.

The Steering Committee is to ensure thorough engagement with all interested stakeholders. Following the release of the Issues Paper there is to be full public consultation and the Steering Committee is to receive written submissions from all interested parties. In accordance with Government Policy, these submissions are to be published on the TFS internet site.

The Steering Committee should subsequently publish a report and hold further public consultations, before providing a final report to the Government.

## Appendix 2 – Functions to be performed by an integrated fire and emergency services entity

Functions performed by an integrated entity should include, but not be limited to, the following features.

- An all-hazards approach that also recognises the need to manage fire in context; in particular, that fire management on reserved land is aimed at not only protecting life and property but achieving conservation objectives listed in the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*
- The promotion of fire safety, including providing guidance on the safe use of fire as a land management tool
- The provision of fire prevention, response, and suppression services
- Responding to severe weather related events, natural hazard events and disasters, and excluding heatwaves, human and disease emergencies
- Stabilising or rendering safe incidents that involve hazardous substances
- Providing for the safety of persons and property endangered by incidents involving hazardous substances
- Rescuing persons who are trapped as a result of accidents or other incidents but excluding where trapping results from civil unrest incidents requiring law enforcement and other incidents where Police are the lead agency because of threat from person or persons in incidents of unlawful acts
- The provision of urban search and rescue services
- Performing rescues, including rescues from collapsed buildings, rescues from confined spaces, rescues from explosive atmospheres, rescues from heights and other relevant search and rescue activities
- The provision of assistance at transport accidents (e.g. crash-scene cordoning and traffic control)
- The management, recruitment, training and support of volunteers
- The provision of community education
- Support for community emergency planning and resilience-building activities
- Undertaking swift water rescues, and animal rescues
- Inclusion of power to confer specified powers and functions and indemnities on individuals and organisations outside of the entity, including private organisations and persons with appropriate indemnity provided
- Performance of any other functions conferred on the entity as a main function by the Minister and/or as detailed under emergency management plans, fire protection plans, approved risk management plans or other arrangements already approved under the Emergency Management Act

Functions not included above that we added during an independently facilitated workshop aimed at considering different governance arrangements for a proposed new fire and emergency services entity included:

- regulation
- response/operational services
- collaboration with other entities
- management and direction of resources (financial, physical and human)
- provision of operational advice to the government of the day.

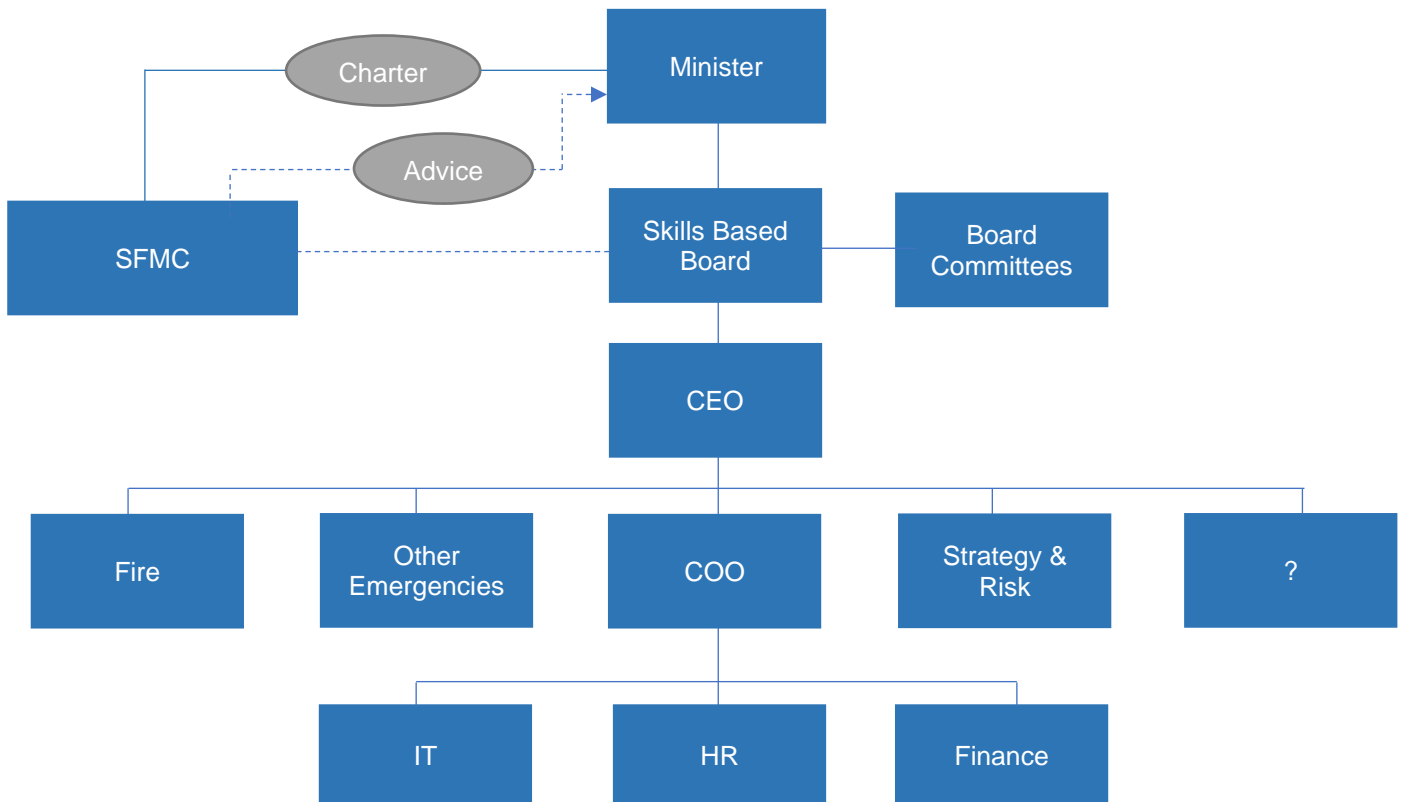
There was no agreement on whether in future the entity would have a role in providing policy advice to government, or whether one of its primary functions was employment of staff.

## Appendix 3 – Emergency services functions to be carried out by TFES

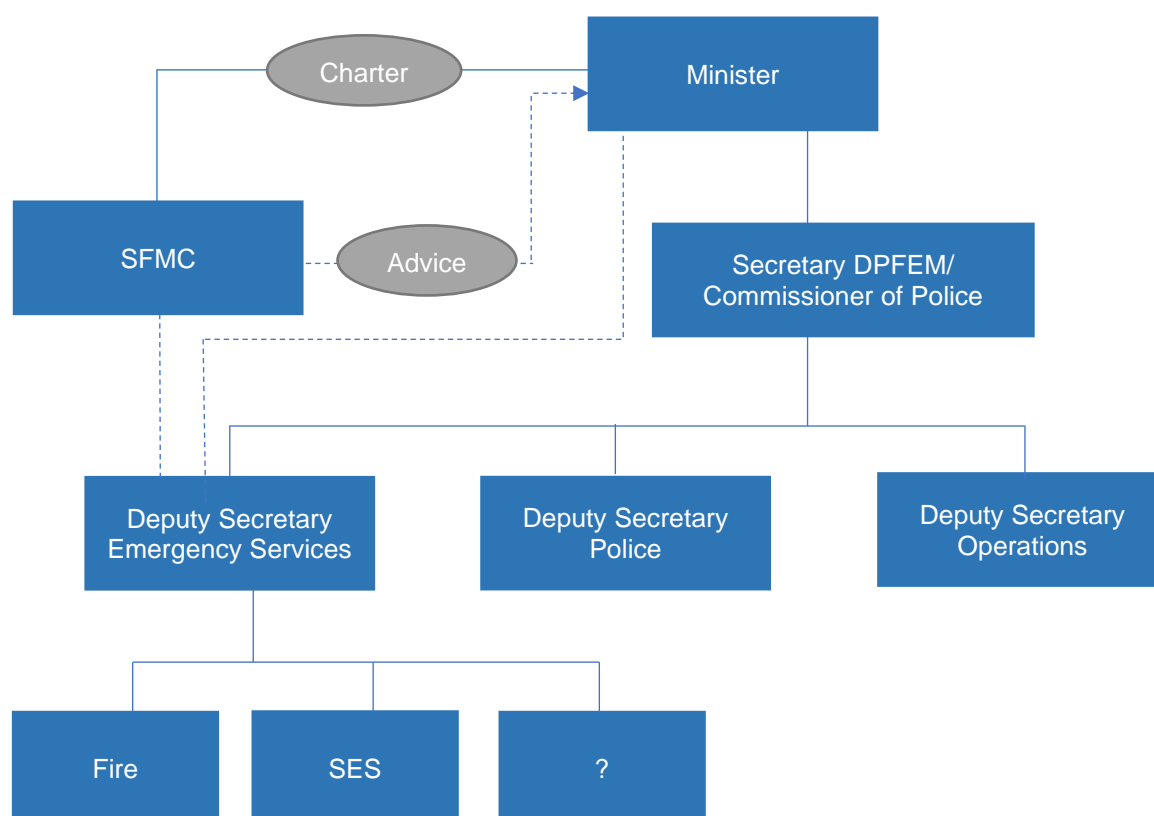
The services noted in the table below are as documented in the Emergency Management Act and the TEMA. This Review may result in changes but subject to the outcomes from consultation with the Community and Stakeholders.

Functions to be provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All fire response related activities currently performed by the TFS and as outlined in the SF Act</li> <li>• Flood, earthquake and tsunami</li> <li>• Joint (TFS and SES) training and project work, and possibly community educations/development/protection planning for bushfire, flood and storm</li> <li>• EM Ac provisions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provision of advice and services relating to Emergency Management (EM) in accordance with EM plans or as otherwise authorised by the State Controller or Minister in writing provided to the Director SES, other than the provision of a service provided by another statutory service</li> <li>○ Provision of services relating to rescue and retrieval operations as authorised by the Minister or State Controller (per TEMA)</li> <li>○ Provision of administrative services for the State Committee and each Regional Committee, including support in the preparation and review of emergency management plans as required by the State Committee and Regional Committees</li> <li>○ Recruitment, training and support of volunteer members of the SES</li> <li>○ In time of enemy action or hostilities against the State, to coordinate civil defence measures</li> <li>○ Other functions imposed on it by the Minister</li> <li>○ Other functions imposed on it by this or any other Act</li> <li>○ Director SES to manage the SES</li> <li>○ Director SES may establish and maintain for the purposes of the regions such volunteer units of the SES and training facilities as considered appropriate and must then appoint a Unit Manager for that unit</li> <li>○ Director SES may appoint a Unit Manager for each municipal volunteer SES unit</li> <li>○ The Director SES may issue to councils standards for the adequate storage and maintenance of the equipment used by municipal volunteer SES units</li> <li>○ Director SES may register suitable persons as volunteer members of the SES</li> <li>○ Director SES may register, subject to his/her conditions, suitable organisations as affiliated organisations of the SES</li> <li>○ Director SES may issue identification to volunteer members of the SES</li> <li>○ Director SES may inspect the facilities and resources of all SES volunteer units</li> <li>○ Director SES may do all other things necessary or convenient to perform his/her functions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• TEMA provisions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hazard Advisory Agency and Response Management Authority for: Coastal inundation</li> <li>○ Hazard Advisory Agency and Response Management Authority for: Flood (riverine and flash flood)</li> <li>○ Hazard Advisory Agency for: Space debris/object</li> <li>○ Hazard Advisory Agency for Tsunami</li> <li>○ Preparedness Management Agency for Tsunami</li> <li>○ Hazard Advisory Agency and Response Management Authority for: Storms/high winds/tempest</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Emergency Management consultation framework</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Emergency risk framework</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Mitigation funding programs</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Emergency coordination (Regional and Municipal)</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Civil Defence</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Land-use planning</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Municipal Councils liaison during emergencies</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Vehicle crashes (aircraft, rail and road, including extrication)</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Cave rescue</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Swift water rescue</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Vertical rescue</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Land search and rescue</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Traffic control</li> <li>○ Support agency for: Severe weather warnings and community advice</li> <li>○ Evacuation support to police and Response Management Authorities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nuclear Powered Warship Visits to Hobart planning.</li> </ul>

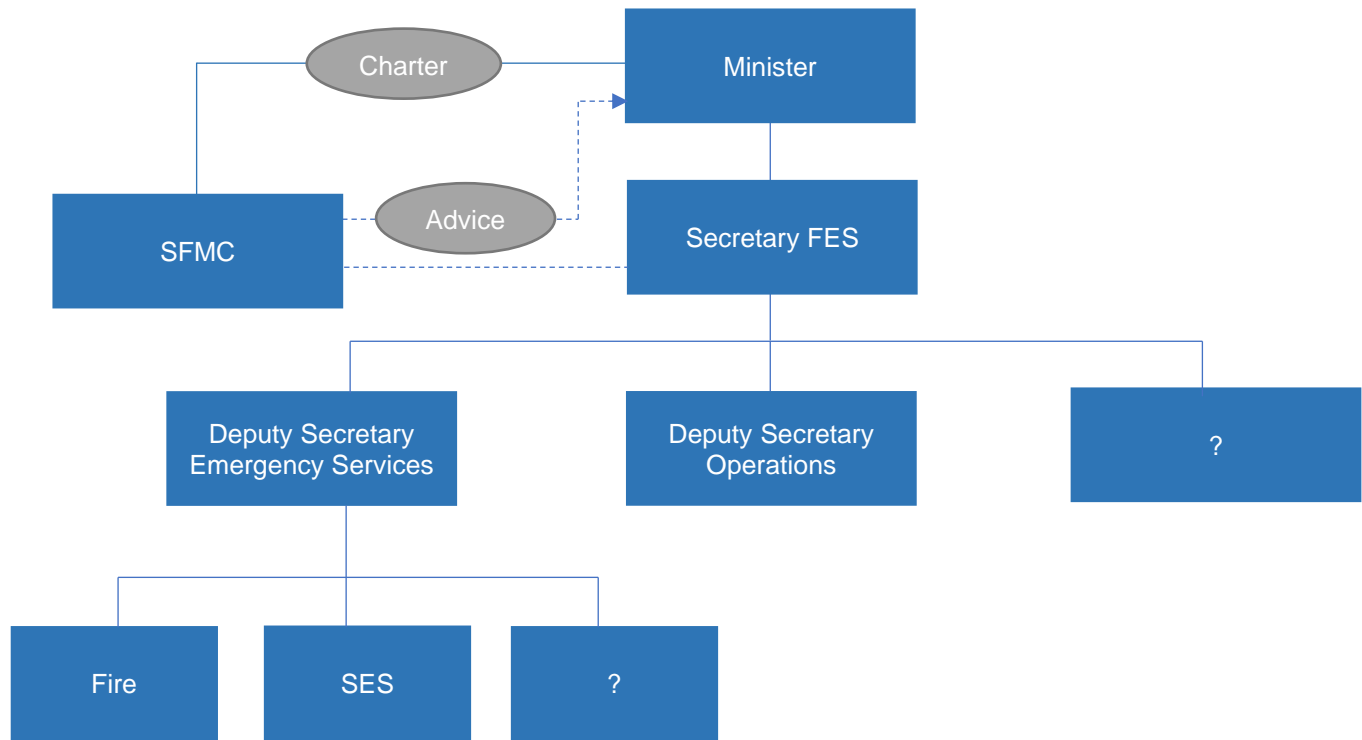
## Appendix 4 – Possible amended statutory authority model



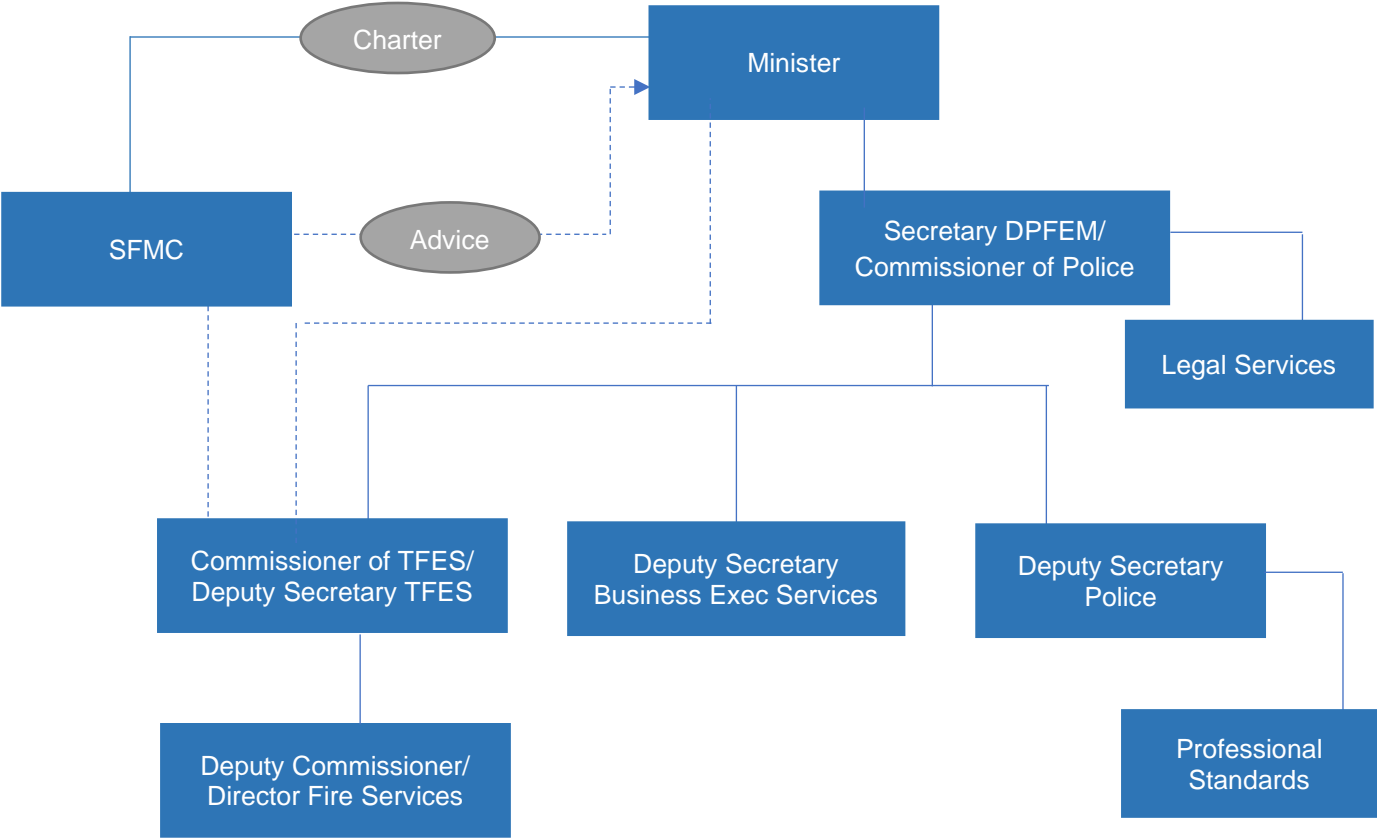
## Appendix 5 – Possible departmental model integrated into DPFEM



Appendix 6 – Possible standalone departmental model



Appendix 7 – Tailored approach



## Appendix 8 – Funding fire and emergency services in Western Australia

The Emergency Services Levy (ESL) funds Western Australia's (WA) fire and emergency services, including Career and Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service brigades, Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service units, bushfire-fighting and management services including the Rural Fire Division and Local Government Bush Fire Brigades, aviation services engaged over the high-risk bushfire season, the South West Emergency Rescue Helicopter service, SES units, Marine Rescue WA and emergency response services provided by ChemCentre.

ESL funding supports approximately 800 dedicated emergency service groups comprising over 1 600 career firefighters and support staff, and more than 26 000 volunteers. Every cent collected from the ESL goes towards providing emergency services to the community.

Since the ESL was introduced in 2003, WA's fire and emergency services have dramatically improved, particularly in regional and remote areas, thanks to the provision of new equipment provided for volunteer groups.

The ESL benefits all West Australians as emergency response involves a cohesive approach from across the state.

### Why was the ESL introduced?

The ESL was introduced to overcome three major problems and inequities that existed with the old funding arrangements.

1. All property owners had access to fire and emergency services, but not everyone contributed to them.
2. The old system consisted of many different funding arrangements, resulting in very few people being able to calculate exactly how much they contributed.
3. Not all volunteer fire brigades, units and services received the funding and equipment they needed to operate safely and effectively.

Under the ESL, this has been fixed. Now all property owners contribute a fair, equitable and identifiable amount, and distribution of funding and equipment to brigades, units and services is according to need.

### What does ESL pay for?

The ESL funds fire and emergency services to respond to building and bushfires, road crash rescue, hazardous and toxic material spills, storms, cyclones, floods, earthquakes and tsunamis, sea rescue, land and sea searches for missing persons, and cliff and cave rescues.

#### **Specifically, the levy funds the:**

- Career Fire and Rescue Service
- Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
- Local government bushfire brigades
- Volunteer SES units
- Marine Rescue Western Australia
- Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service units combined from the former Volunteer Fire Service (VFS) and Volunteer Emergency Service (VES).

Operating costs covered by the levy include running and maintenance of vehicles, vessels and facilities, personal protective equipment, operational equipment and consumables.



Capital equipment purchases include firefighting appliances, vehicles, road rescue trailers, rescue/flood boats and buildings.

The levy also funds training of volunteers, fire investigations, building inspections, community safety programs, emergency management planning and the Department of Fire and Emergency Service's (DFES) costs.

#### What the levy does not fund:

The ESL is not used to fund the Unexploded Ordnance Unit and RAC Rescue, the state's emergency rescue helicopter service. While these services are part of DFES, they are funded by the state government, grants, sponsorship and donations.

St John Ambulance, WA Police, Surf Life Saving Society and other like services are not funded by the levy.

## Appendix 9 – Principles-based options

### Proposed high level principles underpinning legislation to be drafted

In addition to the proposals in Section 8, included in this appendix are:

- Nationally agreed high-level principles
- The principles behind the establishment of SAFECOM (South Australia).

#### Nationally agreed high-level principles

These are based on the nationally agreed, high-level principles which guide Tasmania's approach to emergency management and are set out in the table below and outlined in the TEMA. The national principles improve and provide consistency in policy and decision-making and support a disaster-resilient Tasmania (and Australia).

*Principles of Emergency Management (source: The Australian Emergency Management Arrangements Handbook – AIDR 2019)*

Principle	Explanation
<b>Primacy of life</b>	The protection and preservation of human life (including both communities and emergency service personnel) will be paramount over all other objectives and considerations.
<b>Comprehensive</b>	The development of emergency and disaster arrangements to embrace the phases of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery (PPRR) across all hazards. These phases of emergency management are not necessarily sequential.
<b>Collaborative</b>	Relationships between emergency management stakeholders and communities are based on integrity, trust and mutual respect, building a team atmosphere and consensus. Planning and systems of work reflect common goals and all stakeholders work with a unified effort.
<b>Coordinated</b>	The bringing together of organisations and other resources to support emergency management response, relief and recovery. It involves the systematic acquisition and application of resources (organisational, human and equipment) in an emergency situation. Activities of all stakeholders are synchronised and integrated. Information is shared to achieve a common purpose and impacts and needs are continuously assessed and responded to accordingly.
<b>Flexible</b>	Emergency situations are constantly changing. Emergency management decisions may require initiative, creativity and innovation to adapt to new and rapidly emerging challenges. Emergency plans need to be agile to change and adapt to these new circumstances.
<b>Risk based</b>	Emergency managers use sound risk management principles and processes in prioritising, allocating and monitoring resources to manage the risks from hazards. Risk based planning will anticipate the effect of efforts, the changing hazard landscape and the changing consequences of the emergency.

<b>Shared responsibility</b>	Everyone understands their own responsibility in an emergency, and the responsibility of others. Communities and individuals understand the risk. This encourages all stakeholders to prevent, prepare for, and to plan for how they will safely respond to and recover from an emergency situation.
<b>Resilience</b>	The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management (UNISDR).
<b>Communication</b>	Information is crucial to decision making and to the preservation of life. Emergency managers need to support common information systems and are responsible for providing and sharing clear, targeted and tailored information to those who need it, and to those at risk, to enable better decision making by all stakeholders.
<b>Integrated</b>	Emergency Management efforts must be integrated across sectors, not progressed in silos, ensuring the engagement of the whole of governments, all relevant organisations and agencies, the private sector and the community.
<b>Continual improvement</b>	All sectors continuously learn and innovate to improve practices and share lessons, data and knowledge so that future emergency management is better and the overall cost of impact of emergencies and disasters is reduced. Continuous monitoring, review and evaluation should examine the processes, timelines and outcomes of plans. Review informs communities and displays transparency and accountability. Review also enables facilitation of the adaptive change process with communities.

### The principles behind the establishment of SAFECOM (South Australia)

These included the following.

- Ensuring governance and accountability of the sector.
- The provision of a properly integrated network of emergency services based on equitable assessment of community risk.
- The consolidation of support services within a unified emergency services sector.
- The strategic alignment of the emergency services with the common goal of enhanced community safety.
- Enhancing community safety by providing balanced focus on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery services by the emergency service organisations, i.e. CFS, MFS and SES.
- Pursuing opportunities for efficiencies and reforms and reinvesting savings within the sector.
- To enhance participation and support of volunteers from within local communities.

## Appendix 10 – Acronyms and abbreviations

AAV	Average Annual Value
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AED	Automatic External Defibrillator
AFAC	Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System
AIRS	Australian Incident Reporting System
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
AWU	Australian Workers Union
DPFEM	Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
DPIPWE	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
EMC	Emergency Management Committee
EMR	Emergency Medical Response
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EVF	Emergency Volunteer Fund
FERAC	Fire and Emergency Risk Area Committee
FireComm	State Operations Call Receipt, Dispatch and Communications Centre
FMAC	Fire Management Area Committee
FSC	Fire Service Contribution
Hazmat	Hazardous materials
ICS	Incident Control System
ICV	Improved capital value
IMT	Incident Management Team
LGAT	Local Government Association of Tasmania
MAC	Multi-Agency Coordination Group

MAIB	Motor Accident Insurance Board
MAST	Marine and Safety Tasmania
MEMC	Municipal Emergency Management Committee
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MVA	Motor Vehicle Accident
NAFC	National Aerial Firefighting Centre
NDR	National Disaster Resilience
NDRLGP	Tasmanian Relief and Recovery Arrangement: Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy
NDRRA	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
NPA	National Partnership Agreement
PCBU	Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking
PPR&R	Prevention, preparedness, response and recovery
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service
RAT	Remote Area Team
RCR	Road Crash Rescue
REMC	Regional Emergency Management Committee
SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
SEMP	State Emergency Management Program
SES	State Emergency Service
SFC	State Fire Commission
SFMC	State Fire Management Council
STT	Sustainable Timber Tasmania
TBI	Tasmania Bushfire Inquiry
TBMGP	Tasmanian Bushfire Mitigation Grants Program

TEMA	Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements
TEMP	Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan
TFB	Total Fire Ban
TFE	TasFire Equipment
TFES	Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services
TFS	Tasmania Fire Service
TFT	TasFire Training
the Levy	Road Safety Levy
Treasury	Department of Treasury and Finance
TRVFA	Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association
TVFBA	Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association
UFU	United Firefighters Union of Australia (Tasmania Branch)
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue



## **CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM**

Please ensure you have read and understand the Program Guidelines prior to completing this form. Please enclose your group/club's current financial statement.

### **1. APPLICATION & ORGANISATION DETAILS**

**Name of Project:**

**SAFETY FENCE & GATE FOR CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

**Amount of Grant Requested:** \$3,500 (gate & fence including delivery)

**Estimated Total Project Cost:** \$5,700 (including play equipment)

**Applicant Organisation:** Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH)

**Contact Person's Name:** Tracey Turale

**Contact Details**

**Address:** Ash Cottage Lyell Highway Ouse

**Phone:** 036122 2018

**Mobile:** 0429 433 664

**Fax:** Nil

**Email:** [tracey.turale@ths.tas.gov.au](mailto:tracey.turale@ths.tas.gov.au)

**Signature**

**Name:** Tracey Turale

**Position in Organisation** Committee Member / Project Coordinator

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

**What is the overall aim/purpose of the applying organisation?**

The purpose of HATCH is to support community participation in the development, delivery and review of health services provided for the current and future health and wellbeing of the Central Highlands community.

**What is the membership of the organisation?**

**President** Anita Campbell

**Secretary** Central Highlands Council admin

**Membership**

Membership will consist of up to fifteen, with members drawn up as follows:

- a) Manager – Central Highlands Community Health Centre
- b) Employee – Health Promotion South – THS
- c) One (1) Central Highlands Council elected member
- d) Nine (9) community representatives
- e) One (1) General Practice representative from the CHGP
- f) One (1) General Practice representative from Bothwell Medical Centre
- g) A member of a Central Highlands school group, teacher or aide who is actively engaged in the school community.
- h) Additional members may be co-opted by the Committee as needed

**2. ELIGIBILITY** *(see Community Grant Program Guidelines)*

**Is the organisation:**

☒ **Representative of the interests of the Central Highlands Community**

☐ **Incorporated**

☒ **Not for Profit**

☒ **Unincorporated**

☐ **A Hall Committee**

**OR**

☐ **An individual community member**

**Have you previously received funding from the Central Highlands Council?** *(Please attached additional pages if required)*

**Yes**

**Name of Project:** First Aid Training

**Date Grant received:** July 2021

**Amount of Grant:** \$2,500

**Name of Project:** Meal Delivery program

**Date Grant received:** July 2021

**Amount of Grant:** \$2,000



### **3. PROJECT DETAILS**

**Project Start Date: January 2022**

**Project Completion Date: February 2022**

**Project Objectives:**

Erect a safety fence and gate at Ash Cottage Ouse to segregate the back yard area so it is safe for young children to play on new equipment.

This project will ensure there is a safe environment for young children to play during activities held at Ash Cottage. These activities will include Playgroup, coffee clubs, family days, drop-in centre and health events.

New play equipment will soon be available at Ash Cottage from a successful grant from Communities for Children.

Currently there is no fence and/or gate to safely separate the yard of the premises from the busy Lyell Highway.

### **4. COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**What level of community support is there for this project?**

Parents support this project as it gives their children a safe place to play when they attend Ash Cottage for activities and events.

**Does the project involve the community in the delivery of the project?**

Yes – parents are involved with Playgroup that is held at Ash Cottage every fortnight during school terms.

