

# **Council Meeting Agenda**

**17<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Bothwell Council Chambers**

## **Notice of Meeting of Council – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 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 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026**, commencing at **5.00pm** 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 2 January 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 **12<sup>th</sup>** day of **February 2026**.



Stephen Mackey  
**General Manager**

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The meeting commenced at \_\_\_\_ p.m.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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## 1. PRESENT

### 1.1 IN ATTENDANCE

### 1.2 APOLOGIES

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## 2. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

### RECOMMENDATION 01/02.2026/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 DRAFT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 20 JANUARY 2026

#### RECOMMENDATION 02/02.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 20 January 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.

### 5. BUSINESS ARISING – JANUARY 2026 COUNCIL MEETING

#### RECOMMENDATION 03/02.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the information be received.

16.2	Fishing Comp Donations Request - Wayatinah Sports And Social Club	Progressing - donation of \$500.00
21.1	Inquiry Local Government Financial Reform	Progressing - once further comments are received from Councillors the draft response will be amended and forwarded to all councillor prior to sending
21.2	Local Government Electoral Reform	Progressing - once further comments are received from Councillors the draft response will be amended and forwarded to all councillor prior to sending

**Matters still progressing from the December 2025 Council Meeting**

12.2	NOTICE OF MOTION – CR A Archer That the Mayor provide council with copies of correspondence forwarded and responses that have been received to date from the Premier to the letters requesting the holding of a cabinet meeting in Bothwell	Progressing
20.2	POTENTIAL DARK SKY RESERVE	Progressing
21.1	BOTHWELL LIBRARY RENEWAL OF LEASE	Progressing
21.11	DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030	Advertised 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 and closes on 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026

**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. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

### RECOMMENDATION 04/02.2026/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:

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Matter</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 20 January 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>
<b>5.1</b>	<i>General Managers Performance Criteria</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 \_\_\_\_ p.m.

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## 7. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting re-opened to the public at \_\_\_\_ p.m.

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## 8. 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:

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Matter</b>	<b>Decision</b>
2.1	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 20 January 2026.</i>	
5.1	<i>General Managers Performance Criteria</i>	

## 9. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at the Council Chambers, Bothwell commencing at 9.00 a.m.

**Attendance:** Mayor L Triffitt, Deputy Mayor J Allwright, Cr A Archer (attended from 11.40am), Cr R Cassidy (attended from 11.55am), Cr J Hall, Cr J Honner, and Cr S Triffett.

**Also in Attendance:** Stephen Mackey (General Manager), Katrina Brazendale (Executive Assistant), Paul West (River Road Consulting), Martin Farley (Creating Preferred Futures) and Damian Mackey (Planning Consultant).

**Apologies:** Cr Y Miller and Cr D Meacheam

The workshop focussed on the following items for discussion:

- Bus Services
- Hamilton Plains
- Ambulances Services
- Local Government Electoral Reform
- Inquiry Local Government Financial Reform
- Ellendale Sewerage
- Gretna Cricket Club new building
- Strategic Planning
- STRLUS Submission
- General Managers Performance Criteria

The workshop concluded at 12.55 p.m.

## 9.1 FUTURE WORKSHOP(S)

### PURPOSE

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

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

10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Bothwell 9.00a.m.

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## 10. 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.

## 11. PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

### 11.1 PETITIONS

Nil

### 11.2 DEPUTATIONS

6.15p.m. - Derwent Catchment Eve Lazarus and Aleida Williams

### 11.3 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

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## 12. 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.*

### 12.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY

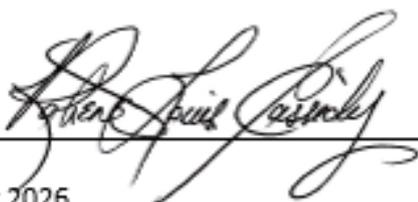
#### **RECOMMENDATION 05/02.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr R Cassidy

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Central Highlands Council's Mayor Lou Triffitt and General Manager Stephen Mackey write to Elspeth Maroni, GM Department of State Roads and the Honourable Kerry Vincent, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Minister to widen and straighten where possible the Highland Lakes Road, between Melton Mowbray and Bothwell, to allow regular commuters, tourists, the school bus, and other vehicles to safely pass oversized prime movers transporting wind farm components along the Highland Lakes Road.

Also, the patched section above Lower Marshes is subsiding, again and a permanent solution is required. All of this work should be undertaken and completed before wind farm construction begins or a workable solution found that will not inconvenience regular commuters, tourists, the school bus, and other vehicles for the next few years, during construction phase

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 February 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	Robert Cassidy
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	<p>That Central Highlands Council's Mayor Lou Triffitt and General Manager Stephen Mackey write to Elspeth Maroni, GM Department of State Roads and the Honourable Kerry Vincent, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Minister to widen and straighten where possible the Highland Lakes Road, between Melton Mowbray and Bothwell, to allow regular commuters, tourists, the school bus, and other vehicles to safely pass oversized prime movers transporting wind farm components along the Highland Lakes Road.</p> <p>Also, the patched section above Lower Marshes is subsiding, again and a permanent solution is required. All of this work should be undertaken and completed before wind farm construction begins or a workable solution found that will not inconvenience regular commuters, tourists, the school bus, and other vehicles for the next few years, during construction phase.</p>
<b>Background</b>	<p>Regular commuters, tourists, the school bus, and other vehicles cannot safely pass oversized prime movers transporting wind farm components along the Highland Lakes Road and are forced to pull off the Highland Lakes Road and the shoulders are soft and the embankment steep to do it safely.</p> <p>Further, regular commuters, tourists, the school bus, and other vehicles are forced to park on the roadside twenty to thirty minutes . . . regardless they will be late to work, school, medical and other appointments.</p> <p>The degraded patch is located at S42.419/E147.139</p>
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	31 January 2026

Notes:

See photos



The wind turbine blade lies partly on the road after the truck rollover near Bothwell.

