

Council Meeting Agenda

11th February 2025

Bothwell Council Chambers

Notice of Meeting of Council – Tuesday 11th February 2025

To Councillors,

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, Notice is hereby given, that an Ordinary Meeting of Central Highlands Council is scheduled to be held in the Council Chamber, **Bothwell** on **Tuesday 11th February 2025**, commencing at **9.00am** with the business of the meeting to be in accordance with the following agenda paper.

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

General Manager's Certification

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

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

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

Dated at Hamilton this 6th day of **February 2025**.



Stephen Mackey
Acting General Manager

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The meeting commenced at ____ a.m.

AUDIO RECORDING DISCLAIMER

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

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETING

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

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

1. PRESENT

1.1 IN ATTENDANCE

1.2 APOLOGIES

2. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION 01/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

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

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

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

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

3.1 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

PURPOSE

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

3.2 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PURPOSE

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

PART 2 – Conflict of Interest that are not Pecuniary.

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

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

4. MINUTES

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF DRAFT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 21 JANUARY 2025

RECOMMENDATION 02/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 21 January 2025 be confirmed.

Attachment – Draft Minutes

PURPOSE

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

5. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOP(S) HELD

Nil

5.1 FUTURE WORKSHOP(S)

PURPOSE

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

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

- 15th February 2025 (Saturday) **Ellendale**
 - 22nd March 2025 (Saturday) **Miena**
-

6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION 03/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

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

Item Number	Matter	Outcome
2.1	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 January 2025.</i>	<i>Regulation 15 (2)(G) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.</i>

PURPOSE

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

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

MEETING CLOSED to the public at ____ am.

7. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

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

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

8. PUBLIC RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

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

<i>Item Number</i>	<i>Matter</i>	<i>Decision</i>
2.1	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 January 2025.</i>	

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

10.1 PETITIONS

Nil

10.2 DEPUTATIONS

Nil

10.3 PRESENTATIONS

10.3.1 RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS – PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION 04/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the presentation from ReCFIT and the Office of the Valuer General be received.

REPORT BY Damian Mackey,

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report and accompanying presentation is to provide Councillors with an update on the work undertaken by the State Government's *Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania*, (ReCFIT). A representative of the Office of the Valuer General will also be present.

It has been several years since a ReCFIT representative attended a Council meeting to provide an update, and there have been significant changes since then.

WHAT IS RECFIT ?

Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT) is a division of the Department of State Growth that advises the government, industry and community about the State's strategic direction on climate change, renewable energy growth and emissions reduction.

It is the key government agency that coordinates and facilitates the State's involvement in new renewable energy projects. Such projects will have significant ramifications for Central Highlands. These include the Hydro's major refurbishment at Tarraleah and the multiple wind and solar farms proposed in various locations north of Bothwell.

The following is an excerpt from the ReCFIT website:

ReCFIT was established to align a rapidly transitioning energy sector, with the opportunities of a changing climate and to help shape a sustainable, energy system for Tasmania.

We provide:

- *advice to the government on energy, climate change and emissions reduction*
- *input on state and national climate change priorities and policies, and coordination of Tasmania's climate change strategy*
- *collaboration with industry, state-owned energy businesses and communities on the planning and delivery of our large renewable energy projects including hydrogen industry development*
- *oversight of energy regulation and current energy mix*
- *a voice for our state on intergovernmental forums relating to the National Electricity Market, National Hydrogen Strategy and related industries.*

We provide government, business and the community with:

- *programs and grants and other financial assistance to support Tasmanian businesses and communities reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency, and prepare for and adapt to a changing climate*
- *monitoring and reporting on Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change*
- *research and analysis to capitalise on the development of decarbonisation strategies to maximise our economic and job opportunities*
- *advice on a range of large, complex, energy-related projects, including new renewables generation and uses for renewable energy, such as green hydrogen production (future industries).*

Councillors will recall that ReCFIT undertook a community engagement exercise in Central Highlands in December 2022 pertaining to the proposed 'Central Highlands Renewable Energy Zone'. This included in a Community Forum at the Great Lake Community Centre.

PRESENTATION

Representatives from ReCFIT will attend the Council meeting to provide an update on their latest activities and Government's position regarding a number of key issues. Topics will include:

- The Government's current thinking on a Local Government rating system for renewable energy projects.
- The possible 'payment in lieu of rates' system.
- The Government's *Community Benefits Guidelines* pertaining to renewable energy projects.
- A brief overview of the possible renewable energy projects currently being contemplated in the

Central Highlands.

- Current thinking on the proposed Central Highlands Renewable Energy Zone.

Given the rating issue involves the Valuer General, representatives from the Office of the Valuer General will also be a part of the presentation.

11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

PURPOSE

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

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

11.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY

RECOMMENDATION 05/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr

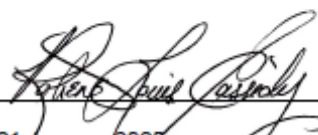
THAT Acting General Manager Stephen Mackey, write to the Honourable Ministers Eric Abetz, Minister for Transport and Kerry Vincent, Minister for Infrastructure, proposing that the Tasmania government re-instate the Highland Lakes Road (A5) as Highland Lakes Highway.

NOTICE OF MOTION

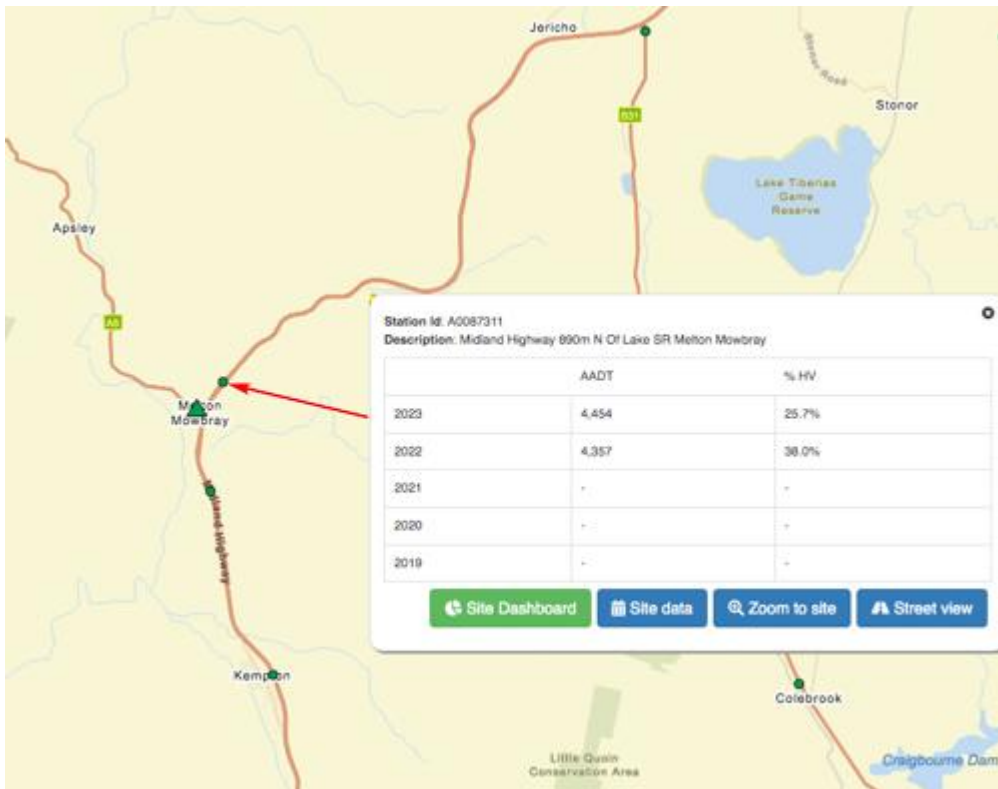
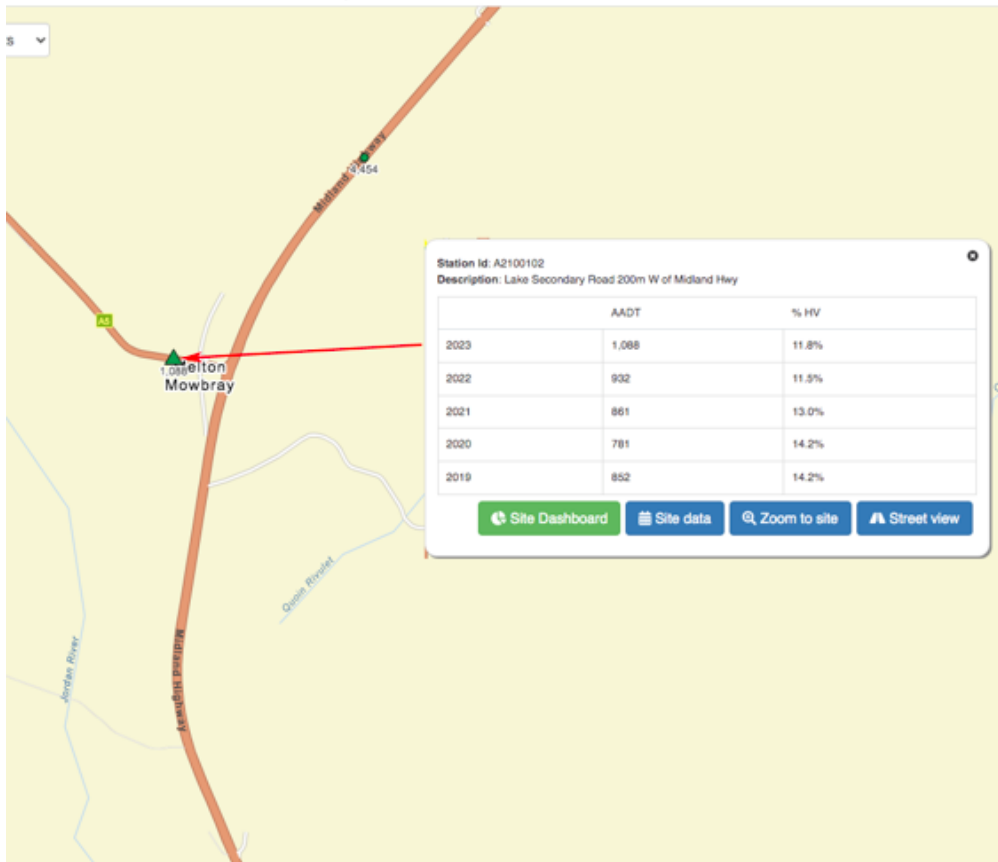
Under Division 2 – Motions, Section 16 (5) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, a Councillor may give to the General Manager, at least 7 days before a meeting, written notice of a motion, together with supporting information and reasons, to be included on the agenda of that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