**How will the project benefit the community or provide a community resource?**

Yes – the community will benefit from making the area safe for young children. New play equipment will soon be provided at Ash Cottage through a grant from Communities for Children. The use of this equipment will require the space to be safe for young children.

## **5. COUNCIL SUPPORT**

**Are you requesting other Council support? E.g. parks, halls, telephones, fax, photocopying, computers, office accommodation, cleaning facilities, street closure.**

**If yes, please give details.**

Council (Jason Branch) has agreed in principle they are able to erect the fence and gate.

**Are you requesting participation by Councillors or Council Staff?**

**If yes, please give details.**

Councillors and council staff are invited & welcome to participate in all activities and events held at Ash Cottage.

**If your application is successful, how do you plan to acknowledge Council's contribution?**

We will acknowledge council when promoting activities that rely on the fence & gate (e.g. Playgroup).

## **6. FUTURE APPLICATIONS AND THE SUCCESS THIS PROJECT**

**Do you anticipate the organisation will apply for funding in future years?**

Yes – other identified community projects

**How will you monitor/evaluate the success of this project?**

The number and type of activities and events that can be held at Ash Cottage when it is a safe environment for children.

## 7. PROJECT BUDGET

Note: Amount from Council must not exceed half the project cost

Please provide a breakdown of the project expenditure and income:			
Expenditure	Amount \$	Income	Amount \$
<b>Capital</b>		<b>Guarantee</b>	
Refurbishment		Government Grants	
Equipment		Trust/Foundations	
<b>Safety Fence &amp; Gate</b>	\$3,500		
Premises		Donations from Business	
Vehicles		Special Funding	
Other:		Gifts in Kind	
Other:			
<b>Play Equipment</b>	\$2,200	<b>Communities for Children Grant</b>	\$2,200
<b>Subtotal</b>		Other	
		<b>Subtotal</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Anticipated</b>	
Salaries (including super)		Government Grants	
Short-term contract fees		<b>Central Highlands Grant</b>	\$3,500
Running costs		Trust/Foundations	
Production of information PR materials		Donations from Businesses	
Training staff/volunteers		Special Fundraising	
Travel		Gifts in kind (details)	
Rent		Cash Reserves	
Reference materials		Other:	
Other:			
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>Subtotal</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,700</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,700</b>

## **Central Highlands Council**

**Submission for the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program  
to undertake a River Clyde flood mapping study, flood hydrology report,  
cost benefit study into the feasibility of a flood levee**



Photo – Backyard in Bothwell June 2016 flood event.

The Central Highlands Council flood mapping plan for the township of Bothwell is over 50 years old and a number of minor and larger flood events have occurred since that time, causing social consequences for communities and individuals in the municipality, major infrastructure damage, damage to property, destruction of crops, loss of livestock, and deterioration of health conditions owing to waterborne diseases.



Photo - Evacuating sheep Nant Lane, 2016



Photo - Flood damaged dam fill infrastructure and inundated farm land, off Lower Farm Road

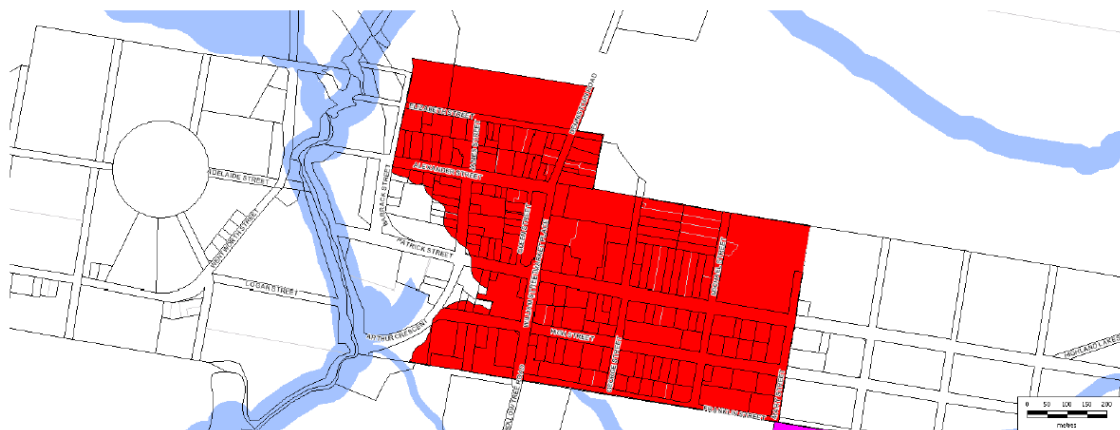
Central Highlands Council seeks the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management support to gain funding under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program to undertake the following mapping, studies and reports of the River Clyde in the township of Bothwell:

- River Clyde flood mapping study;
- Flood hydrology report;
- Cost benefit study into the feasibility of a flood levee and
- Study sufficient to allow an application for a dam approval application to progress if flood levee is feasible.

The map on the next page shows the 1960 flood line. This is the only Central Highlands Council flood mapping plan of the township of Bothwell which is over 50 years old.

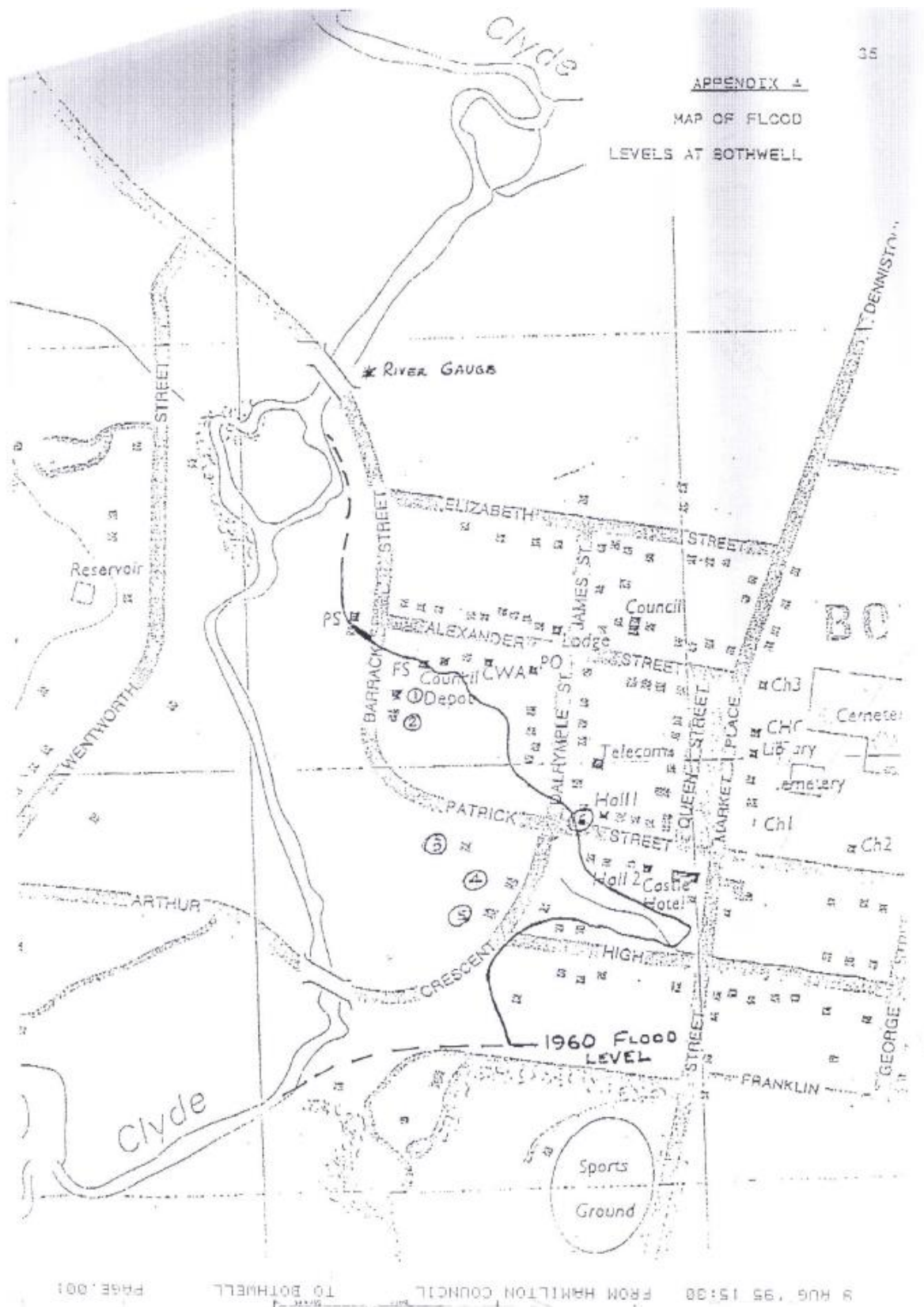
It is estimated that the flood mapping was undertaken by the Municipality of Bothwell in the 1970's as it shows the village area of the township of Bothwell, the rural properties, the River Clyde river reserve and the 1960 flood level. The 1960 flood is considered the largest flooding event in recent times in the township of Bothwell.

This 50 years old flood map was used by the Central Highlands Council to determine the Village zone in the township of Bothwell within the Central Highlands Planning Scheme 1998.



Village zoning plan of township of Bothwell from the 1998 Town Planning Scheme.





Map showing the 1960 flood line

The Independent Review Panel into the Tasmanian Floods of June and July 2016 suggests that there are *'gaps in flood studies and flood plans, both in comprehensiveness and currency of plans. Flood studies, associated flood mapping and flood planning are inconsistent, may be not contemporary, use different methodologies and there were questions as to access, data ownership and regular review. This led to more than one recommendation, including that policy settings, coordination and completion of flood plans and flood studies would be best managed centrally, preferably in an all-hazards emergency management agency or division.'*

The Independent Review Panel also found when assessing how well planning worked in practice they concluded that, in the case of the Launceston flood event, emergency planning arrangements were activated as expected and operated effectively. Hence the Central Highlands Council proposal would help with future planning of flood events in the township of Bothwell as when a similar situation arises again like in June 2016 or April 1960 contingency planning for the activation of a Regional Operations Centre in the Hobart would have detailed documentation and flood mapping of the River Clyde in the township of Bothwell.

With the benefit of hindsight, the insurance and expenditure losses in 2016 could have been reduced with detailed information like a River Clyde flood mapping study and flood hydrology report which would have identified trigger points for the timely activation of the emergency for future flood event like in 2018.



Photo – Clyde River breaching Blair Marsh Dam fill channel, 2016. This breach caused an estimated \$200,000 loss in damage to soil and infrastructure on the downstream properties of Lower Farm and Blair. Nine kilometres of fencing was also damaged or destroyed plus three kilometres of deer fencing which had been in place since 1978.





Photo - Excavator being used to divert flood flows to save downstream dams, the wall on the Blair Marsh Dam is 2.4 Kms long and the dam holds 1200 MGL. There was a risk of breaching without the works being carried out with the potential for serious downstream consequences.



Photo - Blair Marsh Dam is on the right side and River Clyde in flood is on the left and centre

The Independent Review Panel suggests that *'past decisions to invest in flood levees at Launceston City and Northern Midlands Councils worked on this occasion. However, any further investment in levees as a flood-risk mitigation tool may require significant investment requiring thorough and publicly transparent cost-benefit studies.'*

The Independent Review Panel found that *'research by the Climate Change Office and nationally notes a growing climate change risk and need for adaptive strategies and investment in flood mitigation infrastructure to deal with resilience, particularly in flood-prone area.'*

*Based on studies read as part of this Review, it may be that Government underinvests in flood mitigation, which may contribute to higher direct and indirect response costs. Should this be a fair conclusion, the question is how much, and on what, mitigation investment is needed especially for irregularly occurring events.'*

The Independent Review Panel did not set out to answer this question however they agreed the following: *'it needs to be considered, as does the extent to which Government should manage its natural resources and natural disasters from a fiscal perspective.'*

The Independent Review Panel found *'where a municipality is prone to flooding, it should include flood studies and flood plans as sub-plans in its emergency management plan. All municipal emergency management plans are held centrally by the SES, reviewed every two years and approved by the State Controller.'*

This application allows the State Government to reduce its exposure to key-person dependency risk in its emergency management arrangements as the new knowledge obtained from the proposed River Clyde flood mapping study and flood hydrology report will add to the current knowledge management systems within all organisations and be included in the Central Highlands Council Emergency Management Plan.

Hence the Central Highlands Council hopes the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management will 'buy-in' to support this funding submission under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program for Tasmania to ensure the safety of the community in and around the township of Bothwell in the highlands of Tasmania.



Photo – 2016 Flood event, the whole area under water is 3 kilometres by 5 kilometres wide

## Background

The River Clyde catchment forms part of the Greater River Derwent catchment. The catchment area includes Lakes Sorell and Lake Crescent, the area of the catchment below the outlet from Lake Crescent is 924 km<sup>2</sup>.

The principal tributaries of the River Clyde are Black Snake Creek, Weasel Plains Creek, Fordell Creek and Dew Rivulet. The River Clyde catchment lies within the Lower Derwent Hydro-electric District and its water contributes to the generation of electricity at Lake Meadowbank Power Station.

Hydro Tasmania holds a Special Licence under Division 6 of Part 6 of the Water Management Act 1999, conferring upon it the right to all the water resources of the catchment (excluding the volume of water held under entitlements by other water licensees and rights to water under Part 5 of the Act).

The Clyde River catchment falls entirely within the Central Highlands Municipality. The major towns of Bothwell and Hamilton are located along the River Clyde and the smaller locality of Hollow Tree is situated on the Dew Rivulet. Essential water for the township of Bothwell is extracted from the River Clyde. While the town water supply for Hamilton is supplied via a pipeline from water resources at Ouse.

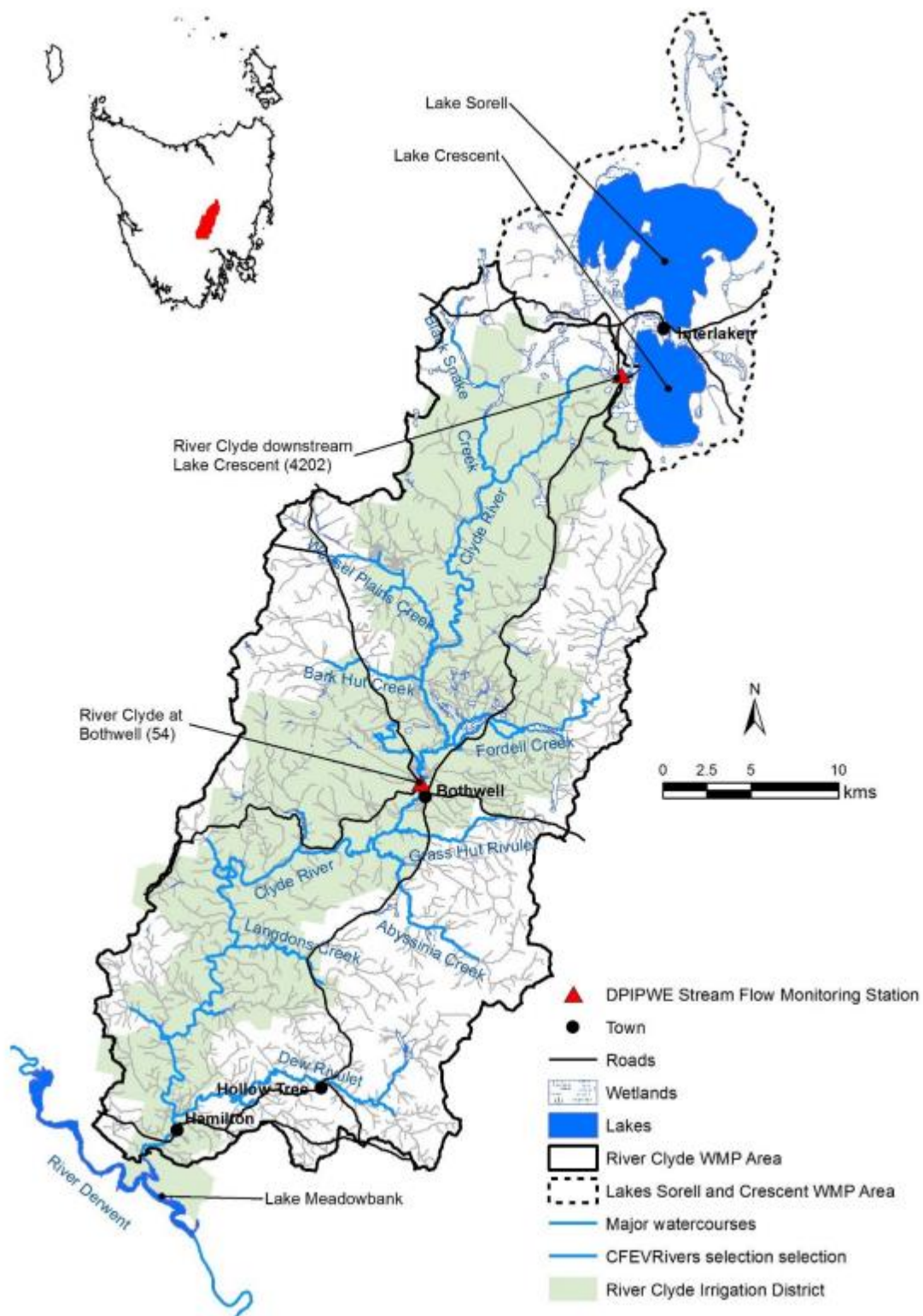
With its long history of agricultural development, the River Clyde catchment supports a productive agricultural industry. Farming enterprises are largely family-owned and operated, and focus on irrigated annual cropping and dryland grazing.

As well as agriculture, the River Clyde catchment supports some forest enterprises and service industries, as well as tourism and a minor recreational fishery. The primary recreational fisheries from this catchment are Lake Sorell and Crescent.

The River Clyde flood mapping study and the flood hydrology report will help Council to strike a balance in the management of flooding in the River Clyde catchment's and in doing so, ensures that the catchment's existing freshwater environmental values and capacity to support a range of uses, including town and stock and domestic supplies, irrigation, electricity generation, recreation and tourism, are preserved into the future without causing flooding issues in the township of Bothwell.

Council see there is considerable complexity in the management of the water resources in the River Clyde catchment. This complexity stems from: the intermittent and variable characteristics of the flow regime; the presence of different natural values and management regimes in the River compared to Lakes Sorell and Crescent; the complexity of water management and operational arrangements; and, the increasing demand for reliable water and development of water markets.





## CURRENT FLOW REGIME AND RIVER CONDITION

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment River Clyde Catchment Water Management Plan states *‘whilst the River Clyde catchment is one of Tasmania’s driest catchments, it experiences considerable climate variability from year to year, which causes high seasonal and inter-annual variability in river discharge. They suggest the flow regime of the River Clyde can be characterised as being:*

- *intermittent and variable when water is not being released from Lake Crescent (i.e. during non- release periods);*
- *highly regulated when water is being released from Lake Crescent (i.e. during release periods), with increased base-flows in summer-autumn, and*
- *overall strongly influenced by local climatic conditions.*

*Whilst the flow regime of the River Clyde in much of the catchment has been modified to some extent for many years, some key elements of the natural flow regime have been retained, including seasonal and inter-annual variability of flows (especially during non-release periods), and the frequency, magnitude and duration of flood events.’*



Photo – River Clyde flood event June 2016

## FUTURE CLIMATE RISKS

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment River Clyde Catchment Water Management Plan states *‘the recent scientific assessments provide an indication of the possible future climate change risks in the Derwent and South East region of Tasmania (including the River Clyde catchment) for a range of future climate change scenarios (CSIRO 2009; Ling et al. 2009; Bennett et al. 2010; Corney et al. 2010). In the short term (out to 2030) run off in the Derwent and South East region of Tasmania is predicted to range from a possible*

*increase of 5% under a wet future climate to a reduction of 8% under a dry future climate. Under future climate scenarios yields from the upper part of the River Clyde catchment are likely to become more variable in the short term (out to 2030; CSIRO 2009; Ling et al. 2009), and long term (out to 2100; Corney et al. 2010; Bennett et al. 2010). In contrast, long term increases in flows in the lower River Clyde catchment (out to 2100) are predicted to contribute to an overall average increase in yield for the Clyde River catchment as a whole by 17% (Bennett et al. 2010).'*



Photo - Nant Lane during the 2016 flood event





Photo - River Flats at Blair during the 2016 flood event

## **FLOW MODIFICATION AND WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

The flow regime in the River Clyde catchment has a long history of modification that has been underpinned by the need to provide reliable access to town, stock and domestic and commercial water supplies to support high-value irrigated agriculture. Most watercourses are naturally ephemeral and under natural conditions would intermittently cease to flow during extended dry periods.

Weirs and control structures were constructed at Lake Crescent in 1833 to store and release water and provide a more reliable source of water for towns, riparian stock and domestic needs and commercial users in downstream communities in the River Clyde catchment during dry periods.

Between 1980 and 2013, several large storages were built on the tributaries of the River Clyde to meet an increasing demand for water by irrigated agriculture. Flow regimes in much of the catchment have been historically modified by the combined effects of the conveyance of water in the main channel of the River Clyde during dry periods, and abstraction of water when water is available in the River (below Lake Crescent). However during high flow events these occur over relatively short periods of time from a flow that generally coincides with periods of high rainfall and low water demand.

These structures have helped during flood conditions in the Clyde to manage water flows.

In 2016, the Southern Highlands Irrigation Scheme was approved for construction after public investment was supported by strong demand and private investment in the scheme by farmers in the River Clyde catchment. The Southern Highlands Irrigation Scheme uses pipelines to distribute and supply water to the Southern Highlands Irrigation District which falls within River Clyde catchment. All of the water supplied by the Southern Highlands Irrigation District is sourced from outside the River Clyde catchment and piped to property outlets. While this Southern Highlands Irrigation District is a key part of the water market in the River Clyde, the operation of the Southern Highlands Irrigation District will be largely independent of the water resources of the River Clyde.



Photo - Dam fill channel completely lost during the 2016 flood event



## **Flood events in the township of Bothwell**

### **Flood Event April 1960**

Between 20 & 23 April 1960, widespread flooding occurred in the River Clyde it is estimated that over 250 mm of rain fell in less than 48 hours. The 1960 flood event of the township of Bothwell caused social consequences for communities and individuals in the municipality of Bothwell at the time, along with major infrastructure damage, damage to property, destruction of crops, loss of livestock, and deterioration of health conditions owing to waterborne diseases.



1960 flood level marker in the township of Bothwell





1960 flood level marker on the Highlands Lakes Road in the township of Bothwell which shows the level of the largest flood event in recent times.

### **Flood event - June 2016**

A strong, moisture-laden weather system brought exceptional flooding to several catchments in Tasmania in early June 2016. There were several hundred millimetres of rain over the 72 hours to 9 am Tuesday 7 June. The rain was particularly heavy in the 24 hours to 9 am Monday 6 June.

During the June 2016 flood event, major flood levels were exceeded at numerous flood forecasting locations and several river level measurement stations experienced the highest water level on record. From 3 to 12 June 2016, the Bureau of Meteorology issued a total of 8 flood watches and 203 flood warnings, as well as 21 severe weather warnings, and gave at least 70 interviews to television, radio and print media.



Photos of the township of Bothwell during the flood event in June 2016.

























Local Government infrastructure damage from flood event:

- Nant Lane
- Nant Lane Bridge (scouring around abutment)
- High Street Footpath
- Dennistoun Road
- Woodspring Road
- Seal over Andrews Bridge on Logan Street (approx. 200m<sup>2</sup>)
- Rotherwood Road
- Meryvale Road
- Lower Marshes Road Bridge (sourcing of abutments)
- Little Den Creek Culvert Pipes on Lower Marshes Road
- Green Valley Bridge (structural damage and washout and damage to ends of bridge)
- Rosehill Road
- Wetheron Road
- Marked Tree Road
- Lanes Tier Road
- Victoria Valley Road
- Thousand Acre Lane

Most of the roads listed above require re-sheeting of gravel and therefore require truck and trailers, grader and in some cases the backhoe to clean the culverts where the gravel has been washed into them. Bridges require rock armour and gravel to repair washouts and abutment scouring.

Other damage due to flood event:

Culvert pipes at Boomer have been washed out along with the road. The estimated cost to repair is \$23,000.

Total cost for flood damage works to Council was \$125,000





Photo - flood damage to top soil from the 2016 Flood event







Photo - flood damage to bed rock from the 2016 Flood event

**Funding request:**

Central Highlands Council seeks funding of \$300,000 under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program to employ a Project Manager, Hydrologist and Engineer part-time to undertake the following studies of the River Clyde in the township of Bothwell:

- River Clyde flood mapping study;
- Flood hydrology report;
- Cost benefit study into the feasibility of a flood levee; and
- Study sufficient to allow an application for a dam approval application to progress if flood levee is feasible.

The current lack of sufficient data prevents the use of systems-analysis techniques to seek optimal solutions to flood plain management, which includes both structural (e.g. levee construction) and non-structural (e.g. evacuation) action. The funding request under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program will help to serve what flood mitigation infrastructure is required to reduce the risk of flooding on our community in the Central Highlands.



Tech 4 30-38 Innovation Drive  
Dowsing Point TAS 7010

22 January 2021

Adam Wilson  
Deputy General Manager  
Central Highlands Council  
6 Tarleton St  
Hamilton 7140

Dear Adam

**Re : River Clyde Flood Mapping Grant Submission**

In respect to your enquiry as to the likely costs involved to supply the necessary Project Management, Hydrological and Engineering expertise in respect to Council's submission for funding to undertake the following studies of the River Clyde in the township of Bothwell:

- River Clyde flood mapping study;
- Flood hydrology report;
- Cost benefit study into the feasibility of a flood levee; and
- Sufficient information to allow an application for a dam approval application to progress if flood levee is feasible.

I have reviewed your information and would suggest that with a well managed and appropriately scoped engagement it would be feasible to undertake the associated works for a figure in the order of \$250,000 to \$300,000. These projects are hard to fully scope until an initial level of investigation is undertaken and I would suggest that when you do undertake the investigations you may take a staged approach to manage the outcome to expenditure process.

Pinion Advisory would certainly be a willing applicant for such an assignment and has both the in house expertise and the necessary sub consultant contacts to achieve what is necessary. We also have a strong relationship with all the necessary regulators and the corresponding understanding of the associated regulations. This would ensure that expenditure is targeted towards an outcome.

I hope this assists your needs at this stage.

Chris Thompson  
Partner, Director, Water Team Leader  
Pinion Advisory

**1300 PINION**  
**(1300 746 466)**  
**pinionadvisory.com**

## REFERENCE INFORMATION

SM and Bindoff NL (2010), Climate Futures for Tasmania: water and catchments technical report, Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, Hobart, Tasmania.

Corney SP, Katzfey JJ, McGregor JL, Grose MR, Bennett JC, White CJ, Holz GK, Gaynor SM and Bindoff NL (2010), Climate Futures for Tasmania: climate modelling technical report, Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, Hobart, Tasmania.

CSIRO Water for a Healthy Country Flagship, Australia.

DPIPWE (2003b) Environmental management goals for Tasmanian Waters: Derwent River Catchment, April 2003. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Hobart, Tasmania.

DPIPWE (2016) Eco-hydrological assessment to inform the review of the River Clyde

DPIWE River Clyde Water Management Plan 2017. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Hobart, Tasmania.

Ling, F.L.N. Gupta V, Willis, M., Bennett, J.C., Robinson, K.A., Paudel, K., Post, D.A. and Marvanek, S. (2009) River modelling for Tasmania. Volume 5: the Derwent-South East region. A report to the Australian Government from the CSIRO Tasmania

Tasmanian Government (2017) Report of the Independent Review into the Tasmanian Floods of June and July 2016



## **Central Highlands Council**

### **Submission for the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program**

#### **River Ouse installation of flood information warning stations**



Photo – River Ouse bridge Marlborough Highway June 2016 flood event.

The Central Highlands Council seek the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management support to gain funding under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program to install flood information warning stations on the River Ouse.

The Independent Review Panel found that *‘research by the Climate Change Office and nationally notes a growing climate change risk and need for adaptive strategies and investment in flood mitigation infrastructure to deal with resilience, particularly in flood-prone area.*

Hence the installation of flood information warning stations on the River Ouse will help with effective flood forecasting and warning services to the communities that live and work in the River Ouse catchment area.

## **Background**

The River Ouse catchment forms part of the Greater River Derwent catchment. The catchment area at an elevation of 1210m and ends at an elevation of 79m flowing into the River Derwent. The River Ouse flows through Julian Lakes (1206m), Lake Augusta (1152m) and flows into Meadowbank Lake (81m) on its way to joining the River Derwent.

The principal tributaries of the River Ouse are seven creeks and rivers, the five longest tributaries are: Shannon River, Kenmere Creek, Boggy Marsh Rivulet, Bashan Plains Rivulet and James River

The River Ouse catchment falls entirely within the Central Highlands Municipality. The major towns of Ouse are located along the River Ouse. The township of Ouse is on the Lyell Highway around 1 hours’ drive from Hobart. At the 2011 census, Ouse had a population of 368.

The Ouse area has a long history in agricultural development, the River Ouse catchment supports a productive agricultural industry. Farming enterprises are largely family-owned and operated, and focus on irrigated annual cropping and grazing.

## **Flood Warning Stations**

Council believes the primary function of flood warning stations on the River Ouse will be to provide information to the Flood Warning Service; this information will enable the Flood Warning Service to undertake effective flood forecasting and warning service to the community.

The flooding of rivers following heavy rainfall is the most common form of flooding in Australia. Flooding of rivers can spread for hundreds of square kilometres and may last for days or even weeks. In mountainous areas like the River Ouse valley flooding can occur more quickly. As these rivers are steeper, flooding often lasts for only one to two days. Flash flooding usually results from relatively short intense bursts of rainfall, commonly from thunderstorms. This flooding can occur as well. In the River Ouse catchment area flash floods tend to be quite local and it is difficult to provide effective warning to the community as there is no flood warning stations near the township of Ouse.

Within Tasmania the Bureau of Meteorology provides flood forecasting and warning services for most major rivers in Tasmania. These services are provided with the cooperation of other government authorities, such as the State Emergency Services, Hydro Tasmania and local councils. The Bureau delivers this service through Flood Warning Centres in Bureau Regional Office in Hobart, Tasmania. Hence for the Bureau of Meteorology to provide information to local communities it requires information about water flows in river. Hence for the community to get the most benefit from flood warnings people in flood prone areas need to know what, if any, effect the flood will have on their property and some knowledge of how best to deal with a flood situation. Sources of such information could include:

- Flood Bulletins/Warnings issued by the Bureau;
- Long term residents who may have experienced a similar flood in the past and remember how it affected them;
- Local Councils that have conducted flood studies and have maps of areas that are likely to be flooded by a range of floods; and
- Information pamphlets.