Picture: TASMANIA POLICE



## 12.2 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY

### RECOMMENDATION 06/02.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr R Cassidy

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Central Highlands Council’s Mayor Loueen Triffitt and General Manager Stephen Mackey discuss with Council and Council Employees the concerns raised in the Tasmania Integrity Commission “Local Government Gifts and Donations Consultation paper”, dated 2 February 2026.

- a) Review Gifts and Donations Policy;
- b) Review and complete Gifts and Donations monthly register, individually;
- c) Council address each of the 13 questions raised and make a submission; and
- d) Give assurances to the Honourable Minister for Local Government, Director of Local Government and the Integrity Commission that Central Highlands Council is fully compliant, #1 with current legislative requirements and the intentions of the Commission “Local Government Gifts and Donations Consultation paper”, dated 2 February 2026, going forward.

**Attachment** – Local Government Gifts Donations Consultation Paper

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 February 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	Robert Cassidy
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Central Highlands Council's Mayor Lou Triffitt and General Manager Stephen Mackey discuss with Council and Council Employees the concerns raised in the Tasmania Integrity Commission "Local Government Gifts and Donations Consultation paper", dated 2 February 2026.</li> <li>• Review Gifts and Donations Policy.</li> <li>• Review and complete Gifts and Donations monthly register, individually.</li> <li>• Council address each of the 13 questions raised and make a submission.</li> <li>• <u>Give</u> assurances to the Honourable Minister for Local Government, Director of Local Government and the Integrity Commission that Central Highlands Council is fully compliant, #1 with current legislative requirements and the intentions of the Commission "Local Government Gifts and Donations Consultation paper", dated 2 February 2026, going forward.</li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	The Tasmania Integrity Commission has released the "Local Government Gifts and Donations Consultation paper", dated 2 February 2026
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	3 February 2026
<b>Notes:</b>	Refer to the Tasmania Integrity Commission "Local Government Gifts and Donations Consultation paper", dated 2 February 2026 (attached)

**12.3 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY**

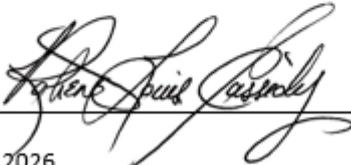
**RECOMMENDATION 07/02.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr R Cassidy

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Central Highlands Council's Mayor Lou Triffitt and General Manager Stephen Mackey communicate to Department of State Roads, GM Elspeth Moroni to:

- a. Install a 40 km/h Speed Limit sign on either side of the “shopping precinct”;
- b. The shopping precinct is bounded by the entry to Bothwell Medical Centre (Archer Drive S42.384361, E147.008980) to the East and the Bothwell Post Office to the West (S42.383993, E147.006567); and
- c. A pedestrian Zebra Crossing should be painted from the footpath adjacent to St Michael’s All Angels Church, on the corner of Patrick Street and Market Place, directly across to the corner of Patrick Street and William Street corner.

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 February 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	Robert Cassidy
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Central Highlands Council’s Mayor Lou Triffitt and General Manager Stephen Mackey communicate to Department of State Roads, GM Elspeth Moroni to:</li> <li>• Install a 40 km/h Speed Limit sign on either side of the “shopping precinct”.</li> <li>• The shopping precinct is bounded by the entry to Bothwell Medical Centre (Archer Drive S42.384361, E147.008980) to the East and the Bothwell Post Office to the West (S42.383993, E147.006567).</li> <li>• A pedestrian Zebra Crossing should be painted from the footpath adjacent to St Michael’s All Angels Church, on the corner of Patrick Street and Market Place, directly across to the corner of Patrick Street and William Street corner.</li> <li>• See Google Maps view, page 2</li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	We must consider future road safety and the safety of pedestrians, as well as for the School Bus Stop.
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	5 February 2026



**12.4 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM****RECOMMENDATION 08/02.2026/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr**THAT** Council notes advice below of the work of the Better Politics Foundation

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	February 17, 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	David Meacheam
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	That Council notes advice below of the work of the Better Politics Foundation.
<b>Background Details:</b>	<p>The non-partisan Better Politics Foundation is newly established in Australia, after notable success in the UK and Ireland. The work of the Foundation is a response to the increasingly antagonistic political systems within so many democratic societies, marked in the UK by the tragic killings of MP's Jo Cox and Sir David Amess.</p> <p>In Australia the Foundation is headed up by <b>Professor Patrick McGorry OAM</b>, supported at the Federal level by the <b>Milton Dick</b>, Speaker of the House of Representatives, with MP's <b>Allegra Spender and Helen Haines</b>. At the State level the 'champions' are <b>Ruth Forrest</b>, MLC, Deputy President of the Legislative Council, and <b>myself</b>. Our work is to improve the tone of politics at all levels, and support the mental wellbeing of elected reps and staff. We are just at the launch stage of the Foundation now. You can read further of our work at <a href="https://www.betterpolitics.foundation/better-politics-study-australia">https://www.betterpolitics.foundation/better-politics-study-australia</a></p> <p>The Foundation still has <u>open</u> a survey gauging the experiences and views of politicians at all levels. To date we've had 250+ responses, better than the response out of the UK and Ireland. We are also keen to expand the number of 'champions' for the Foundation at the local government level.</p> <p>Rather than my seeking support for the work of the Foundation through contacting the handful of mayors I know, I privately approach Dion Lester, CC'ing Mayors Duniam and Wriedt, asking that LGAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the work of the Foundation.</li> <li>• Invite mayors and councillors across the State to respond to the survey at <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCHVVHC">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCHVVHC</a></li> </ul> <p>I urge fellow councillors to complete the survey via the SurveyMonkey link given above and consider how they might work to improve the civility and inclusiveness of our practices, with renewed attention to the progress of our communities.</p>
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>David Meacheam</i>
<b>Date:</b>	5/2/2026