Date of Meeting:	11 February 2025
Councillor Name:	Robert Cassidy
Proposed Motion:	That Acting General Manager, Stephen Mackey, write to the Honourable Ministers Eric Abetz, Minister for Transport and Kerry Vincent, Minister for Infrastructure, proposing that the Tasmania government re-instate the Highland Lakes Road (A5) as Highland Lakes Highway.
Background Details:	<p>In a 2017 Proposal (No. 27) Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, "Highlands Lakes Road Upgrade", it estimated the cost of \$8.619 million to seal the remainder, at the same time extolled the virtues and value to Tasmania of the Highland Lakes Road, and, I quote,</p> <p><i>"It is 156 kilometres long and runs from the Midland Highway at Melton Mowbray (approximately 70 kilometres north of Hobart) to the Meander Valley Highway in Deloraine (approximately 50 kilometres west of Launceston). As well as providing access to the Central Highlands, Highland Lakes Road provides an alternative route to the more commonly used Midland Highway - Bass Highway route from the South to the North West region of the State.</i></p> <p><i>The Tasmanian Government has identified the visitor economy as a strategic economic growth opportunity for the State and the beauty of the Tasmanian environment is widely marketed.</i></p> <p><i>Highland Lakes Road is an increasingly popular drive for visitors</i></p> <p><i>The submission also highlighted a range of benefits, such as improving access, usage and connectivity</i></p> <p><i>Improved access for all road users</i></p> <p><i>Increased usage of the road particularly by tourists but also by some commercial vehicles travelling between the South and North West of Tasmania with flow on economic benefits to the region</i></p>

	<p><i>reduce the isolation of the region and improve connectivity within and to, the region</i></p> <p><i>There will also be substantial travel time savings because of the increased travel speeds that will apply on the sealed surface.</i></p> <p><i>A further economic benefit will result from increased visitors to the area. A sealed surface will permit use by hire cars and more locals will be encouraged to use the road as an alternative route between Melton Mowbray and Deloraine. Whilst travel time between Melton Mowbray and Deloraine via the Midland Highway and Bass Highway is approximately 15 minutes shorter than the Highland Lakes route, the travel distance via the Highland Lakes Road is approximately 12 kilometres shorter.</i></p> <p><i>The anticipated increase in usage, especially by tourists and commercial vehicles, will also provide economic benefits for the region."</i></p> <p><i>I must reiterate, the Tasmanian government's last justification for spending \$8.619 million, "in a tight budget", "The anticipated increase in usage, especially by tourists and commercial vehicles, will also provide economic benefits for the region."</i></p> <p><i>I have provided selected vehicular traffic data from 2023. Please refer to the attached. At Melton Mowbray, there are 1,088 data captures, with 11.8% Heavy Vehicles.</i></p> <p><i>Continuing past Melton Mowbray, along the Midland Highway, is 4,454 data captures and 25.7% Heavy Vehicles.</i></p> <p><i>In 2001 the Highland Lakes Highway was downgraded to a "Secondary Road".</i></p> <p><i>In Tasmania's Roads for Our Future - State Road Hierarchy document (attached), it confirms why the Highland Lakes Road is neglected by State Roads, in its own words, "The hierarchy also provides the basis for determining operating performance levels on matters such as road roughness and rutting, which allows determination of maintenance intervention levels across the network." That would account for the very rough patch above the Lower Marshes Road intersection, that has been that way for past 15 years I have lived in Bothwell.</i></p> <p><i>By escalating Highland Lakes Road from a "Secondary Road" to reinstate it as Highland Lakes Highway (A5) would serve to enhance the Tasmania government's 2030 Strong Plan, i.e." Begin planning for major new infrastructure investments into health, hospitals and ambulance stations, schools and Child and Family Learning Centres, <u>roads and bridges</u> . . ." It could attract federal government funding through grants to mitigate</i></p>
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	<p><i>the burden on the Tasmanian government to properly maintain the Highland Lakes Road/Highway. Would more traffic "provide economic benefits for the region", especially if they stopped in our towns? This change in status of the Highland Lakes Road would elevate the profile of the Central Highlands municipality.</i></p> <p><i>Lastly, a better maintained road would enhance road safety.</i></p>
<p>Signature:</p>	
<p>Date:</p>	<p>21 January 2025</p>

Attachments Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (Highland Lakes Rd Upgrade)
State Road Hierarchy (Department of State Growth)



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

Nil

13. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING RESUMED

Not Required

14. MONTHLY MAYORAL AND ELECTED MEMBERS ACTIVITY

RECOMMENDATION 06/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Council notes the Mayoral and Elected Members Activities.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

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

PURPOSE

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

BACKGROUND

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

DISCUSSION

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

Mayor Loueen Triffitt

21 January 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
26 January 2025 Australia Day Awards (Hamilton)

- Business of Council x **9**
- Ratepayer and community members – communications x **3**
- Elected Members - communications x **1**
- Council Management communications x **5**

Cr A Archer

21 January 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)

Cr A Bailey

21 January 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
26 January 2025 Australia Day Awards (Hamilton)

Cr R Cassidy

7 January 2025 The Honourable Minister for Local Government, Kerry Vincent (Hamilton)
14 January 2025 Professional Development, two online Learning Modules
21 January 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
26 January 2025 Australia Day Awards (Hamilton)
6 February 2025 Economic Development Workshop – (Bothwell)

Cr J Hall

21 January 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
26 January 2025 Australia Day Awards (Hamilton)
29 January 2025 Bushwatch Meeting (Westerway)
6 February 2025 Economic Development Workshop – (Bothwell)

Cr J Honner

21 January 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
26 January 2025 Australia Day Awards (Hamilton)

Cr D Meacheam

21 January 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
26 January 2025 Australia Day Awards (Hamilton)

Cr Y Miller

21 January 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
26 January 2025 Australia Day Awards (Hamilton)

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION 07/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Health and Wellbeing report be received.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

Strategic Plan	1.5 Provide support to community organisations and groups
Council Policy	Health & Wellbeing Plan 2020-2025
Legislative Context	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Consultation	As required
Impact on Budget/Resources	As per Council’s approved budget
Risk	The council must ensure that it meets its legislative and governance responsibilities in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

BACKGROUND

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

COUNCIL CORE BUSINESS

Council Community Grant Program

Administration of Community Grants Program and School support funding.

Grant applications

Awaiting response: International Women's Day Grant – event hosted at Gretna Green Hotel Wednesday 05/03/2025 - \$2,000.

Community thanks received – thankyou email received from Hobart Magic Show for financial contribution and Wayatinah Social Club for donations of items for fishing competition prizes.

Events

- Australia Day - Coordination of Australia Day awards and event.
- ANZAC day – planning for ANZAC has commenced, with even proposal to be forwarded to Councillors in next two weeks

Council facility community use – administration of lease agreement with HATCH at Ouse and Bothwell Halls, and Table Tennis at Ouse Hall.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Coordination of promotions for Ellendale and Miena Community workshops. Promotions have included event information in the Highland Digest.

For Ellendale - flyers have been distributed through: Hamilton, Ouse, Westerway and Ellendale. Mailouts to 232 residents.

Additional meetings attended

LGAT Health and Wellbeing Network meeting, Recycle Rewards Container Refund Scheme

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

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

Primary Health Tasmania has received federal funding for three years to trial an Innovative Model of Care project at the Health Centre at Ouse. This project has four main aims:

- To establish telehealth service for GP access
- To establish new specialist and allied health services in-site
- To better promote and utilise existing services, e.g. Corumbene and Pharmacy out-reach
- To develop on-site support to enable an increase in services at the Health Centre

From mid-2025 onwards, the project will include exploring the potential for outreach GP visits to the Health Centre.

2. Bothwell childcare

Plan for options currently being developed.

COMMUNICATION

Council social media (Facebook) update - 21 January 2025 - 05 February 2025

Audience: 2,617 followers. Net followers increase: 17 in last 28 day; 559 in the last year.

Posts: Community workshop at Ellendale, Bushfest 2025 date announcement, share of Central Highlands Visitors Centre book signing event, announcement of Australia Day award recipients,

advertising of Bothwell Playgroup re-launch, profiles of Australia Day award winners, Ellendale community workshop reminder.

Other Communication projects:

Progressing update to new Residents Guide

15.2 HATCH - PRIMARY HEALTH TASMANIA INTOGRATED MODEL OF CARE

RECOMMENDATION 08/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT it be noted by Council that an application has been made to Primary Health Tasmania for Council to undertake the role of Project Officer for the HATCH Integrated Model of Care Programme to investigate TELEHEALTH Delivery with the longer-term goal to have a doctor available at Ouse.

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, Acting General Manager

DISCUSSION

Primary Health Tasmania has received funding from the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care's Innovative Model of Care (IMOC) Program to implement innovative and integrated models of care across three rural communities in Tasmania. Central Highlands, Huon Valley and Tasman. A community and systems partners collaboration.