Flood Warnings typically include a statement about both current and expected levels of flooding at key locations in the area covered by the warning, along with a weather forecast and the latest available observations of river height and rainfalls in the area. The installation of flood warning stations on the River Ouse help the Bureau delivers this service through Flood Warning Centres.

The Independent Review Panel found that *'the June 2016 flood affected the Bureau's Flood Forecasting and Warning Services in a number of ways. The Flood Forecasting and Warning service is dependent on quality rainfall and river level data from both third party and internal sources. Many river gauges throughout the State sustained damage during the floods. This included stations owned by the Bureau, Hydro Tasmania and DPIPW. The damage ranged from temporary data outages lasting a few hours to complete destruction of sites.*

*After the floods, an inventory identified 16 flood affected gauges with some form of data outage during the June 2016 flood. By 15 June 2016, 6 of these sites were already restored to service. The lack of accurate river level data due to gauge outages resulted in a reduction in the Bureau service level in three catchments: the Mersey River, lower Meander River and River Ouse.*

*In accordance with the SLS, a notice was sent to the SES on the 16 June 2016 notifying them of the temporary downgrading of flood warning service in these catchments to a generalised warning.*

*Notices were also added to warning text for the affected forecast locations.*

*As of October 2016, only two sites remained out of service; River Ouse below Staff House Creek (Hydro Tasmania) and Mersey River at Kimberley Railway Bridge (Bureau). The Bureau is coordinating the Mersey River station repairs with Tas Rail and the Meander Valley Council who are performing bridge rebuilding and remediation works at the site. The Flood Recovery Taskforce was notified of this progress on 14 October 2016.*

*The Bureau, Hydro Tasmania and DPIPWE are in agreement that there will likely be long-term impacts of the June flood on overall data quality. River monitoring stations only measure river height while hydrological models used for flood forecasting are generally calibrated on river flows.'*

### **Flood event - June 2016**

A strong, moisture-laden weather system brought exceptional flooding to several catchments in Tasmania in early June 2016. There were several hundred millimetres of rain over the 72 hours to 9 am Tuesday 7 June. The rain was particularly heavy in the 24 hours to 9 am Monday 6 June.

During the June 2016 flood event, major flood levels were exceeded at numerous flood forecasting locations and several river level measurement stations experienced the highest water level on record. From 3 to 12 June 2016, the Bureau of Meteorology issued a total of 8 flood watches and 203 flood warnings, as well as 21 severe weather warnings, and gave at least 70 interviews to television, radio and print media.







Photo – Flood water over the Ouse River Bridge 2016



Photo – Ouse River Bridge with no flood

**Funding request:**

Central Highlands Council seeks funding of \$100,000 under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program to install flood information warning stations on the Ouse River.

## **REFERENCE INFORMATION**

Tasmanian Government (2017) Report of the Independent Review into the Tasmanian Floods of June and July 2016





DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

2030

# NRM Strategy

SOUTHERN TASMANIA

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

NRM South thanks the following organisations for generously providing input to this Strategy including:

- funding partners;
- project partners including land managers, community groups and investors;
- organisational Boards, Management Committees and NRM Advisory Committees;
- industry and sector experts;
- Tasmanian Aboriginal communities and organisations;
- Australian, Tasmanian and local governments;
- Non-Government Organisations; and
- community members including individuals and groups.



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## Acknowledgement of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the Traditional and Original Owners of this land

We pay respect to the Traditional Owners of *lutruwita* (Tasmania), the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and acknowledge their continued survival and connection with their land, sea and sky Country that spans millennia.

We acknowledge the many Nations of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, past and present, as the traditional and ongoing owners of their respective countries within *lutruwita* and the islands.

We pay respect to those who have passed and acknowledge today's Aboriginal communities who are the custodians of this land.

We acknowledge that all land, sea, and sky Country holds cultural values that provide strong and continuing significance to the Tasmanian Aboriginal communities. We acknowledge that Tasmanian Aboriginal people are part of a continuous culture that holds traditional knowledge about the ecosystems we all depend on. The landscapes of *lutruwita* have been shaped by Aboriginal management of plants, animals, and water (particularly using fire).

We acknowledge that colonisation and migration has caused injustice for Aboriginal people and impacted the living cultural landscape. This has created a legacy that we seek to improve.

We are working to integrate Aboriginal cultural heritage and knowledge in natural resource management, and to develop better understanding of the cultural, environmental, social and economic dimensions of the region's natural resources from the perspective of Aboriginal people.

Through our work, we aim to reflect these values by recognising that Tasmanian Aboriginal communities determine both the boundaries for the sharing of their cultural heritage and opportunities for participation in NRM activities that embrace and support their aspirations. We pay respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal people's requirements to own, care and manage Country by aligning our strategic priorities to Tasmanian Aboriginal people's land, sea and sky Country priorities.

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## 1.0 Tasmanian Natural Resource Management

### 1.1 NRM organisations

The Southern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc., trading as NRM South, is one of 54 natural resource management (NRM) organisations in Australia and one of three in Tasmania (alongside NRM North and the Cradle Coast Authority). The role of NRM organisations is to protect, sustainably manage and improve natural resources for the shared environmental, cultural, social and economic benefit of the community.

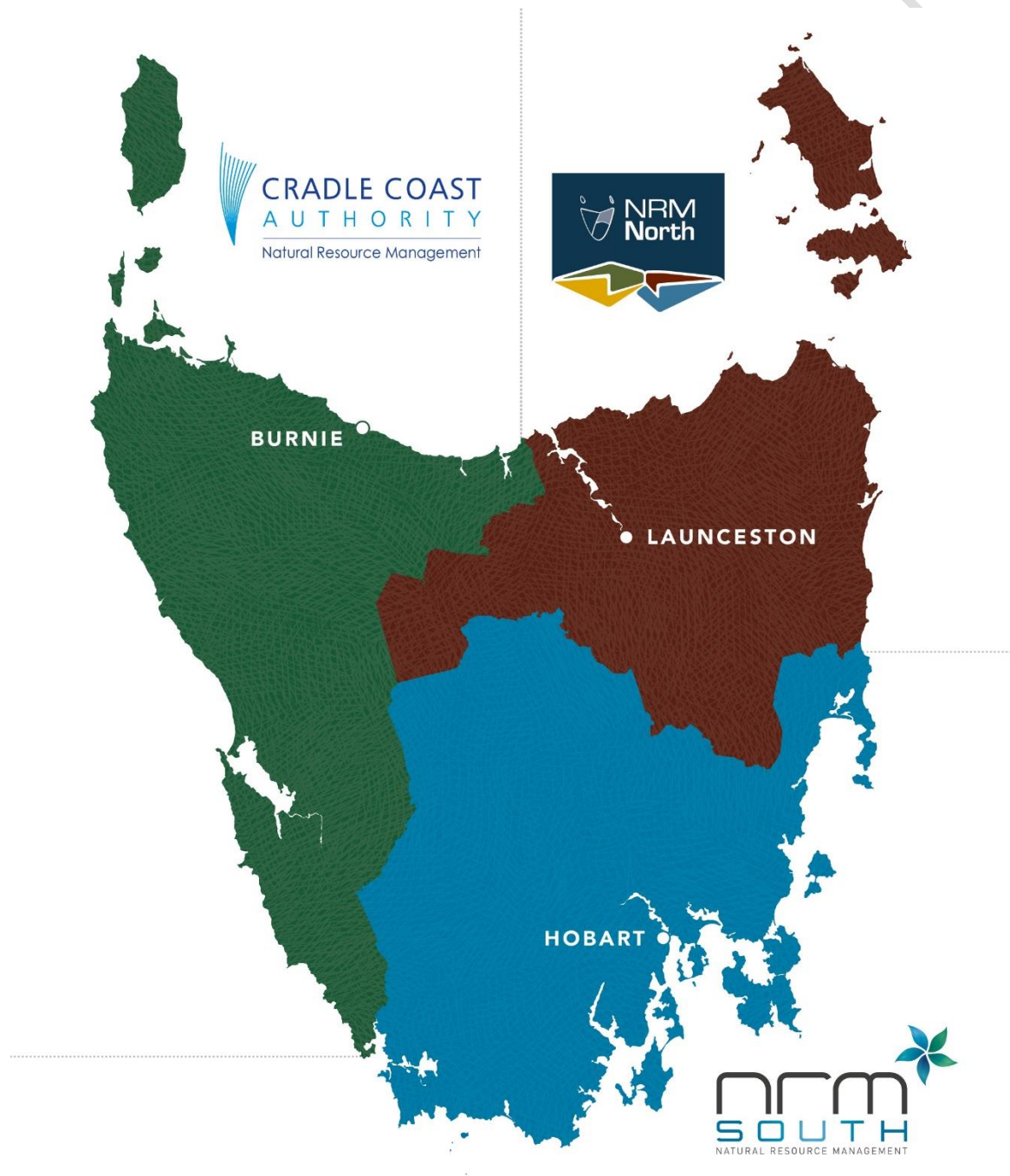


Figure 1. Tasmanian NRM regions

## 1.2 The southern region

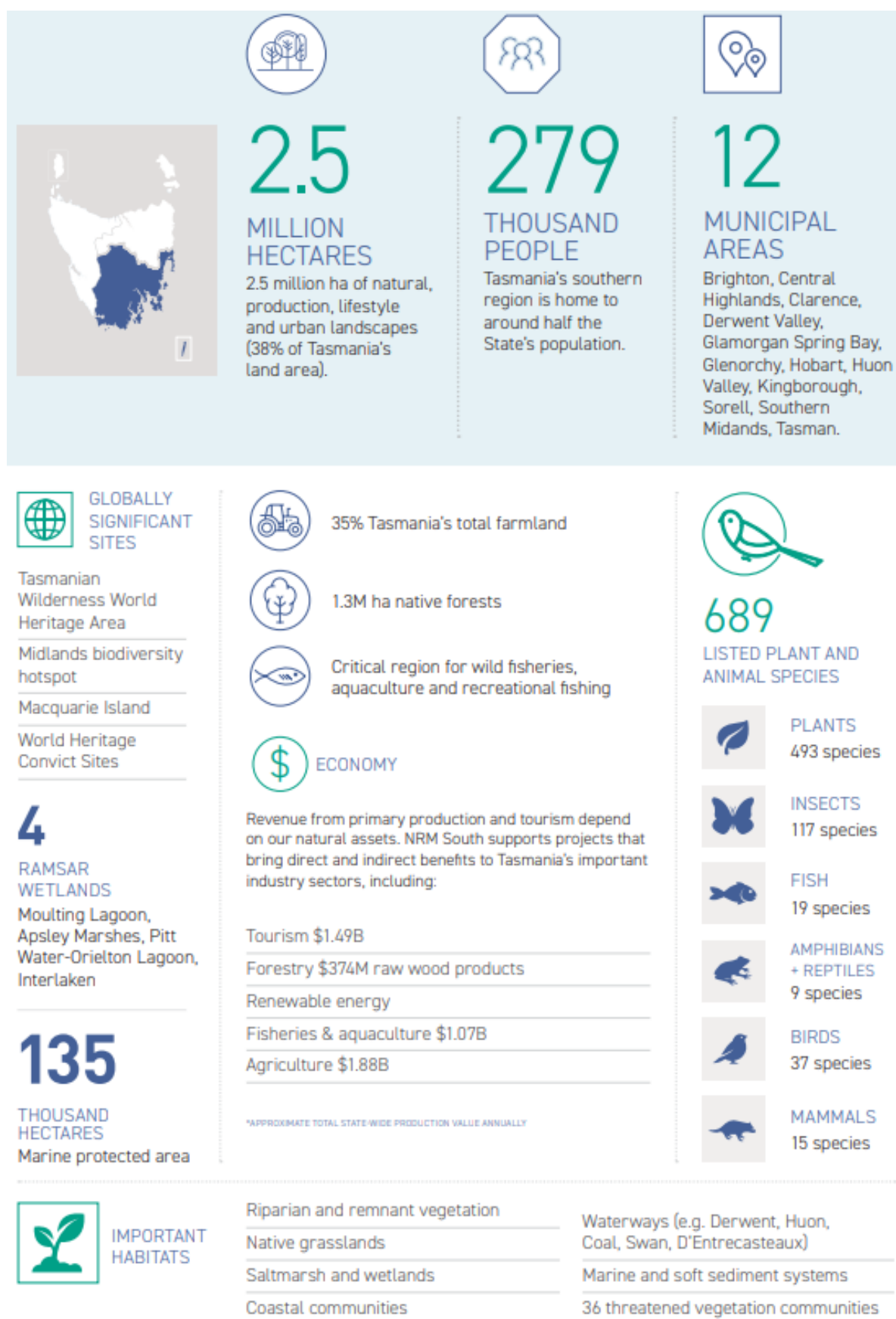


Figure 2. Southern regional statistics

The southern region of Tasmania covers 2.5 million hectares of land and is bounded by the Southern Ocean.

With a backdrop of kunanyi/Mount Wellington, Tasmania's capital, nipaluna/Hobart, and its urban fringes and towns, support almost half of Tasmania's total population (and over 85% of the regional population).

The southern region spans twelve municipal areas (Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands, and Tasman) and three electoral divisions (Franklin, Clark and around one-third of Lyons).

Southern Tasmania contains diverse natural environments, intact ecosystems, and productive land and seascapes. The wealth of natural resources contribute significantly to the region's identity and economic, social, and environmental wellbeing. The economy is driven by sectors reliant on natural resources, including agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, forestry, tourism, and energy production.

Agriculture, forestry, and fishing are the largest employment sectors in the southern region.

The region has a diverse agricultural sector and contains 24% of all farm businesses in Tasmania. Land used for production spans approximately 6 450 km<sup>2</sup> (27%) of the region's land area and 35% of the total farmland within Tasmania. The region's most valuable agricultural commodities (based on gross value of production) are wool (\$60m), cherries (\$51m), and sheep and lambs (\$25m).

Most native forests are in nature conservation reserves (621,500 ha), while 404,500 ha of forests are privately owned and 220,500 ha are managed in multiple-use public forests.

Hobart is the main fishing port in Tasmania, servicing fishers across a range of commercial and recreational fishing activities. The southern region contributes significantly to Tasmania's commercial wild-caught Blacklip Abalone, Southern Rock Lobster and Scallop catch. The oceanic or offshore parts of the region provide high catch concentration for several finfish species. Most operations for salmonid aquaculture occur in the southern region. Shellfish farms, including oyster and abalone, also operate in the south-east and greater Hobart region. Collectively, the annual value of fisheries and aquaculture to Tasmania is \$1.07B.

Southern Tasmania features near-pristine river systems and lakes, rich flora and fauna, including many species endemic to Tasmania, a range of complex landscapes and internationally recognised natural icons such as the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) and four Ramsar wetlands.

An overview of the region's natural and production assets is provided in the Land (Section 5.0), Water (Section 6.0), and Biodiversity (Section 7.0), Theme areas.

### 1.3 NRM South

NRM South is a not-for-profit organisation (incorporated association) established in 2003 in response to the Tasmanian Government's Natural Resource Management Framework and its enabling legislation, the Tasmanian *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* (NRM Act).

NRM South works to keep the natural and productive landscapes of south-eastern Tasmania healthy over the long term. The organisation plays a key role in building partnerships, securing and directing investment, connecting knowledge and expertise to action and increasing the capacity of others to engage in NRM activities.

NRM South is governed by a Board in accordance with Section 9 of the NRM Act. This includes up to 15 Directors with skills in best practice governance, business administration, legal and contractual issues, and the achievement of natural resource management and conservation outcomes. The Board employ a Chief Executive Officer, who in turn employs a professional staff to manage NRM programs and projects across the region and collaboration with state-wide partners. NRM South's office is in Hobart, Tasmania.

The diversity, condition and use of natural resources in the region presents both opportunities and complex management challenges. NRM South works with land managers (including farmers), the community, private land managers, Aboriginal communities, governments, specialist consultants, research organisations and other non-government organisations to address land, water and biodiversity management issues and to better understand, protect and manage these diverse natural assets.



Figure 3. Southern Tasmania NRM region



## 2.0 Vision: Natural Resource Management in Tasmania

*Collaborative action for healthy landscapes and seascapes, protected natural values, and sustainable livelihoods and lifestyles.*



Figure 4. View from Trestle Mountain, overlooking the Huon Valley in southern Tasmania.



## 3.0 The framework

### 3.1 Purpose

The 2030 Natural Resource Management (NRM) Strategy for Southern Tasmania provides a framework to facilitate sustainable management of southern Tasmania's natural resources. The Strategy is one of three in Tasmania and is complemented by the Strategies for northern Tasmania and the Cradle Coast region. These regional Strategies are consistent with state and national policies and priorities, and build upon a shared commitment to:

- productive and sustainable land management,
- healthy and productive water and marine resources, and
- healthy, resilient, and biodiverse environments.

Tasmania's three regional NRM organisations recognise that natural and cultural landscapes are not confined by organisational boundaries. Working together towards a single vision for natural resource management in Tasmania is essential to effective long-term outcomes.

It is also recognised that Asset prioritisation and related opportunities and threats can differ at the regional or local scale. The Strategies reflect this complexity – with the vision, core values, aspirations and outcomes for Tasmania achieved through specific and targeted Outcomes, which are prioritised at a regional level.

In a changing world, it is important that there is a regular review and assessment of strategic approaches and priorities. The NRM Strategies are intended to not only meet the requirements under the Tasmanian *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* and the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnerships Program, but also to create a framework for ongoing review, evaluation, and re-prioritisation as part of an adaptive management approach.

### 3.2 Collaboration beyond regional boundaries

NRM South, NRM North and Cradle Coast Authority have worked together to ensure a high level of consistency across the three Tasmanian NRM Strategies. This collaborative approach builds on the previous work of the three organisations and provides a framework to:

- improve ease-of-use and accessibility of the Strategies for all stakeholders, particularly statewide and multi-region organisations;
- share information and other resources – to enable a statewide or multi-region approach to measuring success;
- promote a united state-wide approach to collectively contribute to delivering State and Australian Government policy and targets and respond to local expectations; and to
- consistently apply contemporary natural resource management planning practices.

### 3.3 Principles

The strategic framework is:

Responsive	to new approaches or information;
Adaptive	incorporating adaptive management in planning and delivery;
Relevant	to government and other investment programs as well as to community needs and expectations;
Consistent	with national and international systems including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; and
Informed	using evidence and sound program logic including a focus on outcomes, SMART targets and monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI).

The following principles for natural resource management are applied through all projects and programs.



#### STEWARDSHIP

Promote and enable the growth and uptake of knowledge, capabilities and practices that supports the natural environment and productive landscapes to sustain productivity, profitability and healthy functioning.



#### RISK AND RESILIENCE

Facilitate access to information that enables people to anticipate challenges, avoid or resist impacts, and recover without loss of economic, social or environmental functional capability or capacity, especially in relation to the direct and indirect consequences of changing regional climate conditions.



#### INFLUENCE

Work with planners and policy developers to inform regional environmental and agricultural initiatives at state and federal levels.



#### ABORIGINAL CULTURE AND KNOWLEDGE

Appropriately and respectfully recognise and engage with Tasmanian Aboriginal people around natural resource management knowledge, perspectives, and practices.



#### PARTICIPATION

Actively establish and nurture partnerships and collaborations as the preferred operating arrangement for the planning and implementation of regional, cross-regional and local NRM programs, projects and activities.

Figure 5. Natural resource management principles in this strategy.

### 3.4 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) recognise environmental, economic and social aspects to sustainability and that action in one area will contribute to the outcomes in other areas. The UN SDGs provide a framework that outlines the linkages between actions in achieving sustainability outcomes – including for development and production. The 2030 NRM Strategies have been developed with clear linkages and alignment with this global framework. Attachment 2 provides further detail.



Figure 6. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

### 3.5 State-wide drivers, opportunities and threats to natural resource management

Global trends in international markets, climate change and unexpected events (like the Covid-19 pandemic) present both risks and opportunities for Tasmania, adding to uncertainty while also providing growth and development opportunities. Governments at state and local levels are planning for increased population from both interstate and international migration – attracting people to make their home in the state.

Tasmania's policy outlook over the next five years and beyond is characterised by the drive to build the economy by expanding primary production and competitiveness of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors while significantly expanding renewable energy output and storage for export to mainland states.

These drivers create both opportunities and threats to natural resources – including:

- growth in renewables and establishment of Tasmania as a major exporter of renewal energy to the mainland states. The vision for the renewable energy sector over the next 20 years, as set out in the Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan and Tasmanian Renewable Hydrogen Action Plan, include 200% Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target and Renewable Energy Coordination Framework, which will support the transition of energy systems in Australia and globally from fossil fuels to renewables-based energy generation;
- water and irrigation expansion to support agriculture and offset rainfall uncertainty;
- increased floods, bushfire and coastal hazards as a result of climate change; and
- a need to balance economic productivity with conservation, in an environment with increasingly unpredictable natural responses to changing climate.

Within this context, NRM organisations focus at the local level – building resilience into the management of natural resources, working in a collaborative environment with many stakeholders and partners. Specific Tasmanian policy and agendas relevant to natural resource management include:

- The enhancement of primary production through policies and plans such the *Competitiveness of Tasmanian Agriculture for 2050 (White Paper 2020)*; *Sustainable Agri-Food Plan 2019-23*; *Strategic Growth Plan for the Tasmanian Forests, Fine Timber and Wood Fibre Industry*; *Rural Water Use Strategy* and *Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy*.
- Addressing climate change through *Climate Action 21 – Tasmania’s Climate Change Action Plan* and the *Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan 2020*.
- Protection of natural values and biodiversity through the *Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan*, management planning for national parks and reserves and environmental management planning and monitoring activities.
- Enhancing disaster resilience and recovery through the *Tasmanian Disaster Resilience Strategy 2020-25*; *Tasmanian Fuel Reduction Plan*, and other policies and programs.
- Addressing regional and state-wide land use planning through the *Regional Land Use Strategies* and the *State-wide Planning Scheme*.

At the national level, NRM organisations in Tasmania contribute directly to policy agendas under the *National Landcare Program*, *Regional Land Partnerships Program* related to agricultural sustainability and conservation of nationally significant natural values and landscapes. We work as preferred Service Providers to the Australian Government to deliver specific and targeted outcomes and priorities. This work aligns with programs delivered by NRM organisations across Australia and supports national policy agendas including *Australia’s Strategy for Nature 2019-2030 – Australia’s national biodiversity strategy and action plan*; *Threatened Species Strategy*; *National Soil Strategy*; and the *Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2020 – 2024*.

Stakeholders in the commercial and non-government sectors are also vital contributors to natural resource management in Tasmania and have a direct or aligned interest in sustainable management of natural resources in Tasmania. Many have policies and strategic plans that support this interest.

Further context on the current policy setting, risk and opportunities arriving from global and local drivers is provided in Attachment 3.

### 3.6 *Understanding drivers and threats to natural resource management in Tasmania*

Natural resource management in Tasmania is affected by six categories of drivers, which may generate both positive influences (opportunities) and/or negative pressures (challenges) for the three organisations over the period to 2030. Known threats impacting on Tasmania’s natural assets inform the selection of Priorities and mitigating Actions.



# DRIVERS

## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

A changing climate presents clear risks to the region's resources such as reduced rainfall, increased likelihood of dry lightning strikes and bushfire risks, increased extreme weather events and potential for flooding, and increased coastal hazards. However, opportunities, such as renewable energy expansion, innovation in agriculture and forestry, and changes in suitable and profitable crops, are also emerging.

## COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

The preferences and aspirations of community members and community groups determine many natural resource management priorities. Community perspectives underscore the need to balance economic productivity and social needs with conservation, in an environment with increasingly unpredictable ecosystem responses to changing climate. The will of the community is behind consumer choices, political decisions, and the important element of each region's volunteer workforce. Aboriginal community groups bring specialised aspirations and unique knowledge and perspectives to natural resource management work.

## GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Although NRM organisations usually work at the regional and local scales, guidance and direction is provided by the policies and legislation managed by the Tasmanian and Australian Governments. Of particular importance are the Commonwealth EPBC Act and Threatened Species Strategy, and Tasmania's plans for agricultural competitiveness, for land use planning and for renewable energy development.

## AVAILABLE FUNDING

Funding opportunities influence each NRM organisation's capacity and priorities. Important sources of funding are currently the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (and its Investment Priorities) and the Tasmanian Government (which sets Key Performance Indicators for the NRM organisations). Independent, private (commercial) and philanthropic funding sources are also emerging.

## INDUSTRY PRIORITIES

Agriculture, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, energy and manufacturing industries all exert a wide range of pressures and influences on Tasmania's natural resources. Within this broad category, there are a range of opportunities for, and risks to, natural resource management.

## INCREASING HUMAN POPULATION AND CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

Development pressures and land-use changes (including clearing of native vegetation) are strongly linked to changing demographics. Urban expansion, increased demand for food production, tourism, increased migration to Tasmania and interest in rural and peri-urban living all drive changes in natural resource management priorities, actions and activities. In addition, the uncertainty regarding COVID-19's effects on movement of people and availability of resources may impact organisational capabilities and outputs.



# THREATS

## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Changes to air and ocean temperatures, rainfall, evaporation, wind speed, storm frequency and sea level are all becoming apparent in Tasmania. With these changes will come impacts on our natural resources and the ecosystem services that humans rely on. Some natural resource management activities directly address these threats, and others work to improve ecosystem and human community resilience and adaptability.

## HABITAT LOSS AND FRAGMENTATION

A key threatening process affecting many important biodiversity areas and communities, is habitat loss. This could be because of historical conversion for agriculture, clearing for development or industry, or piecemeal and cumulative loss of ecological functions via a range of human impacts.

## BIOSECURITY THREATS

Introduced plants, animals and diseases threaten Tasmania's ecosystems and productive industries through competition for space and resources, predation and population decline, or productivity loss. Climate change is also expected to exacerbate biosecurity threats, providing increased opportunity for pests and pathogens to establish.

## URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL IMPACTS

Urban and industrial impacts contribute to pollution of waterways, coastlines and the atmosphere. Poor water quality, increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, soil degradation, and the impacts of plastics on coasts and oceans, are all clear threats to Tasmania's natural resources.

## OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

Figure 7. Drivers and threats impacting Tasmania's natural resources.

### 3.7 *Reading this strategy*

This NRM Strategy is founded on a clear long-term Vision informed and supported by a framework of Outcomes and Actions. Aspirational Outcomes for natural resource management in the southern region of Tasmania have been developed in the context of long-term (20+ year) state-wide Outcomes. These are informed and supported by regionally identified Priorities with specific 10-year Outcomes and Actions.

The structure of the Strategy is based on the concept of Program Logic where long-term (aspirational) Outcomes are clearly defined, and Priorities, Actions, are designed to contribute to the Vision and Outcomes.

Actions are presented under three interrelated **Themes** of Land, Water and Biodiversity and are prioritised within **Asset Classes** under each Theme. **Actions** are presented in a framework that shows the connection between the overall Vision and the Outcomes and Actions.

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STATE-WIDE

## Vision

## Themes

### Water

Asset Classes



### Biodiversity

Asset Classes



### Land

Asset Classes



REGION SPECIFIC

## Priorities

## Actions

Figure 8. Strategy framework.



## 3.8 Terminology

### 3.8.1 Themes

Land, Water, and Biodiversity are the key Themes (i.e. high-level categories) adopted to provide the structure of the regional NRM Strategies at the state-wide scale. These Themes are consistent with state and national policies and priorities and build upon a shared commitment to address the key issues confronting productive and environmental landscapes and achieve lasting and meaningful outcomes.

<b>Land</b>	productive and sustainable land management in natural, cultural and productive landscapes;
<b>Water</b>	healthy, resilient, sustainable, and productive water resources – coastal and riparian systems and fresh, estuarine, and marine waterways; and
<b>Biodiversity</b>	healthy, resilient, and biodiverse environments and species.

### 3.8.2 Asset Classes

Within each of the identified Themes, specific Asset Classes are identified at the state and regional scale. Asset identification provides a structure that focuses action and investment in priority areas.

### 3.8.3 Outcomes – measuring strategic success

Long-term (aspirational) and near-term (SMART) Outcomes for Tasmanian natural resources were identified by the regional NRM organisations in consultation with stakeholders. These Outcomes form benchmarks for measuring the success of Actions described in this Strategy.

2050 Outcomes	These long-term aspirational Outcomes are broad (at the Asset Class level) focus on a 20+ year timeframe at a state-wide scale. The aspirations are informed by the longer-term objectives and priorities identified in Tasmanian and Australian Government strategies and policies, long-term goals identified by stakeholders, and through research.
2030 Outcomes	The SMART medium-term outcomes have a 2030 planning horizon and are regionally specific. They apply to the Priorities within each Asset Class.

### 3.8.4 Priorities

Priorities are identified under each Asset Class and have been identified through a regional prioritisation process. More information about the prioritisation process is in Section 4.4.

### 3.8.5 Actions

Actions are the identified tangible steps to address the threatening processes affecting the Priorities. Actions have been informed by extensive consultation with partners, stakeholders, investors, and the wider community. The Actions outline potential investment options that will guide specific project development and activities further refined in a Regional Investment Plan or similar document.






## 4.0 Our approach

### 4.1 Acknowledging connections

Landscapes, living and productive, are made up of many interconnected ecosystems, communities and uses, therefore the Themes (Land, Water, Biodiversity) are intrinsically linked. This results in some Priorities and Actions crossing over more than one Theme. While specific Actions are associated with specific Priorities for the purposes of this Strategy, it is recognised that sometimes the delivery of Actions can result in improvements across natural, cultural, and productive systems benefiting multiple Themes.

Priorities and Actions may cross regional boundaries. In these cases, the relevant NRM organisations will endeavour to work jointly to achieve shared objectives. These shared objectives are identified throughout the strategy by the following icons.

State-wide	NRM South and NRM North	NRM South and Cradle Coast
		

### 4.2 Working together for Healthy Country

It is important for this Strategy to articulate the fundamental philosophy of Aboriginal land, sea, and sky Country. Country holds special meaning for Aboriginal people – it is more than the place of origin, it has cultural and spiritual meanings, including beliefs, values, obligations, connections to ancestors, creation stories and all of the animals and plants within. Aboriginal people know Country as an interconnected life-force with its own agency that encapsulates land, sea, and sky Country, while allowing each to exist in its own right and be interpreted in different ways.

