

Council Meeting Agenda

21st April 2026

Bothwell Council Chambers

Notice of Meeting of Council – Tuesday 21st April 2026

To Councillors,

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, Notice is hereby given, that an Ordinary Meeting of Central Highlands Council is scheduled to be held in the Council Chamber, **Bothwell** on **Tuesday 21st April 2026**, 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 2025 Part 2, Division 1, a notice of the meeting was published on the Council website on 10 April 2026.

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 **16th** day of **April 2026**.



Stephen Mackey
General Manager

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The meeting commenced at ____ a.m.

AUDIO RECORDING DISCLAIMER

As per *Regulation 43 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, 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 01/04.2026/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 2025.

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 10 (7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, A council by absolute majority at an ordinary council meeting, or a council committee by simple majority at a council committee meeting, may decide to deal with a matter that is not specifically listed on the agenda if –

- a) the general manager has reported the reason for which it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda; and
- b) the general manager has reported that the matter is urgent; and
- c) in a case where the matter requires the advice of a qualified person, the general manager has certified under [section 65](#) of the Act that the advice has been obtained and taken into account in providing general advice to the council.

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

PURPOSE

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 10 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, the chairperson of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest or conflict of interest in any item on the Agenda.

4. MINUTES

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 17 MARCH 2026

RECOMMENDATION 02/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 17 March 2026 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 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 17 MARCH 2026

RECOMMENDATION 03/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Draft Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 17 March 2026 be received.

[Attachment – Draft Minutes](#)

PURPOSE

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

5. BUSINESS ARISING – MARCH 2026 COUNCIL MEETING

RECOMMENDATION 04/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the information be received.

12.9	NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr D Meacheam THAT the special committee established to improve Telstra services on the Central Plateau have its remit extended to July 2026	Progressing
16.3	BOTHWELL GOLF CLUB HIGHLAND LASSIES AND HIGHLAND GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026 - THAT Council allocate \$2,000 financial assistance to the Bothwell Golf Club to support the delivery of the 2026 Highland Lassies event and the 2026 Highland Golf Championships.	Paid on 26 th March 2026
16.4	ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS	Progressing
21.4	<p>OMBUDSMAN TASMANIA RIGHT TO INFORMATION –</p> <p>THAT the Deputy General Manager:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) document and implement procedures which mandate additional checking of the information intended to be released under the Right to Information Act 2009 when this contains personal information assessed as being exempt under s36 of that Act. b) develop a written guidance document to inform staff that administrate Right to Information requests on how to respond to the inadvertent release of personal information identified as exempt under s36 of the Right to Information Act 2009; and c) review Council’s redaction methods and naming conventions regarding documents to be released under the Right to Information Act 2009 to ensure 	Progressing

	that these are effective and that personal information is not inadvertently released.	
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Matters still progressing from the November 2025 Council Meeting

8.3	NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM THAT Council establish a working group to progress the improvement of phone and internet services on the Central Plateau; THAT the group established has a ‘sunset’ date of March 2026; and THAT via our Facebook page and website, 2 interested community group members be invited to membership	Progressing
17.4	DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL (DAP) CONSULTATION	Progressing

REPORT BY Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant

PURPOSE

This report aims to provide an overview of the actions undertaken from the previous minutes.

6. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOP(S) HELD

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, the Agenda is to include details of any Council workshop held since the last meeting.

One workshop has been held since the last Ordinary Meeting. The workshop was held on the 31st March 2026 at the Council Chambers, Bothwell commencing at 9.00 a.m.

Attendance: Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer, Cr R Cassidy, Cr J Hall, Cr J Honner, Y Miller, Cr D Meacheam and Cr S Triffett.

Also in Attendance: Stephen Mackey (General Manager), Katrina Brazendale (Executive Assistant), and Zeeshan Tauqeer (Accountant).

Apologies: Nil

The workshop focussed on the following items for discussion:

- 2026/2027 Budget
- Presentation – Brett Geeves Northern Magpies

The workshop concluded at 1.30 p.m.

7. 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.

- 5th May 2026 – Budget (Hamilton) due to power outage at Bothwell
 - 2nd June 2026 – Budget
 - 12th May 2026
 - 9th June 2026
-

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the Council conducts questions by member of the public to enable members of the public to ask question on Council related matters.

Questions by member of the public

- (1) The chairperson of an ordinary council meeting must ensure that, if required, at least 15 minutes of that meeting is made available for questions by members of the public.
- (2) A question asked by a member of the public under regulation 37 or 38 , and the answer given to that question, is not to be debated at the ordinary council meeting.
- (3) A council is to determine any other procedures to be followed in respect of public question time at an ordinary council meeting.

Questions without notice by member of the public

- (1) A member of the public may, on invitation by the chairperson of an ordinary council meeting, ask a question without notice at the meeting.
- (2) A public question without notice must relate to the activities of the council.
- (3) The chairperson of an ordinary council meeting may require a public question without notice to be –
 - a) put on notice in writing; and
 - b) answered at a later ordinary council meeting.

Questions on notice by member of the public

- (1) A member of the public may, at least 7 days before an ordinary council meeting, give written notice to the general manager of a question to which the member of the public seeks an answer at the meeting.
- (2) A public question on notice must relate to the activities of the council.
- (3) The chairperson of an ordinary council meeting may address a public question on notice.
- (4) The period referred to in subregulation (1) includes Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays, but does not include –
 - a) the day on which notice is given under that subregulation; or
 - b) the day of the ordinary council meeting.

9. PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

9.1 PETITIONS

Nil

9.2 DEPUTATIONS

10.15 a.m. Nadine Cove & Alex Heroys

9.3 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

PURPOSE

Under Regulation 19 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 relating to Motions on Notice. It states the following:

- (1) *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, for the inclusion of the motion on the next meeting.*

Nil

11. 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

12. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING RESUMED

NOT REQUIRED

13. MONTHLY MAYORAL AND ELECTED MEMBERS ACTIVITY**RECOMMENDATION 05/04.2026/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 2025 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

14 March 2026	Hamilton Show (Hamilton)
17 March 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
24 March 2026	Derwent Valley / Central Highlands Autumn Festival
31 March 2026	Budget workshop (Bothwell)
31 March 2026	Northern Magpie's Cricket Club Brett Geeves (Bothwell)
9 April 2026	Mayor's Workshop – LGAT (Devonport)
10 April 2026	LGAT General Meeting (Devonport)
14 April 2026	Tarraleah Road Trip Tour

- Business of Council - **12**
- Ratepayer and community members – communications - **6**
- Elected Members - communications - **19**
- Council Management communications - **4**
- Tas Networks communication - **3**

Deputy Mayor J Allwright

17 March 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
20 March 2026	Meeting Josh Willie and Labour Party (Hamilton)
31 March 2026	Budget workshop (Bothwell)
31 March 2026	Northern Magpie's Cricket Club Brett Geeves (Bothwell)
9 April 2026	Deputy Mayor's Workshop – LGAT (Devonport)
10 April 2026	LGAT General Meeting (Devonport)
14 April 2026	Tarraleah Road Trip Tour
5 April 2026	Tas Waste briefing (Glenorchy)

Cr A Archer

17 March 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
31 March 2026	Budget workshop (Bothwell)
31 March 2026	Northern Magpie's Cricket Club Brett Geeves (Bothwell)
14 April 2026	Tarraleah Road Trip Tour

Cr R Cassidy

17 March 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
17 March 2026	MP Rebecca White's staff (Bothwell)
28 March 2026	Tourism Night (Great Lake)
31 March 2026	Budget Workshop (Bothwell)
31 March 2026	Northern Magpie's Cricket Club Brett Geeves (Bothwell)
14 April 2026	Tarraleah Road Trip Tour

Cr J Hall

14 March 2026	Hamilton Show (Hamilton)
17 March 2026	Finance Committee Meeting (Hamilton)
17 March 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
31 March 2026	Budget workshop (Bothwell)
31 March 2026	Northern Magpie's Cricket Club Brett Geeves (Bothwell)
28 March 2026	Tourism Night (Great Lake)
14 April 2026	Tarraleah Road Trip Tour

Cr J Honner

17 March 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
31 March 2026	Budget workshop (Bothwell)
31 March 2026	Northern Magpie's Cricket Club Brett Geeves (Bothwell)
15 April 2026	Peter Birchall Memorial and BBQ (Bothwell)

Cr D Meacheam

17 March 2026 Finance Committee Meeting (Hamilton)
17 March 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
31 March 2026 Budget workshop (Bothwell)
31 March 2026 Northern Magpie's Cricket Club Brett Geeves (Bothwell)
18 March 2026 LGAT Learning and Development Sub-Committee Meeting, Online

Cr Y Miller

14 March 2026 Hamilton Show (Hamilton)
17 March 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
31 March 2026 Budget workshop (Bothwell)
31 March 2026 Northern Magpie's Cricket Club Brett Geeves (Bothwell)

Cr S Triffett

14 March 2026 Hamilton Show (Hamilton)
17 March 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)
31 March 2026 Budget workshop (Bothwell)
31 March 2026 Northern Magpie's Cricket Club Brett Geeves (Bothwell)
14 April 2026 Tarraleah Road Trip Tour

14.1 MAYORAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERS LETTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOMMENDATION 06/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Council notes the Mayoral and Elected Members Activities.

REPORT BY Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant



27 March 2026

Tasmanian Redistribution
Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601
FedRedistribution-tas@aec.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on Boundary adjustments to the Federal Electoral district of Lyons in Tasmania

The Central Highlands Council has assessed the proposed changes to the federal electoral district of Lyons in Tasmania and which to make the following submission.

Draft Redistribution – Tasmania

This submission is made in response to the Australian Electoral Commission's proposed redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in Tasmania. It specifically addresses the proposed inclusion of Glenorchy City Council within the Division of Lyons.