The Grant opportunity will build on regional and population health planning work in these communities. This collaborative process includes the needs assessments and wide consultations with providers, consumers, and system partners in each community. This will help in understanding the gaps, challenges, and place-based solutions for each community.

Funding will support the recruitment of a Primary Health Tasmania Trial Manager and three part-time project officers, one for each trial site. Each project officer will be co-located with a local service provider. These local organisations will receive funds to set-up and deliver the trial.

The trial will occur from February 2025 to December 2027.

The Central Highlands Council wishes to be a part of the Innovative options for medical care in Ouse and for that reason we put forward a submission for the IMOC Local Project Officer for the Central Highlands.

It has and will continue to be Councils preferred option to have a full time or as a step-down position a part time doctor stationed at the Ouse Medical Centre. We are also of the opinion that the centre could also be used a step-down facility for patients after surgeries from the major hospitals. This could also include the training of doctors and nurses in a hospital environment.

We are aware that the Innovative Care model is predominantly looking at providing a telehealth service which we are not opposed to but feel that there are many older persons in our community that have greater confidence talking about their health issues face to face.

It also is an issue under the current Medicare system that for a person to receive a rebate they are required to have a face-to-face visit with the Doctor in the previous twelve months. Therefore, if they are only able to access telehealth they will be disadvantaged after the twelve-month period.

Options that also need to be addressed should include how the current independent living unit residents' needs are addressed; with this we mean their ability to access other medical services such as physiotherapy etc.

The time might be right for Corumbenne to take over the ownership of all independent living units in the Central Highlands with the view to looking at appropriate expansion in the existing locations or developing others in say Ellendale.

The information gained from the facilitator for this project must be obtained in the knowledge that the telehealth scheme is only part of the long-term options to be considered and not pursued as the only option.

Councils charge-out rate for the use of a council vehicle will as per the Award travel c/per kilometre required use.

This vehicle will need to be picked up from the Hamilton Depot and returned each day no private use will be permitted. If the vehicle is to be used to travel outside the Municipal area prior approval will need to be sought, and if the vehicle is to be used to travel to a location requiring the person to stay overnight approval for this purpose will be required. A fuel card will be issued for this vehicle.

15.3 COMMUNITY REQUEST BOTHWELL PLAYGROUP FEE-WAIVER

RECOMMENDATION 09/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council remit fees during 2025 for hire of Bothwell Football Club and Community Centre by Playgroup Tasmania's for their weekly Playgroup meeting.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

BACKGROUND

In collaboration with Council, Playgroup Tasmania supported Bothwell Playgroup weekly playgroup in 2024. In response to community interest, Playgroup Tasmanian have now engaged a local part-time Playgroup coordinator who will be organising these events in 2025, with Council's Community Development Officer supporting as needed.

An initial launch event occurred on Monday 03 February, with good attendance. Playgroup Tasmania have requested fees and charges waiver for hire of the Bothwell Football Club and Community Centre for between 9:30am – 12:30pm every Monday during school term in 2025. This also will include continued storage on-site of playgroup equipment.

Playgroup Tasmania have provided their Public Liability Certificate of Currency for the hire of the Bothwell Football Club and Community Centre.

Hire fee calculation

Within Council's Fees and Charges schedule, there is not a specific category for calculating use of a Council Hall for running playgroup activities. Within the schedule it does stipulate that there will be no charge for 'local groups, fundraising, church functions and schools' using the Bothwell Football Club & Community Centre.

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

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

16.1 WORKS & SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT – JANUARY 2025

RECOMMENDATION 10/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

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

REPORT BY Jason Branch, Works & Services Manager

BACKGROUND

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

Grading & Sheeting	Wash out section Rotherwood Road
Maintenance Grading	
Potholing / shouldering	
Spraying:	Patch out spraying Bothwell township
Culverts / Drainage:	Replace culvert Bluff Road Install new culverts Robertson Road Repair wash out Berry Drive Drainage Bothwell township Repair washout Mt Adelaide Replace culvert Browns Marsh Road Replace culvert McGuires Marsh Road Clean culvert on the ford Bason Road
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 inspections
Bridges:	
Refuse / recycling sites:	Cover Hamilton Tip twice weekly

Other:	<p>Start stage 4 of Thousand Acre Lane Reconstruction Repair road defects Ellendale Road Repair Road defects Hollow Tree Road Construction of junction Cramps Bay Upgrade of soft fall area and playground border Hamilton Clean up of Croakers Alley Hamilton showgrounds Power upgrade works Maintenance work at Hamilton Showgrounds Replace stolen signs Hollow Tree Road Replace stolen shower taps and head Hamilton Toilets Remove fallen trees x 3 Cold mix holes Dennistoun Road, Interlaken Road, Arthurs Lake Rd Vac storm water pits Bothwell after storms 4 X drum musters Dig 1 x grave Extend tank overflow Steeps Hall Trim gardens Queens Park Trim Hamilton Park area for Australia Day Swimming Pool maintenance Replace broken sign Hollow tree Road Clean up steep embankment Westaway Complete the Cramps Bay Junction Apron</p>
Slashing:	<p>Slash Hamilton rec Slash Ouse rec</p>
Municipal Town Maintenance:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of town rubbish twice weekly • Maintenance of parks, cemetery, recreation ground and Caravan Park. • Cleaning of public toilets, gutters, drains and footpaths. • Collection of rubbish twice weekly • Cleaning of toilets and public facilities • General maintenance • Mowing of towns and parks • Town Drainage
Buildings:	
Plant:	<p>PM843 Toyota Hilux Service PM676 Repair hydraulic hose Kobelco Excavator Arrival of Councils new 10-yard Kenworth to Bothwell Depot PM794 JCB Backhoe new front window PM783 Ford Ranger serviced</p>
Private Works:	<p>Water delivery David Eccles Concrete premix sales x 3</p>
Casuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilets, rubbish and Hobart • Hamilton general duties
Program for next 4 weeks	<p>Stage 4 thousand Acre Lane Reconstruction Complete Hamilton recreation power upgrades Hamilton Show Install edge line Bothwell intersection Clean culverts Replace signage Morass Bay Roads</p>



New Kenworth Truck



Construction of the junction at Cramps Bay

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

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

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

17.1 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT TO 31 JANUARY 2025

RECOMMENDATION 11/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

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

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

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

REPORT BY

Zeeshan Tauqeer, Accountant

BACKGROUNDThe following Finance reports are tabled for period ending **31 January 2025**.**Bank Reconciliation as at 31th Jan 2025**

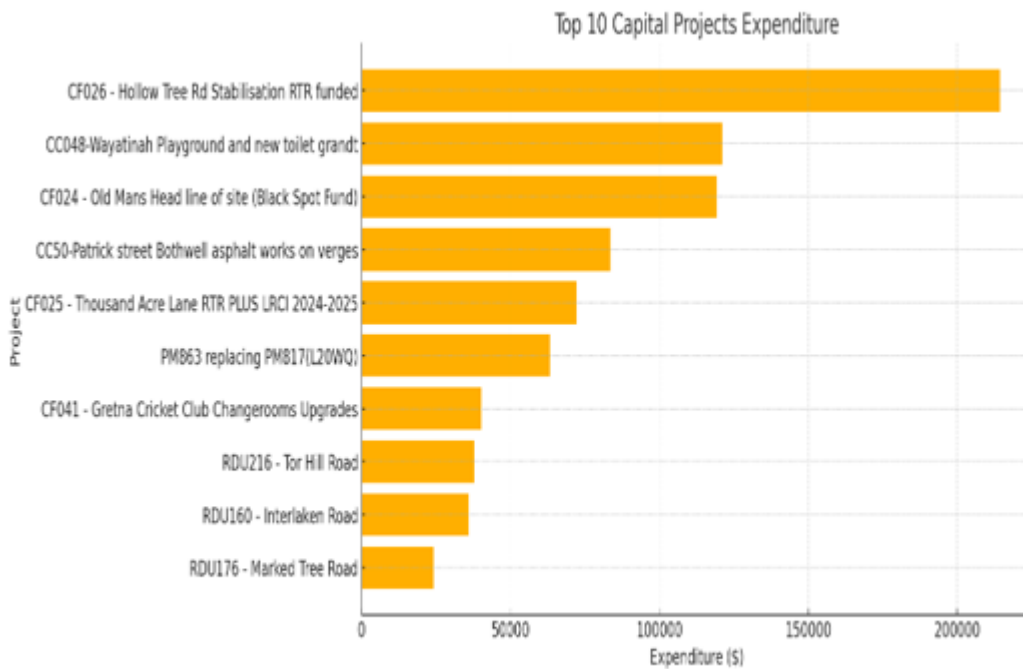
	2024	2025
Balance Brought Forward	\$7,951,230.28	\$5,667,124.84
Receipts for month	\$566,926.48	\$353,139.44
Expenditure for month	\$1,339,569.77	\$514,711.88
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance	\$7,178,586.99	\$5,505,552.40
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Represented By:		
Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$1,743,495.03	\$991,790.35
Balance Westpac Bank	\$39,913.00	\$151,155.60
Investments	\$5,394,628.96	\$4,362,056.45
Petty Cash & Floats	\$550.00	\$550.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$7,178,586.99	\$5,505,552.40
Plus Unbanked Money		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$7,178,586.99	\$5,505,552.40
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$0.00	\$0.00
Unreceipted amounts on bank statements	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$7,178,586.99	\$5,505,552.40
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 31 Jan 2025

No.	Bank Accounts	Investment Period	Current Interest Rate %	Due Date	BALANCE	
					2024	2025
11100 Cash at Bank and on Hand						
11105	Bank 01 - Commonwealth - General Trading Account				1,743,495.03	991,790.35
11106	Bank 02 - Westpac - Direct Deposit Account				39,913.00	151,155.60
11110	Petty Cash				350.00	350.00
11115	Floats				200.00	200.00
11199	TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND				<hr/> 1,783,958.03	<hr/> 1,143,495.95
11200 Investments						
11207	Bank 6	0	0.00		0.00	0.00
11207	Bank 5	0	0.00		3,101,930.88	0.00
11115	Bank 04	32	4.49%	3/02/2025	-	1,713,396.70
11110	Tascorp	90	4.49%	29/04/2025	82,259.93	86,625.35
11115	Bank 16	60	4.70%	21/03/2025	2,210,438.15	2,562,034.40
11299	TOTAL INVESTMENTS				<hr/> 5,394,628.96	<hr/> 4,362,056.45
TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS AND CASH ON HAND					<hr/> 7,178,586.99	<hr/> 5,505,552.40

Capital Expenditure Summary

- **Total Capital Expenditure to Date: \$1,235,412** (24.14% of total budgeted capex spent)
- **Top Five Capital Projects:**
 1. **Hollow Tree Rd Stabilisation (RTR funded) – \$214,414**
 2. **Wayatinah Playground & New Toilet (Grant-funded) – \$121,089**
 3. **Old Mans Headline of Sight (Black Spot Fund) – \$119,288**
 4. **Patrick Street Bothwell Asphalt Works on Verges – \$83,600**
 5. **Thousand Acre Lane RTR PLUS LRCI 2024-2025 – \$71,987**
- **Overall Capital Expenditure Trend:** Most projects are still in early spending phases, indicating potential acceleration in the coming months.



