

AGENDA ATTACHMENTS

21 NOVEMBER 2023

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

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**Tridigital Solutions**

Honeywood 7017
Australia
ABN 52624819392

ESTIMATE

EST-010254

Bill To
Central Highlands Council

Estimate Date : 27 Sep 2023

Expiry Date : 30 Nov 2023

#	Item & Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
1	3 x Cameras for the Gretna Rec ground to provide coverage of the BBQ area and traffic in and out of the cricket ground. All cameras to be mounted on the exterior of the fire station as indicated in picture forwarded to Adam and Kim.	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	HIK-7608NI-I2-8P HIK-7608NI-I2-8P Hikvision 8 channel CCTV recorder. 3TB of storage Will hold many weeks worth of footage for 3 cameras.	1.00 1	805.00	805.00
3	HIK-6MP Acusense HIK-2CD2366G2-I2 Hikvision 6MP Outdoor AcuSense Gen 2 Turret Camera, H.265, WDR, 30m IR, IP67, 2.8mm	2.00 1	245.00	490.00
4	HIK-2CD2H662TIZS zoom lens. Hikvision 6MP Outdoor AcuSense Gen 2 Motorised VF Turret Camera, IR, IP67, IK10, 2.8-12	1.00	358.00	358.00
5	Cable allowance, Cat6 network cable.	1.00	100.00	100.00
6	Roof mount for camera including bracket	1.00	150.00	150.00
7	Labour - Basic Normal hourly rate including travel.	6.00 1	130.00	780.00
			Sub Total	2,683.00
			GST (10%)	268.30
			Total	\$2,951.30

Notes

Looking forward for your business.

Terms & Conditions

Payment for all hardware required upfront, labour NET 7 days.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL



NOTICE OF MOTION

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

Date of Meeting:	Nov 21 Council meeting
Councillor Name:	Jim Allwright
Proposed Motion:	(quote) Council donate \$2,700 to TFS, subject to their approval, to purchase security camera's for monitoring council property in the vicinity of the Gretna Fire shed, BBQ, Toilets & cricket oval
Background Details:	recent As a result of hoarding has resulted in damage to the Gretna Fire shed Service raining surface & damage to recently planted trees.
Signature:	
Date:	13/11/23



Central Highlands Council

MINUTES – ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 October 2023

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Highlands Council held in the **Bothwell Town Hall, Bothwell** on **Tuesday 17 October 2023**, commencing at **9.00am**.

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1. OPENING

2. AUDIO RECORDING DISCLAIMER

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

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

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

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

4. PRESENT

Mayor L Triffitt; Deputy Mayor J Allwright; Cr A Archer (9.03am), Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; and Cr D Meacheam.

4.1 WELCOME TO CR ANTHONY ARCHER

5. IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Kim Hossack (General Manager); Mr Adam Wilson (Deputy General Manager); and Mrs Janet Monks (Minute Secretary).

6. APOLOGIES

Cr Y Miller

7. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

8. PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATIONS

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

Nil

Cr Archer attended the Meeting at 9.04am.

9. PERCEIVED INTEREST DECLARATIONS

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

PART 2 – Conflict of Interest that are not Pecuniary

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

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

Nil

10. CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING

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

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

RESOLUTION 01/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

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

Item Number	Matter	Outcome
1	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 September 2023.	Regulation 15 (2)(G) of the <i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015</i> – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.
2	Deputations	Regulation 15 (2)(C) of the <i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015</i> – Commercial information of a confidential nature.
3.1	Rates Exemption Request – Wildlife Reserve Pty Ltd as Trustee for the Wildlife Bank Trust	Regulation 15 (2)(C) of the <i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015</i> – Commercial information of a confidential nature.

4	<i>Supplementary Agenda Items</i>	<i>Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.</i>
5	<i>Other Business</i>	<i>Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.</i>
6	<i>Consideration of Matters for Disclosure to the Public.</i>	<i>Regulation 15 (8) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - 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.</i>

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

MEETING CLOSED to the public at **9.05am**.

11. MOTION OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 05/10.2023/CC

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr J Hall

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	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 September 2023.</i>	<i>THAT</i> the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 September 2023 be confirmed.
2	<i>Deputations</i>	<i>Nil</i>
3.1	RATES EXEMPTION REQUEST – WILDLIFE RESERVE PTY LTD as Trustee for the WILDLIFE BANK TRUST	<i>THAT</i> Council approve the exemption of general rate component, for the property PID 5005679, for the 2023/2024 financial year whilst the legal owner is a registered charitable organisation. The legal owner will need to apply annually for any ongoing exemption.

4	<i>Supplementary Agenda Item/s</i>	<i>Nil</i>
5	<i>Other Business</i>	

CARRIED**For the Motion**

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

12. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting re-opened to the public at **10.20am**. The Mayor again advises, to the meeting and members of the public that Council Meetings, not including Closed Sessions, are audio recorded and published on Council's Website.

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

Jason Branch, Manager Works and Services attended the meeting at 10.21am.

13. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

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

1. Once Question Time commences the Chairman will determine the order in which questions are heard.
2. Questions may relate to any business of the Council capable of being discussed in the open portion of the meeting, and which is not listed as an item for consideration on the Agenda for the Council Meeting.
3. Members of the public proposing a question are required to be present at the Council Meeting at which their question is to be read. Where a person submits a question for Public Question Time but fails to attend the meeting, the question will be treated as general correspondence and a written response will be provided at the earliest opportunity.
4. A person asking a question, when called upon by the Chairman is requested to:
 - Stand,
 - State their name and address,
 - Read out their question.

5. The Chairman retains the right to accept or decline questions and to determine if the question is to be answered at the meeting by the appropriate Councillor or employee or written down and taken on notice. The decision to take the question on notice may also be taken by the Councillor or employee to whom the question is directed. Questions taken on notice will be answered at a later meeting.
6. The Chairman may rule a question inappropriate, and thus inadmissible if in his or her opinion it has already been asked, is unclear, irrelevant, insulting, improper or relates to any matter which would normally be discussed in the closed portion of the meeting as defined in the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.
7. Public Question Time forum will be limited to a maximum of 15 minutes in duration and will be declared closed following the expiration of the allocated time period, or where all valid questions have been dealt with, whichever is the sooner.
8. Each question is to be asked by the proponent who will be allowed a maximum of three minutes in which to put the question.
9. The Chairman will **not allow** any discussion or debate on either the question or the response.
10. Where a person proposes more than one question at any one forum, and there are a number of persons wishing to lodge questions, the Chairman may take the questions in such order so as to hear as many members of the public as practical during the time allocated.
11. The minutes of the Council Meeting will contain a summary of each question asked by members of the public and the response given.
12. Public Statements (as opposed to questions) **will not** be accepted for the reason that statements could be considered a form of participation.

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

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

Eve Lazarus (Co Executive Officer), The Derwent Catchment Project (10.21am- 10.35am)

Eve discussed the possibility of grants being made available in the coming months by the Australian Government for projects that improve river water quality. The purpose of her attendance was to alert Council to this opportunity, and she will keep Council informed of any developments. She also pointed out that in most cases these grants required a dollar of dollar contribution from the body applying for these large restoration grants. Several possibly partners were identified including Clyde River Trust, local farmers, Hydro Tas and TasWater which all could contribute to such a project as well as Council.

Graham Rogers, Manager Development and Environmental Services attended the meeting at 10.32am.

15. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

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

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

15.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY – ANTI-LITTERING LEVY

A Notice of Motion has been received from **Cr R Cassidy** on **9 October 2023**, for inclusion on this Agenda and provides the following supporting information and reasons for this motion: -

The State's Littering Hotline is ineffective, based on my experience. Our Municipality is dependent upon tourism. The more attractive the visitor experience, we make our Municipality the better. There should be consequences for this inconsiderate behaviour.

The following motion has been proposed –

RESOLUTION 02/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr J Honner

THAT Council consider an Anti-Littering Levy or Infringement as a deterrent to littering and dumping in the bush or alongside roads within Central Highlands.

LOST 6/2

For the Motion

Cr R Cassidy and Cr J Honner

Against the Motion

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

COUNCIL RESOLVED THAT the General Manager write to the State Government requesting 'the no littering' TV advertisements be reinstated.

15.2 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY – BOTHWELL RECREATION GROUNDS GATES

A Notice of Motion has been received from **Cr R Cassidy** on **9 October 2023**, for inclusion on this Agenda and provides the following supporting information and reasons for this motion: -

Recently, very close to midnight, a vehicle entered the Recreation Grounds with their lights off – there was no other activity or visitors/users`. What was the driver's business there? We have read in other Municipalities hooning and burn-outs on their ovals eg. Boyer Oval. We should mitigate the risk.

It can be argued that access to the playground equipment would be restricted but there is new playground equipment now in Queens Park.

The following motion has been proposed –

RESOLUTION 03/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council consider locking the main gates to the Bothwell Recreation Grounds, between midnight and 8.00am.

LAPSED

16. COMMITMENTS

16.1 MAYORAL COMMITMENTS

15 September 2023 to 10 October 2023

18 September 2023	Tasmanian Electoral Commission
19 September 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton
22 September 2023	Tasmanian Electoral Commission
29 September 2023	Police Remembrance Day – Rokeby
02 October 2023	Tasmanian Electoral Commission
04 October 2023	Legacy Torch Relay – Ouse
10 October 2023	Planning Committee Meeting - Bothwell
10 October 2023	Council Workshop – Bothwell

- Business of Council **x 14**
- Ratepayer and community members - communications **x 12**
- Elected Members - communications **x 16**
- Central Highlands Council Management - communications **x 4**

FOR INFORMATION

16.2 COUNCILLOR COMMITMENTS

Deputy Mayor J Allwright

19 September 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton
22 September 2023	Tas Water opening, Bryn Estyn
05 October 2023	Deputy Mayor workshop, Silo's Launceston
10 October 2023	Council workshop, Bothwell

Cr A Bailey

19 September 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton
10 October 2023	Planning Committee Meeting - Bothwell
10 October 2023	Council Workshop – Bothwell

Cr R Cassidy

19 September 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton
10 October 2023	Planning Committee Meeting - Bothwell
10 October 2023	Council Workshop – Bothwell

Cr J Hall

19 September 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton
10 October 2023	Planning Committee Meeting - Bothwell
10 October 2023	Council Workshop – Bothwell

Cr J Honner

19 September 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton
10 October 2023	Planning Committee Meeting - Bothwell
10 October 2023	Council Workshop – Bothwell
10 October 2023	Meeting with J Johns, Miena Village and Michael Stedman, Timmins Ray

Cr D Meacheam

19 September 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton
10 October 2023	Planning Committee Meeting - Bothwell
10 October 2023	Council Workshop – Bothwell
10 October 2023	Meeting with J Johns, Miena Village and Michael Stedman, Timmins Ray

Cr Y Miller

19 September 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, Hamilton
 30 September 2023 Meeting - Health Consumers Tasmania
 04 October 2023 Legacy Torch Relay – Ouse
 04 October 2023 Meeting - Minister Guy Barnett

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

Date	With Whom	Subject / Comment
15 to 18 Sept 2023	Annual Leave	
19 Sept 2023	Management & Staff Members	Council Meeting - Hamilton
20 Sept to 3 Oct	Compassionate Leave	
10 October 2023	Council Members & Management Staff	Planning Committee Meeting
10 October 2023	Council Members & Management Staff	Council Workshop
10 October 2023	Cr Honner, Cr Meacheam, James Johns from Miena Village with Michael Stedman from Timmins Ray Public Relations	Miena Village and proposed Great Lake Trail
12 October 2023	Cr Anthony Archer	Councillor Induction Process & Meeting

FOR INFORMATION**16.4 DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMITMENTS**

Date	With Whom	Subject / Comment
19 Sept 2023	Council Members & Management Staff	Council Meeting - Hamilton
20 Sept to 3 Oct	Acting General Manager	Various meetings and duties
9 Oct to 13 Oct	Annual Leave	

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

A Council Workshop was held on **10 October 2023** and the following items were discussed -

- Presentation briefing from TasWater.
- Planning Authority session with Simmons Wolfhagen.

18. FUTURE WORKSHOPS

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

- 14 November 2023

19. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Triffitt advised that she had received advice from Brian Mitchell that he intends to mention in Parliament the passing of former Councillor Scott Bowden and past employee, Toni Branch and will forward the transcript to Council.

Mayor Triffitt read from correspondence received from Felix Ellis, Minister for Police in response to concerns raised from residence of Bronte Park in relation to unsafe driver behaviour and the volume of heavy traffic. Minister Ellis advised that the New Norfolk and West Coast Police Stations have been made aware of these concerns and will make extra efforts to combat the problems.

Mayor Triffitt thanked Damian Bester, New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News for running the Mayor's monthly column in the recent edition.

20. MINUTES

20.1 CONFIRMATION OF DRAFT MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING – 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLUTION 04/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

***THAT** the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 19 September 2023 be confirmed.*

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

20.2 RECEIVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 10 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLUTION 05/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

***THAT** the Draft Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 October 2023 be received.*

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

21. BUSINESS ARISING – SEPTEMBER 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

Business Arising - actions undertaken.

15.1	NOTICE OF MOTION - Program of traffic counts	Actioned for consideration in Council's 2024/25 budget deliberations
15.2	NOTICE OF MOTION – Memorial structure	Actioned for consideration in Council's 2024/25 budget deliberations
23.1	DA 2023/42: 4 LOT SUBDIVISION : 6977 LYELL HIGHWAY, OUSE	Actioned
23.2	SCENIC LANDSCAPE VALUES	Actioned
27.4	REQUEST FOR SUPPORT – GREAT LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE	Actioned
27.5	REQUEST FOR RATES REMISSION – WELLINGTON SKI AND OUTDOOR CLUB	Actioned
27.6	REQUEST FOR RATES REMISSION – 130 MEADOWBANK ROAD, MEADOWBANK	Actioned
27.7	DUNROBIN PARK – INTERPRETATION SIGNAGE	Actioned
29.1	WORLD WIND ENERGY CONFERENCE 2023 (HOBART)	Actioned

FOR INFORMATION

22. DERWENT CATCHMENT PROJECT



General Business

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM on the 1st of September at Derwent Estate Vineyard's 'The Shed' restaurant was attended by 65 people. We received great feedback from the community about the achievements that DCP had made over the last year. This was the first AGM with Charles Downie as President of the organisation, and we had a local guest speaker Tom Allwright (owner of Adventure Abroad) talk about what makes a successful team. We would like to thank Council for its ongoing support.

Annual Report and Updated Strategic Plan

We are proud to present our new look Annual Report for 22-23. It has been designed as an easier read to showcase the achievements of the year (there are lots of pictures). It is available on the homepage of our website

<https://derwentcatchment.org/>. We have finalised our updated Strategic Plan 2023-2028 which is a simple 10-page document outlining our proposed actions and targets for the next 5 years. The Strategic Plan is also available on the homepage of our website.



Threatened Species - Roadside Markers

The DCP are working with the Council works crew to install markers that identify where threatened species listed under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1999* occur along roadsides managed and maintained by Council. This is in response to an incident which was brought to the attention of the Threatened Species Unit where a woody shrub, spiky anchor plant (*Discaria pubescens*) had been impacted from maintenance works on Bashan Road. We have undertaken a mapping exercise to highlight priority areas for signage.

Clyde River Restoration Grant Opportunity

We have identified an upcoming grant opportunity under the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/conservation/urban-rivers-catchments-program>. As outlined in section 8.1.1 of the River Clyde Flood Mapping Study undertaken by GHD, willow removal is an effective solution to reduce the risk of flooding, especially in areas prone to frequent floods. We are developing a proposal that will apply under the 'large projects' option (which is between \$2 million and \$10 million with co-investment) to remove the willows and revegetate with native plants. We would like to come to the next Council meeting to talk about this grant opportunity.

Central Highlands Weeds Program

Strategic Actions 4.4 Continue the program of weed reduction in the Central Highlands, and 4.7 Support and assist practical programs that address existing environmental problems and improve the environment. The weed management program focuses on implementing the Central Highlands Weed Management Plan and addressing weed control priorities.

The weed season is commencing, and the ground team have been carrying out monitoring of eradication zones and developing a plan for control works. A review of previous control efforts showed a 80-90% success rate

for spraying blackberry around the Ellendale township, and the density of Fennel between Hamilton and Ouse is down to 10% of the original amount.

On behalf of the Central Highlands Council, the DCP have attended a biosecurity meeting held by the Parks and Wildlife Service which is looking to create collaboration between stakeholders and neighbours along the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). Due to the Central Highlands Weed Management Plan and our ongoing collaboration with stakeholders throughout the Central Highlands municipality, were able to talk about all the good work that is happening in the region and our program is being used as a model for other regions along the TWWHA buffer.

The final stages of preparation for the large English broom infestation at Tarraleah which received grant funding from the final round of Weed Action Fund are underway. The plants will be sprayed in late spring/early summer with the dead material to be mulched down in autumn 2024. The project has cross-tenure collaboration with Hydro Tasmania, TasNetworks, State Growth, and Parks and Wildlife Services who all committed to ongoing maintenance.

Agri-Best Practice Programs

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

Containment feeding/drought lotting project - funded by the Tas Farm Innovation Hub

We have just signed a contract with the Tas Farm Innovation Hub that will train Tasmanian experts in containment feeding nutrition, annual health management and design and set up. The aim will be for the experts to develop 1:1 drought lot plans for producers who need support ensuring people have more confidence in setting up and managing containment feeding in dry times. Farmers have been in contact about drought-lot plans and advice due to the dry conditions.

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

This project has developed a simple assessment tool for farmers and landowners to identify how vulnerable they are to the impacts of drought. The assessment and scorecard will provide the farmer with a risk rating and pathways to increase their preparedness for future droughts. We have completed development of the Drought Risk Assessment survey which is now in the testing phase where we are undertaking a guided assessment with farmers to identify how the risk assessment works in practice.

Restoration and Conservation

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

Nursery Expansion for Council consideration

Karen is putting together the final details and report to assess the business case of expanding the nursery to keep up with the demand help fill a growing gap in native plant availability in Tasmania. We hope to present on this in the coming months.

Platypus Walk

Platypus walk has lost a few mature trees (she oak and native hops) over the Winter to frost which is uncommon. The remaining area is looking healthy, and the pathway is scheduled for spraying this week. The

memorial planting carried out over winter is progressing well. Monitoring for willow regrowth has identified low level resprouting which will be controlled shortly.

Tyenna River Recovery – Willow Warriors – Supported by IFS, SFM, DV Council and Tassal

The Willow Warrior program has four new working bee dates organised and looks to continue downstream. The volunteers are 4 kilometres upstream of Mt Field National Park entrance and we hope to be below entrance way by Autumn 2024. The work to date has had over 85% success rate and has helped over 25 individual landholders and worked with Forestry, Parks and Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Service and Property Services. We will also be trialling some new techniques learnt from our river restoration programs in the Tyenna River.

Grant Applications

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

This project proposes to develop a sowing rate and sowing risk decision support guide, that is delivered with risk awareness and risk management at front of mind. The objectives are two-fold, to encourage better sowing rate decisions that facilitate both sufficient grass and clover establishment to benefit improved pasture resilience and productivity, but also to develop increased awareness and capability in identifying and responding to pasture sowing risks in particular, but also grazing enterprise risks in general. **Pending.**

Long term trial through the Australian Government’s Future Drought Fund - ‘Tasmanian drought adaptation through long-term management tool development and farmer engagement’

A 5-year program assessing if longer growing season rest can improve pasture condition, desirable species composition and biomass production. **Unsuccessful.**

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

Yours Sincerely,

The Derwent Catchment Team

Key Contacts:

Josie Kelman (Co Executive Officer) 0427 044 700

Eve Lazarus (Co Executive Officer) 0429 170 048

Morgan McPherson (Works Manager) 0418 667 426

Karen Phillips (Nursery Manager) 0400 039 303

RESOLUTION 06/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr A Bailey

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

THAT the Derwent Catchment Project Report for September be received.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager left the meeting at 11.28am.

23.0 COUNCIL ACTING AS A PLANNING AUTHORITY

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 be noted.

In accordance with Regulation 25, the Council will act as a Planning Authority in respect to those matters appearing under Item 23 on this agenda, inclusive of any supplementary items.

RESOLUTION 07/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT Council now act as a Planning Authority.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

23.1 DA 2022/82: 16 LOT SUBDIVISION : 40, 46, 48, 50, 56, 58, 60 & 64 ARTHURS LAKE ROAD, WILBURVILLE

Report by	Louisa Brown (Senior Planning Officer)
Applicant	PDA Surveyors
Owner	Big Tree investments Pty Ltd & Gohil Investments Pty Ltd
Discretions	12.5.1 Lot Design - P2, P3 & P4 12.5.2 Roads – P2 12.5.4 Services – P1, P2 & P3

Proposal

An application to subdivide 8 existing lots into 16 lots at Arthurs Lake Road, Wilburville was made to council in August 2022 by the applicant PDA Surveyors.

The subdivision comprises of the following:

40 Arthurs Lake Road – Subdivided into 2 lots,	Lot 1 at 2667m ² Lot 2 at 1566m ²
46 Arthurs Lake Road – Subdivided into 2 lots,	Lot 3 at 2622m ² Lot 4 at 1519m ²
48 Arthurs Lake Road – Subdivided into 2 lots,	Lot 5 at 2569m ² Lot 6 at 1802m ²
50 Arthurs Lake Road – Subdivided into 2 lots,	Lot 7 at 2827m ² Lot 8 at 1870m ²
56 Arthurs Lake Road – Subdivided into 2 lots,	Lot 9 at 2993m ² Lot 10 at 2269m ²
58 Arthurs Lake Road – Subdivided into 2 lots,	Lot 11 at 2913m ² Lot 12 at 2175m ²
60 Arthurs Lake Road – Subdivided into 2 lots,	Lot 13 at 3030m ²

64 Arthurs Lake Road – Subdivided into 2 lots, Lot 14 at 2209m²
 Lot 15 at 2860m²
 Lot 16 at 2082m²

The proposal is discretionary owing to being a subdivision and is assessed against the subdivision standards for the Low Density Residential pursuant to section 12.0 of the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015.

Subject Site and Locality

The application site is located on 8 existing titles on the northern side of Arthurs Lake Road, Wilburville. The land is currently undeveloped woodland, and the wider area is characterised as low density dwellings, which is predominantly used for 'shack' accommodation along the southern banks of Arthurs Lake.

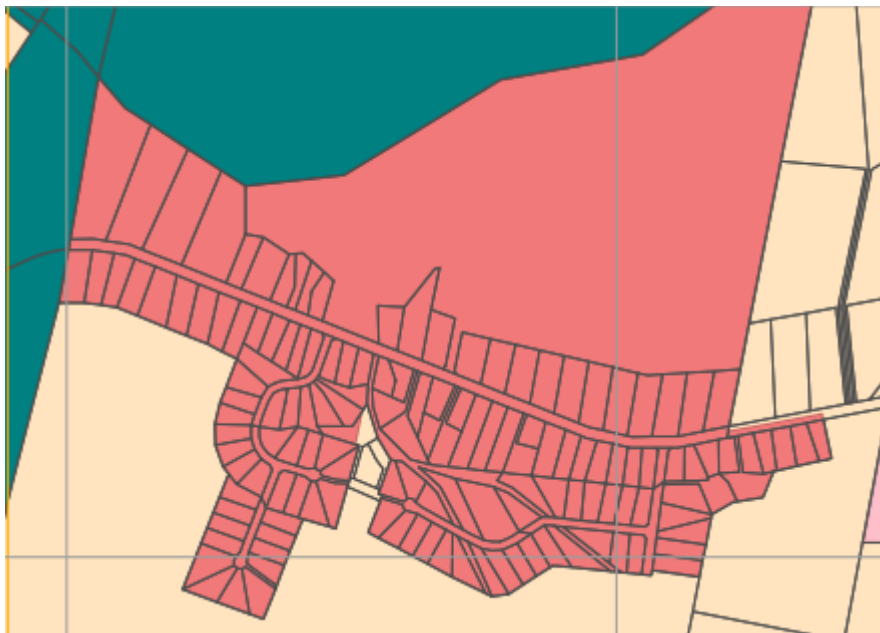


Fig 1. Zoning of Arthurs Lake Road, indicating the Low density Residential (red) Rural Resource zone (Cream). (Source: Tasmanian Planning Commission, accessed 04/10/2023).



Fig 2. Aerial photo of the subject land and surrounding area, (Source: LISTmap, accessed 04/10/2023).

THE APPLICATION

The Applicant has submitted the attached Plans and information to accompany the Development Application form:

- Plan of Subdivision, drawing number 40379, Revision 04d, sheets 01-03;
- Planning Assessment Report;
- Geotechnical Report – preliminary on-site wastewater disposal evaluation;
- Certificate of Title documents;
- Schedule of Easements; and
- Bushfire Hazard Management Report.

USE/DEVELOPMENT DEFINITION

The proposed use and development is defined, under the Planning Scheme, as development for Subdivision, which is Discretionary in accordance with Clause 9.10.2 of the *Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015*.

Use/Development Status under the Planning Scheme

As a discretionary development, the application was advertised in accordance with Section 57 of the Act.

Council has the discretion to grant a permit for this proposal with or without conditions or refuse to grant a permit.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND REPRESENTATIONS

The application was advertised for 14 days from 29 August until 12 September 2023 and one (1) representation was received and is summarised in the table below. Please refer to enclosure to view the full copy of representation received.

Representation 1	Council Officer Comment
<p>I am the owner of properties nearby and I have several concerns about this proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed development requires a reduction of natural vegetation for the creation of access roads/buildings/septics.there has to be more stormwater engineering requirements to deal with ground water runoff. The proposed charged rainwater tank system is inadequate as it only comes into play on the construction of a dwelling, which may never happen. Council engineers must determine the best solution to protect adjacent land from runoff water and avoid liability. 2. The sealed road crossovers should apply to both existing and newly created blocks. 3. The proposed development land is in a priority vegetation area overlay and it is a surprise that a Natural Values Assessment was not requested. <p>Whilst I am not against the development, I am confident that Council will impose the correct special conditions to protect all residents.</p>	<p><i>1. Council's Municipal Engineer has assessed the application in terms of vehicular access requirements, stormwater and wastewater design.</i></p> <p><i>Council has also been in direct contact with the applicant to request clarification on some of these issues. Council's Engineer is satisfied with the proposed stormwater treatment being tanks and a charged system via easements to the roadside drain.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, all stormwater designs are conditioned in the recommended conditions should a Planning Permit be granted.</i></p> <p><i>2. Access strips will be conditioned to be sealed in line with Council standards and the requirements of the Bushfire Hazard Report.</i></p> <p><i>3. The proposal has been lodged under the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015 and is therefore assessed against the relevant Design Standards applicable for the Zone and Code Overlays of this scheme.</i></p> <p><i>The development application sites are not within a Priority Vegetation Code Overlay in the Interim Scheme.</i></p>

ASSESSMENT – CENTRAL HIGHLANDS INTERIM PLANNING SCHEME

Low Density Residential Zone

The subject sites are zoned within the Low Density Residential Zone of the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015. As the Development Application was lodged before the Central Highlands LPS, the application must be assessed against the relevant standards of the Zone and Code Overlays of the Interim Scheme.

Exemptions

Nil

Special Provisions

Nil

Use Standards

The subject land is in the Low Density Residential Zone. The proposal must satisfy the requirements of the following development standards, relevant to development:

12.5 Development Standards for Subdivision

12.5.1 Lot Design To provide for new lots that: (a) have appropriate area and dimensions to accommodate development consistent with the Zone Purpose and any relevant Local Area Objectives or Desired Future Character Statements; (b) contain building areas which are suitable for residential development, located to avoid hazards and values and will not lead to land use conflict and fettering of resource development use on adjoining rural land; (c) are not internal lots, except if the only reasonable way to provide for desired residential density.		
Acceptable Solutions	Performance Criteria	OFFICER COMMENT
A1 The size of each lot must be in accordance with the following, except if for public open space, a riparian or littoral reserve or utilities: as specified in Table 12.1.	P1 No Performance Criteria.	Each lot shown on the proposed plan of subdivision is a minimum of 1500 m ² , which is the minimum lot size in table 12.1. The acceptable solution is met.
A2 The design of each lot must provide a minimum building area that is rectangular in shape and complies with all of the following, except if for public open space, a riparian or littoral reserve or utilities; (a) clear of the frontage, side and rear boundary setbacks; (b) not subject to any codes in this planning scheme; (c) clear of title restrictions such as easements and restrictive covenants; (d) has an average slope of no more than 1 in 5; (e) is a minimum of 10 m x 15 m in size.	P2 The design of each lot must to satisfy all of the following: (a) is reasonably capable of accommodating residential use and development; (b) meets any applicable standards in codes in this planning scheme; (c) enables future development to achieve reasonable solar access, given the slope and aspect of the land; (d) minimises the requirement for earth works, retaining walls, and cut & fill associated with future development;	The proposal is assessed against the Performance Criteria. The proposed lot sizes allow for a range of sizes, all of which meet the minimum lot size. All proposed lots allow for residential development and wastewater requirements within lots. Each lot meets the applicable Code – Bushfire Prone Area. The layout and orientation of the subdivision and the generous size of the blocks, will enable dwellings to achieve solar access through long north facing sections of lots. The proposed layout makes efficient use of the land by lot design, therefore earthworks will be kept to a minimum The Performance Criteria is met.
A3 The frontage for each lot must be no less than the following, except if for public open space, a riparian or littoral reserve or utilities and except if an internal lot: 30m.	P3 The frontage of each lot must provide opportunity for reasonable vehicular and pedestrian access and must be no less than: 6 m.	The performance criteria is met, each lot has a 6m frontage to Arthurs lake Road.
A4 No lot is an internal lot [R1].	P4 An internal lot must satisfy all of the following: (a) access is from a road existing prior to the planning scheme coming into effect, unless site constraints make an internal lot configuration the only reasonable option to efficiently utilise land;	As several lots will be internal lots, the proposal is assessed against the Performance Criteria. The layout of the lots makes the most efficient use of the available land. The layout of lots and proposed accesses represent a reasonable way to create the lots, access is provided at a length greater than

	<p>(b) it is not reasonably possible to provide a new road to create a standard frontage lot;</p> <p>(c) the lot constitutes the only reasonable way to subdivide the rear of an existing lot;</p> <p>(d) the lot will contribute to the more efficient utilisation of living land;</p> <p>(e) the amenity of neighbouring land is unlikely to be unreasonably affected by subsequent development and use;</p> <p>(f) the lot has access to a road via an access strip, which is part of the lot, or a right-of-way, with a width of no less than 3.6m;</p> <p>(g) passing bays are provided at appropriate distances along the access strip to service the likely future use of the lot;</p> <p>(h) the access strip is adjacent to or combined with no more than three other internal lot access strips and it is not appropriate to provide access via a public road;</p> <p>(i) a sealed driveway is provided on the access strip prior to the sealing of the final plan.</p> <p>(j) the lot addresses and provides for passive surveillance of public open space and public rights of way if it fronts such public spaces.</p>	<p>3.6m. It is not reasonably possible to create a new road.</p> <p>The land to the rear of the lots has existing access, therefore enabling any future subdivision. It is unlikely that neighbouring lots amenities will be affected by the development, as the proposed lots are generous in size and the majority of adjacent lots are undeveloped.</p> <p>The width of the access strips is 6m, which will allow for vehicles to pass.</p> <p>There are only two access strips adjacent to or combined with other internal lot access.</p> <p>The requirement to Seal driveways to standard will form a part of the conditions of any Planning Permit Granted.</p> <p>There is no public space, other than the street (Arthurs Lake Road), which will be over looked by future dwellings on the lots, therefore generating opportunities for passive surveillance of the Public Realm.</p>
<p>A5 Setback from a new boundary for an existing building must comply with the relevant Acceptable Solution for setback.</p>	<p>P5 Setback from a new boundary for an existing building must satisfy the relevant Performance Criteria for setback.</p>	<p>There are no existing buildings on the property.</p>

12.5.2 Roads

To ensure that the arrangement of new roads within a subdivision provides for all of the following:

(a) the provision of safe, convenient and efficient connections to assist accessibility and mobility of the community;

(b) the adequate accommodation of vehicular, pedestrian and cycling traffic;

(c) the efficient ultimate subdivision of the entirety of the land and of neighbouring land.

Acceptable Solutions	Performance Criteria	OFFICER COMMENT
<p>A1 The subdivision includes no new road.</p>	<p>P1 The arrangement and construction of roads within a subdivision must satisfy all of the following:</p> <p>(a) the appropriate and reasonable future subdivision of the entirety of any balance lot is not compromised;</p>	<p>The Acceptable Solution A1 is met as the subdivision include no new roads.</p>

	<p>(b) the route and standard of roads accords with any relevant road network plan adopted by the Planning Authority;</p> <p>(c) the subdivision of any neighbouring or nearby land with subdivision potential is facilitated through the provision of connector roads and pedestrian paths, where appropriate, to common boundaries;</p> <p>(d) an acceptable level of access, safety, convenience and legibility is provided through a consistent road function hierarchy;</p> <p>(e) cul-de-sac and other terminated roads are not created, or their use in road layout design is kept to an absolute minimum;</p> <p>(f) connectivity with the neighbourhood road network is maximised;</p> <p>(g) the travel distance between key destinations such as shops and services is minimised;</p> <p>(h) walking, cycling and the efficient movement of public transport is facilitated;</p> <p>(i) provision is made for bicycle infrastructure on new arterial and collector roads in accordance with Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6A;</p> <p>(j) multiple escape routes are provided if in a bushfire prone area.</p>	
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12.5.3 Ways and Public Open Space

To ensure that the arrangement of ways and public open space provides for all of the following:

- (a) the provision of safe, convenient and efficient connections for accessibility, mobility and recreational opportunities for the community;
- (b) the adequate accommodation of pedestrian and cycling traffic;
- (c) the adequate accommodation of equestrian traffic.

Acceptable Solutions	Performance Criteria	OFFICER COMMENT
A1 No Acceptable Solution.	P1 The arrangement of ways and public open space within a subdivision must satisfy all of the following: (a) connections with any adjoining ways are provided through the provision of ways to the common boundary, as appropriate;	No new ways or Public Open Space is proposed.

	<p>(b) connections with any neighbouring land with subdivision potential is provided through the provision of ways to the common boundary, as appropriate;</p> <p>(c) connections with the neighbourhood road network are provided through the provision of ways to those roads, as appropriate;</p> <p>(d) new ways are designed so that adequate passive surveillance will be provided from development on neighbouring land and public roads as appropriate;</p> <p>(e) topographical and other physical conditions of the site are appropriately accommodated in the design;</p> <p>(f) the route of new ways has regard to any pedestrian & cycle way or public open space plan adopted by the Planning Authority;</p> <p>(g) new ways or extensions to existing ways must be designed to minimise opportunities for entrapment or other criminal behaviour including, but not limited to, having regard to the following:</p> <p>(i) the width of the way;</p> <p>(ii) the length of the way;</p> <p>(iii) landscaping within the way;</p> <p>(iv) lighting;</p> <p>(v) provision of opportunities for 'loitering';</p> <p>(vi) the shape of the way (avoiding bends, corners or other opportunities for concealment).</p> <p>(h) the route of new equestrian ways has regard to any equestrian trail plan adopted by the Planning Authority.</p>	
A2 No Acceptable Solution.	P2 Public Open Space must be provided as land or cash in lieu, in accordance with the relevant Council policy.	The Performance criteria is met, cash in lieu in accordance with Council's policy will form a part of any Planning Permit granted.

12.5.4 Services To ensure that the subdivision of land provides adequate services to meet the projected needs of future development.		
Acceptable Solutions	Performance Criteria	OFFICER COMMENT
A1 Each lot must be connected to a reticulated potable	P1 No Performance Criteria.	Reticulated water by a water corporation is not available to the

water supply where such a supply is available.		area. Static water supply will be necessary. The Acceptable Solution A1 is met.
A2 Each lot must be connected to a reticulated sewerage system where available.	P2 Where a reticulated sewerage system is not available, each lot must be capable of accommodating an on-site wastewater treatment system adequate for the future use and development of the land.	Reticulated sewerage systems are not available in the area, therefore each lot will accommodate an on-site wastewater treatment system. A Preliminary onsite wastewater report has been provided and form a part of this application. The Performance Criteria is met.
A3 Each lot must be connected to a stormwater system able to service the building area by gravity.	P3 Each lot must be capable of accommodating an on-site stormwater management system adequate for the likely future use and development of the land.	Stormwater will be managed on-site into stormwater tanks, a charged system to the roadside drain is proposed, with easements created through properties where required. The stormwater system will be required to be designed and engineer plans developed to be agreed by Council's Municipal Engineer before the sealing of Final Plans. The Performance Criteria is met.
A4 The subdivision includes no new road.	P4 The subdivision provides for the installation of fibre ready facilities (pit and pipe that can hold optical fibre line) and the underground provision of electricity supply.	The Acceptable Solution is met, there are no new roads proposed.

Codes

E1 Bushfire-Prone Areas Code

The Bushfire-Prone Code applies to subdivision of land that is located within a bushfire-prone area. E1.6 Development Standards, E1.6.1 Subdivision: Provision of Hazard Management Areas requires that a Bushfire Risk and Hazard Management Plan be prepared by TFS or an accredited person.

A Bushfire Hazard Report has been submitted as a part of the application, prepared by Livingston Natural Resource Services, dated 30 November 2022, version 1.

E5.0 Road and Railway Assets Code

The purpose of this provision is to:

- (a) protect the safety and efficiency of the road and railway networks; and
- (b) reduce conflicts between sensitive uses and major roads and the rail network.

The applicable standards of the Code are addressed in the following tables:

Development Standards		
E5.6.2 Road accesses and junctions		
To ensure that the safety and efficiency of roads is not reduced by the creation of new accesses and junctions.		
Acceptable Solutions	Performance Criteria	OFFICER COMMENT
A1 No new access or junction to roads in an area subject to a	P1 For roads in an area subject to a speed limit of more than	

speed limit of more than 60km/h.	60km/h, accesses and junctions must be safe and not unreasonably impact on the efficiency of the road, having regard to: (a) the nature and frequency of the traffic generated by the use; (b) the nature of the road; (c) the speed limit and traffic flow of the road; (d) any alternative access; (e) the need for the access or junction; (f) any traffic impact assessment; and (g) any written advice received from the road authority.	The proposed lots will have direct access onto Arthurs lake Road. Council's Municipal Engineer has reviewed the Plans of Subdivision, all Council standards for access in line with LGAT Rural Road Access will be apart of any conditions of a planning Permit The Performance Criteria is met.
A2 No more than one access providing both entry and exit, or two accesses providing separate entry and exit, to roads in an area subject to a speed limit of 60km/h or less.	P2 For roads in an area subject to a speed limit of 60km/h or less, accesses and junctions must be safe and not unreasonably impact on the efficiency of the road, having regard to: (a) the nature and frequency of the traffic generated by the use; (b) the nature of the road; (c) the speed limit and traffic flow of the road; (d) any alternative access to a road; (e) the need for the access or junction; (f) any traffic impact assessment; and (g) any written advice received from the road authority.	The proposed lots will have direct access onto Arthurs lake Road. Council's Municipal Engineer has reviewed the Plans of Subdivision, all Council standards for access in line with LGAT Rural Road Access will be a part of any conditions of a planning Permit. The Performance Criteria is met.

Conclusion

The proposal DA2022/82 Subdivision 8 Lots into 16 Lots at land described as 40, 46, 48, 50, 56, 58, 60 & 64 Arthurs Lake Road, Wilburville (CT 178097 folios 2,4,5,6,9,10,11 &13) has been assessed to comply with the applicable standards of the Low Density Residential Zone and the relevant codes of the *Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015* as outlined in the body of this report.

The proposal was advertised for public comment, 1 representation was received.

It is recommended that the application be approved, subject to conditions.

Legislative Context

The purpose of the report is to enable the Planning Authority to determine the Development Application DA2022/82 Subdivision 8 Lots into 16 Lots at land described as 40, 46, 48, 50, 56, 58, 60 & 64 Arthurs Lake Road, Wilburville (CT 178097 folios 2,4,5,6,9,10,11 &13) in accordance with the requirements of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA). The provisions of LUPAA require a Planning Authority to take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the Planning Scheme.

This report details the reasons for the officers Recommendation. The Planning Authority must consider the report but is not bound to adopt the Recommendation. Broadly, the Planning Authority can either: (1) adopt the

Recommendation, (2) vary the Recommendation by adding, modifying or removing recommended conditions or (3) replacing an approval with a refusal.

This determination has to be made no later than 20 October 2023, which has been extended beyond the usual 42-day statutory time frame with the consent of the application.

