

Council Meeting Agenda

20th May 2025

Hamilton Council Chambers

Notice of Meeting of Council – Tuesday 20th May 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, **Hamilton** on **Tuesday 20th May 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 Bothwell this **15th** day of **May 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 01/05.2025/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 – 15 APRIL 2025

RECOMMENDATION 02/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 15 April 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.

4.2 RECEIVAL OF DRAFT OF AUDIT PANEL MEETING MINUTES – 14 APRIL 2025

RECOMMENDATION 03/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Draft Minutes of the Audit Panel Meeting of Council held on Monday 14 April 2025 be received.

Attachment – Draft Minutes

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to receive the Planning Committee Minutes. Copies of the minutes have been previously circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

5. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOP(S) HELD

- 29th April 2025 and 6th May 2025

RECOMMENDATION 04/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

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

Date	Attendance	Purpose
29/4/2025	<p>Present: Mayor L Triffitt; Deputy Mayor J Allwright; Cr A Archer; Cr A Bailey; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.</p> <p>Mr Stephen Mackey (Acting General Manager) Mr Jason Branch (Works Manager) and Mrs Katrina Brazendale (Executive Assistant).</p> <p>Apologies: Nil</p>	<p><i>Discussions undertaken on the following items:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025/2026 Budget
6/5/2025	<p>Present: Mayor L Triffitt; Deputy Mayor J Allwright; Cr A Archer; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr D Meacheam and Cr Y Miller.</p> <p>Mr Stephen Mackey (Acting General Manager), Mr Graham Rogers (DES Manager), Kathy Bradburn (Senior Admin), Louisa Brown (Contract Planner), Damian Mackey (Contract Planner), Nicola Smith (Niche), Amy Longva (Niche) and Mrs Katrina Brazendale (Executive Assistant).</p> <p>Apologies: Cr A Bailey and Cr R Cassidy</p>	<p><i>Discussions undertaken on the following items:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure Plans

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).

- TBC

6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION 05/05.2025/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 15 April 2025.</i>	<i>Regulation 15 (2)(G) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.</i>
4.1	<i>Rates Remission</i>	<i>Regulation 15 (2)(G) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.</i>
4.2	<i>General Managers Performance Review Update</i>	<i>Regulation 15 (2)(G) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.</i>
4.3	<i>General Managers Reappointment</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>
<i>2.1</i>	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15 April 2025.</i>	
<i>4.1</i>	<i>Rates Remission</i>	
<i>4.2</i>	<i>General Managers Performance Review Update</i>	
<i>4.3</i>	<i>General Managers Reappointment</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

10.00 a.m. Inspector Luke Horne – Tasmania Police

10.3 PRESENTATIONS

10.20 a.m. Eve Lazarus, Josie Kelman - Nature Repair Plan and Pilot for the Derwent Catchment

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 D MEACHEAM**RECOMMENDATION 06/05.2025/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr

THAT Council make a strong representation to Telstra to improve phone, internet and associated communication connections to the Central Plateau communities

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:	May 20, 2025
Councillor Name:	David Meacheam
Proposed Motion:	That Council make a strong representation to Telstra to improve phone, internet and associated communication connections to the Central Plateau communities
Background Details:	Mobile phone and internet services to the Centra Plateau communities have long been deficient and have seriously declined since the conversion to 4G services. Mobile phone reception commonly drops out completely, particularly when visitor numbers to the Great Lake communities are high. Of particular concern are the services supporting police, ambulance, SES and fire. Over the Easter long weekend those services relying on the Telstra mobile data telecommunications network , including the ambulance in-vehicle dispatch system (I.V.I.S), the emergency cardiac arrest mobile application (<u>SmartSam</u>) and our local T.F.S fire brigade member mobile dispatch application (Bart) were not reliably functional. This exposed our community and members of the public to serious risk with delays in first response to emergency incidents. Local emergency response workers have had to resort to leaving their walkie-talkies on overnight, because they cannot rely upon phone or internet connection. Strong representations from Council to Telstra in relation to this would be appreciated by the Central Plateau communities.
Signature:	<i>David Meacheam</i>
Date:	April 30, 2025

11.2 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM**RECOMMENDATION 07/05.2025/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr

THAT Council revert to holding the open meeting of Council prior to conducting the closed session of Council.

NOTICE OF MOTION

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

Date of Meeting:	May 20, 2025
Councillor Name:	David Meacheam
Proposed Motion:	That Council revert to holding the open meeting of Council prior to conducting the closed session of Council.
Background Details:	<p>The existing procedure is to hold the closed session of Council first, with advice going to the community that the open session will likely commence at 10 AM. This approach has a number of disadvantages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). When the closed session commences at about 9 AM, and there is minimal business to be dealt with, councillors are left essentially sitting on their hands until the open session commences at 10 AM. This problem has been exacerbated since we have adopted faster processes in dealing with closed session motions. 2). If the closed session agenda is full, and extends past 10 AM, members of the public and media are left waiting outside the chamber for the open session to commence. 3). Also, if the closed session agenda is full, the 10 AM reversion to the open session may compel us to hurry through essential closed session motions and discussions.
Signature:	<i>David Meacheam</i>
Date:	5/5/2025.