	BUDGET	ACTUAL TO	ACTUAL TO	% OF BUDGET	BALANCE OF
	2024/2025	31-Jan-24	31-Jan-25	SPENT	BUDGET
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$1,870,264	\$1,076,118	\$1,234,953	66.03%	\$635,311
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$256,040	\$133,974	\$169,784	66.31%	\$86,256
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$127,141	\$63,371	\$69,866	54.95%	\$57,275
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$34,357	\$22,215	\$20,042	58.34%	\$14,315
ONCOSTS	(\$498,049)	(\$295,615)	(\$436,799)	87.70%	(\$61,250)
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	\$460,441	\$315,177	\$382,672	83.11%	\$77,769
TOTAL CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$2,250,194	\$1,315,240	\$1,440,518	64.02%	\$809,676
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
				480.46%	
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$321,446	\$197,295	\$220,771	68.68%	\$100,675
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$33,455	\$17,178	\$17,990	53.77%	\$15,465
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$11,375	\$5,881	\$9,102	80.02%	\$2,273
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$182,083	\$87,462	\$93,029	51.09%	\$89,054
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$30,241	\$24,401	\$26,940	89.08%	\$3,301
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$351,850	\$117,450	\$150,702	42.83%	\$201,148
WASTE SERVICES	\$928,956	\$527,196	\$542,965	58.45%	\$385,991
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	\$41,357	\$5,213	\$2,349	5.68%	\$39,008
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	\$1,900,763	\$982,076	\$1,063,848	55.97%	\$836,915
WORKS AND SERVICES					
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$287,145	\$108,228	\$103,565	36.07%	\$183,580
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$16,732	\$13,304	\$8,496	50.77%	\$8,236
HALLS (HALL)	\$80,732	\$43,441	\$71,595	88.68%	\$9,137
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$97,057	\$68,718	\$90,255	92.99%	\$6,802
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+tennis)	\$119,900	\$135,617	\$62,250	51.92%	\$57,650
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$193,285	\$189,978	\$133,917	69.28%	\$59,368
HOUSING (HOU)	\$116,424	\$91,013	\$94,728	81.36%	\$21,696
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$18,884	\$10,691	\$9,268	49.08%	\$9,616
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$2,346	\$1,852	\$1,687	71.90%	\$659
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$1,056,382	\$901,755	\$735,556	69.63%	\$320,826
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$13,813	\$8,830	\$14,002	101.37%	(\$189)
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,026	\$5,823	\$5,853	25.42%	\$17,173
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$50,743	\$47,339	\$12,769	25.16%	\$37,974
SUPER. & I/D OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$812,468	\$386,760	\$545,192	67.10%	\$267,276
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(\$181,998)	(\$40,368)	(\$10,478)	5.76%	(\$171,520)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$128,847	\$55,047	\$83,646	64.92%	\$45,201
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$502	\$305	15.23%	\$1,696
PLANT MTCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$640,571	\$475,461	\$367,141	57.31%	\$273,430
PLANT INCOME	(\$756,571)	(\$688,789)	(\$518,131)	68.48%	(\$238,440)
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$42,124	\$33,049	\$38,437	91.25%	\$3,687
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$40,559	\$25,812	\$22,412	55.26%	\$18,147
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$0	\$11,023	\$4,542		(\$4,542)
FLOOD REPAIRS		\$0	\$0		
TOTAL WORKS & SERVICES	\$2,804,469	\$1,885,086	\$1,877,005	66.93%	\$927,464
DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES					
Corporate Services	\$2,250,194	\$1,315,240	\$1,440,518	64.02%	\$809,676
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$1,900,763	\$982,076	\$1,063,848	55.97%	\$836,915
Works & Services	\$2,804,469	\$1,885,086	\$1,877,005	66.93%	\$927,464
Total All Operating	\$6,955,426	\$4,182,402	\$4,381,371	62.99%	\$2,574,055

	BUDGET 2024/2025	ACTUAL TO 31-Jan-24	ACTUAL TO 31-Jan-25	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE					
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Computer Purchases	\$41,500	\$2,220	\$31,442	75.76%	\$10,058
Equipment	\$5,000	\$1,577	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
Miscellaneous	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
	\$51,500	\$3,797	\$31,442	61.05%	\$20,058
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
Swimming Pool	\$5,000	\$9,182	\$1,870	37.40%	\$3,130
	\$5,000	\$9,182	\$1,870	37.40%	(\$4,182)
WORKS & SERVICES					
Plant Purchases	\$760,000	\$378,389	\$83,639	11.01%	\$676,361
Camping Grounds	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Public Conveniences	\$150,000	\$156,609	\$0	0.00%	\$150,000
Bridges	\$0	\$7,097	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Road Construction & Reseals	\$2,918,000	\$534,034	\$841,029	28.82%	\$2,076,971
Drainage	\$20,000	\$248,553	\$5,388	0.00%	\$14,612
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$11,440	\$6,248	\$239	2.09%	\$11,201
Infrastructure	\$82,145	\$40,209	\$31,059	37.81%	\$51,087
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$40,000	\$92,801	\$29,656	74.14%	\$10,344
Rec Grounds	\$570,000	\$11,705	\$45,525	7.99%	\$524,475
Halls	\$60,000	\$2,623	\$12,930	21.55%	\$47,070
Buildings	\$449,000	\$781,090	\$152,636	33.99%	\$296,364
	\$5,060,585	\$2,259,358	\$1,202,100	23.75%	\$3,858,485
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS					
Corporate Services	\$51,500	\$3,797	\$31,442	61.05%	\$20,058
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$5,000	\$9,182	\$1,870	37.40%	\$3,130
Works & Services	\$5,060,585	\$2,259,358	\$1,202,100	23.75%	\$3,858,485
	\$5,117,085	\$2,272,337	\$1,235,412	24.14%	\$3,881,673

Rates Reconciliation as at 31 Jan 2025

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Rates in Debit 30th June	\$135,606.82	\$196,877.36
Rates in Credit 30th June	-\$171,244.88	-\$145,341.00
Balance 30th June	-\$35,638.06	\$51,536.36
Rates Raised	\$4,486,365.49	\$4,729,920.23
Penalties Raised	\$28,420.94	\$36,021.97
Supplementaries/Debit Adjustments	\$13,489.65	\$23,909.40
Total Raised	\$4,528,276.08	\$4,789,851.60
Less:		
Receipts to Date	\$2,953,843.57	\$3,151,657.46
Credit Journals	\$0.00	\$19,150.28
Pensioner Rate Remissions	\$119,193.87	\$129,513.82
Remissions/Supplementary Credits	\$16,101.42	\$10,566.41
Balance	\$1,403,499.16	\$1,530,499.99

Comprehensive Income Statement

31/01/2025

Recurrent Income	Budget 2023-2024	Actual to date prior year	Actual to Date	Budget 2024-2025	Variation from YTD Budget %	Comments
Rates Charges	\$4,469,863	\$4,478,196	\$4,717,569	\$4,682,233	1%	
User Fees	\$355,450	\$143,611	\$161,698	\$494,250	(26)%	
Grants - Operating	\$124,860	\$169,591	\$301,397	\$30,000	946%	
Other Revenue	\$453,200	\$455,716	\$412,471	\$704,366	0%	
Grants received in Advance	\$2,998,566	\$3,031,386	\$2,782,241	\$3,206,515	28%	FAGs received Jun 2024 for 2024/25
Total Revenues	\$8,401,939	\$8,278,500	\$8,375,376	\$9,117,364	34%	
Expenditure						
Employee Benefits	\$2,553,663	\$1,406,088	\$1,655,512	\$2,584,261	6%	
Materials and Services	\$2,012,016	\$1,611,649	\$1,626,875	\$2,447,768	8%	
Other Expenses	\$1,715,852	\$1,157,900	\$1,228,448	\$1,892,738	7%	
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$2,260,000	\$1,417,597	\$1,473,349	\$2,327,800	5%	
Total Expenditure	\$8,541,531	5,593,234	5,984,184	9,252,567	6%	
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	(139,592)	2,685,266	2,391,192	(135,203)		
Capital Grants & Other	\$2,407,078	\$330,100	\$1,101,244	\$2,424,996		
Surplus(Deficit)	2,267,486	3,015,366	3,492,436	2,289,793		
Capital Expenditure	\$8,107,503	\$2,297,523	\$1,235,412	\$5,117,085		

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

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

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

18.1 DERWENT CATCHMENT PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION 12/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

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



Derwent Catchment Project February 2025

General business

Delivering for Tasmania: A Bold Nature Repair Election Commitment

We have provided an election proposal to Bec White from Labour and Susie Bower from the Liberals for a nature repair pilot that will develop and implement a comprehensive nature repair plan, prioritising restoration and land management activities throughout the Derwent Catchment. The pitch aligns with the Australian Government's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the global 30x30 biodiversity targets.