Any decision that is an alternative to the Recommendation requires a full statement of reasons to ensure compliance with the *Judicial Review Act 2000* and the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*. Section 25 (2) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* states:

25 (2): *The general manager is to ensure that the reasons for a decision by a council or council committee acting as a planning authority are recorded in the minutes of the meeting.*

Options

The Planning Authority must determine the Development Application DA2022/82 Subdivision 8 Lots into 16 Lots at land described as 40, 46, 48, 50, 56, 58, 60 & 64 Arthurs Lake Road, Wilburville (CT 178097 folios 2,4,5,6,9,10,11 &13) in accordance with one of the following options:

1. Approve in accordance with the Recommendation:-

In accordance with section 57 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 the Planning Authority **Approve** the DA2022/82 Subdivision 8 Lots into 16 Lots at land described as 40, 46, 48, 50, 56, 58, 60 & 64 Arthurs Lake Road, Wilburville (CT 178097 folios 2,4,5,6,9,10,11 &13), subject to conditions in accordance with the Recommendation.

2. Approve with altered conditions:-

In accordance with section 57 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 the Planning Authority **Approve** the Development Application DA2022/82 Subdivision 8 Lots into 16 Lots at land described as 40, 46, 48, 50, 56, 58, 60 & 64 Arthurs Lake Road, Wilburville (CT 178097 folios 2,4,5,6,9,10,11 &13), subject to conditions as specified below.

Should Council opt to approve the Development Application subject to conditions that are different to the Recommendation the modifications should be recorded below, as required by Section 25(2) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015:

Alteration to Conditions:-

3. Refuse to grant a permit:-

In accordance with section 57 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 the Planning Authority **Refuse** the Development Application DA2022/82 Subdivision 8 Lots into 16 Lots at land described as 40, 46, 48, 50, 56, 58, 60 & 64 Arthurs Lake Road, Wilburville (CT 178097 folios 2,4,5,6,9,10,11 &13), for the reasons detailed below.

Should the Planning Authority opt to refuse to grant a permit contrary to the officers Recommendation, the reasons for the decision should be recorded below, as required by Section 25(2) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015:

Reasons :-

Recommendation from the Planning Committee to Council acting as the Planning Authority:

RESOLUTION 08/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr J Hall

1. Approve in accordance with the Recommendation: -

In accordance with section 57 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 the Planning Authority **Approve** the DA2022/82 Subdivision 8 Lots into 16 Lots at land described as 40, 46, 48, 50, 56, 58, 60 & 64 Arthurs Lake Road, Wilburville (CT 178097 folios 2,4,5,6,9,10,11 &13), subject to conditions in accordance with the Recommended Conditions.

Recommended Conditions

General

1. The subdivision layout or development must be carried out substantially in accordance with the application for planning approval, the endorsed drawings and with the conditions of this permit and must not be altered or extended without the further written approval of Council.
2. This permit shall not take effect and must not be acted on until 15 days after the date of receipt of this permit unless, as the applicant and the only person with a right of appeal, you notify Council in writing that you propose to commence the use or development before this date, in accordance with Section 53 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

Bushfire Hazard Management

3. The development and works must be carried out in accordance with Livingston Natural Resource Services, dated 30 November 2022, version 1.
4. Prior to Council sealing the final plan of survey for any stage the developer must provide certification from a suitably qualified person that all works required by the approved Bushfire Hazard Management Plan has been complied with.

Agreements

5. Prior to the sealing of the Final Plan of Survey an agreement pursuant to Part 5 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* must be prepared by the applicant on a blank instrument form to the satisfaction of the Council and registered with the Recorder of Titles. The subdivider must meet all costs associated with the preparation and registration of the Part 5 Agreement.

Staged Development

6. The subdivision must be carried out in the approved stages or in accordance with a staged development plan submitted to and approved by Council's General Manager.

Public Open Space

7. In accordance with the provisions of Section 117 of the *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993*, payment of a cash contribution for Public Open Space must be made to the Council prior to sealing the Final Plan of Survey. The cash contribution amount is to be equal to 5% of the value of the land being subdivided in the plan of subdivision at the date of lodgement of the Final Plan of Survey. The value is to be determined by a Land Valuer within the meaning of the *Land Valuers Act 2001* at the developers' expense.
8. The cash-in-lieu of public open space must be in the form of a direct payment made before the sealing of the final plan of survey or, alternatively, in the form of a Bond or Bank guarantee to cover payment within ninety (90) days after demand, made after the final plan of survey has taken effect.

Transfer of Reserves

9. All roads or footways must be shown as "Road" or "Footway" on the final plan of survey and transferred to the Central Highlands Council by Memorandum of Transfer submitted with the final plan.

Easements

10. Easements must be created over all drains, pipelines, wayleaves and services in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Municipal Engineer. The cost of locating and creating the easements shall be at the subdivider's full cost.

Endorsements

11. The final plan of survey must be noted that Council cannot or will not provide a means of drainage to all lots shown on the plan of survey.

Covenants

12. Covenants or other similar restrictive controls that conflict with any provisions or seek to prohibit any use provided within the planning scheme must not be included or otherwise imposed on the titles to the lots created by this permit, either by transfer, inclusion of such covenants in a Schedule of Easements or registration of any instrument creating such covenants with the Recorder of Titles, unless such

covenants or controls are expressly authorised by the terms of this permit or the consent in writing of the Council's Manager Environment and Development Services.

Final Plan

13. A final approved plan of survey and schedule of easements as necessary, together with two (2) copies, must be submitted to Council for sealing for each stage. The final approved plan of survey must be substantially the same as the endorsed plan of subdivision and must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Recorder of Titles.
14. A fee of \$180.00, or as otherwise determined in accordance with Council's adopted fee schedule, must be paid to Council for the sealing of the final approved plan of survey for each stage.
15. Prior to Council sealing the final plan of survey for each stage, security for an amount clearly in excess of the value of all outstanding works and maintenance required by this permit must be lodged with the Central Highlands Council. The security must be in accordance with section 86(3) of the *Local Government (Building & Miscellaneous Provisions) Council 1993*. The amount of the security shall be determined by the Council's Municipal Engineer.
16. All conditions of this permit, including either the completion of all works and maintenance or payment of security in accordance with this permit, must be satisfied before the Council seals the final plan of survey for each stage. It is the subdivider's responsibility to notify the Council in writing that the conditions of the permit have been satisfied and to arrange any required inspections.
17. The subdivider must pay any Titles Office lodgment fees direct to the Recorder of Titles.

Water Quality

18. Where a development exceeds a total of 250 square metres of ground disturbance a soil and water management plan (SWMP) prepared in accordance with the guidelines *Soil and Water Management on Building and Construction Sites*, by the Derwent Estuary Programme and NRM South, must be approved by Council's Municipal Engineer before development of the land commences.
19. Temporary run-off, erosion and sediment controls must be installed in accordance with the approved SWMP and must be maintained at full operational capacity to the satisfaction of Council's Municipal Engineer until the land is effectively rehabilitated and stabilised after completion of the development.
20. The topsoil on any areas required to be disturbed must be stripped and stockpiled in an approved location shown on the detailed soil and water management plan for reuse in the rehabilitation of the site. Topsoil must not be removed from the site until the completion of all works unless approved otherwise by the Council's Municipal Engineer.
21. All disturbed surfaces on the land, except those set aside for roadways, footways and driveways, must be covered with top soil and, where appropriate, re-vegetated and stabilised to the satisfaction of the Council's Municipal Engineer.

Weed Management

22. Prior to the carrying out of any works approved or required by this approval, the subdivider must provide a weed management plan detailing measures to be adopted to control any weeds on the site and limit the spread of weeds listed in the *Weed Management Act 1999* through imported soil or land disturbance by appropriate water management and machinery and vehicular hygiene to the satisfaction of Council's Municipal Engineer and of the Regional Weed Management Officer, Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment.

Property Services

23. Property services must be contained wholly within each lots served or an easement to the satisfaction of the Council's Municipal Engineer or responsible authority.

Existing Services

24. The Subdivider must pay the cost of any alterations and/or reinstatement to existing services, Council infrastructure or private property incurred as a result of the proposed subdivision works. Any work required is to be specified or undertaken by the authority concerned.

Sizing of Services

25. All services must be sized and located to service the ultimate potential development of the site to the satisfaction of Council's Municipal Engineer or the responsible authority.

Telecommunications, Electrical and Gas Reticulation

26. Electrical and telecommunications services must be provided to each lot in accordance with the requirements of the responsible authority and the satisfaction of the Council's Municipal Engineer.
27. Prior to the work being carried out a drawing of the electrical reticulation and telecommunications reticulation in accordance with the appropriate authority's requirements and relevant Australian Standards must be submitted to and endorsed by the Council's Municipal Engineer.
28. A Letter of Release from each authority confirming that all conditions of the Agreement between the Owner and authority have been complied with and that future lot owners will not be liable for network extension or upgrade costs, other than individual property connections at the time each lot is further developed, must be submitted to Council prior to the sealing of the final plan of survey.

Access to Arthurs Lake Road

29. A separate vehicle access must be provided from the road carriageway to each lot. Accesses must be sealed with a minimum width of 3 metres at the property boundary and located and constructed in accordance with the standards shown on standard drawings SD-1009 *Rural Roads - Typical Standard Access* and SD-1012 *Intersection and Domestic Access Sight Distance Requirements* prepared by the IPWE Aust. (Tasmania Division) (attached) and the satisfaction of Council's Municipal Engineer.
30. Access road construction standards may be varied by Council's Municipal Engineer.
31. Prior to Council Sealing Final Plans, all vehicular accesses must be completed to the satisfaction of Council's Municipal Engineer and in accordance with the Bushfire Prone Area Code of the Central Highlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015 and the Bushfire Hazard Report, prepared by Livingston Natural Resource Services, dated 30 November 2022, Version 1.

Engineering Drawings

32. Engineering design drawings to the satisfaction of the Council's Municipal Engineer must be submitted to and approved by the Central Highlands Council before development of the land commences.
33. Engineering design drawings are to be prepared by a qualified and experienced civil engineer, or other person approved by Council's Municipal Engineer, in accordance with Standards Australia (1992): *Australian Standard AS1100.101 Technical Drawing – General principles*, Homebush, and Standards Australia (1984): *Australian Standard AS1100.401 Technical Drawing – Engineering survey and engineering survey design drawing*, Homebush, and must show –
 - (a) All existing and proposed services required by this permit;
 - (b) All existing and proposed roadwork required by this permit;
 - (c) Measures to be taken to provide sight distance in accordance with the relevant standards of the planning scheme;
 - (d) Measures to be taken to limit or control erosion and sedimentation;
 - (e) Any other work required by this permit.
34. Two sets of preliminary engineering design drawings are to be initially submitted to Council for inspection and comment. Following this, four (4) sets of final engineering plans are to be submitted for final approval by Council. The approved engineering design drawings shall form part of this permit when approved.
35. Council will keep two (2) sets of approved drawings and two (2) sets will be returned to the subdivider's engineer. One (1) set of the approved engineering design drawings must be kept on site at all times during construction.
36. Approved engineering design drawings will remain valid for a period of 2 years from the date of approval of the engineering drawings.
37. All new public infrastructure and subdivision work must be designed and constructed to the satisfaction of Council's Municipal Engineer and in accordance with the following -
 - *Local Government (Building & Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993;*
 - *Local Government (Highways) Act;*
 - *Drains Act 1954;*
 - *Waterworks Clauses Act;*
 - Australian Standards;
 - Building and Plumbing Regulations;

- Relevant By-laws and Council Policy;
- Current IPWEA (Tasmanian Division) and central Highlands Council Municipal Standard Drawings;
- Current IPWEA and central Highlands Council Municipal Standard Specification.

Construction Amenity

38. The development must only be carried out between the following hours unless otherwise approved by the Council's Manager Environment and Development Services:

Monday to Friday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Saturday	8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Sunday and State-wide public holidays	10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

39. All subdivision works associated with the development of the land must be carried out in such a manner so as not to unreasonably cause injury to, or unreasonably prejudice or affect the amenity, function and safety of any adjoining or adjacent land, and of any person therein or in the vicinity thereof, by reason of -
- (a) Emission from activities or equipment related to the use or development, including noise and vibration, which can be detected by a person at the boundary with another property.
 - (b) Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land.
 - (c) Appearance of any building, works or materials.
40. Any accumulation of vegetation, building debris or other unwanted material must be disposed of by removal from the site in an approved manner. No burning of such materials on site will be permitted unless approved in writing by the Council's Municipal Engineer.
41. Public roadways or footpaths must not be used for the storage of any construction materials or wastes, for the loading/unloading of any vehicle or equipment; or for the carrying out of any work, process or tasks associated with the project during the construction period.

Construction

42. The subdivider must provide not less than 48 hours written notice to Council's Municipal Engineer before commencing construction works on site or within a council roadway. The written notice must be accompanied by evidence of payment of the Building and Construction Industry Training Levy where the cost of the works exceeds \$12,000.
43. The subdivider must provide not less than 48 hours written notice to Council's Municipal Engineer before reaching any stage of works requiring inspection by Council unless otherwise agreed by the Council's Manager Engineering Services.
44. A fee for supervision of any works to which Section 10 of the *Local Government (Highways) Council 1982* applies must be paid to the Central Highlands Council unless carried out under the direct supervision of an approved practising professional civil engineer engaged by the owner and approved by the Council's Municipal Engineer. The fee must equal not less than three percent (3%) of the cost of the works.

Survey Pegs

45. Survey pegs to be stamped with lot numbers and marked for ease of identification.
46. Prior to the works being taken over by Council, evidence must be provided from a registered surveyor that the subdivision has been re-pegged following completion of substantial subdivision construction work. The cost of the re-peg survey must be included in the value of any security.

'As Constructed' Drawings

47. Prior to the works being placed on the maintenance period an "as constructed" drawing of all engineering works provided as part of this approval must be provided to Council to the satisfaction of the Council's Municipal Engineer. These drawings must be prepared by a qualified and experienced civil engineer or other person approved by the Municipal Engineer and provided in both digital and "hard copy" format.

Defects Liability Period

48. The subdivision must be placed onto a 6-month statutory defects liability period in accordance with section 86 of the *Local Government (Buildings and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993*, Councils Specification and Policy following the completion of the works in accordance with the approved engineering plans and permit conditions.

THE FOLLOWING ADVICE APPLIES TO THIS PERMIT: -

- A. This permit does not imply that any other approval required under any other legislation or by-law has been granted.
- B. This permit does not take effect until all other approvals required for the use or development to which the permit relates have been granted.
- C. The issue of this permit does not ensure compliance with the provisions of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* or the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Protection Act 1999* (Commonwealth). The applicant may be liable to complaints in relation to any non-compliance with these Acts and may be required to apply to the Threatened Species Unit of the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment or the Commonwealth Minister for a permit.
- D. The issue of this permit does not ensure compliance with the provisions of the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*. If any aboriginal sites or relics are discovered on the land, stop work and immediately contact the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal Heritage Unit of the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment. Further work may not be permitted until a permit is issued in accordance with the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*.
- E. The SWMP must show the following:
- (a) Allotment boundaries, north-point, contours, layout of roads, driveways, building envelopes and reticulated services (including power and telephone and any on-site drainage or water supply), impervious surfaces and types of all existing natural vegetation;
 - (b) Critical natural areas such as drainage lines, recharge area, wetlands, and unstable land;
 - (c) Estimated dates of the start and completion of the works;
 - (d) Timing of the site rehabilitation or landscape program;
 - (e) Details of land clearing and earthworks or trenching and location of soil stockpiles associated with roads, driveways, building sites, reticulated services and fire hazard protection.
 - (f) Arrangements to be made for surface and subsurface drainage and vegetation management in order to prevent sheet and tunnel erosion.
 - (g) Temporary erosion and sedimentation controls to be used on the site.
 - (h) Recommendations for the treatment and disposal of wastewater in accordance with Standards Australia (2000), AS/NZS 1547: *On-site wastewater management*, Standards Australia, Sydney.
- F. Appropriate temporary control measures include, but are not limited to, the following (refer to brochure attached):
- Minimise site disturbance and vegetation removal;
 - Diversion of up-slope run-off around cleared and/or disturbed areas, or areas to be cleared and/or disturbed, provided that such diverted water will not cause erosion and is directed to a legal discharge point (eg. temporarily connected to Council's storm water system, a watercourse or road drain);
 - Sediment retention traps (e.g. sediment fences, straw bales, grass turf filter strips, etc.) at the down slope perimeter of the disturbed area to prevent unwanted sediment and other debris escaping from the land;
 - Sediment retention traps (e.g. sediment fences, straw bales, etc.) around the inlets to the stormwater system to prevent unwanted sediment and other debris blocking the drains;
 - Stormwater pits and inlets installed and connected to the approved stormwater system before the roadwork's are commenced; and
 - Rehabilitation of all disturbed areas as soon as possible.

- G. The owner is advised that an engineering plan assessment and inspection fee of 1% of the value of the approved engineering works, or a minimum of \$220.00, must be paid to Council in accordance with Council's fee schedule.
- H. This planning approval shall lapse at the expiration of two (2) years from the date of the commencement of planning approval unless the development for which the approval was given has been substantially commenced or extension of time has been granted. Where a planning approval for a development has lapsed, an application for renewal of a planning approval for that development may be treated as a new application.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

24.0 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING RESUMED

RESOLUTION 09/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr J Hall

THAT Council no longer act as a Planning Authority and resume the Ordinary Council Meeting.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

25.0 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (DES) MONTHLY REPORT

Reports By

Graham Rogers, Development & Environmental Services Manager

PLANNING PERMITS ISSUED UNDER DELEGATION

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

NO PERMIT REQUIRED

NIL

PERMITTED USE

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2023/48	K A Hall, C L Thorpe	2 Bronte Estate Road, Bronte Park	Outbuilding
2023/52	J L & M L E Jones	19 Jones Road, Mlena	Change of Use to Visitor Accommodation
2023/51	L Hart	5 Monks Street, Shannon	Change of Use to Visitor Accommodation

DISCRETIONARY USE

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2023/41	Central Highlands Council	19 Alexander Street, Bothwell	Outbuilding
2023/43	B M M Group	102 Sonners Road, Pelham	Telecommunications Tower

ANIMAL CONTROL

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

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

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

2023/2024 Statistics as of 11 October 2023	
Number of Dogs Impounded during last month	NIL
Number of Dogs Currently Registered	942
Number of Dogs Pending Re-Registration	29
Number of Kennel Licences Issued	32
Number of Kennel Licences Pending	2

RESOLUTION 10/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr J Honner

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

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

Graham Rogers, Manager Development and Environmental Services left the meeting at 11.33am.

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

Jason Branch, Works & Services Manager

Background

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

Grading & Sheeting	Rotherwood Road, Green Valley Road, Humble Road, Wetheron Road, Jones River Road, Tor Hill Road, Gowen Brae Road, Weasel Plains Road, Langlosh Road, Norley Road
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Maintenance Grading	Woodmoor Road
Potholing / shouldering	14 Mile Road, Silver Plains Road, Meadowbank Road, Meadsfield Road, Arthurs Lake Road, Rotherwood Road, Dawson Road
Spraying:	Dennistoun Road Hollow Tree Road Platypus Walk Hamilton Hamilton Park
Culverts / Drainage:	<p>Clean Culverts Dawson Road Tor Hill Road Interlaken Road</p> <p>Install Culverts 21 Wallace Road to eliminate residential flooding; and Install culvert and drainage Rainbow Road</p>
Occupational Health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Toolbox Meetings • Day to day JSA and daily prestart check lists completed • Monthly workplace inspections completed. • Playground inspection
Bridges:	Green Valley Bridge replacement tender advertised
Refuse / recycling sites:	Cover Hamilton Tip twice weekly
Other:	<p>Clean drains at Wayatinah Clean kerb and gutters at Wayatinah Install 2 x storm water pits Bothwell township Hot mix holes Dennistoun Road Hot mix holes Hollow Tree Road Pick up roadside litter Ellendale Road Pick up roadside litter Pelham and Thousand Acre Lane Continue works on new toilets at Hamilton Remove fallen tree Waddamana Road Remove fallen tree Mark Tree Road Dig 1 X grave Clean up Bronte waste transfer station Clean up Hamilton Landfill site Repair storm water pit Unblock Hamilton toilets Swimming Pool Maintenance Repair power stand Bothwell Caravan Park Install flagpole Westerway War Memorial Install sign in Queens Park Replace sign Dennistoun Road Pick up dumped rubbish Dennistoun Road Remove speed limit sign Arthurs Lake Road Core, fertilize and scarify Gretna Cricket Oval Repair irrigation line Bothwell Rec ground Clean up Hamilton show grounds and repair water leak Roll and grade gravel in Pine Teir Road Cart topsoil to quarry</p>
Slashing:	

Municipal Town Maintenance:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of town rubbish twice weekly • Maintenance of parks, cemetery, recreation ground and Caravan Park. • Cleaning of public toilets, gutters, drains and footpaths. • Collection of rubbish twice weekly • Cleaning of toilets and public facilities • General maintenance • Mowing of towns and parks • Town Drainage
Buildings:	Install new electric gate Hamilton Works Depot
Plant:	
Private Works:	K Bradburn water delivery Rob Stacey water delivery Pip Allwright gravel delivery
Casuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilets, rubbish and Hobart • Hamilton general duties
Program for next 4 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grading and sheeting Municipal roads • Culvert cleaning and drainage various roads • Repairs to Westerway walkway. • Culvert installs Cramps Bay Road • Repair defects Arthurs Lake Road • Soft fall areas in playgrounds

RESOLUTION 11/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr A Bailey

Seconded: Cr J Hall

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

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

Jason Branch, Manager Works and Services left the meeting at 11.39am.

Adam Wilson Deputy General Manager returned to the meeting at 11.39am.

27. ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

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

Report by

Katrina Brazendale, Senior Administration/Community Relations Officer

Background

- Bothwell Playgroup

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

- Supporting School with Breakfast Club

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

- Youth and Adults Mental Health Community Sports

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

- Reclink Australia

Council has now joined a membership with Reclink Australia, they will support the region with opportunities in the sport and recreation space. We have one project currently being discussed and also working with the Derwent Valley Council on a Term 4 program offering of Brazilian Ju-Jitsu to the students of Westerway Primary School.

I attended the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework - Overview forum, which was held on the 25th September 2023.

RESOLUTION 12/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

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

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

Cr Archer left the meeting at 11.42am.

27.2 SCHOOL BURSARIES AND PRIZE PRESENTATION AWARDS 2023

Report by

Katrina Brazendale, Senior Administration/Community Relations Officer

Council traditionally provides awards to students at their end of year presentation assemblies. Awards have previously been presented to students from New Norfolk High School, Bothwell District High School, Glenora District High School, Ouse District Primary and Westerway Primary School.

Awards this year will be presented to students from New Norfolk High School, Bothwell District High School, Glenora District High School and Westerway Primary School. As there are no students attending Ouse District Primary.

Council has an annual budget figure of \$1,800.

The Annual School Presentations will be held as follows:

Bothwell District High School	1.00 pm Thursday, 12 December 2023
New Norfolk High School	7.00 pm Tuesday, 5 December 2023
Glenora District High School	1.15 pm Tuesday, 19 December 2023
Westerway Primary School	1.30 pm Tuesday, 19 December 2023

Council usually nominates a Councillor to attend and present Council's awards.

RESOLUTION 13/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

THAT Council make the following end of year award presentations to the following:

- New Norfolk High School - Central Highlands Continuing Education Bursary - \$350
- Bothwell District High School - Central Highlands Continuing Education Bursary - \$350
- Glenora District High School - Central Highlands Continuing Education Bursary - \$350
- Westerway Primary School - Central Highlands Continuing Education Bursary - \$350
- Westerway Primary School - Citizenship Award - \$100
- Glenora District High School - Citizenship Award - \$100
- Bothwell District High School - Raising the Bar Consistent achievement in all areas - \$100
- Bothwell District High School - College Award - \$100

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

Cr Archer returned to the meeting at 11.49am.

27.3 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2023 – RESCIND MOTION

Report by

David Doyle, Contract Accountant

Background

At the last Council Meeting held on 19 September 2023, Item 27.2 on the agenda – Monthly Finance Report to 31 August 2023, unfortunately had several incorrect pages included in error (pg 43-45) which referred to **31 August 2022**. These are as follows:-

	BUDGET 2022/2023	ACTUAL TO 31-Aug-21	ACTUAL TO 31-Aug-22	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$582,026	\$106,684	\$159,546	27.41%	\$422,480
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$40,790	\$14,181	\$18,052	44.26%	\$22,738
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$125,000	\$38,007	\$15,344	12.28%	\$109,656
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$203,648	\$23,661	\$31,918	15.67%	\$171,730
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$406,500	\$66,563	\$144,259	35.49%	\$262,241
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$147,200	\$5,509	\$6,198	4.21%	\$141,002
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$39,600	\$6,067	\$3,007	7.59%	\$36,593
ONCOSTS	\$663,149	\$253,942	\$198,435	29.92%	\$464,714
ONCOSTS	-\$495,000	-\$84,042	-\$105,229	21.26%	-\$389,771
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	\$340,850	\$24,248	\$25,098	7.36%	\$315,752
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$267,275	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$267,275
ADMIN HAMILTON		\$525	\$660		
TOTAL CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$2,321,038	\$455,345	\$497,289	21.43%	\$1,824,409
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$173,164	\$26,607	\$26,408	15.25%	\$146,757
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$24,140	\$7,706	\$9,497	39.34%	\$14,643
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$43,500	\$12,005	\$10,247	23.56%	\$33,253
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$31,250	\$4,961	\$3,362	10.76%	\$27,888
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$10,500	\$1,636	\$849	8.09%	\$9,651
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$141,119	\$18,898	\$25,201	17.86%	\$115,918
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$39,475	\$1,251	\$3,725	9.44%	\$35,750
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$191,000	\$17,872	\$16,071	8.41%	\$174,929
WASTE SERVICES	\$160,124	\$22,476	\$25,928	16.19%	\$134,197
WASTE SERVICES	\$143,100	\$14,587	\$12,983	9.07%	\$130,117
WASTE SERVICES	\$287,935	\$25,694	\$39,520	13.73%	\$248,415
WASTE SERVICES	\$73,175	\$5,843	\$8,160	11.15%	\$65,015
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	\$4,500	\$144	\$100	2.22%	\$4,400
WASTE SERVICES	\$48,960	\$8,435	\$10,604	21.66%	\$38,356
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	\$1,371,943	\$168,115	\$192,655	14.04%	\$1,179,288
WORKS AND SERVICES					
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$136,000	\$28,647	\$28,144	20.69%	\$107,856
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$18,200	\$3,292	\$2,088	11.47%	\$16,112
HALLS (HALL)	\$60,000	\$19,616	\$17,114	28.52%	\$42,886
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$64,000	\$13,703	\$20,068	31.36%	\$43,932
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+tennis)	\$84,316	\$14,810	\$17,021	20.19%	\$67,295
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$120,000	\$7,385	\$14,923	12.44%	\$105,077
HOUSING (HOU)	\$71,458	\$30,272	\$47,343	66.25%	\$24,114
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$13,500	\$3,185	\$3,920	29.03%	\$9,580
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$1,400	\$793	\$1,020	72.86%	\$380
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$885,000	\$247,741	\$349,156	39.45%	\$535,844
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$5,000	\$139	\$4,905	98.10%	\$95
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,289	\$3,635	\$0	0.00%	\$23,289
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$85,000	\$23,293	\$24,525	28.85%	\$60,475
SUPER. & I/D OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$316,800	\$84,854	\$86,594	27.33%	\$230,206
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	-\$25,000	-\$40,014	-\$8,022	32.09%	-\$16,978
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$121,000	\$12,108	\$21,020	17.37%	\$99,980
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$350	\$203	10.15%	\$1,797
PLANT MTCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$500,000	\$109,678	\$130,110	26.02%	\$369,890
PLANT INCOME	-\$710,000	-\$144,412	-\$196,419	27.66%	-\$513,581
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$264,360	\$6,879	\$17,013	6.44%	\$247,347
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$27,731	\$9,923	\$8,503	30.66%	\$19,229
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$37,000	\$6,272	\$8,037	21.72%	\$28,963
FLOOD REPAIRS			\$0		
TOTAL WORKS & SERVICES	\$2,101,054	\$442,150	\$597,264	28.43%	\$1,503,790

DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES					
Corporate Services	\$2,321,038	\$455,345	\$497,289	21.43%	\$1,824,409
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$1,371,943	\$168,115	\$192,655	14.04%	\$1,179,288
Works & Services	\$2,101,054	\$442,150	\$597,264	28.43%	\$1,503,790
Total All Operating	\$5,794,034	\$1,065,610	\$1,287,208	22.22%	\$4,507,486
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE					
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Computer Purchases	\$64,500	\$0	\$21,084	32.69%	\$43,416
Equipment	\$131,000	\$16,333	\$5,578	4.26%	\$125,422
Miscellaneous (Municipal Reval etc)	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$120,000
	\$315,500	\$16,333	\$26,662	8.45%	\$288,838
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
Swimming Pool	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$25,000
	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$25,000
WORKS & SERVICES					
Plant Purchases	\$667,266	\$187,907	\$198,282	29.72%	\$468,984
Camping Grounds	\$0	\$11,772	\$0		\$0
Public Conveniences	\$210,000	\$22,292	\$5,705	2.72%	\$204,295
Bridges	\$0	\$95	\$0		\$0
Road Construction & Reseals	\$2,092,256	\$117,481	\$73,173	3.50%	\$2,019,083
Drainage	\$600,000	\$5,153	\$0	0.00%	\$600,000
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$0	\$11,722	\$9,006	#DIV/0!	-\$9,006
Infrastructure Capital (Moved to Roads)	\$196,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$196,000
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$510,000	\$0	\$6,833		\$503,167
Rec Grounds	\$0	\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$0
Halls	\$284,000	\$22,031	\$0	0.00%	\$284,000
Buildings	\$661,500	\$0	\$6,622	1.00%	\$654,878
	\$5,221,022	\$378,453	\$299,621	5.74%	\$4,921,401
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS					
Corporate Services	\$315,500	\$16,333	\$26,662	8.45%	\$288,838
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$25,000
Works & Services	\$5,221,022	\$378,453	\$299,621	5.74%	\$4,921,401
	\$5,561,522	\$394,786	\$326,283	5.87%	\$5,235,239

Comprehensive Income Statement 31/08/2022						
	Budget 2021-2022	Actual to date prior year	Actual to Date	Budget 2022-2023	Variation from YTD Budget %	Comments
Recurrent Income						
Rates Charges	\$3,874,507	\$3,890,827	\$4,088,619	\$4,088,847	(0)%	
User Fees	\$337,250	\$288,726	\$56,502	\$370,250	(1)%	
Grants - Operating	\$2,510,640	\$3,405,771	\$206,729	\$2,973,329	(10)%	
Other Revenue	\$354,200	\$499,492	\$19,528	\$354,200	(11)%	
Total Revenues	\$7,076,596	\$8,084,816	\$4,371,378	\$7,786,626	39%	
Expenditure						
Employee Benefits	\$1,993,657	\$2,054,936	\$383,256	\$2,005,037	2%	
Materials and Services	\$1,379,666	\$2,318,389	\$385,657	\$2,089,353	2%	
Other Expenses	\$1,588,983	\$1,421,004	\$537,048	\$1,699,645	15%	
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$2,134,000	\$2,189,609	\$362,085	\$2,130,000	0%	
Total Expenditure	\$7,096,306	7,983,939	1,668,046	\$7,924,035	4%	
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	- 19,710	100,877	2,703,331	- 137,409		
Capital Grants & Other	\$861,250	\$1,805,826	\$100,000	\$2,379,150		
Surplus(Deficit)	841,540	1,906,703	2,803,331	2,241,741		
Capital Expenditure	\$4,428,000	\$394,786	\$326,283	\$5,561,522		

Therefore, to correct this error Council should rescind Resolution 16/09.2023/C and approved the correct documentation which has been provided under the following Item 27.3.

RESOLUTION 14/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

THAT Council rescind Resolution 16/09.2023/C from the 19 September 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

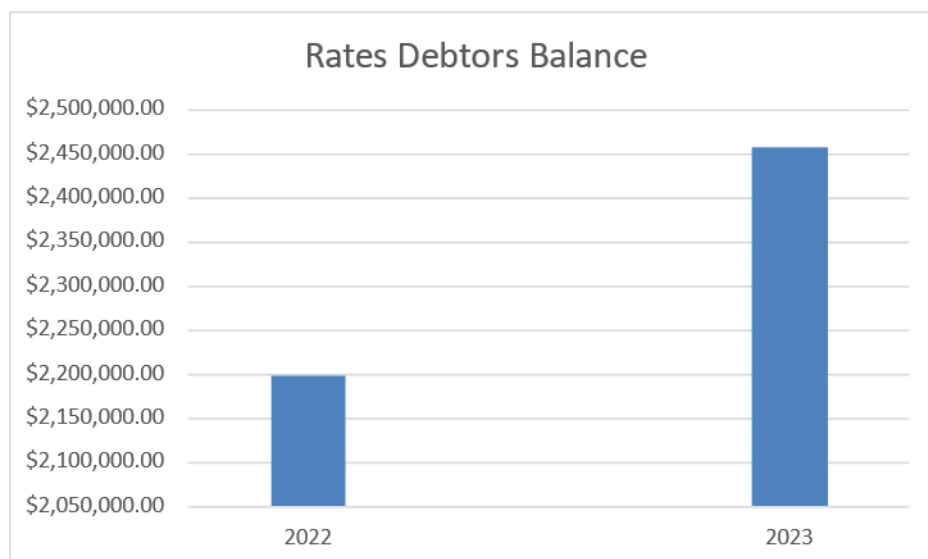
27.4 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2023

Report by

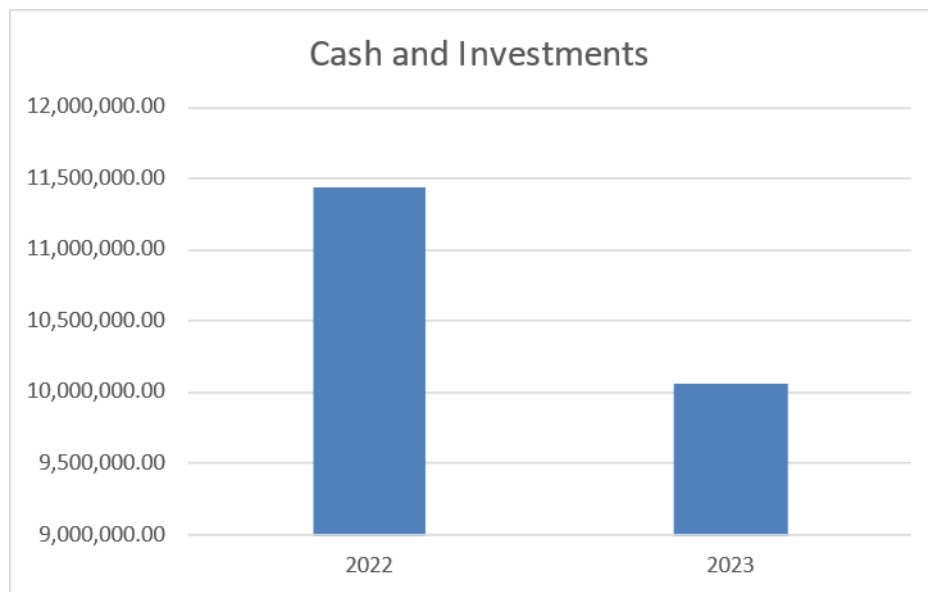
David Doyle, Contract Accountant

Background

Rates Reconciliation as at 31 August 2023				
		<u>2022</u>		<u>2023</u>
Rates in Debit 30th June		\$100,036.35		\$135,606.82
Rates in Credit 30th June		-\$139,127.10		-\$171,244.88
Balance 30th June		-\$39,090.75		-\$35,638.06
Rates Raised		\$4,088,619.14		\$4,469,589.38
Penalties Raised		\$0.00		\$0.00
Supplementaries/Debit Adjustments		\$4,055.20		\$5,045.81
Total Raised		\$4,053,583.59		\$4,474,635.19
Less:				
Receipts to Date		\$1,741,856.49		\$1,862,844.67
Pensioner Rate Remissions		\$108,734.09		\$116,719.22
Remissions/Supplementary Credits		\$4,636.61		\$2,609.71
Balance		\$2,198,356.40		\$2,456,823.53



BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023						
No.	Bank Accounts	Investment Period	Current Interest Rate %	Due Date	BALANCE	
					2022	2023
11100	Cash at Bank and on Hand					
11105	Bank 01 - Commonwealth - General Trading Account				2,115,144.81	2,953,394.98
11106	Bank 02 - Westpac - Direct Deposit Account				569,675.46	748,359.03
11110	Petty Cash				350.00	350.00
11115	Floats				200.00	200.00
11199	TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND				2,685,370.27	3,702,304.01
11200	Investments					
11206	Bank 04	30 Days			0.00	-
11207	Bank 05	90 Days	4.85%	26/09/2023	2,668,668.14	3,031,386.00
11207	Bank 06	30 Days	4.13%	4/09/2023	2,002,156.17	1,065,538.58
11212	Bank 12	30 Days				
11214	Tascorp	180 Days	4.75%	21/12/2023	78,078.66	80,346.47
11215	Bank 15	90 Days				
11216	Bank 16	90 Days	4.45%	13/10/2023	4,009,603.26	2,178,439.88
11299	TOTAL INVESTMENTS				8,758,506.23	6,355,710.93
	TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS AND CASH ON HAND				11,443,876.50	10,058,014.94



Bank Reconciliation as at 31 August 2023			
	2022		2023
Balance Brought Forward	\$10,760,985.68		\$9,512,558.74
Receipts for month	\$1,346,198.18		\$1,433,086.47
Expenditure for month	\$663,307.36		\$887,630.27
Balance	\$11,443,876.50		\$10,058,014.94
Represented By:			
Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$2,215,166.54		\$2,953,394.98
Balance Westpac Bank	\$593,316.42		\$748,359.03
Investments	\$8,758,506.23		\$6,355,710.93
Petty Cash & Floats	\$550.00		\$550.00
	\$11,567,539.19		\$10,058,014.94
Plus Unbanked Money	\$14,619.15		\$0.00
	\$11,582,158.34		\$10,058,014.94
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$250.31		\$0.00
Unreceipted amounts on bank statements	\$138,031.53		\$0.00
	\$11,443,876.50		\$10,058,014.94

	BUDGET	ACTUAL TO	ACTUAL TO	% OF BUDGET	BALANCE OF
	2023/2024	31-Aug-22	31-Aug-23	SPENT	BUDGET
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$1,697,621	\$337,862	\$331,950	19.55%	\$1,365,671
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$181,554	\$31,918	\$53,705	29.58%	\$127,850
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$121,900	\$6,198	\$6,550	5.37%	\$115,350
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$41,000	\$3,007	\$6,212	15.15%	\$34,788
ONCOSTS	(\$279,933)	\$93,207	(\$11,647)	4.16%	(\$268,286)
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	\$323,750	\$25,098	\$55,584	17.17%	\$268,166
TOTAL CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$2,085,892	\$497,289	\$442,353	21.21%	\$1,643,539
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
				112.20%	
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$286,795	\$46,152	\$54,046	18.84%	\$232,749
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$31,300	\$3,362	\$5,175	16.53%	\$26,125
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$11,300	\$849	\$2,893	25.60%	\$8,407
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$204,463	\$25,201	\$23,291	11.39%	\$181,172
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$53,151	\$3,725	\$2,282	4.29%	\$50,869
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$192,000	\$16,071	\$24,912	12.97%	\$167,088
WASTE SERVICES	\$874,519	\$97,196	\$81,323	9.30%	\$793,196
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	\$49,440	\$100	\$4,718	9.54%	\$44,722
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	\$1,702,968	\$192,655	\$198,640	11.66%	\$1,504,328
WORKS AND SERVICES					
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$160,734	\$28,144	\$33,024	20.55%	\$127,711
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$23,800	\$2,088	\$1,311	5.51%	\$22,489
HALLS (HALL)	\$56,969	\$17,114	\$25,823	45.33%	\$31,146
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$75,329	\$20,068	\$17,616	23.39%	\$57,713
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+tennis)	\$100,745	\$17,021	\$17,171	17.04%	\$83,574
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$152,400	\$14,923	\$13,400	8.79%	\$139,000
HOUSING (HOU)	\$100,258	\$47,343	\$50,578	50.45%	\$49,680
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$17,580	\$3,920	\$44	0.25%	\$17,536
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$1,267	\$1,020	\$1,852	146.18%	(\$585)
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$1,037,200	\$349,156	\$278,499	26.85%	\$758,701
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$9,580	\$4,905	\$1,951	20.36%	\$7,629
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,316	\$0	\$150	0.64%	\$23,166
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$44,600	\$24,525	\$12,590	28.23%	\$32,010
SUPER. & I/D OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$757,839	\$86,594	\$172,825	22.80%	\$585,014
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(\$194,500)	(\$8,022)	(\$42,183)	21.69%	(\$152,317)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$136,000	\$21,020	\$32,343	23.78%	\$103,657
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$203	\$502	25.11%	\$1,498
PLANT MTCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$500,000	\$130,110	\$179,457	35.89%	\$320,543
PLANT INCOME	(\$710,000)	(\$196,419)	(\$204,157)	28.75%	(\$505,843)
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$32,000	\$17,013	\$9,928	31.02%	\$22,072
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$28,553	\$8,503	\$12,157	42.58%	\$16,396
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$37,000	\$8,037	\$2,291	6.19%	\$34,709
TOTAL WORKS & SERVICES	\$2,392,672	\$597,264	\$617,172	25.79%	\$1,775,499

DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES					
Corporate Services	\$2,085,892	\$497,289	\$442,353	21.21%	\$1,643,539
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$1,702,968	\$192,655	\$198,640	11.66%	\$1,504,328
Works & Services	\$2,392,672	\$597,264	\$617,172	25.79%	\$1,775,499
Total All Operating	\$6,181,531	\$1,287,208	\$1,258,165	20.35%	\$4,923,366
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE					
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Computer Purchases	\$10,000	\$21,084	\$0	0.00%	\$10,000
Equipment	\$5,000	\$5,578	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
Miscellaneous	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
	\$20,000	\$26,662	\$0	0.00%	\$20,000
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
Swimming Pool	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$15,000
	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$15,000
WORKS & SERVICES					
Plant Purchases	\$940,000	\$198,282	\$59,164	6.29%	\$880,836
Camping Grounds	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Public Conveniences	\$333,334	\$5,705	\$23,219	6.97%	\$310,115
Bridges	\$648,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$648,000
Road Construction & Reseals	\$2,818,000	\$73,173	\$171,069	6.07%	\$2,646,931
Drainage	\$780,000	\$0	\$142,118	0.00%	\$637,882
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$73,000	\$9,006	\$0	0.00%	\$73,000
Infrastructure	\$184,000	\$0	\$40,209	21.85%	\$143,791
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$443,000	\$6,833	\$4,661	1.05%	\$438,339
Rec Grounds	\$810,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$810,000
Halls	\$198,000	\$0	\$2,623	1.32%	\$195,377
Buildings	\$845,169	\$6,622	\$215,897	25.54%	\$629,272
	\$8,072,503	\$299,621	\$658,959	8.16%	\$7,413,544
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS					
Corporate Services	\$20,000	\$26,662	\$0	0.00%	\$20,000
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$15,000
Works & Services	\$8,072,503	\$299,621	\$658,959	8.16%	\$7,413,544
	\$8,107,503	\$326,283	\$658,959	8.13%	\$7,448,544

Comprehensive Income Statement						
31/08/2023						
	Budget 2022-2023	Actual to date prior year	Actual to Date	Budget 2023-2024	Variation from YTD Budget %	Comments
Recurrent Income						
Rates Charges	\$4,088,847	\$4,088,619	\$4,469,589	\$4,469,863	(0)%	
User Fees	\$370,250	\$56,502	\$45,783	\$355,450	(4)%	
Grants - Operating	\$928,852	\$206,729	\$63,759	\$124,860	34%	
Other Revenue	\$354,200	\$19,528	\$113,550	\$453,200	8%	
Grants received in Advance	\$2,044,477		\$3,031,386	\$2,998,566		FAGs received Jun 2023 for 2023/24
Total Revenues	\$7,786,626	\$4,371,378	\$7,724,068	\$8,401,939	75%	
Expenditure						
Employee Benefits	\$2,005,037	\$383,256	\$366,984	\$2,553,663	(2)%	
Materials and Services	\$2,089,353	\$385,657	\$311,996	\$2,012,016	(1)%	
Other Expenses	\$1,699,645	\$537,048	\$564,608	\$1,715,852	16%	
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$2,130,000	\$362,085	\$417,011	\$2,260,000	2%	
Total Expenditure	\$7,924,035	1,668,046	1,660,599	8,541,531	3%	
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	(137,409)	2,703,331	6,063,469	(139,593)		
Capital Grants & Other	\$2,379,150	\$100,000	\$123,100	\$2,407,078		
Surplus(Deficit)	2,241,741	2,803,331	6,186,569	2,267,485		
Capital Expenditure	\$5,561,522	\$326,283	\$658,959	\$8,107,503		

[illegible]**RESOLUTION 15/10.2023/C**

Moved: Cr D Meacheam

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT the Monthly Finance Report to 31 August 2023 be received.