11.3 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY

RECOMMENDATION 08/05.2025/C


Moved: Cr R Cassidy

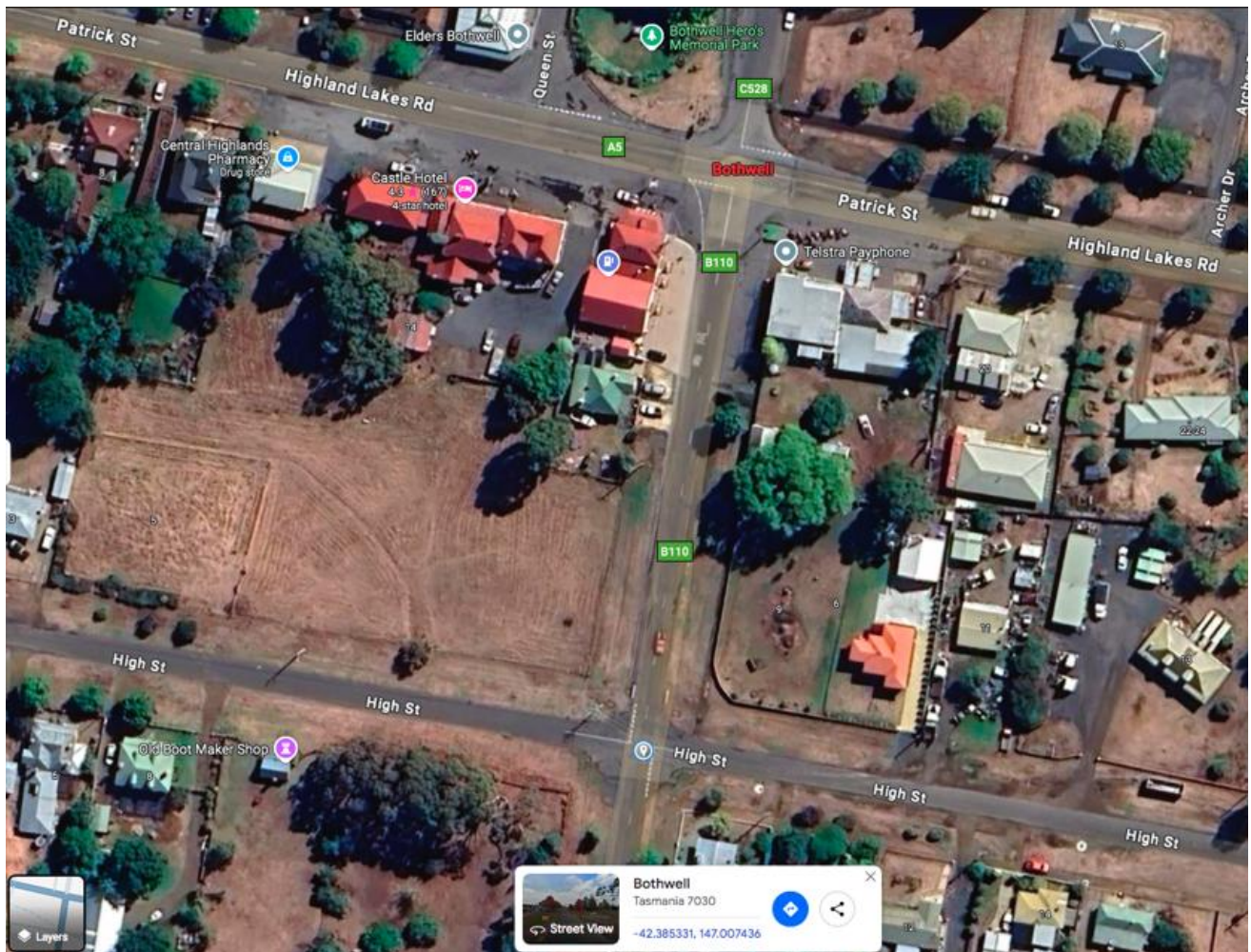
Seconded: Cr

THAT the two give ways signs on High Street, at the intersection with William Street be replaced with stop signs and the speed limit be reduced on William Street, between Patrick Street to abeam the Recreation Ground, with 40 km/h signs erected facing both directions.

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:	20 May 2025
Councillor Name:	Robert Cassidy
Proposed Motion:	<p>Propose the two Give Way signs on High Street, at the intersection with William Street be replaced with STOP signs.</p> <p>Propose the speed limit be reduced on William Street, between Patrick Street to abeam the Recreation Grounds, with 40 km/h signs erected facing <u>both</u> directions.</p>
Background Details:	<p>In an email I had sent to Council, back on 27 May 2019. In the <u>same month</u> and <u>for the same reasons</u> six years later, approximately at 8:00 a.m., this morning, there has been another accident at the intersection of William Street and High Street, Bothwell. When it is frosty and drivers cannot be bothered to scrape the frost from their vehicles' windscreens, including driver and passenger doors, and do not roll their driver-side and passenger side windows down to observe impending crossing traffic on the main road (William Street) and do not give way, at the Give Way signage, the risk of collision is very high. I strongly urge changing the Give Way signs on High Street to Stop signs. A momentary deceleration and pause at a Stop sign would prevent an accident. I have previously observed the driver of the pickup truck that caused the accident roar through the intersection, at least 50km/h, without any hesitation or consideration for vehicles on William Street approaching the intersection. Motorists most often are well above 50 km/h on William Street, including heavily loaded prime movers, necessitating the use of the truck's engine brake (Jake Brake) the full length of William Street to stop at Patrick Street.</p>
Signature:	
Date:	13 May 2025



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 09/05.2025/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

12 April 2025	Osterley Church Welcome to Community Day (Osterley) Gretna Cricket Club Trophy Presentation
15 April 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Bothwell)
25 April 2025	ANZAC Day Dawn Service (Gretna & Bothwell)
28 April 2025	Meeting with Alex Heroys – Destination Southern Tasmania
29 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)
6 May 2025	Structure Plan Workshop (Bothwell)
13 May 2025	ABC Interview

- Business of Council **11**
- Ratepayer and community members – communications **6**
- Elected Members - communications **11**
- Council Management communications **3**

Deputy Mayor J Allwright

15 April 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Bothwell)
23 April 2025	Draft Structure Plan (Bothwell)
25 April 2025	ANZAC Day Dawn Service (Fentonbury & Hamilton)
6 May 2025	Structure Plan Workshop (Bothwell)
13 May 2025	General Manager's appraisal session (Kempton)

Cr R Cassidy

15 April 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Bothwell)
29 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)

Cr J Hall

12 April 2025	Osterley Church Welcome to Community Day (Osterley)
15 April 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Bothwell)
23 April 2025	Draft Structure Plan (Bothwell)
25 April 2025	ANZAC Day Dawn Service (Gretna & Bothwell)
30 April 2025	Bush Watch Meeting (Westerway)
6 May 2025	Structure Plan Workshop (Bothwell)

Cr J Honner

12 April 2025	Osterley Church Welcome to Community Day (Osterley)
15 April 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Bothwell)
25 April 2025	ANZAC Day Dawn Service (Bothwell & Aurthur's Lake)
29 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)
5 May 2025	Anzac Commemoration BDH School
6 May 2025	Structure Plan Workshop (Bothwell)

Cr D Meacheam

14 April 2025	Audit Panel Meeting (Hamilton)
15 April 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Bothwell)
23 April 2025	Regional Planning discussions (Bothwell)
25 April 2025	ANZAC Service (Bronte Park & Miena)
29 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)
6 May 2025	Structure Plans Workshop (Bothwell)
8 May 2025	Zoom meeting relating to the State Energy Ministry, RecFit, REZ community councilors, re the Marinus Link project.
12 May 2025	Beta testing Office of Local Government online module 11, General Manager Recruitment and Performance Management.
13 May 2025	General Manager's appraisal session (Kempton)

Cr Y Miller

15 April 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting (Bothwell)
25 April 2025	ANZAC Service (Gretna & Hamilton)
29 April 2025	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)
1 May 2025	Hamilton Show Committee Meeting
6 May 2025	Structure Plans Workshop (Bothwell)

14.1 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil

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 10/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Health and Wellbeing monthly report be received.

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 **April and May**

COUNCIL CORE BUSINESSCouncil Community Grant Program

Administration of Community Grants Program, Community support fund, and School support funding.

Grant Applications

A grant application was submitted to Department of Premier and Cabinet through the Tas Active infrastructure grants on the 30 April for establishment of Gretna War Memorial Oval changerooms. Grant Application was completed by Community Development Office, in collaboration with consultant Martin Farley and in conversation with community stakeholders, particularly the Gretna Cricket Club.

- Applied for: \$500,000
- Total project cost: \$830,802.
- Co-contribution from Council: (cash) \$330,802, with \$28,802 of this having already been borne by Council for planning and development costs.
- Successful applicants nominated August

Review of Council Resident Guide – in separate reportTasmanian Tourism Industry Awards

Bothwell has been entered in the Tasmanian Tiny Towns Award <https://tict.com.au/tourism-awards-programs/tassies-top-tourism-towns/>

The submission involves writing an editorial, an itinerary, putting forward tourism impact and development case study, producing a promotional video, and providing data about tourism on-line rating.

This has been a collaboration between Community Development Officer, Nadine Cove, and Cally Lyons; with a professional involved for graphic design and videographer. Winners will be announced 1 July.

EVENTSANZAC day

7 separate ANZAC Day events held throughout the municipality. Good attendance and excellent community feedback. There was some confusion over advertised start time and ceremony at Great Lake Community Centre, which would benefit from review if to be supported by Council in 2026.

Volunteer Week

In collaboration with Rural Business Tasmania, Council is supporting a volunteer week activity on the 22 May at Bothwell Hall.

The morning session, hosted by volunteering educators, involves a workshop for local volunteer groups. This free event will support volunteer organisations to strengthen their efforts, explore leadership and succession planning, and create meaningful opportunities - while connecting community members to groups that match their passions and skills.

The afternoon session, hosted by Council will be a thank you afternoon tea and recognition for our local volunteers.

RSVPs are to be provided to Rural Business Tasmania. Please see attached, flier for further information. A calendar invite and information will be provided to Councillors.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS**1. Bothwell Childcare**

The Bothwell Community have requested Council to ask for community feedback regarding long Daycare at Bothwell. This review has commenced, and Council will be informed of response.

2. 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.

A new Project Coordinator has commenced, who is currently discussing projects with the community and clinical working group who have been involved previously. A Meeting is planned to be held in the coming month to recommence roll-out of project.