Aboriginal land, sea, and sky Country is an important part of natural resource management – this view of Country integrates lore and respect for culture with caring for nature and landscapes. NRM organisations seek open engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities, seeking their priorities for actions that support their access, healing, protection and management of land, sea, and sky Country. Working together, NRM organisations will:

- honour, respect and value the strong physical and spiritual connection Aboriginal people have with Country and acknowledge their custodianship of land, sea, and sky Country;
- look forward to a growing and influential role for Aboriginal people in natural resource management;
- work respectfully, acknowledging that all landscapes are important and are integral parts of Country;
- foster partnerships to better understand Aboriginal perspectives on natural resource management knowledge and practices; and

- support achievable projects, as identified by Aboriginal communities, through an ongoing process of consultation on project opportunities, planning and implementation.

### 4.3 Stakeholder engagement

The three regional NRM organisations have undertaken extensive and multi-faceted engagement with key stakeholders both state-wide and within their specific regions. The Strategies have received valuable guidance and input from Tasmanian Aboriginal communities, industry, research organisations, consultancies, Australian, Tasmanian and local government departments, peak bodies, and community interest groups. Stakeholder aspirations have been carefully considered in the Strategy development process and are reflected in the relevant Priorities and Actions.

### 4.4 Prioritisation process

Priorities and associated Actions have been identified by evaluating known natural resource assets and threats in each region. A critical assessment was then used that determined the importance of each asset in the region, and the potential for NRM strategic investment in actions to mitigate threats and improve or stabilise the health and trajectory of that asset. This process recognises that some regional assets and values of high significance may not be readily influenced by NRM investment, noting that other strategies, policies, agencies, or interest groups may be active in the management or protection of these assets.

The prioritisation process used all available data and expert knowledge to list potential assets on which to focus. To short-list Priorities and Actions, six key criteria were identified, reflecting strategic considerations for decision-making, and expert knowledge of the required level of investment of resources (time, money, human effort and expertise) to make a difference to the asset. The six criteria are complex considerations expressed simply, so they can be scored and compared across diverse areas of proposed intent, and then ranked. For most of the asset classes in each region, the criteria were used in a fit-for-purpose “multi-criteria analysis” (MCA).

The criteria used were:

- 1. Strategic importance:** How will this Action help achieve the required Outcome (including environmental, social, and economic implications)?
- 2. Influence:** Are the NRM organisations the right organisation to do this work?
- 3. Practicality:** Can the NRM organisations do something valuable?
- 4. Value:** Is the action worth it when we consider the likely benefit?
- 5. Risk:** Can the NRM organisations reduce known or likely threats by acting locally?
- 6. Priorities and linkages:** Is this a priority of likely funders? Does it link with Government or stakeholder policy, priorities, or other drivers?

As key sources of funding to the natural resource management sector, linkages with Australian Government (e.g. Regional Land Partnership 5-year Outcomes and Investment Priorities) and Tasmanian Government priorities have been an important consideration.

Additionally, expert and community stakeholder knowledge has been sought through consultation, with expectations and aspirations considered. This engagement phase also highlighted some limitations to the available data and potential knowledge gaps. These have been addressed as actions, if appropriate to the broader achievement of outcomes.

It should be noted that the Actions described in this Strategy are not specific projects. Actions will be further assessed, refined, and developed into projects, based upon community interest and future investor potential and requirement. This phase of project development is described in Section 8.1 *Project Development*.

Attachment 1 provides further detail on the prioritisation approach within each Theme.

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## 5.0 Land Theme

The Land Theme identifies how NRM organisations partner with land managers to support sustainable natural and production landscapes and industries in a changing environment. This work aims to respect and acknowledge Aboriginal understanding of land and Country, conserve natural, cultural and production values associated with these assets, and to build capacity and develop resilience across these assets to protect them from ongoing and emerging threats.

Changes to land use and management practices, projected impacts on soil condition and biosecurity threats represent local impacts that can be compounded with the global impacts of climate change such as changes in weather patterns and increased frequency and severity of extreme events.

Asset Classes of Healthy Country, Resilient Landscapes and Soils and Vegetation have been developed to provide the framework to address these issues. It is acknowledged that the Land Theme is inextricably linked to the Themes of Water and Biodiversity, particularly in supporting vital ecosystem services. There are Priorities and Actions relevant to sustainable land management in all Themes, such as catchment management planning, soil erosion and nutrient management and the management of important vegetation communities, including riparian vegetation.

HEALTHY COUNTRY	RESILIENT LANDSCAPES	SOIL AND VEGETATION
NRM organisations are working with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities to identify opportunities to support their self-determined priorities for protection and caring for Country.	Building the capacity of land managers to address the risk of adverse events and take advantage of opportunities will be essential for the production industries in the face of emerging challenges such as climate change, weeds, pests and diseases.	Production industries depend on healthy soils and vegetation cover. Supporting land managers to improve soil condition and manage vegetation cover will improve production outcomes and mitigate against emerging risks.

### *Healthy Country*

Engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people in natural resource management activities – through partnership approaches and sharing of knowledge, perspectives, and practices – is considered across all Themes and Priorities.

Specific to the Land Theme, consideration is given to how NRM organisations can work with Aboriginal communities to conserve or restore Healthy Country across Tasmania. The NRM organisations aim to increase and encourage stronger engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community regarding their self-identified priorities for Country and to exchange information on traditional and contemporary land management practices.

### *Resilient landscapes*

Climate change is likely to have a significant impact on the environment in the coming decades. More extreme weather events, changes in rainfall, temperature, frosts, and ocean temperatures will affect production outcomes (yields, crop viability, harvest times). This Strategy provides a framework to plan for the future viability of Tasmania's natural, cultural and production landscapes, to encourage resilience to change and realise opportunity through change. Emerging markets and opportunities for carbon storage in soils and vegetation provide existing and emerging mechanisms for land managers to profit from restorative and sustainable land management.

### Soils and Vegetation

Agriculture, horticulture, and grazing are vital to the State's economy through multiple enterprises on around 1.89M ha of farmed land. In 2018-19 this sector generated \$1.68 billion at the farm gate.

Healthy and resilient soils are the foundation of this productivity. Working landscapes that are well planned, protected by mosaics of native vegetation and managed using best available science provide the best means to ensure long term viability for Tasmanian farming industries. Action to reduce the degradation of soils from processes such as erosion, loss of soil biodiversity, nutrient imbalance and pests and diseases are fundamental steps in maintaining soil productivity. Identifying opportunities to utilise native vegetation to achieve production benefits (e.g. native vegetation shelter belts), and protecting remnant areas of native vegetation will support ongoing sustainable production.

The Tasmanian Government has set targets for significant growth in the agriculture and food sectors to 2050. Productivity improvement and sustainable growth in the farming sector are fundamental to meeting these targets. NRM organisations work in partnership with industry, land managers, and researchers to enhance soil health, build climate resilience and minimise the impacts of invasive species such as weeds and feral animals.

### 5.1 Land in Tasmania

Table 1. A snapshot of Tasmania's land assets.

77	<b>PARCELS OF ABORIGINAL MANAGED LAND</b> 63,930 ha is under management by Aboriginal land authority	Indigenous Protected Areas include Preminghana, Risdon Cove, Putalina, Mount Chappell, Badger Island, Babel Island, Great Dog Island, lungtalanana
28%	<b>FARMLAND</b> 18,900 km <sup>2</sup> of Tasmania is used for farming	Sheep farming (469,572 ha), beef cattle farms (253,937 ha), dairy farming (174,009 ha) and vegetable farming (84,699 ha) account for 52% of agriculture
2,171	<b>FARM BUSINESSES</b> Generated \$1.68B during 2018–19, increasing from \$1.48B during 2015–16	Milk (\$475M), cattle and calves (\$342M) and potatoes (\$127M) accounted for 57% of state-wide agricultural production
18	<b>IRRIGATION SCHEMES</b> Operated by Tasmanian Irrigation (GBE), the schemes supply over 85,000 megalitres of water to agriculture per year	Dial-Blythe, Duck, Cressy Longford, Great Forester, Greater Meander, Kindred-North Motton, Lower South Esk, Midlands, North Esk, Sassafras Wesleyvale, Scottsdale, Sorell, South East (Stages 1 & 2), Southern Highlands, Swan Valley, Upper Ringarooma, Whitmore, Winnaleah
37%	<b>OF FARMS WITH CONSERVATION AREAS</b> Combined total of 110,770 hectares	812 Tasmanian farm businesses have an area of land set aside for conservation or protection purposes

## 5.2 Healthy Country

### 5.2.1 State-wide Outcome



By 2050, Aboriginal communities have been supported to access, heal, protect and manage land, sea and sky Country in a way that respects their knowledge and rights as Traditional Owners, according to their priorities.

### 5.2.2 Regional context

NRM South acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal people's strong connections to the coast, land, and waterways of the southern region, as well as plants and animals, which are associated with traditional uses and significance in ceremonies, creation stories, art and identity. Stewardship of these sites and the cultural landscapes of southern Tasmania are not only integral to Aboriginal identity, health and wellbeing but also to the recognition of the rights of Aboriginal people.

Tangible evidence of Tasmania's Aboriginal people's connection to Country found across the region, with concentrations on the coast and along river valleys that provided pathways to coastal resources for the region's Traditional Owners. Places of significance include living cultural sites (also known as middens), quarries, and rock art.

This evidence and the capacity of Tasmania's Aboriginal people to carry out traditional practices, including harvesting and cultural burning, are at risk from factors including a changing climate (physical degradation of sites from sea level rise, changes to ecosystem function and native species assemblages), loss of knowledge and opportunities to connect to or access Country, changes to land use and/or condition (from urbanisation, changing fire regimes, pest species including weeds, biosecurity threats).

Alongside the need to manage Healthy Country and cultural landscapes, there is approximately 7,205 hectares of Aboriginal managed land in the southern region. These areas currently include trawtha makuminya (Bronte Park), 'Murrayfield' (Bruny Island), putalina (Oyster Cove), piyura kitina (Risdon Cove), pungkatina (Great Bay, North Bruny), 'Little Swanport' (Little Swanport), 'Rockmount' (Ellendale). These places provide important opportunities for increasing and re-establishing the formal involvement of Aboriginal people in managing Country, as well as enhancing health and wellbeing, and providing cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits.


NRM South acknowledges that valuing and managing Aboriginal land, sea, and sky Country requires an understanding of and alignment with Tasmanian Aboriginal people's self-determined priorities. As such, Actions have been developed to complement these self-determined priorities, and to build

an organisational culture within NRM South to value and pursue an understanding of further priorities.

NRM South's Actions aim to support access, healing, protection and management of land, sea, and sky Country by community, and are imbedded across all three Themes (Land, Water and Biodiversity). Within the Healthy Country section, NRM South's Actions focus on partnerships with Aboriginal communities to conserve or restore healthy Country, build relationships and mutual understanding, provide planning support, respect Aboriginal ecological and cultural knowledge, build natural resource management capacity and career pathways, and deliver on-ground activities together. In recognition of the importance of this, Aboriginal culture and knowledge is recognised in the Section 3 Principles

### 5.2.3 Priorities and Actions

#### Priority LH1. Healthy Country

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, to work with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities to identify their priorities for protection and caring of Country and identify opportunities to support their priorities.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
LH1.a	<p>Identify opportunities and resources to respond to Tasmanian Aboriginal self-determined priorities for access, healing, and protection of Country – such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the review, development and/or implementation of Healthy Country Plans and weed management plans – this may include trawtha makuminya, putalina, pungkatina, Little Swanport, Southport Lagoon, the TWWHA and culturally significant areas;</li> <li>(b) heritage assessments or spatial mapping of activities, projects or other priorities;</li> <li>(c) the management of areas of special significance, including land with cultural and heritage values and sites at risk due to exposure or climate change impacts; and/or</li> <li>(d) opportunities to work, learn or gather on Country (including career pathways in natural resource management, and capacity building in fire management, biosecurity, wildlife management, reef restoration, native species aquaculture and/or monitoring and evaluation).</li> </ul>
LH1.b	<p>Seek partnerships with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities in areas of mutual interest – including native shellfish reef restoration, threatened species management (e.g. Miena Cider gum, forty spotted pardalotes), Ramsar and coastal sites, fire management for ecological benefit and pastoral land management (e.g. Murrayfield) <i>(as outlined in specific actions included in other Themes)</i>.</p>
LH1.c	<p>Build and maintain NRM South's relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities by encouraging cultural competency training across all employees and project partners, and valuing practices such as yarning and meaningful consultation.</p>
LH1.d	<p>Increase Aboriginal representation in decision making by inviting Aboriginal representation to NRM South's Board and other governance committees.</p>



## 5.3 *Resilient landscapes*

### 5.3.1 State-wide Outcome



By 2050, actions have been implemented to improve the resilience of landscapes, communities, and enterprises and the capacity to adapt to climate change.

### 5.3.2 Regional context

Agriculture in the southern region is characterised by innovation and adaptive thinking through networking and collaboration. Land managers (including farmers) are supported by research organisations, secondary processors, consultants, and government agencies to improve productivity and market access. The State Government's 2050 Agrifood Plan underscores the importance of agriculture's future growth to the regional economy.

Climate change and its associated impacts are likely to have profound impacts on agriculture in the southern region. It is anticipated that more extreme weather events will impact livestock health and welfare, erosion, and pasture growth. Changes in hydrology associated with climate change will strongly influence soil degradation processes and agricultural productivity. Changes to rainfall, temperature, frosts, and ocean temperatures will impact on crop viability, time to crop maturity, crop yields, and the incidence and severity of weeds, pests, and diseases. These impacts can also intersect with and exacerbate market forces and changing consumer demand.

The increasing occurrence of drought in the Midlands, Derwent catchment and east coast regions of Tasmania has significantly reduced seasonal ground cover and decreased the resilience of the associated grazing enterprises. Without adaptation measures, these declines will lead to increased soil erosion and carbon loss, reduced water holding capacity, and a decline in soil function, ultimately further reducing the resilience and viability of these dryland grazing systems.


There are also a number of climate change adaptation and mitigation opportunities in agriculture within southern Tasmania, including expansion of irrigation to provide greater reliability of soil moisture for crops, pasture and horticulture; planting of vineyards and other crops currently suited to warmer and drier climates; sequestration of carbon in existing extensive forests and new plantations; and encouraging the uptake of agricultural practices that maintain and improve ground cover for greater feed base resilience. Enterprise suitability mapping developed in Tasmania by DPIPW can also be used to identify local opportunities for enterprise change and adaptation. Stakeholder consultation has indicated that while many land managers are aware that the climate and markets are changing, they are often not aware of the possible implications or how to prepare for this change.




Improving landscape and agricultural system resilience helps land managers to minimise the severity, duration, and consequences of these threats. NRM South works with land managers and agricultural industries to plan for and mitigate risk through improved land management approaches and capacity building, and to recover from the impact of events. This includes providing farmers in drought-prone regions with support for the development of locally appropriate and innovative drought resilience strategies. The Resilient Landscapes assets identified include Climate and Market Resilience, and Biosecurity, and recognise that actions associated with these assets will apply across other Asset classes and Themes.

### 5.3.3 Priorities and Actions

#### Priority LR1. Climate and market resilience

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, awareness and capacity to adapt to significant changes in climate, knowledge of emerging markets, and capacity to prepare for disasters has improved on 2020 levels.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
LR1.a	Work with partners to deliver information and targeted extension to support participation in emerging ecosystem service and carbon market opportunities and respond to or recover from climate and market changes (including land use adaptation and diversification).
LR1.b	Engage with Governments including local councils and industry planning process to ensure appropriate consideration of NRM-based issues and opportunities – including adaptation and resilience pathways in response to climate challenges.
LR1.c	Partner with industry, research organisations and others to share knowledge and develop and/or promote tools and resources to improve awareness of climate drivers, triggers and indicators and inform on-farm management decisions.
LR1.d	Partner with other organisations, industry, research organisations, community groups, land managers and governments, including Aboriginal land managers (e.g. Murrayfield), in drought-affected regions to improve farm and community resilience to natural disasters and changes in climate and markets.
LR1.e	Work with partners to increase access to decision making tools, information, data, and resources so land managers are equipped in decision making (for production, water use, nutrient management, climate adaptation and resilience and participation in emerging opportunities such as carbon markets).
LR1.f	Collaborate with state and Australian Government agencies to support the delivery of natural disaster or extreme event recovery programs.

## Priority LR2. Resilient communities and industries

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, the community have increased capacity to manage key industry and environmental biosecurity risks.</p>	
	
Reference	Actions
LR2.a	Partner with State Government, catchment and community groups (e.g. Landcare), and others to support the development and distribution of information on the impact of key biosecurity threats, prevention and management options, early detection guidance, and new research findings.
LR2.b	Partner with industry and others to demonstrate sustainable management practices and improve integrated management of pests, weeds, and diseases.
LR2.c	Engage with Governments and industry planning process to ensure appropriate consideration of NRM-based issues and opportunities.

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## 5.4 Soils and vegetation

### 5.4.1 State-wide Outcome



By 2050, actions have been implemented to improve soil health, vegetation cover and increased adoption of best management practices in productive agricultural landscapes.

### 5.4.2 Regional context

Productive and healthy agricultural soils are integral for the long-term sustainability of agricultural systems, while native vegetation on farms supports biodiversity and improves the resilience of production land against impacts and change – both important for achieving long-term sustainability.

Declining soil condition and vegetation cover can impact negatively on production, leading to degrading land and waterway conditions, weed incursion and an increased reliance on chemical inputs, with associated increased costs. NRM South works with land managers (including farmers) and agricultural industries to develop and implement practices that protect the environment and improve production, focusing on actions that prevent decline and manage risk.

Production landscapes are largely concentrated on the eastern side of the region, encompassing approximately 6,450 km<sup>2</sup> (27%) of the south-east region's land area. Dryland grazing (13% of the region's land area) is the most common land use, followed by irrigated cropping (0.3% of the region's land area). Agricultural development has generally occurred at lower altitudes (below 400 m) resulting in a concentration of activity across the floodplains and valleys. Higher altitudes are used for grazing of near-natural areas, including areas of native grasslands, grassy woodlands, and native pastures with variable proportions of native species in varying condition. Southern Tasmania's production landscapes contain significant areas of high conservation value land, with areas such as the Southern Midlands and Derwent Valley containing fragmented, but significant areas of remnant native and semi-native vegetation.

Land-use change, including agricultural intensification, will have an impact on the condition of soil and vegetation assets in the southern region. Soils most at risk from decline in condition through land-use intensification include duplex soils and soils that are unsuitable for a variety of agricultural uses. Soils on dryland north-facing slopes in the Derwent Valley and Southern Midlands are vulnerable to a decline in condition through wind and hillslope erosion.


The extent and condition of native vegetation is also likely to decrease because of land-use intensification.

The following Priorities have been identified and described using a risk/threat-based approach:


- Soils at risk of carbon decline
- Soils at risk of structural decline
- Soils at risk from prolonged saturation
- Soils at risk of erosion
- Soils at risk from salination
- On farm native vegetation

#### 5.4.3 Priorities and Actions


##### Priority LS1. On farm native vegetation

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, the condition and extent of native vegetation on agricultural land is maintained or improved with management planning and implementing appropriate management practices.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
LS1.a	Develop partnerships with governments, land managers, industry, catchment and community groups (e.g. Landcare) to increase the extent and improve the condition of riparian vegetation to increase habitat value, landscape connectivity and river health and resilience, particularly in the Derwent catchment, Coal Valley, Swan/Apsley catchments, and Little Swanport sub-catchment.
LS1.b	Leverage funding and work with partners to support and deliver initiatives that demonstrate the economic value of retaining and establishing trees in the agricultural landscape, including targeted extension to support land managers to actively participate in emerging soil carbon and ecosystem service markets.
LS1.c	Support mechanisms through partnerships with other organisations, industry, community groups, land managers and governments to protect and offset vegetation loss resulting from expanding irrigation development.
LS1.d	Engage with Governments and industry planning process to ensure appropriate consideration of NRM-based issues and opportunities.

## Priority LS2. Soils at risk of carbon decline

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, an increased number of land managers have adopted management practices to maintain and improve soil carbon levels.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
LSS2.a	Develop partnerships with industry and others to deliver targeted extension, that supports land managers to adopt cropping and cropping /grazing rotation practices that improve soil carbon levels, targeting vulnerable duplex soils and class five and six land undergoing land use change.
LSS3.b	Develop partnerships with other organisations, industry, research institutes, community groups and governments deliver information and targeted extension (a) to support land managers to adopt grazing management practices that maintain and improve soil carbon levels; and (b) to enable land managers to actively participate in emerging soil carbon markets.
LSS4.c	Partner with other organisations, industry, research institutes, community groups, land managers and governments to share and promote understanding of soil carbon management, markets, and the findings of new research and knowledge.


## Priority LS3. Soils at risk of structural decline

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, an increased number of land managers have adopted management practices that reduce the risk of structural decline.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
LS3.a	Develop partnerships with industry and others to deliver targeted extension that supports land managers to adopt appropriate rotational cropping/grazing systems – targeting duplex soils, soils of high risk of structural decline, and priority soils under irrigation.


## Priority LS4. Soils at risk from prolonged saturation

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, an increased number of land managers have adopted management practices that reduce the risk of prolonged soil saturation.</p>	
Reference	Actions
LS4.a	Develop partnerships with other organisations, industry, research institutes, community groups, land managers and governments to deliver information that supports land managers to adopt drainage practices that lead to sustainable soil, water, and environmental outcomes, targeting vulnerable duplex soils and class five and six land under irrigation.

### Priority LS5. Soils at risk of erosion

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, an increased number of land managers have adopted practices that reduce the risk of soil erosion.</p>	
	
Reference	Actions
LS5.a	<p>Develop partnerships with industry, catchment groups and others to deliver targeted extension that supports land managers to adopt</p> <p>(a) management practices that reduce the risks of soil erosion, targeting the dryland north-facing slopes in the Derwent catchment and Southern Midlands;</p> <p>(b) practices that improve ground cover and resilience in dryland grazing systems, targeting dryland areas in the Derwent catchment, East Coast and Southern Midlands; and/or</p> <p>(c) broad acre management practices that reduce the risk of water and wind erosion, targeting Derwent catchment, and Southern Midlands.</p>

### Priority LS6. Soils at risk from salinisation

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, an increased number of land managers have adopted management practices that reduce the risk of soil salinity.</p>	
	
Reference	Actions
LS6.a	<p>Develop partnerships with other organisations, industry, research institutes, community groups, land managers and governments to support land managers in identifying and managing salinity risks to soil structure and to vulnerable groundwater flow systems, by prioritising soils undergoing land use change.</p>

## 6.0 Water

The Water Theme encompasses Tasmania's key water assets, which include rivers and estuaries, wetlands and waterbodies, and coastal and marine systems. Tasmania's water assets support multiple primary industries including agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture. They also support community-dependent infrastructure systems for hydro-electric power generation, drinking water supply and wastewater treatment, ports, and marine traffic. The built environment is concentrated near the state's water assets.

The combined influence of climate change, development and land use change, human movement and population change, and ageing infrastructure, is increasing pressure on water assets. Climate-driven events (such as drought, bushfire and flood) will be ongoing issues in managing water resources. These threats and changes will result in new and emerging priorities over time, which may need to be addressed to adequately protect and manage the identified Water Assets.

Protection and management of water resources is closely linked with land management, including some actions listed in the Land Theme (e.g. soil and erosion management and resilient landscapes) and Biodiversity Theme (e.g. aquatic threatened species and important vegetation communities, including riparian vegetation). The delivery of actions across all Themes will contribute to the health of Tasmania's water resources.

RIVERS, FLOODPLAINS AND ESTUARIES	WETLANDS AND OTHER WATER BODIES	COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS
<p>The movement of fresh surface and groundwaters through the landscape supports ecological, economic, and social values. Ecological values of catchments and estuaries, and current and emerging threats in receiving waters are used to identify Priorities and Actions for rivers, floodplains, and estuaries.</p>	<p>Wetlands and other waterbodies include internationally recognised wetlands of significance under the Ramsar Convention, which support high-value ecological communities. Nationally and regionally important wetlands and other water bodies are recognised for their conservation value.</p>	<p>Coastal and marine areas encompass a wide variety of landscapes and habitat types. Important coastal and marine areas can be identified by high value habitats or species. To enhance ecological, social, and economic values, identified Actions will build resilience to pressures and emerging threats across regional Priorities.</p>

## 6.1 Water in Tasmania

Table 2. A snapshot of Tasmania's water assets.

48	<b>WATER CATCHMENTS</b> Approximately 150,000 km of river systems	<div>Longest rivers:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Esk – 252 km (North)</li><li>• Derwent – 239 km (South)</li><li>• Arthur – 172 km (Cradle Coast)</li></ul></div>
10	<b>RAMSAR WETLANDS</b> Internationally significant wetlands covering 26,000 ha	<div>• 89 nationally important wetlands ranging in size from 1 ha – 27,000 ha</div>
113	<b>ESTUARIES</b> Moderate to large in size	<div>• 68 critical/high conservation value estuary systems</div>
3,030	<b>KM OF COASTLINE</b> 2,237 km of mainland coastline	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 900 beaches</li><li>• 9 Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation of Australia bioregions</li><li>• Over 160 islands with 10 over 5,000 ha in size</li></ul></div>
10	<b>MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS</b> Covering 135,000 ha	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7 Marine Nature Reserves</li><li>• 3 Australian Marine Parks</li></ul></div>

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## 6.2 Rivers, floodplains and estuaries

### 6.2.1 State-wide Outcome



By 2050, actions have been implemented to improve waterway health and the condition of riparian vegetation for improved health and function of rivers, floodplains and estuaries.

### 6.2.2 Regional context

Southern Tasmania's rivers and freshwater surface flows support aquatic ecosystem health and biodiversity, primary production and industrial use, recreation, and tourism and are essential for the provision of clean drinking water. Southern Tasmania has 33 rivers containing sections of very high conservation status and 26 undisturbed catchment areas. There are two river systems wholly within the southern region (Derwent and Huon), with numerous other smaller and coastal catchments.

The Derwent River represents one of the region's major river systems. Flowing from the Central Highlands, it supports almost a quarter of Tasmania's sheep production in the catchment and Tasmania's largest human population at its estuary. The social, economic, and natural values of the Derwent River, along with threats to water quality in the catchment, define the system as a priority in the southern region for developing and supporting collaborative partnerships.

The region contains examples of entire pristine catchments, such as the New River, as well as small rivers where the trajectory of water quality is declining but the system is not considered degraded. In other systems, such as Port Davey, human visitation is increasing, with implications for changes in water quality and invasive species and pathogens.

The region's 39 estuaries vary significantly in condition, use and disturbance, and conservation status. Five are of critical conservation status, with many being of high conservation status and in near pristine or largely unmodified condition.

Some coastal estuaries and their catchments support multiple and important social and economic uses, and human use and movement impacts upon flows and water quality. These areas provide essential links between terrestrial and marine environments as well as ecosystems services and processes. The D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Pipeclay lagoon, Little Swanport, Huon Estuary, and Boomer Bay and their catchment areas are Priorities in the region.

NRM South's Actions take account of projected climate change impacts and aim to improve (where feasible) or maintain overall condition of the waterway.

### 6.2.3 Priorities and Actions

#### Priority WR1. Derwent River catchment and estuary

Outcome	
By 2030, a river and estuary health improvement program for the Derwent has been developed with key partners and investment is being directed into improving monitoring, land and water management practices and on ground works.	
Reference	Actions
WR1.a	Establish a formal partnership with the Derwent Estuary Program to identify existing and ongoing monitoring data to support the evaluation of resource condition trends and management effectiveness in the estuary and catchment. Work with partners to contribute to developing innovative technology to assess resource condition.
WR1.b	Establish partnerships with catchment groups (e.g. Derwent Catchment Project) and other partners to plan, coordinate and deliver on-ground priorities to conserve, restore and improve habitat, riparian vegetation, water quality and river health outcomes, based on an assessment of resource condition, threats, climate change and resource availability.
WR1.c	Work with partners, governments, and potential investors to secure investment in priority on-ground, monitoring and coordination activities.
WR1.d	Work in partnership with other organisations, governments, and land managers to conduct targeted activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) threat mitigation (e.g. priority weeds and stock access);</li> <li>(b) remediation of wetland areas or exclusion and buffer zones to limit impacts on wetland areas;</li> <li>(c) habitat restoration, based on restoration suitability modelling (e.g. seagrass, handfish, native shellfish); and</li> <li>(d) improve erosion vulnerability, including under forecast climate change conditions.</li> </ul>
WR1.e	Engage Aboriginal communities in project planning and ensure Aboriginal cultural and heritage values and sites are considered and protected when conducting on-ground works.

#### Priority WR2. Port Davey

Outcome	
By 2030, partnerships have been established and measures are implemented to reduce biosecurity threats and risks associated with human movement in Port Davey.	
Reference	Actions
WR2.a	Improve access to biosecurity information and management tools, focusing on soil borne pathogens and invasive species in the marine environment.
WR2.b	Develop partnerships with Aboriginal communities, community groups (e.g. Wildcare), governments, and tourism operators to identify activities that protect the wilderness and cultural values of Port Davey – including awareness and management of issues such as bank-erosion, on-shore access, and anchorages.
WR2.c	Establish partnerships to monitor marine pests and emerging priorities to mitigate threats.

**Priority WR3. Socio-economically important systems including D’Entrecasteaux Channel, Pipeclay Lagoon, Little Swanport, Huon Estuary, and Boomer Bay and their catchment areas**

Outcome	
By 2030, a river and wetland health improvement program for socio-economically important systems has developed with key partners and investment is being directed into improving monitoring, land and water management practices and on ground works.	
Reference	Actions
WR3.a	Identify areas of high-nutrient outflows from private and public ageing infrastructure or lack of public amenities, and work with partner organisations and land occupants to improve infrastructure and remediate impacted areas.
WR3.b	Work in partnership with other organisations, governments and land managers to mitigate stock access to estuarine areas, undertake weeding and revegetation.
WR3.c	Leverage funding and work with partners to identify, plan and coordinate on-ground priorities to conserve, restore and improve habitat, riparian vegetation, and river health outcomes, based on an assessment of resource condition, threats, climate change (and other emerging challenges) and resource availability.
WR3.d	Ensure Aboriginal cultural and heritage values and sites are considered and protected when planning and conducting on-ground works in coastal systems.
WR3.e	Work with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities to support self-identified land management activities at Little Swanport – including control actions for exotic species (e.g. gorse), and management and/or monitoring of natural and cultural values.