CARRIED**For the Motion**

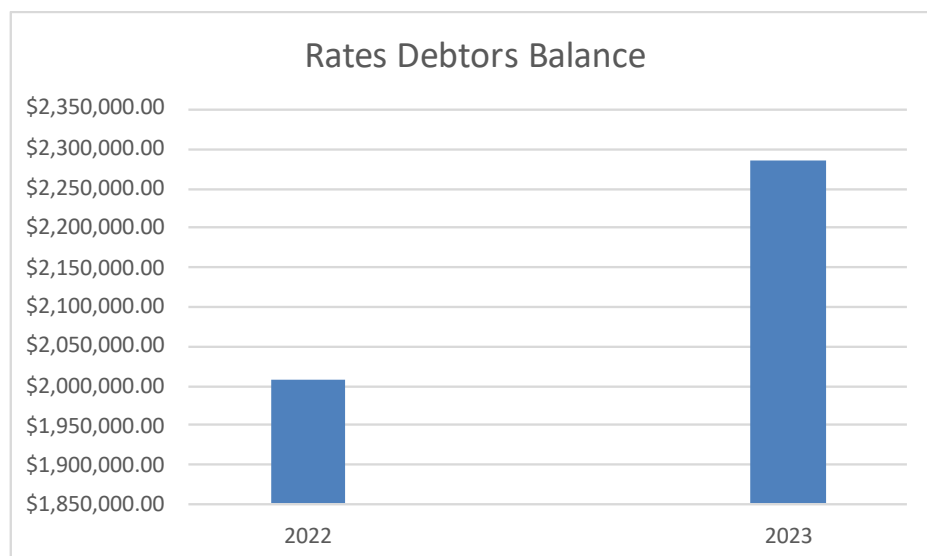
Mayor L Triffitt; Deputy Mayor J Allwright; Cr A Archer, Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; and Cr D Meacheam

27.5 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**Report by**

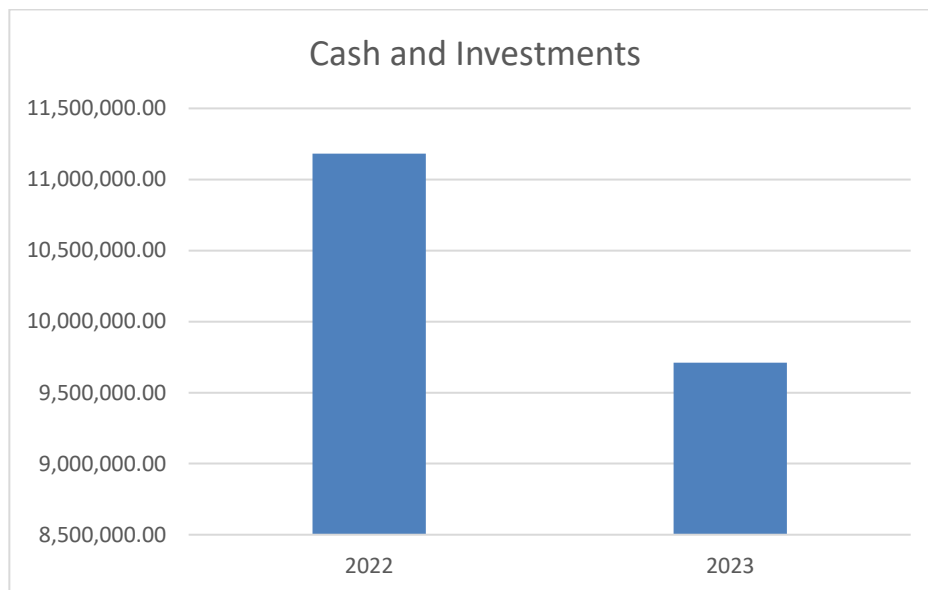
David Doyle, Contract Accountant

Background

<i>Rates Reconciliation as at 30 September 2023</i>				
		<u>2022</u>		<u>2023</u>
<i>Rates in Debit 30th June</i>		\$100,036.35		\$135,606.82
<i>Rates in Credit 30th June</i>		<i>-\$139,127.10</i>		<i>-\$171,244.88</i>
<i>Balance 30th June</i>		<i>-\$39,090.75</i>		<i>-\$35,638.06</i>
Rates Raised		\$4,088,619.14		\$4,473,690.61
Penalties Raised		\$13,296.33		\$15,306.58
Supplementaries/Debit Adjustments		\$6,441.84		\$6,497.62
Total Raised		\$4,069,266.56		\$4,495,494.81
<i>Less:</i>				
Receipts to Date		\$1,947,887.70		\$2,048,455.59
Pensioner Rate Remissions		\$109,068.25		\$117,580.84
Remissions/Supplementary Credits		\$5,833.61		\$8,168.44
<i>Balance</i>		<i>\$2,006,477.00</i>		<i>\$2,285,651.88</i>



BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023						
No.	Bank Accounts	Investment Period	Current Interest Rate %	Due Date	BALANCE	
					2022	2023
11100	Cash at Bank and on Hand					
11105	Bank 01 - Commonwealth - General Trading Account				1,049,404.52	2,512,880.17
11106	Bank 02 - Westpac - Direct Deposit Account				11,140.19	801,020.35
11110	Petty Cash				350.00	350.00
11115	Floats				200.00	200.00
11199	TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND				1,061,094.71	3,314,450.52
11200	Investments					
11206	Bank 04	30 Days			0.00	-
11207	Bank 05	90 Days	4.69%	22/12/2023	4,000,000.00	3,067,638.05
11207	Bank 06	30 Days	4.13%	4/10/2023	2,009,785.21	1,069,276.14
11212	Bank 12	30 Days				
11214	Tascorp	180 Days	4.75%	21/12/2023	78,294.58	80,346.47
11215	Bank 15	90 Days				
11216	Bank 16	90 Days	4.45%	13/10/2023	4,033,133.59	2,178,439.88
11299	TOTAL INVESTMENTS				10,121,213.38	6,395,700.54
	TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS AND CASH ON HAND				11,182,308.09	9,710,151.06



Bank Reconciliation as at 30 September 2023			
	2022		2023
Balance Brought Forward	\$11,443,876.50		\$10,058,014.94
Receipts for month	\$3,207,983.31		\$747,345.97
Expenditure for month	\$3,469,551.72		\$1,095,209.85
Balance	\$11,182,308.09		\$9,710,151.06
Represented By:			
Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$1,121,140.00		\$2,512,880.17
Balance Westpac Bank	\$12,256.50		\$801,020.35
Investments	\$10,121,213.38		\$6,395,700.54
Petty Cash & Floats	\$550.00		\$550.00
	\$11,255,159.88		\$9,710,151.06
Plus Unbanked Money	\$1,009.53		\$0.00
	\$11,256,169.41		\$9,710,151.06
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$17.22		\$0.00
Unreceipted amounts on bank statements	\$73,844.10		\$0.00
	\$11,182,308.09		\$9,710,151.06

	BUDGET	ACTUAL TO	ACTUAL TO	% OF BUDGET	BALANCE OF
	2023/2024	30-Sep-22	30-Sep-23	SPENT	BUDGET
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$1,697,621	\$514,885	\$458,286	27.00%	\$1,239,335
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$181,554	\$43,726	\$67,537	37.20%	\$114,017
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$121,900	\$30,155	\$8,033	6.59%	\$113,867
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$41,000	\$3,007	\$9,517	23.21%	\$31,483
ONCOSTS	(\$279,933)	\$84,520	(\$97,523)	34.84%	(\$182,410)
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	\$323,750	\$37,040	\$87,294	26.96%	\$236,456
TOTAL CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$2,085,892	\$713,334	\$533,144	25.56%	\$1,552,748
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
				181.36%	
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$286,795	\$60,964	\$86,082	30.02%	\$200,713
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$31,300	\$5,494	\$8,478	27.09%	\$22,822
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$11,300	\$849	\$3,756	33.24%	\$7,544
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$204,463	\$35,685	\$37,064	18.13%	\$167,399
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$53,151	\$3,733	\$2,493	4.69%	\$50,657
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$192,000	\$21,066	\$36,472	19.00%	\$155,528
WASTE SERVICES	\$874,519	\$141,706	\$187,875	21.48%	\$686,644
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	\$49,440	\$88,127	\$4,718	9.54%	\$44,722
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	\$1,702,968	\$357,623	\$366,939	21.55%	\$1,336,029
WORKS AND SERVICES					
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$160,734	\$34,761	\$44,188	27.49%	\$116,546
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$23,800	\$4,555	\$2,091	8.79%	\$21,709
HALLS (HALL)	\$56,969	\$18,088	\$29,448	51.69%	\$27,521
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$75,329	\$24,822	\$30,414	40.38%	\$44,915
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+tennis)	\$100,745	\$21,524	\$34,658	34.40%	\$66,087
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$152,400	\$34,539	\$49,405	32.42%	\$102,995
HOUSING (HOU)	\$100,258	\$49,821	\$54,993	54.85%	\$45,264
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$17,580	\$4,097	\$5,053	28.74%	\$12,527
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$1,267	\$1,020	\$1,852	146.18%	(\$585)
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$1,037,200	\$466,961	\$402,052	38.76%	\$635,148
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$9,580	\$5,012	\$2,760	28.81%	\$6,820
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,316	\$0	\$150	0.64%	\$23,166
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$44,600	\$29,511	\$20,049	44.95%	\$24,551
SUPER. & VD OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$757,839	\$112,173	\$228,238	30.12%	\$529,601
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(\$194,500)	(\$9,786)	(\$61,565)	31.65%	(\$132,935)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$136,000	\$32,008	\$36,089	26.54%	\$99,911
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$277	\$502	25.11%	\$1,498
PLANT MTCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$500,000	\$182,391	\$237,283	47.46%	\$262,717
PLANT INCOME	(\$710,000)	(\$272,267)	(\$325,442)	45.84%	(\$384,558)
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$32,000	\$17,468	\$13,624	42.58%	\$18,376
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$28,553	\$15,805	\$17,549	61.46%	\$11,004
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$37,000	\$13,273	\$6,595	17.83%	\$30,405
TOTAL WORKS & SERVICES	\$2,392,672	\$786,054	\$829,990	34.69%	\$1,562,682

DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES					
Corporate Services	\$2,085,892	\$713,334	\$533,144	25.56%	\$1,552,748
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$1,702,968	\$357,623	\$366,939	21.55%	\$1,336,029
Works & Services	\$2,392,672	\$786,054	\$829,990	34.69%	\$1,562,682
Total All Operating	\$6,181,531	\$1,857,011	\$1,730,073	27.99%	\$4,451,459
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE					
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Computer Purchases	\$10,000	\$21,084	\$0	0.00%	\$10,000
Equipment	\$5,000	\$5,578	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
Miscellaneous	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
	\$20,000	\$26,662	\$0	0.00%	\$20,000
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
Swimming Pool	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$15,000
	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$15,000
WORKS & SERVICES					
Plant Purchases	\$940,000	\$342,711	\$60,890	6.48%	\$879,110
Camping Grounds	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Public Conveniences	\$333,334	\$6,735	\$58,710	17.61%	\$274,624
Bridges	\$648,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$648,000
Road Construction & Reseals	\$2,818,000	\$118,228	\$211,480	7.50%	\$2,606,520
Drainage	\$780,000	\$0	\$175,138	0.00%	\$604,862
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$73,000	\$9,006	\$16,110	22.07%	\$56,890
Infrastructure	\$184,000	\$0	\$40,209	21.85%	\$143,791
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$443,000	\$6,833	\$8,111	1.83%	\$434,889
Rec Grounds	\$810,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$810,000
Halls	\$198,000	\$0	\$2,623	1.32%	\$195,377
Buildings	\$845,169	\$65,785	\$430,579	50.95%	\$414,590
	\$8,072,503	\$549,298	\$1,003,849	12.44%	\$7,068,654
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS					
Corporate Services	\$20,000	\$26,662	\$0	0.00%	\$20,000
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$15,000
Works & Services	\$8,072,503	\$549,298	\$1,003,849	12.44%	\$7,068,654
	\$8,107,503	\$575,960	\$1,003,849	12.38%	\$7,103,654

Comprehensive Income Statement							
30/09/2023							
		Budget 2022-2023	Actual to date prior year	Actual to Date	Budget 2023-2024	Variation from YTD Budget %	
Recurrent Income							Comments
Rates Charges		\$4,088,847	\$4,088,619	\$4,469,305	\$4,469,863	(0)%	
User Fees		\$370,250	\$85,072	\$64,969	\$355,450	2%	
Grants - Operating		\$928,852	\$211,729	\$104,541	\$124,860	67%	
Other Revenue		\$354,200	\$114,380	\$181,945	\$453,200	23%	
Grants received in Advance		\$2,044,477		\$3,031,386	\$2,998,566		FAGs received Jun 2023 for 2023/24
Total Revenues		\$7,786,626	\$4,499,800	\$7,852,146	\$8,401,939	77%	
Expenditure							
Employee Benefits		\$2,005,037	\$556,897	\$557,347	\$2,553,663	5%	
Materials and Services		\$2,089,353	\$596,911	\$489,261	\$2,012,016	8%	
Other Expenses		\$1,699,645	\$637,902	\$668,887	\$1,715,852	22%	
Depreciation and Amortisation		\$2,130,000	\$543,295	\$618,832	\$2,260,000	11%	
Total Expenditure		\$7,924,035	2,335,004	2,334,327	8,541,531	11%	
Operating Surplus(Deficit)		(137,409)	2,164,796	5,517,820	(139,593)		
Capital Grants & Other		\$2,379,150	\$208,913	\$123,100	\$2,407,078		
Surplus(Deficit)		2,241,741	2,373,709	5,640,920	2,267,485		
Capital Expenditure		\$5,561,522	\$575,960	\$1,003,849	\$8,107,503		

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

RESOLUTION 16/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

THAT the Monthly Finance Report to 30 September 2023 be received.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

27.6 REMISSIONS UNDER DELEGATION

Report by

Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager

The following remissions were made by the Acting General Manager/General Manager under delegation –

- Property Number 03-02025-00243 - \$17.46 – Remit Penalty.

FOR NOTING

27.7 INTEGRITY COMMISSION TASMANIA – ETHICS & INTEGRITY SNAPSHOT SURVEY 2021-22 FOR CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

Report by

Kim Hossack, General Manager

Background

Back in 2022, Council was requested by the Integrity Commission Tasmania to participate their Ethics & Integrity Snapshot Survey to gain a better understanding of how they can support the public sector and what Central Highlands are doing to meet our legal obligations under Section 32 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* (Tas).

22 Councils chose to participate out of the State's 29. The main sections of the survey were focused on the following areas -

- Identifying and managing misconduct;
- Staff Education, training, learning and development;
- Integrity and misconduct risks;
- Public interactions and power relationships;
- Promoting a culture of integrity;
- Accountability; and
- Engaging with the Integrity Commission.

Council's Survey Snapshot highlights were –

- Council has 90% of processes for identifying and managing misconduct in place; this is higher than the Local Government sector average.
- Council evaluated 17 main risks and all 13 activity-level areas as 'probably some risk'.
- Council is rated higher (100%) compared to rest of the Local Government sector in provision of staff education, training, learning and development in place.
- Council has all measures of promoting a culture of integrity and accountability in place (100%).

In summary, Council is performing well above the sector average and ongoing staff education and training needs to continue, to keep this level of integrity standard.

RESOLUTION 17/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT the Integrity Commission Tasmania – Ethics and Integrity Snapshot Survey 2021-2022 for Central Highlands Council be received and that ongoing training for both Staff and Elected Members to be considered within the 2024-2025 Budget Estimates.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

27.8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA (LGAT) – GENERAL MEETING ON 1 NOVEMBER 2023

Report by

Kim Hossack, General Manager

Background

The Local Government Association of Tasmania holds quarterly General Meetings in which the whole Local Government sector come together to discuss and vote on issues which relate to improving better financial and social outcomes for all ratepayers.

The next General Meeting will be held in Devonport on 1 November 2023 with the Mayor and General Manager being required to attend. The Mayor must cast a vote, on behalf of Central Highlands Council, in support or not, on the following proposed Motions from other Councils:-

2.1 MOTION - PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND CROWN LAND SERVICES REVIEW AND RESOURCING

Council – Break O’Day

Decision Sought:

That LGAT lobby the Tasmanian Government to undertake a review of the administrative activities of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Crown Land Services (CLS) with a particular focus on ensuring that the required level of resources are available to assess applications and deal with enquiries in a timely manner.

2.2 MOTION - ROAD LINE MARKING RESPONSIBILITIES

Council – Kingborough

Decision Sought:

That LGAT undertake advocacy on behalf of Councils to have road line marking responsibilities legislated and additional funding provided by the State Government.

2.3 MOTION - DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

Council – Kingborough

Decision Sought:

That Members note the Diversity and Inclusion Statement developed by Kingborough Council and agree to consider developing and adopting a similar statement to support safe, welcoming, and inclusive communities across Tasmania.

2.4 MOTION – REVIEW OF 42 DAY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION TIMEFRAME

Council – Clarence City

Decision Sought:

That LGAT be requested to convene a reference group from member Councils to develop options and recommendations for the sector to:

- 1. Assess the impact of the 42-day rule on planning outcomes across local Councils in Tasmania (including both qualitative and quantitative data).***
- 2. Identify what practices and delegations councils currently utilise to manage the 42-day rule, including the impact of those practices and delegations on representor objections.***
- 3. Review equivalent 'deemed approval' and timeframe extension mechanisms of other jurisdictions to compare with Tasmania's arrangements.***
- 4. Based on the findings of points 1, 2 and 3 above, identify whether the 42-day rule operates in a manner that is fair and equitable to all parties to a development application; that is both applicants and representors.***
- 5. Recommend changes be implemented to ensure development applications are not required to be resolved under delegation because an applicant refuses to grant an extension of time for an application to be considered at a Council meeting.***

Full details relating to the above motions can be found within the LGAT General Meeting Agenda which is attached for Councillor's reference.

RESOLUTION 18/10.2023/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr A Bailey

THAT Council support the following Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General Meeting Motions to be held on 1 November 2023 –

<i>Item</i>	<i>Motion Details</i>	<i>Support - Yes or No</i>
2.1	MOTION - PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND CROWN LAND SERVICES REVIEW AND RESOURCING	Yes
2.2	MOTION - ROAD LINE MARKING RESPONSIBILITIES	Yes
2.3	MOTION - DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT	Yes 6/2
2.4	MOTION – REVIEW OF 42 DAY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION TIMEFRAME	Yes

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

28. SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS

Nil Supplementary items.

29. OTHER BUSINESS

Letter from Haulage Road, Brenoa Residents – At the request of the Mayor, the General Manager stated to the Meeting that a letter has been received and will be actioned accordingly.

30. CLOSURE

Mayor Triffitt thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at **12.21pm**.

Signed as Confirmed:

Mayor L Triffitt

Dated: 21 November 2023

**Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Planning**



Level 10, Executive Building, 15 Murray Street, Hobart
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19 October 2023

Councillor Loueen Triffitt
Mayor
Central Highlands Council

By email: council@centralhighlands.tas.gov.au

Dear Mayor

On the 21 July 2023, the Government announced the development of new legislation to allow certain development applications to be determined by independent Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) appointed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission (the Commission). The introduction of DAPs is intended to help take the politics out of planning by providing an alternate approval pathway for more complex or contentious development applications.

Councils are 'Planning Authorities' with defined responsibilities under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act). Councillors are required to act as members of a planning authority when determining development applications, irrespective of their personal or political views, or those of the constituents they represent.

The contested role of councillors in planning has been identified as an issue in the Stage 2 Interim Report (released in May 2023) of the Future of Local Government Review. That report identified that there was strong division between those who believe councillors have a legitimate role in making planning decisions, and those who believe the role should relate to strategic land use planning where they can represent community views in planning processes but that decisions should be made by local professional planners, or in the case of complex applications, by independent planning panels.

This issue also extends to council's role in initiating draft amendments to their planning scheme. Councillors are only allowed to take into consideration the matters specified in the Act when determining to initiate a planning scheme amendment, which may be at odds with their political and/or community advocate position. Our work includes consideration of whether under certain circumstances there is a role for the Minister to direct a Council to initiate a planning scheme amendment. This would ensure that the independent Commission would be able to determine the merit of such an amendment.

The State Planning Office (SPO) has prepared a Position Paper that explores these issues and outlines a proposed DAP framework for consideration that is based on the broad characteristics announced by the Premier and initial consultation with key stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of Tasmania, Property Council and Homes Tasmania.

The Position Paper is available on the [SPO's website \(www.planningreform.tas.gov.au\)](http://www.planningreform.tas.gov.au) for a 6-week consultation period. I encourage you to review the paper and draft framework and make submissions to the SPO.

Submissions received on the Position Paper will inform the refinement of the draft DAP framework that will subsequently inform amendments to the Act. Further consultation will be undertaken on draft amendments to the Act prior to it being tabled in Parliament in early 2024.

Submissions will also inform if additional amendments to the Act are needed to be considered to provide an alternate pathway for initiating planning scheme amendments that provides increased powers for the Minister to direct a council to initiate under certain circumstances.

I acknowledge your support and look forward to engaging with you in preparing amendments to the Act that will contribute to the improvement of the planning system.

Yours sincerely



Hon Michael Ferguson MP
Minister for Planning

Cc: Ms Kim Hossack, General Manager

Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Framework

Position Paper



Author:
State Planning Officer

Publisher:
Department of Premier and Cabinet

Date:
October 2023

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ATTACHMENT I - Draft DAP Framework



1. Introduction

The Tasmanian Government has announced the preparation of new legislation to introduce independent Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) to take over some of councils' decision-making functions on certain development applications.

The stated intent for introducing DAPs is 'to take the politics out of planning' by providing an alternate approval pathway for more complex or contentious development applications.

Any DAP determined applications will still be assessed against the current planning rules and use and development standards in existing planning schemes. It is intended that, where possible, the DAP framework will utilise existing processes and incorporate local knowledge into the decision-making process.

The project also consider whether there should be an enhanced role for the Minister to direct a council to initiate a planning scheme amendment under certain circumstances.

The purpose of this Position Paper is to explore these matters by providing some background context on the role of council, identifying the current issues associated with determining development applications, seeking input on what applications might be suitable to be determined by a DAP, options for what a DAP framework might look like and how it might be integrated into the planning system.

Throughout the Position Paper 'Consultation issues' are identified and followed by text boxes containing specific questions that are intended initiate conversations for the purpose of consultation. In addition, to help explain what a DAP framework might look like, an outline of a draft framework is provided in **Attachment I** for comment.

2. Background

2.1 Role of planning authorities

In Tasmania, councils are 'planning authorities' with defined responsibilities to determine development applications in accordance with the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA). Section 48 of the LUPAA requires that:

'where a planning scheme is in force, the planning authority must, within the ambit of its power, observe, and enforce the observance of, that planning scheme in respect of all use and development undertaken within the areas to which the planning scheme relates.'

A council is required to act as a planning authority when it is determining development applications, irrespective of the personal or political views of individual Councillors and the constituents they represent. This presents a degree of conflict for those elected to represent their constituents under the *Local Government Act 1993* and perform the planning authority function. This conflicted role of Councillors has been identified in the Future of Local Government Review Stage 2 Interim Report (the Interim Report) (released in May 2023).

The Interim Report identified that there was strong division between those who believe Councillors have a legitimate role in making planning decisions on development applications,



and those who believe the role should relate primarily to strategic land use planning where they can legitimately represent community views in planning processes leaving decisions on applications to local professional planners, or in the case of complex applications, by independent planning panels. Indeed, some councils specifically requested that planning decisions be totally removed from elected councils.

Following the publication of the Interim Report, the Minister for Local Government amended the terms of reference for the Future of Local Government Review by removing councils' development assessment role, and referred this to the Minister for Planning for further consideration.

The Interim Report identified eight reform outcomes with some applicable reform options to consider. Of relevance to the Planning portfolio, Reform outcome 5 – “Regulatory frameworks, systems and processes are streamlined, simplified, and standardised” identifies the following options:

- *Deconflict the role of councillors and planning authorities*
 - *Refer complex planning development applications to independent assessment panels appointed by the Tasmanian Government*
 - *Remove councillors' responsibility for determining development applications*
 - *Develop guidelines for the consistent delegation of development applications to council staff.*

Typically, planning authorities don't consider many amendments to planning schemes, however they still have the potential to raise similar issues of conflict between planning considerations and the preferences of some constituents, to those experienced when determining development applications. Although the initiation process only signifies the commencement of the assessment of the planning scheme amendment, refusing to initiate is effectively a refusal of the application to amend the planning scheme and it does not progress to exhibition and assessment by the Council and final determination by the Commission.

As part of seeking feedback on a legislative framework for DAPs, the scope of this Position Paper has been broadened so that where Councillors are, or perceived to be, conflicted or compromised, or making a decision based not on planning considerations, whether it may be appropriate for the Minister to have the power to direct a Council to initiate in certain circumstances.

If there is support for an alternate planning scheme amendment initiation pathway, it would seem logical to include it as part of this project and incorporate any amendments to the Act in a single draft Bill. Any recommendations to include an alternate initiation pathway that is informed by the outcomes of this consultation process will be further consulted on early next year.

2.2 Planning system

Since 2014, the Government has been implementing significant reforms to the Tasmanian planning system, including delivery of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, the development of



the Tasmanian Planning Policies and a comprehensive review of the three regional land use strategies.

The results of these reforms are now becoming apparent. The Tasmanian Planning Scheme is in effect in 23 local government areas and the most recent consolidated data from 2021-22 shows that discretionary applications are being determined in a median timeframe of 38 days (40 average) and permitted in 21 days (21 average). Where the 'clock is stopped' to request further information, discretionary applications are being determined across the State in a median of 46 days (53 average) including those 'clock stopped' days.

By way of comparison, noting the differences in assessment processes and classifications, in the June 2023 'Improving the Performance of Land Zoning, Planning and Land Release System' report prepared for the Australian Government Treasury, average approval times in South Australia were around 46 days, Northern Territory 55 days, Australian Capital Territory 61 days, New South Wales 83 days, Queensland 86 days and Victoria a median of 81 days and an average of 129 days. There were no figures for Western Australia, but the statutory time frame for the equivalent of permitted developments is 60 days and for discretionary is 90 days (as opposed to 28 days and 42 days in Tasmania).

Tasmanian councils are also determining more applications than ever before, with annual totals rising from around 6,500 in 2016-17 to over 12,000 in 2021-22. In 2021-22 there were also over 1,750 single dwellings signed off in a matter of days as no permit required.

These statistics indicate that overall, our planning system is already among the fastest, if not the fastest, in the country when it comes to determining development applications.

However, the broad rights of appeal provided under Tasmanian legislation mean that these very timely outcomes are sometimes extended by an appeal process by many months resulting in an overall approval timeframe of perhaps 9-12 months. The appeal process provides a very important check and review of the initial decision of the planning authority by an independent panel of experts with the opportunity for all parties including those that made representations, to speak to their issues and test the evidence of other parties.

A review of the use of panels to determine development applications in other planning jurisdiction reveals that most States have an alternate pathway to local councils for determining certain developments. Although the nature of each DAP framework differs according to the underlying planning system, typically each model relies on meeting certain application criteria to be suitable for referring an application to a panel for determination with the assessment and determination functions of other development applications remaining with local government. Additionally, many of these other jurisdictions do not have the broad third party appeal rights that apply in Tasmania, meaning the DAP process and decision is more aligned to the appeal or review process.

Development Assessment Panels, or their equivalent, are already used in the determination of certain developments in the Tasmanian planning system including major and state significant projects and those which are dependent on a concurrent planning scheme amendment.



The Tasmanian Planning Commission (the Commission) is an independent statutory authority that reviews, advises on, and determines a range of land use planning matters. In performing these functions, it delegates tasks to expert panels.

The current proposal to develop a DAP framework is based on the principle of utilising existing parts of the planning system that are working well, including the existing and highly regarded independence and expertise of the Commission, in establishing DAPs to determine applications.

With respect to the proposal to introduce a role for the Minister to direct that a planning scheme amendment should be initiated, this too will retain the current process with Panels established by the Commission determining planning scheme amendments.

The table below identifies where Panels are currently used to determine development applications in the State's planning system¹. While these types of developments are not determined by the planning authority, they are informed by, and rely heavily on, the information and understanding of local issues received from it through submission, reporting or recommendations including a draft permit and conditions.

Legislation	Type of Assessment	Panel established by:
LUPAA	Major Project	Tasmanian Planning Commission
LUPAA	Combined planning scheme amendment and permit application	Tasmanian Planning Commission
<i>Major Infrastructure Development Approval Act 1999</i>	Linear infrastructure proposals across multiple municipalities	Tasmanian Planning Commission or decision made by a Combined Planning Authority
<i>State Policies and Projects Act 1993 -</i>	Projects of State Significance	Tasmanian Planning Commission

Table 1. *Types of applications determined by independent expert panels.*

The types of developments that are currently determined by a Panel are often complex, large in scale, time consuming, expensive and resource intensive assessment processes or involve changes to the planning scheme rules. To be eligible for these alternate assessment pathways, applications are required to meet eligibility requirements specified in the respective Acts.

¹ Expert DAPs are also used to determine discretionary development applications where the decision has been appealed to TasCAT



3. Identification of Issues

3.1 Conflicting role of Councillors

Despite the statistical evidence, there remains a perception that some Councils are less supportive of new development than others and that on occasion the personal views of elected councillors in relation to a proposed development, such as large-scale apartments, or social housing, may influence their decision-making despite being outside of the relevant planning scheme considerations they are bound to administer as part of the obligations of a planning authority.

The State Government has committed to delivering 10,000 new social and affordable houses by 2032. As identified in the Interim Report, where a development is controversial, there can be a tension between councillors' role as community advocates and as members of a statutory planning authority. The proposed DAP framework is intended to remove this tension and to deliver appropriate and timely assessments of housing projects undertaken by Homes Tasmania and registered Community Housing Providers.

Currently, only a small proportion of all development applications actually come before the elected members for decision with between 85 and 90 percent being routinely determined under delegation by council officers. These development applications are assessed by council planners against the requirements of the relevant planning scheme in accordance with the established processes defined in LUPAA. Many planning authorities delegate the determination of development applications to senior officers, and to sub committees. While only a small percentage of applications are determined by the full elected council, these applications typically involve a significant number of representations and are therefore subject to higher levels of local political interest. In some circumstances the full elected council will determine any application that has been recommended by council planners for refusal or where the application is actually proposed by council.

Because the evidence is that the inappropriate political determination of applications is limited to isolated, but well publicised, cases, the response should be proportional, so it does not undermine the integrity and success of the existing reforms, or the planning system itself. Changes should only be proposed where an issue has been identified. Additionally, any proposed changes should seek to utilise those parts of the assessment process that are operating efficiently.

Based on the discussion so far the following issues have been identified for feedback:



Consultation issue I – Types of development applications suitable for referral to a DAP for determination

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

Options

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

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

Options

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

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

Options

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

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

- a) Under what circumstances should the Minister have a power to direct the initiation of a planning scheme amendment by a Council?
- b) Is it appropriate for the Minister to exercise that power where the Council has refused a request from an applicant and its decision has been reviewed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission?

For example:

Section 40B allows for the Commission to review the planning authority's decision to refuse to initiate a planning scheme amendment and can direct the planning authority to reconsider the request. Where that has occurred, and the planning authority still does not agree to initiate an amendment, is that sufficient reason to allow Ministerial intervention to direct the planning authority to initiate the planning scheme amendment, subject to the Minister being satisfied that the LPS criteria is met?

- c) Are there other threshold tests or criteria that might justify a direction being given, such as it aligns to a changed regional land use strategy, it is identified to support a key growth strategy, or it would maximise available or planned infrastructure provision?

3.2 Retaining local input

One of the concerns of a DAP framework is that it relies on decisions being made by experts that do not necessarily have the local knowledge that would otherwise be available within a local council and considered and applied when determining a development application.

The proposed DAP framework can utilise and benefit from this local knowledge. By way of example the current assessment process for a combined planning scheme amendment and permit application (s. 40T of LUPAA or s.43A under the former provisions of LUPAA) is undertaken by both the planning authority and the Commission, with the Commission being the final decision maker. For the development application component of a s43A or s40T application, it is the planning authority that assesses the proposal against the amended provisions of the planning scheme, issues a draft permit, undertakes the notification procedures in accordance with the LUPAA, it receives representations and addresses the issues raised by the representations. All these matters are presented in a report prepared by the council officers and provided to the Commission. Then all parties including those that made representations are invited to attend a hearing and present their issues before the final determination is made by the panel.



This is a tried and tested process that ensures valuable local input into the assessment and allows all parties to present their case and be heard directly by the decision maker. Being an established process that is understood by planners it has been identified as the preferred basis for the preliminary draft DAP framework as presented in Attachment I.

Consultation issue 3 –

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

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

3.3 Request for further information

There have also been concerns raised by both Council and the development industry regarding request for further information stalling the determination of development applications.

Application requirements are specified under clause 6.1 of the State Planning Provisions. The application requirements are intended to give applicants certainty as to the range of matters and level of detail needed in their application to allow the planning authority to undertake its assessment against the provisions of the planning scheme.

Once the planning authority receives a valid application the assessment 'clock' commences against either the timeframe of 28 days for the assessment of a permitted application or 42 days for a discretionary application. Section 54 of LUPAA allows the planning authority to request additional information from the applicant where the application lacks the necessary information for the planning authority to undertake an assessment. The time taken for the



applicant to respond to the planning authority's request does not count towards the assessment timeframe as the 'clock is stopped'. The assessment clock recommences once the planning authority is satisfied that the information provided addresses the matters raised in the request for additional information.

There is anecdotal evidence that with some contentious proposals (particularly social housing) the additional information process is being used to delay or frustrate the timely assessment of a proposal. While a request for further information can be appealed to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TasCAT) the associated costs and uncertainty regarding the timeframe for resolution is a deterrent.

Sections 40A and 40V allows an applicant to request the Commission to review the planning authority's request for additional information for an amendment to an LPS and a combined amendment and planning permit (respectively). Similar provisions, sections 33B and 43EA, apply under the former provisions of LUPAA.

These sections of LUPAA provide an opportunity for the applicant to test the requirement for, and content of, requests for further information from the planning authority. The Commission can direct the planning authority to revoke the request for additional information, issue a new notice requesting additional information or determine that the request for additional information was appropriate.

This raises questions around what the appropriate process is for resolving contested additional information requests where the proposed DAP process is being used.

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

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

3.4 Timeframes for assessment and appeal rights

The proposed DAP framework incorporates both the review of the application by the council (in forming advice) and the DAP (as the decision-maker) and the coordination of hearings into representations to provide representors with the opportunity to address the panel and final determination by a DAP. This, in effect, combines the initial stage of the current process (consideration by the Planning Authority) and a possible subsequent appeals process (currently unconstrained by time). The existing statutory 42 day timeframe for determining discretionary applications is, therefore, not adequate for this process.



A DAP framework, utilising the Commission to establish the panel, would be subject to the requirements of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997*. A panel established by the Commission is required to determine matters following the rules of natural justice and providing for procedural fairness similar to other LUPAA processes that are undertaken by the Commission. This involves hearings where the parties can make submissions and be heard by the decision maker in much the same way as a TasCAT appeal hearing.

The purpose of appealing a planning authority's decision to TasCAT is to provide for an independent review of the process, in a public forum and without political interference. By using the Commission to establish the DAP, the independent review function will be built into the DAP framework. This removes uncertainty, delays and costs associated with determining contested applications through TasCAT.

Legislation	Type of Assessment	Decision maker	Subject to merit Review	Judicial Review
LUPAA	S 58 development application (permitted)	Planning authority	Yes (applicant on permit conditions only)	Yes
LUPAA	S 57 development application (discretionary)	Planning authority	Yes	Yes
LUPAA	Major Project	TPC	No	Yes
LUPAA	Combined planning scheme amendment and permit application	TPC	No	Yes
<i>Major Infrastructure Development Approval Act 1999</i>	Linear infrastructure proposals across multiple municipalities	Combined Planning Authority or TPC panel	Yes	Yes
<i>State Policies and Projects Act 1993 -</i>	Projects of State Significance	TPC	No	Yes

Table 2. Development application processes that are subject to appeal

Table 2 shows that the only process that allows a TPC decision to be subject to a merit appeal to TasCAT is under the *Major Infrastructure Development Approval Act 1999* (MIDA). An application under MIDA is considered a section 57 application under LUPAA. The application is determined by a panel established by the TPC or a Combined Planning Authority. In determining the application there is no requirement under MIDA for the decision maker to hold a public hearing before making a decision. The appeal rights for



MIDA applications are a consequence of not being guaranteed a public hearing in the initial determination of the application.

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

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

OPTIONS

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

3.5 Post determination roles of Council

Planning authorities are responsible for enforcing permit conditions and considering any proposed amendments to permits that have been issued by them.