**12.5 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM**

**RECOMMENDATION 09/02.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr D Meacheam

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** media outlets fully or partly funded by Council must not be used to promote the interests of individual elected members. This motion recognizes self-promotion content that individual Council members have individually paid for are the appropriate means for such promotion.

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	February 17, 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	David Meacheam
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	That media outlets fully or partly funded by Council must not be used to promote the interests of individual elected members. This motion recognizes self-promotion content that individual Council members have individually paid for are the appropriate means for such promotion.
<b>Background Details:</b>	Recent instances have arisen of social media being used to advance the interests of a single elected member. Council contributes \$15,000 pa in support of the Online Access Centre and the Highlands Digest.
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>David Meacheam</i>
<b>Date:</b>	10/2/26

**13. 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

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**14. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING RESUMED**

**NOT REQUIRED**

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## 15. MONTHLY MAYORAL AND ELECTED MEMBERS ACTIVITY

### RECOMMENDATION 10/02.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

THAT the Council notes the Mayoral and Elected Members Activities.

### IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

<b>Strategic Plan</b>	6.2 Ensure that Council members have the resources and skills development opportunities to effectively fulfil their responsibilities
<b>Council Policy</b>	Councillor Code of Conduct Policy
<b>Legislative Context</b>	Local Government Act 1993 Local Government (General) Regulations 2025 Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2024
<b>Consultation</b>	The community and stakeholders.
<b>Impact on Budget/Resources</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Risk</b>	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**

20 January 2026      Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)  
26 January 2026      Australia Day Presentations (Bothwell)  
3 February 2026      Council Workshop (Bothwell)

- Business of Council – **15**
- Ratepayer and community members – communications - **4**
- Elected Members - communications - **23**
- Council Management communications - **10**
- Legal Communications - **0**

#### **Deputy Mayor J Allwright**

20 January 2026      Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)  
26 January 2026      Australia Day Presentations (Bothwell)  
3 February 2026      Council Workshop (Bothwell)

**Cr A Archer**

20 January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)  
26 January 2026 Australia Day Presentations (Bothwell)  
3 February 2026 Council Workshop (Bothwell)

**Cr R Cassidy**

20 January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)  
26 January 2026 Australia Day Presentations (Bothwell)  
3 February 2026 Council Workshop (Bothwell)

**Cr J Hall**

20 January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)  
26 January 2026 Australia Day Presentations (Bothwell)  
28 January 2026 Bush Watch Meeting (Westerway)  
3 February 2026 Council Workshop (Bothwell)

**Cr J Honner**

20 January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)  
26 January 2026 Australia Day Presentations (Bothwell)  
3 February 2026 Council Workshop (Bothwell)

**Cr D Meacheam**

20 January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)  
26 January 2026 Australia Day Presentations (Bothwell)

**Cr Y Miller**

20 January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)  
26 January 2026 Australia Day Presentations (Bothwell)

**Cr S Triffett**

20 January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting (Hamilton)  
26 January 2026 Australia Day Presentations (Bothwell)  
3 February 2026 Council Workshop (Bothwell)

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## 15.1 MAYORAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERS LETTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RECOMMENDATION 11/02.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Information be received.

**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, General Manager



11 February 2026

Ms Vicki Brady  
Managing Director and CEO  
Telstra Corporation Pty Ltd  
Level 41  
242 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne, VIC 3000

Dear Ms Brady

#### **Pelham Telstra Tower Co-Investment Funding**

Firstly, Council wishes to thank you for your patience regarding the funding you seek for the installation of the Telstra tower at Pelham in the Central Highlands.

You are no doubt aware of the reasons for this delay, that being the lack of performance from this tower for mobile coverage along the Lyell highway. At a meeting with Telstra's Mr Michael Patterson, Council admitted that there was an expectation the tower would provide additional coverage of about 7 to 8 kilometres along the Lyell Highway. However, this only achieved about 20% of that proposed coverage.

After receiving a curt response from Mr Paterson who informed us that as the Lyell Highway coverage was not included in the contract for the co-contribution for this tower, Council was now required to make good on the contractual agreement.

Council informed Mr Patterson that we were of the view that the Federal Minister for Communication provided the grant funding under the Mobile Black Spot Funding Programme, for this tower, clearly believing there would be an improvement in service along the Lyell Highway from this installation.

This was communicated to Telstra, and we now have the response from the Minister stating in part as follows:

**Administration & Works & Services**  
Tarleton Street Tel: (03) 6286 3202  
Hamilton, Tasmania 7140

**Development & Environmental Services**  
Alexander Street Tel: (03) 6259 5503  
Bothwell, Tasmania 7030 Fax: (03) 6259 5722

website [www.centralhighlands.tas.gov.au](http://www.centralhighlands.tas.gov.au)

"In respect of the comments you report from Telstra, you are correct to say the highway coverage was envisaged in the awarding of funding for the project.