**Priority WR4. Small freshwater systems with declining water quality – including Mountain River**

Outcome	
By 2030, a river health improvement program for freshwater systems with declining instream health and riparian condition has been developed with key partners, using Mountain River as a case study for initial investment.	
Reference	Actions
WR4.a	Identify key actions and partnerships including governments, land managers (e.g. orchardists, hobby farms and community), catchment and community groups (e.g. Landcare), other organisations and end of catchment users.
WR4.b	In partnership with DPIPWE, identify existing monitoring data to support the evaluation of resource condition trends and sources, including location-based sites for improvement, in the Mountain River catchment and other small freshwater systems with declining water quality.
WR4.c	In association with river health improvement activities, involve communities and land managers in monitoring and managing platypus populations, as a measure of waterway health.
WR4.d	Develop information based on a trial at Mountain River to facilitate on-ground work in other small freshwater systems with declining aquatic ecosystem health, riparian condition and water quality.

## 6.3 Wetlands and other waterbodies

### 6.3.1 State-wide Outcome



By 2050, actions have been implemented to improve or maintain the ecological character and resilience of Tasmania's wetlands and waterbodies.

### 6.3.2 Regional context

The southern region of Tasmania hosts four internationally significant wetlands listed under the Ramsar convention; Moulting Lagoon, Apsley Marshes, Interlaken and Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon. All these wetlands support biodiversity, including vegetation, migratory and water birds, and fish. They sit within some of the region's most significant agricultural landscapes, such as the Swan-Apsley and Coal River catchments. The high conservation status, ecological services provided, and threats to each of the four Ramsar listed wetlands define them as Assets in the southern region, along with their connected water bodies.

Moulting Lagoon and Apsley Marshes are ecologically connected systems. Along with Pittwater-Orielton Lagoon, these coastal wetlands support extensive temperate saltmarsh ecological communities. They hold great Aboriginal significance, from both a heritage viewpoint and as a living-connection to Country and culture. They are also threatened by system degradation associated with human use across the connected systems which support these wetlands, and broader global threats including projected climate change impacts.

Many of Tasmania's lakes, both natural and dammed, are found in the southern region. Their historical impacts are associated with changes to flows and the introduction of exotic species. Most of these water bodies now have robust management systems in place and support a variety of threatened species. Interlaken Lakeside Reserve is a near-natural, Ramsar-listed wetland in the north-west corner of Lake Crescent which is important freshwater wetland habitat in the southern region.

NRM South's Actions aim to maintain or improve (where feasible) condition or ecological character of Ramsar wetlands, and other nationally and regionally significant wetlands (e.g. Directory of Important Wetlands, and Atlas of Tasmanian Wetlands).

### 6.3.3 Priorities and Actions

#### Priority WW1. Moulting Lagoon and Apsley Marshes catchments

Outcome	
By 2030, the condition and extent of wetland vegetation communities has improved, hydrology has been restored and threats to the ecological character of Moulting Lagoon and Apsley Marshes Ramsar site have been reduced, and investment is being directed into improving monitoring, land and water management practices and on ground works.	
Reference	Actions
WW2.a	Develop partnerships with private land managers, governments, and Aboriginal communities to address cross-tenure issues, develop planning tools and undertake priority activities to improve ecological condition and protect cultural values – including the removal of priority weeds, stock exclusion, drainage management, wildlife monitoring, erosion management, fire management and revegetation of wetlands and surrounds.
WW2.b	Work in partnership with governments and research institutions to identify existing monitoring data and support evaluation of resource condition trends, including hydrology, saltmarsh, wetlands, and fish habitat.
WW2.c	Partnerships have been established to review and plan for emerging priorities and threats to hydrology, saltmarsh, wetlands, and fish habitat.
WW2.d	Work with governments, land managers, and community groups to change access practices and remove vehicles from wetland areas.
WW2.e	Remediate hydrological flows through on-ground works and investigate options to reduce salinity intrusion in Apsley Marshes and maximise outcomes for water quality and environmental flow.
WW2.f	Work with research organisations to trial rapid revegetation methods in degraded saltmarsh areas.
WW2.g	Ensure Aboriginal cultural and heritage values and sites are considered and protected when planning and conducting on-ground works at Moulting Lagoon, Apsley Marshes, and their catchments.
WW2.h	Work with governments and community to increase awareness and understanding of the environmental, economic, and social values of the Moulting Lagoon, Apsley Marshes, and their catchments.

## Priority WW2. Pitt Water and Orielton Lagoon

Outcome	
By 2030, the condition and extent of saltmarsh and wetland vegetation communities has improved, threats to the ecological character of the Pitt Water and Orielton Lagoon Ramsar site have been reduced, and investment is being directed into improving monitoring, land and water management practices and on ground works.	
Reference	Actions
WW2.a	Work with governments, land managers, community groups (e.g. Landcare), and the Aboriginal communities to implement actions such as limiting stock access to waterways, revegetating, and removing weeds, particularly in saltmarsh and culturally important areas.
WW2.b	Work in partnership with governments and research institutions to identify existing monitoring data and support evaluation of resource condition trends, including hydrology/flows, saltmarsh, wetlands, fish and bird species and habitat.
WW2.c	Continue to in consultation with private land manager to support on-ground action and build an on-going legacy that protects the environmental, economic, and social values of the system.
WW2.d	Work in partnership with other organisations, governments, and land managers to build relationships and planning tools and implement actions that improve ecological condition and water quality in-flows, build resilience to erosion, and restore natural flows to saltmarsh – including under forecast climate change conditions.
WW2.e	Ensure Aboriginal cultural and heritage values and sites are considered and protected when planning and conducting on-ground works at Pitt Water and Orielton Lagoon.

## Priority WW3. Inland wetlands and lagoons of central highlands and Interlaken

Outcome	
By 2030, a strategic program for improving condition and extent of wetland vegetation communities, restoring habitats, and reducing threats to the ecological character of the Interlaken Ramsar site and nearby network of wetlands and lagoons is being implemented with key partners and investment is being directed into improving monitoring, land and water management practices and on ground works.	
Reference	Actions
WW3.a	Work with partners including DPIPW, IFS and Hydro Tasmania to develop an action plan that assesses (a) existing effort and gaps across the landscape of wetlands and lagoons of central highlands and Interlaken; (b) on-ground priorities to conserve, restore and improve habitat and wetland health; (c) potential roles and partnerships; and (d) resource condition, threats, and resource availability.
WW3.b	In partnership with DPIPW, IFS and Hydro Tasmania, identify existing monitoring data to support the evaluation of resource condition trends, including wetland condition, and fish and bird habitat.
WW3.c	Develop partnerships with private land managers, governments, Hydro Tasmania and Aboriginal communities to address cross-tenure issues and undertake priority activities. Priority actions include managing stock access to waterways, strategic fencing, riparian and fish habitat restoration (galaxiids), coordination and improved access to information.

## 6.4 Coastal and marine areas

### 6.4.1 State-wide Outcome



By 2050, actions have been implemented to improve management and human use of coastal and marine areas to build resilience to threatening processes.

### 6.4.2 Regional context

Coastal and marine-based natural landscapes incorporate a wide variety of coastal landforms, offshore island habitats and nationally significant assets including Giant Kelp forests, which are listed as an endangered community.

The region constitutes 39% of the Tasmanian coastline. The key features of this asset are dramatic sea cliffs, Bruny and Maria Islands, the D'Entrecasteaux Channel where the Huon and Derwent estuaries converge and the undeveloped coast of the south-west wilderness.

The region's coasts are the focal point of many urban and lifestyle landscapes and human movement and social activity. The economic activities based within the region's coastal and marine areas offer significant value, including wild caught fisheries and marine farming of salmonoids, shellfish and seaweeds. Recreational fishing is very popular in Southern Tasmania, with up to one third of the population reporting that they pursue this activity. Patterns of water traffic and associated infrastructure for industrial and recreational purposes are important considerations in identifying priority habitats and locations.

Increasing storm events, weather severity, rising sea levels and inundation threaten vulnerable coastlines. These processes lead to erosion and damage, including to beach and dune system Assets. Habitat loss and fragmentation arising from changes in water temperature impacts rocky reefs of the east coast Asset. These threats present opportunities for partnerships to restore habitats and build resilience in ecological communities using innovative methods.

Biosecurity risks and invasive species in rocky reef and coast Assets, as well as offshore islands, are exacerbated by increasing human use and movement and changes in climate influencing range and opportunity. These emerging and cumulative impacts are recognised in defining Priorities and Actions, and also link with the Biodiversity Theme.

The value of receiving waters in the catchments which flow to coastal and marine areas, including built infrastructure, influences water quality across assets and provides a system link to the land Theme, which has been considered in identifying priorities, outcomes, and actions.

NRM South prioritises the following coastal and marine areas due to their high natural and social values and the opportunities for ecological restoration to build resilience and maintain ecological services:

- Rocky reefs of the east coast;
- Soft sediment, seagrass habitats and native shellfish reefs of the south-east;
- Vulnerable coastlines, including beach and dune systems;
- Rocky coasts; and
- Offshore islands.

NRM South's Actions aim to improve the management of coasts and marine assets, with an emphasis on increasing the adoption of management practices that enhance the adaptive capacity to be resilient to climate change and sea level rise.

#### 6.4.3 Priorities and Actions

##### Priority WC1. Rocky reefs of the east coast


Outcome	
By 2030, a strategic program for maintaining and/or improving resilience of rocky reef communities on the east coast of Tasmania is being implemented with key partners and investment is being directed into best practice resource harvest, biosecurity, and on ground works to restore habitat.	
Reference	Actions
WC1.a	Leverage funding and work with the seafood industry to support diversification of markets and remove invasive sea urchins through industry-based initiatives, including training.
WC1.b	Work with researchers and community groups to support restoration initiatives for kelp reefs (including giant kelp restoration trials and marine pest management).
WC1.c	Work with partner organisations to build the capacity of recreational and commercial fishers to undertake their General Biosecurity Duty.
WC1.d	Identify priority areas, mitigation or restoration actions, and adaptive opportunities using spatial mapping and planning techniques.

##### Priority WC2. Offshore Islands

Outcome	
By 2030, priority biodiversity and conservation values for offshore islands (e.g. Bruny Island, Maria Island) are identified and a strategic program is developed outlining investment priorities for improved management and on ground works.	
Reference	Actions
WC2.a	Leverage funding and work with community groups (e.g. Landcare and Wildcare) and land managers to identify priorities for offshore islands, with the aim to achieve multiple benefits across targets including biodiversity and conservation through pest eradication, biosecurity, climate risk and resilience, strong partnerships and Aboriginal natural resource management.



### Priority WC3. Vulnerable coastlines, including beach and dune systems

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, beach and dune systems have been prioritised for strategic investment based on use, condition and vulnerability to climate change impacts, and best management practices and on ground works have been implemented.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
WC3.a	Identify priority sites, mitigation or restoration actions, and adaptive opportunities through consultation and assessment of cultural, environmental, economic, and social values.
WC3.b	Identify partnerships, including with community groups (e.g. Landcare and Wildcare) and Aboriginal communities, and funding opportunities to remediate priority beach and dune systems.
WC3.c	Engage with coastal land managers to support integrated coastal zone planning, spatial planning, and management capacity, facilitate nature-based methods of coastal management, and improve location and quality of infrastructure (e.g. amenities, tracks to car parks) to limit movement through priority dunes and improve coastal hygiene.
WC3.d	In partnership with the seafood industry and BirdLife Tasmania, support best-practice marine debris collections by building understanding of bird breeding and sensitive locations.
WC3.e	Support citizen science and knowledge building initiatives in partnership with research organisations and foster community participation.

### Priority WC4. Rocky coasts

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, a strategic program is developed for rocky coasts in the southern region, outlining investment priorities for improved management and on ground works and steps towards developing a baseline for use and condition.</p>	
Reference	Actions
WC4.a	Undertake assessment rocky foreshore condition and values to determine priority action sites.
WC4.b	Leverage funding and work with local communities to adopt responsible recreational use of rocky coasts and communicate impacts to rocky coasts under climate change scenarios to achieve stewardship of these areas.
WC4.c	Develop knowledge and stewardship of rocky coasts and build capacity to manage change to current use (e.g. access points, erosion, species composition, biosecurity, hygiene, climate change).
WC4.d	Leverage funding and work with recreational fishers and businesses to limit extraction of invertebrates from rocky coasts by developing knowledge.
WC4.e	Develop resource extraction and biosecurity management plans or codes of practice with non-commercial user groups.

## Priority WC5. Soft sediment, seagrass habitats and native shellfish reefs of the south east

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, the condition and extent of native shellfish reefs and seagrass communities is maintained or improved at priority sites, with on ground works to restore habitat and stabilise sediments.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
WC5.a	Engage with MAST and mooring owners/lessees, including recreational and commercial fleets, to transition traditional chain swing moorings to Ecologically Friendly Moorings.
WC5.b	Work in partnership with research institutions to identify existing monitoring data and new data that will support the evaluation of resource condition trends. This may include monitoring the change in the condition and extent to soft-sediment communities and sediment stability, soft sediment variability, the use of soft sediments by threatened, endangered and protected species such as spotted handfish, the impact of invasive and introduced species and their removal, and the growth requirements of seagrass species for restoration purposes.
WC5.c	Participate in carbon sequestration through restoration activities and assess viability as financial incentive to practice change for biodiversity outcomes.
WC5.d	In partnership with The Nature Conservancy, coordinate efforts to restore and monitor shellfish reefs, including the native flat oyster.
WC5.e	Work with the Aboriginal communities towards restoring native Angasi oyster reefs and developing a cultural resource for harvesting native Angasi oysters.
WC5.f	Engage community-based organisations (through extension, skills development, and remote citizen science activities) in upscaling current restoration trials into broader scale activities and monitoring.
WC5.h	Continue to build relationships and planning tools in consultation with other organisations, governments, and Aboriginal communities – to support and prioritise on-ground action.
WC5.i	Undertake a review of conservation and non-fed aquaculture for restoration purposes in the southern region.

## 7.0 Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Theme encompasses the full variety of life found in the state, including all species of plants, animals, fungi, microorganisms, and the ecosystems in which they live. While biodiversity refers to all living things, the NRM organisations focus on natural assets native to the state.

Ecologically functioning systems are those that can maintain their biodiversity and ecological processes. A highly functioning ecosystem can support the full complement of its biodiversity and contribute to a range of ecosystem services. By contrast, poorly functioning ecosystems lose biodiversity and other resources such as soil, water, and nutrients, leading to the local extinction of species. A highly functioning ecosystem is more resilient and has a greater capacity to adapt to change while maintaining similar function, structure, and composition. By protecting and conserving areas that support biodiversity, the diversity of genes, species, communities, and ecosystems is also maintained. It is the suite of species and ecosystems that provide the services for our health and well-being, including clean water, air, shelter, and food.

Many agencies and individuals are working to protect and maintain Tasmania's high value habitat for threatened species, important biodiversity areas and ecological communities. Tasmania's NRM organisations work with partners to achieve shared strategic outcomes. Community and partner involvement in biodiversity programs range from monitoring, research, and on-ground restoration activities.

There is overlap between the Biodiversity, Land and Water Themes, including the maintenance of biodiversity on farms and resilient landscapes (Land Theme) and the prioritisation of Ramsar sites and aquatic and coastal habitats that support threatened species and ecological communities (Water Theme). The delivery of actions across all Themes will contribute to the health of Tasmania's biodiversity resources.

IMPORTANT BIODIVERSITY AREAS	THREATENED AND IMPORTANT ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES	THREATENED AND IMPORTANT SPECIES
Important biodiversity areas are significant because they are home to a diversity of biota and include formally recognised sites such as World Heritage Areas, important reserves, recognised biodiversity hotspots or Key Biodiversity Areas.	Threatened ecological communities include the communities listed under the <i>EPBC Act 1999</i> and <i>NC Act 2002</i> . Regionally or locally important and emerging priority ecological communities are also recognised.	Threatened species include species listed under the <i>EPBC Act 1999</i> and <i>TSP Act 1995</i> . Important species recognises that there are regionally or locally important species, as well as emerging threatened species.

7.1 Biodiversity in Tasmania

Table 3. A snapshot of Tasmania’s biodiversity assets.



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## 7.2 Important biodiversity areas

### 7.2.1 State-wide Outcome



By 2050, actions have been implemented that reduce threats to the natural values of Tasmania's important biodiversity areas.

### 7.2.2 Regional context


The southern region of Tasmania is one of the most environmentally diverse area of anywhere in Australia. It includes pristine to near-pristine river systems and lakes, rich flora and fauna, including many species endemic to Tasmania, a range of complex landscapes and internationally recognised natural icons, including the world heritage areas of the TWWHA (the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area) and Macquarie Island, seven national parks, one biodiversity hotspot (Midlands) and an array of different ecosystems with high terrestrial, estuarine and marine biodiversity.

More than 47% of the region is managed primarily for conservation through the public and private reserve estate. The publicly reserved terrestrial area is 1 152 097 ha (including the TWWHA and Macquarie Island). In addition to these reserves that are formally protected areas on private land. More than 50 000 ha has been reserved formally through the protected areas on private lands program and similar initiatives (captured in around 250 conservation covenants).


Through implementation of key Actions, NRM South aims to support appropriate management of the region's important biodiversity areas, and the important ecosystem services and biodiversity values within them. Actions focus on increasing the adoption of management practices that enhance the adaptive capacity to be resilient to impacts associated with land management and climate change.

### 7.2.3 Priorities and Actions

#### Priority BI1. Midlands Biodiversity Hotspot

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, the number of hectares in the Midlands Biodiversity Hotspot under improved management or formal land conservation has increased.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
BI1.a	Identify areas of high value, improve connectivity, and protect these through land conservation mechanisms (e.g. covenant or Part V on title).
BI1.b	Raise awareness about the importance of the Hotspot via education and awareness campaigns.
BI1.c	Leverage funding and work with partnering organisations to reduce the threats from weeds, stock and inappropriate fire regimes via property management plans and agreements.

#### Priority BI2. Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, previously unidentified threats to the TWWHA are reduced through a partnership program to manage priority weeds, pests and diseases and an active biosecurity campaign is implemented at key entrances to the TWWHA in the southern region.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
BI2.a	Establish a partnership program with adjacent land managers of the TWWHA, industry operators, community groups (including Landcare and Wildcare), and traditional owners, focused on actions to reduce threats from pests, weeds and diseases, targeted fire management plans and measures to manage or protect iconic species (e.g. Huon and Pencil Pines, Myrtles).
BI2.b	Increase awareness about biosecurity in the general community and work with PWS and other agencies to improve measures to reduce the spread of “water and soils” into the TWWHA.
BI2.c	In consultation with traditional owners, private and public land managers, and community groups, develop and/or implement targeted management plans to control feral animals that impact the values in the TWWHA, such as deer or cats.
BI2.d	Work with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to support land management activities at trawtha makuminya – including control actions for exotic species, and management and/or monitoring of natural and cultural values.

### 7.3 Threatened and important ecological communities

#### 7.3.1 State-wide Outcome



#### 7.3.2 Regional context

Vegetation communities are groups of plants found growing together in many places with a given species composition and sometimes geology. They are most often described by the dominant species or group of species.

The 2.5 million hectares of the NRM South region is complex and diverse, with native vegetation covering 76% of the region within 138 different vegetation communities. These vegetation types range from alpine vegetation, rainforests, eucalypt forests and woodland, other forests, heath, scrub, buttongrass plains, moorland, wetlands, swamp and grasslands.

The southern region has the following threatened ecological communities:

- Sub-tropical and Temperate Saltmarsh
- Tasmanian forests and woodlands dominated by Black (*E. ovata*) or Brooker's Gum (*E. brookeriana*)
- Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and associated fens
- *Eucalyptus ovata*-*Callitris oblonga* forest
- Highland and Lowland Native Grasslands
- [36 State-listed threatened vegetation communities](#)

These communities are subject to localised impacts such as habitat loss and fragmentation of important areas, weeds and diseases, invasive species that browse the communities, degradation from changes in water regimes, pollution or changes to nutrients and inappropriate fire regimes (too few or too frequent burns).

Changing climatic conditions is a global-level impact that will affect species differently. Some species may cope with changes by adapting to the conditions or changing their current distribution. Other species may vanish. New species will colonise from elsewhere, some of which may alter habitat and species interactions, with its associated impacts. Composition of existing vegetation communities will likely change, alongside the relative abundance or dominance of species leading to change in habitat structure, composition or function. This may result in changes to ecological function.

Through implementation of key Actions, NRM South aims to support appropriate management of the region's complex ecological communities, focusing on areas that require immediate attention. Actions focus on extent, condition and connectivity of critical habitats and the status of threatened and vulnerable communities. NRM South will implement effective interventions with the aim to get best outcomes, protecting the best condition areas first (including remnants) and identify locations and measures for restoration.

### 7.3.3 Priorities and Actions

#### Priority BC1. Alpine Sphagnum bogs and associated fens

Outcome	
By 2030, improve the outcomes for Alpine Sphagnum bogs and associated fens by focussing on management on private land and improving awareness of unsustainable use of sphagnum.	
Reference	Actions
BC1.a	Conduct an education and awareness campaign with nurseries and the community about the unsustainable use of sphagnum (e.g. poaching of protected areas and that on private land) and to encourage alternate products.
BC1.b	Leverage funding and work with public and private land managers (e.g. STT and Forico) to implement on-ground actions via management plans to protect sphagnum bogs, including ensuring that vehicles are kept out of the bogs, that the natural hydrology is unaltered, and fire is managed.


#### Priority BC2. Tasmanian forests and woodlands dominated by Black Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) or Brooker's Gum (*Eucalyptus brookeriana*)

Outcome	
By 2030, the amount and quality of Black or Brooker's Gum being protected through land conservation mechanisms has increased from 2020 levels, and awareness of measures to protect and enhance the ecological community has been improved.	
Reference	Actions
BC2.a	Identify and assess extent and condition of remnants on private land and Protect areas of high value through conservation mechanisms with land managers.
BC2.b	Increase awareness of the values and regulation of Black or Brooker's Gum to reduce rates of clearing, modification, and conversion.
BC2.c	Leverage funding and work with land managers to implement on-ground actions to protect vegetation e.g. fencing, deer control, weed control, fuel-reduction work, fire planning and management of unregulated clearing.







### Priority BC3. Highland and lowland grasslands

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, the number of grasslands protected through land conservation mechanisms has increased from 2020 levels.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
BC3.a	Identify and assess condition of Highland and Lowland Grassland remnants on private land and protect grasslands through land conservation mechanisms (e.g. covenant or Part V on title) and with associated management plans.
BC3.b	Work with partners, including land managers, catchment and community groups (e.g. Landcare) and governments to improve land management practices (e.g. weed, fertiliser and fire management) and raise awareness about the importance of the native grassland to reduce rates of decline and clearing/conversion.


### Priority BC4. Subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, the amount of saltmarsh being protected in the southern region is increased and condition improved by reducing the threats and impacts such as stock, weeds and unsuitable hydrological regimes and identifying retreat pathways, where feasible.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
BC4.a	Identify strategic areas to reduce impacts from stock, weeds, erosion control and altered hydrological regimes.
BC4.b	Protect priority saltmarsh areas through land conservation mechanisms (e.g. covenant or Part V on title) covenants (and with associated management plans).
BC4.c	Work in partnership with governments and research institutions to identify existing monitoring data and support evaluation of resource condition trends, including hydrology/flows, saltmarsh, wetlands and fish species and habitat.
BC4.d	Participate in assessments of carbon sequestration through restoration activities as financial incentive to practice change.

**Priority BC5. Riparian and remnant (particularly in urban and peri-urban areas) vegetation**

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, the condition of priority riparian and remnant vegetation has improved through the prevention of stock access, weed control, revegetation, and an improved level of custodianship of remnant native vegetation in urban and peri-urban areas.</p>	
	
Reference	Actions
BCS5.a	Identify and assess condition of remnants patches and identify threats, and then reduce threats by removing cattle and sheep from these zones.
BCS5.b	Work with partners including governments, land managers, industry, catchment and community groups (e.g. Landcare) to improve quality of habitat by controlling weeds, developing appropriate fire regimes, and re-establishing hydrological regimes.

**Priority BC6. Other emerging priority communities; iconic plant communities in key locations (e.g. Tasmanian pine species)**

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, there has been an improvement in the condition of the relevant community through the identification and mitigation of key threatening processes.</p>	
	
Reference	Actions
BCS6.a	Monitor emerging priorities from a local, state and national perspective – where a community has been newly listed or identified at a local scale, undertake a prioritisation process to determine the need for action.

## 7.4 Threatened and important species

### 7.4.1 State-wide Outcome



By 2050, actions have been implemented that reduce impacts to Tasmania's threatened and important species.

### 7.4.2 Regional context

Threatened species are those that are currently at risk of extinction in their natural habitat. They are often impacted by localised threats that need to be mitigated, or global impacts (such as climate change) which are harder to address. Generally, these species are listed under state or federal legislation to support their protection. Of the threatened species, there are subsets of the most-dependent species, which are found in a limited area. There are some groups of organisms that are rarely considered in biodiversity conservation but are an essential in ecosystem function, such as fungi, invertebrates, mosses, lichens, and bacteria.


The southern NRM region's native flora includes 16 species of eucalypt endemic to Tasmania, plants that have survived from the last glacial times such as native conifers in the genus *Podocarpus*, and a diversity of bryophytes (mosses, liverworts, and hornworts) in the wet forests. Native fauna includes iconic species such as the Tasmanian devil and wedge-tailed eagle, a significant number of small marsupials such as the New Holland mouse, the eastern-barred bandicoot, potoroos and bettongs, and numerous migratory birds and animals. It also includes 14 of Tasmania's 18 lizard species, all eight of the bat species and 12 of the State's endemic birds.

Native species and ecological communities in southern Tasmania are facing a suite of challenges, many of which are compounding, resulting a certain portion facing decline in condition or extent. Unfortunately, Australia has one of the highest extinction rates in the world due to local threats including the introduction of plant and animal species, pathogens, landscape changes including altered fire regimes and land clearing, and global threats such as climate change.


Through implementation of key Actions, NRM South aims to support appropriate management of the region's native species, focusing on species in decline or requiring urgent intervention. Actions focus on extent, condition and connectivity of critical habitats, improved management of threatened and important species, mitigating immediate and emerging threats, and supporting breeding and reproductive success.

### 7.4.3 Priorities and Actions


#### Priority BS1. Threatened mammals (Eastern-barred Bandicoots, Eastern Quolls) impacted by cats on islands and roadkill

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, the impact of cats and roadkill on threatened mammals (Eastern Quolls and Eastern-barred Bandicoots) has been reduced.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
BS1.a	Reduce the predation pressure from cats and other feral pests on small mammals using a suite of known or emerging control techniques (e.g. Felixers, curiosity, trapping and shooting and education) and capture and baiting of other pests – focusing on key offshore islands.
BS1.b	Working with partners, including DPIPW, the Ten Lives Cat Centre and community volunteers (including Landcare), to improve understanding and compliance with the Cat Management Act and local government by-laws and increase education and awareness about the impact of cats.
BS1.c	Develop strategic approaches to the captive breeding and supply of individuals of threatened mammals to mainland conservation programs. Apply the strategic planning and participation model developed for the Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program to other species, where feasible.
BS1.d	Leverage funding and work with potential project partners, such as Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, the RACT and Landcare Tasmania, to implement key or specific activities to reduce roadkill – particularly in relation to improving driver behaviour and educating local drivers and tourists about including awareness-raising and coordination.
BS1.e	Work with partners, including Aboriginal communities, to identify and implement wildlife management requirements at key sites (including cat management and wildlife monitoring).


#### Priority BS2. Forty-spotted Pardalote

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, there has been an increase in the habitat of Forty-spotted Pardalotes at key sites from 2020 levels through regenerating degraded habitat and protecting prime habitat.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
BS2.a	Coordinate specific activities, seek funding, and support partners in their reporting to government to improve outcomes for Forty-spotted pardalotes. Key activities include protecting key breeding habitat and connectivity; protection of white gum communities; undertaking management interventions that are demonstrably effective at increasing effective breeding habitat and fledgling survival; revegetation; and revegetation.
BS2.b	Work with weetaipoona Aboriginal Corporation to build on previous work, manage nest boxes, improve habitat, and stimulate white gum regeneration at Murrayfield.


### Priority BS3. Threatened parrots (Orange-bellied Parrots and Swift Parrots)

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, there is an increase in the breeding success of Orange-bellied Parrots (OBPs) and Swift Parrots at key sites from 2020 levels through regenerating degraded habitat, protecting prime habitat and implementing other emergency interventions as appropriate for the species.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
BS3.a	In partnership with organisations such as DPIPW, the ANU and Wildcare, deliver key actions that support the OBP captive breeding program; identify a second release site for captive-bred birds; and improve burning regimes to increase the amount of native OBP food resources.
BS3.b	Protect key Swift Parrot nesting sites through land conservation mechanisms (e.g. covenant or Part V on title) in key habitat, habitat improvement measures and revegetation.
BS3.c	Seek funding, support reporting to government, and coordinate efforts across partners to improve outcomes for Swift Parrots and OBPs.
BS3.d	Work with partners including land managers, industry, and community groups to increase Swift Parrot foraging habitat on Bruny Island (as a predator-free landscape).
BS3.e	Leverage funding and work with key land managers to reduce the loss of key habitat due to illegal firewood harvesting, using strategies such as education and awareness campaigns and implementing a sustainable firewood certification scheme.
BS3.f	Reduce predation pressure on Swift Parrots by controlling predators (e.g. sugar gliders) and competitors (e.g. rainbow lorikeets) at active breeding sites and through the implementation of learnings from current research and trials.
BS3.g	Work with partners to improve understanding of Sugar Glider ecology in Tasmania to inform control and management.


### Priority BS4. Tasmanian Masked Owl

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, the threats to Masked Owls from vehicle collisions and secondary poisoning, and loss of nesting habitat is reduced from 2020 levels.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
BS4.a	Leverage funding and work with potential project partners, including local government, Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, the RACT, and Landcare Tasmania to implement high priority actions to reduce roadkill – particularly in relation to educating local drivers and tourists.
BS4.b	Work with potential partners, including Landcare Tasmania, to identify key nesting habitat and improve education and awareness about protecting nesting habitat and the impact of rodenticides on Masked Owls.