Central Highlands Council is a rural local government area with distinct economic, demographic, and geographic characteristics. It is submitted that the proposed changes would adversely affect the effective representation of rural communities within Lyons.

Position

It is strongly submitted that the proposed redistribution should not proceed in its current form. The inclusion of Glenorchy introduces a substantial urban population into what is presently a predominantly rural electorate, resulting in structural changes that undermine the representation and advocacy of rural communities.

1. Dilution of Rural Representation

The Division of Lyons has historically functioned as a predominantly rural and regional electorate.

The inclusion of Glenorchy, a large urban centre, would materially alter the demographic composition of the electorate. Given the size of Glenorchy's population relative to smaller rural communities, there is a significant risk that electoral outcomes will increasingly reflect urban priorities.

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Tarleton Street Tel: (03) 6286 3202
Hamilton, Tasmania 7140

Development & Environmental Services
Alexander Street Tel: (03) 6259 5503
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website www.centralhighlands.tas.gov.au

This shift has practical consequences. Rural issues such as agricultural sustainability, regional infrastructure, access to health services, and local economic development may receive reduced attention. Over time, this may lead to diminished advocacy for the needs of smaller councils, including Central Highlands Council.

2. Reduced Marginality of the Electorate

The proposed redistribution may reduce the marginality of the Division of Lyons. Marginal electorates typically attract a higher degree of political attention, funding commitments, and policy focus. A reduction in marginality risks diminishing this attention, particularly for rural and regional concerns.

For councils such as Central Highlands, which rely on strong federal engagement to secure funding and support for infrastructure and services, this change presents a tangible disadvantage.

3. Impact on Rural and Regional Councils

Local government areas within Lyons, including Central Highlands Council, depend on effective federal representation to advocate for community needs. These include road infrastructure, telecommunications, healthcare access, and economic development initiatives.

The introduction of a dominant urban population centre may result in competing priorities that disadvantage rural communities. In practical terms, this may manifest as reduced visibility of rural issues and decreased access to targeted funding opportunities.

4. Community of Interest Considerations

A core principle of electoral redistribution is the preservation of communities of interest. Glenorchy, as an urban municipality, differs significantly from the rural and regional communities that comprise much of Lyons.

These differences extend to economic structure, service delivery needs, population density, and lifestyle. The proposed amalgamation risks creating an electorate that lacks cohesion and does not adequately reflect shared interests.

5. Increased Complexity in Representation

The Division of Lyons is already geographically large and diverse. The addition of Glenorchy would increase both the population size and complexity of the electorate.

This creates practical challenges for effective representation. Members of Parliament may face competing demands that make it more difficult to adequately represent smaller, more remote communities.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, it is respectfully submitted that the proposed inclusion of Glenorchy within the Division of Lyons should not proceed.

The proposal risks undermining rural representation, reducing political attention to regional issues, and weakening the coherence of the electorate. Consideration should instead be given to maintaining an electoral structure that preserves the integrity and effective representation of rural and regional communities.

Submitted on behalf of Central Highlands Council.



Stephen Mackey
General Manager

14.2 GENERAL MANAGERS ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL 2026**RECOMMENDATION 07/04.2026/C****Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr**THAT** the Information be received.**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, General Manager

14 March 2026	St Micael and All Angles Meeting
16 March 2026	Insurance Policy Renewal Meeting
20 March 2026	Meeting Childcare Ouse with the Education Department
23 March 2026	Budget Meeting
24 March 2026	Meeting Eftsure re Contract electronic fraud protection
25 March 2026	State Grants Commission Hearing
26 March 2026	Meeting with Solicitors regarding letter to Telstra
26 March 2026	Meeting Special Circumstances Grant Childcare
27 March 2028	LGAT Fuel availability meeting
27 March 2026	Meeting with THRIVE re Bothwell Child Care
31 March 2026	Budget Meeting
31 March 2026	Meeting Glenorchy Cricket Club
1 April 2026	Meeting re Ouse River Bridge
8 April 2026	Meeting with Federal Assistant Minister for Age Care staff
14 April 2026	Tour of Tarraleah to view proposed works by Hydro Tasmania
16 April 2026	Child Care Meeting Ouse with Education Department

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 08/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Health and Wellbeing monthly report for March 2026 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

COUNCIL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	
External Grants	<p>Tas Active Infrastructure Grants (DPAC): - \$500,000 for Gretna Cricket Ground changerooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deed has been signed and funds received. • Planning application has been approved. • Tender being advertised.
TICT award submission	<p>Coordination of Bothwell's entry into Tourism Industry Council Tourism's Tiny Tourism Towns awards for 2026. Bothwell has been named a finalist in Tassie's Top Tourism Towns Awards for 2026. Community voting is currently underway. Category winners progress to represent Tasmania at the national awards level, with benefits including a major marketing and interstate advertising package valued at over \$20,000</p> <p>Voting page: https://tict.com.au/tourism-awards-programs/tassies-top-tourism-towns/vote-now/</p>
GP access at Central Highlands Community Health Centre Ouse.	<p>Engagement with Director of GP Practice to develop business case, and to look at where critical support and action is needed, for them to offer locum service at CHCH.</p>
Childcare Project	<p><u>Family Day Care Ouse</u> - Commence Federal grant application, in collaboration with Ouse Family Daycare and DECYP to obtain funding for private rental in Ouse.</p> <p><u>Thrive Group Childcare</u> – working to establish interim facility in Bothwell prior to launch of childcare at Bothwell School in 2028.</p>
Community Grants	<p>Coordination of community grants programs and review and update of grants documents.</p>
Recfit Community Benefits Fund	<p>Contributing to MOU & Community Benefits Fund aims and focus areas.</p>
ANZAC Day	<p>Preparation for ANZAC Day 2026.</p>
Council House Ouse	<p>Liaise with Ambulance Tas for 3 Victoria Valley Rd, re new lease.</p>

REPRESENTATION MEETINGS and EVENTS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Tourism Industry Council, local tourism operators regarding tourism award submission for Bothwell • Meetings with DECYP facilities management group regarding Ouse School and relocation of Family Daycare. • Council Budget meeting
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT	
School Holidays programs	Support for school holiday programs in 2026 to be run through Action Crew Central Highlands. Next event: Ouse Park Party 28 April, followed by Hamilton Hall children's photography exhibition 1-2 May.
Ouse Hall Hire	Liaising with Ouse Table Tennis club and HATCH Exercise classes around long-term lease arrangements, co-use, third-party use, cleaning and improvements at Ouse Hall.
RSA courses	Engaging with SW Jobs Hub for local training.
Westerway Picnic Area	Engagement with community regarding request for BBQ shelter on Bridge Road, for consideration in 26/27 budget.
Ouse Park Party	Collaboration with HATCH Action Crew, Playgroup, Communities for Children for Children for Families fun day at Ouse recreation Ground 28 April 11:00am – 2:00pm.
Circus Quirkus	Liaise with local organisations and schools to ensure local children benefit from council-sponsored event tickets.
Central Highlands Rural Youth	Support for first community event of relaunched chapter – easter egg hunt and BBQ in the park at Ellendale.
Homelessness and social disadvantage	Support, linking in with services, information
Exercise & dance classes	Working towards establishing new classes in Bothwell and Hamilton
COMMUNICATION and MEDIA	
Residents guide	Finalisation of community information and layout for printing.
Website	Uploading content new website.

<p>Council social media</p>	<p>Facebook followers: 2.9K. Profile posts – Fuel supply and free public transport information; Tasmanian Autumn Festival; lost dog; ANZAC Day; Bothwell Volunteer Ambulance; Central Highlands Rural Youth easter gg vent, bulky waste collection, swimming pool season close,</p>
<p>Highland Digest</p>	<p>Provision of relevant council and community content.</p>



*Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ – hosted by Central Highlands Rural Youth.
 Council work crews prepared for the event through lopping of dangerous and low tree limbs and giving the park a thorough maintain.
 Activities included egg and spoon race, sack races, easter egg hunt, and community BBQ.*

15.2 COUNCIL SUPPORT – DEFIBRILLATOR SERVICING FOR DERWENT BRIDGE AND BRONTE PARK

RECOMMENDATION 09/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council approve a community request for Council to replace batteries and pads for public Defibrillators located at Bronte Park and Derwent Bridge.

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

BACKGROUND

Council has received a request from Beth Hart of Bronte Park to replace the expired batteries and pads for the community-access Defibrillator located at Derwent Bridge (Hungry Wombat) and Bronte Park (Store).

Beth Hart, who previously was the local volunteer ambulance officer obtained Council funding, upon her retirement in 2019, for Defibrillators to be installed at Bronte Park, Derwent Bridge, and Brady's Lake

The Brady's Lake Defibrillator is monitored and updated by the Brady's Lake Fire Brigade, and Beth has continued to monitor the Bronte and Derwent Bridge Defibrillators. Beth has removed the Bronte Park Defibrillator as both the battery and pads have expired, and the Derwent Bridge is also due for battery and pads replacement.

The approximate cost for replacement of both pads and batteries, pending finalised quote from St Johns is estimated to be \$924.

It is proposed that this expenditure be made against the Community Support and Donations project within the Community and Economic Development Budget, which has \$8,338 remaining for this financial year.

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 – MARCH 2026

RECOMMENDATION 10/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Works & Services monthly report for March 2026 be received.