If you are concerned the project has not met Council's expectations when co-funding this project, based on your engagement with local Telstra representatives, you may wish to raise this at a more senior level within Telstra."

Another step was also proposed in the letter, but we would prefer attempting to get a resolution by communicating with you for a more beneficial outcome for our ratepayers.

Council's decision is to withhold or defer payment until either:

- The works are carried out to our satisfaction, in terms of the improved coverage on the Lyell Highway.
- Or, new works are undertaken elsewhere that meet the level of performance expected when the Federal Government and Council committed to the funding.

If these upgrades are not possible then Council urgently seek Telstra confirmation that they will not continue to seek the co-funding for this tower from Council.

Following the above confirmation, Council will be happy to discuss making this amount available for another tower in the lakes area of the Central Highlands.

We hope that Council pursuing this with the Federal Minister for Communications will strengthen support in the development of an improved mobile phone network in the Central Highlands.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Mackey  
General Manager

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability  
Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development,  
Infrastructure and Transport.

By email: [www.aph.gov.au/Committee/Submissions](http://www.aph.gov.au/Committee/Submissions).

### **Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability**

#### **RATING OF WIND AND SOLAR FARMS AND RATE EQUIVALENT PAYMENTS**

Currently rural councils in Tasmania are disadvantaged in four ways by the State Government:

- The first relates to the payment of rates by owners and operators of wind and solar farms. Tasmania state government has not yet legislated for the PiLoR (Payment in Lieu of Rates) approach, as exists or subject to implementation in mainland states.
- The Valuation Division has undertaken a review of the relevant codes for the rating of these but the process to have revaluations undertaken is very slow.
- We also find that the owners of crown land are allowing commercial activities such as motel complexes to be built or operated as commercial enterprises on their land, and then through a lease agreement, provide these commercial activities with a competitive advantage over similar developments, by the inclusion of an exemption for rating. This is in no way compliant with national competition principles.
- With the loss of income from the rate equivalent payments made by Hydro-Electric Corporation to the State government, small rural councils are further disadvantaged.

This matter has been the subject of a motion to a Local Government Association of Tasmania general meeting and has also been communicated to the relevant government agency, but to date no action has been commenced.

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**Provision of medical services rural areas**

Many rural councils are burdened with the cost of helping to provide medical services in their municipal area. The Central Highlands Council currently has a contract with a medical provider so that a medical service can exist in Bothwell. For this we pay a substantial contract payment, plus the provision of a council residence at no cost.

We are also charged with providing a residence for the use by Ambulance Tasmania to house the paramedics who provide the service from Ouse. Ambulance Tasmania is part of Tasmania Health Service. Shouldn't they be paying for accommodation?

Councils are also currently charged with having to make substantial contributions to the Local SES for the purchase of vehicles and for operational equipment. This is in the process of changing and will require local government to hand over free of charge all vehicles and equipment. We will still need to make an annual monetary contribution in the order of \$10,000. These are State services.

**Library Services and online access centres**

The State government is currently in the process of transferring the provision of online access centres to councils. This may not seem significant but in some rural areas there may be several facilities. The Government will provide some ongoing funding on transfer, not indexed, for the continuation of the service for possibly 5 years, but after that it will have to be funded by ratepayers. Councils will have to budget for on-going maintenance and utilities charges for these facilities.

**Bus Services**

Rural communities who have minimal medical services means many residents must travel long distances to major cities to access medical care. Some medical conditions or procedures will not allow them to drive. Many of these older residents are not confident driving the distance to and from Hobart or returning in the dark on rural roads or driving in city traffic, especially during rush hours. Therefore, a bus is their only option.

In former times, Miena through Bothwell to Hobart had a bus service that ran more than 75 years, but was suspended, resulting in more commuter traffic and congestion in the metropolitan areas. In recent times, the twice a week service for two of our townships has been reduced to once per fortnight. We have now been advised that if we wish this to return to the two days per fortnight we will have to pay.

Further enquiries were made about the use of the school bus run by our elderly residents in an endeavour to have a more viable service to cater for their medical and social needs. This option we were advised is not permissible as it is for school students only, though previously it was acceptable for students of all ages to travel on the bus service.

### **Heavy Vehicle Registration Fees**

This has been set at \$1.5 million, since its inception. The Tasmania State government have this year increased the payment to \$3.5 million but, have stated that it is for one year only.

### **Grants Federal and State**

Most of these grants are disbursed on a competitive basis meaning small councils must compete with the large city councils, that have significantly more staff to research and process these applications. It would appear to be a better process if the grants were split so that there were allocations for large city councils, medium sized councils and small councils, giving all a chance to obtain funding.

### **Grants Commission Methodology**

The State Grants Commission has been attempting to make the methodology used for the calculation of the grants to local government more understandable, to no avail.

The only thing that has been fully understood is the complete lack of funding provided to the relevant state grants commission by the federal government. It appears that this funding has been reducing over the years and that it is well short of the necessary 1% of Federal revenues.

The State Grants Commission has made a change to the methodology for the residential population. That being a change by calling it a "service population", which includes a percentage for non- residents (holiday homeowners), which is now being phased in.

There should also be a calculation to cover loss of income, from exempt properties. By this I mean not only; those exempt under section 87 of the Local Government Act 1993, but also those exempt as they are owned by the Government, such as government business enterprises or commercial developers who have a lease agreement to occupy crown land and who are provided an exemption from the payment of rates within the crown lease.