## Priority BS5. Coastal shorebirds

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, threats to nesting shorebirds have been reduced by working with key groups and reducing identified impacts.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
BS5.a	Improve access to trends, data and information relating to resident shorebirds through existing conservation partners (e.g. long-term monitoring programs) and community volunteers (e.g. citizen science activities).
BS5.b	Engage with partners, including local governments, PWS and BirdLife Tasmania to identify key priorities for coastal shorebirds, endorse and collaborate on existing programs and support best-practice marine debris collections by building understanding of bird breeding and sensitive locations.
BS5.c	Work with conservation partners and community groups to implement recovery actions for Hooded Plover populations at key sites on the coast

## Priority BS6. Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, anthropogenic impacts to Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles will be better understood, management actions implemented, and the conservation status of the sub-species will be better understood.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
BS6.a	Work with research organisations to improve understanding of population size and status (by updating Population Viability Analysis); the causes of "unnatural" (anthropogenic) mortality; and habitat use, territories, carrying capacity and distribution through telemetry surveys.
BS6.b	Informed by research and trials, seek resources to implement actions and initiatives to reduce impacts and assist governments in strategic planning and development of initiatives for eagle management in Tasmania.
BS6.c	In partnership with government and industry sectors, manage an Eagle Fund to undertake critical research and management actions.

**Priority BS7. Threatened fish (Swan galaxid and migratory species, including the Australian Grayling)**

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, the extent of high-quality habitat for threatened fish has been increased and the quality of water inflow to key fish habitat has been improved through catchment management improvements.</p> 	
Reference	Actions
BS7.a	Leverage funding and work with DPIPW, IFS and Hydro Tasmania to improve education and awareness in relevant fishing and regional communities to increase understanding about threatened fish, by focussing on biosecurity (spread of weeds and diseases by boats), moving fish, wood hooking and river health.
BS7.b	Identify existing monitoring data to support the evaluation of trends for the species and key habitat management actions (e.g. weirs).
BS7.c	Leverage funding and work with IFS and land managers to improve habitat for Swan galaxias
BS7.d	Source funds to co-invest and work with DPIPW, IFS and other agencies to improve fish passage in locations where infrastructure is impacting the movement of migratory fish species, including Australian grayling.
BS7.e	Improve education and awareness in fishing communities and the general public about issues associated pest fish species (e.g. redfin perch, eastern gambusia) and moving fish species and other aquatic fauna between waterways.


**Priority BS8. Handfish group (particularly Spotted and Red)**

Outcome	
<p>By 2030, habitat condition is improved from 2020 levels through an increased uptake of strategies such as eco moorings, the installation and/or maintenance of artificial habitat and increased awareness of handfish and how to protect them.</p>	
Reference	Actions
BS8.a	Engage with governments, the Recovery Team, partners, and community, to identify key priorities and resources and options for management of threatened handfish – particularly spotted and red handfish.
BS8.b	Seek funding support for key actions for red and spotted handfish including: monitoring; education and awareness; habitat restoration and protection (e.g. Ecologically Friendly Moorings (EFMs), artificial habitat for spawning; urchin management; protection of key breeding sites); and captive breeding programs.

### Priority BS9. Threatened eucalypts (Miena Cider Gum and Morrisby's Gum)

Outcome	
By 2030, the trajectory for Miena Cider Gum and Morrisby's Gum is established or improved by reducing browsing impacts, increased planting across current and predicted climate change range from 2020 levels.	
Reference	Actions
BS9.a	Seek funding, support reporting to government, and coordinate efforts across partners to improve outcomes for the Miena Cider Gum. In conjunction with partners, assess the status of the species and determine what future strategies should be implemented.
BS9.b	Work with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to map current extent of Miena Cider Gum, with a specific focus on mapping and protecting scar trees.
BS9.c	Seek funding, support reporting to government, and coordinate efforts across partners to improve outcomes for Morrisby's Gum. In conjunction with partners, assess the status of the species and define priority future actions.

### Priority BS10. Endemic plant species with a restricted range (e.g. South Esk Pine, Threatened orchids, Tasmanian sea lavender and Southport heath)


Outcome	
By 2030, there has been an improvement in the condition or range of the relevant species through the identification and mitigation of key threatening processes.	
	
Reference	Actions
BS10.a	Leverage funding and work with partners to identify key sites for protection of the Tasmanian sea lavender (through land conservation mechanisms and/or fencing), retreat pathways, translocation, and rehabilitation.
BS10.b	Improve awareness with land managers of key sites for key threatened flora species (e.g. Tasmanian sea lavender) to prevent damage due to stock grazing, the accidental slashing/mowing of flowering plants, or weed/pest infestations.
BS10.c	Leverage funding and work with partners to implement Southport heath actions including management of habitat altering weed infestations, new plantings, protection from mammal browsing and Healthy Country planning and/or implementation.
BS10.e	Leverage funding and work with partners, including community groups and Aboriginal communities, to identify and implement appropriate fire management plans for the management of threatened flora species (e.g. threatened orchids, particularly Sagg Spider, Milford Leek and Fleshy Greenhood).
BS10.f	Leverage funding and work with partners to protect key sites for South Esk Pine through the establishment of land conservation mechanisms (e.g. covenant or Part V on title) and associated management plans, reducing threats from weeds and inappropriate fire regimes and improving awareness to reduce rates of clearing.



### Priority BS11. Chaostola Skipper

Outcome	
By 2030, threats to habitat condition for the Chaostola Skipper have been identified and investment sought to implement appropriate fire regimes, manage weeds and reduce clearing and fragmentation.	
Reference	Actions
BS11.a	Work with partners, including community groups and Aboriginal communities, to identify and implement appropriate fire and mosaic burning regimes at key sites.
BS11.b	Leverage funding and work with land managers to encourage weed control and rabbit (and other grazers) control at key sites.
BS11.c	Improve education and awareness about protecting habitat and reducing clearing and fragmentation.

### Priority BS12. Emerging priorities

Outcome	
By 2030, emerging priorities are assessed, and a regional threatened species prioritisation has been completed or updated.	
	
Reference	Actions
BS12.a	Review emerging priorities as required.
BS12.b	Work with DPIPWE to update the state-wide threatened species prioritisation and/or undertake a prioritisation process to determine the need for action.

## 8.0 Implementation

### 8.1 *Project development*

The Strategy identifies broad actions to address threats to regional Priorities (identified in Sections 5, 6 and 7); it is not intended that the Strategy describes specific projects. Projects aligned with the Strategy will be developed at a subsequent stage, through the development of a Regional Investment Plan and/or in response to emerging needs.

Each project plan will outline specific objectives, methods, baselines, deliverables, budgets, measures of success and evaluation framework. All projects will be developed and designed with the funding body/ies, project partners and in consultation with stakeholder groups to maximise opportunities at the regional level.

Specific projects will be outlined in a Regional Investment Plan, or similar document. Such a document will be dynamic and will be modified on an as needs basis, such as when new issues or opportunities arise (see Section 8.3).

### 8.2 *Partnerships: the way we work*

Tasmania's regional NRM organisations work in collaboration with industries, communities, NGOs, specialist groups, research organisations and governments (including GBEs). This Strategy provides a framework that considers community values, expert knowledge and scientific evidence, with the aim to focus the efforts of the NRM organisations.

Through the process of project development, the NRM organisations will continue to work with existing and new partners to:

- Understand diverse views and find commonality, where appropriate.
- Be informed and to inform decision-makers about regional natural resource management priorities.
- Target action in prioritised areas and achieve the best outcomes possible with the resources available.
- Identify opportunities to improve natural resource management practices.
- Facilitate collaboration across multiple partners, in priority areas.
- Advocate for investment into identified regional natural resource management priorities.

### 8.3 *Emerging priorities*

New priorities are likely to emerge in and across the three Themes during the life of this strategy. Emerging issues may stem from new or changed threats, or shifts in drivers such as government priorities, regional, local or community concerns. The regional NRM organisations will monitor emerging priorities from a local, state and national perspective.

The process to monitor for emerging issues will involve the periodic review of:

- Relevant government policies, strategies, and positions;
- Changes in the listing of species or ecological communities under relevant legislation;
- Updates to recovery plans, listing statements or conservation advice;

- Key advances or updates on threatening processes, strategies or technological developments to address threatening processes;
- Regular communication and consultation with key stakeholders including local and regional organisations (e.g. Government, research institutions, GBEs and NGOs, etc); and
- Reports on the work of our partners and stakeholders.

The Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis process (see Section 4.4) will be used to determine if the emerging issue will change current priorities or actions. This assessment will also consider the resources required. For example, while a priority may emerge or change, it may not be feasible to alter current priorities or actions to address the emerging one.

Projects based on emerging priorities may be included in the Regional Investment Plan from time to time.

#### 8.4 *Reviewing the Strategy*

The 2030 NRM Strategy provides the framework for natural resource management delivery in Tasmania to 2030. It is a statutory requirement (under Tasmanian legislation) that this Strategy is reviewed in 5 years. While the planning horizons of the strategy are to 2030, a review will be undertaken in 2027. This review will inform the development of any required updates to Outcomes, Priorities, Actions, or other elements of the strategies.

The review will assess the extent the Strategy has achieved its outcomes – including the extent to which Priorities have been addressed, or Actions have been completed.

As a part of the review of the strategy, the following Key Evaluation Questions will be considered:

1. Strategic alignment and appropriateness:
  - a. Are the Outcome statements for each Asset Class still appropriate, or should they be modified?
  - b. Are the Priorities or Actions in each Asset class still relevant and appropriate?
2. Progress and impact:
  - a. What was the level of investment secured to deliver the strategy?
  - b. What proportion of Priorities or Actions identified in the Regional Strategy plan have been addressed (in part or in full)?
  - c. Have the funded projects contributed to the achievement of the Outcome statements for each Theme?
3. Adaptability:
  - a. Have emerging priorities been identified since the strategy was developed? Were they addressed in any way?
  - b. Are there any new or changed focus areas that should be addressed by the strategy?
  - c. What were the key learnings from project implementation, including any constraints, and the implications for the strategy?
4. Engagement and sustainable outcomes:
  - a. Are the identified UN SDGs being addressed in the delivery of projects?
  - b. Has Aboriginal participation, culture and knowledge been included in relevant projects?
  - c. Were stakeholder aspirations reflected adequately in the strategy?
  - d. What was the percentage of projects delivered in partnership with stakeholders (with shared aspirations)?

## 8.5 Measuring project success

A MERI (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement) framework will be used to assess progress on achieving outcomes of funded projects. This framework embeds adaptive management and establishes a measure of success for a project. The specific MERI framework used for each project will be developed on a case-by-case basis, but will broadly cover the approach described by the Australian Government (<http://www.nrm.gov.au/publications/meri-strategy>):

**Monitoring:** Collection of data and information.

**Evaluation:** Analysing monitoring data, assessing what it means and making informed judgements about the success of a project (or program) and potential improvements.

**Reporting:** Communicating what was found from monitoring and evaluation. It is about sharing information, including about achievements and lessons learnt.

**Improvement:** Using this information to improve the way things are done.

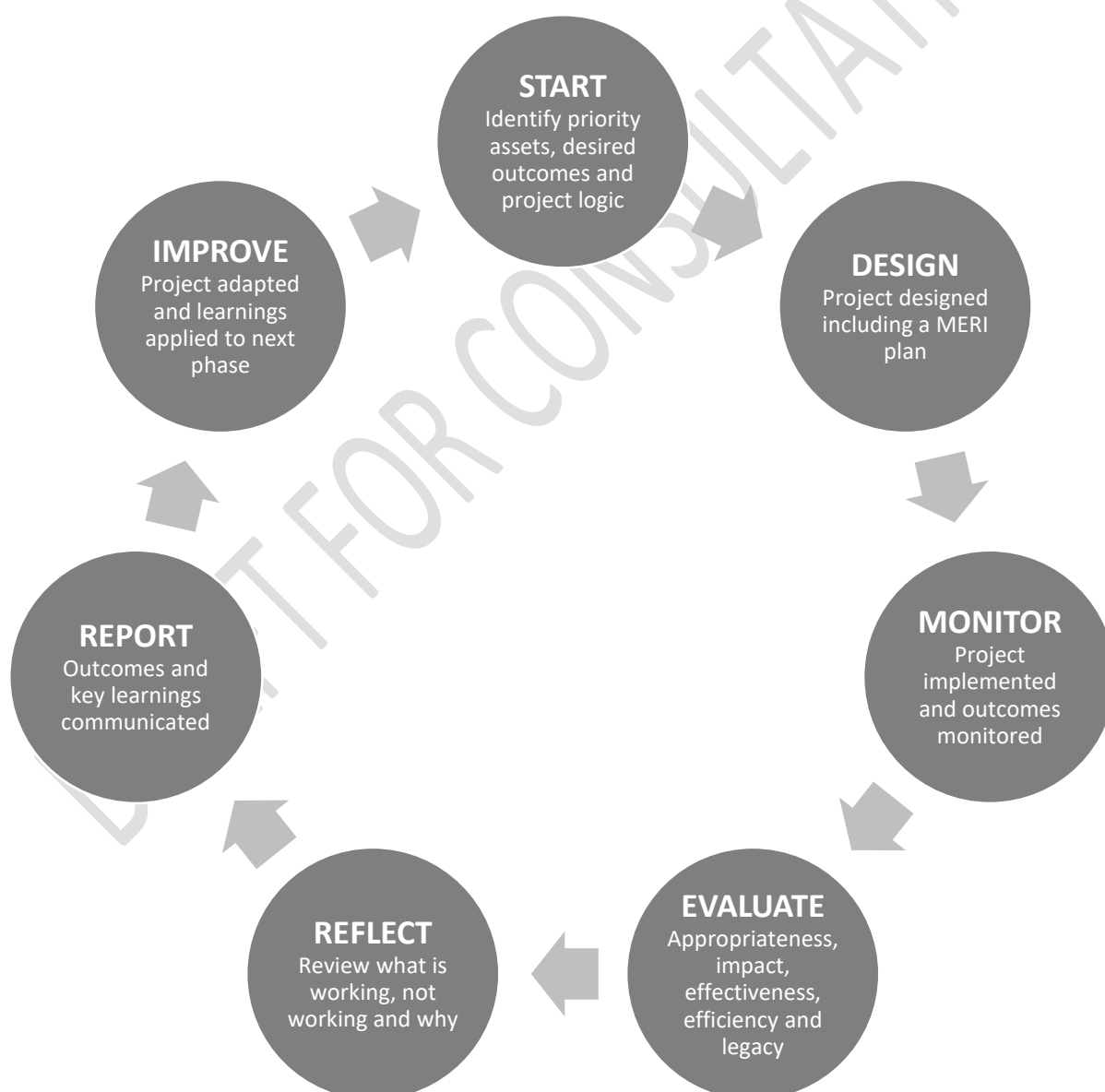


Figure 9. Project level MERI processes that support adaptive management and continuous improvement.

## 9.0 Acronyms and glossary

### 9.1 Acronyms

<b>ANU</b>	Australian National University	<b>MERI</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement
<b>CCA</b>	Cradle Coast Authority	<b>NC Act</b>	Nature Conservation Act 2002 (Tasmanian)
<b>COVID-19</b>	2019 novel coronavirus disease	<b>NRM</b>	Natural Resource Management
<b>DAWE</b>	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	<b>NGO</b>	Non-government organisation
<b>DEP</b>	Derwent Estuary Program	<b>OBP</b>	Orange-bellied Parrot
<b>DPIPWE</b>	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment	<b>PWS</b>	Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>EFM</b>	Ecologically Friendly Moorings	<b>RACT</b>	Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania
<b>EPBC Act</b>	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)	<b>SMART</b>	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound
<b>GBE</b>	Government Business Enterprise	<b>STT</b>	Sustainable Timbers Tasmania
<b>ha</b>	hectares	<b>The LIST</b>	The Land Information System Tasmania
<b>IFS</b>	Inland Fisheries Service	<b>TLC</b>	Tasmanian Land Conservancy
<b>IPA</b>	Indigenous Protected Area	<b>TSP Act</b>	Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (Tasmanian)
<b>KI</b>	King Island (CCA)	<b>TWWHA</b>	Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
<b>km</b>	kilometres	<b>UN SDGs</b>	United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals
<b>km<sup>2</sup></b>	square kilometres	<b>WQIP</b>	Water Quality Improvement Plan
<b>MAST</b>	Marine and Safety Tasmania		
<b>MCA</b>	Multi-criteria Analysis		

## 9.2 Glossary

<b>anthropogenic</b>	originating in or from human activity
<b>biodiversity</b>	the variety of all life forms on earth—the different plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms, their genes, and the terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems of which they are a part
<b>biosecurity</b>	the management of risks to the economy, the environment, and the community, of pests and diseases entering, emerging, establishing, or spreading
<b>carbon storage</b>	retain carbon and keep it from entering Earth's atmosphere
<b>citizen science</b>	the practice of public participation and collaboration in scientific research to increase scientific knowledge.
<b>covenant</b>	a voluntary agreement made between a landholder and an authorised body (for conservation purposes in an NRM context)
<b>Curiosity®</b>	A new bait designed to target feral cats and limit risks to native species
<b>ecological character</b>	the combination of the ecosystem components, processes, benefits and services that characterise the wetland at a given point in time
<b>ecological communities</b>	a naturally occurring group of native plants, animals and other organisms that are interacting in a unique habitat
<b>ecosystem function</b>	the combined effects of all natural processes that sustain an ecosystem
<b>endemic</b>	native and restricted to a certain place
<b>Felixers</b>	A humane, targeted and effective grooming trap that automatically apply a measured dose of toxin to the fur of unrestrained feral cats, which is ingested when they instinctively and fastidiously groom
<b>fragmentation</b>	Relating to habitat, a process during which a large expanse of habitat is transformed into a number of smaller patches
<b>hydrology</b>	the distribution and movement of water
<b>indicators</b>	Measuring success in delivery towards achieving outcomes
<b>invasive species</b>	a species occurring, as a result of human activities, beyond its accepted normal distribution and which threatens valued environmental, agricultural or other social resources by the damage it causes
<b>land manager</b>	Any person or group of people with responsibility for managing land, including but not limited to land owners and lease holders, farmers, government or privately owned entities.
<b>lutruwita</b>	The Tasmanian Aboriginal name for the land, sea and sky Country now called Tasmania, agreed under the <a href="#">Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy</a> . Some Tasmanian Aboriginal people prefer the name <i>trowunna</i> , and this is acknowledged, but has not been used throughout the Strategies.
<b>peri-urban</b>	transition from rural to urban land uses located between the outer limits of urban and regional centres and the rural environment.
<b>production landscape</b>	Landscapes on which primary or other production occurs for economic outcome.
<b>Ramsar Convention/site</b>	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands
<b>reforestation</b>	the intentional replanting of forests and woodlands that have been depleted, usually through deforestation or land clearing

<b>research organisation</b>	Organisation, institute or agency undertaking research
<b>rodenticide</b>	pesticides that specifically kill rodents, including mice and rats.
<b>Tasmanian Aboriginal people and communities</b>	This is the name used for the First Tasmanians and their descendants throughout the Strategies. We acknowledge that some organisations and individuals prefer First Nations People, or Indigenous people.
<b>anthropogenic</b>	originating in or from human activity
<b>biodiversity</b>	the variety of all life forms on earth—the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes, and the terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems of which they are a part
<b>biosecurity</b>	the management of risks to the economy, the environment, and the community, of pests and diseases entering, emerging, establishing, or spreading
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<b>reforestation</b>	the intentional replanting of forests and woodlands that have been depleted, usually through deforestation or land clearing
<b>rodenticide</b>	pesticides that specifically kill rodents, including mice and rats.

## 10.0 Attachments

The following documents provide further context or background relevant to the Strategy. This information is available on the Tasmanian NRM websites:

<https://nrmsouth.org.au/>

<https://nrmnorth.org.au/>

<https://www.cradlecoast.com/>

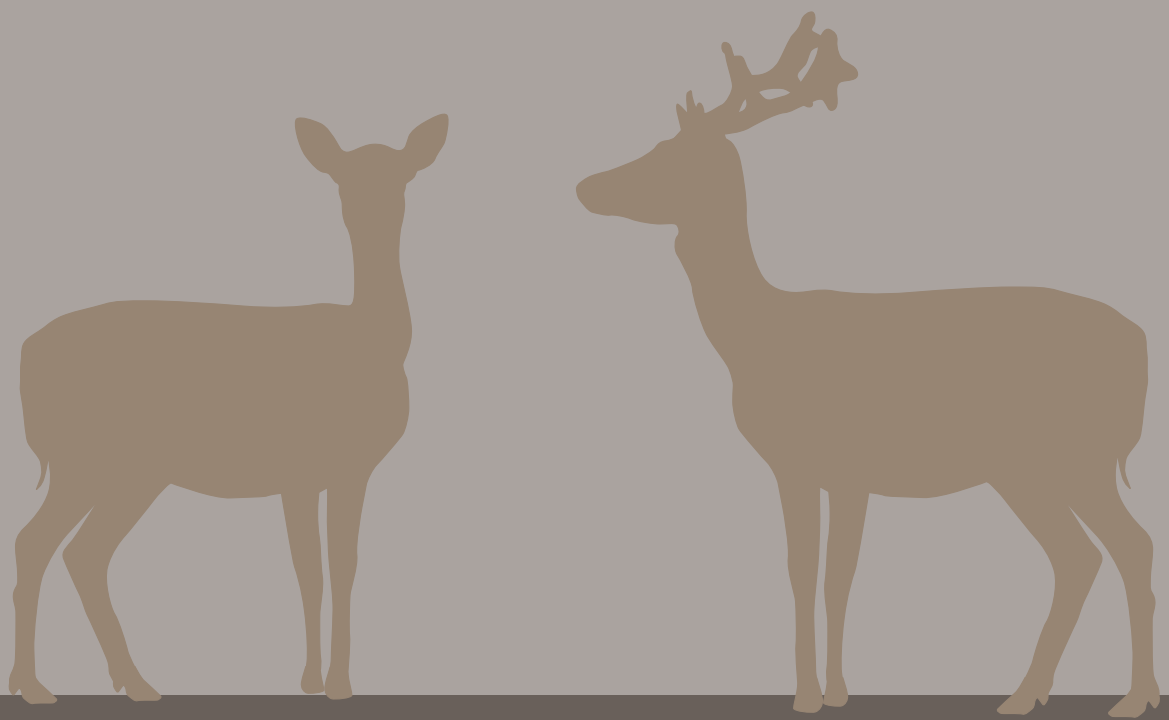
Ref.	Document	Description
A1	Tasmanian NRM prioritisation process	A summary of the MCA prioritisation process undertaken for each theme.
A2	Tasmanian NRM outlook	A description of the current policy setting, risk and opportunities arriving from global and local drivers. <i>(in development)</i>
A3	Tasmanian NRM linkages with UN SDGs	A table summary of priorities and linkages with UN SDGs. <i>(in development)</i>



## **NRM SOUTH**

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03 6221 6111 | [www.nrmsouth.org.au](http://www.nrmsouth.org.au) | @nrmsouth  
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# Draft Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan



*Consultation draft*

*Released for comment October 2021*

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The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment pays respect to the traditional and original owners of this land and acknowledges today's Tasmanian Aboriginal People as the continual custodians.

## Foreword

The development of a five-year wild fallow deer management plan follows the completion of the aerial survey component of Tasmania's first state-wide deer census and builds on the government's response to the 2017 Legislative Council Inquiry and Report on Wild Fallow Deer in Tasmania.

When finalised the *Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan* will set the strategic intent and direction for wild deer management in the state. It will guide decision making over the next five years and will be implemented by the Tasmanian Government in partnership with the Tasmanian community.

The Draft Management Plan is being developed through consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, including the Tasmanian Game Council.

You are invited to have your say on this draft document and play your part in successfully planning for the future of wild fallow deer management in the state. Your feedback will be used by the Department to refine the draft document and craft the final plan for release.

# How to provide feedback

DPIPWE is seeking your views on the *Draft Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan*.

Please comment on any of the Goals or Management Objectives proposed, or any other aspect of the Draft Plan.

Your feedback is important and will be considered in finalising the final five-year *Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan* which will set the strategic intent and direction for wild deer management in the state.

## How to have your say

- Email: Submissions can be emailed to [gamemanagementplan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:gamemanagementplan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au)
- Post: Farmpoint, DPIPWE, PO Box 46, Kings Meadows, TAS 7249
- Phone: By calling Farmpoint on 1300 292 292
- In-person by calling Farmpoint on 1300 292 292 to make an appointment to see an officer or by attending a community forum, details of which will be advertised in the press and on the Departmental website at <https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/agriculture/game-services-tasmania/wild-fallow-deer-management-plan>

**RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM ON FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 2021.**

## Information about feedback submissions

All submissions will be treated as public information and made available on the Department's website. If you wish for your submission to be treated as confidential, either whole or in part, please note this in writing at the time of making your submission.

No personal information other than the name of individual submitters will be disclosed.

## The Right to Information Act 2009 and confidentiality

By law, information provided to the Government may be provided to an applicant under the provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI). If you have indicated that you wish all or part of your submission to be confidential, the statement that details your reasons will be taken into account in determining whether or not to release the information in the event of an RTI application for assessed disclosure.

# Key steps in the development of the Plan

The development of a five-year *Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan* is being undertaken with close community consultation through a staged approach:

## Targeted stakeholder consultation

Key stakeholders including the Tasmanian Game Council, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, hunting groups, conservationists, foresters and the general community provided input to the Draft Plan via 51 individual submissions.

## Public forums

Over 200 people attended public forums over four days in November 2020 at Bothwell, Longford, Ulverstone and Brighton, providing valuable insights used in the development of the plan.

## Release of the Draft Plan

The Draft Plan is now open for public comment, with opportunities to provide written submissions by 3 December 2021; or to provide in-person feedback by contacting Farmpoint on 1300 2929 292 to arrange an appointment with one of our officers, or through one of the community forums to be advertised at <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/agriculture/game-services-tasmania/wild-fallow-deer-management-plan>

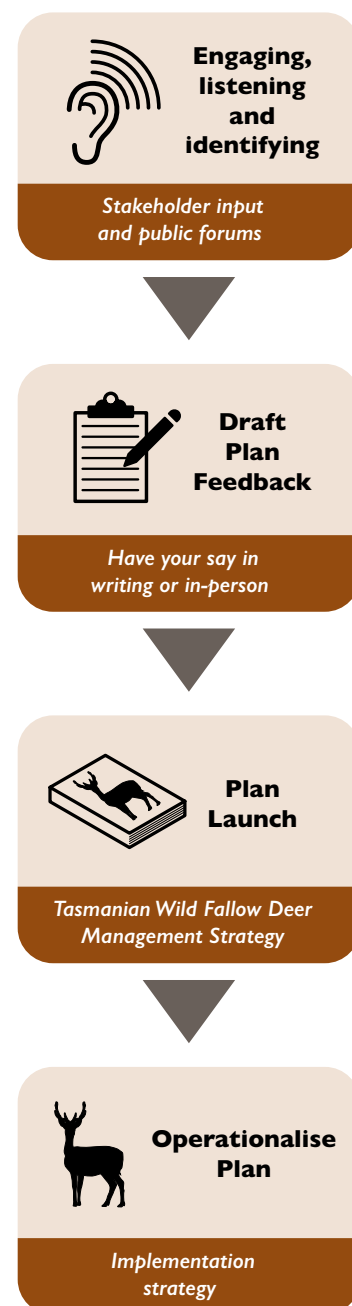
Feedback is also sought on potential actions and priorities to inform the development of the Implementation Strategy (see below).

## Release of the Final Plan

The feedback from submissions, community forums and one-on-one conversations will inform the development of the Final *Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan*.

## Release of the Implementation Strategy

The Tasmanian Government intends to prepare a rolling implementation strategy which outlines the specific timelines, priorities, actions, resourcing requirements, and evaluation/reporting processes to ensure that the five-year Plan is delivered.



# Purpose

The purpose of the *Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan* will be to set clear goals and management objectives for wild fallow deer in Tasmania over the next five years. In doing so, the Plan will also provide a summary of the current management context.

The development of a *Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan* follows the completion of the aerial survey component of Tasmania's first state-wide deer census, and builds on the government's response to the 2017 Legislative Council Inquiry and Report on Wild Fallow Deer in Tasmania. The Plan intends to ensure that the impact of wild fallow deer on agricultural production, conservation areas and forestry are balanced with maintaining deer as a traditional hunting resource.

The Plan is being developed through consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, including the Tasmanian Game Council. The plan is a non-statutory policy statement regarding the goals and management objectives for wild fallow deer management in Tasmania rather than an enforceable legal instrument.

# Goals

This Draft five-year Plan recognises that to achieve a balanced approach to managing wild fallow deer, complementary high-level goals are required in two key areas: social goals and deer population goals.

## Social Goals

- Provide increased options to farmers and land managers to effectively control the impacts of deer on their activities
- Continue to provide for responsible recreational deer hunting as a legitimate and valued activity in Tasmania
- Reduce public safety risks from deer
- Reduce the risks to the natural and cultural values of Tasmania's conservation reserve estate and other public and private lands
- Protect Tasmania's biosecurity by reducing the risks of deer as a potential disease vector.

## Deer Population Goals

- Avoid further potential spread of deer
- Reduce the abundance and geographic range of deer with a particular focus on areas outside the traditional range
- Support property-level management of deer to provide for sustainable hunting in selected zones.

# Overview of management objectives and initiatives

The regulations and policies implemented in Tasmania to date have aimed to find a balance between maintaining deer as a hunting resource whilst allowing for the impact of wild fallow deer on primary industries and the natural environment to be managed.

There are agricultural, commercial, environmental and public safety impacts associated with the growth and increased distribution of deer populations in Tasmania. A deer management plan will set contemporary management objectives and evaluate control options for the future. In doing so it is acknowledged that stakeholder aspirations in regard to deer management may be divergent. A clearly articulated and balanced approach is sought to address impacts and reduce the likelihood of deer populations establishing in new areas.

Four management objectives are proposed to govern the approach. These are set out below and in Figure 1, with initiatives listed under each objective.<sup>1</sup> At this time, the initiatives put forward are “high-level”. Specific actions will be defined in the implementation strategy which will be developed to support the five-year Plan.