Key focus areas include river restoration, invasive species control, working with farmers on agri-best practice and nature repair market opportunities, and the recovery of threatened species and vegetation communities. With a \$20 million investment over four years, the pilot will deliver measurable outcomes such as the restoration of 50 kilometres of degraded rivers, support for the Derwent Biosecurity Network, and a suite of nature-based climate adaptation farm-based projects to ensure a resilient catchment for the future. The pitch is attached to this report.

Weed Management Programs

Central Highlands Weed Management Plan

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

The ground team have been managing weeds along council roads and on connecting private properties. The current focus is the eradication zones around Victoria Valley and Ellendale. The team have also been treating thistles around the Cattle Hill wind farm and private quarries nearby; this work aligns with the council's request for thistles and ragwort management in the area.



Roadside spraying - Ellendale

Poatina is currently undergoing ragwort survey and treatment as part

of the broader ragwort control program in the Central Highlands. Over the coming weeks, the team will be targeting Californian thistle in known hotspots. The working bee at Great Lake was a great day with a good turn out of volunteers who were shown how to treat and manage English broom in Swan Bay.

Hamilton Native Plant Nursery

Nursery expansion and production

The expansion continues as plants continue to grow in this warmer weather. More new benches have been made and placed in the hardening-off area. Karen is preparing for the upcoming season of community events and shows where we plan to have a wide range of plants available for the community to purchase and give advice on land management. To further expand our reach Karen is organising for the DCP to have a store at the New Norfolk town markets over the autumn months.

Agri-best practice programs

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

Derwent Pasture Network

We've recently focused on reviewing harvest results from our fertiliser test strips, which helps us understand how clover growth is affected by fertiliser, soil health, and environmental conditions. After a tough 2023/24 season, clover made a strong comeback in 2024/25. This improvement was due to less leftover pasture at germination, more bare ground, and reduced competition from stressed perennial grasses. Clover grew well in areas where phosphorus and potassium had been applied in the past on fertile soils and where fertiliser was recently added to less fertile areas.

We have also updated data from our species trials, ready to share at upcoming field days. Although January is usually quiet, we hosted a farmer visit to a TIA/UTAS trial site in Bothwell, focusing on the annual legume serradella. Some serradella varieties showed impressive growth even into late January after being sown in September—unusual for an annual plant. Serradella is interesting because of its deep roots and ability to handle acidic soils better than sub-clover.

Five farmers, DCP Facilitator Peter Ball, and UTAS researcher Rowan Smith met at the trial site to share results and observations, working together towards more sustainable, productive pastures—and enjoying the chance to connect in person.



Serradella site visit with Derwent farmers

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.

Rivers

Tyenna River Recovery

There have been weekly willow warriors working bees over the last two weeks and we have managed to treat the difficult willows before the entrance to Mt Field National Park. The second working bee undertook treatment on willows downstream of the TASSAL fish farm, which aligns with a large portion of work done by the opposite private landholder.

The DCP ground crew have also helped with the program by doing some maintenance around the plants in Westerway and treating minor willow regrowth.

Platypus Walk – Clyde

The crew have been treating large hawthorns along the upper banks and brush-cutting down blackberry to create access to the riverbank. There are still great opportunities for revegetation, and plans are being grown for autumn plantings. The team will return to spray the path and treat outlying thistles in the coming weeks. The revegetation along the Clyde at Platypus Walk is really looking fantastic, with some trees now over 2.5 metres tall.



Willow Warriors working hard on a tricky willow



Maintenance along Platypus Walk – Clyde River

Yours Sincerely,

The Derwent Catchment Team

Key Contacts:

Josie Kelman (CEO) 0427044700

Eve Lazarus (Program Manager) 0429170048

Morgan McPherson (Operations Manager) 0418 667 426

Karen Phillips (Nursery Manager) 0400 039 303

Strategic Plan Progress

The following table outlines the programs and impacts, actions, dates and targets as outlined in the DCP strategic plan 2022-2027 with an additional column applying traffic light colours to indicate the stage of completion. Definitions for the progress codes are below.

Progress code	Definition
Green	Actions (and any associated targets) have been completed within the proposed timeframe.
Yellow	Progress has been made against the action, one or part of a target has been completed or foundational work has been undertaken.
Red	There has been no progress on this action or work has stalled due to resourcing/staff.

Programs and Impacts	Actions	Dates	Targets	Progress
PLAN FOR THE FUTURE				
	Develop a catchment plan for the Derwent	June-25	Plan adopted by members and stakeholders	
	Develop a business plan for adding carbon and biodiversity services	Jun-24	Plan developed	
	Develop a business plan for delivering Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) projects and services	Jun-27	Plan developed	
	Develop a DCP communications plan	Jun-24	Plan developed	
DO THE WORK				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture 	Maintain and grow a strong agriculture program, including dryland, cropping & horticulture by trialling and promoting 'best practice' approaches to increasing productivity	Jun-27	We have grown the program by 20% as measured by participation and funding	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River restoration 	Continue to deliver existing programs and maintenance and expand to new rivers	Jun-28	We continue to deliver existing programs as projected and attract additional funding to activities in river restoration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed Management 	Continue to implement and fund key actions to reduce the extent and spread of weeds in the catchment	Ongoing	Increasing the reach of programs across all tenures on key weeds. Improving education on weeds and management	

Programs and Impacts	Actions	Dates	Targets	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation 	Develop programs which support biodiversity conservation	Jun-28	Work with land managers and farmers to increase condition of high priority remnant vegetation and improve threatened species management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration 	Continue to grow the trees on farms program	Jun-27	Increase the number of trees planted into the region by 20%	
PROMOTE OUR WORK				
	Promote the work we have done to boost recognition (via advertising, social media)	Jun-24	Implement an ongoing communications strategy	
	Develop 'top five' investment packages	Jun-24	Investment packages developed and one funded	
	Promote courses in best practice Ag and reach more producers in the Catchment	Dec-24	Increase by 20% over 2 years.	
	Deliver professional annual reports that display the work underway	Annually	Develop a comprehensive and engaging report for members	
MEASURING & REVIEWING OUR IMPACTS	Monitor, measure and evaluate the impacts and outcomes of existing programs	Jun-24	Undertake an evaluation of the Past 5 years of DCP activity	
	Follow up existing programs to measure impacts	Annually	Undertake an annual review of impacts	
	Do an outstanding job on current projects	Ongoing	Review activities with key participants	

Programs and Impacts	Actions	Dates	Targets	Progress
EXPAND FUNDING SOURCES	Actively seek out longer term funding in the form of grants, longer-term contracts, and/or service delivery agreements.	Annually	10% increase annually	
	Include line items for administration / project management in all grant applications, quotes and tenders	Ongoing	Admin and project management costs covered and accounted for	
	Actively seek to deliver programs to new clients and industries		Growth in reach is achieved annually	
	Increase donations and philanthropic investment from individuals and organisations by promoting DCP's Deductible Gift Recipient status	June-28	DGR achieved and donations received	
MANAGE FINANCES RESPONSIBLY				
	Develop a plan for embarking on a slow transition towards:	Jun-26	In-kind reporting included in financials	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the proportion of income from commercial activities 		20 % increase in commercial work	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic agenda for investment into landscape outcomes across the catchment that is well funded and ongoing 		Plan produced and initial funding secured	
	Expand the services delivered for Councils	Jun-26	10% increase in scope of services	

Reputation and Relationships	Actions	Dates	Targets	Progress
BUILD OUR REPUTATION				
	Promote DCP's availability to manage and deliver on-ground projects that could be used to offset corporate environmental impacts	Jun-26	Expand ESG investment into programs. Complete at least one ESG project by Jun-25	
	Continue to prioritise and grow catchment partnerships	Ongoing	A clear growth in community awareness and partnerships of the DCP	
	Build community awareness of our role in the catchment	Jul-26	Implement at least 80% of actions from our Communications Plan	
INTERNAL OPERATIONS				
	Develop a succession plan for key individuals	Annually	Develop an operational plan for staff training and development	
	Develop business plan for increased staffing, including additional works crew, administration resources and a communications officer	Jun-25	Business cases developed	
	Focus on staff development, including identifying current skills and future training and development needs.	Annually	Develop an operational plan for staff training and development	

Reputation and Relationships	Actions	Dates	Targets	Progress
INTERNAL OPERATIONS CONT.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve our efficiency 	Develop overarching workplans for the coming year for the organisation, sub-units i.e., nursery, on-ground works, facilitation etc. and teams	Annually	Workplans developed	
	Continue to develop and tighten our policies and procedures, including relating to HR.	Annually	HR Workshops held with staff and HR Manual regularly updated	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit and retain the best people 	Run a whole staff workshop to build culture and values in the organisation	Jun-24	Articulate organisational values and support a positive work culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on high quality Governance 	Focus on building a consistent culture that is supportive, promotes innovation and high levels of client service	Ongoing	Regular team meetings and provide professional development opportunities	
We exceed all ACNC governance standards particularly:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee & operational staff work towards DCPs charitable purpose and provide information about its purposes to the public. 	Jun-24	Board charter adopted and training provided on governance	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee & operational staff take reasonable steps to be accountable to members and provide them with adequate opportunity to raise concerns about how the charity is governed 	Ongoing	Regular executive meetings held and information is available on the website with options for contacting the CEO and President	



Delivering for Tasmania: A Bold Nature Repair Election Commitment

The Derwent Catchment Nature Repair Pilot provides a critical opportunity to advance Australia's commitments to biodiversity and climate resilience. Aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategy and the global 30x30 biodiversity target, this initiative presents a robust, science-based framework to restore degraded ecosystems, enhance climate adaptation, and protect Tasmania's unique environmental assets.