While councils are often best positioned to deliver many public services with their local knowledge and understanding, they are not funded sufficiently to do so.

This fact has been acknowledged by the current Federal Government, who made an election commitment to provide 'fair increases' to Financial Assistance Grants, recognising the key role Federal Assistance Grants play in supporting a sustainable local government sector. This is long overdue, as over the past 30 years Financial Assistance Grants have slipped from 1 percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue, to just half of one per cent. This decline has been most strongly felt in regional, rural and remote councils, where Financial Assistance Grants often make up a much higher component of their annual operating revenue. It seems perverse that this decline in Federal Assistance Grants has occurred in the period when the range of services delivered by councils because of cost shifting from higher levels of government and changing community expectations has proportionally grown.

It is critical that this inquiry recommends that the untied and non-competitive funding be restored to at least one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Mackey  
General Manager

central  
highlands  
COUNCIL



29 January 2026

The Hon. Madeleine Ogilvie MP  
Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy  
15 Murray Street  
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Minister,

### **Mobile Communications in the Central Highlands**

Council is heartened to hear that you as the Minister responsible for the digital economy have advocated for the Australian Government and Telstra to deliver improved services to those regions, and to provide solutions for the constrained network capacity issues.

Telstra, as you have pointed out, has undertaken upgrades in the Central Highlands areas of Miena, Liawenee, Steppes, Reynolds Neck and Brandum, but this has only provided a capacity increase not any expansion to the service delivery area.

The only way we can, as a small council press for greater coverage is with, you're continued support as Minister to help us negotiate with the Australian Government and Telstra for better mobile and NBN services in these remote areas of Tasmania.

To achieve this council would be greatly appreciative if you can make yourself available to meet Mayor Triffitt and Central Highlands councillors to develop a co-ordinated strategy for substantial improvement to mobile phone and NBN services in the Central Highlands.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Mackey  
General Manager

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Tarleton Street Tel: (03) 6286 3202  
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29 January 2026

The Hon. Bridget Archer MP  
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing  
GPO Box 123  
Hobart TAS 7001

Dear Minister,

### **Health Services Ouse District Hospital**

Central Highland Council has been pursuing with the Deputy Premier The Hon. Guy Barnett MP the provision of a medical practitioner at the Ouse District Hospital. This facility has not operated for some years, even though Council, has continued to pursue, having a doctor stationed at the Hospital.

The last conversation with the Deputy Premier Guy Barnett was in August last year (2025) when we were promised that within six (6) Months a doctor would be operating from this facility, but on a part time basis.

Council was also informed that the Government was in the process of advertising for a nurse practitioner. We understand that this position was advertised but no information on the outcome has been reported to Council.

Can you provide clarification to us that a doctor was interested but apparently after meeting with some opposition from Department of Health Services, (who own the Hospital site) this doctor is now looking at other options elsewhere.

It is vitally important for the Ouse community and surrounding towns this with many of our elderly needing health care on a permanent basis are provided with the promised GP we urgently require.

Another issue in this ageing community, is that a new government contract with Area Connect and Kinetic bus services have now reduced for Ouse and Bothwell from two (2) days per week to one (1) day per fortnight.

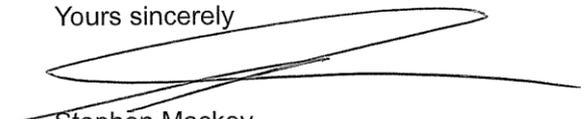
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Based on the above it is now urgent that we meet with you and representative from the Department of Health Services to progress the reinstatement of these essential services to our community.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Mackey  
General Manager

### **Options for a bus service for Bothwell and Ouse**

#### **Options to be considered are as follows:**

Ouse to Hamilton to New Norfolk 2 Days per week 7.30 am leaving New Norfolk 3.00 pm  
Ouse to Ellendale to New Norfolk 2 days per week 7.30 am leaving New Norfolk 5.00pm

Bothwell to New Norfolk 2 Days per week 7.30 am leaving New Norfolk 5.00 pm  
Bothwell to Hobart 2 Days per week 7.30 am leaving Hobart 3.00pm

It is proposed that the bus runs from Ouse to New Norfolk could also use utilise the current bus service from New Norfolk to Hobart and return to New Norfolk to catch the 3.00 pm bus.

For the operation of the above services, we suggest using 24-seater buses.

Another option could be a to utilise the current bus service from New Norfolk 4 Days per week leaving Bothwell at 7.30 am travelling to Hamilton (as a bus depot for the pickup of residents from Hamilton Ose and Ellendale) located outside the Hamilton Office then travel to New Norfolk. The return service would leave New Norfolk at 4.30 pm.

**15.2 GENERAL MANAGERS ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2026****RECOMMENDATION 12/02.2026/C****Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr**THAT** the Information be received.**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, General Manager