## **Management objective 1:** **Effectively manage the impacts of wild fallow deer throughout the state**

- Three distinct management zones will be established in Tasmania. These zones will reflect the fact that deer population management goals vary with location and context.
- Deer control methods will be evaluated and adopted in a manner that facilitates the appropriate strategy for each specific situation and desired outcome.
- New deer farming regulations proposed under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* once approved and implemented will support farmers and minimise the risk of escapees being a source of seed stock to establish wild herds in locations across the state.



## **Management objective 2:** **Empower farmers, foresters and other land managers to work collaboratively with hunters to achieve tailored deer management objectives**

- Greater flexibility to take deer based on sex, age or the season, dependent on zone, will be provided through the use of Property Based Wildlife Management Plans (PBWMP) and light touch regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> Management objectives and control techniques are set out in more detail on pages 17-25.





### **Management objective 3:**

#### **Continue to provide evidence-based deer management**

- Targeted population monitoring will be undertaken to help refine deer and browsing animal management over time.
- Annual take returns will be maintained to complement population monitoring.
- Research will be conducted to improve our understanding of deer biosecurity issues.



### **Management objective 4:**

#### **Improve community involvement, education and awareness of deer management**

- Partnerships and collaborative approaches will be extended to reduce deer abundance in peri-urban and conservation areas.
- Community and local government will be informed of, and engaged with, the deer management strategies outlined in this Draft Management Plan.
- Deer hunting regulation and compliance activity will be delivered through partnerships to avoid anti-social or unsafe behaviour.

## SOCIAL GOALS

- Provide increased options to farmers and land managers to effectively control the impacts of deer on their activities
- Continue to provide for responsible recreational deer hunting as a legitimate and valued activity in Tasmania
- Reduce public safety risks from deer
- Reduce the risks to the natural and cultural values of Tasmania's conservation reserve estate and other public and private lands
- Protect Tasmania's biosecurity by reducing the risks of deer as a potential disease vector.

## DEER POPULATION GOALS

- Avoid further potential spread of deer
- Reduce the abundance and geographic range of deer with a particular focus on areas outside the traditional range
- Support property-level management to provide for sustainable hunting in selected zones.



### Management objective 1:

#### Effectively manage the impacts of wild fallow deer throughout the state

- Introduction of deer management zones
- Evaluating deer management tools
- Proposed enhanced deer farming regulation



### Management objective 2:

#### Empower farmers, foresters and other land managers to work collaboratively with hunters to achieve tailored deer management objectives

- Greater flexibility for landholders through "lighter-touch" policies and PBWMPs



### Management objective 3:

#### Continue to provide evidence-based deer management

- Population monitoring
- Improved understanding of biosecurity



### Management objective 4:

#### Improve community involvement, education and awareness of deer management

- Control of peri-urban deer
- Community engagement and education
- Refocussed regulatory enforcement

Figure 1: Overview of the Draft Plan's goals, management objectives and initiatives

# Current management context

## The introduction and distribution of wild fallow deer

European fallow deer<sup>2</sup> (*Dama dama*) is the only species of deer present in Tasmania.<sup>3</sup> Fallow deer were first introduced to the Tasmanian landscape from England in 1836 to provide a hunting resource.<sup>4</sup> By the early 1970s the wild fallow deer population occupied what became known as 'the traditional deer range', which centred around the Interlaken, Ross/Campbell Town, and Deddington/Blessington areas of the northern midlands and central highlands.<sup>5</sup>

Since the 1970s, deer populations have become established well outside this traditional range, with populations extending into wilderness areas with high conservation values and satellite populations including several in peri-urban areas. The spread of deer into new areas has been hastened by a range of factors including accidental and deliberate releases; the increase of irrigation schemes which has created a favourable grazing environment for deer; and natural population growth. Deer are now estimated to occupy a range encompassing at least 27 per cent of the state. Figure 2 shows the traditional deer range, along with the extended area where deer now occur.

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<sup>2</sup> The terms 'European fallow deer', 'wild fallow deer', 'fallow deer' and 'deer' are used interchangeably in this Draft Plan.

<sup>3</sup> For a short overview of the biology of fallow deer in Tasmania, see Appendix 1.

<sup>4</sup> Bentley, A. (1978) *An introduction to the deer of Australia*. Koetong Trust, Forests Commission, Melbourne.

<sup>5</sup> Wapstra, J. E. (1973) *Fallow deer in Tasmania*. Parks and Wildlife Service.

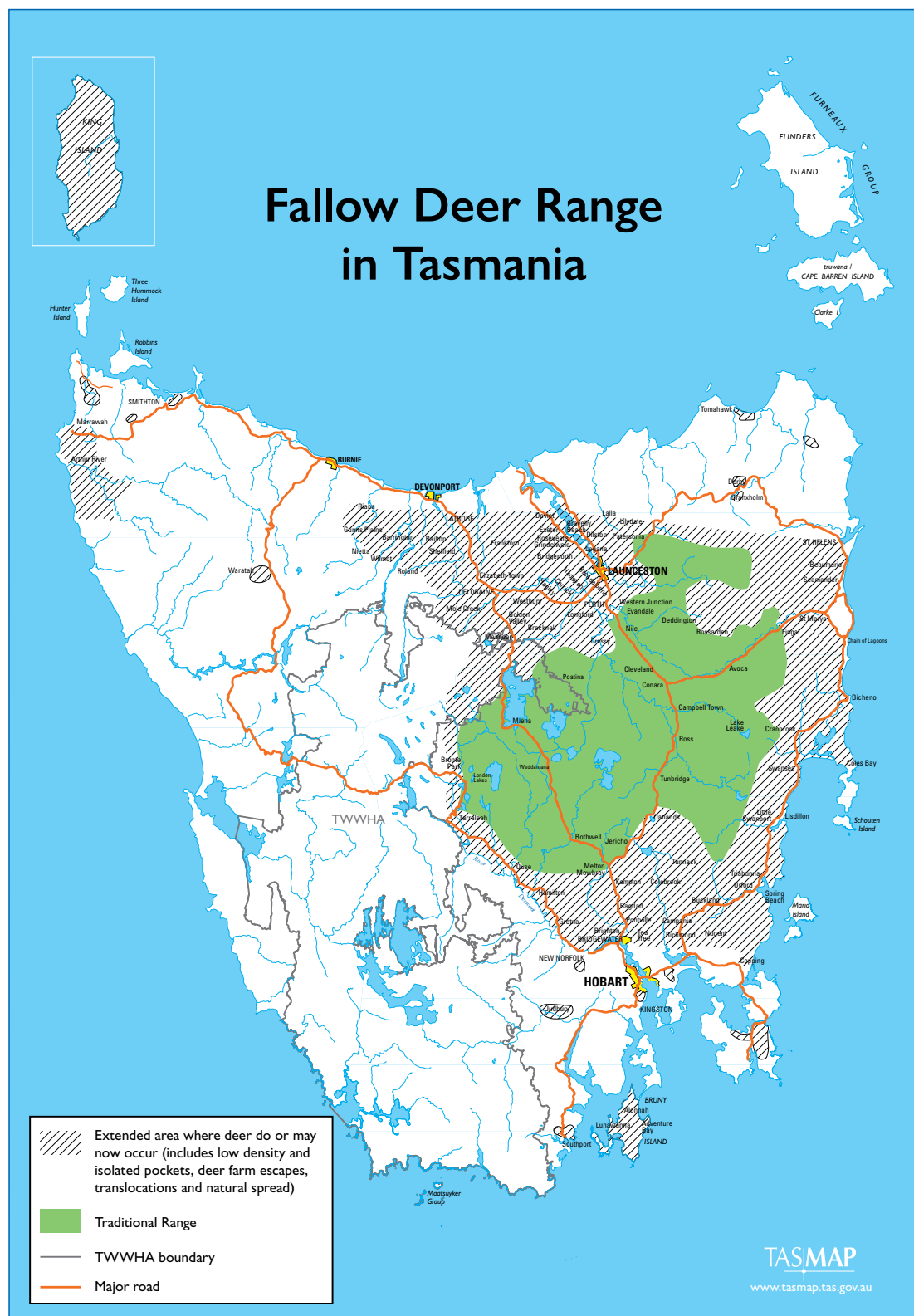


Figure 2: Known extent of wild fallow deer in Tasmania (2021)

## Population growth

Since the introduction of deer to Tasmania, numbers have increased over time. In the 1970s, the deer population was conservatively estimated at around 8,000, growing to around 16,000 to 20,000 deer in the 1990s and up to 30,000 deer in the mid-2000s.<sup>6</sup> Annual spotlight surveys carried out by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) allow an estimation of long-term population trends.

In addition, the Tasmanian Government is currently undertaking a comprehensive statewide census of wild fallow deer in the state. The initial component of this census was an aerial survey of the 'traditional deer range' and adjacent areas, conducted in 2019. The survey estimated a population size of around 54 000 in the surveyed area<sup>7</sup>, with ongoing observations and monitoring beyond this range indicating a larger total statewide population.

Based on the long-term annual spotlight surveys it is estimated that the annual population growth rate is in the order of 6.2 per cent.

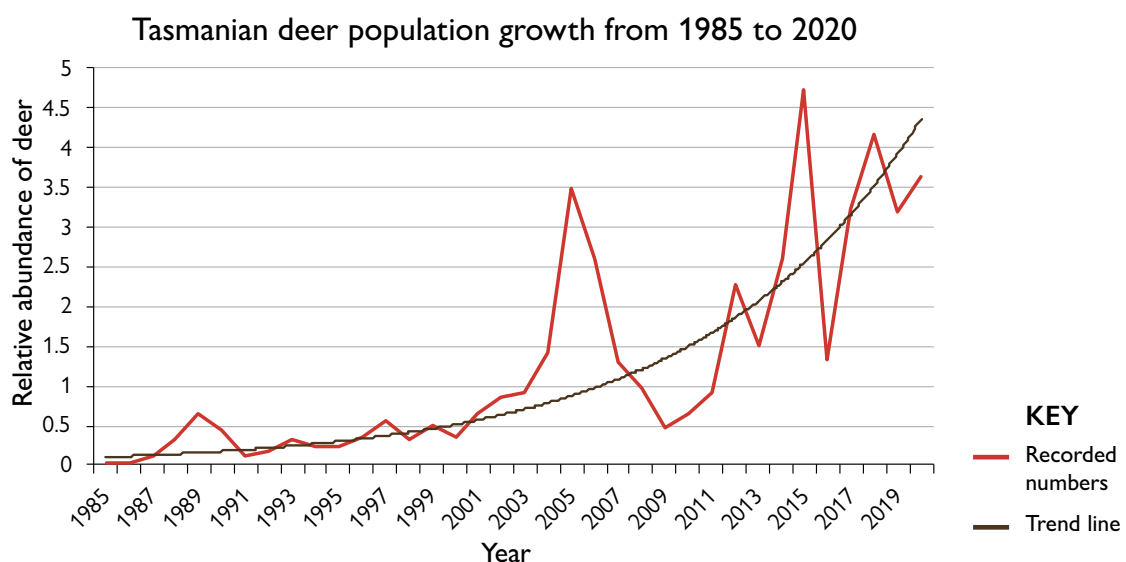


Figure 3: The relative abundance of fallow deer in Tasmania based on annual statewide spotlight surveys (average number of deer observed per 10 km transect), with trend line.

<sup>6</sup> Jenz, K. and Finley, L. (2013) *Species profile for the Fallow Deer, Dama dama*. Latitude 42 Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd. Hobart, Tasmania.

<sup>7</sup> Lethbridge, M.R., Stead, M.G., Wells C. and Shute, E.R. 2020. *Baseline aerial survey of fallow deer and forester kangaroo populations, Tasmania*. Report to Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

## Wild Fallow Deer Census

A 2017 Legislative Council inquiry into wild fallow deer found that there was “very limited information about the contemporary population density and dispersal of wild fallow deer in Tasmania”, and recommended “a regular five yearly review of the wild fallow deer population and distribution be completed for the purpose of effectively managing the population”.

In response to this, DPIPWE worked with the University of Tasmania and other stakeholders to develop appropriate survey methodologies, and commenced a census in 2019 using three methods: aerial surveying in the areas where deer are in medium to high densities; camera trapping in areas outside the aerial survey zone; and a state-wide “citizen science” project where the public participate in reporting deer sightings.<sup>8</sup>

In the aerial survey, wild fallow deer were surveyed across eastern Tasmania between 23 September and 4 October 2019. Visual and thermal imaging observations were made from a helicopter flying at 50 knots (92 kilometres per hour) 200 feet above the ground along a series of east-to-west survey lines spaced at approximately 10-kilometre intervals. Forester kangaroo were also counted as part of the same survey. An estimated 53,660 deer were reported within the sampled area, and this figure highly correlated with the distribution and abundance of deer observed in annual DPIPWE spotlight surveys.

The camera trapping component of the census commenced in 2021 with deployment at Arthurs Lake, Lake Fergus, Mayberry, King Island, Coles Bay and Bicheno. Trail cameras are being used to estimate deer abundance and geographic distribution in areas supporting low to medium abundance of the species.

The citizen science component of the census is enlisting the help of the general public, by promoting the DeerScan application as an ongoing means of reporting the location and number of deer sighted, with a particular focus on the use of this method in areas outside the survey zone and within conservation areas such as the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) and national parks.

Information from this census will inform deer management strategies across the Tasmanian Landscape.

## Deer hunting in Tasmania

Deer hunting has been a recreational activity in Tasmania since fallow deer were first introduced to the state, with approximately 6,000 fallow deer licences sold for the 2021 deer season. As well as its inherent value as a recreational pursuit, the sport attracts hunters from interstate and overseas, and provides an income stream for some landowners in the form of access fees.

Hunting is also the key means through which deer populations have been managed in Tasmania to date. Regulations and policy settings have been implemented to improve herd characteristics and numbers for hunting (such as the designation of deer as a partially protected species, the requirement for game licences, and the implementation of open seasons and quotas) while simultaneously seeking to manage the impact of deer on primary production and the environment (such as through the use of crop protection permits and Property Based Wildlife Management Plans).<sup>9</sup>

With an established population and abundant suitable habitat across the state it is now recognised that policy settings need to be updated and that a range of other tools are required to effectively manage deer at the landscape scale.

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<sup>8</sup> See <https://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/agriculture/game-services-tasmania/wild-fallow-deer-census> for an overview of the census project.

<sup>9</sup> See the Property Based Wildlife Management Plans and Quality Deer Management breakout box on page 16.

## Deer hunting regulations and policies

The principal legal mechanism for managing the Tasmanian wild fallow deer population is the *Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010* (the Regulations), made under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* (new Regulations due to be formally approved and come into effect before 1 December 2021).<sup>10</sup> The Regulations provide for the taking of wildlife, protecting crops from wildlife damage, and restricting certain types of hunting equipment. Under the Regulations, fallow deer are a “partly protected” species that may only be taken through a hunting Licence or permit issued under the regulations, such as a Crop Protection Permit (CPP) which authorises the taking of deer to prevent stock or crop damage.

The *Nature Conservation Act 2002* provides for the Minister to determine, by Ministerial Order notified in the Gazette, the opening and closing dates for open seasons on forms of Partly Protected Wildlife, including fallow deer. The Order may determine the places in which the open season may apply, as well as imposing other conditions.

Several elements of deer management relating to permit quotas, tagging and harvest restrictions based on certain biological factors are policy positions rather than legislated requirements and are implemented through conditions of permits under Regulations. For example, antlerless deer cannot be taken during their lactating period and there are restrictions on taking males during ‘the rut’.

Until 2020 deer had to be culled under a quota and individual tags were required to be attached to each culled animal to ensure compliance. Since 2020, and in recognition of the increasing challenges landholders faced managing deer, there has been no limit on the number of antlerless (any female deer, male fawns and antlerless males) deer that can be taken under a game licence or permit.

Current Government policy is that wild-shot fallow deer may not be sold for commercial purposes.

## Impacts of a growing wild fallow deer population

The growing number and wider geographic distribution of wild fallow deer in Tasmania presents challenges for the environment, agriculture and forestry as well as the general public.

The relatively recent expansion of deer into peri-urban areas increases the likelihood of human-deer interaction and poses a greater potential for property damage, injury and death via traffic accidents, illegal and unsafe use of firearms and other weapons, and damage to private and public infrastructure.

Deer browsing can have significant impacts on native ecosystem structure. Browsing by high density deer populations promotes a more open and less biodiverse understorey, leading to the conversion of forests to open grassy woodland communities.<sup>11</sup> These changes in forest structure can have a cascade of effects on other plant and animal species. These ecosystem impacts are particularly significant in those situations where deer populations may be in areas of high conservation value, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

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<sup>10</sup> See details of the new Wildlife Regulations drafting process and proposed changes in regard to deer farming <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/wildlife-regulations-review>

<sup>11</sup> Jensz, K. and Finley, L. (2013) *Species profile for the Fallow Deer, Dama dama*. Latitude 42 Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd. Hobart, Tasmania.

Wild fallow deer populations can also cause extensive browsing and physical damage to commercial agriculture and forestry. For example, deer grazing on pasture compete with livestock for forage and their impact on crops can be significant, particularly in irrigated areas. Male fallow deer cause damage to trees by thrashing them with their antlers, both when displaying during the rut in autumn, and in cleaning velvet from newly grown antlers in late summer. Protecting establishing forestry trees from deer represents a significant cost to forestry companies. In addition, deer represent a biosecurity threat as potential transmission vectors for some important diseases of domestic livestock and humans.

## Regulatory and policy reviews

The Tasmanian Government's deer regulations and policy settings are regularly evaluated to manage the impacts of deer and to ensure that they are contemporary. These settings aim to facilitate an appropriate balance between commercial, public, environmental and hunting interests in their outcomes. A 2017 Tasmanian Legislative Council inquiry into wild fallow deer provided an opportunity for a significant review of these settings, which are reflected in the current permit and license conditions.<sup>12</sup>

The Regulations under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* are currently in the final stages of review following significant community consultation.

Several important achievements have been made in recent years which are summarised in the box below.

### Summary of recent deer management changes and initiatives

- 2018:** Established a new Game Services Tasmania branch within DPIPW to better support landholders, farmers and hunters to effectively manage wild fallow deer and all issues relating to game and browsing animals.
- 2018:** Established the Tasmanian Game Council as an independent advisory body with wide skills and experience on game and browsing management.
- 2019:** Formulated a contemporary statement articulating Quality Deer Management (QDM) as the basis for managing deer as a sustainable hunting resource in areas where it is appropriate to do so.
- 2019:** Commenced a comprehensive statewide deer census, with the aerial survey component released in 2020 and the camera traps and citizen science components ongoing.
- 2019-21:** Undertook a review and rewrite of the Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010 and the Wildlife (Deer Farming) Regulations 2010 with the new Regulations due to be Gazetted in November 2021.
- 2020:** Cut red tape by introducing five-year Crop Protection Permits for antlerless deer.
- 2020:** Removed quotas and tagging requirement for antlerless deer under both recreational hunting Licenses and Crop Protection Permits.
- 2020:** Provided greater opportunity for hunters to hunt deer in conservation areas, with ten reserves now available to recreational hunters via a ballot system.

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<sup>12</sup> See the Government's full response to the Legislative Council Report on Wild Fallow Deer (<https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Government%20Response%20to%20Leg%20Co%20Report%20on%20Wild%20Fallow%20Deer.pdf>)



## Landholder and hunter collaborations

Deer hunters are inextricably linked to landowners since the majority of wild fallow deer and thus hunting resource in Tasmania occur on private land. It is therefore important that strong, respectful and mutually beneficial relationships are fostered between hunters and landholders. Tools in the form of Property Based Wildlife Management Plans (PBWMP) and Quality Deer Management (QDM) can be used to develop and formalise such relationships.

Property Based Wildlife Management Plans are a tool developed collaboratively between landholders, hunters and others such as special values and conservation professionals that clearly articulate the wildlife management plans and desired outcomes for the property.

The concept of QDM was introduced to Tasmania in 1993 and reflected the deer management practices of parts of the USA and Europe. The term describes a set of deer management principles that are typically implemented at a property level to deliver the management objectives of the landowner and the experience sought by the hunters on the property. An updated QDM statement was released by the government in 2019.<sup>13</sup>

### Property Based Wildlife Management Plans and Quality Deer Management

Property based Wildlife Management Plans (PBWMPs) are property-specific, written documents which set out tailored objectives for the management of wildlife – particularly the game species – on individual properties, including property-specific game seasons and take arrangements.

The PBWMP is a non-binding partnership arrangement between landowners and a group of hunters accessing their property. The arrangement allows recreational hunters and contract shooters to work cooperatively with the landowner to facilitate access to deer hunting in a manner which is mutually beneficial. PBWMPs are most commonly used on properties where deer hunting is a significant activity and has a long history.

A PBWMP is a voluntary agreement, which ‘belongs’ to the landowner, so the landowner may cancel the agreement at any time. Game Services Tasmania within DPIPWE provides advice to landowners seeking to develop PBWMPs, which may include:

- Wildlife species present on the property and their classification under Tasmanian legislation;
- Wildlife management options;
- Browsing damage review;
- Crop and property protection information;
- Population monitoring and data collection; and
- Model PBWMP templates.

PBWMPs may be used to deliver Quality Deer Management (QDM) outcomes. The updated QDM approach set out by the Tasmanian Government in 2019 focuses on maintaining wild fallow deer populations as a hunting resource while reducing negative production and financial impacts on agriculture and forestry for the property owner.

A key principle of QDM involves the education of landholders and hunters, since goals must be agreed and embraced by both hunters and the owners of properties on which they hunt for the approach to be successful. The QDM approach requires voluntary restraint of harvesting young male deer in order to allow young trophy-potential males to grow, whilst reducing or maintaining the overall deer population by increasing harvest of antlerless deer (i.e. females, buck fawns and button bucks).

<sup>13</sup> The Tasmanian Government's Contemporary Statement of Quality Deer Management (QDM) 2019 is available at <https://dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/management-of-wildlife/game-management/publications-and-other-resources>

# Management objectives and initiatives

The following section provides more detail on the four Management Objectives.



## **Management objective 1: Effectively manage the impacts of wild fallow deer throughout the state**

### **Introduction of deer management zones**

*Three distinct management zones will be established in Tasmania. These zones will reflect the fact that deer population management goals vary with location and context.*

A key part of a *Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan* is the establishment of three zones that will be introduced to guide deer management at the landscape level and provide options at the local level to enable key stakeholders to meet their specific objectives. These objectives may range from maintaining a sustainable trophy hunting resource on an individual property in the northern midlands, through to the intensive removal or local eradication of populations in peri-urban areas or the TWWHA. A key priority of this approach will be the prevention of new deer populations establishing in areas of Tasmania that currently do not support deer and removal of deer from areas where they occur but are not wanted.

Zone 1 encompasses those parts of the state known to many in the community as “the traditional deer range”, where deer have been established for many years (refer to Figure 1). Hunting in these areas is valued as a source of recreation for many individuals, families and hunting groups. Existing relationships between hunters, hunter groups and landholders will remain an integral component of deer management in the future for this zone.

The overall management objective for this area will be to continue to manage deer for sustainable hunting whilst providing landholders with greater flexibility in reducing the impact of deer according to their property-specific management goals through PBWMPs.

Zone 2 surrounds the traditional deer range (Zone 1) and contains areas with deer populations ranging from low density and isolated pockets of deer to locally abundant populations. Deer have spread into this area over recent decades from Zone 1, and via releases and escapes, and there are differing viewpoints in the community regarding their presence in this region.

The overall management objective in this “buffer” zone will be to manage down the population to limit impacts on primary production, the environment, and public safety, and to minimise population pressure pushing deer into the adjacent Zone 3, while simultaneously offering the possibility of property-specific management goals to be achieved through PBWMPs where there is an existing hunter group. This means that if a property has an existing hunter group and the owner wishes to continue these arrangements, they are able to continue as previously. Alternatively, if a landholder wishes to manage down the deer on their property, they are able to do so, as they see fit within the broader regulatory settings of the zone.

Zone 3 is the remaining area of the state where deer either do not yet occur, have only relatively recently arrived, or should not be allowed to establish (e.g. peri-urban areas, and areas with high natural and cultural values such as the TWWHA).

In this zone, “no deer” is the broad management objective. While recognising that deer currently occur within Zone 3, and the inherent difficulty of eradicating them, the “no deer” objective of this zone translates to eradicating new incursions and either eradicating or managing down existing satellite populations in a strategic and prioritised manner.

These zones are summarised in Figures 3 and 4.

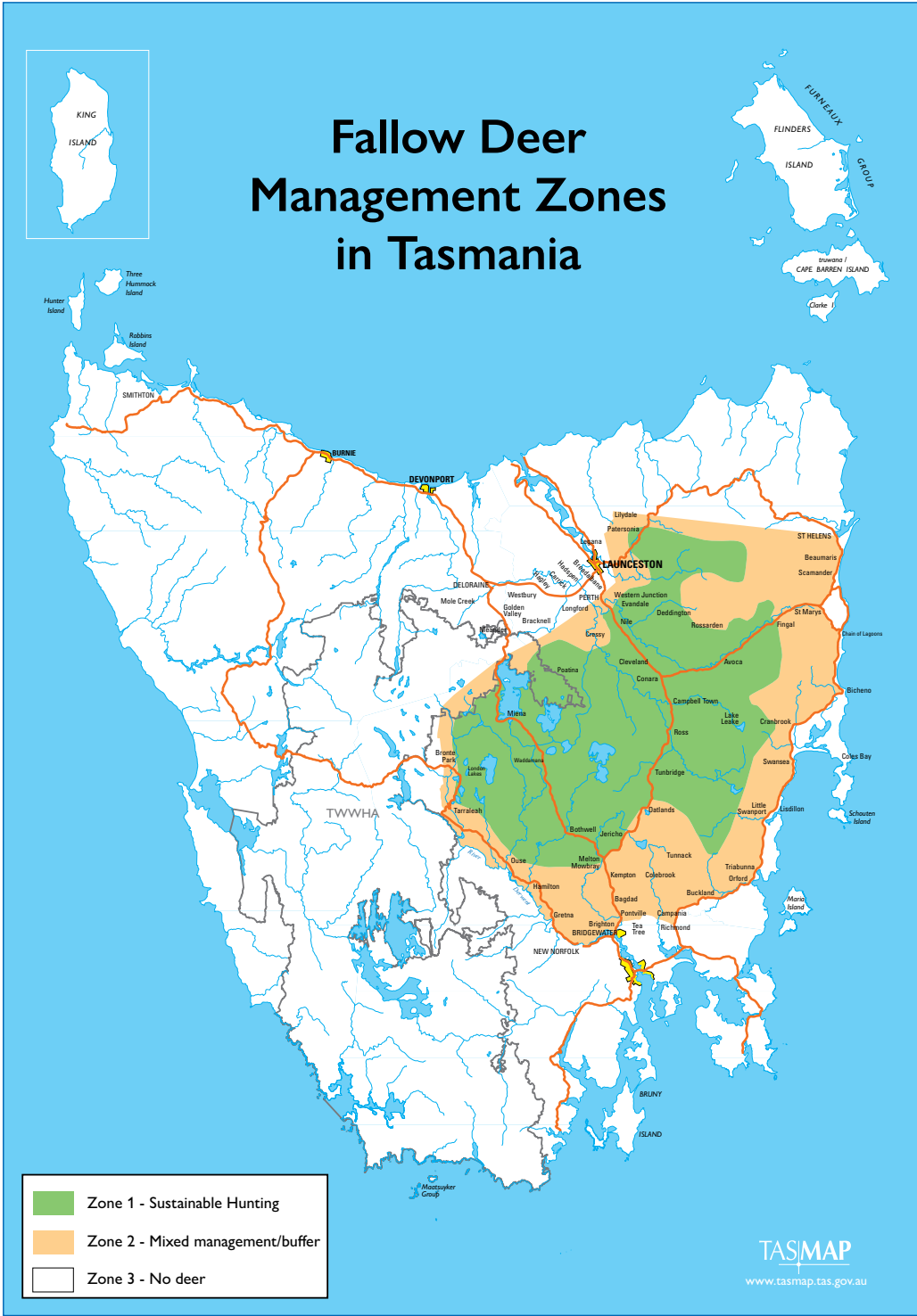
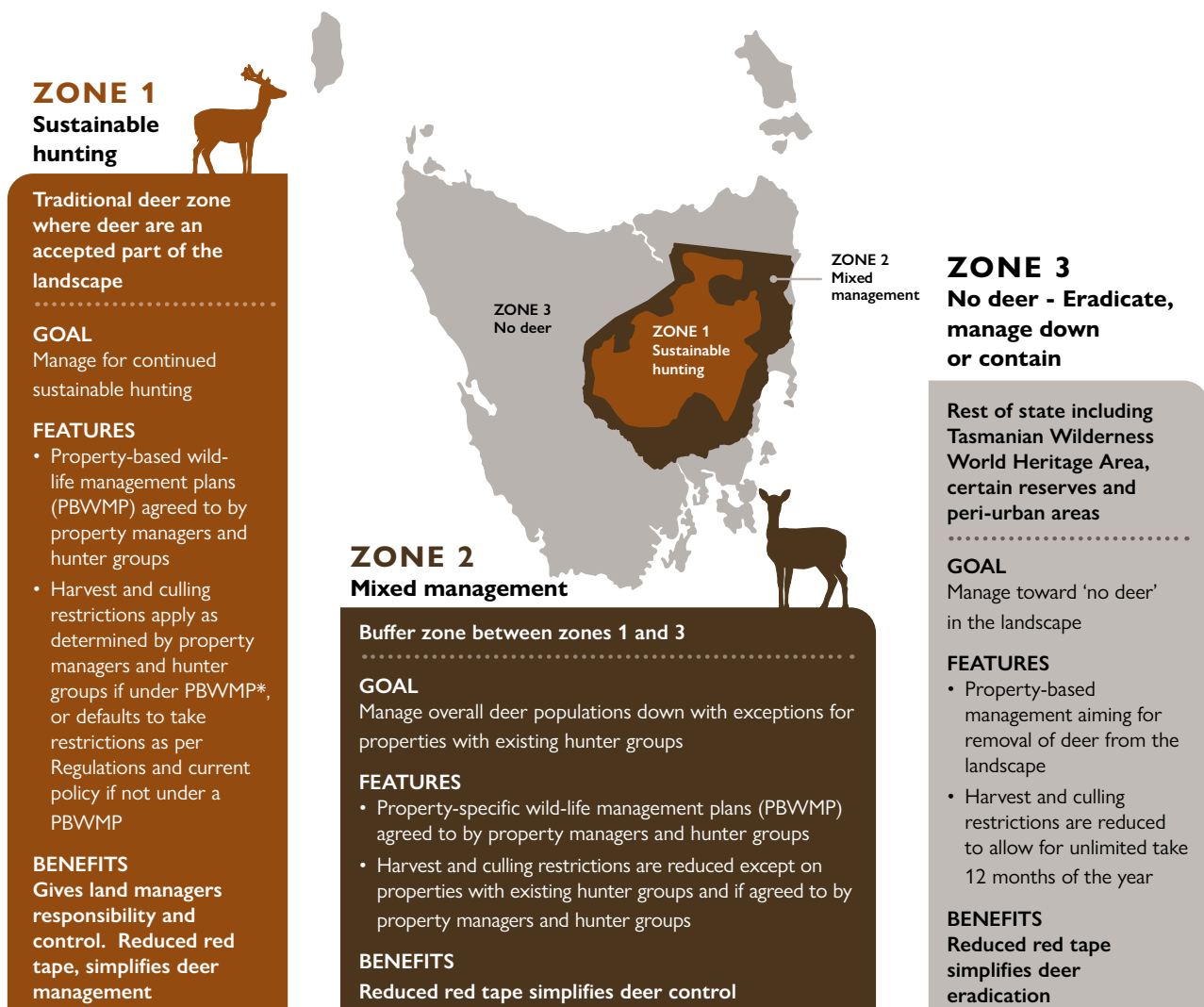


Figure 3: Wild fallow deer management zones in Tasmania

## Proposed management zones



\* Property-based Wildlife Management Plans are voluntary agreements between land managers and a group of hunters which are property-specific, written documents outlining how wildlife, and particularly the game species, will be managed on an individual property or group of properties

Figure 4: Summary of goals, features and benefits of wild fallow deer management zones in Tasmania

## Evaluating deer management tools

*Deer control methods will be evaluated and adopted in a manner that facilitates the appropriate strategy for each specific situation and desired outcome.*

The preferred options for managing deer in a given environment may change as more research is undertaken and experience in specific management settings is gained. The available tools in the “toolbox” should be as diverse as possible.