COMMUNICATION

Council social media (Facebook) update – 15-04 – 14-05

Audience: 2,664 followers. Net followers increase: 15 in last 28 day; 596 in the last year.

Posts: Tyre dumping Hollow Tree Road, Volunteer Week event, Recycle Rewards Bothwell, where to vote, ANZAC day, Health Roadshow, Bushfest.

15.2 COMMUNITY REQUEST - BOTHWELL PLAYGROUP FEE-WAIVER REQUEST**RECOMMENDATION 11/05.2025/C**

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council remit fees during 2025 for hire of Bothwell Hall by Playgroup Tasmania's for their weekly Playgroup meeting.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

BACKGROUND

At it's February meeting, Council recommended that the Bothwell Playgroup be granted fee-free use of the Bothwell Football and Community Centre for their meetings in 2025.

Following discussion with Playgroup members and Council staff, Playgroup would like to request for the group to be now based at the Bothwell Hall. This is a more suitable site owing to less use of the hall by other parties, the easy clean nature of the flooring, the ideal kitchen facilities, and the centrality of the Hall to the town.

Playgroup are looking at options for storage cupboards which can be placed in the dining area for their equipment and will discuss with council.

Playgroup propose to hold their meeting at 10am on Monday mornings – which does not conflict with any other regular use of the hall.

Playgroup have supplied their public liability and will provide an updated hire agreement following council's approval.

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.

15.3 RESIDENTS GUIDE REVIEW UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION 12/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the updated Central Highlands Residents guide be received, for consideration.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

Strategic Plan	Central Highlands Strategic Plan
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 for printing and electronic distribution.
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

Attachment – Draft Residents Kit

BACKGROUND

The current New Residents guide contains outdated information, and a new guide is being written. This has involved reviewing the content and layout.

The attached copy is still in draft format, for Councillor consideration and feedback. Still to be completed are graphic design, layout, images, and the Community Guide section of the guide.

Councillor feedback can be sent directly to the Community Development Officer, with the aim being to resubmit an updated version for consideration at the June Council meeting.

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 – APRIL 2025

RECOMMENDATION 13/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

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

REPORT BY Jason Branch, Works & Services Manager

BACKGROUND

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

Grading & Sheeting	Fourteen Mile Road, Victoria Valley Road, Strickland Road, Southern Field Road, Wihareaja Road
Maintenance Grading	Bradys Lake Road, Bronte Lagoon Road, Woodward's Bay Road, Section of Dennistoun Road
Potholing / shouldering	Wihareaja Road, Waddamana Road, Interlaken Road, Victoria Valley Road, Bronte Lagoon Road, Bradys Lake Road, Woodward's Bay Road
Spraying:	
Culverts / Drainage:	Clean culverts Waddamana Road Install culvert Robertson Road Install culvert Dennistoun Road Clean culverts 14 Mile Road
Occupational Health and safety	Monthly Toolbox Meetings Day to day JSA and daily prestart check lists completed. Monthly workplace inspections completed. Playground inspections
Bridges:	
Refuse / recycling sites:	Cover Hamilton Tip twice weekly

Other:	Repair water leaks Hamilton recreation ground Construct new cell Hamilton landfill site Construct new tip face Hamilton Landfill site Prepare all gas bottles stored at Hamilton Landfill for scrap steel Clean up and remove goods at Bothwell Waste Transfer Station Rake and remove leaves Bothwell, Hamilton and Ouse Clean up and prep on war cenotaphs for ANZAC Day Repair and paint Ouse flagpole Scrubbing Vegetation Interlaken and Tunbridge Tier Install white lines and safety barrier Thousand Acre Lane Pick up dumped rubbish 14 Mile Road Install new sign Grace Nichollas Park Ouse Install 40km repeater signs Thiessen Crescent Resealing of Bothwell town streets Resealing of Arthurs Lake Road Resealing of Wayatinah streets Trim trees main street Bothwell Replace Dennistoun Road Street blade 4 x drum musters Purchase of the new JCB backhoe for the Hamilton Works Depot Extend road into recreation ground Refurbish bus shelter Gully Road Pick up rubbish dumped at roadside bins.
Slashing:	Tor Hill Road Nant Lane Woodsprings Road
Municipal Town Maintenance:	Collection of town rubbish twice weekly Maintenance of parks, cemetery, recreation ground and Caravan Park. Cleaning of public toilets, gutters, drains and footpaths. Collection of rubbish twice weekly Cleaning of toilets and public facilities General maintenance Mowing of towns and parks Town Drainage
Buildings:	Replace toilets systems Bethune and Dunrobbin
Plant:	Repairs to mower trailer PM705 Mack truck serviced and repairs PM720 Dog trailer new axle and welding repairs PM843 Toyota Hilux serviced PM740 Hino truck serviced PM794 JCB Backhoe hose repair
Private Works:	R V Bowden and Son truck and trailer and loader hire
Casuals	Toilets, rubbish and Hobart Hamilton general duties
Program for next 4 weeks	Sheeting and grading of Municipal Roads Cleaning of culverts Municipal Roads

16.2 TELSTRA PHONE SERVICE MIENA

RECOMMENDATION 14/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council note the correspondence forwarded to Telstra by the Volunteer Ambulance coordinator and the response from Mr Michael Patterson Regional General Manager and Ms Vicki Bradt Chief Executive Officer. Further that Council Write to the Chief Executive Officer of Telstra asking that a firm date for a meeting with Mr Patterson be provided together with a timeline for the completion of the works as proposed by Telstra.

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, Acting General Manager

DISCUSSION

The Volunteer Ambulance Association wrote to the following regarding the poor performance of the Telstra Infrastructure at Miena.

Ms Vicki Brady Chief Executive Office Telstra Corporation.

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications.

Ms. Cynthia Gebert, Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman

Senator Wendy Askew Senator for Tasmania.

Mr Colin Triffitt Brigade Captain Great Lake Volunteer Fire Brigade

Australian Broadcasting Corporation, ABC Centre, Hobart Tasmania.

The letter in part is as follows:

On behalf of the Central Highlands Volunteer Ambulance Association members, I am writing to formally and strongly express the extreme dissatisfaction and concern of our members and the residents of Miena, Tasmania regarding the consistently poor and, at times, non-existent telecommunications services provided by Telstra.

Specifically, over the period spanning from Easter Long Weekend (commencing April 18th, 2025) through to the Anzac Day long weekend (concluding 27th, April 2025) Telstra's mobile voice, SMS, and data service in Miena were practically non-functional. This widespread outage severely impacted the daily lives of residents and created significant difficulties for the numerous visitors to our region during this peak holiday period.

The lack of reliable communications has dire consequences, extending beyond mere inconvenience. It creates challenges for basic communication, access to information, and, most alarmingly, poses a potential risk to the effectiveness of emergency services in our community.

Regrettably, this recent period of near-total service failure is not an isolated incident. It reflects a concerning trend of poor service delivery from Telstra in Miena over the past several years especially since the decommissioning of your 3G GSM network. Residents, including our dedicated emergency service volunteers, are understandably aggrieved by this persistent lack of reliable telecommunications infrastructure.

Telstra responded as follows:

Vicki Brady

Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for your letter, received in my office 30 April, regarding telecommunication services in your area. I appreciate your feedback and understand the frustration and disappointment you and other residents in Miena are experiencing.

I can assure you that I understand how important connectivity is, particularly for those living in regional and remote areas. Your concerns are being taken seriously, and I have shared your letter with our Regional General Manager for Tasmania, Michael Patterson, who will be investigating the matter further. Michael will be in touch with you soon to provide a more detailed response and address your concerns,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We appreciate your patience as we work to resolve this issue.

Michael Patterson
Regional General Manager

Thank you for your correspondence to Telstra's Chief Executive Officer Vicki Brady. Our team has undertaken a review of the performance of the mobile site that serves the Miena community, and we can see that the site is heavily used and does suffer congestion during peak times over long weekend.