REPORT BY Jason Branch, - Works & Services Manager

BACKGROUND

The following activities were performed during **March 2026** by Works & Services –

Grading & Sheeting	14 Mile Road
Maintenance Grading	Mark Tree Road, Sections of Dennistoun Road, Corrugated corners on Victoria Valley road, Corrugated corners on Strickland Road
Potholing / shouldering	Green Valley Road, Humbie Road, Wetheron Road, Meadsfield Road, Nant Lane, 14 Mile Road
Spraying:	
Culverts / Drainage:	Drainage outlets Bothwell stormwater, Culvert installation and drainage Berry Drive, Drainage Theissen Crescent, Drainage Jones Road, Clean culverts Weasel plains
Occupational Health and safety	Monthly Toolbox Meetings Day to day JSA and daily prestart check lists completed. Monthly workplace inspections completed. Playground inspections Traffic management diary Undertake 4 x basic chainsaw courses Undertake 1 x load and unload plant course Lifting chains tested
Bridges:	Councils Bridge report received

Refuse / recycling sites:	Cover Hamilton Tip twice weekly
Other:	Concrete and construction of footpath Ellendale Pruning of trees Ellendale Park Repair water break Hamilton Recreation Ground Completion of Thousand Acre Lane construction Resealing of Councils reseal sites Mill and Fills of Councils reseal sites. Replace sign Bothwell WTS Widen corner and approach on 14 Mile Road Replace bolts in play equipment Hamilton Landfill works Remove fallen tree 14 Mile Repair give way sign Ellendale Road
Slashing:	Pelham Road, Clarendon Road, Mark tree Road and Meadowbank 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:	
Plant:	PM720 Dog trailer new brakes and wheel bearings PM726 repairs to slasher head PM772 Hino Tipper serviced PM815 Triton ute new brakes PM863 Triton ute serviced PM794 JCB Backhoe repair oil leak and new turbo PM748 Puncture Repair
Private Works:	Side arm slasher hire Pandari Farm Gravel purchase Hamilton Inn Gravel Delivery David Drysdale Concrete premix Joey Triffett Thorpe Estate gravel Potholing London Lakes Dry hire Jake Datlen John Deer mower
Casuals	Toilets, rubbish and Hobart Hamilton general duties Mowing and brush cutting Gardening
Program for next 4 weeks	Completion of Ellendale footpath Installation Hamilton Bus Shelters Dig Out Tor Hill Road ANZAC Day preparations

16.2 COUNCIL'S VACANT LAND

RECOMMENDATION 11/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council to consider advertising locally and leasing these areas for grazing

REPORT BY Jason Branch - Works & Services Manager

BACKGROUND

Councils vacant land that lies behind the Police Station in Bothwell that joins the River Side Reserve, and also the Wetlands at Ouse have for many years had local residents grazing stock in these locations.

Currently the residents have ceased grazing stock in these areas, and I don't believe that there were any lease agreements in place.

Without stock in these areas, they will become fire threats to the surrounding district due to the vegetation growth, the areas can not be mowed because of the steep and rough terrain.

There is also a vacant block in Patrick Street Bothwell next to the Catholic Church Council does undertake mowing in this area and this is only unutilized for the overflow caravan park during Bush Fest.

Block behind Police Station- 1 Barrack Street Bothwell

Area does flood-lessee responsible to move stock to high ground before flood events, lessee also responsible for standing fences up after flooding, fences must be stock proof to avoid stock going through into dog exercise area in Riverside reserve, possibility of weed management, these items to be taken into account when Council consider a lease amount if any.

Ouse Wetlands- 3 Bridge Road Ouse

Area does flood-lessee responsible to move stock to high ground before flood events, lessee also responsible for standing fences up after flooding, fences must be stock proof to avoid stock going through into dog exercise area in Riverside reserve, possibility of weed management, these items to be taken into account when Council consider a lease amount if any.

Vacant Land Patrick Street Bothwell- 19 Patrick Street Bothwell

Maintain fences, possibility of weed management, stock to be moved the Monday before Bush Fest and can be returned Monday after Bush Fest, this block is on town water supply so lessee to pay water usage that is required by stock, Council consider lease amount if any

Vacant Land Platypus Walk Hamilton- 34 River Street Hamilton

Maintain fences, possibility of weed management, Council consider lease amount if any

1 Barrack Street, Bothwell

Land Size - 1.613 ha



3 Bridge Hotel Road, Ouse

Land Size - 2.2114 ha



19 Patrick Street, Bothwell

Land Size - 0.4718 ha



34 River Street, Hamilton

Land Size – 0.3313ha



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 MARCH 2026

RECOMMENDATION 12/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Monthly Finance Report to 31 March 2026 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 31 March 2026

Rates Reconciliation as at 31 March 2026

	2025	2026
Rates in Debit 30th June	\$196,877.36	\$217,826.72
Rates in Credit 30th June	\$145,341.00	-\$150,792.81
Balance 30th June	\$51,536.36	\$67,033.91
Rates Raised	\$4,729,920.23	\$4,971,230.43
Penalties Raised	\$48,976.76	\$47,288.61
Supplementaries/Debit Adjustments	\$26,839.42	\$37,691.19
Total Raised	\$4,805,736.41	\$5,056,210.23
Less:		
Receipts to Date	\$3,896,348.56	\$4,084,290.80
Credit Journals	\$19,728.23	\$18,725.80
Pensioner Rate Remissions	\$130,435.03	\$135,893.36
Remissions/Supplementary Credits	\$10,566.41	\$27,872.01
Balance	\$800,194.54	\$856,462.17

Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2026

	2024	2025
Balance Brought Forward	\$5,162,118.65	\$5,206,243.79
Receipts for month	\$1,341,550.89	\$2,099,586.37
Expenditure for month	\$1,479,634.34	\$1,743,978.75
	_____	_____
Balance	\$5,024,035.20	\$5,561,851.41
	=====	=====
Represented By:		
Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$1,565,462.62	\$1,697,395.95
Balance Westpac Bank	\$287,038.70	\$90,288.30
CBA Credit Card	-\$309.90	\$46.67
Investments(Council Reserves + St Michael's Church)	\$3,171,843.98	\$3,774,120.49
Petty Cash & Floats	\$0.00	
	\$5,024,035.40	\$5,561,851.41
Plus Unbanked Money	_____	_____
	\$5,024,035.40	\$5,561,851.41
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$0.00	
Unreceipted amounts on bank statements	\$0.00	
	\$5,024,035.40	\$5,561,851.41
	=====	=====

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 31 March 2026

No.	Bank Accounts	Investment Period	Current Interest		Due Date	BALANCE 2026
			Rate %			
11100 Cash at Bank and on Hand						
11105	Bank 01 - Commonwealth - General Trading Account					\$ 1,697,395.95
11106	Bank 02 - Westpac - Direct Deposit Account					\$ 90,288.30
1118	CBA Credit Card					\$ 46.67
11199	TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND					\$ 1,787,730.92
11200 Investments						
11207	Bank 6		0	0.00		\$ -
11207	Bank 5		60	4.35	4/05/2026	\$ 506,875.86
11206	Bank 04	30 Days				
11115	Bank 04		59	4.21%	2/04/2026	\$ 510,060.26
11110	Tascorp(St Michael and All Angels' Church, Bothwell)	At CALL (29/07/2025)		4.10%		\$ 90,397.85
11115	Bank 16		90	4.28%	28/04/2026	\$ 2,666,786.52
11299	TOTAL INVESTMENTS					\$ 3,774,120.49
TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS AND CASH ON HAND						\$ 5,561,851.41

	Council Reserve					\$ 3,683,722.64
	Tascorp (St Michael and All Angels' Church, Bothwell)					\$ 90,397.85
	FAG& RATES&FEES					\$ 1,281,400.81
	Capital Grants (Gretna War Memorial Oval)					\$ 500,000.00
	Community Grants					\$ 6,330.11
						\$ 5,561,851.41

Comprehensive Income Statement

31/03/2026

	Budget 2024-2025	Actual to date prior year	Actual to Date	Budget 2025-2026
Recurrent Income				
Rates Charges	\$4,682,233	\$4,717,569	\$4,943,026	\$4,940,273
User Fees	\$494,250	\$328,068	\$292,435	\$501,651
Grants - Operating	\$3,236,515	\$340,402	\$1,828,424	\$4,428,454
Other Revenue	\$704,366	\$490,220	\$486,335	\$776,217
Grants received in Advance	\$0	\$2,918,101	\$1,746,506	
Total Revenues	\$9,117,364	\$8,794,360	\$9,296,725	\$10,646,595
Expenditure				
Employee Benefits	\$2,584,261	\$2,092,941	\$2,158,434	\$2,941,952
Materials and Services	\$2,447,768	\$2,047,597	\$2,493,294	\$3,490,109
Other Expenses	\$1,892,738	\$1,321,623	\$1,240,835	\$2,116,449
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$2,327,800	\$1,894,306	\$2,035,816	\$2,397,634
Total Expenditure	\$9,252,567	7,356,467	7,928,379	10,946,144
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	(135,203)	1,437,893	1,368,346	(299,549)
Capital Grants & Other	\$2,424,996	\$1,525,149	\$1,865,931	\$1,415,067
Surplus(Deficit)	2,289,793	2,963,042	3,234,277	1,115,518
Capital Expenditure	\$5,122,085	\$2,130,000	\$1,332,234	\$3,561,414