It is necessary to explore how these roles and functions might be impacted by the development application being determined by a DAP.



It is anticipated that the DAP will engage extensively with the planning authority in preparing the permit and conditions of approval. Any legislative framework for a DAP model will be required to establish the post determination functions of the planning authority.

Under both State significant and major project processes, there is a role for the planning authority as the normal compliance body for administering the permit. Consistent with the principle of the DAP framework utilising current parts of the planning system that are operating effectively, it is proposed to parallel the process of TasCAT determinations whereby the planning authority is required to administer the planning permit.

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

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

4. Draft DAP framework

Based on initial consultation with key stakeholders, commitments made in the Premier's announcement and the identification of issues as discussed above, the following DAP framework has been drafted as a starting point for discussion.

The draft DAP framework is provided in **Attachment I**. The draft framework is cross referenced with the Consultation Issues that have been raised in the text boxes in the body of this Position Paper. Comments are invited on any other matter that the draft DAP framework raises.

5. Next Steps

Following the consultation period on the Position Paper the submissions received will be reviewed and inform modifications to the DAP framework. Based on the revised framework, the Government will prepare a draft amendment to the Act which will be further consulted early next year.

It is proposed that the Bill will be tabled in Parliament in early 2024.



ATTACHMENT I - Draft DAP Framework



Draft Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Framework

Ref	Stage of assessment process	Responsible person/ authority	Proposed Framework	Comments and additional Questions for consultation
1	Pre-lodgement discussion between applicant and planning authority	Planning Authority and applicant	No change to current process.	Existing informal processes undertaken on an as needs basis. Discussions may include whether or not the development application is eligible for DAP referral.
2	Lodge Development Application	Applicant lodges with Planning Authority	No change to current process	Existing process for the lodgement of development applications.
3	Determination of valid application and referral to other entities	Planning Authority	Planning Authority reviews application and determines if the application is valid in accordance with the existing provisions of the Act. Refers application to TasWater, Tasmanian Heritage Council or EPA as required.	Existing process for determining that a development application is valid ² . See section 24 and 25 of this section for information regarding application fees.

² must comply with 51(IAC) and (IAB) and 51A;

(IAC) For the purpose of subsection (IAB), a valid application is an application that contains all relevant information required by the planning scheme applying to the land that is the subject of the application.

(IAB) A planning authority must not refuse to accept a valid application for a permit, unless the application does not include a declaration that the applicant has-

- a) notified the owner of the intention to make the application; or*
- b) obtained the written permission of the owner under section 52.*

Section 51A refers to the payment of application fee.

4A	<p>Planning Authority reviews Development Application and decides if it is to be determined by a DAP.</p> <p>Discretionary referral</p>	<p>Planning Authority</p>	<p>Planning Authority to determine if the Development Application should be referred to a DAP for determination.</p> <p>The Planning Authority may determine that the development application meets the criteria for DAP referral and, if so, notifies, and seeks endorsement from the applicant, to refer the development application to the DAP for determination, within 7 days of the Planning Authority receiving a valid application.</p> <p>The applicant may also make a request to the Planning Authority for it to consider referring the application to a DAP for determination subject to the Planning Authority being satisfied that the application meets the criteria for DAP referral.</p> <p>DAP Criteria</p> <p>An application may be suitable for referring to a DAP if it is a discretionary application and the referral is endorsed by both the Planning Authority and the applicant, provided one or more of the following criteria for DAP referral is satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where the council is the proponent and the planning authority; • the application is for a development over \$10 million in value, or \$5 million in value and proposed in a non-metropolitan municipality; 	<p>Refer to Consultation issue 1 in the Position Paper.</p> <p>Additional considerations:</p> <p><i>Is 7 days a reasonable timeframe for this function to be undertaken by the Planning Authority? Could it be delegated to senior planning staff?</i></p> <p><i>Where a dispute arises between the Applicant and the Planning Authority over a development application being referred to a DAP for determination, is it appropriate for the Minister to have a role in resolving, subject to being satisfied that the development application meets the DAP criteria?</i></p> <p><i>If not the Minister, who should be responsible for resolving the matter?</i></p> <p><i>Is it appropriate to consider the value of a development as a criteria for referral to a DAP for determination? If so, what should the stated value be?</i></p> <p>Note:</p> <p>See sections 21 and 22 of this table which provides options for development applications to be referred at later stages of the assessment process as issues become apparent, such as after exhibition.</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the application is of a complex nature and council supports the application being determined by a DAP; the application is potentially contentious, where Councillors may wish to act politically, representing the views of their constituents, rather than as a planning authority; or Where there is a case of bias, or perceived bias, established on the part of the Planning Authority. 	
4B	Planning Authority reviews Development Application and decides if it is to be referred to DAP Mandatory Referral		<p>The Planning Authority must determine to refer the development application to a DAP for determination, within 7 days of the Planning Authority receiving a valid application, if the development application is a discretionary application and for a prescribed purpose:</p> <p>Prescribed purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An application over \$1 million where the council is the proponent and the planning authority; An application from Homes Tas for subdivision for social or affordable housing or development of dwellings for social and affordable; An application for critical infrastructure; Other(?) 	<p>Refer to Consultation issue 1 in the Position Paper.</p> <p>Additional considerations:</p> <p><i>Is 7 days a reasonable timeframe for this function to be undertaken by the Planning Authority? Could it be delegated to senior planning staff?</i></p> <p><i>Are there any other examples of development applications under the prescribed purposes that might be suitable for referral to a DAP for determination?</i></p> <p><i>Is it appropriate to consider the value of a development for DAP referral where council is the applicant? If so, what value is reasonable?</i></p> <p><i>What might be considered as 'critical infrastructure'?</i></p>

5	PA requests referral of DA to DAP for determination.	Planning Authority and DAP	<p>Planning Authority requests referral of the development application to the DAP within 7 days of the Planning Authority determining that the development application is suitable for DAP referral in accordance with section 4A and 4B above.</p> <p>The Planning Authority's written referral request includes all the material that comprises the development application (at this stage).</p> <p>If the DAP does not agree that the development application meets the DAP criteria or is for a prescribed purpose, the DAP must give notice to the Planning Authority and applicant of its decision.</p> <p>If the DAP does not agree that the development application meets the DAP criteria, the assessment of the development application continues in accordance with the existing LUPAA provisions.</p> <p>If the DAP accepts the Planning Authority's request that the development application meets the criteria for DAP referral or is for a prescribed purpose, the DAP must give notice, within 7 days of receiving the Planning Authority's request, to the Planning Authority and applicant of its decision.</p>	<p><i>Should the time taken for an application that has been referred to a DAP for determination that, in the opinion of the DAP, does not satisfy the relevant referral criteria or is not for a prescribed purpose, count towards the relevant period referred to in s57(6)(b) of the Act given the assessment will continue in accordance with a s57 application if it is not eligible for DAP referral?</i></p>
6	Review of DA to determine if further information is required to	Planning Authority	Where the DAP has accepted the Planning Authority's request to refer the development application to the DAP for determination, the Planning Authority reviews the development application to determine if additional information is	Additional information request can occur simultaneously with the Planning Authority's request for DAP determination. Regardless of the outcome of the request to refer the development application to the DAP, the Planning Authority is required to ensure it has the

	undertake the assessment		<p>required and, if so, must make a request within 21 days of receiving a valid application.</p> <p>Clock stops while waiting for the applicant to provide additional information to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.</p>	<p>necessary information it needs to undertake the assessment.</p> <p>The 21 day timeframe and ‘stopping the clock’ is consistent with section 54 of the Act.</p>
7	Review of further information requests	Applicant	<p>Within 14 days after being served a request for further information in accordance with 6 above, the applicant may request the DAP to review the Planning Authority’s additional information request.</p> <p>The DAP, within 14 days of receiving a request to review the PA’s additional information requirement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Planning Authority’s request for additional information; • Revoke the Planning Authority’s request for additional information; or • Issue a new notice to the applicant requesting additional information. <p>The DAP must give notice of its decision to the Planning Authority and applicant.</p>	<p>Refer to Consultation issue 4 in the Position Paper.</p> <p>Because the DAP has agreed that the DA will be DAP determined, it already has a copy of the development application.</p> <p>The review of a Planning Authority’s request for additional information is similar to the existing provisions under s40V of the Act.</p>
8	Provision and review of additional information.	Applicant and Planning Authority	<p>Once the applicant provides the additional information and, in the opinion of the planning authority, it satisfies either the original request or one that has been modified by the DAP, the assessment clock recommences.</p> <p>If the additional information does not satisfy the original request or one that has been modified by</p>	<p>This part of the framework is similar to existing processes.</p>

			the DAP, the Planning Authority advises the applicant of the outstanding matters and the clock remains stopped.	
9	Planning Authority assesses DA	Planning Authority	<p>Planning Authority assesses the application against the requirements of the planning scheme and recommends either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • granting a permit; or • refusing to grant a permit. 	<p>Refer to Consultation Issue 3 in the Position Paper.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>The proposed framework has adopted a process that is similar to the section 40T of the Act process where council assesses the application and then places the application and the Planning Authority's report on exhibition (as below).</p>
10	Public notification of application and Planning Authority recommendations	Planning Authority	Planning Authority to advertise the development application, its assessment report and recommendations, including a draft permit (if recommended for approval), for a period of 14 days (and in accordance with section 9 of the LUPAA Regulations) during which time representations are received.	
11	Planning Authority to review representations	Planning Authority	Planning Authority to review representations and prepare a statement of its opinion as to the merits of each representation and the need for any modification to its recommendation on the development application, including the draft permit and conditions.	This part of the proposed framework is similar to the existing provisions of section 42 of the Act.
12	Provision of all documents to the DAP	Planning Authority	<p>The Planning Authority provides DAP with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a copy of the application (although they should already have it) and any further information received; • a copy of the recommendation report and any draft permit; 	This part of the proposed framework is similar to existing processes for a section 40T(1) application

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a copy of all the representations; and • a statement of its opinion as to the merits of each representation and any modifications to its original recommendations on the DA as a consequence of reviewing the representations; • DAP fee (refer to section 25) <p>within 14 days of the completion of the exhibition period.</p>	
13	DAP review and publication of information and hearing determination	DAP	<p>DAP reviews and publishes all the information provided by the Planning Authority (as listed in 12 above) and notifies all parties advising that they have received the relevant documents from the Planning Authority, where those documents can be viewed and requesting advice regarding which parties would like to attend a hearing.</p> <p>If there are no representations or no parties that wish to attend a hearing, the DAP may dispense with the requirement to hold a hearing.</p> <p>The DAP must notify the Planning Authority, applicant and representors of their determination to hold, or dispense with holding, a hearing.</p>	An option is given to dispense with the requirement for a DAP to hold a hearing in situation where there are no representations, all representations are in support, representations have been revoked or there are no representations that want to attend a hearing.
14	DAP hearing into representations	DAP	<p>Representors, applicant and Planning Authority invited to attend hearing and make submissions to the DAP on the development application.</p> <p>Parties to the proceedings must be given at least one weeks' notice before the hearing is scheduled.</p>	The draft permit conditions are subject to contemplation by the parties at the hearing. It is anticipated that this will resolve issues around the future enforcement of those conditions by council or other issues that would otherwise arise and be subject to appeal through TasCAT.

			<p>Natural justice and procedural fairness for conduct of hearings consistent with <i>Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997</i>.</p> <p>DAP hearings are encouraged to be held locally.</p>	
15	DAP determination	DAP	<p>DAP undertakes the assessment considering all the information and evidence presented at the hearing and determines the development application.</p> <p>DAP must determine application within 35 days from receiving documents from Planning Authority (under section 12 above)</p> <p>DAP may request an extension of time from the Minister.</p>	Refer to Consultation Issue 5 in the Position Paper for questions regarding assessment timeframes.
16	Notification of DAP decision	DAP	<p>Within 7 days of the DAP determining the development application it must give notice of its decision to the Planning Authority, applicant and representors.</p>	Similar to existing notification provisions under section 57(7).
17	Issuing of Permit	DAP/ Planning Authority	<p>If the decision of the DAP is to grant a permit, the DAP must, in its notice to the Planning Authority (under section 16 above), direct it to issue a permit in accordance with its decision within 7 days from receiving the notice from the DAP.</p> <p>The permit becomes effective 1 week from the day it is issued by the Planning Authority.</p>	
18	Enforcement	Planning Authority	<p>The Planning Authority is responsible for enforcing the permit.</p>	Refer to Consultation Issue 6 in the Position Paper. This is the same process for permits issued by TasCAT.

19	Appeal rights	All parties	There is no right of appeal on the grounds of planning merit as the decision has been made by an independent panel with all parties engaged in the process.	Refer to Consultation Issue 5 in the Position Paper for questions regarding appeal rights. While the draft framework proposes that DAP determined development applications are not subject to a merit appeal, the decision of the DAP is subject to judicial review by virtue of the <i>Judicial Review Act 1997</i> .
20	Minor amendment to permits	Planning Authority	A Planning Authority can receive a request for a minor amendment to a permit involving an application that has been determined by a DAP.	Refer to Consultation Issue 6 in the Position Paper. Minor amendments to permits are assessed by the Planning Authority against the existing provisions of section 56 of the Act.

Other opportunities for a development application to be referred to a DAP

Ref	Stage of assessment process	Responsible person/ authority	Proposed Framework	Comment
21	Ministerial Call in Powers	Planning Authority or applicant	At any stage of the assessment process the applicant or Planning Authority may make a request to the Minister that a development application be referred to a DAP for determination. The Minister may refer the application to a DAP provided the Minister is satisfied that the development application meets the DAP criteria.	This provides an opportunity for referral when issues only become apparent at the later stages of the assessment process. <i>Is it appropriate for the Minister to have the power to call in a development application in these circumstances?</i> <i>In this scenario, is it necessary for the applicant and Planning Authority to agree to the request?</i>
22	Ministerial referral of DA to DAP	Minister	Where the Minister refers the DA to a DAP for determination (in accordance with 21 above), the Minister must, by notice to the DAP and Planning Authority (if required), direct the DAP and Planning Authority (if required) to	Because this type of referral can occur at any stage, there needs to be a direction to specify those parts of the assessment process that still needs to be completed. These processes will include elements that need to be undertaken by the DAP and may include

			undertake an assessment of the development application and specify the process and timeframes for the DAP and Planning Authority (if required) to follow. The Minister can also specify that the Planning Authority must provide all relevant documents relating to the application and its assessment to the DAP within a timeframe.	elements that need to be undertaken by the Planning Authority. The Planning Authority is required to provide all relevant documents to the DAP
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DAP membership

Ref	Stage of assessment process	Responsible person/ authority	Proposed Framework	Comment
23	Establishment of Panel	Tasmanian Planning Commission (Commission)	No change to existing Commission processes.	The framework adopts the Commission's well established processes for delegating assessment functions to panels.

Development application fees

Ref	Stage of assessment process	Responsible person/ authority	Proposed Framework	Comment
24	Lodging DA	Planning Authority	Planning Authority charges applicant normal application fees.	Planning Authority doing the same amount of work, just not making the determination so is entitled to the application fee.
25	DAs referred to DAP for determination	Planning Authority and DAP	A DAP determined development application will incur an additional application fee. The Planning Authority is to charge the applicant an additional fee at the time the DAP	Additional fee is to cover some of the costs incurred by the Commission.

			<p>notifies the Planning Authority that they have accepted the Planning Authority's request to refer the development application.</p> <p>The DAP application fee is to be included in the information provided to the DAP following the exhibition of the development application (section 12 above).</p> <p>No order for costs can be awarded by the DAP.</p>	<p>The additional application fee is going to be cheaper than the cost of going to a full tribunal hearing.</p>
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Tasmanian
Government

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REPORT

REPORT TO:	STRWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM
PREPARED BY:	PAUL JACKSON CEO
SUBJECT:	QUARTERLY REPORT
REPORT DATE:	30 SEPTEMBER 2023

SUMMARY

The Rules of the STRWA provides:

13 Quarterly reporting

13.1 The Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority (STRWA) must provide a report to Members as soon as practicable after the end of March, June, September and December in each year.

13.2 The quarterly report must include:

- (a) A statement of the STRWA's general performance; and
- (b) A statement of the STRWA's financial performance.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

WLF Accounting and Advisory has been engaged to develop STRWA's inaugural Strategic Plan. This is a significant piece of work for STRWA and has involved comprehensive engagement with stakeholders including a survey, interviews and a member workshop with councils at our October Forum.

The Plan is aimed to be completed by March 2024.

ANNUAL REPORT

A draft annual report has been prepared as part of the regular end of financial year requirements. The report only covers a relatively short period of time since STRWA's commencement, but it has provided an opportunity to explain the background to the establishment of STRWA and what the STRWA hopes to achieve.

EMERGING STRATEGIC ISSUES AND STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Rethink Waste

STRWA has worked actively this quarter to support whole of state conversations about waste communication and education and in particular the role of Rethink Waste.

A workshop is being held in early November with other regional waste bodies, the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board and Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania to develop a strategic plan for Rethink Waste. This Plan will determine the scope of Rethink's operations which will allow an appropriate delivery model, governance model and funding requirements to follow.

The need for education to support behavioural change has been consistently raised by STRWA members and other stakeholders as an important activity. The intent of the workshop is to clarify the role that Rethink Waste will play, in supporting circular economy goals through education and awareness, going forward.

Cleanaway Contract

The contract with Cleanaway Pty Ltd for the processing of recycling materials in the southern region of Tasmania at its materials recovery facility (MRF) has been novated from the City of Hobart to STRWA (the City of Hobart undertook a joint procurement and entered into a contract on behalf of all councils in the south with the intention that STRWA would assume responsibility for managing that contract once it was established). This now provides an opportunity to access data relating to the operation of the MRF and ensure that key messages are available to the community (see Officer Network below).

Regular reporting from Cleanaway against the KPIs contained in the contract are now provided to STRWA and subsequently to council officers.

Stakeholder Engagement

Member Councils

STRWA is engaging directly with its member councils through attending council workshops or briefings. This has occurred with approximately half the councils in the region and provides an opportunity for STRWA to outline its current approach and future plans as well as hear directly from elected members in the region on key issues. If you would like use to make contact directly with your council at any time, please contact our CEO.

Newsletter

The provision of a regular newsletter is ongoing with the latest edition being released in September 2023. These will be provided approximately quarterly.

<https://mailchi.mp/8dca4e2ed3cd/strwa-newsletter-issue-7-september>

Regional Bodies

Regular meetings occur with Cradle Coast Waste Management Group (CCWMG) and the Northern Tasmania Waste Management Program (NTWMP) as well as with the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) in relation to waste related issues. Collaborating across the State is critical to the ongoing success of improving waste outcomes in the State.

Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board

The Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board (TWRRB) hosted a strategic alignment workshop in Hobart on Wednesday 20 September 2023. The workshop was attended by senior representatives from the TWRRB, the three primary regional waste management bodies including CCWMG, NTWMP and STRWA and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE).

The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen strategic alignment on shared Tasmanian waste management priorities, explore opportunities for increased collaboration, better understand respective roles and responsibilities, and identify potential strategic initiatives for the near term.

The workshop identified four potential high level strategic initiatives for improved waste management and resource recovery in Tasmania:

1. **Collective governance**—working together to share information, collaborate on projects and coordinate activities for shared benefit at the local, regional, and state level.
2. **Data management framework**—improving collection, analysis, and use of waste and resource recovery data to inform investment priorities and evidence-based decision making and planning.
3. **Investment framework**—improved state-wide approach to targeting grants and other investments to leverage existing programs and activities.
4. **Behaviour change programs**—developing consistent and integrated state-wide public education and information platforms and programs to support individual, community and industry behaviour change.

There was agreement to establish an informal working group comprising the CEOs of the TWRRB, CCWMG, NTWMP, STRWA to be a primary mechanism for ongoing collaboration and coordination of program development and delivery across Tasmania.

Litter Management Plan

MRA Consulting has been contracted to develop a litter management plan for the southern region of Tasmania. This work is well underway and is at a stage of engaging with relevant stakeholders, including councils, which follows the background research and context setting that has already been completed. The draft plan will be presented to council officers in early December, and it is expected that this will be completed before the end of this year.

Officer Network

A network of waste officers within southern councils has been established with its first meeting held in August 2023. This provides a great opportunity to coordinate activities across councils in the region as well as sharing knowledge and resources.

One initiative already delivered arising from this group is the development of social media material explaining what items can and can't be recycled through the southern MRF. This was pursued in conjunction with Cleanaway because of Cleanaway being a standing item on the agenda for these meetings. This material has also been circulated to individual councils for use as appropriate.

OTHER MATTERS

Garage Sale Trail

STRWA provided a subsidy to councils in the region to participate in this year's program. 8 southern councils are participating out of 10 in the whole of Tasmania. This initiative has been explored as a

trial to assist in determining how best to support these kinds of initiatives and consider a framework to guide investment.

Reactive and Responsive Actions

STRWA has provided submissions in response to the MRF Protocol arising from the container refund scheme and also in relation to the Federal Government's proposed introduction of paper and cardboard export regulation.

STRWA is actively monitoring the State Government's consultation process in relation to its Sustainability Strategy.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Profit and Loss Statement – 30 September 2023

Account	Jul-Sep 2023
Trading Income	
1030-02 - State Government - Grants	590,411.00
Total Trading Income	590,411.00
Gross Profit	590,411.00
Operating Expenses	
Employee Expenses	47,064.10
Board Expenses	
2020-01 - Board Fees	11,852.75
2020-05 - Board Expenses	1,162.69
Total Board Expenses	13,015.44
Office Expenses	
2030-03 - Printing & Stationary	94.87
2030-04 - Computer & IT Equipment	363.57
2030-06 - Subscriptions & Licences	1,729.19
2030-07 - Telephone & Internet	237.26
2030-08 - Sundry Office Expenses	9.09
Total Office Expenses	2,433.98
Other Expenses	
2040-03 - Accounting and Auditing Costs	4,236.09
2040-05 - Consultants	260.00
2040-06 - Banks Fees	15.14
2040-08 - Insurance Costs	10,533.22
2040-11 - Graphic Design & Website	1,482.00
2040-15 - Officer Network	282.73
Total Other Expenses	16,809.18
Project costs	
2050-05 - Garage Sale Trail	7,000.00
Total Project costs	7,000.00
Total Operating Expenses	86,322.70
Net Profit	504,088.30

CONCLUSION

The above report highlights the activities of the STRWA for the quarter ending 30 September 2023.

COMMUNITY CARBON EMISSIONS AND ENERGY FOOTPRINT

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA 2023



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CARBON EMISSIONS AND ENERGY FOOTPRINT

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

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

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

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

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

METHOD

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

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

This Carbon Emissions and Energy Footprint has been prepared by:

LEAD ANALYST and PROJECT COORDINATOR: Alison Johnson, Climate Change Officer, Brighton Council.

Acknowledgments

The STCA acknowledges organisations that assisted with the finalisation of the community greenhouse gas and energy profile:

- City of Hobart developed and piloted the initial methodology for community emissions
- TasNetworks provided residential and commercial/industrial sector electricity data
- Brighton Council, provided in-kind expertise and technical support
- TasWater, providing water and sewerage emissions data
- STCA RCCI provided waste data for councils across the southern region
- Katrina Graham, Ex-Project Coordinator, Regional Climate Change Initiative, STCA – for the guidance and assistance delivering community emissions profiles across the southern region for many years (2016–2023)

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KEY MESSAGES

The 2023 Community Carbon Emissions and Energy Footprints, produced for the 12 southern Tasmanian councils highlights more needs to be done to reduce emissions.

Higher impact emission reduction efforts are required as more than 22,575 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) are released into the atmosphere every year from activities in the Central Highlands Local Government Area (LGA). This is equivalent to 5,024 petrol/diesel vehicles driving around for one year.

Greenhouse gas emissions, mainly come from burning fossil fuels (coal, petrol and diesel, gas), and must urgently be reduced if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Industrial and transport sector energy use are clearly the largest emitters (over half of community emissions) and a key focus for government, community, and private sector emission reductions. Combined the commercial and residential sectors contribute 21% of community emissions and the waste, sewerage and agricultural sectors contribute 22%. Emission reduction actions are needed across all sectors to meet Australia's goals of a 43% reduction from 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

Leading International Climate Change Bodies, scientists, and governments around the world have determined that greenhouse emissions must urgently be halved if we are to limit more than 1.5C of warming.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for assessing climate change science. In the most recent, the Sixth Assessment Report March 2023, there are warnings that urgent action is required to cut emissions by nearly half by 2030 to limit warming to 1.5C for a safe and liveable planet.

Local governments throughout Australia are acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the changing climate.

The 12 southern Tasmanian councils, collaborating through a regional climate alliance, developed a community (municipal) emissions methodology for waste and energy based on current reporting methods and protocols. Community greenhouse and energy footprints were completed for each of the councils in 2019 and updated in March 2023.

This report identifies emissions sources that require substitution with low emission fuels, products, and services.

Recording and reporting community emissions, technology adoption and energy use can reveal successes over time, highlight the role of emerging industries, and increase accountability towards a low to zero emission future.

Energy statistics show emerging technologies that are making a difference.

Rooftop solar installations have doubled across the LGA in the last decade and provide 723,851 units generated locally back to the grid.¹ Electric vehicle adoption is low with 0 registered vehicles in 2020.

We all have a role to play to reduce emissions. The world is moving towards zero emissions, achieving this is a huge challenge that requires all members of the community to do their part.

Local governments have a key role increasing public understanding by being a corporate leader in the commercial sector, and through communicating successful local initiatives to our households and communities.

¹ Standard electricity meters only provide exported electricity to the grid, this is the majority of the dataset available. This means onsite rooftop solar technologies contribution to the energy mix is underrepresented as there is electricity (can be the same amount as exported) used onsite generated by rooftop solar. Smart meters are becoming more prevalent and measure onsite use as well as exports.

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

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

Small actions together can have a large impact.

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

We can make a difference – our combined efforts have flow on impacts around the world.

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

Southern Tasmanian councils are leading and encouraging permanent community emission and energy reductions.

There are key areas for climate action moving forward:

1. Warm healthy homes
2. Low carbon transport
3. Energy efficient businesses
4. Minimise methane emissions from waste and sewerage

Individual households can reduce their emissions through the following measures:

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

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

On behalf of researchers, public officials, decision makers, community sustainability champions and students who can all access this information to help inform the debate on best practice abatement (emissions reductions), Tasman Council makes special acknowledgement of:

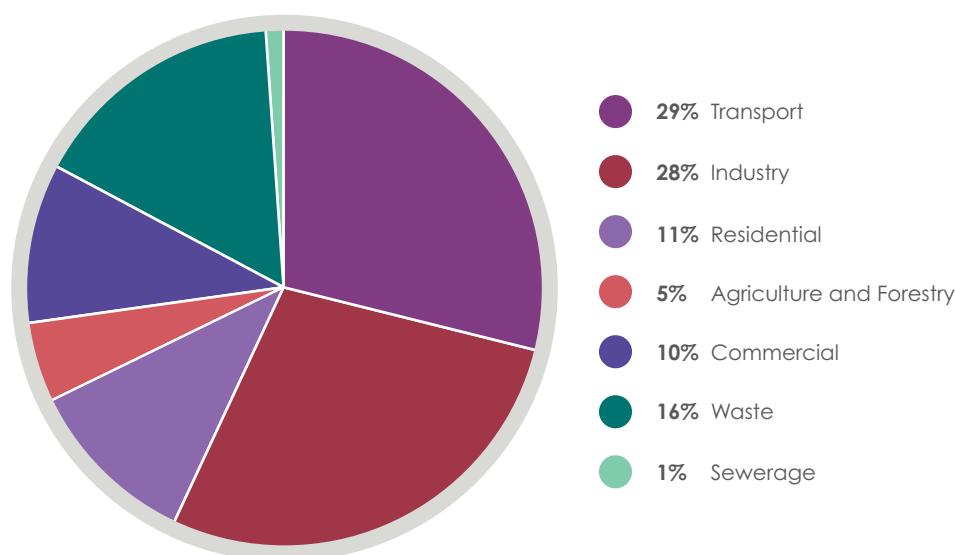
- TasNetworks for providing metered electricity data for the residential, commercial (and industrial sectors as part of the commercial data);
- RCCI members for ongoing review, support and data testing; and
- The Local Government Association of Tasmania for advocacy.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS LGA COMMUNITY CARBON EMISSIONS AND ENERGY FOOTPRINT

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

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

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



Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2023.

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

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

Energy emissions have decreased by 72%, the reductions were from industry (4,698 tCO₂-e), commercial (7,481 tCO₂-e), transport (1,305 tCO₂-e) and residential (8,059 tCO₂-e) sector. Waste emissions increased by 2,008 tCO₂-e.

What is an equitable way to allocate emissions from industry and transport?

Transport emissions are created from passenger vehicles (travelling to work and play), travelling by road, as well as rail, freight, by boat and by aeroplane travel.

The challenge is location specific models will allocate airports to the LGA they are located, when emissions here are the responsibility of everyone who flies.

In the future there may be highly accurate mobile phone data on journey's travelled and locations, this is still in its infancy for smaller cities such as Hobart.

Road transport is the largest creator of transport emissions, particularly from petrol and diesel. In this community profile transport emissions are allocated based on per capita, rather than location. It is likely that the larger cities have more of an emissions footprint, due to the volume of people.

Industrial emissions are also allocated per capita across municipalities, even though a few key locations are responsible for a large portion of industry sector emissions.

Industrial and transport emissions might not reflect local trends as data sources are based on Statewide trends. Until all local industrial companies volunteer their emissions data to a central reporting agency or the Australian Government regulatory reporting bodies negotiate commercial in confidence concerns for public data release these datasets will be largely inaccessible.

Waste and sewerage emission sources

Emissions from waste are sourced from kerbside collection figures and Waste Transfer Station tonnages from council records. The Australian Government provides a waste emissions methodology that outlines the emissions from organic matter rotting in landfill that creates emissions. Community (including corporate) waste emissions are:

Financial Year	Total waste emissions (tCO ₂ -e)
2019/20	1,537
2020/21	2,097
2021/22	3,546

Source: Central Highlands Council and Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority 2023.

Waste emissions increase due to a range of factors, however, population growth from 2,130 in 2019-20 to 2,520 in 2021-22 is likely to have an impact.

Sewerage emissions estimated are calculated on a per capita basis. TasWater provides an estimate for water, sewer, and other emissions per capita for Tasmania, then this factor is multiplied by the population.

The biggest contribution to emissions from waste are from methane generated from organic wastes going to landfill.

However, as the process does not capture 100% of methane emissions the most effective way to reduce overall emissions is to reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill.

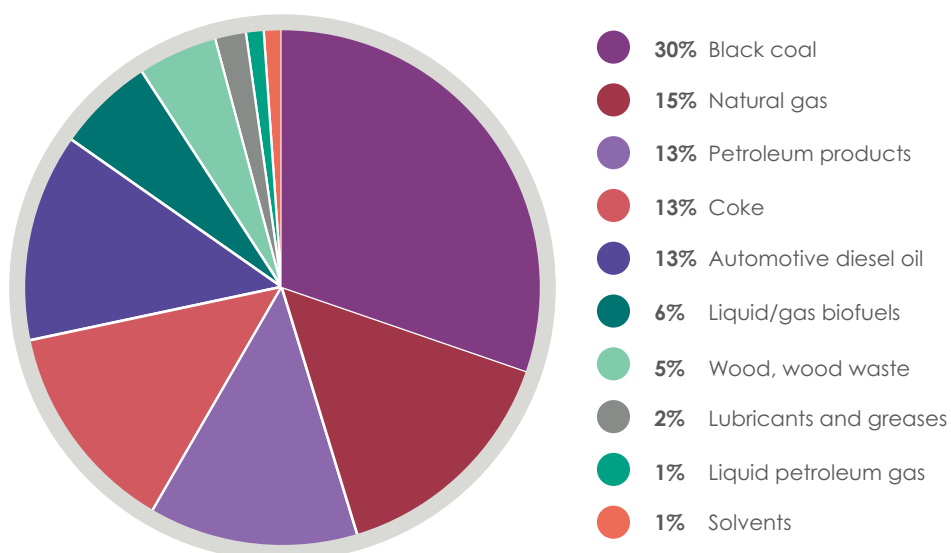
Emission reductions occurred in the industrial, commercial, and residential sectors, in part due to Covid lockdowns.

Covid restrictions reduced travel, reduced the viability of some commercial businesses, and shifted electricity use from the commercial sector to residential as more people worked from home. National and state policies, market trends and commercial supply lines have been having a large impact on industry trends, while local electricity use trends reflect population growth, local climate conditions and economic growth. The emissions coming from Tasmanian electricity use also decreased over the last decade, even though this rose slightly in the last year.

Key industrial trends for Tasmania, Australian Energy Statistics

Industrial emissions mainly come from burning black coal (30%), coke (13%), petroleum products (13%) and diesel oil (13%).

Figure 2. Industrial emissions by energy sources in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e)



Industrial emissions are also allocated per capita across municipalities, even though a few key locations are responsible for a large portion of industry sector emissions.

Industrial and transport emissions might not reflect local trends as data sources are based on Statewide trends. Until all local industrial companies volunteer their emissions data to a central reporting agency, or the Australian Government regulatory reporting bodies negotiate commercial in confidence concerns for public data release, these datasets will be largely inaccessible.

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

GHG emissions	2010-11 (tCO ₂ -e)	2020-21 (tCO ₂ -e)	Growth % over the decade	Total difference between 2010-11 and 2020-21 (tCO ₂ -e)
Agriculture and Forestry	881	1,257	35	376
Commercial	9,698	2,218	-126	-7,481
Industry	11,055	6,357	-54	-4,698
Residential	10,451	2,392	-126	-8,059
Transport	7,912	6,608	-18	-1,305
Waste	1,537	3,546	79	2,008
Sewerage	136	198	37	62
Grand Total	41,670	22,575	-59	-19,095
Subtotal energy	39,997	18,831	-72	-21,166

Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2023.

Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2023, TasNetworks, 2023. Australian Greenhouse Gas Accounts Factors (Tasmania) 2022. The Midpoint method for determining growth rates is used.

Central Highlands community energy use has decreased by 38% from 2010-11 to 2020-21 to 395,313 GJ.

Industrial energy use decreased by 57%, while transport decreased by 18%, residential energy use decreased by 20%, and agricultural (35% growth) and commercial energy use decreased by 79%.

Table 2: Community energy use in Gigajoules (GJ)

Energy use (GJ)	2010-11	2020-21	Growth % over the decade
Agriculture and Forestry	12,578	17,960	35
Commercial	124,114	53,702	-79
Industry	155,558	86,542	-57
Residential	158,378	129,666	-20
Transport	128,658	107,443	-18
Grand Total	579,285	395,313	-38

NB: change in residential energy use is in part due to increasing the accuracy of postcode energy use divisions between shared postcodes.

Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2023.

Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2023, TasNetworks, 2023. The Midpoint method for determining growth rates is used.

Transport energy use and emissions trends

Emissions from transport have changed over time. Before the year 2020-11 transport emissions consistently increased over time. Since 2020-11 emissions fell to an all-time low in 2017-18. Emissions rose since then and decreased during the covid period of 2019-20, then increased again in 2020-21, yet overall led to a decrease compared to a decade ago.

Table 3: Transport sector greenhouse gas emissions in tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions equivalent tCO₂-e

Central Highlands LGA Transport GHG emissions tCO ₂ -e			
Transport energy sources	2010-11	2020-21	Difference between 2010-11 and 2020-21
Auto gasoline – unleaded	4,392	2,497	-1,895
Aviation gasoline	11	3	-9
Aviation turbine fuel	337	154	-184
Fuel oil	34	48	14
Natural gas	22	5	17
Petroleum products	1	0	1
Kerosene and heating oil	0	0	0
Lubricants and greases	0	0	0
Liquid Petroleum Gas	91	0	-91
Automotive Diesel Oil	3,025	3,887	862
Liquid/Gas Biofuels	0	15	15
Total GHG emissions	7,929	6,627	1,301

Source: STCA, RCCI, 2023. Data sources: Australian Energy Statistics, 2023. NB: the difference between the above table and overall summary is that electricity use has been removed to avoid double counting, as electricity data in all sectors is provided from the source as residential and commercial sector based.

The clear switch from petrol to a higher emission fuel, diesel, led to an increase in emissions.

The table below shows that there is a technology/user preference trend towards diesel vehicles, driving up diesel fuel use, while petrol use has decreased.

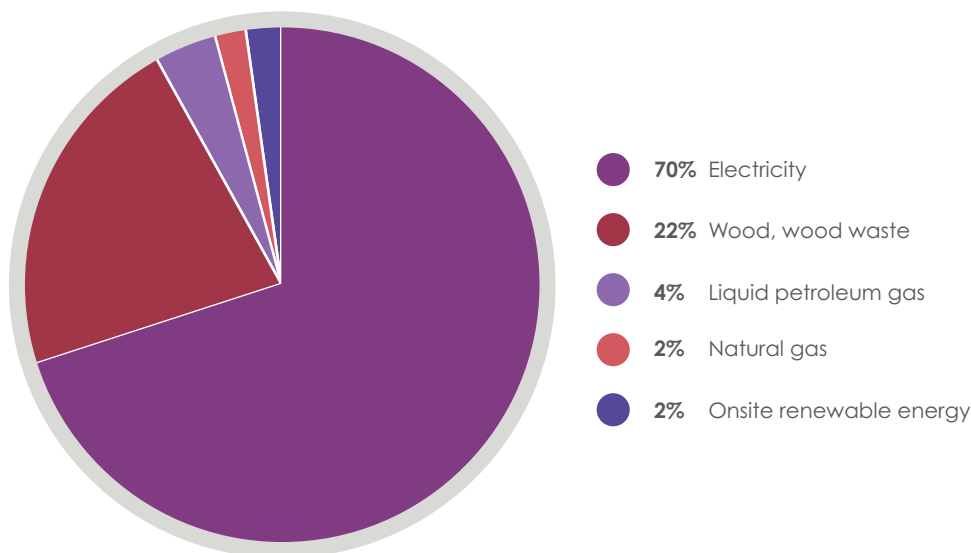
Emissions footprint from each Gigajoule generated		
Energy sources	Emissions per unit of energy used	Footprint from example 60,000 GJ per annum
LPG	61.5 kgCO ₂ -e /GJ	3,690,000 kgCO ₂ -e
Auto gasoline-unleaded	67.42 kgCO ₂ -e /GJ	4,045,200 kgCO ₂ -e
Diesel	70.5 kgCO ₂ -e/GJ	4,230,000 kgCO ₂ -e
Electricity (Tasmania)	39 kgCO ₂ -e /GJ	2,340,000 kgCO ₂ -e

Diesel emissions are 184 tonnes of CO₂-e more than petrol in the example used in the table above. If vehicles use electricity the emissions footprint is even lower, saving an estimated 1,890 tonnes of CO₂-e per annum.

Electricity use is more than half of residential and commercial sector energy use, providing a good indication of energy trends in the sectors.

Metered electricity use and generation data provides high accuracy localised energy use information, improving insights into local electricity use.

Figure 3. Emissions by energy source in the residential sector in Gigajoules (GJ)



Source: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, 2023.

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

Central Highlands local energy use trends

Emissions factors have decreased significantly from 2010-11, which has the greatest effect (mainly due to electricity use being the main residential sector energy use) on an overall emissions reduction.

Average residential electricity use has slightly increased, as has average commercial electricity use, with growth in the number of meter connections. New business meter connections increased by 207. There was an increase in residential electricity use with an increase in metered households in 2020-21 than in 2017-18. In 2023, the electricity data was split more accurately between LGAs that share the same postcodes.

Contrary to the Tasmanian Energy Statistics, which suggest a halving of wood use over

the last decade, Central Highlands LGA is unlikely to have reduced wood heating use to a lesser degree, as a more rural area. While there is an increase in heat pump use the older housing stock and rural population in Central Highlands LGA is likely to support wood heating. LPG use has doubled over the same time across Tasmania in the residential sector, this may be the case in more households that are remote in rural areas. Hot water systems, cooking and BBQs are likely to be the main gas users in homes.

Central Highlands LGA covers rural, satellite urban centres and a large agricultural area. The LGA has a more extreme climate, with a variety of microclimates depending on the valley locations and mountains within the area.

Total electricity was higher in 2020-21 compared to 2017-18.

Households are using on average slightly higher amounts of electricity in 2021 compared to 2017 in Central Highlands LGA and total residential electricity use has increased, reflecting an increase in household meter connections since 2017. The number of commercial connections has increased by 207 connections.