Demand on the mobile network are growing year on year, and we are prioritising an investment at the site next financial year. We will work to deliver an upgrade prior to Christmas.

Our plan is to upgrade the hardware at the mobile site to enable more efficient transmission of the mobile signal and provide additional frequencies of spectrum adding more capacity to the network.

Once the upgrade occurs, it will enable the site to utilise the spectrum previously used for 3G now for 4G and 5G. This will add additional capacity to the network to accommodate the demand from residents and visitors to the region.

We will also conduct a community visit to the region in spring and communicate our plans to the community.

Thank you for taking the time to share your experience. We will be in touch with you prior to when we conduct a community visit latter this year.

It would appear from the correspondence from Michael Patterson that thy already know there is an issue and have a way to possibly fixit. Why do we then have to wait till Christmas when they could commence the works now and then by Christmas they would have ironed out any problems to ensure it is functional and provides the necessary performance that is needed.

16.3 SOLAR POWER AND HIGH EFFICIENCY LED LIGHTING TO COUNCIL BUILDINGS

RECOMMENDATION 15/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council undertake further investigations costs for the installation of Solar Power to Council buildings and for the installation of high efficiency LED Lighting to replace the fluorescent lights in all council properties.

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, Acting General Manager

DISCUSSION

Council at its Meeting in 18 June 2019 resolved as follows:

That the DES Manager provide a report to Council on the cost benefits (including the savings on power costs) associated with installing solar power to the Bothwell Office, Hamilton Office and the combined Visitor Information Centre (Including the Golf Museum, Visitors Link and Historical Rooms).

Mr David Livingston from Energy ROI provide a detailed report on the 8th August 2019 stating as follows:

I have reviewed the data from Aurora and have come up with a few ideas for you to save money, currently it looks like you spend about \$40,000/year on electricity.

Things you can do straight away to save money

1. Change retailer to 1st energy (save \$2,000/year no contract just month to month) or accept a 2-year contract with Aurora and promise not to change retailers (save \$600/year).
2. Change existing lighting to high efficiency LED – generally has a payback of 3-4 years.

HAMILTON

The Hamilton office is the biggest energy guzzler and uses most of that power in the winter so improving insulation and electric heaters with heat pump/ reverse cycle air conditioners will likely yield the best financial rewards. You could install solar there, but my gut instinct tells heating is the reason for the high electricity cost. If we install solar, they really only offsets the summer energy costs which are already very reasonable. My best guess is heating represents about \$4,500 + GST/year at the site and if improving the efficiency of heating by insulating and installing heat pumps could drop that by 70% that would represent a saving of \$3,150 + GST.

I'd Assume a 5–6-year payback on capital is possible so if the council budgeted \$15,750 to \$18,900 + GST you should get good value. If it costs more than that probably not.

Solar at Hamilton could work – I'd suggest a 10kw to 12kw solar system would be the largest size to consider. A Quality system would likely cost \$16,000 to \$18,000 + GST and give a 5-7-year payback. A smaller 5kw to 7kw system for about \$8,000 to \$10,000 + GST is worth considering too.

BOTHWELL

Similar to Hamilton – if any offices are used daily (or at least 5 days a week) then look at heating efficiency and solar but only 5kw systems which will likely save you \$1,000/year. Going larger than that isn't recommended. Similarly for sites that have little daytime energy use solar is not the answer. If you want us to put together a more formal report, we can do that. Similarly, we can help you with design and implementation or any of the suggestions above. I think the next thing you need to do is find out what budget is available.

If a 7-year payback is acceptable and the aim was to cut electricity bills by 20% can council find \$56,000. Similarly, if we are aiming to cut the bills 10% can you find \$28,000?

16.4 HAULAGE HILL BREONA

RECOMMENDATION 16/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council;

- a) inform the Haulage Road Ratepayers Group that Council will comply with their request that for a trial period of no less than 18 months, commencing from December 2024, Central Highlands Council cease all high-standard maintenance of the surface of Haulage Road, with the exception of emergency repairs, over that time, the surface of Haulage Road be allowed to deteriorate naturally. The trial period will end in June 2026, at which time the results of the trial will be evaluated by Central Highlands Council and Haulage Road Ratepayers.
- b) re-align the entry points to Haulage Road on the condition that Council is successful in obtaining a grant under the Safer Rural Roads Programme.

DISCUSSION

In February 2024, after years of complaining as individuals, Haulage Road Ratepayers united as a Group and brought our concerns to the attention of the Central Highlands Council, Tasmania Police and Tas Roads.

Since that time nothing has been done to address our concerns about Haulage Road and the problems are getting worse.

17/19 shacks are members of the Haulage Road Ratepayers Group. (HRR)

Haulage Road was rocky, uneven and slow for more than 30 years before it was upgraded. Vehicles were rare because the highway was a faster route to take through the area.

Once it was upgraded in 2008 Haulage Road became a smooth, well-maintained road that was faster than the highway route with its 3-hairpin bends. It has become a short-cut, at our expense.

Back in 2008 no one could have predicted the impact the upgrade would have on the shack owners, especially those closest to the main section of Haulage Road.

“We want our children and grandchildren to be able to go for a walk.”

“A semi-truck went down Haulage Road at 2 o'clock this morning. I didn't buy my shack up here to put up with that”.

From early 2025, following discussions with HRR, the 21 original suggestions put forward to Council, Police and Roads were narrowed down to 6. The shack owners were then asked to vote on whether or not they supported the suggestions. Those 6 suggestions are:

- Re-align the entry points to force a slowdown.
- Make Haulage Road One-way (either up or down).
- That Central Highlands Council reconsider the use of speed humps.
- That the residents Only 5T Limit signs include the words Penalties Apply.
- That Central Highlands Council include the works it undertakes on Haulage Road twice a year, in its monthly report.

- That for a trial period of no less than 18 months, commencing from December 2024, Central Highlands Council cease all high-standard maintenance of the surface of Haulage Road, with the exception of emergency repairs, over that time, the surface of Haulage Road be allowed to deteriorate naturally. The trial period will end in June 2026, at which time the results of the trial will be evaluated by Central Highlands Council and Haulage Road Ratepayers.

Voting was conducted on the basis of one vote per shack. Where there are multiple owners of a single shack and individual owners replied, their votes aligned and were counted as one vote.

RESULTS

Total Votes received	=19
Individual Shacks that voted	=17
Shacks that voted for their preferences (Only)	= 2

16/17 are in favour of the realignment of the entry points to Haulage Road.

14/16 are in favour of Haulage Road being one way.

17/17 are in favour of speed humps.

15/15 are in favour of Penalties Apply being added to signage.

15/15 are in favour of Council reporting Haulage Road Roadworks.

13/15 are in favour of an 18-month trial of low maintenance.

Overwhelmingly, the respondents mentioned Pedestrian Safety and Speeding Vehicles as their major concerns. At the narrow points of Haulage Road, vehicles can be close as an arm's length from pedestrians.

Even though a majority are in favour of Haulage Road being one way, some prefer it to be uphill, others down. Should one way option be adopted by council, it would be prudent to poll Haulage Road Residents again to determine preferences. The one-way option will be problematic when the highway is damaged (as it was in winter 2024) and the only route through the area is via Haulage Road (in both directions).

Speed humps received the highest number of votes. They would allow the traffic to move in either direction and address the serious issues of speeding and pedestrian safety. Council has previously rejected this idea, and if this is the case again, we would like to know why. We strongly believe in this solution and are prepared to take it further to seek an exemption to any rule or regulation that prohibits their use on this road.

While it has its quite times, the traffic movements on Haulage Road increase dramatically on weekends, long weekends, when it snows or when the highway is closed, in winter 2024 the Highway was closed for weeks before works even started. During one week of that chaos, traffic lights were used at the middle cul-de-sac of Haulage Road, to prevent vehicles meeting head-on at the narrow points. A French-style drain under Haulage Road was also damaged during this time, and water is now leaking to the surface.