	BUDGET 2025/26	ACTUAL TO 31-Mar-25	ACTUAL TO 31-Mar-26	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$2,017,673	\$1,484,935	\$1,461,928	72.46%	\$555,745
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$281,916	\$204,432	\$217,180	77.04%	\$64,736
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$132,191	\$95,413	\$91,012	68.85%	\$41,179
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$43,994	\$24,516	\$22,215	50.50%	\$21,779
ONCOSTS	(\$470,879)	(\$536,004)	(\$346,916)	73.67%	(\$123,963)
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(COR+EDEV)	\$672,822	\$461,477	\$457,495	68.00%	\$215,327
TOTAL CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$2,677,717	\$1,734,769	\$1,902,916	71.06%	\$774,801
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$327,017	\$259,949	\$276,203	84.46%	\$50,814
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$38,628	\$22,997	\$21,041	54.47%	\$17,587
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$18,421	\$11,828	\$12,835	69.68%	\$5,586
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$188,191	\$120,142	\$42,980	22.84%	\$145,211
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$32,572	\$39,873	\$43,256	132.80%	(\$10,684)
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$247,000	\$204,670	\$124,540	50.42%	\$122,460
WASTE SERVICES	\$968,939	\$733,657	\$774,731	79.96%	\$194,208
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	\$1,024,442	\$2,349	\$493,372	48.16%	\$531,070
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	\$2,845,210	\$1,395,465	\$1,788,959	62.88%	\$1,056,251
WORKS AND SERVICES					
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$290,284	\$126,035	\$168,505	58.05%	\$121,779
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$17,161	\$11,611	\$21,034	122.57%	(\$3,873)
HALLS (HALL)	\$74,349	\$88,085	\$42,494	57.16%	\$31,855
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$100,524	\$111,713	\$92,704	92.22%	\$7,820
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+Resrvis)	\$130,679	\$91,867	\$85,609	65.51%	\$45,070
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$236,008	\$154,777	\$179,142	75.91%	\$56,866
HOUSING (HOU)	\$160,753	\$110,266	\$68,943	42.89%	\$91,810
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$14,801	\$14,753	\$16,601	112.16%	(\$1,800)
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$2,640	\$1,687	\$0	0.00%	\$2,640
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$1,086,345	\$794,961	\$762,076	70.15%	\$324,269
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$23,316	\$16,382	\$5,843	25.06%	\$17,473
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,388	\$5,853	\$17,579	75.16%	\$5,809
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$51,372	\$14,174	\$25,451	49.54%	\$25,921
2TD-Traffic Data	\$25,000	\$0	\$11,043	44.17%	\$13,957
SUPER. & UD OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$844,041	\$891,178	\$602,890	71.43%	\$241,151
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(\$181,988)	(\$65,393)	(\$98,656)	54.21%	(\$83,332)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$179,936	\$84,485	\$136,138	75.66%	\$43,798
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$305	\$975	48.73%	\$1,025
PLANT MITCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$655,036	\$436,587	\$437,796	66.84%	\$217,240
PLANT INCOME	(\$795,036)	(\$705,225)	(\$327,875)	41.24%	(\$467,161)
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$43,130	\$39,644	\$18,554	43.02%	\$24,576
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$41,842	\$25,075	\$20,892	49.93%	\$20,950
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$0	\$4,648	\$8,792		(\$8,792)
FLOOD REPAIRS		\$0	\$0		
TOTAL WORKS & SERVICES	\$3,025,581	\$2,253,468	\$2,296,529	75.90%	\$729,052
DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES					
Corporate Services	\$2,677,717	\$1,734,769	\$1,902,916	71.06%	\$774,801
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$2,845,210	\$1,395,465	\$1,788,959	62.88%	\$1,056,251
Works & Services	\$3,025,581	\$2,253,468	\$2,296,529	75.90%	\$729,052
Total All Operating	\$8,548,508	\$5,383,702	\$6,004,761	70.24%	\$2,560,103

	BUDGET 2025/26	ACTUAL TO 31-Mar-25	ACTUAL TO 31-Mar-26	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE					
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Computer Purchases	\$7,648	\$35,955	\$0	0.00%	\$7,648
Equipment	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$6,000
Miscellaneous	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$2,000
	\$15,648	\$35,955	\$0	0.00%	\$15,648
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
Swimming Pool	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	\$0
	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	(\$1,870)
WORKS & SERVICES					
Plant Purchases	\$170,000	\$467,215	\$52,317	30.77%	\$117,683
Camping Grounds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Public Conveniences	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Bridges	\$55,000	\$18,065	\$75,411	137.11%	(\$20,411)
Road Construction & Reseals	\$2,196,099	\$1,040,385	\$1,044,215	47.55%	\$1,151,884
Drainage	\$169,000	\$4,898	\$6,792	4.02%	\$162,208
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$72,000	\$239	\$0	0.00%	\$72,000
Infrastructure	\$105,000	\$28,235	\$3,402	3.24%	\$101,598
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$245,000	\$28,185	\$48,378	19.75%	\$196,622
Rec Grounds	\$402,000	\$302,419	\$32,602	8.11%	\$369,398
Halls	\$0	\$11,755	\$15,971	0.00%	(\$15,971)
Buildings	\$131,667	\$190,779	\$53,146	40.36%	\$78,521
	\$3,545,766	\$2,092,175	\$1,332,234	37.57%	\$2,213,532
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS					
Corporate Services	\$15,648	\$35,955	\$0	0.00%	\$15,648
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Works & Services	\$3,545,766	\$2,092,175	\$1,332,234	37.57%	\$2,213,532
	\$3,561,414	\$2,130,000	\$1,332,234	37.41%	\$2,229,180

Community & Economic Development**2025/2026 Budget**

	BUDGET 2025/26	Actual to Date 31/03/2026	Remaining Balance
Strategic Project- Whole of Community			
Community & Economic Development Support	\$10,000	\$4,469	\$5,531
Health & Wellbeing Plan (2020-2025) Implementation	\$5,000		\$5,000
Economic and Tourism Development Strategic Project	\$5,000	\$5,176	(\$176)
Youth and Children Strategic Projects			\$0
New- Family Day Care Seeding Fund Bothwell	\$5,000	\$349	\$4,651
New- Ouse Family Day Care Support	\$5,000	\$2,070	\$2,930
Youth Service & Activities	\$5,000	\$1,227	\$3,773
Children's Services and Activities	\$5,000	\$100	\$4,900
Bothwell High School Breakfast Club	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Glenora School Breakfast Club	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Westerway School Breakfast Club	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
New-Bothwell Playproup Support	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Community & Donation and Financial Assistance			\$0
Community Grants	\$15,000	\$11,663	\$3,337
Community Support & Donations	\$10,000	\$1,662	\$8,338
Church Grants	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Further Education Bursaries	\$1,400	\$350	\$1,050
School Awards	\$400	\$455	(\$55)
Central Highlands School Support	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Community Event			\$0
ANZAC Day	\$12,000	\$1,184	\$10,816
Australia Day	\$4,000	\$3,187	\$813
Community Event.eg Volunteer week	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Community Partnerships			\$0
Highlands Digest Support	\$15,800	\$14,364	\$1,436
Australasian Golf Museum contribution to power	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Visitors Centre Contribution to Power	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Healthy Connect Project	\$10,000		\$10,000
Brighton Family Day Care	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Total Community & Economic Development Support & Donations	\$141,600	\$54,256	\$87,344

17.2 DOG REGISTRATION SCHEDULE OF FEES**RECOMMENDATION 13/04.2026/C****Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr**THAT** Council adopt the following Dog Registration Schedule of Fees for 2026/2027.

Description	Paid by 31 July 2026	Paid after 31 July 2027
Domestic Dog (Desexed)	\$27.00	\$53.00
Domestic Dog (not Desexed)	\$53.00	\$91.00
Pensioner (1 st dog only)	\$16.00	\$27.00
Working Dog (used for the purpose of working)	\$16.00	\$27.00
Hunting Dog (used to flush game)	\$16.00	\$27.00
Greyhound (TGRA registered)	\$16.00	\$27.00
Registered Breeding Dog (TCA Registered & Special Assistance Dog (Guide Dog / Hearing	\$16.00	\$27.00
Declared Dangerous Dog	Nil	Nil
Kennel Licence Application Fee	\$1,807.00	\$1,807.00
Kennel Licence Renewal Fee	\$65.00	
Impounding Reclaim Fee (First Offence)	\$41.00	
Impounding Reclaim Fee (Subsequent Offences)	\$27.00	
Pound Maintenance Fee	\$53.00	
Replacement Tag (Metal Lifetime Tag)	\$16.00 per day	
Dog Surrender Fee	\$8.00	
Formal Notice of Complaint Fee	\$127.00	
	\$63.00 (Refundable)	

Report By Kathy Bradburn - Senior Administrative Officer**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 5.60% increase (rounded to the nearest dollar) to the fees for 2026/2027 as follows:

	Paid by 31 July		Paid after 31 July	
	Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27
Domestic Dog (Desexed)	\$26.00	\$27.00	\$50.00	\$53.00
Domestic Dog (not Desexed)	\$50.00	\$53.00	\$86.00	\$91.00
Pensioner (1 st dog only)	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$26.00	\$27.00
Working Dog (used for the purpose of working farm stock)	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$26.00	\$27.00
Hunting Dog (used to flush game)	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$26.00	\$27.00
Greyhound (TGRA registered)	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$26.00	\$27.00
Registered Breeding Dog (TCA Registered & Dog Owner holding current membership of the TCA)	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$26.00	\$27.00
Special Assistance Dog (Guide Dog / Hearing Dog)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Declared Dangerous Dog	\$1,711.00	\$1,807.00	\$1,711.00	\$1,807.00

	Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27
Kennel Licence Application Fee	\$62.00	\$65.00
Kennel Licence Renewal Fee	\$39.00	\$41.00
Impounding Reclaim Fee (First Offence)	\$26.00	\$27.00
Impounding Reclaim Fee (Subsequent Offences)	\$50.00	\$53.00
Pound Maintenance Fee	\$15.00 per day	\$16.00 per day
Replacement Tag (Metal Lifetime Tag)	\$7.00	\$8.00
Dog Surrender Fee	\$120.00	\$127.00
Formal Notice of Complaint Fee	\$60.00 (Refundable)	\$63.00 (Refundable)

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 14/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Derwent Catchment Project Report be received.



Monthly Report for Central Highlands Council

05 March 2026 – 14 April 2026

General business

The Boyer depot and office site has now come to life, with DCP moving equipment and operational gear onto the site and beginning to use it as a central base for field activities. A lot has happened in a short time, with the building receiving a fresh coat of paint, the gardens being tidied up, carpet tiles laid, and plants from the Hamilton nursery going in around the site. It is already proving to be a fantastic base for the team, well located with plenty of room to support day-to-day operations and store new machinery coming on board through the Nature Repair Pilot.