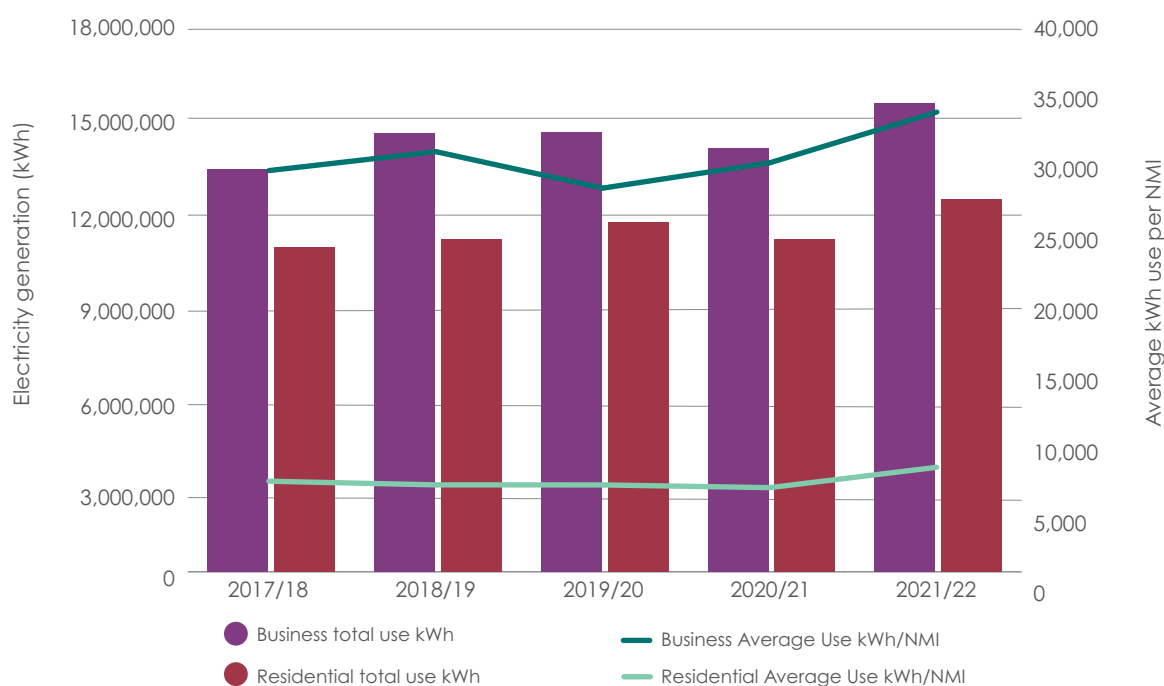
Table 4: Residential and commercial electricity National Meter Identifiers (NMI) connections

Values	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Growth 2017-2021
Business NMIs	429	451	479	636	207
Residential Use NMIs	1,446	1,597	8,975	8,054	209

Data source: TasNetworks, 2023.

NB: Electricity meter connections are based on National Meter Identifier (NMI) data. Electricity use is represented as kilowatt hour (kWh). One kWh is equal to one unit on electricity bills. This includes both commercial and industrial facilities to protect the identification of facilities at a local level. Boundary adjustments of the data sets where shared postcodes exist across LGAs can alter the number of metered households and businesses.

Figure 4. Electricity use across the residential and business sector in Kilowatt hour (kWh)



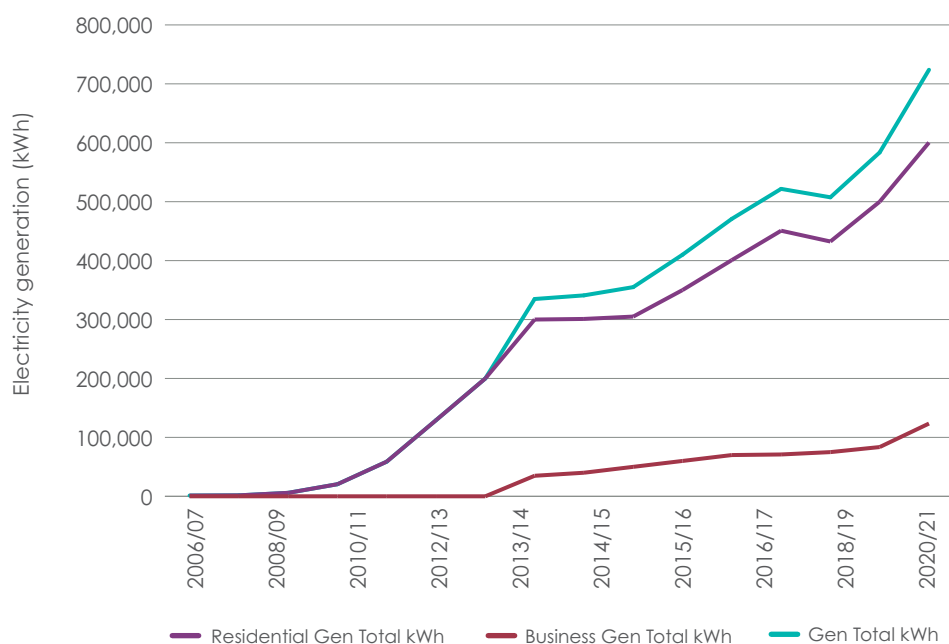
Data source: TasNetworks, 2023.

NB: Electricity meter connections are based on National Meter Identifier (NMI) data. Electricity use is represented as kilowatt hour (kWh). One kWh is equal to one unit on electricity bills. This includes both commercial and industrial facilities to protect the identification of facilities at a local level. There were multiple data anomalies for this dataset, given records around average electricity use are consistent around these, estimates were used instead.

Emerging electric vehicle technologies and the prevalence of rooftop solar continue to have a positive impact, reducing emissions and changing the way the electricity sector interacts with household and business consumers.

In the Central Highlands LGA, there were 0 registered electric vehicles in 2020. Locally 207 homes and businesses are generating to supply renewable energy onsite in addition to exporting approximately 723,851 units or kWh to the electricity grid. The bulk of renewable energy systems are likely to be the more dominant technology of rooftop solar photovoltaic systems.

Figure 5. Renewable electricity generation across the residential and business sectors in Kilowatt hour (kWh)



Data source: TasNetworks, 2023.

NB: Electricity meter connections are based on National Meter Identifier (NMI) data. Electricity use is represented as kilowatt hour (kWh). One kWh is equal to one unit on electricity bills. This includes both commercial and industrial facilities to protect the identification of facilities at a local level. A decrease in the number of renewable energy generation could mean expanding system sizes in the business sector as larger scale systems are delineated by TasNetworks data. In addition, the accuracy over shared boundaries between LGAs has increased in recent years.



Southern Tasmanian councils are at the forefront of information provision to target permanent emission and energy reductions.



There are key areas for climate action where energy and greenhouse gas information can assist with community project/program development and implementation:

- Energy efficient businesses – the industrial and commercial sectors can often represent a larger portion of local community emissions. Developing local partnerships via a climate action agreement can help promote local champions, provide data reporting, accountability, and case studies to stimulate further action across the sector.
- Agricultural and forestry energy use is primarily focused on energy use associated with businesses. Energy audits, such as walk through audits, can help identify key areas for energy bill savings, develop case studies, and identify the best possible tariff arrangements, or result in early issue identification. Total commercial electricity use per meter or average electricity use can help measure the effectiveness of any interventions.
- Low carbon transport – Transport is a key area for emission reductions. There is a strong push to change to electric vehicles, yet currently these are a very small portion of the transport market. The Australian Bureau of Statistics provides the number of registered vehicles in local areas, gives an indication of the adoption of electric vehicles, the age of vehicles selected, the number of vehicles per household and user technology/energy preferences. Active transport planning can encourage consumers to choose public transport or walk/ride.
- Warm healthy homes – support measuring the effectiveness of programs that can improve the energy efficiency of the home and improve other health outcomes, such as reduced mould from warmer, drier homes. Mould and asthma can be the cause of underlying respiratory problems in the very young or elderly. Total household electricity use and average household electricity use provides an indication of the effectiveness of home energy use awareness raising programs and alongside the Home Energy Audit Toolkit (HEAT), available for free from councils, can provide the top 10 ways to reduce residential energy use.
- Minimising methane emissions from waste are directly linked to the amount of organic matter rotting in landfill. Greater organic waste recycling will decrease emissions and can be measured via the tonnes of waste to landfill. Food Organics and Garden Organics waste services reduce the total immediate emissions coming from landfill as do awareness raising programs that work with local businesses and schools.
- Sewerage emissions can be reduced through the types of sewerage collection i.e. from remote sewerage tanks to specifically designed treatment facilities that can capture the methane gas or alter the composition of the material to reduce emissions. TasWater is the primary agency responsible for water and sewerage decisions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why report community emissions?

Local governments voluntarily report to a range of bodies on community emissions and answer a range of queries from individual community members, scientists, researchers, policy makers and program developers. Having clear evidence regarding source emissions helps plan and guide decision-making for the transition to a low carbon economy.

Why provide local energy and emission trends?

Greenhouse gas emissions accounting relies on energy use information, such as measured electricity generation. This project provides community access to local energy use by postcode. Each council is provided with this data from reliable government and government business enterprises so communities across the southern region of Tasmania can access energy and greenhouse gas information compiled at a local level. This includes detailed and accurate electricity data measured at the meter by TasNetworks which provides insights into electricity use and onsite renewable energy generation trends at a household and business level. Completing an initial energy and greenhouse gas snapshot provides a starting point whereby targets can be set, plans developed, and community projects can be evaluated over time. This reflects a well-established international framework for driving and documenting community climate change action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

What do the changes identified mean for our communities?

The results show common ground and unique energy and greenhouse trends across communities. Common findings across municipalities show average residential electricity use does not jump considerably suggesting households have improved the energy efficiency of buildings or are responding to other factors that drive electricity use to find savings. Consumer behaviour in commercial premises and the home have been influenced by increasing awareness of energy costs and actions as well as factors such as:

- the weather
- population or business growth
- price signals
- the use of energy efficient appliances and materials
- government programs
- energy efficiency measures, such as insulation, buffer the impact of extreme temperature events reducing the demand for heating and cooling, decreasing power use
- renewable energy is expanding in every municipality, with solar photovoltaics (PV) the most popular technology
- electric vehicles are gaining in popularity with exponential growth in the southern region

For unique trends in each municipality see the individual summary papers or regional summary document.

How else can this information be used?

Electricity use data is metered, so it can be used to measure the effectiveness of programs following the installation of energy saving measures such as insulation, efficient heating, and draught proofing. This evidence can then be used to guide program priorities or the development of improved programs. By outlining how energy and greenhouse estimates are made, and providing a clear methodology, the energy and greenhouse gas footprints can be repeated over time. This is a nationally and internationally accepted process. Developing a baseline energy and greenhouse summary is one of the first steps to taking effective mitigation action. To achieve net zero emissions there needs to be a transition from LPG and wood heating to electric options and from petrol/diesel vehicles to low emission or electric vehicles. This is likely to increase residential electricity use (but is an essential step).

Why are local governments involved in providing climate change information?

Tasmanian councils are required by the Local Government Act to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of their communities. Although not specifically detailed, it is self-evident that climate change impacts on communities, not only in terms of increased temperatures and weather-related events, but also in terms of efforts to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions as we transition to a low carbon future. Therefore councils, as well as considering climate matters in their programs and services, also have a key role in supporting communities to ensure relevant information is available to enable informed decision making. The provision of current and accurate energy and greenhouse data by councils helps the community to know where they can most effectively act, as society transitions to a low carbon future, such as whether to invest in an energy upgrade, or renewable energy technologies, or participate in activities within their communities to facilitate change.

It is self-evident that climate change impacts on communities, not only in terms of increased temperatures and weather-related events, but also in terms of efforts to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions as we transition to low carbon future.

How accurate are the results using this method?

This method is a robust and sound approach as it relies on government verified energy statistics (the Australian Energy Statistics for Tasmania, applied per capita) and substitutes Tasmanian estimates with more accurate local data, where available. The accuracy of the results has been significantly increased by using metered electricity data from TasNetworks. In the residential and commercial sectors this means around half of the energy information provided is very accurate, as electricity use is a large portion of the results. Standard government determined emissions factors (Australian National Greenhouse Accounts Factors), are used for all energy uses, such as electricity, diesel, and petrol, and have been used to calculate greenhouse gas emissions. As with any method for estimating energy use and greenhouse gas emissions there are areas that can be improved over time. These include estimates for wood use and non-energy related emissions (currently excluded) such as industrial chemical emissions, forestry, and agricultural emissions.

METHOD CHANGES

Since the last reports were completed, councils reporting in 2023 have tried to improve reporting by addressing the following challenges:

Most up-to-date information – the Australian Energy Statistics for Tasmania, National Greenhouse Gas Accounts factors and Australian Bureau of Energy statistics (electric vehicles census data) have been updated yearly since 2019, so this round of reporting includes several more years of data.

Increasing scope of emissions included – estimates for waste and sewerage have been included for the first time. Both areas do not cover all emissions from each sector, rather a portion. For example, waste emissions are taken from the corporate inventories reported across the region and include only the measured waste to landfill, not commercial waste delivered outside of this. In the sewerage sector an estimate per capita has been used and does not account for the differing sewerage arrangements in regional areas, such as septic tanks, that have differing emissions profiles.

Population growth now included – the last iteration of reporting used standard population figures and now these population figures are updated yearly, better reflecting growth and per capita energy use.

Tasmania's emissions factors fluctuate due to variations in our energy mix (for example an increase in natural gas due to the Basslink failure saw an increase in the emissions factor for Tasmania) so emissions factors are revised yearly and have been revised historically sometimes changing the total emissions reported in hindsight.

Factors such as seasonal change continue to be hard to separate out: It is a significant challenge to identify a single factor influencing yearly electricity use results – this is an area for further research. Heating Degree Days indicate whether there have been seasonal changes to heating and cooling needs. Project data is received on an annual basis, which does not allow for more detailed analysis of the impact of seasonal changes from year to year.

The range of data on transport is represented in the detailed data rather than summary reports.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has a range of information on local transport trends such as the southern Tasmanian region age of vehicle stock, fuel choices, commuter choices such as public transport, walking or cycling support.

State-wide energy statistics have been used for sectors such as industry, transport, and agriculture, suggesting any change in the larger industries impacts results in all communities. This is due to the lack of complete, up to date, and accurate local data on energy use available. This requires further work and more detailed localised datasets.

Please email if there are datasets available that would be of use to local government community emission footprints going forward:

greenhousefootprintsstcarcci@gmail.com





CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY ENERGY USE AND GREENHOUSE GAS FOOTPRINT SUMMARY

PUBLISHING DETAILS The Southern Tasmanian Regional and Municipal Energy and Emissions Project 2018, was endorsed in the Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) Action Plan 2021, by the Board of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) in November 2021. First version by Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, Regional Climate Change Initiative April 2019. Second publishing 2023.

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REGIONAL
CLIMATE CHANGE
INITIATIVE



Southern Tasmanian
COUNCILS AUTHORITY

stca.tas.gov.au

2nd November 2023

The General Manager
Central Highlands Council
PO Box 20
Hamilton TAS 7140

Dear Kim,

Request for remission of General Rate – Cemetery 316 Lower Marshes Road, Apsley (PID 5011016)

In previous years the Central Highlands Council were kind enough to provide a remission of the rates on the Cemetery located at 316 Lower Marshes Road, Apsley. The situation in relation to the cemetery has not changed and we independently maintain both the church building and the cemetery site.

Members of the public have access to the site at all times, and through the retention of this operational cemetery, local members of the community are able to be buried near family members.

We would like to seek Council's consideration of rate relief for this cemetery.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Webb', is shown within a light blue rectangular border.

Susan Webb

Review of Financial Assistance Base Grant Methodology

The impacts of removing the per capita allocation to all
councils and estimating councils' expenditure
requirements based on the service population

Discussion Paper DP23-01

November 2023

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Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The councils with the largest decreases are those councils with larger populations, excluding the minimum grant councils, with a relatively small share of dwellings that are estimated to be

not occupied by residents. These include West Tamar (down by just over \$325 000), Devonport (down by just over \$270 000) and Huon Valley (down by around \$250 000).

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

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

Introduction

As part of the 2023 council hearings and visits, the Commission issued the following two Conversation Starters seeking comments on the issues raised:

- **Conversation Starter CS2301 - Allocation of a share of the Base Grant on a per capita basis.**

The Commission sought feedback on whether the current approach of allocating 30 per cent of the base grant on a per capita basis to all councils remains appropriate. The Commission also sought feedback from councils on how any grant funds not allocated on a per capita basis should be distributed between councils.

- **Conversation Starter CS2302 - Adjusting councils assessed expenditure requirements to allow for the service population being greater than the resident population.**

The Commission sought feedback on whether the Commission's current approach to assessing councils' expenditure requirements includes sufficient allowance for the costs councils incur in providing services to owners and occupiers of dwellings who may not be classed as residents with respect to that property or within the municipality, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The Commission has developed changes to its methodology to examine how the 2023-24 base grant recommendations would have been different from those provided to the Tasmanian Treasurer in early July 2023.

The Commission is considering adopting changes to its methodology for its recommendations from the 2024-25 financial year.

Removing the per capita allocation of a share of the base grant to all councils

Background

Under the Australian Government's *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*, the Commission must apply National Principles in developing recommendations for allocating the base (general purpose) grant across councils (\$47.19 million for Tasmania in 2023-24).

One National Principle specifies the minimum grant, as set out below:

Minimum Grant

The minimum general purpose grant allocation for a local governing body in a year will not be less than the amount to which the local governing body would be entitled if 30 per cent of the total amount of general purpose grants to which the State or Territory is entitled under Section 9 of the Act in respect of the year were allocated among local governing bodies in the State or Territory on a per capita basis.

This principle sets the minimum grant amount a council must receive in a year. However, it does not entitle all councils to a per capita share of 30 per cent of the base grant if those councils also receive some of the remaining 70 per cent of the base grant.

The current policy of the State Grant Commission is to determine its recommendations by allocating 30 per cent of the base grant to all councils on a per capita basis and allocate the remaining 70 per cent on an assessed 'relative need' basis.

Other commissions adopt a different approach in preparing their recommendations. Several commence by allocating the entire base grant on a relative need basis. For those councils that are classed as minimum grant councils, their grant is increased or decreased, such that the minimum grant National Principle is applied. This approach has been adopted in this paper and is referred to as the direct assessment approach.

For Tasmania for 2023-24, the base grant allocations to the minimum grant councils accounted for around 15 per cent of the base grant. Up to 85 per cent of the base grant could have been allocated on a relative need basis. Currently, however, as a further 15 per cent is allocated on a per capita basis to the other councils, there remains 70 per cent only of the base grant to allocate based on need.

The current approach has the effect of setting the funds available for high need councils at a lower level than they could be. It also results in relatively high grant allocations to those councils with large populations and a relatively low level of need, such as the Burnie and Devonport City Councils.

Council feedback to Conversation Starter CS23-01 - Allocation of a share of the Base Grant on a per capita basis

In December 2022, the Commission issued a Conversation Starter on removing the per capita allocation of a share of the base grant for all councils.

The Commission received a limited number of written responses to the Conversation Starter. One council considered that the proposal to allocate more funding on a relative need basis has merit because it considered that the costs of providing services to a relatively small population dispersed across a large municipal area are significantly higher than for the councils with larger populations and greater population density.

The verbal feedback received during the 2023 hearings and visits was mixed. Some larger councils consider that they have their own cost pressures, such as those arising from greater socio-economic disadvantages or from being a regional centre. Several councils stated that they would not be opposed to the changes if it resulted in a fairer distribution of funding.

The financial impacts of the proposed changes could take several years before they are fully realised due to the Commission's caps and floors policy¹. This was viewed as a mitigating factor by some councils which would receive lower grants than under the current approach.

Impact on the 2023-24 grant recommendations of the direct assessment approach

The Commission has examined how the base grant recommendations for 2023-24 would have been different if it had adopted the direct assessment approach for the most recent three years.

The level of grants to the five minimum grant councils, namely for Hobart, Clarence, Kingborough, Glenorchy and Launceston, would not be affected. Approximately \$7 million of the base grant was allocated to these councils. Up to around \$40.2 million would have been available to allocate according to relative need. However, this is subject to ensuring the minimum grant requirement was achieved for all councils. By contrast, just over \$33 million only was available under the current approach.

Results

The impact on councils of adopting the direct assessment approach for allocating the minimum grant are presented in Table 1, which shows the difference in recommended grant allocations compared to the Commission's actual recommendations. These estimates do not allow for the impact of the Commission's caps and floors policy.

The base grant recommendations would have increased most for the low population councils with a relatively high level of assessed need. This includes Southern Midlands (up by \$161 092), West Coast up by \$148 867) and Flinders (up by \$136 588).

¹ The Commission's caps and floors policy is intended to provide stability to councils for any fluctuations in their base grant allocations from year to year. Currently, the cap limits the size of any increases to +17 per cent while the floor limits any decreases to +7 per cent of the previous year's recommendations. These caps and floors have been revised in recent years due to the variable rate of inflation.

The councils with the largest decreases tended to be those with larger populations and a relatively low level of assessed need, including Devonport (down by \$265 486), Brighton (down by \$148 202) and Sorell (down by \$132 293). For 13 councils, including the minimum grant councils, the difference in the grant recommendation would have been less than \$60 000.

Additional comments

The results above arise when the per capita allocation of 30 per cent of the base grant to all councils is fully removed in one year. An alternative approach is to phase in the reduction of the share of the base grant allocated to all councils, such as to 20 per cent of the base grant in the first year, 10 per cent in the second year and fully remove the allocation in the third year. This would reduce the year-on-year changes in the base grant recommendations. The Commission's preferred approach if this change were adopted is to fully remove the per capita allocation to all councils in one year and rely on the caps and floors policy to phase in the impacts on grant recommendations.

These calculations have allowed for back casting, namely applying the changed methodology to previous years in determining the recommendations as the Commission uses three-year averages in determining its recommendations for any year. This is the Commission's preferred approach if this change were adopted. This is because for major changes, it is not considered appropriate to use three-year averages when different methodologies are applied for those years.

If back casting were not applied, there would be smaller changes in the recommendations in the first year and it would take three years for the full effects to be realised, subject to the impact of Commission's caps and floors policy.

In practice, even with back casting, it may take several years for the full effects to be realised due to the caps and floors policy.

Table 1: Direct Assessment Approach

Commission Recommendations for 2023-24 under the Direct Assessment Approach and the Current Approach									
	Per Capita Grant Component (\$)		Relative Needs Component (\$)		Base Grant Recommendations (\$, prior to caps and collars)				
	Direct Assessment Approach	Current Approach	Direct Assessment Approach	Current Approach	Direct Assessment Approach	Current Approach	Difference		Ranking - Highest to lowest (\$)
Break O'Day	0	173 698	1 657 059	1 397 295	1 657 059	1 570 993	86 066	Break O'Day	161 092 Southern Midlands
Brighton	0	487 607	1 572 196	1 232 791	1 572 196	1 720 398	- 148 202	Brighton	148 867 West Coast
Burnie	0	507 670	1 944 406	1 552 110	1 944 406	2 059 780	- 115 374	Burnie	136 588 Flinders
Central Coast	0	578 580	3 174 002	2 605 645	3 174 002	3 184 225	- 10 223	Central Coast	115 055 Central Highlands
Central Highlands	0	64 025	1 269 109	1 090 029	1 269 109	1 154 054	115 055	Central Highlands	111 063 Kentish
Circular Head	0	207 630	1 605 728	1 342 692	1 605 728	1 550 322	55 406	Circular Head	96 781 King Island
Clarence	1 563 802	1 563 802	0	0	1 563 802	1 563 802	0	Clarence	91 914 Dorset
Derwent Valley	0	278 665	1 633 992	1 346 925	1 633 992	1 625 590	8 402	Derwent Valley	86 066 Break O'Day
Devonport	0	667 993	1 660 397	1 257 890	1 660 397	1 925 883	- 265 486	Devonport	59 935 George Town
Dorset	0	173 921	1 704 517	1 438 682	1 704 517	1 612 603	91 914	Dorset	55 406 Circular Head
Flinders	0	23 059	1 208 775	1 049 128	1 208 775	1 072 187	136 588	Flinders	39 181 Tasman
George Town	0	180 336	1 487 956	1 247 685	1 487 956	1 428 021	59 935	George Town	8 402 Derwent Valley
Glamorgan-Spring Bay	0	128 645	155 637	98 896	155 637	227 541	- 71 904	Glamorgan-Spring Bay	3 986 Waratah-Wynyard
Glenorchy	1 265 223	1 265 223	0	0	1 265 223	1 265 223	0	Glenorchy	0 Glenorchy
Hobart	1 388 073	1 388 073	0	0	1 388 073	1 388 073	0	Hobart	0 Launceston
Huon Valley	0	476 066	2 263 900	1 840 261	2 263 900	2 316 327	- 52 427	Huon Valley	0 Hobart
Kentish	0	168 596	1 825 838	1 546 179	1 825 838	1 714 775	111 063	Kentish	0 Kingborough
King Island	0	41 536	998 240	859 923	998 240	901 459	96 781	King Island	0 Clarence
Kingborough	1 014 968	1 014 968	0	0	1 014 968	1 014 968	0	Kingborough	- 10 223 Central Coast
Latrobe	0	320 151	1 304 629	1 047 308	1 304 629	1 367 459	- 62 830	Latrobe	- 50 505 Meander Valley
Launceston	1 782 800	1 782 800	0	0	1 782 800	1 782 800	0	Launceston	- 52 427 Huon Valley
Meander Valley	0	529 267	2 578 366	2 099 604	2 578 366	2 628 871	- 50 505	Meander Valley	- 62 830 Latrobe
Northern Midlands	0	350 294	1 365 648	1 091 924	1 365 648	1 442 218	- 76 570	Northern Midlands	- 71 904 Glamorgan-Spring Bay
Sorell	0	431 706	1 383 411	1 083 998	1 383 411	1 515 704	- 132 293	Sorell	- 76 570 Northern Midlands
Southern Midlands	0	170 676	2 232 764	1 900 996	2 232 764	2 071 672	161 092	Southern Midlands	- 115 374 Burnie
Tasman	0	66 155	681 678	576 342	681 678	642 497	39 181	Tasman	- 128 523 West Tamar
Waratah-Wynyard	0	363 966	2 078 958	1 711 006	2 078 958	2 074 972	3 986	Waratah-Wynyard	- 132 293 Sorell
West Coast	0	107 939	1 783 265	1 526 459	1 783 265	1 634 398	148 867	West Coast	- 148 202 Brighton
West Tamar	0	642 853	2 600 992	2 086 662	2 600 992	2 729 515	- 128 523	West Tamar	- 265 486 Devonport
State Total	7 014 865	14 155 900	40 171 464	33 030 430	47 186 330	47 186 330			

Setting councils' expenditure requirements based on the Commission's estimate of the service population

Background

The Commission bases its estimates of councils' total expenditure requirements on the number of residents in each municipality, as estimated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

To estimate each council's expenditure requirement for a particular service, the Commission starts by summing the total of that expenditure type by all councils. An average per capita cost for providing each service is then calculated using the most recent ABS estimate of the State's population.

The Commission then multiplies the average per capita expenditure rate by the number of residents in each municipality, based on the most recent ABS estimate of the resident population. Commissions in other jurisdictions use a similar approach for determining the average per capita cost per resident.

The Commission then applies a set of cost adjustors designed to reflect the cost advantages or disadvantages of each council.

Allowing for councils' additional expenditure requirements relating to properties not owned and occupied by residents within the municipality

In some municipalities, such as Central Highlands, Tasman and Glamorgan-Spring Bay, the number of dwellings is very large, relative to the resident population. These municipalities are popular locations for holiday homes. The owners of some of these properties may live in these properties for less than half of the year - and therefore not be classed as residents - and they may make the property available to family and friends, or on a commercial basis such as for short stay accommodation.

The relevant council may face similar costs, such as for waste management, planning and community amenities, law, order and public safety and general administration, regardless of whether dwellings are occupied by residents or by other persons.

For example, the administration costs associated with issuing rates notices and managing rates revenue are the same for rates collected from residents as from owners of holiday homes who reside outside the municipality, or who reside in another property in that municipality. Also, if a holiday home is occupied for part of most weeks, the council will likely be incurring the cost of collecting waste from that dwelling for most weeks.

In addition, property owners who reside elsewhere seek approval for alterations to the properties, such as an extension or constructing a deck. The owners must apply to the relevant council, which requires the resources to assess these applications.

It has been pointed out that the Commission's current approach to assessing the budget position of councils includes revenue that councils receive from property, but does not allow for any council expenditure in providing services to the owners and/or occupiers of these properties.

The Commission currently applies an Absentee Population cost adjustor, which is intended to allow for the additional costs that councils incur in providing some services to non-residents in their municipality. The cost categories are: general administration; planning and community amenities; waste management and the environment; and recreation and culture.

The Commission had decided, in establishing the Absentee Population cost adjustor, that the number of dwellings unoccupied on census night provides a reasonable indicator of the additional costs some councils face.

However, the cost adjustor values have not had a significant impact on the assessed expenditure requirements for relevant councils, and therefore on the base grant recommendations. The Commission is not satisfied that the cost adjustor approach necessarily captures the additional costs that councils incur in providing services to non-residents who own and occupy dwellings in their municipality.

This is because the starting level of the expenditure requirement for each council is based on the size of the resident population. This tends to be the most significant factor. The cost adjustors tend to have fairly limited impacts, partly because the base grant of the minimum grant councils cannot decline.

The Commission has examined whether, for councils in Tasmania and Victoria, their expenditure in the main categories in recent years has been more closely linked to the number of dwellings than the ABS estimates of resident population.

Based on regression analysis, it was found that the number of dwellings has been a better predictor of expenditure than the size of the resident population. In particular, for those councils where, on census night, a large number of dwellings were unoccupied, their expenditure tended to be linked more closely to the total number of dwellings than to the size of the resident population.

The Commission is therefore examining whether basing councils' expenditure requirements on the service population, which includes those who own and occupy dwellings but are not residents with respect to that property, provides more accurate estimates than under the current approach.

[Council feedback to Conversation Starter CS23-02 - Adjusting councils assessed expenditure requirements to allow for the service population being greater than the resident population](#)

In February 2023, the Commission issued a Conversation Starter on adjusting councils assessed expenditure requirements to allow for the service population being greater than the resident population.

The Commission received a limited number of written responses to the Conversation Starter. One council considers that several of its cost categories are more closely correlated to the number of rateable properties than the resident population (e.g. waste contracts and rates

collections). It also considers that its infrastructure must meet the demands at peak periods, which includes demand from residents and visitors, and that this also impacts on their maintenance costs. Another council raised concerns over the cost pressures associated with high numbers of itinerate workers.

The verbal feedback received during the 2023 hearings and visits was that council expenditure is likely to be more closely linked to the number of rateable properties than the resident population. On this basis, there was support for further investigation of the use of a service-based population to estimate expenditure requirements.

Estimating council expenditure requirements based on the service population

The Commission has since examined how the 2023-24 base grant recommendations would have been different if it had based its council expenditure estimates on a measure of the service population instead of the resident population. Under this scenario, the current policy regarding the allocation of the 30 per cent of the base grant on a per capita basis is maintained.

For each municipality, the service population has been calculated by adding a population loading for persons who are not residents in the dwelling they occupy.

The key data are, for each municipality, the number of dwellings, the average number of residents in each dwelling and the resident population, all as estimated by the ABS. If the number of dwellings is greater than would be needed to accommodate the resident population, these additional dwellings are taken to be occupied by non-residents. The service population is estimated by including residents and non-residents.

The Absentee Population Cost Adjustor has been removed as its effect is being captured through the service population.

The non-resident population may occupy the relevant dwelling for part of the year only. They may not demand services at the same level as residents and may not require some services. For this paper, it is assumed that, for all the core expenditure categories, the costs of providing services to non-residents are one half of the costs of providing these services to residents. The Commission is interested to hear from councils whether this assumption is reasonable for some, or all, of the eight expenditure categories used by the Commission².

Further details on how the service population has been calculated and the impacts on estimated expenditure requirements are provided in the Appendix.

Results

The impact on councils of adopting the service population model are presented in Table 2 below.

The base grant recommendations would have increased most for those councils with a proportionately large number of holiday properties. These include Glamorgan-Spring Bay (up by \$454 419), Central Highlands (up by \$332 500) and Tasman (up by \$289 617).

² The eight expenditure categories include: general administration; health, housing and welfare; law, order and public safety; planning and community amenities; recreation and culture; roads; waste management and the environment; and other.

The councils with the largest decreases are those councils with larger populations, excluding the minimum grant councils, with a relatively small share of dwellings that are estimated to be not occupied by residents. These include West Tamar (down by \$192 895), Huon Valley (down by \$182 727) and Latrobe (down by \$170 674).

The five councils currently assessed as minimum grant councils remain classed as minimum grant councils. The grant recommendations for these councils are therefore unchanged.

Again, these calculations have allowed for back casting, which is the Commission's preferred approach. If back casting had not been applied, there would be smaller changes in the recommendations in the first year and it would take three years for the full effects of basing costs on the estimated service population to be realised, subject to the impact of Commission's caps and floors policy.

As in the earlier discussion, even with back casting, it may take several years for the full effects to be realised due to the caps and floors policy.

Table 2: Service Population Approach

Commission Recommendations for 2023-24 under the Service Population Approach and the Current (Resident Population) Approach								
	Per Capita Grant Component (\$)	Relative Needs Component (\$)		Base Grant Recommendations (\$, prior to caps and collars)				
	Current Approach	Service Population Approach	Current Approach	Service Population Approach	Current Approach	Difference		
Break O'Day	173 698	1 495 878	1 397 295	1 669 576	1 570 993	98 583	Break O'Day	454 419 Glamorgan-Spring Bay
Brighton	487 607	1 159 036	1 232 791	1 646 643	1 720 398	- 73 755	Brighton	332 500 Central Highlands
Burnie	507 670	1 491 269	1 552 110	1 998 939	2 059 780	- 60 841	Burnie	289 617 Tasman
Central Coast	578 580	2 495 071	2 605 645	3 073 651	3 184 225	- 110 574	Central Coast	176 320 West Coast
Central Highlands	64 025	1 422 529	1 090 029	1 486 554	1 154 054	332 500	Central Highlands	98 583 Break O'Day
Circular Head	207 630	1 326 719	1 342 692	1 534 349	1 550 322	- 15 973	Circular Head	47 092 Flinders
Clarence	1 563 802	0	0	1 563 802	1 563 802	0	Clarence	0 Clarence
Derwent Valley	278 665	1 322 545	1 346 925	1 601 210	1 625 590	- 24 380	Derwent Valley	0 Glenorchy
Devonport	667 993	1 212 505	1 257 890	1 880 498	1 925 883	- 45 385	Devonport	0 Hobart
Dorset	173 921	1 436 185	1 438 682	1 610 106	1 612 603	- 2 497	Dorset	0 Kingborough
Flinders	23 059	1 096 220	1 049 128	1 119 279	1 072 187	47 092	Flinders	0 Launceston
George Town	180 336	1 193 419	1 247 685	1 373 755	1 428 021	- 54 266	George Town	- 2 497 Dorset
Glamorgan-Spring Bay	128 645	553 315	98 896	681 960	227 541	454 419	Glamorgan-Spring Bay	- 13 340 King Island
Glenorchy	1 265 223	0	0	1 265 223	1 265 223	0	Glenorchy	- 15 973 Circular Head
Hobart	1 388 073	0	0	1 388 073	1 388 073	0	Hobart	- 24 380 Derwent Valley
Huon Valley	476 066	1 657 534	1 840 261	2 133 600	2 316 327	- 182 727	Huon Valley	- 45 385 Devonport
Kentish	168 596	1 468 278	1 546 179	1 636 874	1 714 775	- 77 901	Kentish	- 50 337 Waratah-Wynyard
King Island	41 536	846 583	859 923	888 119	901 459	- 13 340	King Island	- 54 266 George Town
Kingborough	1 014 968	0	0	1 014 968	1 014 968	0	Kingborough	- 55 173 Southern Midlands
Latrobe	320 151	876 634	1 047 308	1 196 785	1 367 459	- 170 674	Latrobe	- 60 841 Burnie
Launceston	1 782 800	0	0	1 782 800	1 782 800	0	Launceston	- 70 639 Meander Valley
Meander Valley	529 267	2 028 965	2 099 604	2 558 232	2 628 871	- 70 639	Meander Valley	- 73 755 Brighton
Northern Midlands	350 294	1 009 867	1 091 924	1 360 161	1 442 218	- 82 057	Northern Midlands	- 77 901 Kentish
Sorell	431 706	968 881	1 083 998	1 400 587	1 515 704	- 115 117	Sorell	- 82 057 Northern Midlands
Southern Midlands	170 676	1 845 823	1 900 996	2 016 499	2 071 672	- 55 173	Southern Midlands	- 110 574 Central Coast
Tasman	66 155	865 959	576 342	932 114	642 497	289 617	Tasman	- 115 117 Sorell
Waratah-Wynyard	363 966	1 660 669	1 711 006	2 024 635	2 074 972	- 50 337	Waratah-Wynyard	- 170 674 Latrobe
West Coast	107 939	1 702 779	1 526 459	1 810 718	1 634 398	176 320	West Coast	- 182 727 Huon Valley
West Tamar	642 853	1 893 767	2 086 662	2 536 620	2 729 515	- 192 895	West Tamar	- 192 895 West Tamar
State Total	14 155 900	33 030 430	33 030 430	47 186 330	47 186 330			

STATE GRANTS COMMISSION

Applying both methodology changes

The Commission has examined the impact on the 2023-24 recommendations of applying both changes to its methodology for determining its base grant recommendations.

The combined effect of these changes is to amplify the impacts of basing councils' expenditure requirements on estimates of the service population as an additional \$7.1 million in funding becomes available under the direct assessment approach to distribute to councils with the greater relative need.

Again, the base grant recommendations would have increased most for those councils with a proportionately large number of holiday properties. These include Central Highlands (up by \$472 046) Glamorgan-Spring Bay (up by \$458 816), and Tasman (up by \$362 207).

The councils with the largest decreases are those councils with larger populations, excluding the minimum grant councils, with a relatively small share of dwellings that are estimated to be not occupied by residents. These include West Tamar (down by \$325 695), Devonport (down by \$271 386) and Huon Valley (down by \$250 019).

The base grant recommendations for the councils of Hobart, Clarence, Kingborough, Glenorchy and Launceston, would not be affected.

The results for all councils are presented in Table 3 below.

Again, it would take several years for the full effects to be realised due to the caps and floors policy.

Table 3: Direct Assessment and Service Population Approach

Commission Recommendations for 2023-24 under the combined Direct Assessment (DA) /Service Population (SA) Approaches and the Current Approach									
	Per Capita Grant Component (\$)		Relative Needs Component (\$)		Base Grant Recommendations (\$, prior to caps and collars)				
	DA and SP Approaches	Current Approach	DA and SP Approaches	Current Approach	DA and SP Approaches	Current Approach	Difference		Ranking - Highest to lowest (\$)
Break O'Day	0	173 698	1 755 797	1 397 295	1 755 797	1 570 993	184 804	Break O'Day	472 046 Central Highlands
Brighton	0	487 607	1 507 810	1 232 791	1 507 810	1 720 398	- 212 588	Brighton	458 816 Glamorgan-Spring Bay
Burnie	0	507 670	1 896 241	1 552 110	1 896 241	2 059 780	- 163 539	Burnie	362 207 Tasman
Central Coast	0	578 580	3 048 677	2 605 645	3 048 677	3 184 225	- 135 548	Central Coast	323 799 West Coast
Central Highlands	0	64 025	1 626 100	1 090 029	1 626 100	1 154 054	472 046	Central Highlands	184 804 Break O'Day
Circular Head	0	207 630	1 580 579	1 342 692	1 580 579	1 550 322	30 257	Circular Head	166 778 Flinders
Clarence	1 563 802	1 563 802	0	0	1 563 802	1 563 802	0	Clarence	75 411 Dorset
Derwent Valley	0	278 665	1 602 854	1 346 925	1 602 854	1 625 590	- 22 736	Derwent Valley	69 450 Southern Midlands
Devonport	0	667 993	1 654 497	1 257 890	1 654 497	1 925 883	- 271 386	Devonport	64 822 King Island
Dorset	0	173 921	1 688 014	1 438 682	1 688 014	1 612 603	75 411	Dorset	30 257 Circular Head
Flinders	0	23 059	1 238 965	1 049 128	1 238 965	1 072 187	166 778	Flinders	2 688 Kentish
George Town	0	180 336	1 417 995	1 247 685	1 417 995	1 428 021	- 10 026	George Town	0 Glenorchy
Glamorgan-Spring Bay	0	128 645	686 357	98 896	686 357	227 541	458 816	Glamorgan-Spring Bay	0 Launceston
Glenorchy	1 265 223	1 265 223	0	0	1 265 223	1 265 223	0	Glenorchy	0 Hobart
Hobart	1 388 073	1 388 073	0	0	1 388 073	1 388 073	0	Hobart	0 Kingborough
Huon Valley	0	476 066	2 066 308	1 840 261	2 066 308	2 316 327	- 250 019	Huon Valley	0 Clarence
Kentish	0	168 596	1 717 463	1 546 179	1 717 463	1 714 775	2 688	Kentish	- 10 026 George Town
King Island	0	41 536	966 281	859 923	966 281	901 459	64 822	King Island	- 22 736 Derwent Valley
Kingborough	1 014 968	1 014 968	0	0	1 014 968	1 014 968	0	Kingborough	- 53 387 Waratah-Wynyard
Latrobe	0	320 151	1 120 875	1 047 308	1 120 875	1 367 459	- 246 584	Latrobe	- 124 220 Meander Valley
Launceston	1 782 800	1 782 800	0	0	1 782 800	1 782 800	0	Launceston	- 135 548 Central Coast
Meander Valley	0	529 267	2 504 651	2 099 604	2 504 651	2 628 871	- 124 220	Meander Valley	- 154 467 Northern Midlands
Northern Midlands	0	350 294	1 287 751	1 091 924	1 287 751	1 442 218	- 154 467	Northern Midlands	- 163 539 Burnie
Sorell	0	431 706	1 274 821	1 083 998	1 274 821	1 515 704	- 240 883	Sorell	- 212 588 Brighton
Southern Midlands	0	170 676	2 141 122	1 900 996	2 141 122	2 071 672	69 450	Southern Midlands	- 240 883 Sorell
Tasman	0	66 155	1 004 704	576 342	1 004 704	642 497	362 207	Tasman	- 246 584 Latrobe
Waratah-Wynyard	0	363 966	2 021 585	1 711 006	2 021 585	2 074 972	- 53 387	Waratah-Wynyard	- 250 019 Huon Valley
West Coast	0	107 939	1 958 197	1 526 459	1 958 197	1 634 398	323 799	West Coast	- 271 386 Devonport
West Tamar	0	642 853	2 403 820	2 086 662	2 403 820	2 729 515	- 325 695	West Tamar	- 325 695 West Tamar
State Total	7 014 865	14 155 900	40 171 464	33 030 430	47 186 330	47 186 330			

Preliminary Decision

In reaching a preliminary decision the Commission is guided by the horizontal equalisation National Principle, which is considered to be the most important or primary principle, as set out below.

Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation

General-purpose grants will be allocated to local government bodies, as far as practicable, on a full horizontal equalisation basis as defined by the Act [the Commonwealth's *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*]. This ensures that, each local governing body in the State or Territory is able to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average standard of other local governing bodies in the State or Territory. It takes account of differences in the expenditure required by those local government bodies in the performance of their functions and in the capacity of those local governing bodies to raise revenue.

The Commission considers that the current approach regarding the allocation of 30 per cent of the minimum grant to all councils effectively ensures some more populous councils receive some grant revenue solely by virtue of their population size, and not to satisfy the horizontal fiscal equalisation principle. The proposed alternative approach enables almost 15 per cent more of the base grant to be allocated according to relative need, namely to better satisfy this principle.

The Commission also considers that the current approach of not including, in councils' expenditure requirements, those costs councils incur in providing services to non-residents does not result in reasonable expenditure estimates for some councils. It therefore does not fully meet the requirements of the horizontal fiscal equalisation principle.

The Commission's preliminary decision is to apply both changes, as described above, in preparing base grant recommendations.

In summary, the Commission intends to update its methodology for preparing base grant recommendations by:

- introducing the direct assessment approach for the allocation of the per capita minimum grant; and
- calculating councils' expenditure requirements based on estimates of the service population.

The Commission seeks councils' views on the proposed changes and their reasons to support those views. Specifically, the Commission would appreciate written response to the following questions:

Questions to councils

1. Does your council consider that the direct assessment approach is equitable and better satisfies the relevant national principles?
2. Does your council consider that the direct assessment approach, if adopted, should be implemented in full in one year, or phased in over two or three years?
3. Does your council consider that basing expenditure requirements on estimates of the service population is reasonable and better satisfies the relevant national principles?
4. Does your council have any comments on the Commission's proposed approach to estimating the service population?
5. Does your council agree with the Commission's proposed approach of setting the costs of providing services to non-residents at one half of the costs of providing services to residents, for all expenditure categories? If not, what alternative approach would you suggest?
6. What are your council's views on the Commission's Preliminary Decision?
7. Does your council have any other comments, including in relation to any matters that your council considers have not been adequately covered?

Submissions due date

The Commission is seeking written response to the questions by **15 December 2023**, which can be sent to the Commission via email at SGC@treasury.tas.gov.au

The Commission will make a final decision following feedback from councils.

Appendix: Calculation of the Service Population and expenditure requirements

To estimate the service population ABS data are needed on the estimated residential population (ERP) for each municipality, which is provided annually by the ABS.

Data are also needed on the number of dwellings and the average number of persons usually resident in a private dwelling. The average number of persons per dwelling for Tasmania is also required. These estimates are only provided once every five years, following the census.

If the number of dwellings is greater than would be needed to accommodate the resident population, based on the average household size, these additional dwellings are taken to be occupied by non-residents. The service population is estimated by including residents and non-residents. For the dwellings not occupied by residents, it is assumed that the number of persons occupying the property is the State average (most recently 2.4 persons).

This is best explained by stylised examples.

Example 1

An urban municipality (A) has 50 000 residents, an average of 2.5 persons per dwelling and 20 000 dwellings. All dwellings are taken to be occupied by residents. The service population is therefore estimated to be 50 000, equal to the resident population.

Example 2

An east coast municipality (B) has 5 000 residents, an average of 2.5 persons per dwelling and 3 500 dwellings. The number of dwellings taken to be occupied by residents is 2 000. The remaining 1 500 dwellings are taken to be occupied by non-residents.

As the State-wide average number of persons per dwelling is 2.4, the number of non-residents is estimated at 3 600. The service population is calculated to be 8 600.

For the intercensal years, ERP data are available, but data are not available on the number of dwellings or the average number of persons per dwelling.

To allow for this, for years after census year, the Commission would use the most recent population data and adjust the number of dwellings in each municipality annually based on the change in the population. The Commission would also use the most recent data on the average number of persons per dwelling, per municipality and state-wide, until they are updated after the following census.

In some cases, such as Clarence City Council in the example in this paper, the number of dwellings can be less than would be expected to accommodate the resident population. This may be due to a significant number of persons in aged care facilities, which tend to be located in large urban councils. In these cases, the number of dwellings not occupied by residents is

assumed to be zero and service population is taken to be equal to the resident population. As Clarence City Council and the larger urban councils, are minimum grant councils, this has no impact on the base grant recommendations for these councils, and a negligible impact on the recommendations for other councils.

To estimate each council's expenditure requirements, the calculations have assumed that, for all the cost categories, the costs of providing services to non-residents are one half of the costs provided to residents. The expenditure requirements are then calculated based on these two different average costs, for all cost categories.

This is best explained by expanding on Examples 1 and 2 above.

Suppose the only two councils in Tasmania are A and B, and these are as described in Examples 1 and 2. If the total annual cost of general administration for councils A and B is reported to be \$11 million, under the Commission's current approach, with a state-wide resident population of 55 000, the average cost is \$200 per resident, which would be allocated as \$10 million for Council A and \$1 million for Council B.

Under the alternative approach, the cost of \$11 million would be allocated among a state-wide service population of 58 600, or 55 000 residents and 3 600 non-residents. As more persons are assessed as receiving services, the service costs per person are lower, at around \$194 per resident and \$97 for non-residents. The total reported cost of \$11 million would now be allocated as around \$9.7 million for Council A and \$1.3 million for Council B³.

³ The cost of general administration per resident (A) is calculated from: $(55\,000 \times A) + (3\,600 \times A/2) = \11 million .

Appendix 1 - Service Population Data Sheet

Reference	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP)	All private dwellings	Average number of people per household	Estimate of dwellings occupied by residents (A / C)	Dwellings not occupied by residents (B - D)	Average number of people per household - State average	Non resident service population - (E x F)	Total service population (A + G)
	30/06/2021	ABS 2021 Census	ABS 2021 Census	Calculation	Calculation	ABS 2021 Census	Calculation	Calculation
Break O'Day	6 936	4 829	2.0	3 468	1 361	2.4	3 266	10 202
Brighton	19 263	7 532	2.6	7 409	123	2.4	296	19 559
Burnie	20 441	9 236	2.3	8 887	349	2.4	837	21 278
Central Coast	23 278	10 404	2.3	10 121	283	2.4	680	23 958
Central Highlands	2 580	2 738	2.1	1 229	1 509	2.4	3 623	6 203
Circular Head	8 335	4 037	2.4	3 473	564	2.4	1 354	9 689
Clarence	62 396	25 855	2.4	25 998	0	2.4	0	62 396
Derwent Valley	11 114	4 729	2.5	4 446	283	2.4	680	11 794
Devonport	26 922	12 047	2.3	11 705	342	2.4	820	27 742
Dorset	6 991	3 935	2.2	3 178	757	2.4	1 817	8 808
Flinders	938	683	2.0	469	214	2.4	514	1 452
George Town	7 213	3 674	2.2	3 279	395	2.4	949	8 162
Glamorgan-Spring Bay	5 118	4 722	2.1	2 437	2 285	2.4	5 484	10 602
Glenorchy	51 233	21 856	2.4	21 347	509	2.4	1 221	52 454
Hobart	56 084	24 748	2.3	24 384	364	2.4	873	56 957
Huon Valley	18 809	8 740	2.4	7 837	903	2.4	2 167	20 976
Kentish	6 778	2 893	2.4	2 824	69	2.4	165	6 943
King Island	1 654	888	2.1	788	100	2.4	241	1 895
Kingborough	40 815	17 277	2.5	16 326	951	2.4	2 282	43 097
Latrobe	12 705	5 798	2.3	5 524	274	2.4	658	13 363
Launceston	71 906	31 274	2.3	31 263	11	2.4	25	71 931
Meander Valley	21 153	9 259	2.4	8 814	445	2.4	1 069	22 222
Northern Midlands	14 030	6 424	2.3	6 100	324	2.4	778	14 808
Sorell	16 975	8 129	2.4	7 073	1 056	2.4	2 535	19 510
Southern Midlands	6 838	2 976	2.5	2 735	241	2.4	578	7 416
Tasman	2 643	2 635	2.0	1 322	1 314	2.4	3 152	5 795
Waratah-Wynyard	14 641	6 895	2.3	6 366	529	2.4	1 270	15 911
West Coast	4 373	3 105	2.0	2 187	919	2.4	2 204	6 577
West Tamar	25 747	11 292	2.4	10 728	564	2.4	1 354	27 101
State Total	567 909						40 891	608 800



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TASMANIA

**TASMANIA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE
BILL 2023**

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TASMANIA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE BILL 2023

*(Brought in by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency
Management, the Honourable Felix Ashton Ellis)*

A BILL FOR

An Act to establish the Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service, to consolidate the Tasmania Fire Service and the State Emergency Service into a single service in order to respond better to fires and other emergency events and for related purposes

Be it enacted by Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service Act 2023*.

2. Commencement

The provisions of this Act commence on a day or days to be proclaimed.

3. Interpretation

- (1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears –

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s. 3

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approved means approved by the TFES Commissioner;

authorised member, in relation to a function, means –

- (a) the TFES Commissioner; or
- (b) a member of the TFES who is authorised by the TFES Commissioner to perform the function;

Crown land has the same meaning as in the *Crown Lands Act 1976*;

day of total fire ban means a day declared under section 35 to be a day of total fire ban;

emergency has the same meaning as in the *Emergency Management Act 2006*;

emergency event means –

- (a) a fire; or
- (b) an emergency in relation to which the TFES has a role under an emergency management plan;

emergency management has the same meaning as in the *Emergency Management Act 2006*;

emergency management operations includes –

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-
- (a) fire-fighting operations; and
 - (b) operations, or actions, that are necessary, expedient or convenient for –
 - (i) the management of an emergency event and the performance of emergency management under this Act; and
 - (ii) protecting people or property, or rendering assistance, during an emergency event; and
 - (iii) carrying out activities for training, emergency safety or emergency prevention;
 - (c) such other operations, or actions, as are prescribed;

emergency management plan has the same meaning as in the *Emergency Management Act 2006*;

equipment includes –

- (a) appliances, buckets, engines, escapes, hoses, ladders, radio equipment, reels, tanks, tools and vehicles; and

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- (b) machines, tools or other things used for, or in connection with, emergency management operations; and
- (c) any prescribed machines, tools or other things;

fire-fighting operations includes any act that is necessary, expedient or convenient for –

- (a) extinguishing, or preventing the outbreak or spread of, a fire; or
- (b) preventing, or dealing with –
 - (i) a spill of petrol or other flammable liquids; or
 - (ii) an escape of flammable gas; or
- (c) assisting another person, or entity, that is engaging in fire-fighting operations;

fire permit means a permit issued under the regulations, for the purposes of Division 3 of Part 3, in respect of a fire permit period;

fire permit officer means a person appointed as a fire permit officer under Division 3 of Part 3;

fire permit period means a period declared to be a fire permit period under section 30;

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fire safety system has the same meaning as in the National Construction Code series published by the Australian Building Codes Board, as amended or substituted from time to time;

function includes power, responsibility and duty;

member, of the TFES, means –

- (a) the TFES Commissioner; and
- (b) a permanent member or volunteer member, regardless of whether appointed in a full-time or part-time capacity;

owner, in relation to premises, includes –

- (a) the person in whom the estate in fee simple is vested; and
- (b) the person who appears, from a folio of the Register kept under section 33 of the *Land Titles Act 1980*, to be the owner of the premises; and
- (c) a beneficial owner, trustee, executor, mortgagee in possession or other person with administration and control of the premises; and
- (d) a person or entity who has the legal authority, under an Act, to

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administer or control the premises; and

- (e) such other persons as may be prescribed;

permanent member means a person who is appointed, employed or engaged, under section 11, as a member of the TFES;

potential emergency event means circumstances where an emergency event is possible or may occur;

premises includes –

- (a) any land, place or structure; and
(b) any part of such premises;

protected area means an area which includes the whole of, or any part of –

- (a) a State forest; or
(b) an area of reserved land, within the meaning of the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*; or
(c) an area of Crown land;

public street has the same meaning as in the *Traffic Act 1925*;

regulations means the regulations made under this Act;

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scale of charges means the charges fixed by the TFES Commissioner in accordance with section 73;

SFESC means the State Fire and Emergency Service Committee established under section 17;

State forest has the same meaning as in the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995*;

TASCAT means the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal;

TFES means the Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service established under section 6;

TFES Commissioner means the Commissioner of Fire and Emergency Service appointed under section 13;

TFES Division means a part of the TFES as determined by the TFES Commissioner in accordance with section 15;

TFES officer means –

- (a) the TFES Commissioner; or
- (b) a person appointed as the head of a TFES Division; or
- (c) a person appointed to the rank of an officer within a TFES Division;

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vegetation includes all, or any part, of a tree, bush, plant and undergrowth of any kind, whether dead or alive, other than something that is prescribed as not being vegetation for the purposes of this Act;

vehicle has the same meaning as in the *Emergency Management Act 2006*;

volunteer member means a person who is registered, under section 12, as a member of the TFES.

- (2) In this Act, a reference to performing a function includes a reference to –
- (a) exercising a power; and
 - (b) performing a responsibility or duty.
- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, emergency management operations do not include any actions taken in respect of –
- (a) actual combat against an enemy; or
 - (b) a riot or other civil disturbance; or
 - (c) bringing an end to a strike or lock-out.

4. Application of Act

- (1) Unless the contrary intention appears, this Act does not apply to –
- (a) the lighting of a fire, in a fully enclosed premises –

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-
- (i) in a properly constructed fireplace; or
 - (ii) for the purpose of igniting an appliance; or
 - (b) the lighting of a fire in prescribed circumstances, prescribed locations or in a prescribed manner;
 - (c) the performance of a function under any other Act that has effect in relation to emergency management operations or emergency management generally.
- (2) Despite subsection (1) –
- (a) the *Emergency Management Act 2006* prevails to the extent of an inconsistency between this Act and that Act; and
 - (b) this Act prevails to the extent of an inconsistency between this Act and another Act other than the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.

5. Act binds Crown

This Act binds the Crown in right of Tasmania and, so far as the legislative power of Parliament permits, in all its other capacities.

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**PART 2 – TASMANIA FIRE AND EMERGENCY
SERVICE**

*Division 1 – Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service
established*

6. Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service

- (1) On the day on which this section commences, the Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service is established.
- (2) The TFES consists of –
 - (a) the Tasmania Fire Service, as continued under this Division; and
 - (b) the State Emergency Service, as continued under this Division; and
 - (c) such other entities and divisions as the TFES Commissioner considers appropriate.
- (3) The TFES has the functions imposed on it under this or any other Act.

7. Tasmania Fire Service continued

- (1) The fire service established by the *Fire Service Act 1979*, and called the Tasmania Fire Service, is continued as a division of the TFES.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, the TFES Commissioner may determine divisions, and assign actions to divisions, of the TFES that are

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solely comprised of members of the Tasmania Fire Service.

8. State Emergency Service continued

- (1) The State Emergency Service continued under the *Emergency Management Act 2006* is continued as a division of the TFES.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, the TFES Commissioner may make divisions, and assign actions to divisions, of the TFES that are solely comprised of members of the State Emergency Service.

Division 2 – Operations of TFES

9. Objectives of TFES

- (1) The TFES has the following objectives:
 - (a) to preserve human life and to protect property and premises, if an emergency event occurs;
 - (b) to support community resilience, in respect of an emergency event, so as to enable communities –
 - (i) to participate actively in the prevention of, and the preparedness for and responses to, the event; and
 - (ii) to prevent, or limit as far as is practicable, the economic,

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environmental, social and
physical impacts of such an
event;

- (c) to recognise, when performing emergency management operations, that the environment has an inherent value for the Tasmanian community;
 - (d) to facilitate, and initiate if appropriate, effective interoperability between Agencies in this State, and in other jurisdictions, in respect of an emergency event, or potential emergency event, in either jurisdiction.
- (2) In performing a function under this Act, the TFES is to ensure that the performance of the function, as far as is practicable –
- (a) is in accordance with each applicable emergency management plan; and
 - (b) furthers the objectives of the TFES.

10. Functions of TFES

- (1) The TFES has the following functions:
- (a) to ensure that there is a consistent approach by the TFES in preventing, preparing for and responding to, and transitioning to recovery from, emergency events or potential emergency events;

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-
- (b) to implement plans, arrangements, agreements and directives in respect of the TFES as required under this Act and any other Act;
 - (c) to determine command, and control, arrangements during an emergency event, or potential emergency event, if required;
 - (d) to assist in the provision of medical assistance, and provide medical assistance, if required;
 - (e) to make decisions under this Act in respect of an emergency event, or potential emergency event, that, as far as is practicable, protect all persons responding to the event under this Act;
 - (f) to oversee other authorities and resources used, in respect of an emergency event, and ensure that those authorities are complying with this Act;
 - (g) to establish protocols for interagency and interjurisdictional emergency management operations;
 - (h) such other functions as are prescribed.
- (2) In addition to the functions specified in subsection (1), the TFES has the following functions in respect of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*:

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- (a) to provide advice and services, in respect of the TFES, in accordance with an emergency management plan;
- (b) to provide, or assist in, rescue and retrieval operations, within the meaning of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*;
- (c) to coordinate, or participate in, civil defence measures, within the meaning of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*, in time of enemy action or hostilities against the State.

11. Application of *State Service Act 2000* to certain members

- (1) Subject to and in accordance with the *State Service Act 2000*, a person may be appointed and employed as a member of the TFES.
- (2) In addition to subsection (1), the Secretary of the Department, or the TFES Commissioner, may make arrangements with a Head of a State Service Agency for State Service officers and State Service employees employed in that Agency to be made available to the TFES and those officers and employees are to, in conjunction with State Service employment, serve the TFES in any capacity.

12. Volunteer members of TFES

- (1) The TFES Commissioner may register a person as a volunteer member, as prescribed, who is

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subject to the control and supervision of the TFES Commissioner while acting as such a member.

- (2) The TFES Commissioner is to ensure that a charter in respect of volunteer members, and volunteering within the TFES generally, is developed and maintained.
- (3) The regulations may prescribe –
 - (a) the process to apply for registration, and for registration itself, as a volunteer member; and
 - (b) the process for suspending, or deregistering, a volunteer member.

Division 3 – TFES Commissioner

13. Commissioner of Fire and Emergency Service

- (1) The Governor, on the recommendation of the Premier, may appoint a person as the Commissioner of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service.
- (2) The Premier may only recommend a person for appointment under subsection (1) if the Premier is satisfied that the person has the technical expertise, and the management and professional skills, to perform the functions of the TFES Commissioner.
- (3) The TFES Commissioner is to be appointed to the position in accordance with the *State Service*

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Act 2000 and subject to the terms and conditions
as specified in the instrument of appointment.

14. Functions of TFES Commissioner

- (1) The TFES Commissioner is responsible for performing the following functions:
- (a) to manage and control the TFES in a manner that ensures that the TFES performs its functions efficiently and effectively;
 - (b) to establish and maintain, under this Act –
 - (i) the structure, and hierarchy, of the TFES; and
 - (ii) divisions of the TFES that may be entirely staffed by permanent members or volunteer members, or both; and
 - (iii) support services for the TFES;
 - (c) if an emergency event occurs –
 - (i) to be the head of the chain of command for the responses under this Act in respect of the emergency event; and
 - (ii) to establish the most appropriate chain of command for the emergency event;

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- (d) to fix charges –
 - (i) specified under this Act as payable to the TFES; or
 - (ii) payable in respect of other services provided by the TFES, or by another person, under this Act;
- (e) to advise, and make recommendations to, the Minister in respect of –
 - (i) any matter under this Act; or
 - (ii) the operation of the TFES; or
 - (iii) any matter that may assist the Minister, or any other person, in the administration of this Act;
- (f) to establish charters in respect of all, or specified parts, of the TFES;
- (g) such other functions –
 - (i) as are prescribed; or
 - (ii) as are necessary or reasonable to perform the functions of the TFES Commissioner.

(2) The TFES Commissioner may –

- (a) issue such orders, directions, procedures and instructions as are necessary or reasonable for the TFES Commissioner to perform the functions of the TFES

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Commissioner under this Act or any other Act; and

- (b) take any other action necessary, or reasonable, for the efficient and effective management and control of the TFES, and any other entity established under this Act.

15. TFES Commissioner may determine structure and chain of command

(1) The TFES Commissioner is responsible for determining –

(a) the chain of command within –

(i) the TFES; and

(ii) each TFES Division; and

(b) the number, type and location of TFES Divisions; and

(c) the allocation of functions, if required, to –

(i) the TFES or a specified TFES Division; and

(ii) the members of the TFES or a specified class of members; and

(iii) persons, other than the TFES, who are responsible for performing emergency

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management operations under
this Act.

- (2) For the avoidance of doubt –
 - (a) in determining the chain of command for the TFES, or a TFES Division, the TFES Commissioner may include individuals that do not form part of the TFES or Division, as the case may be; and
 - (b) a chain of command determined by the TFES Commissioner in accordance with this section is final and not subject to review by any other person.
- (3) A person must carry out such functions as the TFES Commissioner, from time to time, allocates or otherwise directs.

16. TFES Commissioner may delegate certain functions

- (1) The TFES Commissioner may delegate to any person –
 - (a) a function of the TFES Commissioner under this Act, or any other Act, other than this power of delegation; or
 - (b) a function of the TFES under this Act or any other Act.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, the performance by a person of any function, in good faith, delegated to the person under this section is as valid, and has the same consequences, as if it had been performed by the TFES Commissioner.

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Division 4 – Committees

17. State Fire and Emergency Service Committee established

- (1) The State Fire and Emergency Service Committee is established to advise the Minister in accordance with the terms of reference for the Committee.
- (2) The members of the SFESC are –
 - (a) the TFES Commissioner, who is the chair of the SFESC; and
 - (b) at least 8, and not more than 12, persons appointed by the Minister of which –
 - (i) at least one such person is nominated by the most relevant trade union, representing members of the TFES, as determined by the Minister; and
 - (ii) at least one such person is nominated by the most relevant association for volunteer members, as determined by the Minister.
- (3) The Minister is to provide the SFESC, in writing, with its terms of reference which may –
 - (a) broadly describe the functions of the SFESC; and

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- (b) specify matters to be taken into account, or not to be taken into account, by the SFESC; and
 - (c) include, or exclude, such matters from the scope of the SFESC as the Minister considers appropriate.
- (4) The Minister is to ensure that the members of the SFESC have –
 - (a) the skills and expertise required by the terms of reference for the SFESC; and
 - (b) such other skills and expertise that the Minister considers relevant to the terms of reference for the SFESC.
- (5) Schedule 1 has effect in respect of the members of the SFESC.

18. Other committees

- (1) The TFES Commissioner may establish such other committees as the TFES Commissioner considers appropriate.
- (2) In the instrument establishing a committee under subsection (1), the TFES Commissioner is to specify –
 - (a) the purpose of the committee; and
 - (b) the terms of reference for the committee.
- (3) If requested to do so by the Minister, the TFES Commissioner is to provide the Minister with a

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copy of an instrument that establishes a
committee under this section.

Consultation Draft

PART 3 – FUNCTIONS OF TFES AND OTHER PERSONS

Division 1 – General functions of TFES

19. Application of Part

For the avoidance of doubt, the functions specified in this Part in respect of a person are in addition to, and do not derogate from –

- (a) any other functions that have been determined by the TFES Commissioner in accordance with section 15 in respect of the person; or
- (b) any prescribed functions that apply in respect of the person; or
- (c) any relevant functions that have been specified in respect of the person under any other Act.

20. Powers of entry of TFES

- (1) The TFES may enter premises for the purposes of performing emergency management operations in respect of an emergency event, or potential emergency event, on the premises or in the vicinity of the premises.
- (2) An authorised member may –
 - (a) enter premises for the purposes of determining whether this Act is being, or

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has been, complied with in respect of the premises; and

- (b) when entering such premises, take onto the premises such persons, and such equipment, as the member considers necessary to effect the purpose for which the member has entered the premises.
- (3) Before entering premises under this Act, an authorised member must produce identification, in an approved form, except where –
- (a) the premises are a public place within the meaning of the *Police Offences Act 1935*; or
 - (b) the member has reasonable cause to believe that an emergency event is occurring on the premises; or
 - (c) the member is dressed in an approved uniform for the TFES.
- (4) An authorised member who enters premises under this Act may make recommendations to the TFES Commissioner, in respect of the premises, in order to –
- (a) prevent, or minimise the risk of, an emergency event or potential emergency event; or
 - (b) protect life and property.
- (5) After receiving recommendations under subsection (4) in respect of premises and if the

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TFES Commissioner considers it in the public interest to do so, the TFES Commissioner may give an order to the owner or occupier of the premises specifying –

- (a) the recommendations of the authorised member; and
- (b) the steps to be taken by the owner or occupier, in respect of the premises, in respect of the recommendations.

21. TFES may regulate traffic

An authorised member may direct, or restrict, traffic if the member believes that it is necessary, or reasonable, due to an emergency event, or potential emergency event, in the area.

22. Powers of responsible officers

(1) In this section –

responsible officer includes –

- (a) a TFES officer; and
- (b) in the case of a State forest, an employee of the Forestry corporation, within the meaning of the *Forest Management Act 2013*; and
- (c) in the case of any other protected area, a person authorised by the Director, within the meaning of

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the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, as a responsible officer for the area.

- (2) A responsible officer may order an occupier of premises to take, or assist another person to take, such steps as are specified in the order in respect of an emergency event on the premises if the responsible officer believes that –
- (a) the emergency event constitutes a danger to the premises or neighbouring premises; or
 - (b) the emergency event, if it is not promptly managed or controlled, is likely to constitute a danger to the premises or neighbouring premises.
- (3) A person who is given an order under subsection (2) must comply with the order.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units

- (4) It is a defence in proceedings for an offence under subsection (3) if the defendant establishes that –
- (a) the defendant took all reasonable steps to comply with the order; or
 - (b) it was reasonable in the circumstances that the defendant did not comply with the order; or
 - (c) the failure to comply with an order under subsection (2) in respect of premises was

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a result of the defendant complying with the express directions given, to the defendant, by the owner or occupier of the premises.

- (5) For the avoidance of doubt, a person is not liable in respect of action, taken by the person in order to comply with an order under subsection (2), if the action is taken in respect of premises in a manner that is not contrary to the express directions given to the person by the owner or occupier of the premises.

23. TFES may take certain actions

- (1) An authorised member may take a prescribed action, or commence a prescribed process if, in the opinion of the member, the premises –
- (a) are in such a condition as to constitute a fire danger; or
 - (b) if no action were taken in respect of the premises, would become a fire danger.
- (2) The TFES Commissioner may, in the scale of charges, fix charges in respect of a prescribed action, or a prescribed process, that may be taken under subsection (1).

Division 2 – Functions of specific persons

24. Police officers at emergency events

- (1) In this section –

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appropriate TFES member, in relation to an emergency event, or potential emergency event, means the member of the TFES who –

- (a) is at the location of the emergency event; and
 - (b) is in charge of the emergency management operations at that location.
- (2) A police officer who is present at an emergency event, or at the location of a potential emergency event –
 - (a) is to provide such assistance, to the TFES, as is requested by the appropriate TFES member; and
 - (b) may close, or regulate the use of, any public street in the vicinity of the event; and
 - (c) may enforce compliance with orders and directions of the appropriate TFES member in respect of the event; and
 - (d) may order a person to leave the vicinity of the event, if the person –
 - (i) interferes with emergency management operations in respect of the event; or
 - (ii) is not a member of the TFES; and

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- (e) may remove the person from the vicinity of the event, using such force as the police officer considers reasonable in the circumstances, if the person fails to comply with an order given to the person under paragraph (d).

25. Police officer may arrest without warrant in certain cases

A police officer may arrest a person without a warrant if the police officer believes, on reasonable grounds, that the person has committed, or is committing or is about to commit, a prescribed offence under this Act.

26. TFES Commissioner may authorise certain services

- (1) The TFES Commissioner may authorise –

- (a) a TFES Division to provide services other than emergency management operations; and
- (b) the use of the equipment of the TFES for services other than emergency management operations; and
- (c) the hiring out, lending or otherwise making available of the equipment of the TFES for use outside of the TFES.

- (2) The TFES Commissioner may, in the scale of charges, fix charges in respect of the use, hiring out, lending or making available of equipment under subsection (1).

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(3) If a member of the TFES is providing services authorised under subsection (1), the member is taken to be engaged, while performing those services, in fire-fighting operations for the purposes of –

- (a) the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*; and
- (b) the *Asbestos-Related Diseases (Occupational Exposure) Compensation Act 2011*.

27. TFES Commissioner may install fire safety systems in public places

(1) In this section –

public place includes –

- (a) a public place within the meaning of the *Police Offences Act 1935*; and
 - (b) such other premises, or place, as is prescribed for the purposes of this definition.
- (2) The TFES Commissioner may install and maintain such fire safety systems, in a public place, as the TFES Commissioner thinks necessary for the protection of life and property from fire.
- (3) Before installing a fire safety system in a public place under this section, the TFES Commissioner –

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-
- (a) is to consult with the Director, Environment Protection Authority appointed under section 18 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*; and
 - (b) may notify the authority which has management of the public place that the TFES Commissioner intends to install the system; and
 - (c) is to have regard to any reasonable objections made by or on behalf of the authority in respect of the installation of the system.
- (4) The decision of the TFES Commissioner in respect of the installation or location of a fire safety system installed under this section is final and is not subject to review or appeal by any other person.

28. TFES Commissioner may take action in respect of certain substances

- (1) In this section –

dangerous action, in respect of a substance, means the storage, transportation or use of the substance in such a place, and under such conditions, as to constitute a danger to life or property;

flammable substance has the same meaning as in the GHS;

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GHS has the same meaning as in the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*;

hazardous substance has the same meaning as in the GHS.

- (2) If the TFES Commissioner is satisfied that a person is taking, or has taken or is about to take, a dangerous action in respect of a hazardous substance, or flammable substance, the TFES Commissioner may, by written notice, to the person –
- (a) require the person to take such measures as may be necessary to ensure the safe storage, transportation or use of the substance; or
 - (b) prohibit the storage, transportation or use of the substance by the person.
- (3) A person, given a notice under subsection (2) in respect of a hazardous substance, or flammable substance, must comply with the notice.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (4) It is a defence in proceedings for an offence under subsection (3), in respect of a substance, if the defendant establishes that –
- (a) compliance with the notice under subsection (2) would have breached the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*, the *Explosives Act 2012* or the *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2010*; and

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(b) the defendant took all reasonable steps to comply with the provisions of those Acts.

(5) For the avoidance of doubt, this section is in addition to, and does not derogate from, the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*, the *Explosives Act 2012* and the *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2010*.

29. Electricity entities taken to be occupier in respect of certain premises

(1) In this section –

electricity entity has the same meaning as in the *Electricity Wayleaves and Easements Act 2000*.

(2) For the purposes of this Act –

(a) the appropriate electricity entity is taken to be the occupier of such part of premises that is subject to a wayleave within the meaning of the *Electricity Wayleaves and Easements Act 2000*, including an easement created under section 10 of that Act; and

(b) that electricity entity may, if the entity thinks it necessary for the purpose of protecting any transmission lines, poles or other equipment or works of that electricity entity, cause any vegetation or flammable material on the premises to be burned off or removed.

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- (3) Nothing in subsection (2) removes an obligation imposed on an electricity entity under this Act or any other Act.

Division 3 – Fire permit periods

30. Fire permit periods

- (1) The TFES Commissioner may declare –
- (a) a day, or two or more consecutive days, specified in the declaration to be a fire permit period in all, or a specified part, of the State; or
 - (b) that a fire permit period has commenced throughout the State or in any specified parts of the State; and
 - (c) that a fire permit period has ended.
- (2) The TFES Commissioner is to ensure that each declaration made under subsection (1) is made available to the public, as soon as practicable –
- (a) in the prescribed manner; and
 - (b) in such other manner as the TFES Commissioner considers reasonable.

31. Powers of TFES Commissioner during fire permit periods

- (1) During a fire permit period, the TFES Commissioner may, in respect of such part of the State as the fire permit period applies –

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-
- (a) take all necessary steps to reduce the risk of fire including, but not limited to –
- (i) requisitioning the services of persons, animals, plant, machines, engines, articles, appliances or materials; and
 - (ii) prohibiting, or restricting, the use of any specified plant, machine, engine, article, appliance or material that the TFES Commissioner considers to be likely to cause a risk of fire; and
- (b) make such orders, give such notices and directions and take such other actions as the TFES Commissioner considers reasonable.
- (2) An order, notice or direction made or given under subsection (1)(b) –
- (a) may be made or given so as to apply in respect of –
 - (i) specified persons, fires, premises, animals, plant, machines, engines, articles, appliances or materials; or
 - (ii) specified classes of persons, fires, premises, animals, plant, machines, engines, articles, appliances or materials –

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as is specified in the order, notice or direction; and

- (b) may be made or given so as to apply in respect of all, or any specified part, of the State; and
- (c) may exempt from the operation of all or any of the provisions of the order, notice or direction –

- (i) specified persons, fires, premises, animals, plant, machines, engines, articles, appliances or materials; or

- (ii) specified classes of persons, fires, premises, animals, plant, machines, engines, articles, appliances or materials; and

- (d) may contain such other provisions as the TFES Commissioner considers to be necessary or reasonable for the purposes of the order, notice or direction.

(3) An order, notice or direction made or given under subsection (1) may be made or given in the prescribed manner.

(4) A person must comply with an order, notice or direction made or given under this section.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

32. Restrictions on lighting fires during fire permit periods

- (1) During a fire permit period, a person must not light or cause to be lit, or maintain or use, a fire –
- (a) in the open air on any premises for any purpose; or
 - (b) for a prescribed purpose; or
 - (c) in a protected area.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person lighting, maintaining or using a fire if –
- (a) the person is acting in accordance with this Act; or
 - (b) the person –
 - (i) takes all reasonable precautions to prevent the fire from spreading to adjoining land; and
 - (ii) observes such precautions as are specified by a TFES officer; or
 - (c) the fire is lit, maintained and used under the authority of, and in accordance with, the conditions of a valid fire permit that is in force at the relevant time; or
 - (d) the fire is lit in a protected area in a place that has been specially designated for

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fires by the person with the responsibility
for the management of the area.

33. Duties of occupiers of premises during fire permit periods

- (1) If a fire is burning on any premises during a fire permit period, the occupier of the premises must, immediately after becoming aware of the fire –
 - (a) take all reasonable steps to extinguish the fire or to prevent it from spreading; and
 - (b) report the fire to the TFES, on the telephone number used in emergency situations, to a police officer or to any member of the TFES.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to –
 - (a) a fire lit under the authority of, and in accordance with, a fire permit; or
 - (b) a fire to which section 62 applies if that section is complied with in relation to the fire.

34. Fire permits

- (1) The TFES Commissioner may appoint a person, in the prescribed manner, as a fire permit officer.
- (2) A fire permit officer may issue a fire permit, in the prescribed manner, in respect of the area for

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which the officer was appointed as a fire permit officer.

- (3) A person who lights and controls a fire in accordance with the conditions of a fire permit issued to that person –
- (a) is exempt from the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* in respect of that fire; and
 - (b) is not liable for any loss, injury or damage caused by that fire unless it is proven that the person acted maliciously or recklessly in respect of the fire.

Division 4 – Total fire bans

35. Days of total fire ban

- (1) The TFES Commissioner may declare –
- (a) a day, or two or more consecutive days, specified in the declaration to be a day of total fire ban in all, or a specified part, of the State; or
 - (b) that a day of total fire ban has commenced throughout the State or in any specified parts of the State; or
 - (c) that the declaration of a day of total fire ban has been revoked.
- (2) A declaration of a day of total fire ban under subsection (1) may do either or both of the following:

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- (a) specify fires, or specified classes of fires, that are exempt from the operation of the declaration;
 - (b) prohibit or restrict the use of specified machines or apparatus, or specified classes of machines or apparatus, in the open air on that day.
- (3) The TFES Commissioner is to ensure that each declaration made under subsection (1) is made available to the public, as soon as practicable –
 - (a) in the prescribed manner; and
 - (b) in such other manner as the TFES Commissioner considers reasonable.

36. Effect of declaration of day of total fire ban

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), if a day of total fire ban is declared under section 35 –
 - (a) all fire permits in force in respect of the day of total fire ban, in relation to premises in any part of the State to which the declaration relates, are revoked; and
 - (b) no fire permits are to be issued in respect of the day of total fire ban in relation to premises in any part of the State to which the declaration relates.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to –
 - (a) a fire exempt from the day of total fire ban by virtue of section 35(2)(a); or

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- (b) a fire permit in so far as it authorises the lighting of a fire so exempt from the day of total fire ban.

37. Power of TFES on days of total fire ban

If a TFES officer finds a fire burning on a day of total fire ban that applies in the part of the State where the fire is located, the officer may, for the purpose of extinguishing the fire or preventing it from spreading –

- (a) perform such functions, or take such actions, as the officer thinks necessary or reasonable; and
- (b) make or give, either orally or in writing, any order, notice or direction, that may be made or given by the TFES Commissioner, under this Act, in the circumstances.

38. Power to enter neighbouring lands to extinguish fires

- (1) A person who finds a fire burning within 1.5 kilometres of any premises of which the person is the owner or occupier may enter onto the premises on which the fire is burning, with such persons and equipment, and do all such acts, as may reasonably be necessary for extinguishing the fire or preventing it from spreading, if –

- (a) the fire –

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- (i) is burning on a day of total fire ban in the part of the State where those premises are situated; and
 - (ii) is not exempt from the ban; or
- (b) the person believes, on reasonable grounds, that the fire has been lit or is burning in contravention of this Act.
- (2) A person must not enter onto premises under the authority of subsection (1) on a day other than a day of total fire ban, which applies in the part of the State where the premises are situated, unless the person first notifies the TFES of the person's intention to do so, if it is reasonably practicable for that notice to be given.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.
- (3) On receipt of a notice given by a person under subsection (2), a member of the TFES may give to the person such directions as the member considers desirable to –
 - (a) prevent unnecessary damage; and
 - (b) properly extinguish the fire; and
 - (c) prevent the fire from spreading.

39. Prohibition on fires, &c., on days of total fire ban

Subject to this Division, a person must comply with a declaration of a day of total fire ban if the person is in the area of the State in respect of which the declaration is in force.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.

40. Duties of occupiers of premises during days of total fire ban

- (1) If a fire occurs on premises on a day on which a day of total fire ban is in force in respect of the area of the State in which the premises are located, the occupier of the premises must, immediately after becoming aware of the existence of the fire –
 - (a) take all reasonable steps to extinguish the fire or to prevent it from spreading; and
 - (b) report the fire to the TFES, on the telephone number used in emergency situations, to a police officer or to any member of the TFES.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

- (2) It is a defence in proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) if the defendant establishes that the defendant did not know, and could not reasonably have been expected to know, that a day of total fire ban had been declared.

Division 5 – Firebreaks

41. TFES Commissioner or council may form firebreaks

- (1) In this section –

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formation of a firebreak includes, but is not limited to, the clearing of the means of access to a firebreak that has been formed or is to be formed.