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>
5 January 2026	Meeting John Stephenson Hamilton Inn with Damian Mackey
8 January 2026	Meeting Katrina Brazendale and Zeeshan Tauqeer
13 January 2026	Meeting with Staff on the Gretna Recreation Ground Development
20 January 2026	Council Meeting
22 January 2026	Meeting regarding Ouse River Bridge Replacement, Catch up meeting with the Consultants regarding the Childcare report.
26 January 2026	Australia Day Awards
27 January 2026	Meeting with the Mayor and a resident from Hamilton Plains Road regarding boom gates etc, Monthly Catchup meeting with Bec Whites Executive Officer, Future Made in Australia and Stylus Catch up Meeting.
28 January 2026	Meeting with representative of the Osterley Church regarding the future use of the cemetery
29 January 2025	Meeting with the Deputy Premier to discuss Medical Service Bus Services, Road Upgrades Child Care Road Upgrades Neighbourhood House Ouse School Mobile Phone services Miena, Workshop with Paul West re KPI for General Managers Performance Review.
30 January 2026	STCN (Southern Tasmanian Councils Network) General Managers Meeting Hobart.
2 February 2026	Meeting with Martin Farley regarding the review of the Strategic plan for discussion with Council.
3 February 2026	Council Workshop
4 February 2026	Strategic Plan reporting meeting with Martin Farley
10 February 2026	Meeting with the Mayor and Nadine Cove regarding the Hamilton Bi - Centennial, Meeting with Damian Mackey and ReCFIT regarding Pilot Project community funding and developing an MOU.
11 February 2026	TasWater Briefing
12 February 2026	Meeting with Representatives of Primary Health regarding Health Care in the Central Highlands
16 February 2026	Audit Panel Meeting
17 February 2026	Finance Committee Meeting, Council Meeting

## 16. 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

## 16.1 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2020-2025 – MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

### RECOMMENDATION 13/02.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

*THAT the Health and Wellbeing report be received.*

### IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

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

**REPORT BY** Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

[Attachment - Central Highlands Childcare Options Analysis and executive summary](#)

### BACKGROUND

The following activities were performed during **January 2026**.

<b>COUNCIL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>External Grants</b>	GRANT SUCCESS: - \$500,000 to be received through Tas Active Infrastructure Grants (DPAC) Gretna Oval application.  Confirmation of funding has been provided by Ministers Office, project planning has commenced, Grant Deed has been signed, invoice submitted, and awaiting payment.
	Partnership grant application with HATCH – “Ouse Park Party” - children’s and families event in April holidays. Grant submission to Communities for Children small grants round.
	Building Early Education Fund – Federal investment of \$3 million in funding confirmed for 20 place long-daycare at Bothwell District High School. Launch date – 2028.
<b>Australia Day 2026</b>	Coordination of Australia Day award program and Australia Day event. Attended by around 100 people at Bothwell Hall. Catering by Lions Club of Bothwell District. 9 award recipients:  Stefan Frazik – Citizen of Year, Kaitlyn Housego – Junior Citizen of Year, District School Career Expo by Bothwell District High School  Certificate of Excellence for Community Contribution: Heather Allcock, Michael Walls, Shayla Koy (Junior), Hamilton Kids Community Events, Miena Children’s Christmas Party, Osterley Church Community events.
<b>TICT award submission</b>	Coordination of Bothwell’s entry into Tourism Industry Council Tourism Towns awards for 2026.
<b>Primary Care strategic project – Ouse</b>	Re-engagement with Primary Care Tasmania and UTAS medical school to discuss options for primary care at Central Highlands Community Health Centre – Ouse.  Meetings with GM to look at best options for working towards restoring Primary Care to CH Health Centre - Ouse.,
<b>UPDATE: Childcare Project</b>	<u>Family Day Care Ouse</u> Engagement with DECYP to find alternative location for Happy House Daycare, given insecure long-term tenure at Ouse.  <u>Thrive Group Childcare training</u> – eight local people are signed up for free childcare qualification training which began January 2026.  <u>Options Analysis</u> Ninety Mile Consulting – provided final of Childcare Options Analysis, included with report.

	<u>Westerway School After Hours Care</u> – Collaboration with school and provider to aim for program launch in 2026.
<b>Community Grants</b>	Coordination of community grants programs
<b>REPRESENTATION MEETINGS and EVENTS</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with GM and Rebecca White MPs office to discuss Community priorities.</li> <li>• Workshop with LGAT to provide input into joint submission for Federal Government's 'Future Made in Australia' community benefit principles.</li> <li>• Meeting with ABS regarding local census.</li> <li>• Communities for Children Steering Committee.</li> <li>• Bushwatch meeting</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>Great lake Community Centre</b>	Working with committee to finalise council-funded insulation roofing installation project.
<b>School Holidays programs</b>	<p>Support for school holiday programs in 2026 to be run through Action Crew Central Highlands.</p> <p>Commencing with film project with Gretna Junior Fire Brigade who made film in January, followed by craft project in Ellendale. .</p>
<b>Ouse Online Access Centre</b>	Liaison with Acting GM, Libraries Tas and OAC to support secure ongoing functioning of OAC.
<b>COMMUNICATION and MEDIA</b>	
<b>Residents guide</b>	Finalisation of community information and layout for printing.
<b>Website</b>	Uploading content new website.
<b>St Michael's &amp; All Angels</b>	Promotion and organisation of community meeting 26 February.
<b>Council social media</b>	<p>Facebook followers: 2.9K</p> <p>January Posts: Profile posts – Australia Day award recipients, Australia Day events, Pool messaging, Liawenee Canal upgrades.</p>
<b>Highland Digest</b>	Provision of relevant council and community content.

## 16.2 ASH COTTAGE – MONTHLY REPORT

### RECOMMENDATION 14/02.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

THAT the information be received.

### IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

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

**REPORT BY** Catherine Bannister, Administration Officer

Ash Cottage has had a slow start back after the festive season and usually does until school goes back.

The commence of our monthly "Cook & Chat" where locals come together and help prepare and cook a meal. We had chicken and salad wraps and were lucky enough to share one with the Honourable Guy Barnett MP when he popped in for a chat.

We also had our first "Exercise" class for the New Year, and it was attended by 7 community members and were fortunate that we were successful with a "Get Active Program" grant and look at starting "Yoga" on the 19<sup>th</sup> Feb for 10 weeks.