We have also been really pleased to welcome Jen Sanger to DCP to support communications. Jen brings a strong background in science communication, along with a broad mix of skills and energy that make her a great fit for the team. She also has a longstanding personal connection to the Central Highlands and DCP's work, having completed her honours research on drought stress in Miena cider gums some years ago.

Another exciting addition is a new administration team member, who will soon be joining DCP and working from the Boyer depot four days a week. This role will provide valuable support across the growing program, helping with the day-to-day coordination that sits behind field delivery as well as governance, WHS, finance and compliance systems. We are especially pleased to have someone local to the catchment coming on board, which adds to the strong local connection that continues to underpin the program.

Strategic Planning

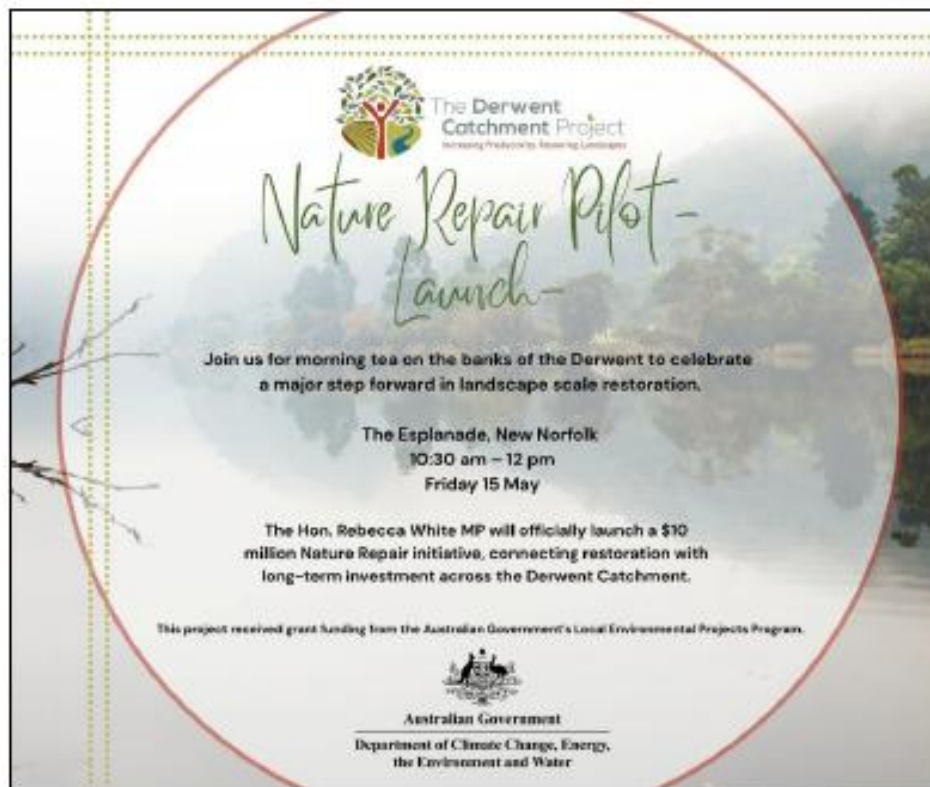
Strategic Actions: 4.1 Continue to fund and support the Derwent Catchment Project and 4.7 Support and assist practical programs that address existing environmental problems and improve the environment.

Nature Repair Plan Pilot – funded by the Australian Government’s Local Environmental Projects Program.

This project will identify and prioritise a portfolio of projects including river restoration, biosecurity, threatened species conservation and climate adaptation initiatives. A coordinated Ranger Program will also be established to support delivery and build regional employment opportunities. Projects identified through the Plan will form the foundation of the investment portfolio and will be seed funded through the \$10 million grant allocation from the Australian Government.

We are currently progressing the first phase of the Pilot. This includes development of a stakeholder engagement and communications framework to guide how we build participation, align partners and attract long-term investment. GIS analysis is also underway to identify and prioritise restoration opportunities, which will inform the project portfolio.

A formal launch event, to be attended by the Hon. Rebecca White MP, will be held on 15 May from 10:30am to 12:00pm on the Esplanade at New Norfolk. Councillors are warmly invited to attend for morning tea. Please RSVP to eve@derwentcatchment.org if you would like to join us.



Agri-best practice programs

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

Climate Smart Farming

DCP presented a workshop session at Hamilton addressing the critical assessment of feed supply and demand and carrying capacity. The elements of a feed budget were introduced by Peter Ball, using an MLA feed planning and budgeting tool as a template. Some of the traps or pitfalls of seasonal budgeting were also addressed, as was access to usable information. Veterinary consultant Dr. Bruce Jackson illustrated the potential dynamics of feed demand using the ewe from joining to weaning and then lamb turnoff as an example. The implications for grazing systems and stocking rate were discussed, leading into discussion of carrying capacity. An examination of stocking rate impacts and critically assessing carrying capacity is a theme DCP hope to develop. Stocking rate is a key tool to realise production and profit but equally can constrain or reduce both if carrying capacity is exceeded. In the face of changes to both the grazing systems being managed and the pasture growth environment, the relevance of carrying capacity review and adaption or improvement is worth serious reflection.



Figure 1. Hamilton workshop

DCP and NRM South have conducted a new round of insect trapping to support an Integrated Pest Management workshop to be delivered by experts Paul Horne and Rebecca Addison of IPM Technologies in the Westerway Hall. This workshop will be delivered on April 16 and will feature a paddock walk with Tom and Sarah Clark.

A DCP, TIA and NRM South pasture update session will also be presented on May 20, featuring current trial observations and an update on TIA pasture research. DCP pasture network articles are printed monthly in the New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News. Carrying capacity features in the current edition.

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.

Clyde River Flood Resilience Project

Primary willow removal and woody weed control at Croakers Alley North have been successfully completed, along with general site clean-up. Selected large logs have been retained on site to provide habitat features and enhance site amenity. Revegetation of this area is planned over the next month.



Figure 2. Keeping things tidy at Croakers South



Figure 3. Native revegetation coming soon!

Community response has been overwhelmingly positive, with feedback highlighting the significant visual improvement, enhanced aesthetics, and optimism for the future condition of the site and river corridor.

Willow removal works have commenced between the Croakers Alley footbridge and Andrews Bridge (Croakers South), with all willows in this section scheduled for removal and treatment.

The quarterly grant report has been completed and submitted.

Hamilton native plant nursery updates

A display garden has now been established along the verge outside the nursery, improving the presentation of the site while also helping clients visualise how different species will look once established on their properties or in their gardens. Work is also underway to improve signage and visibility.

With the planting season now approaching, a large numbers of plants ready to go as soon as seasonal soil moisture conditions improve. Several large-scale planting and revegetation projects on local farms have now been locked in and are due to commence in May. It is an exciting time for the nursery as plants begin moving from production into on-ground outcomes, with planting already underway at Glen Dhu and works about to commence at Croakers and Poatina Intake.



Figure 4. Planting out the verge at the nursery, with Wasabi in the foreground keeping a close eye on progress.

Poatina intake restoration

Earthworks commenced this month at Poatina Intake on Yingina / Great Lake for Hydro Tasmania, where restoration works are underway in response to ongoing illegal camping and degradation of previously cleared but naturally regenerating sites. Initial earthworks focused on making these areas less accessible and less appealing for informal camping, using locally sourced materials such as large rocks, boulders and logs, along with trenching to restrict vehicle access and protect regenerating vegetation. We subcontracted local excavator operators from down the road to undertake the earth works to minimise any biosecurity risks associated with transporting a machinery around the state and were happy with the results.

Now that machinery works are complete, we will move on to installing coir matting, brush matting, and planting out the treated areas with native species propagated through the nursery. Together, these works will help stabilise the site, discourage further disturbance, and support long-term restoration of native vegetation.



Figure 5. Left: the site being used for camping before. Right: Following earthworks, with locally sourced boulders distributed throughout site to discourage campers, ready to be planted out and brush matted this week.

Ouse follow-up willow control

Willow regrowth control has now commenced on the Ouse River supported through Minderoo Foundation grant funding via NRM North. This project is focused on follow-up control in areas where extensive regrowth has occurred following earlier treatment works delivered under the ALRS funding in the aftermath of the 2016 floods. This follow-up work is an important part of holding on to the gains made at these sites and preventing willow from re-establishing.

However, the nature of the regrowth has made treatment more complex. Much of the willow regrowth is now multi-stemmed and difficult to manage, with river sediments and rocks having built up around the bases of trees over time, making access and treatment more challenging than in the initial control phase. In response, the team has been exploring a broader range of treatment methods rather than relying solely on manual cut-and-paste control. This has included investigating alternative herbicide options that may be suitable for later season spraying and appropriate for use around waterways, allowing the project to make use of the full range of available control tools.

Works to date have been focused at both Corinyah and within the Ouse township area around the bridge.



Figure 6. Before and after control of willow regrowth in the Ouse township.

Weed management programs

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.

Spraying operations this month were focused at Tarraleah, where the team treated predominantly broom infestations, along with a small number of foxglove outbreaks. A considerable amount of regrowth, emergent seedlings, and previously missed patches were addressed during this season's work, representing an important step in consolidating earlier

control efforts. As treatment in this area progresses, attention is beginning to shift toward the large volume of dead broom material remaining on site. It is likely that next season will involve exploring options for mechanical follow-up, such as the use of a mulcher, to remove dead shrub skeletons. This would help reduce fire risk, improve visual amenity, and decrease competition for native species, supporting broader site recovery outcomes.

Overall, this marks another strong year of progress at one of the sites the program is most proud of. Supported by contributions from Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks, work at Tarraleah remains a strong example of how tenure-blind partnership between stakeholders can deliver coordinated and ongoing weed control outcomes.



Figure 7. Early intervention at Tarraleah, targeting broom regrowth and emerging seedlings before infestations become re-established. While this level of regrowth can appear minor, timely treatment at this stage helps avoid a far more difficult and resource-intensive control task in future years... see below for example!