- (2) The TFES Commissioner may cause the formation of such firebreaks as the TFES Commissioner considers necessary or reasonable –
 - (a) to arrest the spread of fires that may occur in any part of the State; or
 - (b) to facilitate the suppression of any such fires.
- (3) A council may, in its municipal area, cause the formation of such firebreaks as it considers necessary or reasonable to arrest the spread, or to facilitate the suppression, of fires.
- (4) Before causing the formation of a firebreak under this section on premises, the TFES Commissioner or council may serve a notice on the occupier of the premises that requires the occupier to form a firebreak on the premises in such manner, and within such time, as is specified in the notice.
- (5) If an occupier of premises refuses to comply with a notice served on the occupier under subsection (4) in respect of those premises, the person who served the notice –
 - (a) may enter onto the premises and do such things as are necessary to form the firebreak; and

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- (b) in taking an action under paragraph (a), may not destroy, injure or remove any living trees that –
 - (i) are required for the purposes of shade, shelter or a windbreak; or
 - (ii) are required for the production of food for human beings or animals; or
 - (iii) have been grown for the commercial value of the timber they contain.
 - (6) The TFES Commissioner may, in the scale of charges, fix charges in respect of an action that may be taken by the TFES under subsection (5).
 - (7) A person who serves a notice under subsection (4) in respect of premises may –
 - (a) recover all, or part, of a charge that is payable in respect of an action taken by the person under subsection (5) in respect of the premises; or
 - (b) waive all or part of a charge so payable.

42. Firebreaks on Crown land

- (1) Subject to this section, a person who occupies premises that are adjacent to Crown land may take, or cause to be taken, such steps as are necessary to form a firebreak on the Crown land –

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- (a) that is designed to arrest fires that may spread onto the premises; or
 - (b) to otherwise facilitate the suppression of fires that are likely to spread onto the premises.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not authorise the entry onto, or the formation of a firebreak on, Crown land –
 - (a) if the Minister administering the *Crown Lands Act 1976* has not given consent to the formation of the firebreak on the Crown land; or
 - (b) that is occupied or being used or managed by, or on behalf of, a department or instrumentality of the State; or
 - (c) that is subject to an estate, interest or right under which the holder of the estate, interest or right has the right –
 - (i) to occupy or use the Crown land; or
 - (ii) to carry out any operations on the Crown land; or
 - (iii) to take any products of the materials in the Crown land, including materials beneath the surface.
- (3) For the purpose of taking such steps as are referred to in subsection (1), a person may enter

onto Crown land with such vehicles and other equipment as may be required for the purpose.

Division 6 – Bushfire hazard documents

43. Interpretation of Division

In this Division –

bushfire hazard document, in respect of land, means a document required under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* to be prepared, approved, issued or otherwise provided by an accredited person under that Act.

44. Accreditation required to prepare certain documents under *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*

- (1) For the purposes of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, the following persons are prescribed as accredited persons:
 - (a) an authorised member;
 - (b) a person holding accreditation under this Part.
- (2) Except in accordance with the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, a person must not prepare a bushfire hazard document if the person is not prescribed under this section as an accredited person.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

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45. Accreditation to prepare bushfire hazard documents

- (1) The TFES Commissioner may issue accreditation to a person, in the prescribed manner, which authorises the person to prepare, approve, issue or otherwise provide bushfire hazard documents.
- (2) A person granted accreditation under this Division must comply with the conditions of, or restrictions on, the accreditation.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (3) If, for any period, a person accredited under this section is not covered by the type, and level, of prescribed insurance for accredited persons, the person's accreditation under this section is suspended for that period.

PART 4 – TFES FUNDING

Division 1 – General

46. Funding of TFES

- (1) The Treasurer is to ensure that the following amounts are only to be used for the purposes of the TFES, its functions under this Act and for any other prescribed function or purpose relating to emergency management:
- (a) any amount paid in respect of the TFES under this Act including, but not limited to, the charges and levies paid under this Act or any other Act;
 - (b) any debts due and owing to the TFES under this Act or any other Act;
 - (c) any other prescribed amounts.
- (2) The annual report for the Department, prepared in respect of a financial year under the *State Service Act 2000*, is to include, in the manner determined by the Treasurer, a reconciliation of the finances of the TFES for that financial year including –
- (a) the amounts specified in subsection (1); and
 - (b) the functions, or purposes, for which those amounts have been applied.
- (3) If requested to do so by the Treasurer, the accountable authority of the Department, within

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the meaning of the *Financial Management Act 2016*, is to provide such information in respect of the finances of the TFES in such manner as the Treasurer specifies in the request.

Division 2 – TFES – vehicle levy

47. TFES – vehicle levy

(1) In this section –

CPI figure for Hobart means the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index Number for Hobart published by the Australian Statistician under the authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* of the Commonwealth;

eligible motor vehicle means a motor vehicle, within the meaning of the *Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999*, that is not an exempt motor vehicle;

exempt motor vehicle means a vehicle that is exempt from the requirement to pay the fee for registration that is prescribed, under the *Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999*, for that vehicle;

Registrar has the same meaning as in the *Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999*;

TFES – vehicle levy means the levy chargeable under subsection (2) in respect of an eligible motor vehicle.

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- (2) The Registrar is to charge the levy, calculated under this section, in respect of each eligible motor vehicle registered in the relevant financial year.
- (3) The TFES – vehicle levy chargeable in respect of the 2024-25 financial year, and for each subsequent financial year, is to be calculated in accordance with the following formula and rounded off in accordance with subsection (4):

$$A = B \times \frac{C}{D}$$

where –

A is the value in dollars of the levy for the relevant financial year;

B is \$21;

C is the value of the CPI figure for Hobart for the December quarter immediately preceding the financial year in which the levy is chargeable;

D is the value of the CPI figure for Hobart for the December quarter 2022.

- (4) If the amount calculated in accordance with the formula specified in subsection (3) results in an amount which is dollars and a number of cents, the amount is to be rounded to the nearest whole dollar.
- (5) The Registrar –

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- (a) is to provide the TFES Commissioner with the TFES – vehicle levy, collected by the Registrar, in the prescribed manner and at the prescribed intervals; and
- (b) by 1 February in any calendar year, is to provide the TFES Commissioner with –
 - (i) an estimate of the TFES – vehicle levy likely to be payable in the financial year commencing on 1 July in that calendar year; and
 - (ii) such other information in respect of the TFES – vehicle levy as the TFES Commissioner requests.
- (6) The regulations may prescribe –
 - (a) the manner in which the TFES – vehicle levy is to be collected; and
 - (b) a concessional amount of TFES – vehicle levy payable under this section; and
 - (c) the circumstances in which the concessional amount is so payable.

Division 3 – TFES – property levy

48. Interpretation of Division

In this Division –

AAV, in respect of an eligible property, means the assessed annual value, as defined in

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the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*, for the eligible property;

AAV rate, in relation to a land classification in a financial year, means the rate determined by the Treasurer under section 50 in respect of the land classification for the financial year;

eligible property means –

- (a) all areas of land other than exempt property; and
- (b) exempt property if all, or any part, of the exempt property is let, or sublet, to a private tenant;

exempt property means land, or classes of land, prescribed as exempt property for the purposes of this Division;

land classification means the prescribed classes, or categories, of land;

private tenant, in respect of land, means a tenant other than –

- (a) the Crown in right of the Commonwealth, or in right of any State or Territory; or
- (b) a prescribed entity or person;

TFES – property levy means the levy chargeable under section 49(1) in respect of an eligible property.

49. TFES – property levy

- (1) A council is to charge the levy, calculated under this section, in respect of each eligible property in the municipal area of the council for a financial year.
- (2) The TFES – property levy chargeable under this section in respect of an eligible property in the municipal area of the council for a financial year (the *relevant financial year*) is to be calculated in accordance with the following formula and rounded off in accordance with subsection (3):

$$A = B \times C$$

where –

A is the value in dollars of the levy for the eligible property in the relevant financial year;

B is the most recent AAV, in respect of the eligible property, as last provided by the Valuer-General before the commencement of the relevant financial year;

C is the AAV rate determined, for the relevant financial year, in respect of the land classification that applies in respect of the eligible property.

- (3) If the amount calculated in accordance with the formula specified in subsection (2) results in an amount which is dollars and a number of cents,

the amount is to be rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

50. Treasurer to determine AAV rates

- (1) Before 31 May in any year, the Treasurer is to publish in the *Gazette* the AAV rate determined in respect of each land classification for the financial year starting on 1 July in that year.
- (2) A rate determined under subsection (1) in respect of a land classification for a financial year –
 - (a) is to be determined by the Treasurer after taking into account such matters, and factors, as the Treasurer considers relevant; and
 - (b) may be determined differently based on such factors as the Treasurer considers appropriate in the circumstances.
- (3) Before making a determination under subsection (1) in respect of a financial year –
 - (a) the Valuer-General, within the meaning of the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*, is to provide the Treasurer with the prescribed information, or such other information as the Treasurer requires to make a determination under this section for the financial year; and
 - (b) the Treasurer may require such other persons to provide information, as the

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Treasurer requires to make a determination under this section for the financial year.

- (4) If the Treasurer does not publish an AAV rate for a financial year before 31 May as required under subsection (1), the AAV rate that applies for that financial year is the AAV rate that applied in the immediately preceding financial year.

51. Administration of TFES – property levy

- (1) In each financial year, a council –
- (a) is to provide the TFES Commissioner with the TFES – property levy, collected by the council, in the prescribed manner and at the prescribed intervals; and
 - (b) may retain such amount of a TFES – property levy, collected by the council in that financial year, as is prescribed.
- (2) A council must provide the TFES Commissioner with such information, in respect of the TFES – property levy payable for the relevant municipal area, as is prescribed.
- (3) The regulations may prescribe –
- (a) the method for reconciling the TFES – property levy payable by the council in any financial year; and
 - (b) the period during which such a reconciliation may occur; and

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- (c) information that may be required to be provided, or required to be retained, in respect of the TFES – property levy or a reconciliation of the levy; and
 - (d) a concessional amount of TFES – property levy payable under this Division; and
 - (e) the circumstances in which the concessional amount is so payable.

Consultation Draft

PART 5 – OFFENCES

Division 1 – Offences

52. TFES may request name and address

- (1) An authorised member may request that a person give the person's full name and residential address if the authorised member believes, on reasonable grounds, that the person has committed an offence against this Act.
- (2) A person must comply with a request made of the person under subsection (1).

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

53. TFES may request assistance

- (1) An authorised member may request that a person provide assistance –
 - (a) to the authorised member or the TFES;
or
 - (b) as part of emergency management operations.
- (2) A person must not fail, without reasonable excuse, to provide assistance that has been requested from the person under subsection (1).

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (3) A person must not, either directly or indirectly, prevent, hinder, impede or obstruct another person from providing assistance that has been

requested from the other person under subsection (1).

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

54. Failure to follow directions

A person must not fail, without reasonable excuse, to comply with an order, notice, direction or requirement that is given to the person in accordance with this Act.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

55. Obstruction of members of TFES

A person must not obstruct or hinder, or interfere with, a member of the TFES while the member is performing a function under this Act.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

56. False or misleading information or actions

- (1) A person must not knowingly provide false or misleading information, under this Act, to a member of the TFES.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (2) A person must not trigger an alarm for an emergency event, or report an alleged emergency event, under false pretences.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

57. Offences relating to TFES equipment

- (1) A person must not injure, damage or interfere with –
- (a) any building, premises or equipment of the TFES; or
 - (b) any building, premises or equipment being used by, or on behalf of, the TFES.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (2) A person must not take any action in respect of a fire hydrant that would result in –
- (a) the covering up, or closing, of the hydrant so as to obscure or hide the position of the hydrant; or
 - (b) damage or injury to the hydrant; or
 - (c) the obliteration, or removal, of any mark used to indicate the position of the hydrant.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (3) A person must not destroy, damage or interfere with any works executed or carried out by the TFES Commissioner, the TFES or any other person under, or for the purposes of, this Act.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (4) A person must not drive a vehicle –

- (a) over a fire hose or other equipment of the TFES; or
- (b) so as to interfere with, or obstruct, the operations of the TFES or the use of equipment of the TFES.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (5) A person must return any equipment of the TFES that is in the person's possession, or control, if the person is requested to do so by the TFES Commissioner.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

58. Offences relating to fire safety systems

- (1) Unless otherwise approved in writing, a person must not tamper, or interfere, with a fire safety system or systems for the detection of other emergency events.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (2) A person must not install, maintain or repair fire safety systems, or other equipment for fire protection, other than in accordance with this Act.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

59. Offences by owners or occupiers of premises

- (1) In this section –

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owner, in relation to premises, includes each person having possession, control or occupation of the property.

(2) An owner of one of the following premises must comply with a request of an authorised officer to provide information:

- (a) premises that have been destroyed, or damaged, by an emergency event;
- (b) premises in, or at which, an emergency event occurred;
- (c) premises in, on or attached to –
 - (i) any structure in which an emergency event occurred; or
 - (ii) premises on which an emergency event occurred.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

(3) If an owner or occupier of premises becomes aware of a fire on the premises, the owner, or occupier, of the premises must not fail to take all reasonable measures to prevent the fire from escaping from the premises.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

60. Offences relating to fires

(1) A person must not take any of the following actions if the action endangers any premises:

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- (a) ignite any matter or material;
- (b) use or carry any matter, or material, that is alight.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

(2) A person must not –

- (a) light a fire, or cause a fire to be lit, in the open air; or
- (b) leave a fire in the open air –
 - (i) unextinguished; or
 - (ii) unsupervised by a person who is aged at least 14 years or older.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to person, in respect of a fire, if the person has taken all prescribed precautions and all other reasonable precautions to prevent the fire from spreading.

61. Offences relating to fire permit periods

- (1) A person must not light a fire or cause a fire to be lit, during a fire permit period, on premises –
 - (a) without the authorisation of the owner or occupier of the premises; or
 - (b) if all or part of the premises are unoccupied Crown land, in accordance with the conditions of a fire permit granted to the person under this Act.

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Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (2) A person must not, during a fire permit period, cause there to be any ignited matter, or material, within 6 metres of prescribed material, prescribed vegetation or prescribed items.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (3) A person must not, during a fire permit period or a day of total fire ban, drop, throw down or leave, in an open space, any match, tobacco, cigar or cigarette, if it has been lit and has not been extinguished.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

62. Offences relating to specified fires

- (1) In this section –

utility fire means a fire, other than a fire within a fully enclosed building –

- (a) for cooking or warmth; or
- (b) for the burning of a carcass; or
- (c) for a prescribed purpose.

- (2) A person must not light a utility fire –

- (a) in, or on, peat, humus or marram grass; or
- (b) within 3 metres of any stump, log or standing tree.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

- (3) A person must not leave a utility fire –
- (a) unextinguished; or
 - (b) unsupervised by a person who is aged at least 14 years or older.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

- (4) During a fire permit period a person must not light a utility fire unless all flammable material has been moved to a place that is at least 3 metres from the site of the fire.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

63. Groups for salvage or private emergency management operations must be approved

- (1) A person must not, without the approval of the TFES Commissioner, constitute or maintain a group of people for the purpose of –
- (a) salvaging property at emergency events; or
 - (b) performing emergency management operations, other than on premises –
 - (i) owned, or occupied, by the person; or
 - (ii) where the person is employed, or engaged, to work.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 26 penalty units.

- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, subsection (1) does not apply in respect of a group of persons if the group of persons is acting under the authority of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.

Division 2 – Offence proceedings generally

64. TFES may bring proceedings

For the avoidance of doubt, the TFES may commence proceedings, and participate in proceedings, in its own name.

65. Additional penalties under this Act

In addition to any other penalty or sanction imposed in respect of an offence under this Act, the court determining proceedings for the offence may do one or more of the following:

- (a) impose an additional fine or term of imprisonment of –
 - (i) if the offence occurred on a day of total fire ban – a fine not exceeding 100 penalty units or a term of imprisonment of 12 months, or both; or
 - (ii) if the offence occurred during a fire permit period – a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units or a term of imprisonment of 6 months, or both; or

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- (iii) if the defendant has a previous conviction in respect of the same offence – impose a penalty for the subsequent offence that is not more than double the fine or double the term of imprisonment, or both;
 - (b) order the defendant, in respect of the offence, to pay an amount, in accordance with the scale of charges, for any emergency management operations performed by the TFES as a result of –
 - (i) the offence; or
 - (ii) the defendant’s actions that made up one or more elements of the offence.

66. Infringement notices

- (1) In this section –

infringement offence means an offence under this Act that is prescribed to be an infringement offence.

- (2) The TFES Commissioner may issue and serve an infringement notice on a person if the TFES Commissioner reasonably believes that the person has committed an infringement offence.
- (3) An infringement notice may not be served on an individual who has not attained the age of 14 years.

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- (4) An infringement notice –
 - (a) is to be in accordance with section 14 of the *Monetary Penalties Enforcement Act 2005*; and
 - (b) is not to relate to 4 or more offences.
- (5) The regulations may prescribe –
 - (a) for infringement offences, the penalties payable under infringement notices; and
 - (b) different penalties for bodies corporate and individuals.

67. Offences by employers

- (1) If an employee or agent commits an offence under this Act, the employer of the employee, or the principal of the agent, is taken to have committed the same offence.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), it is a defence in proceedings against an employer, or principal, for an offence taken to have been committed under that subsection, if the employer or principal proves that –
 - (a) the employer, or principal, did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to know, that the employee or agent was committing the offence; or
 - (b) the employer or principal took all reasonable precautions, and exercised all

due diligence, to prevent the commission of the offence.

- (3) An employer or principal may be proceeded against and convicted for an offence pursuant to this section whether or not the relevant employee, or relevant agent, has been proceeded against or convicted for that offence.

68. Offences by employees or agents

- (1) It is not a defence in proceedings for an offence under this Act that the defendant was, at the time of the commission of the offence, an employee or agent of another person and was acting for, or on behalf of, the other person.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), it is a defence in proceedings for an offence under this Act if the defendant establishes that –
 - (a) at the time of the commission of the offence, the defendant was acting under the direction or supervision of –
 - (i) the owner of, or the person in charge of, the premises where the offence occurred; or
 - (ii) the person who employed, or engaged, the defendant to perform the act that, either directly or indirectly, was the act that constituted the offence; and

- (b) the defendant's actions were a direct result of that direction or supervision; and
- (c) the defendant could not have reasonably known that those actions would constitute an offence under this Act.

69. Offences by bodies corporate

- (1) If a body corporate contravenes, whether by act or omission, a provision of this Act, each person who is a member of the government authority of the body corporate, or who is concerned in the management of the body corporate, is taken to have contravened the same provision if the person knowingly or negligently authorised or permitted the contravention.
- (2) A person may be proceeded against for, and convicted of, an offence pursuant to this section whether or not the body corporate, or any other relevant person, has been proceeded against for, or convicted of, the offence.
- (3) Nothing in this section affects any liability imposed on a body corporate for an offence committed under this Act by the body corporate.

Division 3 – Evidentiary provisions, defences and appeals

70. Orders, notices, &c., made under this Act

- (1) An order or notice made, or direction given, by the TFES Commissioner under this Act, that is

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signed by or on behalf of the TFES Commissioner –

- (a) is admissible in legal proceedings as evidence of the matters specified in the order, notice or direction; and
 - (b) in the absence of evidence to the contrary, is proof of those matters.
- (2) If the TFES Commissioner certifies, in writing, that a specified day was declared to be a day of total fire ban, or that a specified period was declared to be a fire permit period, the certificate is –
 - (a) admissible in legal proceedings as evidence of the matters so certified; and
 - (b) in the absence of evidence to the contrary, is proof of those matters.
- (3) If a report, or recommendation, was made to or by the TFES Commissioner in accordance with this Act, a copy of the report or recommendation –
 - (a) is admissible in legal proceedings as evidence of the matters specified in the report or recommendation; and
 - (b) in the absence of evidence to the contrary, is proof of –
 - (i) those matters; and

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- (ii) the date on which the report or recommendation was made to, or by, the TFES Commissioner.

71. Evidence as to certain other matters

- (1) In this section –

relevant proceedings means proceedings for –

- (a) an offence alleged to have been committed under this Act; or
 - (b) the recovery of any amount, or charge, alleged to be due to the TFES under this Act.
- (2) In proceedings for a relevant proceeding, a statement in the document, commencing the relevant proceedings, in respect of the following matters is, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, proof of those matters:
- (a) that premises are, or were at a specified time, situated inside or outside of a specified area for the purposes of this Act;
 - (b) that a person is, or was at a specified time, the owner or occupier of premises for the purposes of one or more provisions of this Act;
 - (c) that a person is, or was at a specified time, an agent of the owner or occupier of premises;

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- (d) that a person is, or was at a specified time, the person in charge of premises for the purposes of one or more provisions of this Act.

72. Appeals under this Act

- (1) Unless otherwise specified, an appeal or review of a prescribed decision, or prescribed matter, under this Act is to be made to TASCAT.
- (2) The regulations may prescribe such matters as are necessary, or reasonable, to ensure that an appeal or review may occur in respect of this Act.

PART 6 – MISCELLANEOUS

Division 1 – Fees, charges and debts

73. Charges for services

- (1) The TFES Commissioner may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, fix a scale of charges for the services rendered under this Act.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, a scale of charges under subsection (1) may include a charge –
 - (a) for damages to TFES equipment or other TFES assets; or
 - (b) to recover the cost of consumable items if the TFES Commissioner is satisfied that the use of the items –
 - (i) was required due to a fire that was deliberately lit; or
 - (ii) was at the direct request of an owner of premises and the TFES Commissioner is satisfied that the use of the items was not required as part of standard emergency management operations.
- (3) If a person provides services under this Act in respect of which a charge is published under subsection (1), the charge for the service is payable to the TFES, unless otherwise specified in the scale of charges.

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- (4) The TFES Commissioner may waive all, or any part, of a charge payable in respect of a service under this Act if the TFES Commissioner considers it reasonable to do so.

74. Charges for actions taken in respect of certain premises

- (1) The TFES Commissioner may recover a charge for a service provided by the TFES, determined in accordance with the scale of charges, from the owner of premises if –
 - (a) an abatement notice has been served by a council under section 200 of the *Local Government Act 1993* in respect of the premises; and
 - (b) the services have been provided by the TFES at a fire on that premises; and
 - (c) the abatement notice had not been complied with immediately before the rendering of those services by the TFES at that fire.
- (2) In any proceedings to recover a charge under subsection (1), the relevant court may decline to make an order for the recovery of the charge if the court is satisfied that –
 - (a) the person, against whom the proceedings were brought, took all reasonable steps to comply with the relevant abatement notice; or

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- (b) it was reasonable in all the circumstances that the person, against whom the proceedings were brought, did not comply with the abatement notice.

75. Charges for false alarms

- (1) In this section –

automatic, in relation to a fire safety system, means that the system is designed to operate when activated by a device that senses heat, smoke or fire;

false alarm includes –

- (a) the activation of an automatic fire alarm system that is caused by reasons other than fire; or
 - (b) a request for the TFES to attend at premises where there is no reasonable suspicion that a fire is present on the premises.
- (2) The TFES Commissioner may fix a charge for the TFES attending at premises in response to a call arising out of a false alarm.
- (3) If an authorised member determines that a call is a false alarm, the member must provide a written report, in an approved form, to the TFES Commissioner, if the member is satisfied that the false alarm –
 - (a) has been caused by –

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- (i) a person failing to notify the TFES of testing, or maintenance work, being performed or about to be performed on the automatic fire alarm system that caused the false alarm; or
 - (ii) the owner of the premises, at which the automatic fire alarm system that caused the false alarm is installed, failing to notify the TFES of works being performed on the premises that may result in a false alarm being transmitted by the system; or
- (b) is the result of a person, who has been employed or engaged to monitor the premises, in respect of which the false alarm was made, not inspecting the premises to determine what triggered the alarm; or
- (c) is the third false alarm, transmitted by the same automatic fire alarm system within a period of 60 days, regardless of the reason for the false alarm.

76. Power to use water without charge

- (1) In this section –

regulated entity has the same meaning as in the *Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008*.

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- (2) The TFES has, at all times, the right –
- (a) to use, free of charge, for the purpose of extinguishing any fire, all reticulated water mains, water hydrants, valves, pipes, and works or water supply vested in, or under the control of, any regulated entity, council or other public body, and all water in any dam, tank or well belonging to any person; and
 - (b) to the reasonable use, free of charge, of any of those reticulated water mains, water hydrants, valves, pipes and works or water supply for the purpose of any drill, demonstration, practice or competition carried out by the TFES.

77. Recovery of debts

- (1) The TFES, or the TFES Commissioner, may recover in a court of competent jurisdiction a debt that is due to the TFES, or TFES Commissioner, under this Act.
- (2) All debts recoverable under this Act are to be applied in, and towards, defraying the expenses of the TFES under this Act or any other Act.

Division 2 – Liabilities and immunities

78. Certain actions taken to be fire-fighting operations

- (1) For the purposes of the following Acts, all actions taken by a member of the TFES under the authority of this Act, including but not

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limited to all emergency management operations, are taken to be actions taken as part of fire-fighting operations:

- (a) the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*;
 - (b) the *Asbestos-Related Diseases (Occupational Exposure) Compensation Act 2011*.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, administrative actions taken, or maintenance performed, by a member of the TFES for and on behalf of the TFES are taken to be actions taken under the authority of this Act.

79. TFES member not liable in certain circumstances

- (1) A member of the TFES does not incur any civil or criminal liability in respect of any act done, or omitted to be done, by the member in good faith –
- (a) in performing emergency management operations; or
 - (b) in performing, or purportedly performing, a function imposed under, or conferred by, this Act; or
 - (c) in the administration or execution, or the purported administration or execution, of this Act.

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- (2) A member of the TFES is not liable in respect of an action taken, or not taken, by the member under this Act or any other Act if –
- (a) the member –
 - (i) fails to perform properly a function under this Act, including a function conferred on, or delegated to, the member under this Act; or
 - (ii) contravenes a provision of this Act; and
 - (b) no penalty is specified, under this Act or any other Act, for the failure to perform the function or for a contravention of this Act.
- (3) Nothing in this section affects the application of the *State Service Act 2000* to a member for a failure to perform a function or for a contravention of this Act.

80. Liability for death or injury in certain circumstances

- (1) The Crown may be liable in tort in respect of the death of, or injury to, a person other than a member of the TFES, subject to the defences and other incidences that ordinarily apply in proceedings in tort, if the death or injury is the result of –

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- (a) a member of the TFES or another person –
 - (i) failing to perform a function imposed under, or conferred by, this Act; or
 - (ii) improperly performing a function imposed under, or conferred by, this Act; or
 - (iii) performing a function imposed under, or conferred by, this Act; or
 - (b) a member of the TFES contravening a provision of this Act while acting as such a member.
- (2) An award of damages against the Crown under subsection (1) is payable out of money provided by Parliament for the purpose.

81. Compensation payable in certain circumstances

- (1) The Crown may be liable to pay compensation in respect of property that is lost, destroyed or damaged as a result of an act, or omission, performed by a member of the TFES in the performance, or purported performance, of –
 - (a) a function of the TFES under this Act; or
 - (b) emergency management operations under this Act.

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- (2) A claim for compensation under subsection (1) is to be made to the TFES Commissioner at first instance.

82. Damage caused by members of TFES

For the purposes of any policy of insurance that provides cover in respect of damage to premises by an emergency event, any damage to the premises caused by one of the following persons during such an emergency event is taken to be damage caused by the emergency event:

- (a) a member of the TFES in the lawful performance of any function conferred by this Act;
- (b) a person lawfully assisting, under this Act, a member of the TFES in the lawful performance of any function conferred by this Act.

83. Application of Division to certain persons

- (1) If an interagency or interjurisdictional agreement exists in relation to emergency management operations, a person is taken to be a member of the TFES for the purposes of this Division –
- (a) while the person performs emergency management operations in accordance with such an agreement; and
 - (b) unless the agreement provides otherwise.

- (2) If a person is responsible for performing functions, or emergency management operations, under this Act, the TFES Commissioner may determine that the person is taken to be a member of the TFES, for the purposes of this Division, while the person performs those functions or emergency management operations.
- (3) A determination under subsection (2) is to be in writing and in an approved form.

Division 3 – General

84. Service of directions, orders, notices, &c.

A direction, order or notice under this Act is taken to be given to, or served on, a person if –

- (a) the direction, order or notice is delivered to –
 - (i) the person; or
 - (ii) a nominee or agent of the person; or
- (b) the direction, order or notice is sent by certified mail to the address of the person, or a nominee or agent of the person; or
- (c) if the direction, order or notice is to be given to, or served on, the owner of premises and the owner cannot be ascertained or found, the direction, order or notice is displayed in a prominent position on those premises.

85. Removal of debris after emergency event

- (1) If an emergency event occurs on or in any premises, the owner of the premises must remove, when safe to do so, any debris or flammable material which may be in or on such premises and which constitutes a fire hazard or a danger to life or property.
- (2) If an owner of premises fails to comply with the requirements of subsection (1), the TFES Commissioner may, by notice in writing to the owner, require the owner to remove the debris, or flammable material, specified in the notice within the period specified in the notice.
- (3) If an owner of premises fails to comply with a notice given to the owner under subsection (2), the TFES Commissioner may –
 - (a) cause the debris or flammable material, specified in the notice, to be removed; and
 - (b) recover in any court of competent jurisdiction, as a debt due to the TFES, the expenses actually incurred –
 - (i) in removing the debris or flammable material; and
 - (ii) if necessary, in employing persons to protect the premises until the debris or flammable material is removed.

86. Regulations

- (1) The Governor may make regulations for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the regulations may –
 - (a) specify the process for –
 - (i) applying for, issuing, suspending, varying or cancelling a fire permit, including the imposition of conditions on a fire permit; and
 - (ii) appointing, suspending or cancelling the appointment of a fire permit officer, including the imposition of conditions or restrictions on such an appointment; and
 - (iii) applying for, issuing, suspending, varying or cancelling a permit, approval or other matter under this Act; and
 - (b) provide for the application process, granting process or review process for any permit or other matter under this Act, including the imposition of conditions; and
 - (c) provide for the installation of equipment, including equipment for fire detection or fire prevention; and

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- (d) provide for the regulation, or prohibition, of –
 - (i) the use of certain equipment without a specified device, or equipment, installed; and
 - (ii) the lighting, maintenance or use of fires in specified circumstances, or for a specified purpose, including, but not limited to, the requirement to give notice in certain circumstances; and
 - (iii) the operation of specified engines, motors, machines, equipment, apparatus or devices, either generally or during fire permit periods or days of total fire ban; and
 - (iv) the disposal of specified substances; and
- (e) provide for the inspection of specified premises and things by specified persons; and
- (f) provide for any matter relating to the prevention, minimisation, control or management of an emergency event or potential emergency event; and
- (g) provide for –

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- (i) fees and charges payable in respect of any matter under this Act; and
 - (ii) the liability of certain persons to pay the fees and charges under this Act; and
 - (iii) the method of calculating levies, fees, charges and other costs under this Act; and
 - (iv) the recovery of fees, charges and other costs under this Act; and
 - (v) the payment of levies, fees, charges and other costs under this Act, other than into the Public Account; and
- (h) provide for the payment of special allowances or gratuity by the TFES Commissioner to members of the TFES in prescribed circumstances or to a class of members of the TFES; and
- (i) specify –
- (i) the qualifications, functions, identification or other matters that are required, or desirable, in respect of persons under this Act, including the issuing of identification to such persons; and

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- (ii) the requirements for, and information to be contained in, advice, reports, schemes, plans, permits and any other document or information under this Act; and
- (j) provide for the destruction, disposal or appropriation of any matter, structure or thing under this Act; and
- (k) prescribe additional functions that may be performed by persons under this Act; and
- (l) specify evidentiary presumptions in respect of any matter or thing under this Act; and
- (m) specify that a person or class of persons is exempt from a provision of this Act or the regulations, in specified circumstances or completely; and
- (n) specify the requirements –
 - (i) for existing premises to provide for the reasonable means of prevention of fire, minimising of fire risk, protection of life and property from fire and the prescribed ways and means of escape; and
 - (ii) that premises or a room with prescribed characteristics within

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premises are not to be used for a prescribed purpose; and

- (iii) for the maintenance and testing in premises of specified infrastructure and equipment, including the ability for persons to inspect and test the infrastructure and equipment; and
 - (o) prohibit the interference with or removal or obstruction of any fire protection or fire prevention device installed in premises, except where an authorised member isolates, or causes to be isolated, an alarm system or part of an alarm system that contains a fault for the purpose of enabling that fault to be rectified; and
 - (p) require that a petrol tank vehicle, acid tank vehicle or vehicle carrying liquefied energy gas or cylinders of flammable gas in cities and towns –
 - (i) be parked only as prescribed; and
 - (ii) may only travel on routes as prescribed; and
 - (q) prescribe any other matter that is required, permitted or necessary to be prescribed under this Act.
- (3) The regulations may be made so as to apply differently according to matters, limitations or

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restrictions, whether as to time, circumstance or otherwise, specified in the regulations.

- (4) Without limiting subsection (3), the regulations may be made so as to apply –
 - (a) throughout the whole of Tasmania or in a region, place or area specified in the regulations; and
 - (b) differently according to such other factors as are specified in the regulations.
- (5) The regulations may –
 - (a) provide that a contravention of any of the regulations is an offence; and
 - (b) in respect of such an offence, provide for the imposition of a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine not exceeding 10 penalty units for each day during which the offence continues.
- (6) The regulations may authorise any matter to be from time to time approved, determined, applied or regulated by any person or body as specified in the regulations.
- (7) The regulations may adopt, either wholly or in part and with or without modification, and either specifically or by reference, any standard, rule, code or specification, whether the standard, rule, code or specification is published or issued before or after the commencement of this section.

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- (8) A reference in subsection (7) to a standard, rule, code or specification includes a reference to an amendment of that standard, rule, code or specification, whether the amendment is published or issued before or after the commencement of this section.
- (9) The regulations may –
- (a) provide for savings or transitional matters necessary or expedient for bringing this Act into operation; and
 - (b) provide for any of those savings or transitional matters to take effect when this Act commences or on a later day specified in the regulations, whether the day so specified is before, on or after the day on which the regulations are made.

87. Further amendment of regulations not prevented

If an Act amending this Act also amends a provision of any regulations made under this Act, the amendment of the provision of the regulation does not prevent that provision, or any other provision, of the regulations from being amended or rescinded by a subsequent regulation.

88. Review of Act

- (1) In this section –

independent review means a review carried out by persons who –

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- (a) in the Minister's opinion, are appropriately qualified for that task; and
 - (b) include one or more persons who are not members of the Department or the TFES.
- (2) The Minister is to cause an independent review of the operation of this Act to be completed before the 5th anniversary of the commencement of this section.
- (3) As soon as practicable after an independent review is completed under subsection (2), the persons who undertake the independent review are to give the Minister a written report on the outcome of the review.
- (4) The Minister is to cause a copy of the report given to the Minister under subsection (3) to be tabled in each House of Parliament within 10 sitting-days of that House after the report is so received by the Minister.
- (5) This section does not apply if a committee of either House of Parliament, or a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament –
 - (a) has reviewed the operation of this Act; or
 - (b) has started such a review –after a provision of this Act has commenced but before the 5th anniversary of the commencement of this section.

89. Administration of Act

Until provision is made in relation to this Act by order under section 4 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1990* –

- (a) the administration of –
 - (i) this Act, other than Part 4, is assigned to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management; and
 - (ii) Part 4 of this Act is assigned to the Treasurer; and
- (b) the department responsible to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management in relation to the administration of this Act is the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management; and
- (c) the department responsible to the Treasurer in relation to the administration of this Act is the Department of Treasury and Finance.

90. Legislation repealed

The legislation specified in Schedule 2 is repealed.

SCHEDULE 1 – MEMBERSHIP OF SFESC

Section 17

1. Term of office

A member of the SFESC is appointed for the period, not exceeding 3 years, as is specified in the member's instrument of appointment and, if eligible, may be reappointed.

2. State Service employment

For the avoidance of doubt, a person may hold the office of member of the SFESC in conjunction with State Service employment.

3. Remuneration and conditions of appointment

- (1) A member of the SFESC is entitled to be paid such remuneration and allowances as the Minister determines.
- (2) A member of the SFESC who is a State Service employee, or State Service officer, is not entitled to remuneration or allowances under this clause except with the approval of the Minister administering the *State Service Act 2000*.
- (3) A member of the SFESC holds office on such conditions in respect of matters not provided for by this Act as are specified in the member's instrument of appointment.

4. Vacation of office

- (1) A member of the SFESC vacates the office of member if the member –
- (a) dies; or
 - (b) resigns by notice given to the Minister; or
 - (c) holds the office of member by virtue of a qualification or role held by the member, and the member ceases to hold that qualification or role; or
 - (d) is removed from office under subclause (2).
- (2) The Minister may remove a member from office if –
- (a) the member is absent from 3 consecutive meetings of the SFESC without the permission of the chair; or
 - (b) the member becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with the member's creditors or makes an assignment of the member's remuneration or estate for their benefit; or
 - (c) the member is convicted, in Tasmania or elsewhere, of a crime or an indictable offence; or

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- (d) the member fails to disclose a pecuniary interest, or other interest, in respect of a matter being considered by SFESC; or
 - (e) the Minister is satisfied that the member is unable to perform adequately or competently the duties of the office of member.
- (3) A member of the SFESC must not be removed from the office of member otherwise than in accordance with this clause.

5. Filling of vacancies

If the office of a member of the SFESC becomes vacant, the Minister may appoint a person to the vacant office for any period up to the remainder of that member's term of office.

SCHEDULE 2 – LEGISLATION REPEALED

Section 90

Fire Service Act 1979 (No. 35 of 1979)

Fire Service Amendment Act 1997 (No. 40 of 1997)

Fire Service Amendment Act 1999 (No. 72 of 1999)

Fire Service Amendment Act 2001 (No. 37 of 2001)

Fire Service Amendment Act 2005 (No. 36 of 2005)

Fire Service Amendment Act (No. 2) 2005 (No. 79 of 2005)

Fire Service (Continuity of Regulatory Arrangements) Act
2006 (No. 41 of 2006)

Fire Service Amendment (Bushfire-Prone Areas) Act 2011
(No. 32 of 2011)

Fire Service Amendment (Fire Infringement Notices) Act 2016
(No. 8 of 2016)

Fire Service (Extension of Regulations) Act 2017 (No. 27 of
2017)

3 October 2023

Draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill – Initial Review Notes

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

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

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

The proposed funding model in the TFES Bill:

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

Property - Based Levy

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

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

The [Consultation Paper](#) released by the State Government provides two options:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

General Comments

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

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

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

Youth Network of Tasmania
12/39 Murray Street
Hobart TAS 7000
E: ceo@ynot.org.au
M: 0427 466 189
W: www.ynot.org.au



Mayor Loueen Triffitt, Councillor
Ms Kim Hossack, General Manager

Central Highlands Council
Email: council@centralhighlands.tas.gov.au

Dear Mayor Triffitt and Ms Hossack,

Youth Transitions Action Plan: Discussion Paper Consultation.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT), the peak body for young people aged 12-25 years and the non-government youth sector in Tasmania.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kind regards,

Tania Hunt
Chief Executive Officer
Youth Network of Tasmania

7 November 2023



Becoming an adult: the experience of young Tasmanians today



A Discussion
Paper to
guide action

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the palawa and pakana people as the traditional, original and continuing custodians of lutruwita (Tasmania) and the continuing connection that Tasmanian Aboriginal people have to the land, sea, sky and waterways. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present.



I know that there are a lot of welcome to country and acknowledgement of country happening at events and programs ... but just for that, to be everywhere is awesome. I don't know how it feels for a non-indigenous person to hear that [welcome to country]. But I know as an indigenous person just sitting in a room and having that I just feel so sort of heard ... It's just a tiny thing, but it just makes such a huge difference.



(19, South)



youth network of Tasmania

About YNOT

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) is the peak body for young people aged 12-25 years and the non-government youth sector in Tasmania. YNOT works to ensure policies and programs affecting young people in Tasmania are relevant, equitable and effective and that young people have a voice on issues that matter to them.

Our Vision

A Tasmania where all young people are valued and can achieve anything.

Our Purpose

To drive positive change with young people and the youth sector in Tasmania.

For further information

Youth Network of Tasmania
12/29 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000
www.ynot.org.au

How to have your say

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) wants to hear from you about the issues presented in this Discussion Paper and your responses to the Discussion Questions. This feedback will inform an Action Plan which will follow this public engagement.

Submissions will be treated as public information and published on our website www.ynot.org.au once consultations have concluded. Only your name or organisation name will be published with your submission unless you request otherwise. You may also request your submission or parts of it to be kept confidential. This must be clearly stated in writing at the time of making your submission. Please indicate the information or parts of your submission you want to remain confidential. Your submission will not be published to the extent of that request.

Submissions containing defamatory or offensive material or that include information that could enable the identification of others will not be published.