This pilot proposes the creation and implementation of a comprehensive nature repair plan, prioritising targeted restoration and land management activities throughout the Derwent Catchment. Key focus areas include river restoration, invasive species control, working with farmers on agri-best practice and nature repair market opportunities, and the recovery of threatened species and vegetation communities. With an initial \$20 million investment over four years, the pilot will deliver measurable outcomes such as the restoration of 50 kilometres of degraded rivers, support for the Derwent Biosecurity Network, and a suite of nature-based climate adaptation farm-based projects.

Why This Matters

1. Environmental Restoration for Long-Term Impact

- Target priority degraded areas, with a focus on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, to improve flood resilience.
- Protect biodiversity by addressing invasive species, preserving genetic diversity, and safeguarding threatened species and vegetation communities.

2. Climate Action Through Nature-Based Solutions

- Integrate climate adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction into local and regional decision-making.
- Utilise nature-based solutions to strengthen resilience, ensuring Tasmania is prepared for future climate impacts.

3. Supporting Communities and Economies

- o Enhance water quality, flood resilience, and recreational access for local communities.
- o Reduce biosecurity risks to protect Tasmania's agricultural and tourism sectors, vital to the state's economy.

Why the Derwent Catchment Project?

The Derwent Catchment Project is a strategic, community-driven organisation aimed at building the long-term sustainability and resilience of the entire Derwent River catchment in Tasmania. Spanning a vast area of diverse landscapes—from the headwaters to the mouth of the River Derwent—our activities address key environmental, social, and economic challenges across the region.

The Derwent Catchment Project's focus is on improving water quality, increasing flood resilience, enhancing agricultural sustainability, and supporting local communities, to successfully deliver tangible benefits to Tasmania's people, industries, and ecosystems.

The Derwent Catchment Project provides:

- **Coverage and Scale:** Spanning one-fifth of Tasmania, the pilot targets high-priority landscapes and assets most in need of restoration.
- **Proven Success:** Built on existing on-ground actions and partnerships with councils, farmers, industries, and community organisations.
- **Regional Leadership:** Focused on the Derwent Valley, Central Highlands, and Brighton, covering over one-third of the Lyons electorate.
- **Replicable Framework:** Establishes a scalable model to be expanded across other states and territories, delivering consistent national outcomes.

The Benefits

1. For Communities

- o Improved flood resilience and healthier waterways, fostering recreation and cultural connection.
- o Better climate preparedness, reducing risks to homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods.

2. For Farmers

- o Access to the Nature Repair Market, unlocking private and public funding for sustainable land management.

- o Enhanced protection from invasive species, boosting land productivity and resilience.

3. For Industry

- o Increased cross-industry biosecurity to secure agricultural production and export markets.
- o Support for tourism through well-preserved natural attractions and pristine landscapes.

4. For the Environment

- o Restored ecosystems that can endure climate change pressures.
- o Enhanced habitats for native wildlife, fostering biodiversity recovery and reducing extinction risks.

Why Now?

Tasmania is uniquely positioned to lead the nation in biodiversity and climate solutions. The Derwent Catchment Nature Repair Pilot demonstrates what is achievable through collaboration between communities, governments, and industries. This initiative will create a legacy of ecological restoration, climate resilience, and economic sustainability.

By prioritising this election commitment, you can:

- Deliver tangible benefits to local communities and key industries.
- Position Tasmania's leadership in biodiversity and climate action.
- Establish a nationally scalable framework aligned with Australia's biodiversity and climate goals.

Investing in a Climate-Resilient Derwent Catchment

We estimate achieving climate resilience in the Derwent Catchment will require \$400 million over 10 years. However, an initial Australian Government investment of \$20 million over four years will catalyse this effort, establishing a strong foundation for long-term restoration, adaptation, and investment.

This pilot will deliver immediate ecological and socio-economic benefits while attracting further investment in nature repair across Tasmania. It offers:

1. **Shovel-Ready Projects:** Immediate actions in biodiversity recovery, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation.
2. **Strategic Landscape Transformation:** A coordinated vision to create sustainable, resilient ecosystems and communities.

Key funding items:

Actions	Costings	Total cost per item	Outcomes
Nature Repair plan - including community consultation and prioritisation of regional assets and on-ground action	Labour and on costs \$90k	\$90,000	Placed based plan to guide nature repair pilot implementation, ensuring community support.
1 - River restoration including removal of willows/weeds, erosion control, plantings and weed control for 5 years, project coordination and facilitation	50 km of willows and river restoration works (200k per km)	\$ 10,000,000	50 km of restored river, reduced flood risk, improved water quality, improved biodiversity, access to rivers and improved amenity.
2 - Nature-based solutions for climate adaptation - including ranger program (restoration of native vegetation) and protection of threatened species.			
Ranger program (restoration and weeds); machine and material costs	Labour and on costs \$100k/person/year x 5 people	\$ 2,000,000	Regional employment (green jobs); skills and knowledge development i.e. re-training/skilling; reduced impact from weeds on biodiversity and improved biosecurity.
	Materials for program delivery (i.e. fencing and or machine cost etc \$250k/year	\$1,000,000	

Actions	Costings	Total cost per item	Outcomes
Threatened species/vegetation community specific actions	Labour and oncosts etc = \$150k*4 years = \$600k; plus vehicle and travel \$250k for the 4 years. Project materials such as fencing and/or specialist contracting \$450k; Targeted landholder support funding \$510,000	\$1,810,000	Threatened species recovery and/or prevention of extinction, improved biodiversity outcomes.
3 - Sustainable farming and stronger biosecurity. Supporting the Derwent Catchment Biosecurity Network and plan implementation (Farm plans, Washdown facilities)	Sustainable farming program: labour and on costs etc = \$150k*4 years = \$600k plus vehicle and travel \$250k for the 4 years	\$850,000	Agri-best practice extension/improved resilience and climate adaptation.
	Washdown facilities est. average costs = \$1.5 million for truck facility x 2 and maintenance (100 k per year)	\$3,400,000	Reduced risk from biosecurity, resilient regional communities.
	Biosecurity officer including on costs for coordination of cross tenure high priority weeds	\$850,000	Reduced weed burden, improved outcomes for biodiversity and biosecurity.
	Total	\$20,000,000	

A Commitment to the Future

This initiative represents a strategic investment in Tasmania's ecological, social, and economic future. It offers a scientifically sound, scalable model to address critical environmental challenges while delivering enduring benefits for communities and industries.

By supporting the Derwent Catchment Nature Repair Pilot, Tasmania can demonstrate national leadership in biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and sustainable development, setting a benchmark for the rest of Australia.

Our ask: A \$20 million commitment over four years to lead this critical work.

Contacts:

Dr. Josie Kelman – 0427 044 700 – josie@derwentcatchment.org

Eve Lazarus – 0429 170 048 – eve@derwentcatchment.org

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

Encourage economic viability within the municipality

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

19.1 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION 13/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Development & Environmental Services Report be received.

REPORT BY Graham Rogers, Manager DES

PLANNING PERMITS ISSUED UNDER DELEGATION

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

DISCRETIONARY

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2024/64	C Ryan	77 Franklin Place, Hamilton	Signage
2024/44	T Knight	6 Patrick Street, Bothwell	Dwelling
2023/49	Dave & Bec Triffett Holdings Pty Ltd	2 Victoria Valley Road, Ouse	Cafe & Post Office & Relaxation of Front Boundary Setback

PERMITTED

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2025/02	H B V Architects	150 Oldina Drive, Tarraleah	Part Change of Use from Community Meeting & Entertainment to Residential (3 units) and Alterations & Additions to Hotel Industry

ANIMAL CONTROL

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

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

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

Statistics as of 5 February 2025	
Number of Dogs Impounded during last month	0
Number of Dogs Currently Registered	928
Number of Dogs Pending Re-Registration	10
Number of Kennel Licence Renewals	33

19.2 MINISTER'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SOUTHERN TASMANIAN REGIONAL LAND USE STRATEGY 2010-2035 (STRLUS 2010) URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

RECOMMENDATION 14/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council determine that it has no objection to the proposed amendments to the Urban Growth Boundary as set out in the '*STRLUS Urban Growth Boundary Update Consultation Paper, February 2025*'.

REPORT BY Damian Mackey, Council Planning Consultant (SMC)

ATTACHMENTS

1. Correspondence: State Planning Office, dated 3 February 2025.
2. Minister's Media Release, 2 February 2025.
3. STRLUS Urban Growth Boundary Update Consultation Paper, February 2025.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider Council's position regarding the proposed amendments to the Urban Growth Boundary of Greater Hobart in the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy 2010-2035 (STRLUS).

These proposed amendments have been proposed by the Minister for Planning, Felix Ellis, in advance of the outcomes of the work currently being undertaken to review STRLUS.

BACKGROUND

The STRLUS is a long-term plan for the Southern Tasmanian region to facilitate and manage change, growth, and development, whilst protecting our natural values.

Since the preparation of the current STRLUS in 2010, the Southern Tasmanian region has experienced significant population growth and new economic and social conditions are driving

change. There have been several minor amendments to STRLUS in the intervening time but no comprehensive review, as was originally intended to occur every five years, has occurred.

In 2023 the twelve Southern Councils in conjunction with the State Government committed to undertake a comprehensive review of STRLUS. This is co-funded by the 12 Councils and the State Government. Work has been going on through 2024 and it is anticipated that a draft new STRLUS will be ready for public consultation in mid-late 2025. It can be estimated that a final new STRLUS would emerge after the consideration of public submissions and subsequent amendments sometime in 2026.