Figure 8. Dense mature broom infestation at Tarraleah treated this month, illustrating the importance of early intervention. Once infestations reach this stage, treatment becomes significantly more difficult and costly, with crews in some areas previously required to cut access paths with chainsaws before spraying could be carried out.

A further highlight for the month was the continued involvement of a local farmer who contributed to large-scale gorse treatment across his property for the second year in a row. The property has a substantial gorse burden, and after making significant progress last season, this year's work again covered a massive footprint. The landholder was highly encouraged by the scale of treatment achieved and the visible progress made to date. Importantly, the property is located at the junction of council-managed roads, State Growth-managed roads, and surrounding productive farmland, making this a strategically valuable site for control efforts. The farmer's ongoing participation is making a strong contribution not only to reducing the weed burden on his own land, but also to supporting broader landscape-level outcomes for neighbouring properties and roadside corridors.

Treatment was completed along the Lyell Highway, focusing on the first 5 km from Ouse towards Black Bobs. Work along this section largely targeted gorse, briar rose and broom infestations, continuing efforts to reduce weed pressure along this important roadside corridor. Some more sensitive cut-and-paste treatment was also required around a eucalyptus planting along the roadside, where broom was emerging among the young trees.



Figure 9. Sprayed gorse along the Lyell Highway.

Finally, roadside surveying also progressed throughout the month across the Central Highlands region, including the Gretna, Pelham and Hollow Tree areas. This work is helping to build a clearer picture of weed distribution and treatment priorities across the municipality, and will directly inform the next iteration of the Central Highlands Weed Management Plan.

Community engagement

Festivals and shows

We took two stalls to the Hamilton Show this month. The nursery ran a plant stall and a weed management stall was also pulled together at short notice to fill in for another exhibitor who had to withdraw. Both gave staff a good opportunity to talk with lots of community members about DCP's work, hand out information, and connect community members with other services available through the DCP.

The nursery was also represented at the Derwent Valley Autumn Festival. Despite cold, wet weather and current economic pressures, the stall did well and provided another valuable chance to promote the nursery and talk to people about the broader work happening across the valley. We received lots of positive feedback, especially about the quality of plants for sale and the work being delivered on the ground.



Figure 10. Left: our weed management stall at the Hamilton show, where we also had a plant stall, and right: Karen at our stall at Derwent Valley Autumnfest.

Yours sincerely,

The Derwent Catchment Team

Key Contacts:

Josie Kelman (CEO) 0427 044 700

Eve Lazarus (Deputy CEO) 0429 170 048

Todd Holliday (Works Manager) 0428 192 728

Karen Phillips (Nursery Manager) 0400 039 303

Ella Weston (Weed program coordinator/NRM facilitator) 0400 953 220

18.2 LGAT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE THREATENED SPECIES COMMUNITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION 15/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council nominate Eve Lazarus for the Local Government Representative on the Threatened Species Community Review Committee

Attachments – Schedule 2 Members and Meetings of Scientific Advisory Committee and Community Review Committee

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey – General Manager

DISCUSSION

LGAT is seeking nominations for a local government representative to the Threatened Species Community Review Committee (CRC) – either officer or councillor.

We seek a range of nominees, genders, with technical expertise required across areas such as conservation, biodiversity or natural resource management. The term of appointment is 3 years and is made by the Minister for Environment.

The functions of the CRC under Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (Section 9 (3))

Are:

- a. to receive and consider draft recovery plans and listing statements.
- b. in respect of private land, to assist in, and make recommendations to the Minister on the preparation of land management plans and land management agreements.
- c. to provide for conciliation as may be required in any matter arising from a land management agreement or for the purposes of making any such agreement.

- d. to consider the social and economic impact of the implementation of land management agreements.
- e. to advise the Minister on the effect of interim protection orders.
- f. to consider, and advise on, such other matters as may be referred to it by the Minister.

The terms of reference for the CRC are provided in Schedule 2 of the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995, We understand that the CRC meets 3-4 times a year

Nominations are to include:

- The Curriculum Vitae of the nominee
- Completed nomination form – included statement, two referees and signed acknowledgement by GM/CEO and nominee

Please provide nominations to ben.morris@lgat.tas.gov.au by COB Friday 1 May 2026, 3.00pm

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 16/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT the Development & Environmental Services Report be received.

REPORT BY Kathy Bradburn - Senior Administration Officer

PLANNING PERMITS ISSUED UNDER DELEGATION

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

DISCRETIONARY

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2026/08	Wilkin Design & Drafting	10221 Highland Lakes Road, Brandum	Outbuilding
2026/04	S Goulmy	30 High Street, Bothwell	Outbuilding
2026/10	T J Medhurst	37 Cider Gum Road, Miena	Outbuilding
2026/19	Systembuilt Homes	46 Dolerite Crescent, Flintstone	Dwelling & Outbuilding
2026/09	Design Intent Architecture & Management	10 Arthurs Lake Road, Wilburville	Multiple Dwellings
2026/17	N N Barsoum	3 Last Street, Bothwell	Outbuilding

2026/20	C P Aherne	473 Rockmount Road, Ellendale	Outbuilding
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NO PERMIT REQUIRED

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2026/14	Tasbuilt Homes And Cabins	19 Wigrams Way, London Lakes	Dwelling
2026/16	A D Sculthorpe	15 Lochiel Drive, Miena	Outbuilding
2026/21	M Langmaid	3989 Victoria Valley Road, Dee	Outbuilding

ANIMAL CONTROL**Statistics**

Total Number of Dogs Registered in 2024/2025 Financial Year – 966

Total Number of Kennel Licences Issued for 2024/2025 Financial Year – 52

2025/2026 Dog Registration Renewal have been issued and were due by 31 July 2025.

Statistics as of 15 April 2026	
Number of Dogs Impounded during last month	0
Number of Dogs Currently Registered	940
Number of Dogs Pending Re-Registration	6
Number of Kennel Licence Renewals Issued	35

19.2 DRAFT ABORIGINAL HERITAGE BILL 2026

RECOMMENDATION 17/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT all comments on the Draft Aboriginal Heritage Bill 2026 be forwarded to Council's Planning Officer by **Tuesday 23rd June 2026**.

Attachments - Aboriginal Heritage Bill – Consultation Draft and Aboriginal Heritage Bill 2026 – Explanatory Clause Notes

REPORT BY Kathy Bradburn - Senior Administration Officer

DETAILS

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is seeking feedback on the draft Aboriginal Heritage Bill 2026 which provides for the recognition, protection and management of Aboriginal heritage, to establish the Aboriginal Heritage Council and repeal the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

The draft Bill responds to the findings of the legislative review in 2019-20.

The draft Bill provides for Regulations, Guidelines and other instruments to provide detailed guidance on how the Act will operate. For example, the proposed Regulations will:

- Outline the process for registering Aboriginal Heritage – including new nomination processes where appropriate
- Set thresholds for activities that require Management Plans
- Specify decisions, other than those set out in the Act itself, that will be appealable
- Set regulatory fees
- Set penalties for Infringement Notices

Written submissions on the draft Bill close at 5pm Monday, **6 July 2026**.

19.3 DRAFT LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 2026

RECOMMENDATION 18/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT all comments on the Draft Land Use Planning and Approvals (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026 be forwarded to Council's Planning Officer by **Tuesday 5th May 2026**.

Attachments - Draft Land Use Planning and Approvals Bill and Background Report

REPORT BY Kathy Bradburn - Senior Administration Officer

DETAILS

The Minister for Housing and Planning, the Hon Kerry John Vincent MLC, has released the draft Land Use Planning and Approvals (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026 (the draft Bill) for a 6 week consultation period.

The draft Bill proposes amendments to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and the *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993*.

The proposed amendments broaden the scope for making State Planning Provisions (SPPs) amendments and introduce fairer processes for Local Provisions Schedules (LPS) and LPS amendment assessments, specifically for when the Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs) and new regional land use strategies (RLUSs) come into effect. It also clarifies the development application assessment timeframes and the management of long-term leases in the planning system for renewable energy and other utility infrastructure.

The draft Bill and a Background Report for Consultation have been included in the attachments or can be viewed and downloaded on the State Planning Office's [Planning in Tasmania website](#).

Written submissions on the draft Bill close at **5pm Monday, 11 May 2026**.

**19.4 PREVENTING DELAYS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT TIMEFRAMES
POSITION PAPER****RECOMMENDATION 19/04.2026/C**

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT all comments on the Position Paper be forwarded to Council's Planning Officer by **Tuesday 23rd June 2026**.

Attachments- Preventing delays in development assessment timeframes

REPORT BY Kathy Bradburn, Senior Administration Officer

DETAILS

On behalf of the Minister, the State Planning Office has released a position paper titled – Preventing delays on development assessment timeframes, for a 2 month consultation period.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to delivering an improved planning system. It is actively considering ways to reduce unnecessary delays for decisions on development applications.

The Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 has statutory timeframes for various processes in the assessment and determination of development applications by councils. The position paper outlines the existing legislative framework around these processes.

The purpose of the Position Paper is to explore the issues and identify potential options to improve the process for managing additional information requests, to avoid unnecessary delays. The Position Paper considers all development applications, not just those related to housing, to better understand the range of issues that may contribute to slowing the development assessment process. This will allow tailored improvements to be made to the planning system.

Written submissions on the draft Bill close at 5pm Friday, 8 May 2026

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 SOUTHERN TASMANIA COUNCIL NETWORK

RECOMMENDATION 20/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT pursuant to Regulation 17 (1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) That Council authorise the General Manager to sign and seal the Service Agreement for the Southern Tasmania Councils Network with Regional Development Australia Tasmania for the administration of the STCN.

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, General Manager

DISCUSSION

Council has been involved and contributes to the Southern Tasmania Councils Authority which involves the participation of the Mayors and General Managers of most Southern Council at meetings on a quarterly basis.