The covenant's attached to properties in the area prohibit fencing. The original shack owners contributed tens of thousands of dollars towards infrastructure when they were granted freehold title. To ask them to contribute more money to resolve the problems would be offensive.

Haulage Road is subject to a 5-tonne vehicle limit to protect the drains and pipes that run underneath it. The residents only sign was erected to protect the amenity of this once quite little road and ensure the safety of pedestrians and shack owners. Both signs are ignored.

we urge you to revisit the written report and the audio/visual file we prepared for council, Police and Roads in February 2024. In those files you will see many examples we provided of accidents, harassment of pedestrians, speeding vehicles, over-weight vehicles and more.

It may be necessary for Council, Police and Roads to adopt more than one of our suggestions because some, on their own, will not restrict the number of nuisance vehicles and more.

It may be necessary for Council, Police and Roads to adopt more than one of our suggestions because some, on their own, will not restrict the number of nuisance vehicles or the speed they travel.

We urge Central Highlands Council Tas Police and Tas Roads to work with us to find a permanent solution. Our safety depends on it.

Section 31 of the Local Government Highways Act

Obstructions for prohibition or restriction of vehicle traffic

- (1) A corporation may, with the approval of the Transport Commission, construct or place obstructions in a Local Highway for the purpose of preventing or restricting the movement of vehicular traffic.
- (2) Before making an application under this section for the approval of the Transport Commission, the corporation shall cause a notice to be published twice in separate issues of a local paper circulating in the municipality of the intention to make the application, specifying the situation and nature of the obstruction and stating that written representations may be made to the corporation with respect to the matter before such day as is specified in the notice, being a day not earlier than 28 days after first publication.
- (3) The Transport Commission shall not give its approval under this section in respect of an obstruction unless there has been submitted to the Commission a copy of the notice published under subsection (2), together with evidence that it has been published as required by that subsection and copies of any representations made to the corporation in accordance with this notice and its comments on those representations.
- (4) This section does not apply to the installation of a road hump within the meaning of section 49A of the Traffic Act 1925.

Section 49A of the Traffic Act

Installation of road humps

- (1) In this section

Road Authority means a person, body corporate or body politic responsible for designing, constructing, maintaining or managing roads;

Road hump means a section of raised pavement constructed or placed in or on, and across or partly across, a road to restrict the speed of vehicles along that road.

- (2) The Commission may issue written directions in relation to road humps, or proposed road humps, on public streets.
- (3) A direction referred to in subsection (2) may be issued to the following:
 - (a) A road authority
 - (b) Any other person or class of persons.
- (4) A road authority or person to whom a direction under subsection (2) is issued must comply with that direction.

MANAGEMENT COMMENT

Council has made application under the Safer Rural Roads program to realign the entry points of Haulage Road. This option had based on the survey support from 16 of the 17 who responded to the most reason survey. The applications for this round of grants closes on the 16th May 2025

Another option which gained the support of all those who responded to the latest survey was for the installation of speed humps. This option would appear to require the approval of the Transport Commission and would also cause some issues for council workforce when maintenance grading of this road was undertaken.

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, Council's 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 30 APRIL 2025

RECOMMENDATION 17/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Monthly Finance Report to 30 April 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

BACKGROUND

Financial Expenditure Analysis Report - For the Period Ended 30 April 2025

April 2025 Expenditure Report – Financial Analysis

Overview

For the period ending April 30, 2025, this report provides a detailed analysis of operating and capital expenditures across all departments. Year-to-date actual spending is compared against the full-year 2024/2025 budget, highlighting variances and particularly focusing on areas where expenditures exceed budget allocations. All figures are drawn from the April 2025 Expenditure Report.

Overall, total operating expenditure to April 30 is \$6,133,377 against a total annual budget of \$6,955,426 – approximately 88.2% of the budget utilized, with \$822,049. Total capital expenditure year-to-date is \$3,038,952 versus an annual capital budget of \$5,117,085 (about 59.4% of budget), leaving \$2,078,133.

Corporate & Financial Services

Operating Expenditure

Operating expenditures for Corporate & Financial Services total \$2,032,408 year-to-date, against an annual budget of \$2,250,194 (approximately 90.3% of the budget spent, with \$217,786 remaining). This indicates that, overall, the department is operating slightly under its allocated budget. Most functional areas are within budget (each at or below 91% of their annual allocation). For example, the main administrative cost centre (Hamilton administration) has used 91.3% of its budget so far (\$1,707,137 actual vs \$1,870,264 budget).

However, two notable operating areas in this department are over budget as of April 30:

- **Community & Economic Development & Relations** – This program has expended 111.9% of its annual budget (Actual \$515,129 vs Budget \$460,441, an overrun of ~\$54,688). This means spending in this area has exceeded the full-year allocation by about 11.9%.
- **Oncosts (Overhead Recoveries/Allocations)** – Recorded at 109.1% of budget (Actual -\$543,426 vs Budget -\$498,049). The negative values indicate internal cost recoveries; in this case, overhead costs allocated to projects have exceeded what was planned by \$45,377 (i.e. more overhead was absorbed than budgeted).

All other operational line items in Corporate & Financial Services remain below their budgeted levels (generally between 77% and 89% of budget spent), indicating no further over-expenditure issues in those areas as of April.

Capital Expenditure

Capital spending for Corporate & Financial Services is relatively low in absolute terms. Year-to-date, the department has spent \$35,955 out of a \$51,500 capital budget, which is 69.8% of the annual capital allocation (leaving \$15,545). All capital projects in this department are within budget. The primary capital outlay has been for Computer Purchases, with \$35,955 spent against a \$41,500 budget (approximately 86.6). Two other budgeted capital lines – Equipment and Miscellaneous – totalling \$10,000 remain unused (0% spent). There are no over-budget capital items in Corporate & Financial Services; spending is proceeding within the limits set for the year.

Development & Environmental Services

Operating Expenditure

Operating expenditures for Development & Environmental Services amount to \$1,609,135 year-to-date, against an annual budget of \$1,900,763 (84.7% of budget spent, with \$291,628 remaining). This overall department spend is under the pro-rata budget for April, indicating a generally positive variance (underspend) at the aggregate level. Notably, several significant programs are well within budget – for instance, Environmental Protection has used only 6.6% of its funds so far (Actual \$2,744 of \$41,357 budget), and Waste Services is at 92.5% (just under the budgeted run rate).

Despite the overall underspend, two operational areas in this department are over the annual budget as of April:

- **Animal Control** – Spending is at 120.1% of the annual allocation (Actual \$13,662 vs Budget \$11,375), meaning about \$2,287 above the full-year budget has been incurred. This represents an overspend in animal management costs.
- **Swimming Pools** – Expenditure has reached 142.9% of the budget (Actual \$43,231 vs Budget \$30,241), exceeding the annual allocation by \$12,990. This indicates substantially higher pool operating costs than anticipated for the year.

All other operating categories in Development & Environmental Services are within their budget limits. For example, Development Control (planning services) has used 71.2% of its funds (\$250,619 of \$351,850), and Waste Management (garbage and recycling services) is at 92.5% of budget (\$859,227 of \$928,956). These figures show remaining capacity in most programs and no additional over-budget issues beyond the two noted areas.

Capital Expenditure

Development & Environmental Services has minimal capital expenditure for the year. Only \$1,870 has been spent against a \$5,000 capital budget (just 37.4% of the allocation, leaving

\$3,130). The sole capital project in this department is related to the Swimming Pool (e.g. pool facility improvements), and it remains under budget – with \$1.87k spent out of \$5k.