Traditionally, shooting - by landholders, recreational hunters and professional shooters operating under licences and permits - has been the main tool used to take wild fallow deer. There are several situations in which recreational hunting is not appropriate, such as deer control in peri-urban areas.<sup>14</sup> At the broader landscape level, recreational hunting is not a sufficient means of eradication or controlling the spread of deer, particularly in Zone 3 (and some parts of Zone 2) where eradication is the goal.

In some settings there is a role for contract shooters in coordinated and professional control operations when managed and monitored in such a way as to exert sustained control pressure over well-defined parts of the landscape.

A key initiative in the proposed Plan is to initiate reviews and trials of available and potential options to assess their utility as future management tools in Tasmania. This may include different methods of shooting, baiting, and any appropriate technological or chemical tools. Where appropriate Tasmania will seek opportunities to collaborate with research programs undertaken by interstate or national bodies.

Aerial (helicopter-based) operations with specialist shooters targeting deer in remote or inaccessible areas are increasingly undertaken in other Australian states and are commonly employed in New Zealand. The evolution of thermal technologies may make this option increasingly effective, and consideration will be given to this approach for Tasmania where appropriate subject to consultation.

Other non-firearm-based approaches which may be suitable in limited and localised settings include fencing, trapping, baiting with sedatives or baiting with poisons.

Feedback is also being sought during the consultation on the draft Plan to inform potential actions and priorities in the Implementation Strategy. Stakeholders are encouraged to put forward proposed actions and appropriate feedback for consideration.

## Enhanced deer farming regulation

*New deer farming regulations under the Nature Conservation Act 2002 will support farmers and minimise the risk of escapees being a source of seed stock to establish wild herds in new locations.*

The draft rewritten deer farming regulations will aim to support deer farm management and, if exiting the business, facilitate a managed process for disposing of animals. Responsible keeping of deer as a farmed animal will be enabled while minimising the risk of deer escapees creating satellite herds in the environment surrounding deer farms.

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<sup>14</sup> Deer control in peri-urban areas is undertaken by specialist deer management professionals from DPIPW.



## Management objective 2:

### **Empower farmers, foresters and other land managers to work collaboratively with hunters to achieve tailored deer management objectives**

#### **Greater flexibility for landholders through “lighter-touch” policies and PBWMPs**

*The partially protected status of deer will be retained. Greater flexibility to take deer based on sex, age or the season dependent on zone will be provided through the use of Property Based Wildlife Management Plans (PBWMPs) and light-touch regulation.*

With the introduction of management zones in Tasmania, each with different objectives, it is timely to re-evaluate several of the deer hunting exclusion policies that currently apply statewide.

In the proposed plan, the current statewide settings including take limits, tagging requirements and seasonal exclusions based on age and sex will continue to apply to landholders in Zone 1 (in line with the “sustainable hunting” goal of this zone). However, if landholders develop a PBWMP with an organised hunting group there is the option to set alternative take arrangements that permit more flexible deer control according to the property management objectives. For property owners in Zone 1 who do not have a PBWMP, but who need to be able to control deer, a one off permit with conditions similar to those that might be specified in a PBWMP may be granted for a limited time based on an assessment by the department.

In Zones 2 and 3, a “light-touch” regulatory environment is proposed, reflecting the “mixed management” and “no deer” objectives of these zones, respectively. As part of this light-touch approach, it is proposed that the current exclusions on taking stags during ‘the rut’<sup>15</sup>, and immature males (spikies) at any time be modified to facilitate deer controls.

In Zone 2, landholders who have the property management goals of promoting a sustainable hunting population to ensure the availability of trophy males may choose to enforce these exclusions on their property through a PBWMP, providing the property has an existing relationship with a hunter group.

In addition, there is currently an exclusion on antlerless deer which applies between 16 November and 14 March. This exclusion presents a significant management challenge because of the potential for crop damage during this period. It is proposed that this exclusion will be removed in Zone 3, reflecting the “no deer” objective of this region. The moratorium on antlerless deer will remain in Zone 1 unless an exemption is granted under the appropriate permit.

The current exclusion on taking antlerless deer between 16 November and 14 March exists because it is the lactating period for deer and taking a lactating female during this period may impact any dependant fawn. Ethical hunters operating in Zone 3 or under permit in Zones 1 and 2 can manage this risk by accounting for fawn dependent on does, and noting that from about three weeks of age fawn start to forage for food and become less dependent.

These proposed light-touch policies will continue to ensure basic animal welfare protections and enable monitoring and oversight of Tasmania’s deer hunting resource by Game Services Tasmania. Annual take returns under permits and game licences will still be required to provide population monitoring data that will enable effective herd management and evaluation of management strategies.

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<sup>15</sup> The stag season ends prior to the rut (the mating period which lasts several weeks in the autumn) when stags are more easily taken by hunters. This restriction does not apply in all other Australian states.

The majority of the wild fallow deer population occurs on private rural land, which landholders are usually managing with agriculture and forestry production goals taking priority. Recreational hunting is largely supported by private landholders who bear the costs and benefits associated with managing deer and hunting. The use of PBWMPs in Zones 1 and 2 will enable farmers and foresters to work together with hunters to set clear and understood deer management objectives for their individual property within the broader objectives of these zones, giving greater flexibility to manage deer and associated hunting on their land. This may include the implementation of Quality Deer Management if considered appropriate at the property level.

Under the proposed plan, new or updated PBWMPs which take into account the new management options will be lodged with Game Services Tasmania. In Zone 3 where the goal is managing down and eradication of deer, landowners will be encouraged to work with Game Services Tasmania to achieve this outcome.

Table 1 provides an overview of how the proposed light-touch policies (which involve the removal of exclusions) will apply in each of the different zones throughout the state.

*Table 1: Summary of how the proposed system of light-touch policies would apply in the proposed zones. In summary, the light-touch policies apply throughout Zone 3. They also apply throughout Zone 2 unless specified under an existing PBWMP. In Zone 1, the current statewide regulations apply, unless a property owner implements a PBWMP which addresses these specific default settings. In Zones 1 and 2, the antlerless deer exclusion during fawning season applies unless exempted under the appropriate permit.*

Game Licence Regulations	Current statewide	Proposed Zone 1	Proposed Zone 2	Proposed Zone 3
Period when stags can be taken	29 Feb to 5 April	29 Feb to 5 April, unless specified in PBWMP	Year-round unless specified under existing PBWMP	Year-round
Stag bag limit	One	One, unless specified in PBWMP	No limit unless specified under existing PBWMP	No limit
Stag exclusion during the rut	Yes	Yes, unless specified in PBWMP	No exclusion unless specified under existing PBWMP	No exclusion
Stag tagging requirement	Yes	Yes, unless specified in PBWMP	Not required unless specified under existing PBWMP	Not required
Period when antlerless deer can be taken	15 Mar to 15 Nov	15 Mar to 15 Nov, unless specified in PBWMP	Year-round unless specified under existing PBWMP	Year-round
Antlerless deer bag limit	No limit since 2020	No limit, unless specified in PBWMP	No limit unless specified under existing PBWMP	No limit
Antlerless deer exclusion during fawning season	Yes	Yes, unless exempted under the appropriate permit	Yes, unless exempted under the appropriate permit	No exclusion
Spikie exclusion	Yes	Yes, unless specified in PBWMP	No exclusion unless specified under existing PBWMP	No exclusion
Antlerless deer tagging requirement	Not required since 2020	Not required unless specified in PBWMP	Not required unless specified under existing PBWMP	Not required
Annual take returns required	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



### Management objective 3:

#### Continue to provide evidence-based deer management

##### Wildlife population monitoring

*Targeted wildlife population monitoring will be undertaken to help refine deer and browsing animal management over time. Annual take returns will be maintained to complement population monitoring.*

A key objective of the Plan is that all control techniques and management strategies are informed by scientifically rigorous data. Consequently, the wild fallow deer herd will be monitored to estimate abundance and geographic distribution.

Spotlight surveys undertaken by DPIPW, together with the major wild fallow deer census (comprising aerial survey, citizen science and camera trapping components), represent important sources of baseline data which may be used as a reference point for deer management in Tasmania.<sup>16</sup>

Further work is underway to correlate results of the aerial survey with data from spotlight surveys, with the goal of developing an efficient methodology for the ongoing targeted monitoring of populations using spotlight surveys, combined with the continued routine use of citizen science (using DeerScan) and ongoing rollout of camera traps. The next aerial survey will be conducted in 2023.

This monitoring will provide essential data for developing and prioritising deer control strategies; making accurate risk assessments; targeting strategic areas; and for evaluating the effectiveness of measures to manage down populations relative to baseline levels, particularly in areas that are subject to commercial, environmental and public impacts.

##### Improved understanding of biosecurity

*Research will be conducted to improve our understanding of deer biosecurity issues.*

A greater understanding of the potential biosecurity impact of deer populations is needed in order to help prioritise management strategies. As deer are potential transmission vectors for some important diseases of domestic livestock as well as those of cultivated plants, more research is required to better understand the relationship between the wild deer herds and transmission of plant and animal diseases and seeds.

Knowledge gained through the monitoring approaches listed above will help to prioritise control methods based on biosecurity risks.

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<sup>16</sup> See breakout box on page 13.





#### **Management objective 4:**

#### **Improve community involvement, education and awareness of deer management**

##### **Control of peri-urban deer**

*Partnerships and collaborative approaches will be developed to reduce deer abundance in peri-urban and conservation areas.*

Deer in peri-urban areas pose significant risks to public safety due to the potential for property damage, injury and death from vehicle collisions, collision avoidance, illegal and unsafe firearms use (from poaching activity) as well as causing damage to private and public infrastructure.

Deer can flourish in peri-urban environments and once they are established in these areas, they are very difficult and expensive to control. High densities of deer result in a higher likelihood of negative interactions occurring between deer and people, particularly with stags during the rut.

Outlying and peri-urban populations of wild fallow deer are undesirable and will need to be managed through prioritised, coordinated eradication and containment programs as a management priority.

##### **Community engagement and education**

*Community and local government will be informed of, and engaged as collaborating partners with, the deer management strategies outlined in this management Draft plan.*

The management of deer in Tasmania is a 'whole of community' issue with the attendant complexity and often competing and conflicting interests.

The Tasmanian Government will provide strategic leadership and partner with land managers, hunters, deer farmers and other key stakeholders, to help ensure deer management outcomes balance a broad range of community needs and interests and that the benefits and risks associated with deer management are accepted and understood by the general community.

Effective management of deer requires cooperative partnerships and community engagement. Education and awareness campaigns will be developed to educate the community, including local government, to recognise that deer are an issue which require active management.

A community education and engagement strategy will be developed and implemented under the proposed Plan to facilitate partnerships between state and local government, Natural Resource Management regional organisations, government agencies, research organisations, land managers and key stakeholders to achieve the objectives of this management plan. This will be particularly important for managing satellite and peri-urban populations and preventing new populations.

##### **Refocussed regulatory enforcement**

*Deer hunting regulation and compliance activity will be delivered through partnerships to avoid anti-social or unsafe behaviour.*

Effective regulatory enforcement places competing demands on limited resources. Anti-social and unsafe behaviour of poachers illegally entering properties or shooting from roads remains an issue in many areas where deer occur. Given the public safety issues, partnerships and collaboration will be strengthened to support enforcement activities with a focus on anti-social and unsafe behaviours.

# Acknowledgements

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment would like to acknowledge the many individuals and groups who contributed to the development of this Draft Plan through the forums and individual submissions.

## Acronyms and glossary

**Antlerless deer** – any deer without antlers, but generally used to refer to female deer, and young male deer until they grow their first set of unbranched antlers. Mature male deer briefly become antlerless when they drop their antlers each year before they grow their new set (typically from mid-September to mid-November).

**Buck (also stag)** – mature male deer.

**Deer range / traditional range** – area of central and eastern Tasmania where deer have been present prior to 1980s.

**Doe** – female deer.

**DPIPWE** – Tasmanian Government Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

**Fawn** – young deer in its first year.

**GST** – Game Services Tasmania. The branch within DPIPWE with responsibility for supporting landholders, farmers and hunters to effectively manage deer and all issues relating to game and browsing animals in Tasmania. The Branch also provides Executive Officer support to the Tasmanian Game Council.

**Peri-urban** – area immediately adjacent to a city or urban area.

**Satellite herds** – wild deer herds which have resulted from accidental or illegal releases of deer in locations outside the traditional deer range (where no wild deer have previously occurred).

**Spikie (spike buck)** – young male deer with its first set of unbranched antlers.

**Stag (also buck)** – mature male deer.

**TGC** – Tasmanian Game Council. The TGC is an independent peak industry advisory body on game and browsing animal management in Tasmania.

**TWWHA** – Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

# Appendix 1:

## The Biology of Wild Fallow Deer

Fallow deer are understood to have evolved in the Mediterranean region of Europe, the Middle East and Asia Minor and have dispersed extensively from this natural range. Fallow deer are the most widely distributed species of deer in Australia, occurring in all States and Territories, apart from the Northern Territory (Moriarty, 2004). Wild herds also occur in the United States, Canada, Europe, United Kingdom, the West Indies, South America, South Africa, Madagascar, New Zealand and Fiji (Jensz and Finley, 2013) in a wide variety of habitats including temperate forest, woodland and grassland (Chapman and Chapman, 1997). A significant proportion of Tasmania provides potential habitat for the species (Potts et al., 2015).

Fallow deer are grazing ruminants and prefer a mosaic pattern of open areas for feeding interspersed with scrub, forest or woodland for cover (Chapman and Chapman, 1997). They prefer sweet, soft grasses and generally avoid coarser species. Although the proportion of introduced grass species consumed compared to native vegetation will vary depending on habitat (Locke, 2007), introduced agricultural pasture and crop species are actively sought out and preferentially grazed by deer. The diet of fallow deer is mostly obtained through grazing herbaceous plants, but it may also include browsed material such as new shoots, soft bark, seed heads, flowers, mosses, fungi, lichen and leaves.

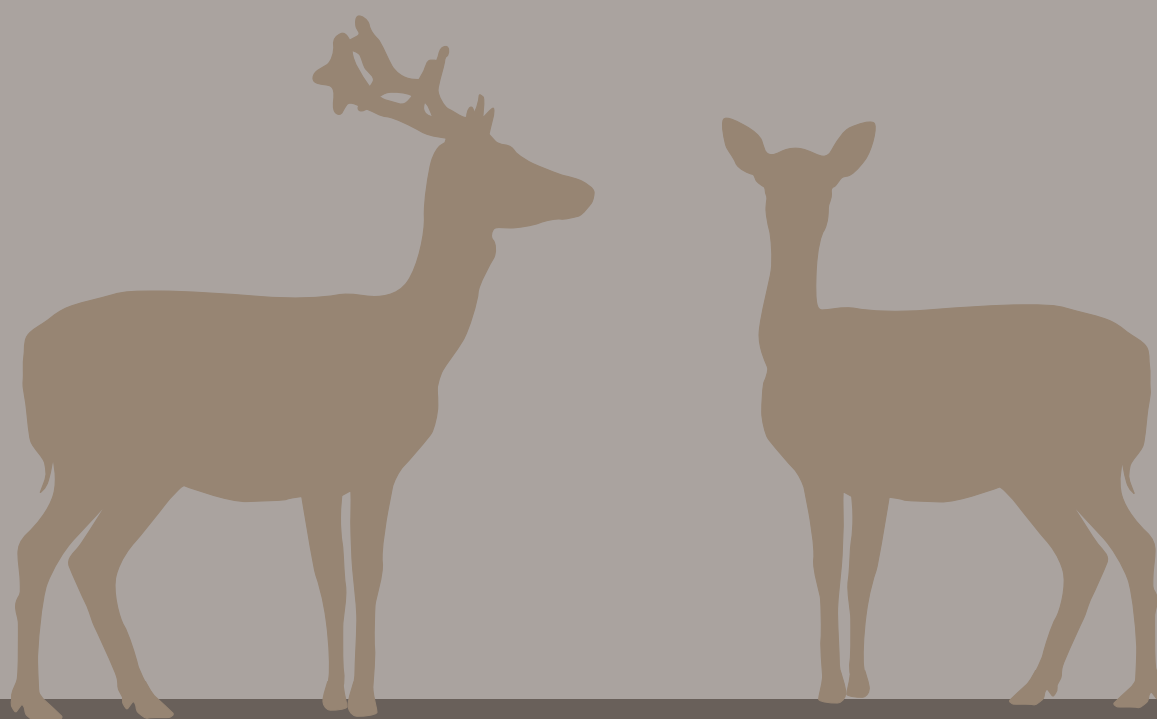
Fallow deer are gregarious, forming groups that vary in size seasonally and geographically. Females and their current offspring and sub-adult yearlings form groups known as doe herds while the mature males form bachelor groups. For a considerable part of the year the doe herds live separately from the bachelor groups with the two groups coming together for the autumn rut. Fallow deer, however, display considerable adaptability and behaviour can vary from place to place and seasonally (Chapman and Chapman, 1997; Locke, 2007). Similarly, while fallow deer are commonly observed to display a crepuscular pattern of grazing (i.e. grazing mainly during the twilight), diurnal and nocturnal behaviour has also been described, with the variability in behaviour occurring in populations and in response to environmental conditions.

Fallow deer have an annual breeding season. The period when fallow deer are fertile and able to conceive is longer than the period of heightened sexual activity known as the rut, which occurs during April in Tasmania. Males hold 'rutting stands' to defend groups of females. The males spend most of their time establishing their territory (rut stand) by pawing the ground to create scrapes where they may urinate, thrashing understory vegetation with their antlers, and by producing low-pitched groans and grunts. At the onset of the rut, since deer are polygynous, the females also appear at the rut stand. If sufficient males are available, females usually conceive during the first cycle during the rut. Gestation is  $230 \pm 4$  days and most births in Tasmania occur during December/January (Griffiths and Campbell, 1993). Usually a single fawn is produced.

Mature female fallow deer usually have a single home range smaller than that of mature males and tend to favour areas providing feed and cover. Male fallow deer have at least two seasonal home ranges; one during the rut when they join with the female groups and one for the remainder of the season when they form bachelor groups. Herds of deer of over one hundred are observed in Tasmania. In Tasmania, Statham and Statham (1996) found that fallow deer had home ranges of 870 hectares for males and 590 hectares for females.

## References

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BLI1882

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# Draft Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan

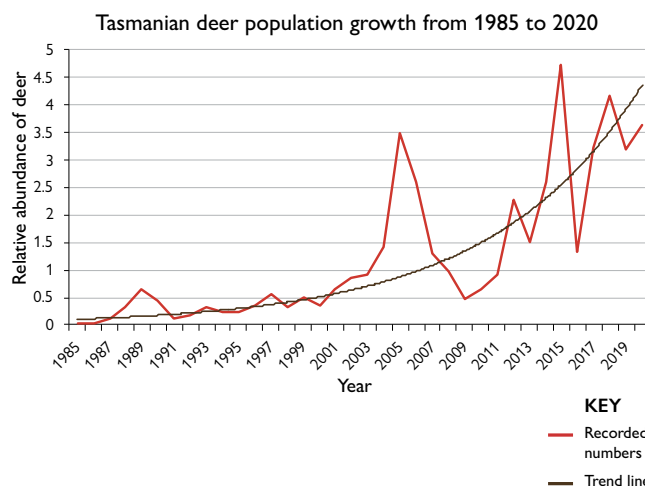
## SUMMARY

### Our current situation

A number of important deer management achievements have been delivered over the past few years. The development of a five-year wild fallow deer management plan will set the strategic management intent for the next five years.

The Plan builds on recent actions that modernise deer management including removing quotas and tags for antlerless deer, extending the hunting season and introducing five year crop protection permits.

It also recognises the ongoing work undertaken by the Department in managing the impact of deer in peri-urban and other settings.



1985 - 2020 shows a **population increase of 6.2% per annum.**

.....  
*This graph shows that the deer population in Tasmania is increasing.*

### Proposed management zones

#### ZONE 1 Sustainable hunting



Traditional deer zone where deer are an accepted part of the landscape

##### GOAL

Manage for continued sustainable hunting

##### FEATURES

- Property-based wild-life management plans (PBWMP) agreed to by property managers and hunter groups
- Harvest and culling restrictions apply as determined by property managers and hunter groups if under PBWMP\*, or defaults to take restrictions as per Regulations and current policy if not under a PBWMP

##### BENEFITS

**Gives land managers responsibility and control. Reduced red tape, simplifies deer management**

#### ZONE 2 Mixed management

Buffer zone between zones 1 and 3

##### GOAL

Manage overall deer populations down with exceptions for properties with existing hunter groups

##### FEATURES

- Property-based wild-life management plans (PBWMP) agreed to by property managers and hunter groups
- Harvest and culling restrictions are reduced except on properties with existing hunter groups and if agreed to by property managers and hunter groups

##### BENEFITS

**Reduced red tape simplifies deer control**

#### ZONE 3 No deer - Eradicate, manage down or contain

Rest of state including Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, certain reserves and peri-urban areas

##### GOAL

Manage toward 'no deer' in the landscape

##### FEATURES

- Property-specific management aiming for removal of deer from the landscape
- Harvest and culling restrictions are reduced to allow for unlimited take 12 months of the year

##### BENEFITS

**Reduced red tape simplifies deer eradication**

\* Property-based Wildlife Management Plans are voluntary agreements between land managers and a group of hunters which are property-specific, written documents outlining how wildlife, and particularly the game species, will be managed on an individual property or group of properties

## Overview

### SOCIAL GOALS

- Provide increased options to farmers and land managers to effectively control the impacts of deer on their activities
- Continue to provide for responsible recreational deer hunting as a legitimate and valued activity in Tasmania
- Reduce public safety risks from deer
- Reduce the risks to the natural and cultural values of Tasmania's conservation reserve estate and other public and private lands
- Protect Tasmania's biosecurity by reducing the risks of deer as a potential disease vector.

### DEER POPULATION GOALS

- Avoid further potential spread of deer
- Reduce the abundance and geographic range of deer with a particular focus on areas outside the traditional range
- Support property-level management to provide for sustainable hunting in selected zones.



#### Management objective 1:

##### Effectively manage the impacts of wild fallow deer throughout the state

- Introduction of deer management zones
- Evaluating deer management tools
- Proposed enhanced deer farming regulation



#### Management objective 2:

##### Empower farmers, foresters and other land managers to work collaboratively with hunters to achieve tailored deer management objectives

- Greater flexibility for landholders through "lighter-touch" policies and PBWMPs



#### Management objective 3:

##### Continue to provide evidence-based deer management

- Population monitoring
- Improved understanding of biosecurity



#### Management objective 4:

##### Improve community involvement, education and awareness of deer management

- Control of peri-urban deer



## Hamilton District Agricultural Society

Po Box 41, Hamilton, 7140

[www.hamiltonshowtasmania.com.au](http://www.hamiltonshowtasmania.com.au)

**Email:** hamiltonagshow@hotmail.com

**President:** Mr Will Chapman

"Brandon" Ellendale Rd, Ouse, 7140

Phone: 0414 071 565

**Secretary:** Mrs Ann Jones

"Willowdene" 5540 Lyell Highway, Hamilton 7140

Phone: 6286 3259

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Mrs Lyn Eyles  
General Manager – Central Highlands Council  
Tarleton St  
Hamilton 7140

9 November 2021

Dear Mrs Eyles,

On behalf of the Hamilton Show Committee, I would like to ask for Council's permission to operate a clay target shooting range at the 2022 Hamilton Show on Saturday 5th March 2021. The range will be operated by Derwent Valley Field and Game (President Ray Williams – Ph 6261 3444) on the day as they have all the requirements such as loan firearms, safety cages, signs etc).

The range has operated successfully for several years now, and I believe it provides a great experience for show patrons.

If you would like further information please give me a call.

Yours Sincerely,

Charles Downie





## CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

Please ensure you have read and understand the Program Guidelines prior to completing this form. Please enclose your group/club's current financial statement.

### 1. APPLICATION & ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name of Project: *OCCC Kid's Christmas Party 12 DEC 2021*

Amount of Grant Requested: *\$1,000*

Estimated Total Project Cost: *\$3,700 + in-kind support*

Applicant Organisation: *Ouse Community Country Club*

Contact Person's Name: *Brian Burgess*

#### Contact Details

Address: *7 Hampshire Rd, Sandy Bay TAS 7005*

Phone: (Business hours) *0429 021 031*

Mobile: *0429 021 031*

Fax: *n/a*

Email: *brianjburgess1@gmail.com*

Signature *[Handwritten Signature]*

Name *Brian Burgess*

Position in Organisation *Treasurer*

Date *02/11/2021*

#### What is the overall aim/purpose of the applying organisation?

*OCCC aims to provide the local community with the opportunity to participate in sporting activities along with the opportunity for the community to come together socially at the Club and hosting*

#### What is the membership of the organisation? *family friendly events.*

President *Garrath Johnston*

Secretary *Pamela Ivanics*

Treasurer *Brian Burgess*

Public Officer/s *Daniel Geiger*

## 2. ELIGIBILITY (see Community Grant Program Guidelines)

Is the organisation:

- ☒ Representative of the interests of the Central Highlands Community
- ☒ Incorporated
- ☒ Not for Profit
- ☐ Unincorporated
- ☐ A Hall Committee

OR

- ☐ An individual community member

Have you previously received funding from the Central Highlands Council? (Please attached additional pages if required)

Yes.

If yes;

Name of Project: Review of Council Rates

Date Grant received: October 2021

Amount of Grant: \$823-61 off Rates.

## 3. PROJECT DETAILS

Project Start Date: July 2021

Project Completion Date: 12 December 2021

Project Objectives:

- provide a community celebration event at little/no cost to community members/families
- promote physical activity in the local community
- involve existing OCCC volunteers and promote volunteering in the local community
- promote OCCC as a potential social hub for community members/families.

## 4. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

What level of community support is there for this project?

OCCC already has a number of volunteer members passionate about their local community.

It is anticipated that this project may encourage more community members to actively participate in/engage with OCCC.

**Does the project involve the community in the delivery of the project?**

OCCC is predominantly made up of local community members passionate about "doing" for their local community.

**How will the project benefit the community or provide a community resource?**

This event has been/will continue to be promoted via a number of local avenues. It is expected that between 150-200 community members, including children, will attend.

## **5. COUNCIL SUPPORT**

**Are you requesting other Council support? E.g. parks, halls, telephones, fax, photocopying, computers, office accommodation, cleaning facilities, street closure.**

**If yes, please give details.**

n/a

**Are you requesting participation by Councillors or Council Staff?**  
**If yes, please give details.**

n/a  
Councillors and Council Staff will be welcomed if attending. Some will be there.

**If your application is successful, how do you plan to acknowledge Council's contribution?**

OCCC will acknowledge Council contribution via acknowledgement on all promotional material and public displays eg. statement of acknowledgement and council logo, if permitted. Of course, verbally on the day of the event also.

## **6. FUTURE APPLICATIONS AND THE SUCCESS THIS PROJECT**

**Do you anticipate the organisation will apply for funding in future years?**

Yes. As and if future OCCC projects identify a need for additional funding other than that OCCC is able to provide.



**How will you monitor/evaluate the success of this project?**

- number of community members at this event
- 5x testimonials of community members in attendance.
- 3 months of data collection from the date of the event eg. attendance at the Club, participation in Golf/Bowls events etc.

## 7. PROJECT BUDGET

Note: Amount from Council must not exceed half the project cost

**Please provide a breakdown of the project expenditure and income:**

Expenditure	Amount \$	Income	Amount \$
<b>Capital</b>		<b>Guarantee</b>	
Refurbishment		Government Grants	
Equipment		Trust/Foundations	
Premises		Donations from Business	
Vehicles		Special Funding	
Other:		Gifts in Kind	
CCCC Kids Christmas Party.	\$5,750	volunteer hours @ \$25/hour 8 vol's @ 6 hrs	\$1,050.
Other:		Other:	
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$5,750	Other	
		<b>Subtotal</b>	\$1,050.
<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Anticipated</b>	
Salaries (including super)		Government Grants	
Short-term contract fees		Central Highlands Grant	\$1,000.
Running costs		Trust/Foundations	
Production of information PR materials		Donations from Businesses	
Training staff/volunteers		Special Fundraising	\$3,700 (CCCC fund-raising)
Travel		Gifts in kind (details)	
Rent		Cash Reserves	
Reference materials		Other:	
Other:			
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$5,750	<b>Subtotal</b>	\$4,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$5,750	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$5,750