In recent times it became apparent that changes were needed and, on that basis, It was resolved to disband this association with the view of all Southern Councils joining a new group

called the Southern Tasmanian Council Network. To facilitate this, steps have now been taken to formally close the STCA and put in place an agreement with the RDAT to administer the new entity.

The STCN is meeting on a 6-weekly basis with all General Managers from Southern Councils. There will also be several joint meetings involving the Mayors and General Manager during the year.

20.2 POLICY NO 2013-19 ASBESTOS

RECOMMENDATION 21/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council adopt Policy No 2013- 19 Asbestos Policy.

Attachments Policy No 2013-19 Asbestos Policy (DRAFT)

REPORT BY Jason Branch, Works and Service Manager

BACKGROUND

The previous asbestos policy was approved by Council in December 2024.

This policy applies to all workers of the Central Highlands Council (Council) and has been put in place to ensure Council provides a safe place of work and a safe environment for all workers and others from the harmful effects of asbestos fibres, through the provision of regular building inspections and safe work procedures.

Council is committed to ensuring that asbestos containing material in Council owned facilities and buildings are managed and controlled to protect the health and wellbeing of workers, contractors and the community.

This policy provides a structure for the on-going management of asbestos-related risks within Council.

20.3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

RECOMMENDATION 22/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council nominate the following person to be member of the Economic Development and Community Development Special Committees.

Economic Development Special Committee

1. Mr John Stephenson
2. Mr James Johns
3. Mr Howard Hanson

4.Mr Richard Hallett

Community Development Special Committee

- 1.Mr Steve Lorring
- 2.Mrs Susan Dabbs
- 3.Mrs Christine Ferguson
- 4.

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, General Manager

DISCUSSION

Council has resolved set up the Economic development and Community Development Special committees with four community members on each of these. Council in December advertised for community members to nominate to members of these committees. At the close of nominations only Mr John Stephenson had advised of his interest in being on the Economic development committee. Council Members will be included in these committees and hold the Chairperson position.

20.4 CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030

RECOMMENDATION 23/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council

- a) after formally advertising and receiving comments adopt the Central; Highlands Council Strategic Plan 2025 to 2030 without amendments;
- b) write advising those who made representation that council has adopted the strategic plan without amendment and thanking them for their submission; and
- c) further review the Strategic Plan after the council elections later this, be undertaken to ensure the plan aligns with the views of the new council and the community.

Attachments [Central Highlands Council Strategic Plan 2025-2030](#)

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey – General Manager

DISCUSSIONS

Council advertised the review of the Strategic Plan in the Mercury on the asking for feedback on the plan by the

At the close council received only one detailed response (some 35 pages) and a summary of comments from this response are detailed below.

This document is a review of the Central Highlands Council's Strategic Plan 2025–2030, analysing its structure, evidence base, strengths, and weaknesses.

Overview of Central Highlands Council Strategic Plan 2025–2030+

The plan provides a comprehensive framework for sustainable growth, community wellbeing, and environmental management over five years, emphasizing clear objectives, evidence-based strategies, and accountable governance.

Strategic Clarity and Coherence in Planning

The plan is well-structured, dividing analysis and implementation, with four interdependent objectives: community leadership, environment, economy, and participation.

- Clear layout linking context, goals, and actions
- Community needs and aspirations inform strategy
- Four strategic objectives serve as decision guides
- Priorities focus on emerging opportunities like renewables, agriculture, and tourism
- Strategy is integrated and mutually supportive, creating positive feedback loops
- Strengths include accessible language, explicit community engagement, and alignment with other plans
- Weaknesses involve lack of specific timelines, milestones, and detailed feedback mechanisms

Evidence Base and Assumptions Underpinning Strategy

The plan relies on demographic, economic, and community data, with projections for job growth and population trends, supported by ABS Census 2021 and other studies.

- Uses ABS Census 2021 data: population 2,585, median age 49, 38% with health conditions
- Recognizes undercounting of seasonal workers and visitors
- Assumptions include 237 permanent jobs from renewable energy and 75 from horticulture by 2030
- Tourism jobs increased by 20%
- Informed by community engagement and other planning documents
- Strengths: credible data, local insights, and trend analysis
- Gaps: lack of explicit population or housing targets, assumptions about legislative success, and environmental management reliance on external laws

Strategic Priorities and Trade-offs

Priorities focus on converting investments into population growth, improving services, land use planning, housing, and resilience.

- Five main priorities: job-to-resident conversion, service enhancement, land zoning, housing solutions, integrated planning
- Emphasizes mutually supportive strategies balancing economic, social, and environmental goals
- Recognizes trade-offs, such as regional vs. local benefits and infrastructure investments
- Gaps include unclear prioritization, sequencing, and resource allocation decisions
- Community concerns about neglecting high-growth areas like Miena and infrastructure delays

Governance, Delivery, and Accountability

The plan emphasizes transparent governance, community engagement, and performance measurement.

- Focus on legislative compliance, community trust, and risk management
- Links roles and responsibilities to strategic objectives with KPIs
- Promises regular community consultation and transparent reporting
- Strengths: ethical leadership, participatory approach, and alignment with best practices
- Weaknesses: lack of detailed reporting processes, community oversight structures, and explicit feedback incorporation
- Gaps include absence of a formal community engagement framework and interim progress updates

Financial Sustainability and Asset Management

The plan aims for fiscal health through revenue growth, cost management, and asset optimisation.

- Advocates for legislative changes to secure rates or PILOR from Hydro Tasmania and renewables
- Emphasizes prudent expenditure, cost-benefit analysis, and efficiency improvements
- Uses external funding, grants, and managed debt levels
- Asset management focuses on maintaining relevant assets and disposing of outdated ones
- Roads are a primary focus, with collaboration with state agencies
- Recognizes that some assets are no longer fit for purpose, requiring evaluation and adjustment

Financial and Asset Strategies Strengths and Weaknesses

The Plan demonstrates a robust, forward-looking financial and asset management approach, with strengths in equity, benefit-cost analysis, and lifecycle planning, but faces challenges in transparency, regional equity, and immediate funding clarity.

- The Plan emphasizes equitable revenue mechanisms, notably PILOR from Hydro and wind farms, to address long-standing revenue imbalances.
- Uses benefit-cost analysis for evidence-driven decision-making, ensuring long-term sustainability.
- Plans for annual updates to adapt to changing strategies, avoiding static forecasts.
- Focuses on cost control through productivity and resource sharing.
- Recognizes the importance of asset lifecycle management, planning for maintenance and disposal.
- Seeks grants and co-investment to leverage local funds for infrastructure and recreation upgrades.
- Incorporates equity as a key metric in financial performance, linking revenue and social fairness.
- Community perceives disparities in infrastructure spending, especially in high-growth areas like Miena.
- The Plan lacks detailed regional spending breakdowns and project prioritization criteria.
- Immediate funding for new initiatives is unclear; budget delays until 2026/27.
- Reliance on external revenue sources (e.g., PILOR, grants) without fallback plans if they fall short.
- Transparency gaps include justifications for projects and regional investment principles.

Community Wellbeing and Place-Based Outcomes

The Plan aims to enhance community wellbeing by addressing determinants like housing, health, environment, and social participation, with strengths in holistic, place-specific strategies but weaknesses in implementation and inclusivity.

- Connects wellbeing to tangible factors: housing, employment, education, health, connectivity, environment, and civic participation.
- Prioritizes health services, emergency response, and housing for all life stages, especially seniors.
- Emphasizes protecting natural environment, outdoor culture, and community identity as core wellbeing components.
- Supports environmental stewardship, water quality, climate adaptation, and cultural events.
- Recognizes outdoor recreation and natural beauty as economic and social assets.
- Values community-informed decision-making to foster empowerment and satisfaction.
- Community highlights exclusion of growing communities like Miena from land use and development plans.
- Current plans lack specific timelines for health, education, and service improvements.
- Geographic inequities may arise if high-growth areas like Great Lake are not prioritized.
- No formal mechanisms for ongoing community participation in wellbeing initiatives.
- Needs clearer action plans and timelines to translate wellbeing goals into tangible outcomes.

Land Use Planning and Growth Management

The Plan advocates for strategic land use changes and growth management, focusing on targeted towns and flexible zoning, but faces gaps in including emerging areas and detailed implementation timelines.

- Supports rezoning in towns like Bothwell, Hamilton, Ouse, and Ellendale for residential growth.
- Defines precincts for tourism, horticulture, and renewable energy to guide development.
- Promotes adaptable, integrated land use policies acknowledging overlapping activities.
- Aims to align growth with infrastructure, roads, stormwater, and hazard management.
- Focuses on economic diversification through value-adding industries around renewables and agriculture.
- Structure plans for all communities are planned to enable place-based outcomes.
- Community perceives omission of growth areas like Miena, Bronte Park, and Derwent Bridge.
- Lacks specific timelines for rezoning, structure plans, and infrastructure upgrades.
- Resourcing and capacity constraints for implementing multiple

planning initiatives are not addressed. - Needs to clarify how land use policies will adapt to actual growth patterns and environmental considerations.

Implementation Risks and Mitigation Strategies

The Plan emphasizes resilience, diversification, and external collaboration to mitigate risks, but lacks concrete contingency plans and detailed risk management actions. - Focuses on economic diversification to reduce reliance on a single industry, mitigating boom-bust cycles.

- Addresses climate risks with plans for impact evaluation and adaptation strategies. - Maintains financial buffers through surpluses and prudent debt ratios. - Uses KPIs and continuous improvement to monitor strategy effectiveness. - Collaborates with state agencies, neighbouring councils, and industry to share risks. - Recognizes vulnerabilities like critical infrastructure (e.g., Shannon Bridge, Marlborough Highway) but lacks timelines or interim measures. - Emergency management plans for bushfires and floods are underdeveloped, with no firm funding or schedules. - Reliance on external actors (Telstra, state agencies) poses risks if commitments are not met. - Gaps include lack of public risk monitoring, contingency plans, and clear communication on climate and emergency risks. - Recommends establishing regular progress reports, community engagement, and explicit risk mitigation actions to improve credibility and responsiveness.