Works & Services

Operating Expenditure

Works & Services shows year-to-date operating spending of \$2,491,834 against an annual budget of \$2,804,469 (88.9% of budget expended, with \$312,635). In aggregate, this department's operational spending is on the higher side but still under the total budget as of April. Many core activities are near but not over their targets – for example, Road Maintenance has used 88.6% of its funds so far (\$935,614 of \$1,056,382) and Town Maintenance (mowing/streetscapes) is at 88.1% (\$170,362 of \$193,285). Some areas are significantly under-utilized (e.g. Public Conveniences at only 55.6% of budget) or have seen little spending to date (Emergency Services at 15.2%). This indicates that, while the overall spend is relatively high for 10 months into the year, it is balanced by underspending in certain activities.

Several specific operational line items in Works & Services are over budget at April's end:

- **Halls Maintenance** – 120.6% of the annual budget expended (Actual \$97,378 vs Budget \$80,732), an overrun of \$16,646. Costs for community halls have exceeded the full-year allocation.
- **Parks & Gardens** – 127.4% of budget used (Actual \$123,650 vs Budget \$97,057, exceeded by \$26,593). Park and garden maintenance expenses have significantly surpassed the yearly budget.
- **Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters** – 127.5% of budget used (Actual \$17,609 vs Budget \$13,813, over by \$3,796). Spending on footpath/kerb maintenance is above the allocated amount.
- **Supervision & Indirect Overheads** – 105.3% of budget (Actual \$855,387 vs Budget \$812,468, a \$42,919 overrun). Supervision & Indirect Overheads figures are not correct as Plant hire journal required to overlook again.

Aside from these exceptions, other Works & Services operations remain within budget. Notably, Road Maintenance (as mentioned) and Bridge Maintenance (37.7% of budget used) are under budget, and areas like Public Conveniences (PC) are only partially utilized (55.6% used). This pattern suggests that the department's overall budget pressure is largely due to the handful of specific programs listed above, whereas many other programs have expenditure headroom remaining in the final two months of the fiscal year.

Capital Expenditure

Works & Services oversees the largest capital works program. As of April, \$3,001,127 has been spent on capital projects out of a \$5,060,585 budget, which is 59.3% of the

department's capital budget utilized (about \$2,059,458 remaining unspent). In general, the capital works are under budget year-to-date, as a significant portion of funds (over 40%) remains available heading into the last part of the year. Major infrastructure projects are in progress but not yet fully expended. For example, Road Construction & Reseals has used 58.1% of its allocation so far (\$1.696 million of \$2.918 million), leaving roughly \$1.22 million to be spent.

One notable over-budget item in Works & Services capital is the Bridges program. No budget was set for bridge works this year, yet an actual expenditure of \$18,065 has been. This results in a negative variance of \$18,065, as these costs were unplanned in the capital budget. All other capital projects are within their budget limits. In fact, many show substantial underspend on April 30 – for instance, Recreation Grounds improvements are at 54.1% of budget (\$308,257 spent of \$570,000), and Buildings capital works (for facilities) are at 43.8% (\$196,706 of \$449,000). This indicates that a significant portion of the Works & Services capital program is scheduled for the remaining months or is in progress, with funds still available. Importantly, apart from the Bridges item, no capital project in Works & Services has overspent its annual budget as of April – all are either on track or under budget in terms of year-to-date expenditure.

Rates Reconciliation as at 30 April 2025

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
<i>Rates in Debit 30th June</i>	\$135,606.82	\$196,877.36
<i>Rates in Credit 30th June</i>	<i>-\$171,244.88</i>	<i>-\$145,341.00</i>
<i>Balance 30th June</i>	<i>-\$35,638.06</i>	<i>\$51,536.36</i>
Rates Raised	\$4,486,365.49	\$4,729,920.23
Penalties Raised	\$42,213.36	\$48,976.76
Supplementaries/Debit Adjustments	\$21,061.41	\$27,859.53
Total Raised	\$4,549,640.26	\$4,806,756.52
<i>Less:</i>		
Receipts to Date	\$4,082,711.47	\$4,479,075.96
Credit Journals		\$19,768.23
Pensioner Rate Remissions	\$119,626.72	\$130,435.03
Remissions/Supplementary Credits	\$18,651.14	\$10,566.41
<i>Balance</i>	<i>\$293,012.87</i>	<i>\$218,447.25</i>

Bank Reconciliation as at 30 April 2025

	2024	2025
Balance Brought Forward	\$6,550,926.19	\$5,024,895.10
Receipts for month	\$871,940.33	\$619,996.86
Expenditure for month	\$1,079,678.94	\$1,407,951.90
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance	\$6,343,187.58	\$4,236,940.06
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Represented By:		
Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$1,613,439.91	\$675,709.92
Balance Westpac Bank	\$252,678.98	\$374,587.74
CBA Credit Card		\$1,728.56
Investments	\$4,476,518.69	\$3,184,363.84
Petty Cash & Floats	\$550.00	\$550.00
		<hr/>
	\$6,343,187.58	\$4,236,940.06
Plus Unbanked Money		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$6,343,187.58	\$4,236,940.06
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$0.00	
Unreceipted amounts on bank statements	\$0.00	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$6,343,187.58	\$4,236,940.06
	<hr/>	<hr/>

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 30 April 2025

No.	Bank Accounts	Investment Period	Current Interest Rate %	Due Date	<u>BALANCE</u>	
					2024	2025
11100	Cash at Bank and on Hand					
11105	Bank 01 - Commonwealth - General Trading Account				1,433,345.25	675,709.92
1118	CBA Credit Card					2,278.56
11106	Bank 02 - Westpac - Direct Deposit Account				167,900.99	374,587.74
11199	TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND				1,601,246.24	1,052,576.22
11200	Investments					
11207	Bank 6	0	0.00		0.00	0.00
11207	Bank 5	0	0.00		3,101,930.88	0.00
11115	Bank 04	30	4.25%	2/04/2025	-	1,006,894.87
11110	Tascorp	91	4.10%	29/07/2025	82,259.93	87,584.40
11115	Bank 16	30	4.22%	23/05/2025	2,227,431.27	2,089,884.57
11299	TOTAL INVESTMENTS				5,411,622.08	3,184,363.84
TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS AND CASH ON HAND					7,012,868.32	4,236,940.06

Comprehensive Income Statement

30/04/2025

	Budget 2023-2024	Actual to date prior year	Actual to Date	Budget 2024-2025
Recurrent Income				
Rates Charges	\$4,469,863	\$4,477,140	\$4,717,569	\$4,682,233
User Fees	\$355,450	\$211,519	\$381,220	\$494,250
Grants - Operating	\$124,860	\$274,432	\$340,402	\$30,000
Other Revenue	\$453,200	\$616,696	\$535,833	\$704,366
Grants received in Advance	\$2,998,566	\$3,031,386	\$2,782,241	\$3,206,515
Total Revenues	\$8,401,939	\$8,611,173	\$8,757,265	\$9,117,364
Expenditure				
Employee Benefits	\$2,553,663	\$1,997,782	\$2,303,458	\$2,584,261
Materials and Services	\$2,012,016	\$1,965,818	\$2,229,085	\$2,447,768
Other Expenses	\$1,715,852	\$1,364,650	\$1,503,743	\$1,892,738
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$2,260,000	\$1,606,545	\$2,104,785	\$2,327,800
Total Expenditure	\$8,541,531	6,934,795	8,141,071	9,252,567
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	(139,592)	1,676,378	616,194	(135,203)
Capital Grants & Other	\$2,407,078	\$554,876	\$1,525,149	\$2,424,996
Surplus(Deficit)	2,267,486	2,231,254	2,141,343	2,289,793
Capital Expenditure	\$8,107,503	\$2,868,410	\$3,038,952	\$5,117,085