The Urban Growth Boundary of Greater Hobart is a major component of the STRLUS. Land around metropolitan Hobart cannot be proposed for rezoning to a residential zone unless it is within the Urban Growth Boundary.

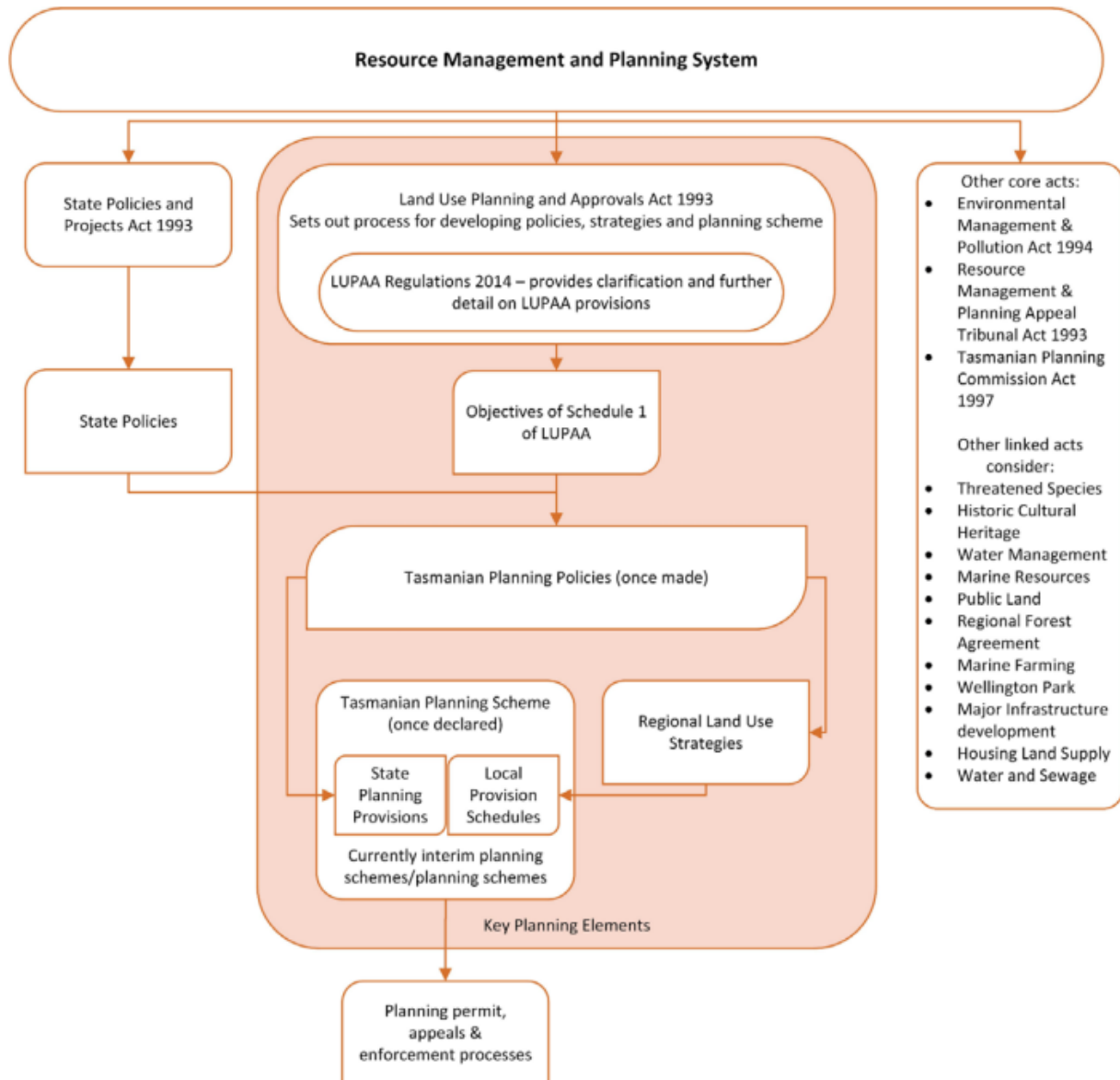
No part of the Urban Growth Boundary extends up into Central Highlands. Growth in the rural & regional areas of the Southern Tasmania region is guided by other strategies within the STRLUS.

The Minister has now determined to progress significant amendments to the Urban Growth Boundary.

All proposed amendments to STRLUS are referred to the twelve Southern Councils for comment. It is noted that, through the course of 2024 Council considered a number of reports regarding various aspects of the STRLUS Review, the latest at the November meeting.

REGIONAL LAND USE STRATEGIES WITHIN THE PLANNING SYSTEM

Each of the three regions in Tasmania has a Regional Land Use Strategy, all developed around 2010-2011. They play a key role in Tasmania's planning system, known as the *Resource Management and Planning System*:



All three regions are now embarking on projects to review their existing Regional Land Use Strategies.

THE MINISTER'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The Planning Minister has taken the view that the Urban Growth Boundary of Greater Hobart is in need of expansion in order to allow for more homes to be built sooner, and thereby help address the current housing crisis.

The Minister appears to also believe that this matter is urgent and cannot wait until the review of STRLUS is finalised, which is likely to be in a year or more. Further, it may be the case that the Minister is not confident that the STRLUS Review will deliver the level of expansion to the Urban Growth Boundary that he considers is necessary to make a sufficient impact on the housing crisis.

Subsequently, the Minister has determined to initiate amendments to the current STRLUS, and not wait for the STRLUS Review to be completed.

Enclosed are documents that set out the Minister's intent:

- Correspondence from the State Planning Office, dated 3 February 2025.
- The Minister's Media Release, dated 2 February 2025.
- STRLUS Urban Growth Boundary Update Consultation Paper, dated February 2025.

In summary, the amendments would provide for an additional 615 hectares of land to be encompassed by the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), ultimately providing for almost 10,000 new residential lots. These would be across 15 expansion areas around Brighton, Clarence, Sorell and Kingborough.

Note that land included within the UGB is not automatically rezoned for residential subdivision. There is still need for individual rezonings (via planning scheme amendments) in which the usual matters are considered, such as the ability of the land to be serviced for water, sewer, stormwater, roads, electricity, public open space, etc.).

RAMIFICATIONS FOR CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

The proposed amendments only relate the Urban Growth Boundary of Greater Hobart, not part of which is located in Central Highlands. Therefore, it is considered that there are no direct impacts on the municipality.

However, this Ministerial initiative could potentially signal a new attitude from the State's planning apparatus, wherein the expansion of some towns outside Greater Hobart may be more readily contemplated, where appropriate.

Council has already put forward the position into the STRLUS Review that the Review's 'State of Play' background report does not adequately recognise the housing crisis in Tasmania, and the Review's population projections, which forecast only modest population growth for the next 25 years, are flawed, and that planning based on them will only further entrench the housing crisis.

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

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

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

20.1 COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

RECOMMENDATION 15/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council consider the development of the following committee structure to undertake specific function of Councils operations with the following councillors nominated to these committees.

It should also be noted that nominations will also be sought from members of the community to be on the Economic Development Special Committee and the Economic Development Special Committee, nominations for community representatives will be for a two-year period

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, Acting General Manager

DISCUSSION

There has been some discussion over the past few months regarding the number of committees are whether they are still appropriate or if there should be less those that meet infrequently or if there should be more to undertake other functions.

Council Committee	Representative	Meeting Schedule
Audit Panel	Deputy Mayor J Allwright Cr A Bailey Cr (Dr) Meacheam (Proxy)	Quarterly
Australia Day	Cr A Baily (Chair) Mayor L Triffitt Cr Y Miller	Annually
Bothwell Cemetery	Mayor L Triffitt (Chair) Cr J Honner Cr R Cassidy	As Required
Bothwell Football Club & Community Centre	Cr J Honner (Chair) Cr R Cassidy Mayor L Triffitt (Proxy)	As Required
Bothwell Swimming Pool	Mayor L Triffitt Cr J Honner	Yearly
Central Highlands Visitor Centre Management	Cr J Honner (Chair) Cr R Cassidy Mayor L Triffitt (Proxy)	As Required
Derwent Catchment Project	Cr A Baily Cr D Meacheam	As required
Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH)	Mayor L Triffitt Cr Y Miller Cr J Honner (Proxy)	As required
Highlands Tasmania Tourism	Mayor L Triffitt (Chair) Deputy Mayor J Allwright Cr R Cassidy (Proxy)	As Required
Independent Living Units	Mayor L Triffitt (Chair) Cr A Bailey Cr Y Miller	As Required
Local Government of Tasmania (LGAT)	Mayor L Triffitt Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Proxy)	Quarterly
Southern Tasmanian Council Authority (STCA)	Mayor L Triffitt Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Proxy)	Quarterly

South Central Sub-Regional (SCS) Working Group	Mayor L Triffitt Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Proxy)	Quarterly
Plant Committee	Cr A Archer (Chair) Deputy Mayor J Allwright Cr A Bailey Cr J Hall (Proxy)	As required
Economic Development Special Committee	Cr (Dr) Meacheam (Chair) Cr J Hall Cr R Cassidy Community Member (4)	As Required
Community Development Special Committee	Mayor L Triffitt (Chair) Cr J Honner Cr Y Miller Community Members (4)	As required
Finance Committee	Cr (Dr) Meacheam Cr A Archer Deputy Mayor J Allwright Cr J Hall (Proxy)	Quarterly

20.2 PLANT COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDATION 16/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT if Council supports the setting up of the Plant Committee the committee will operate as per the procedures and processes outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Plant Committee.

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, Acting General Manager

DISCUSSION

For the purpose of this motion the operation of the Plant Committee is to be as set out in the following terms of reference.