20.5 POLICY 2013 – 18 EMPLOYMENT AND RECRUITMENT POLICY

RECOMMENDATION 24/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council adopt Policy No. 2013 – 18 Employment and Recruitment Policy.

REPORT BY Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager

Attachments - [Policy No. 2013 – 18 Employment and Recruitment Policy \(DRAFT\)](#)

BACKGROUND

The draft policy has been reviewed to ensuring recruitment and selection of prospective employees is in accordance with the *Local Government Act* 1993 and any other relevant employment legislation.

Council is committed to a fair, effective and professional method of selecting employees. The Council aims to attract and appoint highly skilled, suitably qualified and motivated employees who will aim to meet agreed objectives behavioural and work performance improvement goals.

To provide clear guidance to the Council on the values and application of this policy to all employees. To articulate that Council is commitment to ensure all applicants receive fair and equitable treatment without unlawful discrimination; and all employees are appointed and promoted according to merit without unlawful discrimination.

20.6 POLICY 2015 - 37 INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (RECORDKEEPING)

RECOMMENDATION 25/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council adopt Policy No. 2015 – 37 Information Management (Recordkeeping) Policy.

REPORT BY Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager

Attachments - Policy No. 2015 – 37 Information Management (Recordkeeping) Policy (DRAFT)

BACKGROUND

The draft policy has been modified from the current policy approved by Council in line with current legislation and is like the policies used by Burnie City Council, Break O'Day Council, and Sorell Council.

The purpose of this policy is to provide an effective framework for Council's recordkeeping practices and document management procedures. It covers the creation of records, and their maintenance, storage, accessibility and retention, along with the individual responsibilities of Councillor's and staff with regard to their records management obligations.

20.7 POLICY 2017 - 51 STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

RECOMMENDATION 26/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council adopt Policy 2017 – 51 Staff Code of Conduct Policy.

REPORT BY Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager

Attachments - Draft Policy 2017 – 51 Staff Code of Conduct Policy (DRAFT)

BACKGROUND

The draft policy has been modified from the current policy approved by Council in line with current legislation, with the removal of the reference of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986 and replace it with the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986. The Equal Opportunity Act 1995 (which is a Victorian statute) has been replaced with the Anti-Discrimination Act 1998. Other Council's policies were also

reviewed including Southern Midlands Council, Break O'Day Council, Devonport City Council and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council.

The purpose of the Staff Code of Conduct Policy is to clearly state the standards of responsibility and behaviours expected by those representing or working for Central Highlands Council. Maintaining professional and ethical conduct always is the responsibility of every employee (permanent, temporary, part-time and casual employees) as well as volunteers, contractors working on-site, and work experience students – every person, every day.

The Staff Code of Conduct is designed to assist employees to understand how to undertake their duties and behave according to the values held at Council, reducing the risk of real or perceived conflicts between private and public interests, personal gain or unacceptable and/or unlawful behaviours.

The Code is shaped by the Council's statutory obligations, its principles of good governance and its corporate values. Fraud, corruption, dishonest acts and conflicts of interest are clearly not acceptable conduct, and they are moreover illegal acts. However, as well as avoiding breaches of legislation, the Council wants a workplace where individuals act with integrity and with respect for others, show courage when it is needed and aim for excellence in performing their duties. It is hoped that this Staff Code of Conduct will provide workers the principles and information which will allow them to make good judgements in difficult circumstances, as well as follow procedures and comply with legislation.

20.8 POLICY NO. 2025-67 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

RECOMMENDATION 27/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council adopt Policy No. 2025-67 Social Media Policy.

REPORT BY Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager

Attachments - [Policy No. 2025-67 Social Media Policy \(DRAFT\)](#)

BACKGROUND

The draft policy has been modified from the current policy approved by Council in line with current legislation, with the removal of the reference of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1995* and the *Criminal Code Act 1995* has been included. The *Fair Trading Act 1990* has been replaced by the *Australian Consumer Law Act 2010*.

The purpose of this policy is to provide understanding and guidance for the appropriate use of social media and applies to Councillors, employees, contractors, agents and volunteers of Council when acting in an official capacity and/or representing Council on social media platforms and in digital spaces.

This policy applies to the use of social media for:

- the purpose of conducting council business and when representing Council; and
- personal use where reference is made to Councillors, staff, policies and services, suppliers or other stakeholders or council-related issues.

The intent of this policy is to provide guidance on the appropriate use of social media platforms and tools in order to enable and encourage its use by Councillors, employees, contractors, agents and volunteers for the purpose of conducting council business.

The policy aims to:

- Promote effective and productive community engagement through social media;
- Provide guidance about the appropriate use of social media tools;
- Reduce the likelihood of miscommunication or inappropriate communications;
- Help manage new challenges associated with social media such as speed and immediacy, record keeping, artificial intelligence (AI), privacy and security; and
- Provide clarity about roles and responsibilities in relation to use, approval and monitoring.

20.9 POLICY 2025 - 68 PRIVATE WORKS POLICY

RECOMMENDATION 28/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council adopt Policy 2025 - 68 Private Works Policy.

REPORT BY Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager

Attachments - [Policy 2025 - 68 Private Works Policy \(DRAFT\)](#)

BACKGROUND

The draft policy has been modified from the current policy approved by Council in line with current legislation, with the removal of the reference of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* and is like the policies used by Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, Brighton Council, Sorell Council, Circular Head Council, King Island Council and Kingborough Council.

This policy applies to all private works undertaken by Council on behalf of any applicant. Works may include the supply of labour, materials, plant and services.

The policy provides a framework for performing private works that is applicable to everyone, transparent, objective and consistent. To undertake private works at market prices ensuring

an acceptable profit margin to Council that is consistent with anti-competitive requirements and the no advantage requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

20.10 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TASMANIA POLICE CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION SYSTEMS

RECOMMENDATION 29/04.2026/C

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

THAT Council approve the General Manager to sign the Closed Circuit Television System - Memorandum of Understanding between Tasmania Police 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.
Legislative Context	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Consultation	Senior Management Team
Impact on Budget/Resources	As per 25/26 Council approved budget
Risk	The council must ensure that it meets its legislative and governance responsibilities as per the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> .

REPORT BY Adam Wilson - Deputy General Manager

[Attachments CCTV - Memorandum of Understanding between Tasmania Police and Central Highlands Council \(DRAFT\)](#)

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) - Memorandum of Understanding between Tasmania Police and Council is to detail the agreed understanding between both parties for the operation, management, and use of the public safety camera system within the municipality.

This Memorandum of Understanding is based upon a template developed by Local Government Association of Tasmania and Tasmania Police.

This Memorandum of Understanding relates to the operation and management of the council's CCTV systems intended to manage public safety.

The objective of the CCTV network is to enhance people and property safety. It also provides Tasmania Police and Council with access to an integrated, standardised, efficient, managed CCTV platform.

The parties' use of the CCTV network in accordance with the following principles:

- people are entitled to a reasonable expectation of privacy when in public places;
- the parties, as users of the CCTV systems, should act responsibly and consider the reasonable expectations of an individual's privacy;
- all reasonable steps must be taken to protect information gathered through public place CCTV network from misuse or inappropriate disclosure; and
- the parties, as users of the CCTV systems, are accountable for its proper use.

The parties will co-operate to achieve the highest standards applicable for the appropriate use of the CCTV network and ensure:

- the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is fulfilled;
- their joint objectives are achieved;
- the governing principles above are respected; and
- the public interest is protected.

Within the Memorandum of Understanding Council is responsible for:

- installing, maintaining, repairing, and replacing all infrastructure associated with the CCTV network, including the hardware and software needed to operate, monitor, and maintain the CCTV network in accordance with its asset management policies, standards (or similar);
- the provision of any base milestone software licensing required for the use of the images, footage or recordings generated by, or captured on, the CCTV network by Tasmania Police for the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding;
- deciding final CCTV camera locations;
- consulting with Tasmania Police on new or changed locations of CCTV cameras in public spaces;
- taking reasonable steps to inform people of the use of CCTV cameras, including contact details, a link to the Council's CCTV policy and the purpose of the CCTV cameras;
- responding to requests for CCTV system maintenance in a timely manner; and

developing CCTV procedures (based on Local Government Association of Tasmania's template Public Safety Camera Policy) in coordination with Tasmanian Police, in accordance with any applicable policy and procedural standards.

21. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

22. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**RECOMMENDATION 30/04.2026/C****Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr

THAT pursuant to Regulation 17 (1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, Council, by an absolute majority, close the meeting to the public to consider the following matters in Closed Session:

Item Number	Matter	
2.1	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 March 2026.</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(H) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.</i>
5.1	<i>Black Spot Funding Waddamana Road</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(E) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.</i>
5.2	<i>Memorandum of Understanding With Tasmania Racing Integrity Commissioner Information Exchange</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(H) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.</i>
5.3	<i>General Manager Performance Review Panel – Terms of Reference</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(H) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.</i>

PURPOSE

Under Regulation 17 (1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* 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 17 (1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, this motion requires an absolute majority.

MEETING CLOSED to the public at ____ a.m. / p.m.

23. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting re-opened to the public at ____ a.m. / p.m.

24. PUBLIC RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

The Chairperson announced that pursuant to Regulation 17(6)(7) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 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:

Item Number	Matter	Decision
2.1	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 March 2026.</i>	
5.1	<i>Black Spot Funding Waddamana Road</i>	
5.2	<i>Memorandum of Understanding With Tasmania Racing Integrity Commissioner Information Exchange</i>	
5.3	<i>General Manager Performance Review Panel – Terms of Reference</i>	

25. CLOSURE

Mayor Triffitt thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at ____ a.m./p.m.