	BUDGET	ACTUAL TO	% OF BUDGET	BALANCE OF
	2024/2025	30-Apr-25	SPENT	BUDGET
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES				
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$1,870,264	\$1,707,137	91.28%	\$163,127
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$256,040	\$228,702	89.32%	\$27,338
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$127,141	\$97,979	77.06%	\$29,162
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$34,357	\$26,886	78.25%	\$7,471
ONCOSTS	(\$498,049)	(\$543,426)	109.11%	\$45,377
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	\$460,441	\$515,129	111.88%	(\$54,688)
TOTAL CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$2,250,194	\$2,032,408	90.32%	\$217,786
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES				
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$321,446	\$285,848	88.93%	\$35,598
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$33,455	\$26,397	78.90%	\$7,058
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$11,375	\$13,662	120.11%	(\$2,287)
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$182,083	\$127,407	69.97%	\$54,676
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$30,241	\$43,231	142.95%	(\$12,990)
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$351,850	\$250,619	71.23%	\$101,231
WASTE SERVICES	\$928,956	\$859,227	92.49%	\$69,729
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	\$41,357	\$2,744	6.63%	\$38,613
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	\$1,900,763	\$1,609,135	84.66%	\$291,628
WORKS AND SERVICES				
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$287,145	\$159,534	55.56%	\$127,611
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$16,732	\$14,290	85.41%	\$2,442
HALLS (HALL)	\$80,732	\$97,378	120.62%	(\$16,646)
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$97,057	\$123,650	127.40%	(\$26,593)
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+tennis)	\$119,900	\$107,959	90.04%	\$11,941
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$193,285	\$170,362	88.14%	\$22,923
HOUSING (HOU)	\$116,424	\$112,157	96.34%	\$4,267
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$18,884	\$15,220	80.60%	\$3,664
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$2,346	\$1,687	71.90%	\$659
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$1,056,382	\$935,614	88.57%	\$120,768
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$13,813	\$17,609	127.48%	(\$3,796)
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,026	\$8,675	37.68%	\$14,351
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$50,743	\$20,264	39.93%	\$30,480
SUPER. & ID OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$812,468	\$855,387	105.28%	(\$42,919)
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(\$181,998)	(\$64,812)	35.61%	(\$117,186)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$128,847	\$125,749	97.60%	\$3,098
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$305	15.23%	\$1,696
PLANT MITCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$640,571	\$510,354	79.67%	\$130,217
PLANT INCOME	(\$756,571)	(\$793,964)	104.94%	\$37,393
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$42,124	\$41,820	99.28%	\$304
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$40,559	\$27,719	68.34%	\$12,840
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$0	\$4,878		(\$4,878)
FLOOD REPAIRS		\$0		
TOTAL WORKS & SERVICES	\$2,804,469	\$2,491,834	88.85%	\$312,635
DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES				
Corporate Services	\$2,250,194	\$2,032,408	90.32%	\$217,786
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$1,900,763	\$1,609,135	84.66%	\$291,628
Works & Services	\$2,804,469	\$2,491,834	88.85%	\$312,635
Total All Operating	\$6,955,426	\$6,133,377	88.18%	\$822,049

	BUDGET 2024/2025	ACTUAL TO 30-Apr-25	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE				
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES				
Computer Purchases	\$41,500	\$35,955	86.64%	\$5,545
Equipment	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
Miscellaneous	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%	\$5,000
	\$51,500	\$35,955	69.82%	\$15,545
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES				
Swimming Pool	\$5,000	\$1,870	37.40%	\$3,130
	\$5,000	\$1,870	37.40%	(\$4,182)
WORKS & SERVICES				
Plant Purchases	\$760,000	\$709,215	93.32%	\$50,785
Camping Grounds	\$0	\$0		\$0
Public Conveniences	\$150,000	\$0	0.00%	\$150,000
Bridges	\$0	\$18,065	0.00%	(\$18,065)
Road Construction & Reseals	\$2,918,000	\$1,695,573	58.11%	\$1,222,427
Drainage	\$20,000	\$4,898	0.00%	\$15,102
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$11,440	\$239	2.09%	\$11,201
Infrastructure	\$82,145	\$28,235	34.37%	\$53,910
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$40,000	\$28,185	70.46%	\$11,815
Rec Grounds	\$570,000	\$308,257	54.08%	\$261,743
Halls	\$60,000	\$11,755	19.59%	\$48,245
Buildings	\$449,000	\$196,706	43.81%	\$252,294
	\$5,060,585	\$3,001,127	59.30%	\$2,059,458
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS				
Corporate Services	\$51,500	\$35,955	69.82%	\$15,545
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$5,000	\$1,870	37.40%	\$3,130
Works & Services	\$5,060,585	\$3,001,127	59.30%	\$2,059,458
	\$5,117,085	\$3,038,952	59.39%	\$2,078,133

17.2 DOG REGISTRATION SCHEDULE OF FEES

RECOMMENDATION 18/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council adopt the following Dog Registration Schedule of Fees for 2025/2026.

Description	Paid by 31 July 2025	Paid after 31 July 2025
Domestic Dog (Desexed)	\$26.00	\$50.00
Domestic Dog (not Desexed)	\$50.00	\$86.00
Pensioner (1 st dog only)	\$15.00	\$26.00
Working Dog (used for the purpose of working farm stock)	\$15.00	\$26.00
Hunting Dog (used to flush game)	\$15.00	\$26.00
Greyhound (TGRA registered)	\$15.00	\$26.00
Registered Breeding Dog (TCA Registered & Dog Owner)	\$15.00	\$26.00
Special Assistance Dog (Guide Dog / Hearing Dog)	Nil	Nil
Declared Dangerous Dog	\$1,799.00	\$1,799.00
Kennel Licence Application Fee	\$62.00	
Kennel Licence Renewal Fee	\$39.00	
Impounding Reclaim Fee (First Offence)	\$26.00	
Impounding Reclaim Fee (Subsequent Offences)	\$50.00	
Pound Maintenance Fee	\$15.00 per day	
Replacement Tag (Metal Lifetime Tag)	\$7.00	
Dog Surrender Fee	\$120.00	
Formal Notice of Complaint Fee	\$60.00 (Refundable)	

REPORT BY Graham Rogers, Manager DES

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Dog Management Policy Council must determine all fees payable under the *Dog Control Act 2000*. The schedule of fees is to be set annually and is to be in line with the financial year, i.e. 1st July to 30th June.

CURRENT SITUATION

It is being proposed to apply a 5.13% increase (rounded to the nearest dollar) to the fees for 2025/2026 as follows:

	Paid by 31 July		Paid after 31 July	
	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26
Domestic Dog (Desexed)	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$48.00	\$50.00
Domestic Dog (not Desexed)	\$48.00	\$50.00	\$82.00	\$86.00
Pensioner (1 st dog only)	\$14.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$26.00
Working Dog (used for the purpose of working farm stock)	\$14.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$26.00
Hunting Dog (used to flush game)	\$14.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$26.00
Greyhound (TGRA registered)	\$14.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$26.00
Registered Breeding Dog (TCA Registered & Dog Owner holding current membership of the TCA)	\$14.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$26.00

Special Assistance Dog (Guide Dog / Hearing Dog)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Declared Dangerous Dog	\$1,711.00	\$1,799.00	\$1,711.00	\$1,799.00

	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26
Kennel Licence Application Fee	\$59.00	\$62.00
Kennel Licence Renewal Fee	\$37.00	\$39.00
Impounding Reclaim Fee (First Offence)	\$25.00	\$26.00
Impounding Reclaim Fee (Subsequent Offences)	\$48.00	\$50.00
Pound Maintenance Fee	\$14.00 per day	\$15.00 per day
Replacement Tag (Metal Lifetime Tag)	\$7.00	\$7.00
Dog Surrender Fee	\$114.00	\$120.00
Formal Notice of Complaint Fee	\$57.00 (Refundable)	\$60.00 (Refundable)

17.3 RENEWAL ELECTRIC HIGHWAY TASMANIA SITE AGREEMENT DERWENT BRIDGE

RECOMMENDATION 19/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council approve the Acting General Manager to sign the renewal of the Lease Agreement between Electric Highway Tasmania and Central Highlands Council.