Copyright in submissions remains with the author(s).

For more information, please contact YNOT Project Manager Joanne Horton at jo@ynot.org.au.

How young people can have a say

Hearing young people's experiences, opinions, ideas and solutions is essential to this work. It is important that this Discussion Paper is accessible and easily understood by all young Tasmanians.

A shorter, plain English and youth-friendly Discussion Paper has been developed to ensure that young people have the opportunity to provide feedback and input into this important work.

Young people are welcome to respond to either version of the Discussion Paper.

The Youth Transitions Discussion Paper for Young People can be accessed at YNOT's website www.ynot.org.au.



Submissions can be forwarded to:

File Upload

<https://ems.gs/3PHm0bUfm0a>
(preferred)

Email

jo@ynot.org.au

Mail

Attn: Youth Network of Tasmania
PO Box 4679, HOBART TAS 7000

Responses are also welcomed via our online short-form survey.

Survey

<https://ems.gs/3PHm0hnfmUX>

All submissions must be received by **11:59pm, 28 November 2023.**



Why is becoming an adult different now?

Times have changed

Young people are navigating a world profoundly different from previous generations ... and the pathway to adulthood is now longer and more complicated than ever before.

In the mid to late 20th century, it was possible to set up adult life at about age 20. Young people moved from school to work at a younger age, married and started a family earlier, often bought a home, and settled into adult life. Now, establishing these stable social structures occurs much later – even during their 30s – with greater challenges than ever before.

The challenges are profound – globalisation, rapid advancements in technology, changes in the job market, evolving social norms, rapidly rising housing costs, and cost of living pressures all directly affect the pathway to stable employment, tertiary education, financial stability and self-sufficiency, and even decisions about starting a family.

While many young people struggle to adapt their life paths and transition to adulthood in this challenging environment, our expectations of them as adults have not changed.

They're caught between

Young adults are no longer fully dependent but are not yet fully independent.

Young Tasmanians are negotiating the complexities and uncertainties of adulthood at a time when they are losing the support and structures of schools, families, and child, youth and family services. They find themselves caught in-between – no longer a child but not yet equipped with the skills, knowledge or experience needed to successfully navigate adult life.

The pathways from dependence to independence have become disjointed, not just for the disadvantaged and vulnerable, but for the whole generation of Tasmanians transitioning to adulthood. Simple lineal pathways have been displaced by complexity and unpredictability, with young people 'yo-yo-ing' between states of dependence and independence.

But many young Tasmanians say they aren't prepared for the responsibilities of adulthood and feel that adults are apathetic towards their requests for support.

As a result, young adults find themselves living precarious lives. They have few or no stable housing options, experience financial insecurity from unemployment, underemployment, and low-paid, low-skills, low-security jobs, and are affected by often fragile relationships. Establishing independence and finding stability becomes overwhelming.

Support where it's needed

This Discussion Paper recognises that times have changed and the support young Tasmanians need to successfully emerge into adulthood needs to change with them. That's why we know a whole-of-government Action Plan is needed to focus on and support young Tasmanians to emerge successfully into adulthood.

Navigating the Discussion Paper



Part 1: Emerging into adulthood:

A story of change and challenges sets out the case for serious consideration of emergent adulthood as a life stage that needs focused attention.

Part 2: Young adult experiences

synthesises and shares the insights and experiences of young people across five key markers of independence identified through both research and consultation.

Part 3: The current service system

analyses and summarises the current state of play regarding policies and services across Tasmania for young adults.

Part 4: Opportunities for change

develops areas that need to be considered to increase the effectiveness of policies and services for young adults.



Emerging into adulthood: A story of change and challenges

A crash landing

Turning 18 ... it's a sudden and unforgiving entry to adulthood.

The transition from adolescence to adulthood is triggered by turning 18. At 18, young people gain full legal, economic and social responsibilities of adulthood. They acquire the right to vote, can enter into contracts, purchase alcohol and tobacco products, participate in adult activities

and venues, and can be held legally accountable for their actions. But the moment 'adulthood' is reached, many young people say,¹ is hard to define, with both fixed and fluid markers. It can be chronological age, practical markers or personal qualities.

The meaning of adulthood²

Chronological age

Turning 18, with its accompanying legal rights and responsibilities, projects a young person into adulthood, ready or not.

Practical markers of independence

Important moments and skills linked to independence can be more important than chronological age in establishing adult status:

- *Financial independence* – the ability to substantially pay your way.
- *Freedom of movement* – getting both a driver's licence and a car is crucial to an autonomous life in Tasmania particularly rural and other public-transport-poor areas.

- *Moving out of home* – having your own space, and the skills and responsibilities that go with it like cooking, cleaning, maintenance and financial responsibility.
- *Getting a job* – for most young people, employment and adulthood are strongly linked.

Personal qualities

Age and practical independence aside, adulthood is something reached through a degree of emotional maturity – including self-reflection and a willingness to take responsibility and accountability.

The evidence

Research shows that age 18-25 is a crucial period of development that comes with both opportunity and risk. Termed 'emergent adulthood', it is characterised by changes in identity, independence, decision-making and cognitive development.

It is a critical, sensitive and developmentally rich period of development with significant and long-reaching impacts on health and wellbeing, social and economic outcomes. This in-between stage is different from the stage of adolescence that precedes it and the adult period that follows.³



Important developmental changes in emergent adulthood⁴

The emergent adult ...

- brain develops unevenly throughout their 20s and is highly flexible, adaptable and receptive to learning. As social and critical/abstract thinking skills starts to mature, areas responsible for judgement, decision-making and impulse control tends to develop later.
- body is still developing, with physical changes that start in puberty continuing into their early 30s. Despite the potential for 'peak physical fitness', competing priorities, lower health literacy and financial insecurity can prevent them from engaging in preventative health care.
- is highly susceptible to stress and psychological distress as they navigate key areas of change. Social and economic stressors, as well as prolonged periods of instability and uncertainty, can contribute to poor mental health and drive harmful, risk-taking behaviours.
- is establishing their personal and social identity and actively seeking a sense of belonging and connection. Heightened sensitivity to others' social, emotional and mental states makes them vulnerable to influence and peer pressure.
- experiences greater rates of anxiety, depression and stress, attributed with the expectations and responsibilities of adulthood – particularly in those who do not have the means or ability to achieve the best possible outcome.

The double-sided coin

What does being an adult mean to you, and what does “adulthood” look like today?⁵

Young people see adulthood as a double-sided coin, with many positive aspects coming with a flip side.

Being an adult means ...

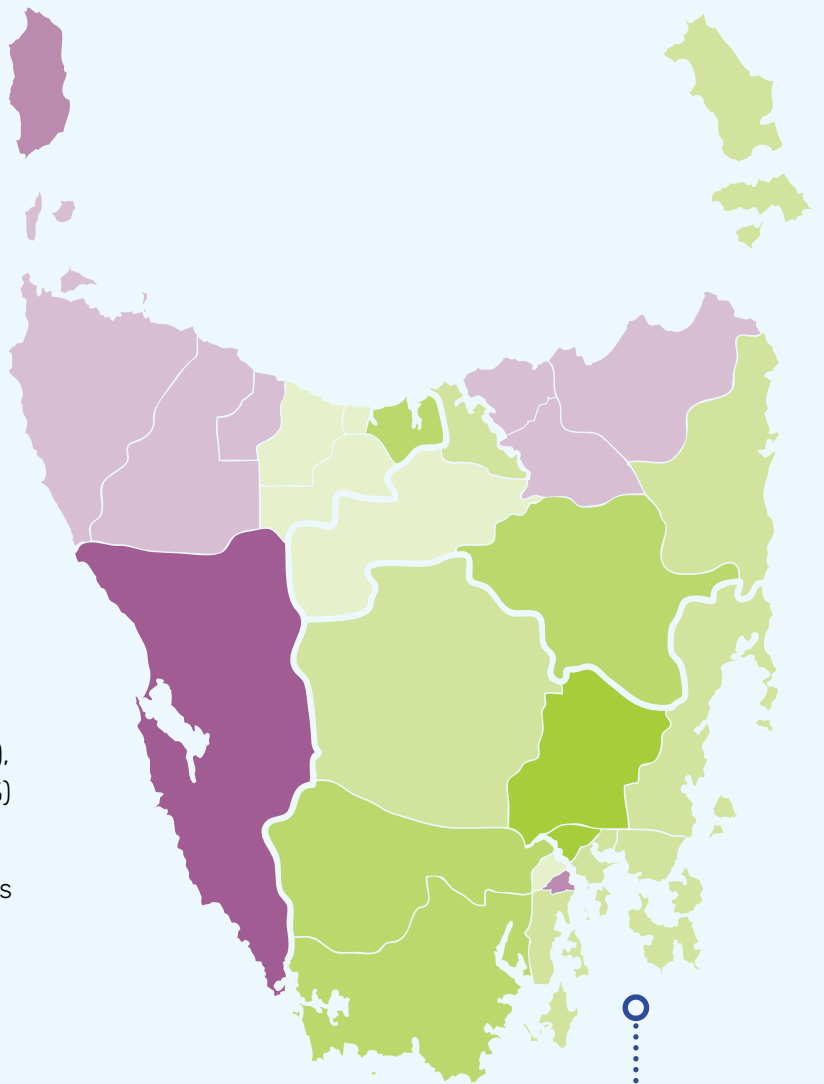
- *having choices, but also having to make hard decisions* – the pleasure of setting your own course, but anxiety about having inadequate knowledge or guidance.
- *having a voice, but also facing pressure to conform* – happy to share your view, but making choices at the ballot box or about government policy which don't reflect your perspective or experience.
- *having more money, but also more bills* – income is consumed by rent, vehicle registration, running costs, and the high cost of living.
- *having freedom, but also responsibility* – some stretch their wings, but others feel stressed by responsibilities, and the demands of work life.
- *having autonomy, but also isolation* – less recreation time to spend with friends, and while able to make independent decisions, missing home and family.

Who and how many?

There are about 50,000 young Tasmanians aged 18-25 years, 9% of the total population, transitioning from adolescence to adulthood.⁶

Metropolitan and urban Local Government Areas (LGAs) Hobart (11.9%), Launceston (10.7%), Brighton (10.3%), Burnie (9.6%) and Glenorchy (9.5%) record the highest proportion of young adults, while lowest occurs in rural and regional LGAs Flinders (4%), Tasman (4.7%), Glamorgan-Spring Bay (5%), Break O'Day (5.2%) and King Island (5.9%).

The change in population demographics across Tasmanian LGAs from 2011-2021 reveals a different picture, with 20/29 LGAs recording positive growth, nine (9) of which increased by between 15-40%.⁷



Change (%) in population aged 18-25 years between 2011 and 2021 by local government area

<p>-20% to -29%</p> <p>West Coast</p>	<p>0% to 9%</p> <p>Glenorchy Devonport Kentish Central Coast Meander Valley</p>	<p>20% to 29%</p> <p>Derwent Valley Latrobe Huon Valley Northern Midlands</p>
<p>-10% to -19%</p> <p>King Island Hobart</p>	<p>10% to 19%</p> <p>Kingborough West Tamar Clarence Flinders Break O'Day Glamorgan-Spring Bay Central Highlands Sorell</p>	<p>30% to 39%</p> <p>Brighton Southern Midlands</p>
<p>-9% to 0%</p> <p>Burnie Dorset Waratah-Wynyard Launceston George Town Circular Head</p>		

The lived experience

As 18-25-year-olds transition from school, home and family towards independence, the data tells us many are doing it tough.

The reality of getting to independence

The young adult ...

- *Is living with their parents longer than ever before* – around 75% leave home later than any previous generation.^{8,9} Strained relationships can force them out of home making them vulnerable to financial insecurity and homelessness.
- *Lacks affordable, appropriate and reliable transport to move around* – there are few after-hours public transport options, especially in rural and remote areas; many struggle to afford the cost of getting a licence without a willing mentor and vehicle.¹⁰
- *Is locked out of the private housing market* – Tasmania's median rental price is now \$437 a week,¹¹ exceeding Youth Allowance by \$135 and Job Seeker by \$70 each week.¹² Tasmania's low levels of housing affordability means homeownership is a pipedream without additional financial support.^{13,14}
- *Faces challenges getting a job* – Tasmania's youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) remains stubbornly high at 10.4%¹⁵ compared to 4.2% for all ages.¹⁶ National figures also reveal underemployment is 14.5% for young people compared to 6.4% for all.¹⁷
- *Experiences bias and age-related discrimination* – young adults are more likely than any other age to be described as 'bad at managing finances', 'expecting things on a platter', 'being selfish/self-centred' or 'taking more days off for "mental health"'.¹⁸
- *Experiences mental health challenges* – 15% of young Tasmanians live with a mental health condition, the highest rates of any long-term condition reported.¹⁹ Demand outstrips supply of youth mental health services with emergent adults facing extensive wait lists to access affordable and appropriate support.
- *Can't afford basic healthcare* – the number of young people with private health cover continues to decline, placing pressure on an already stretched public health system.²⁰ Only 6.9% of GPs offer bulk-billed services.²¹
- *Is choosing to forgo essential health, sexual and reproductive services due to the cost,*²² despite having higher rates of sexually transmissible infections and lower screening rates than the wider population.²³
- *Is living below the poverty line* – 39% of young Tasmanians reported earning less than \$499 a week compared to 25% of adults aged 25-64 years.²⁴



Young adult experiences

2 PART TWO

We know through research and consultation with young people that there are five key markers of independence.

The five key markers are



Moving out of home and living independently



Moving into financial independence



Moving from school into the workforce



Moving into and accessing the adult service system



Moving about and within their communities

Young adults told us that “adulting” is a matter of practice, with a fair amount of trial and error. It’s easier to achieve if you have a supportive family, you start learning life skills at a young age, you have an income sufficient for your needs, and you have a drivers licence.

However, transitioning to independence can also be very challenging if you don’t have parents to teach life skills or provide support to get a licence, you face mental or physical ill-health, you live in a rural area, you’re out of your element, and/or not yet ready to commit to a particular life path. It can be overwhelming dealing with Centrelink and other bureaucracies, getting your licence without parental support, and establishing a rental history as a young adult.

Further insights into the experiences and views of Tasmanian’s young adults are presented in YNOT’s recent consultation reports, *Pathways to Adulthood* and *Tasmanian Youth Story*, available at www.ynot.org.au.

The pathway to adulthood for young Tasmanians 18-25 years: Young adults must navigate changes in these important life domains ...

Moving out of home and living independently



Young adults need to be able to ...

- move out of the parental or family home if they choose to
- take care of themselves day-to-day
- enter into stable housing arrangements
- have housing options that support their needs
- have housing options nearby to school, work, support services and public transport

which is influenced by ...

- housing affordability and availability
- income and cost of living pressures
- access to supports and resources
- access to additional supports and resources
- discrimination towards young renters
- access to healthy foods and cooking skills
- personal and household hygiene

which impacts on ...

- family and personal relationships
- ability to attend and engage in education, training or employment
- mental health, health and wellbeing
- sense of empowerment and agency
- taking other steps to independence
- confidence and resilience

Finding a living space is hard for many young adults especially without personal connections or a rental history. Many delay moving out of home to save money, even when family tensions are high. To afford rent, they need full-time work, making it difficult to pursue further study. For some, the stress of renting comes not just from cost, but also from insecurity, with landlords ending leases for minor reasons and with inadequate notice.

Increased costs of living make the challenge of achieving independent housing even greater. This is particularly acute in regional areas where food and other essential items can be more expensive and rents unaffordable. Many young adults also lack essential independent living skills, such as making a budget, and cooking and cleaning, leading to a reliance on more expensive, less nutritious takeaways or, worse, going hungry.

Question #1

What are some innovative ways that can support young adults to transition out of the family home into independent living?



Moving into financial independence

Young adults need to be able to ...

- have knowledge and skills to manage personal finances
- afford material basics

which is influenced by ...

- lower median wages
- high youth unemployment and underemployment
- level of income supports
- financial literacy
- unpaid caring responsibilities
- intergenerational disadvantage

which impacts on ...

- financial wellbeing
- ability to move out of home and retain accommodation
- ability to afford services when needed
- ability to pay bills
- ability to undertake volunteer and unpaid work experience

Financial independence can be achieved by having a job or receiving income support. However, young adults encounter obstacles in accessing financial support as they may be ineligible due to their parents income if living at home, or they do not meet other eligibility criteria.

The challenge of financial independence is often compounded by a lack of financial literacy. Many don't know about, or know where to find out about, how to prepare a budget or establish and manage banking and car or personal loans. Those planning to buy a property are anxious about the process of saving for a deposit, establishing the credentials for a home loan, and understanding first home-owner schemes.

Question #2

What is needed to assist young adults to become financially independent and to manage their financial affairs well?



Moving from school into the workforce



Young adults need to be able to ...

- actively participate in education, training and employment
- be work-ready when entering the workforce
- know and understand their workplace rights and responsibilities
- gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to apply for work
- find pathways into their chosen industry or field
- gain employability skills and work experience through both paid and unpaid opportunities

which is influenced by ...

- cost of study and availability of income support
- being work-ready, especially with 'soft' skills
- local networks for word-of-mouth opportunities
- support networks that build confidence and resilience
- skills in resume writing and interview performance
- employer perceptions

which impacts on ...

- ability to attend and engage in education, training or employment
- sense of empowerment and agency
- taking other steps to independence
- ability to access health and social services
- ability to participate in the community

Moving into work is a big step for many young adults. It's a big leap from education and training to applying for a position with an effective resume and interview skills and then succeeding at work and making enough to get by. Tasmania's bias towards word-of-mouth hiring, employer preconceptions about young people's reliability and skill, and the level and quality of support from employment services, complicate the picture.

Once in work, young adults experience disquiet about inadequate induction and training, and picking up workplace expectations, norms, and routine tasks. The power and pay disparity between older and younger workers, the seasonality of many regional jobs, and inadequate hours and comparatively low rates of pay for casual jobs, leave many young adults struggling to make ends meet even while working.

Question #3

How can young adults be better equipped to move from school to work?

Question #4

How can workplaces better support young adults?



Moving into and accessing the adult service system

Young adults need to be able to ...

- access health and social support services on their own
- know what services are available to them and how to access them
- understand their personal needs and identify the types of services or supports that they may require
- access supports in a timely manner, when and where they need them
- access developmentally and age-appropriate services that meet their needs

which is influenced by ...

- income and cost of living pressures
- access to affordable and appropriate transport
- appropriate and accessible services
- service demand and availability
- understanding and awareness of services
- effective communication networks
- experiences of friends and peers
- support from trusted adults

which impacts on ...

- continuity of treatment
- ability to access timely and appropriate support
- ability to participate in education, training and employment
- mental health, health and wellbeing outcomes

The adult health, wellbeing and support service systems are often complex and confounding for young adults. Entering a healthcare system designed for adults is a shock for some with the abrupt transition from free to paid services for dental and mental health, and poor continuity between Medicare-subsidised paediatric and full-fee-paying adult services. There are often long waitlists and high costs for medical care, a lack of bulk billing, and paucity of rural and regional services. Young adults can face significant delays accessing support that's dependent on a diagnosis, especially mental health support.

Navigating services for income support, employment or education and training are also overwhelming for the uninitiated. Young adults find many Government websites confusing, advice contradictory, and processes challenging, which can be compounded for those needing access to documentation from less supportive parents – birth certificates, medical records and so on.

Question #5

What would help smooth the transition from the youth and adolescent service system (up to age 18) to a service system designed for adults?

Moving about and within their communities



Young adults need to be able to ...

- move freely about their communities without relying on others
- have affordable, reliable and safe transport options that meet their needs
- travel between home, school, work, and essential services when they need to
- obtain a licence and access a personal vehicle

which is influenced by ...

- access to driver mentors and personal vehicle while learning
- costs associated with private vehicle ownership, maintenance and use
- public transport availability, including routes, timing and service areas
- costs to use public transport

which impacts on ...

- ability to attend and engage in education, training or employment
- sense of empowerment and agency
- taking other steps to independence
- ability to access health and social services
- ability to participate in the community

YNOT consultations have consistently reported that access to affordable, reliable and safe transport remains a massive issue for young adults in Tasmania, particularly but not exclusively in rural areas. Being able to reliably meet commitments to work, training and services is crucial to being considered an adult.

A current driver's licence is often a precondition for a job whether it requires driving or not and there are difficulties for many in getting their licence, particularly in regional areas and among those who do not have someone to teach them for the time required – a situation exacerbated by the fact that young people are not permitted to teach or supervise their peers. Public transport is often unavailable, unreliable and/or expensive, especially outside Hobart and Launceston.

Question #6

What can be done to improve transport options for young adults in urban and rural areas?





The current service system

Mapping of policies and services

In 2023, YNOT undertook a mapping exercise as part of developing this Discussion Paper and the subsequent Action Plan, to better understand the number and types of services and policy settings that impact the wellbeing of 18-25-year-olds and support their journey to adulthood in a vastly changed world.

Policy settings

Thirty (30) Tasmanian State Government policies, and one Federal Government policy were identified as impacting on the 18-25-year-old population. Ten local governments have youth plans or strategies.

Of the Tasmanian State Government policies:

2/30

policies/strategies specifically included this age group – the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, It Takes a Tasmanian Village targeting 0-25-year-olds from which this project is derived; and the emerging Youth Jobs Strategy, also currently at discussion paper stage, which targets 15-24-year-olds.

5/30

policies/strategies targeted age groups up to 18 (Strong Families, Safe Kids, Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework, Tasmanian Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy, Youth Justice Blueprint, and the Government response to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy).

15/30

policies/strategies targeted ‘whole of population’ – some referenced, or acknowledged/recognised young people as a “key life stage” or “priority population group” although the age range was unclear or referenced under 18s. Some strategies/ action/implementation plans had some actions aimed at supporting young people.

3/30

policies/strategies addressed Aboriginal Tasmanians; two had a specific action aimed at “young Aboriginal Tasmanians”, or “youth” aged 15-24 years.

5/30

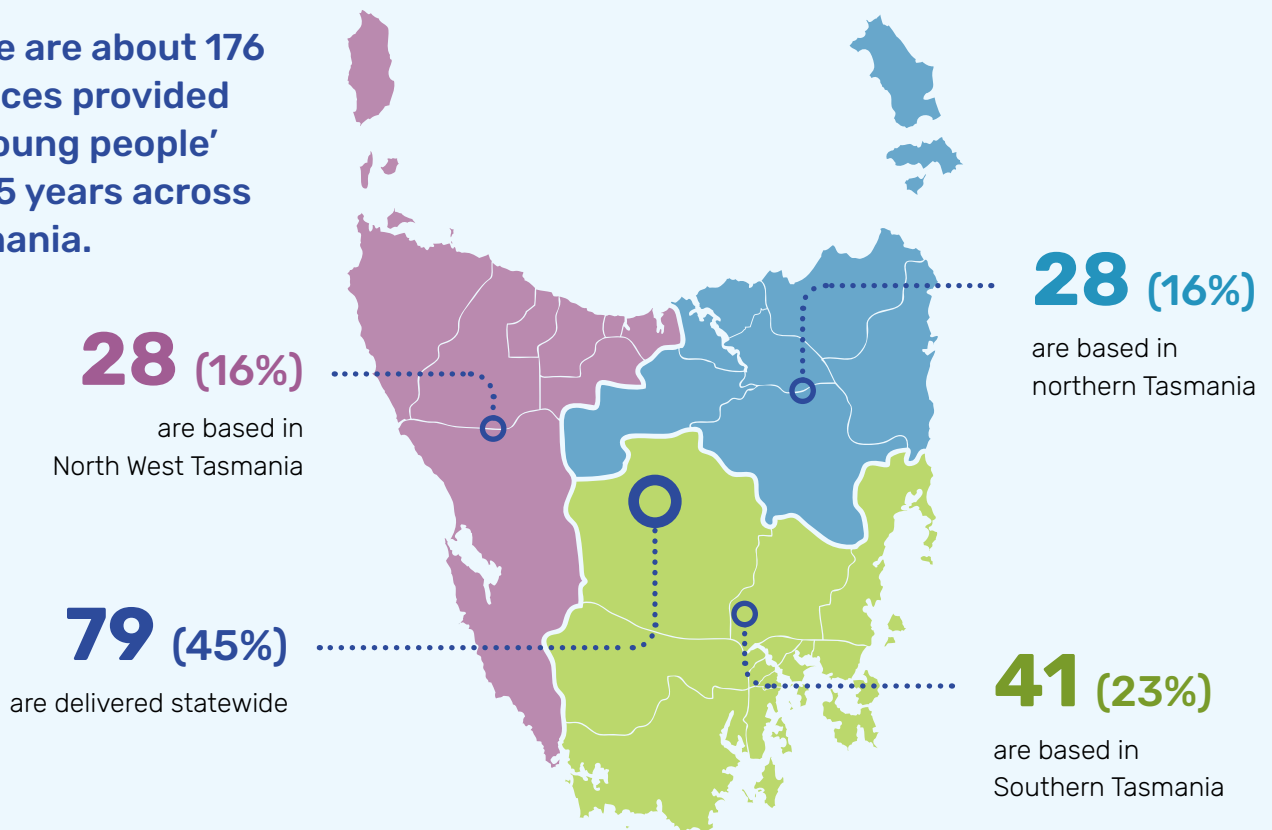
population-specific policies/strategies variously addressed people with disability, their families and carers (18-25-year-olds not mentioned), multicultural Tasmanian (some limited actions), LGBTQI+ and women (no specific mention), and victims-survivors of child sexual abuse (expected to have a direct impact on 18-25-year-olds).

1/30

The Federal Government’s whole-of-population Strategic Regional Plan for Tasmania identifies young people and “youth”, but doesn’t specifically mention young adults aged 18-25 years.

Number of, and eligibility for, services

There are about 176 services provided to 'young people' 18-25 years across Tasmania.



The service mapping revealed a wide variation in the defined age range to whom services were offered, raising questions about the targeting of services to young adults.

- Some services set eligibility across a very wide age range, for example, 0-25, 10-24, 12-25, 13-20, under 19, under 25. These accounted for 64 services (over 50%) where the age range was defined.
- Some services started their service offering at 14 (5) or 15 (25) and included ages up to 25.

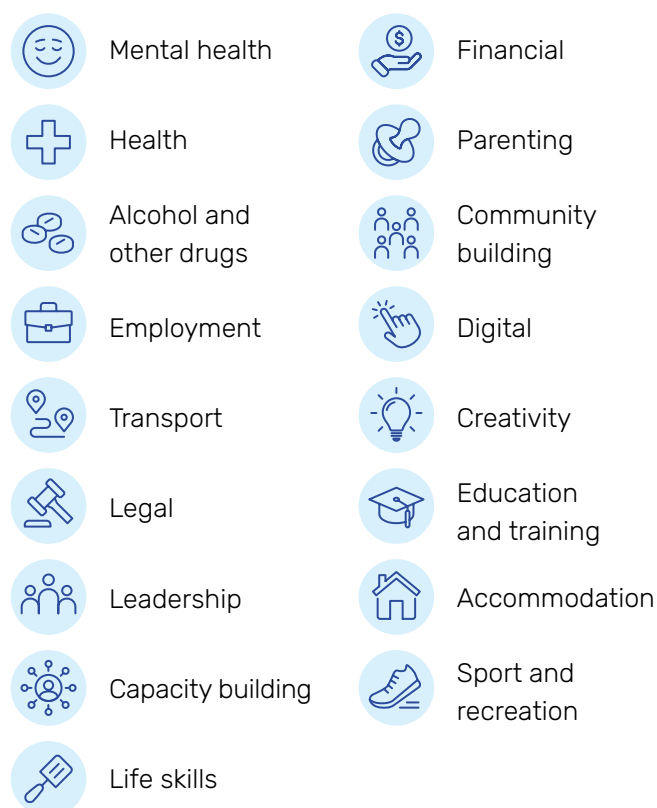
- 28 services were offered to young people aged 16+ or 18+ and 20 services did not define age eligibility but young adults aged 18-25 were included.

Ninety-two (92) services (or more than 50%) had specific eligibility criteria in addition to age, with many services offered to children and young adults with a specific need or life experience: out-of-home care, young pregnant women, carers, young multicultural or Aboriginal people, or those with a disability, LGBTQI+, homeless and low income.

Types of services

To better understand the targeting of services to the broad range of needs of young adults, the service mapping identified a number of service types.

Some services were quite targeted, delivering programs that addressed just one service type, while others addressed a collection of service types. The service types analysed included:



The analysis reveals a scarcity of services available to the broader young adult population aged 18-25, where there is no additional eligibility criteria. Services that young adults wanted but were particularly scarce included just one service relating to digital skills, two for accommodation, legal and/or financial advice, and sport and recreation, and five relating to life skills and creativity. The largest number of services were aimed at employment, and education and training (both 15).

Services were also mapped to the Tasmanian child and youth wellbeing domains; some services supported more than one domain.

14%
supported *being loved, safe and valued*

22%
supported *having material basics*

23%
supported *being healthy*

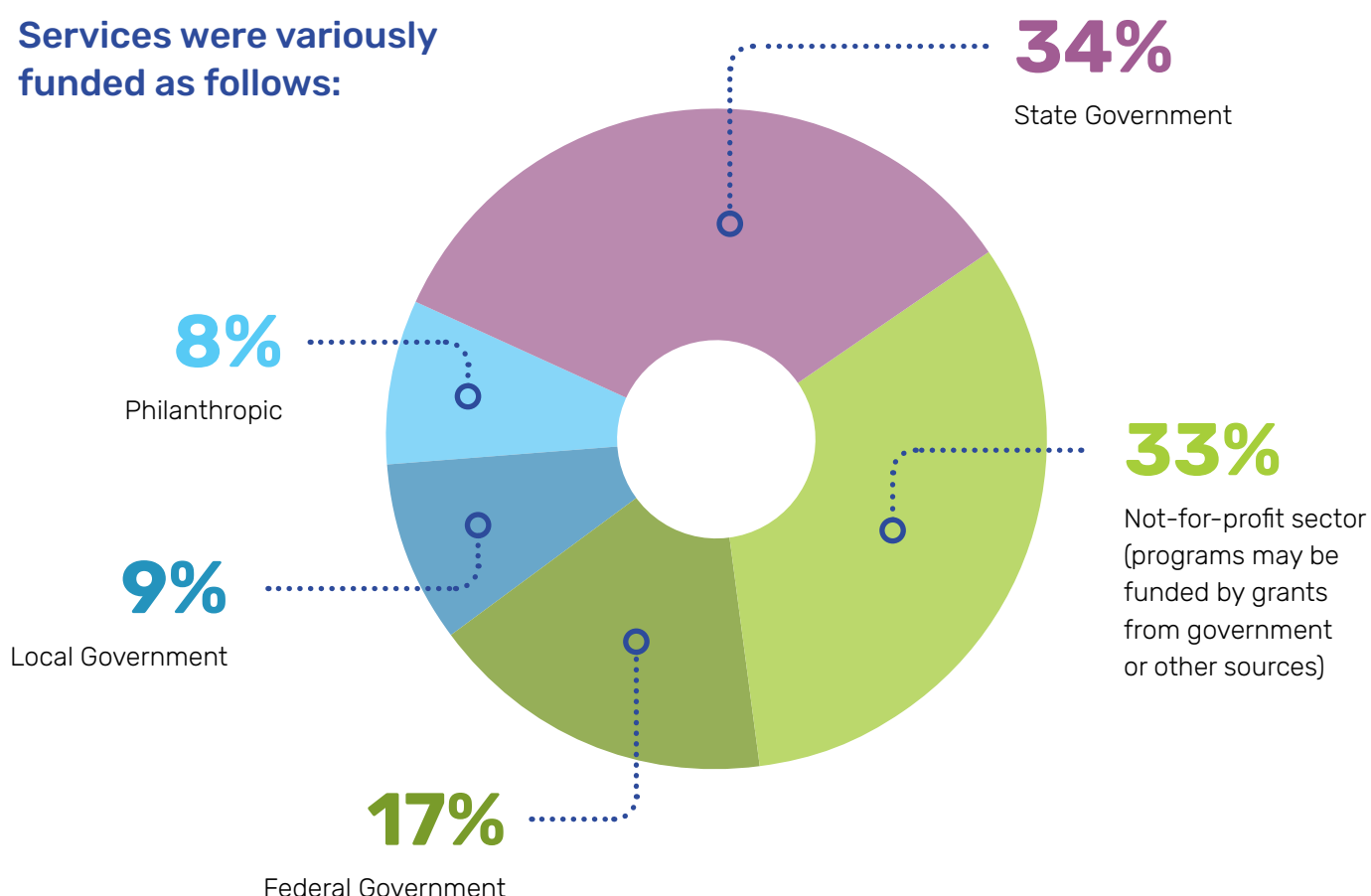
25%
supported *learning*

36%
supported *participating*

39%
supported *having a positive sense of culture and identity*

Funding of services

Services were variously funded as follows:



Question #7

How, and in what ways, can the service system and policy settings be more responsive to the needs of young adults?





4

PART FOUR

Opportunities for change

Change essentials

Through our research and consultation, we know that young adults face significant barriers to accessing, and fully benefitting from, necessary support services, even when they are available. Services are often not designed in a way that meet their needs, are hard to find even when they exist, are hard to navigate so you get what you actually need, and are often siloed. Consideration of these issues are important to improving the service experience of young adults.

Service/program design

While services may be available for young adults, their design often means they are not as accessible as they need to be. They can be costly and have limited opening hours, and despite being legally an adult, don't necessarily provide understanding of the many challenges being faced at this time of life. There are also barriers to getting to appointments at all, particularly in rural areas.

Young adults need a more guided, holistic approach to service design that addresses their overall health and wellbeing, with a focus on coordinated local services that recognise their challenges and don't assume their capacity – services that meet young adults 'where they're at' as they journey the transition to adulthood.

Question #8

How can services be better designed to acknowledge and meet the needs of young adults?

System navigation

It can be difficult for young adults to know what services are available and which one best suits their needs. Navigating the transition from the youth into the adult service system is often daunting – entering the adult service system places responsibility squarely onto the individual who, in many cases, is not yet be ready for it. This period of transition also brings many young people face-to-face with bureaucracy for the first time, an often confusing and frustrating experience.

Young adults need to know where to go and what to do in this confusion. They need a better appreciation of the service 'system' so they can increase their ability to solve problems, gather the resources, and take responsibility for the issues before them.

Question #9

How can young adults be better supported to navigate the adult service system?



Communication

Despite young adults being more connected than ever through digital technology, they struggle to access appropriate, reliable and timely information. There is currently no single, reputable, accessible information source – information is spread across various websites, social media and broader directories designed for adults with familiarity of the service system.

Young adults often hear about opportunities or supports too late, and for many, not at all. The situation is compounded because these emerging adults don't know what they don't know – they often don't know the right questions to ask or information to look for, and funding cycles mean that programs come and go. Service providers also lack resources and in some case, know-how, to effectively communicate with young people, meaning young people don't find out about them.

Communication with young adults needs to be varied and age-appropriate – posters, banners and flyers where young adults hang out can supplement and link to online information and avoid digital exclusion. Anyone who supports a young adult – parents, teachers, social workers, youth workers, sport coaches, employers – also plays a crucial role in supporting access to the right information at the right time.

Question #10

How can we strengthen communication networks to enable better information sharing across the sector, community and with young adults?

Question #11

What would a centralised, age-appropriate communication platform for young adults look like?

Breaking down silos and coordinating effort

Issues impacting young adults are interconnected and cannot be addressed in isolation. While a focus on individual markers of adulthood is needed to understand and address the complexities of each area, an isolated approach can result in important changes being overlooked. 'One-size-fits-all' approaches don't fit all and actually helps very few.

Young adults need a deeper understanding from government and the services sector of the five key markers to independence and their inter-relatedness; an appreciation of opportunities for coaching and mentoring, and warm handovers that help young adults emerge from this life stage unscathed; and that recognise they all take their own path to adulthood based on their unique needs, interests, aspirations and life experience.

Question #12

How can government and the services sector better integrate and coordinate service development and delivery for young adults?

A transition model

Transition models for young adults are becoming more prominent across the world, including Australia. Currently, transitional models delivered in Tasmania typically:

- Address education to employment outcomes
- Support key developmental stages in childhood and adolescence up to age 18
- Support transitions for vulnerable and at-risk cohorts including people living with disability, migrants and refugees, and people living in out-of-home care.

While these are important, there is a pressing need for a comprehensive transition model in Tasmania to provide tailored, age-appropriate support to young adults that provides flexible tailored services and support with access to essential services and full participation in their communities.

Based on our research, a transition model should:

- Recognise the distinct needs of the emergent adult, acknowledging that this life stage is a critical time of social, behavioural, physiological development
- Be emergent adult-centred and informed, with young Tasmanians given a voice in policies and actions that affect them
- Adopt a strengths-based approach that focuses on young adult's values and strengths rather than deficits
- Focus on wellbeing and safety – support is flexible and contextualised to individual needs and circumstances
- Builds on, and invests in, what's already in place and working well
- Match resources as part of an equitable policy landscape – one that supports and builds capacity of young people to navigate key areas of change and develop independence.

Question #13

Do these elements capture what's needed for a comprehensive approach to the transition to adulthood?

Important further reading

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YNOT (2023). *Pathways to Adulthood Consultation Report*. [Reports | Youth Network of Tasmania \(ynot.org.au\)](#)

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YNOT (2023). *Tasmanian Youth Story Consultation Report*. [BrandTasmania_Youth-Story-Report_Final_Pages_HR.pdf \(ynot.org.au\)](#)

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- 24 *Ibid.* ABS (2021).

18 Oct 2023



Re: Letter of support, *The Tasmanian Autumn Festival*

To whom it may concern

Destination Southern Tasmania (DST) is Southern Tasmania's Regional Tourism Organisation. We represent all visitor economy businesses within southern Tasmania and hold 250 industry members along with the 11 Southern Councils that make up our region.

We would like to offer our support to the Derwent Valley and Central Highlands Tourism Association (DVCHTA) and their project to deliver a series of regional events under the banner "The Tasmanian Autumn Festival".

It is well documented that events can stimulate the desire for visitors and locals to spend time in regions and therefore deliver economic yield into these communities. The success of these events comes from community buy in and delivering events that are truly of place, something that cannot be found in other areas.

I am confident that the DVCHTA have done a professional job in consulting with the visitor economy businesses and formulating a plan of events that will reflect the best of the area. The plan to hold a stream of individual events under one banner will assist in broadening the appeal and attracting a wider range of visitors whilst also reducing the risk of holding everything in one place at one time, which can become risky due to weather and other factors.

I would encourage us all to get behind this event to ensure it is a success now and into the future.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Heroys".

Alex Heroys

CEO, Destination Southern Tasmania

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **EVENT PARTNER** - 1 opportunity - \$10,000 financial contribution

Organisation name and logo will appear as the EVENT PARTNER in prime location on digital site, all marketing collateral, printed and digital and mentioned in all media releases and interviews. Opportunity to name an activity or trail.

- **GOLD LEAF SPONSOR** – 1 opportunity - \$5,000 financial contribution

Organisation name and logo will appear as the major sponsor on digital site, all marketing collateral, printed and digital and mentioned in most media releases and interviews. Opportunity to name an activity or trail

- **SILVER LEAF SPONSOR** – multiple opportunities - \$3,000 financial contribution

Organisation name and logo will appear on digital site and all marketing collateral.

- **BRONZE LEAF SPONSOR** – Multiple opportunities - \$1,000 financial contribution

Organisation name and logo will appear on digital site.

- **HERO SPONSOR** – Businesses providing in kind support and prizes for competitions.

Organisation name and logo will appear on digital site and competition materials.

- **AFFILIATES** – Community groups contributing in-kind to the Tasmanian Autumn Festival.

Organisation name and logo will appear on digital site.

Sponsorship funds will be used for marketing activities such as:

- Graphic and web design
- Website, SEO optimisation, and management
- Digital marketing, including paid posts
- Photography and video
- Marketing collateral
- Promotional signage
- Paid advertising and marketing
- Any other material required for promotional purposes



Agri-tourism, food, wine, breweries and distilleries

Experience and taste the bounty of the Derwent Valley in Autumn, when the orchards, vineyards and farms are bursting with fresh and delicious products. Savour long table lunches, cooking classes, and relaxing high teas. Follow one of the many trails or just your nose to enjoy the Pie Trail, Tipple trail, or Back Country Pub Trail.

Soft/family outdoor adventure

Embrace your adventurous side and join us in for the Tassie Autumn Fest, and the array of outdoor activities. Whether you want to bike, hike, kayak, fish or fly, there's something for everyone in the stunning scenery of the Derwent Valley and Highlands.

History and gardens

Step back in time and explore the history and stories of the Derwent Valley and Highlands. Marvel at the colonial buildings, and historic homes and gardens. Join guided tours, walks and talks to go deeper.

Creative Arts

Discover the creative side of the Derwent Valley and Highlands, where artists, musicians and performers showcase their talents and inspire visitors. Join creative workshops, art retreats, woodworking classes, photographic instruction and more.