TERMS OF REFERENCE PLANT COMMITTEE

1. NAME

The name of the committee shall be the Plant Committee, appointed as an advisory committee to Council in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Meeting Regulations 2025.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the Council's plant and machinery are managed with due regard to council's key objectives and goals as specified in Council's Strategic Plan.
- To develop review asset management policies to guide the acquisition, use and disposal of plant and machinery assets to make the most of their service potential and manage the related risks and costs over their entire life.
- To provide input into Council's budget forward planning through development of a program covering heavy vehicle replacements, and relevant plant and machinery including (where relevant) identification of significant maintenance costs points.
- Investigate and report to Council on recommendations:
 - Purchase and disposal of all trucks, graders, loaders, rollers and other like items of plant.
 - Major maintenance expenditure on individual items of plant.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- Council by absolute majority, shall appoint a committee for a two-year term, such committee to be appointed after the first full council meeting after the Council election.
- In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 council resolves that the Plant Committee is to comprise of three elected members.
- The Committee is to appoint one of the elected members as chair.
- Voting members are the three elected members.

4. MANAGEMENT

- The formation and conduct of the Committee shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and any other statutory requirements.
- A Central Highlands employee, not necessarily a committee member, shall be appointed by the General Manager to prepare agendas and minutes on behalf of the Committee. Unconfirmed Minutes will be available for inspection within 5 working days. The Agenda and Minutes of the previous meeting shall be circulated to all committee members not later than 4 days before each meeting.
- The committee shall meet as often as required to achieve the aims and objectives of the committee.
- The quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be at least 50% of the members of the committee.
- The Committee is an advisory Committee and as such, all advice and actions that require significant commitment of Council shall be presented as recommendations to Council for consideration.
- The Committee shall not direct Council staff.
- Members wishing to address the Committee may do so in writing, providing information and proposals for consideration.
- The Committee may call upon guests with specific expertise or as the need arises and invite them to attend meetings. Such persons shall not be entitled to vote on any decision arising from such meetings.
- Members shall act in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.
- The Committee will be provided with a plant utilisation report on a quarterly basis.
- All items of plant for replacement should be sought as per Councils purchasing policy and as per the requirements for tendering under the Local Government Act 1993.
- The Committee will review the proposed Plant Replacement Program on an annual basis to support the Council's Long Term Financial Plan, with a focus on the age, utilisation and operational effectiveness of the plant fleet.

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

DATE ADOPTED

20.3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – SPECIAL COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDATION 17/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT if Council supports the setting up of the Economic Development Special Committee the committee will operate as per the procedures and processes outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Economic Development Special Committee.

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, Acting General Manager

DISCUSSION

For the purpose of this motion the operation of the Economic Development Special Committee is to be as set out in the following terms of reference.

TERMS OF REFERENCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. NAME

The name of the Committee shall be the Economic Development Advisory Special Committee as convened in accordance with Section 23 and 24 of the Local Government Act 1993.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To review, prioritise and implement the actions contained within the Council's Strategic Plan
- To work in partnership with relevant industry stakeholders including the State Government to facilitate and expand the economic base for the Central Highlands.
- To investigate opportunities for economic development of the Central Highlands.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- Council, by Absolute majority, shall appoint a committee for a two-year term, such committee to be appointed at the first full council meeting after the Council elections.
- Each member of the Committee shall be eligible for re-appointment.

4. MANAGEMENT

- The formation and conduct of the Committee shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and any other statutory requirements.
- A Council Officer, not necessarily a Committee member, shall be appointed by the Council to prepare an agenda and minutes, on behalf of the committee. Minutes shall be circulated to all Committee members, not later than seven days after each meeting.

- The committee shall meet regularly at intervals sufficient to administer the affairs of the committee. Preferably, there shall be not less than (4) meetings per year.
- The quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be at least 50% of the members of the committee.
- The Committee is an advisory committee, and as such, all decisions of the Committee shall be presented as recommendations to Council for consideration.
- Minutes of the Committee meeting are to be included in Council's agenda papers.
- The Council may adopt, amend, reject or refer back to the Committee any issues arising from the minutes.
- The Committee shall not direct Council staff.
- The Committee does not have the authority or power to commit Council or any association, organisation, group or individual to expenditure without first gaining approval of Council for the expenditure.
- Committee members wishing to address the Committee may do so in writing providing information and proposals for consideration.
- The Committee may call upon consultants or guests with specific expertise or as the need arises and invite them to attend meetings. Such persons shall not be entitled to vote on any decision arising from such meetings.
- Members shall act in the best interests of the Committee.

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW**ADOPTED BY COUNCIL**

20.4 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – SPECIAL COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDATION 18/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT if Council supports the setting up of the Community Development Special Committee the committee will operate as per the procedures and processes outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Community Development Special Committee.

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, Acting General Manager

DISCUSSION

For the purpose of this motion the operation of the Community Development Special Committee is to be as set out in the following terms of reference.

TERMS OF REFERENCE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE

To assist with the development of community services which contribute to the character, culture, and identity of the Central Highlands, and to pursue an active community role in proactive participation with local communities.

The Community Development Committee covers a wide range of issues, altogether ensuring the Central Highlands is a vibrant, inclusive and safe place to live for all people, all ages and abilities.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

The focus of the Community Development Committee is matters relating to social, cultural and community well-being.

The Committee

- Promotes active citizenship, community participation and community partnerships
- Seeks to address cultural, and social disadvantage as well as promote equity for all people residing in the Central Highlands.
- Work in partnership with key agencies and organisations.
- Is innovative and creative in ways it contributes to social and community wellbeing.

The Community Development Committee considers and reports to council on issues and activities relating to:

- Community organisations
- Culture and Heritage
- Sports recreation and leisure services and facilities.
- Open spaces in the public realm: Parks, Reserves, Gardens, Cemeteries, Memorials, Statues and Public Art.
- Youth

- Civic Awards
- Public Health
- Local and Community event, programmes and activities
- Community Development and support, including grants.
- Communities of place, identity and interest
- Township revitalisation

3. MEMBERSHIP

- Council by absolute majority, shall appoint four elected members to the committee for a two-year term, such committee to be appointed after the first full council meeting following the council elections.
- In accordance with the Local government Act 1993 and any other acts or regulations or council policies.
- Each Member of the committee shall be eligible for reappointment.

4. MANAGEMENT

- The formation of the Committee shall be in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and any other statutory requirements.
- The Mayor shall be the Chairperson of the Committee.
- A Councill Officer, not necessarily a Committee member, shall be appointed by the General Manager to prepare agendas and minutes on behalf of the Committee. Minutes shall be circulated to all committee members not later (7) days after each meeting.
- The Committee shall meet regularly at intervals sufficient to administer the affairs of the Committee. Preferably there shall be not less than (4) meetings per year.
- The quorum of the committee shall be at least 50% of the members on the committee.
- The Committee is an advisory committee and as such, all decisions of the Committee shall be presented as recommendations to Council for consideration,
- Minutes of each Committee meeting shall be presented to Council.
- The Council may adopt, amend, reject or refer back to the Committee any issues arising from the minutes.
- The Committee shall not direct staff.
- The Committee will not have the authority or power to commit the Council or any association, organization, group or individual to expenditure without Council endorsement.
- The Committee may call upon consultants or guests with specific expertise or as the need arises and invite them to attend meetings. Such persons shall not be entitled to vote on any decision arising from such meetings.
- Members shall act in the best interests of the Committee.

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

DATE ADOPTED

20.5 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – FINANCE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDATION 19/02.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council if Council supports the setting up of the Finance Committee the committee will operate as per the procedures and processes outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee.

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, Acting General Manager

DISCUSSION

For the purpose of this motion the operation of the Finance Committee is to be as set out in the following terms of reference.

TERMS OF REFERENCE - FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Central Highlands Council hereby establishes a committee under the powers of the given in the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, such committee to be known as the Finance Committee.

2. PURPOSE

The Finance Committee is established for the purpose of assisting the Central Highlands Council to undertake its financial functions. The committee shall meet on a quarterly basis.

The Committee shall act for and on behalf of Council in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and any policies of the Central Highland Council and these terms of reference.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance committee will assist the Council to oversee the allocation of finances and resources under the control of Council. The Finance Committee will:

- Ensure the income and expenditure is aligned to the budget and annual financial plan.
- Monitor and report on financial performance against the annual budget and annual financial plan.
- Formulate strategies to improve Council's financial position.
- Monitor compliance with appropriate legislative and accounting standards.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- Review the income and expenditure reports, monitor progress against budget and [provide advice to Council on implications of these.

- Consider and make appropriate recommendations to Council on any matters having a significant financial impact on the Council.
- At least annually, advise Council about the adequacy of the Council's Insurance coverage.
- Determine fees and charges to be made by Council.
- Contribute to the preparation of the annual financial statement.
- Review the annual audited financial statement and auditor's report and recommend any necessary follow up.

5. MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Committee include the Mayor or Deputy Mayor and a minimum of 3 other Councillor/s appointed by Council

6. QUORUM

A quorum of the Committee is calculated as more than 50% of the total membership and must include the Chair.

7. CHAIR

The Committee shall annually appoint one of its members to be chair.

8. PROXY

In order to ensure continuity and a useful level of knowledge and experience, the Committee members are not permitted to send proxies to the meeting. The exceptions are the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, who may act as proxies for each other.

9. TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office is for the Local Government electoral term. A newly elected Council will appoint a new Committee. Should a Councillor be re-elected, he/she may serve multiple terms on the Committee if appointed by Council.

10. SELF-REVIEW

At least once a year, the Committee will devote part of the meeting to reviewing its own processes and outcomes of the preceding year.

11. MINUTES

Minutes must be kept of the decisions and actions of the Committee. Minutes will be taken by the Secretary or other designated staff member.

12. REPORTING

The minutes are to be placed on the agenda of the next available council meeting.

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

DATE ADOPTED

21. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

22. CLOSURE

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