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	Policy 2022–63 Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation
Legislative Context	Local Government Act 1993
Consultation	Council's Senior Management Team
Impact on Budget/Resources	As per 24/25 Council approved budget
Risk	The council must ensure that it meets its legislative and governance responsibilities as per the Local Government Act 1993.

REPORT BY Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager

Attachments

- Renewal of the Lease Agreement between Electric Highway Tasmania and Central Highlands Council (DRAFT); and
- Letter from Mr Clive Attwater, Managing Director of Electric Highway Tasmania dated the 4 April 2025.

BACKGROUND

A letter has been received from Mr Clive Attwater, Managing Director of Electric Highway Tasmania on the 4 April 2025 asking to renew the lease agreement for the license to operate electric charging facilities at 11570 Lyell Highway, Derwent Bridge, for a further five (5) years in accordance with clause 6 of the lease agreement dated the 17 June 2020.

Mr Attwater states that the use of the site at Derwent Bridge has grown gradually since installation nearly five years ago but is still subsidised from their operations elsewhere. They anticipate that in two to three years' time the site will be financially viable.

A lease agreement between Electric Highway Tasmania and Central Highlands Council was approved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in January 2020:

Moved: Cllr J Honner

Seconded: Cllr R Cassidy

***That** Council approve the General Manager to sign and seal the redrafted Lease Agreement between Electric Highway Tasmania and Central Highlands Council.*

CARRIED

FOR the Motion:

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

This agreement allowed all parties to the agreement to work co-operatively on the operation and maintenance of the charging station at Derwent Bridge.

17.4 COMMUNITY DONATION REQUEST - OUSE COUNTRY CLUB CARPET**RECOMMENDATION 20/05.2025/C****Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr

THAT Council contribute \$700 to Ouse Country Club to contribute towards update to carpet from the Community Grants allocation.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

BACKGROUND

Council have received a Community Grant Application from Ouse Country Club.

The Club is currently seeking support for replacement of the 35-year-old carpet in the Golf Club Building, with the intention of replacing with hard wearing carpet which will improve the function and appeal of the building.

The club has received funding for the project in the last round of the Cattle Hill Wind Farm Community Fund. However, due to the time lag between the grant submission, and the announcement, the costs for the project have increased by \$700.

The total cost of the project is \$20,460, with additional in-kind contributions by Ouse Country Club volunteers.

Financial implications: there is sufficient finances available in the Community Grants budget to allocate to this request.

Attachments - [Community grants application](#)

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 21/05.2025/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

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



Derwent Catchment Project Council Report April – May 2025

General business

Nature Repair Plan Pilot – our successful election bid!

Following Labor's election win and Rebecca White's success in securing the seat of Lyons, the Derwent Catchment Project is working on the next steps to secure our **\$10 million election commitment** for a Nature Repair Plan Pilot for the Derwent Catchment.

Aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategy and global 30x30 goals, the pilot will develop and implement a comprehensive nature repair plan, prioritising targeted restoration and land management activities with a focus on river restoration, invasive species control and biosecurity preparedness, working with farmers on best practice agriculture and nature repair market opportunities, and priority actions for threatened species and vegetation communities. The plan will also provide a portfolio of investment opportunities for prospective buyers in the future nature marketplace.

We will organise to give a presentation to Council about the Nature Repair Plan and Pilot and what this election commitment means for the Central Highlands NRM program going forward.



Water monitoring

Morgan has visited the water quality monitors that the DCP has inherited from the Derwent Estuary Program on the Tyenna, Clyde and Ouse rivers. He is currently working closely with the Derwent Estuary Program to develop a dashboard for viewing and using the data.

Agri-best practice programs

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

The Carbon Outreach Program

We have organised a workshop on the East Coast for 11th June and are liaising with Southern Midlands Council to advertise a date for their region, tentatively 19th June. We are also working with the Coal River Valley Producers group to arrange an event for members. These workshops will be part of the national Carbon Outreach Program, an Australian Government initiative aimed at supporting farmers and land managers in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration.

Derwent Pasture Network

Our most recent pasture network activity has focussed on planning activities for our new climate smart agriculture project being delivered in partnership with NRM South. This has involved reviewing and reporting on the trial sites we have available to

us and on developing and now delivering a series of producer surveys that will inform our extension approach. We will use this consultation to assist our delivery of two field events in the next six weeks. Alongside this we are scoping options for engaging land managers in trialling practice changes that will aim to build increased resilience into their dryland grazing systems. A series of fact sheets will support these management interventions, with four factsheets being developed initially to update some of network learnings to date.

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.

As the weather begins to shift, signalling the end of the spray season, the team has completed their final application of herbicide targeting woody weeds along the Lyell Highway. This work, funded by State Growth, also supported efforts by local landholders along the affected section of the highway. While only a few days of manual control remain in the Highlands, the team is satisfied with the level of coverage achieved along the roadside. A full review of the season's outcomes is planned for spring.



Roadside weed management – Lyell Hwy

Restoration and Conservation

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

Hamilton Native Plant Nursery

April has been relatively quiet at the nursery throughout April. We've finished up at the New Norfolk markets until the spring. We did reasonably well, selling an average of 100 plants per market. Orders for autumn plantings have been filled, and a mock-up of a nature strip will be displayed at the Bridgewater Bridge opening later in the month.

Rivers

Tyenna River Recovery

The Willow Warriors working bee held on April 12th was a successful event, with significant progress made in controlling willow infestations. Large willows were felled on private land, and a dedicated team of volunteers treated the infestation located beneath the TASSAL ponds. A comprehensive review of willow presence within the Maydena area was also completed, revealing that only three trees require follow-up treatment. Efforts are currently underway to secure landholder agreements for willows located outside the riparian zone. Additionally, a large log jam near Mount Field has been scheduled for removal by the end of May.



Clyde River – Flood Resilience Project

We are still awaiting the grant deed to sign for this project. DPAC have advised we should receive it in the next couple of weeks.

Conservation

Miena Cider Gum conservation program

We recently visited a private property containing one of the last remaining healthy stands of the endangered Miena cider gum. To protect this critical habitat, we will implement additional fencing, including a 400-metre section within a covenanted area. This will be enclosed with a deer-proof, floppy-top fence to exclude browsing wildlife and livestock.

Yours Sincerely,
The Derwent Catchment Team

Key Contacts:

Josie Kelman (CEO) 0427044700

Eve Lazarus (Deputy CEO) 0429170048

Morgan McPherson (Operations Manager) 0418 667 426

Karen Phillips (Nursery Manager) 0400 039 303

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

Encourage economic viability within the municipality

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

19.1 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION 22/05.2025/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.

NO PERMIT REQUIRED

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2025/25	S J Gatenby-Clark	20 Clarks Road, Westerway	Dwelling Addition
2025/24	P Shearing	13 Drysdale Road, Miena	Outbuilding

PERMITTED

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2025/15	I C Ceron Castano	211 Bradys Lake Road, Bradys Lake	Change of Use to Visitor Accommodation
2025/19	T J & J K Parsons	3 Ponsonby Street, Hamilton	Change of Use to Visitor Accommodation

DISCRETIONARY

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2025/13	E R A Planning & Environment	16 Patrick Street, Bothwell	Container Refund Machine (CRM)

ANIMAL CONTROL

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

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

2024/2025 Dog Registration Renewal have been issued and were due by 31 July 2024.
Infringement Notices have now been issued for 10 unregistered dogs.

Statistics as of 13 May 2025	
Number of Dogs Impounded during last month	0
Number of Dogs Currently Registered	947
Number of Dogs Pending Re-Registration	10
Number of Kennel Licence Renewals	33

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

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

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

21. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

22. CLOSURE

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