We are still going strong with our "Food Hub" and "Meal Delivery" programs, these programs are being utilised by not only community members from the Central Highlands but even further afield.

Our "Free Swap Op Shop" amazes many a traveller that attends as they can't understand how we can operate without charging anything for their finds. To which we explain, because we are a council owned building we don't have any overheads, hence why there is no charge.

At times we are inundated with donations and will donate the excess further down the road, when necessary, but this doesn't happen to often as we have a great turn over.

We would see at least ten people a day on average if not more.

**16.3 DONATION REQUEST – GRETNA CRICKET CLUB TROPHY PRESENTATION****RECOMMENDATION 15/02.2026/C****Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council provide a donation of \$300 to the Gretna Cricket Club for their annual awards function.

**REPORT BY** Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

**BACKGROUND**

Council has received a donation request from Gretna Cricket Club for their annual Junior and Senior awards. Council has supported these awards consistently for more than five years, donating \$250.

**For discussion**

The Club is seeking a donation towards the annual awards, with \$250 recommended as per previous years donations amount.

It is proposed that this expenditure be made against the Community Support and Donations project within the Community and Economic Development Budget, which has \$11,700 remaining for this financial year.



Central Highlands Council  
6 Tarleton Street  
Hamilton Tas 7140

6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

**Re: Club Trophies**

The Gretna Cricket Club are thrilled to let you know that the junior cricket numbers are thriving with the club now securing 3 teams along with the Woolworths Cricket Blast (total of 45 children) in the junior competition.

The Club are currently seeking support for our upcoming Junior and Senior Trophy Presentations. We, therefore, hope that you would kindly consider making a donation towards our end of season presentations by sponsoring trophies for each team being 4 Juniors and 2 Senior teams or a donation towards the purchase of the trophies.

Any assistance would be appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

Wade Gleeson  
Junior Development Officer

**17. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES**

<b>Manage Council’s physical assets in an efficient and effective manner</b>	
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

**17.1 WORKS & SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT – JANUARY 2026**

**RECOMMENDATION 16/02.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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

**REPORT BY** Jason Branch, Works & Services Manager

**BACKGROUND**

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

<b>Grading &amp; Sheeting</b>	
<b>Maintenance Grading</b>	
<b>Potholing / shouldering</b>	
<b>Spraying:</b>	
<b>Culverts / Drainage:</b>	Bothwell Quarry Bothwell Township
<b>Occupational Health and safety</b>	Drainage Curlys Lane Repair culvert Jones River Road Replace culvert Wetheron Road Clean culverts Rose Hill road Install culvert Holmes Road Install culvert Wellwoods Road Install culvert Tor hill Road Clean culvert 14 Mile Road Clean drain Dawson Road
<b>Bridges:</b>	Monthly Toolbox Meetings Day to day JSA and daily prestart check lists completed.

	<p>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</p>
<b>Refuse / recycling sites:</b>	Councils Bridge report received
<b>Other:</b>	Cover Hamilton Tip twice weekly
<b>Slashing:</b>	<p>Bothwell swimming pool maintenance repair solar          Road repairs Curlys Lane          Refurbished flagpole Queens Park          Repair water leaks Hamilton Show grounds          Commence watering grounds for Hamilton Show          Repair fence Hamilton Show grounds          Screw grandstand seating Hamilton show grounds          Pump out septic tanks Hamilton Show Grounds          Repair broken fence Ellendale playground area          Repair broken fence Gretna playground area          Pick up rubbish roadside Binns Breona          Cart gravel Thousand Acre Lane Capital works          Clean up Miena waste transfer station          Brush Cutt Bothwell Cemetery after no mow period          Repair defects Thousand Acre Lane          Finalize Blackspot designs          Repair broken park gates Queens Park Bothwell          Clean out cattle grids Woodspring's Road and repair          Unblock caravan park dump point and dig up and repair          Hollow Tree Road stabilization capital works completed          Straighten and repair signs Ellendale Road</p>
<b>Municipal Town Maintenance:</b>	<p>Ellendale road          Dry poles Road          Rockmount Road          McCullums Road          Halls Road</p>
<b>Buildings:</b>	<p>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</p>
<b>Plant:</b>	Install ridge capping Wayatinah BBQ area
<b>Private Works:</b>	<p>PM717 Dog trailer Bothwell new brakes          PM824 Toyota Hilux Hamilton serviced</p>
<b>Casuals</b>	<p>Mowing Gayleen McCafferty          Grader hire Ramsey AG</p>

	B L Smith gravel delivery A W and K Roberston gravel delivery
<b>Program for next 4 weeks</b>	Toilets, rubbish and Hobart Hamilton general duties Mowing and brush cutting Gardening Ellendale footpath capital works Drainage Berry drive Capital works Continue with Thousand Acre Lane capital works

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**18. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY)**

<b>Manage Council’s finances and assets to ensure long term viability and sustainability of Council</b>	
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

**18.1 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT TO 31 JANUARY 2026**

**RECOMMENDATION 17/02.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Monthly Finance Report to 31 January 2026 be received.

**IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS**

<b>Strategic Plan</b>	3.1 Manage finances and assets in a transparent way to allow the maximisation of resources to provide efficient and consistent delivery of services
<b>Council Policy</b>	Not applicable
<b>Legislative Context</b>	The council’s decision-making is under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, and the report details the basis for the recommendation
<b>Consultation</b>	The financial statements form part of the public record within the Council minutes
<b>Impact on Budget/Resources</b>	As attached
<b>Risk</b>	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 December 2025

## **Year-to-Date Financial Report (as of 31 January 2026)**

### **Cash and Investment Position**

As of 31 January 2026, Council's total cash and investment holdings are \$5,031,807. This balance is held across operating bank accounts and short-term investments, as detailed below:

Cash at Bank and On Hand: \$1,263,256 held in the main operating accounts (Commonwealth Bank general account and Westpac direct deposit account). These are immediately available funds for day-to-day operations.

Investments: \$3,768,551 is invested in term deposits and an at-call deposit. The investments include several term deposits earning between 3.60% and 4.28% interest, as well as an at-call account earning 3.60% interest. (Notably, the investments include \$2,666,787 at 4.28% maturing 28/04/2026, \$511,906 at 4.21% maturing 02/04/2026, \$500,000 at 4.09% maturing 03/03/2026, \$89,859 at-call at 3.60%.)

The combined cash at bank and invested funds (\$5,031,807) provides liquidity for Council's operations.

### **Income and Expenditure Overview**

**Income:** Year-to-date operating income totals \$8,657,522. The main sources of this revenue are:

**Rates and Charges:** \$4,943,026 recurring income, which represents the majority of Council's income.

**User Fees:** \$217,368 from fees for services and usage charges.

**Operating Grants:** \$1,393,995 in grants for operational purposes.

**Other Revenue:** \$356,628 from miscellaneous sources (interest, reimbursements, etc.).

**Grants Received in Advance:** \$1,746,506 in grant funding received in advance of its intended period.

**Expenditure:** Year-to-date operating expenditure is \$5,892,173. Spending to date is broken down by major expense categories as follows:

**Employee Benefits:** \$2,403,766 spent on salaries, wages, and associated employee costs.

**Materials and Services:** \$876,105 expended on materials, contracts, utilities, and services used in operations.

**Other Expenses:** \$1,033,966 in other operating costs (including insurance, administrative expenses, etc.).

**Depreciation and Amortisation:** \$1,578,337 recorded as depreciation on Council assets (a non-cash expense).

Operating revenues exceed operating expenditures year-to-date, with an operating surplus of \$2,765,349.

### **Departmental Expenditure Summary**

The table below summarizes operating expenditure by department, comparing the annual budget with actual spending up to 31 January 2026.

Corporate & Financial Services: \$1,581,433 spent year-to-date vs. an annual budget of \$2,677,717 (59.1% of budget expended).

Development & Environmental Services: \$944,472 spent year-to-date vs. an annual budget of \$2,845,210 (33.2% of budget expended).

Works & Services: \$1,838,365 spent year-to-date vs. an annual budget of \$3,025,581 (60.8% of budget expended).

### **Capital Expenditure Summary**

Year-to-date capital expenditure is \$440,995, which is 12.4% of the annual capital works budget of \$3,561,414. The breakdown by key capital project categories is as follows:

**Road Construction & Reseals:** \$277,068 spent out of a \$2,196,099 budget (12.6% of this budget utilized).

**Buildings:** \$53,146 spent out of a \$131,667 budget (40.4% of this budget utilized).

**Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters:** \$14,244 spent out of a \$245,000 budget (5.8% of this budget utilized).

**Plant Purchases:** \$0 spent out of \$170,000 budget (0.0% expended) so far on vehicle and machinery acquisitions.

**Bridges:** \$75,411 spent against a budget of \$55,000 (spend exceeds annual budget on this line)

( Approved by General Manager as per Barry Harback-Work & Service Supervisor)

**Halls:** \$15,971 spent where the annual budget line is presented as \$0.

(Approved by GM as per Barry Harback-Work & Service Supervisor)

**Bank Reconciliation as at 31 January 2026**

	2024	2025
Balance Brought Forward	\$5,666,574.84	\$5,425,613.26
Receipts for month	\$354,257.07	\$255,482.04
Expenditure for month	\$515,829.51	\$649,288.25
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$5,505,002.40</b>	<b>\$5,031,807.05</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Represented By:</b>		
Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$991,790.35	\$1,059,067.90
Balance Westpac Bank	\$151,155.60	\$202,520.41
CBA Credit Card	\$0.00	\$1,867.64
Investments(Council Reserves + St Michael's Church)	\$4,362,056.45	\$3,788,551.10
Petty Cash & Floats	\$0.00	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>\$5,505,002.40</b>	<b>\$5,031,807.05</b>
Plus Unbanked Money		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>\$5,505,002.40</b>	<b>\$5,031,807.05</b>
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$0.00	
Unreceipted amounts on bank statements	\$0.00	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>\$5,505,002.40</b>	<b>\$5,031,807.05</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>



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

	<b>BUDGET 2025/26</b>	<b>Actual to Date 31/01/2026</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>
<b>Strategic Project- Whole of Community</b>			
Community & Economic Development Support	\$10,000	\$393	\$9,607
Health & Wellbeing Plan (2020-2025) Implementation	\$5,000		\$5,000
Economic and Tourism Development Strategic Project	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
<b>Youth and Children Strategic Projects</b>			\$0
New- Family Day Care Seeding Fund Bothwell	\$5,000		\$5,000
New- Ouse Family Day Care Support	\$5,000		\$5,000
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
Glenora School Breakfast Club	\$1,000		\$1,000
Westerway School Breakfast Club	\$1,000		\$1,000
New-Bothwell Playproup Support	\$1,000		\$1,000
<b>Community &amp; Donation and Financial Assistance</b>			\$0
Community Grants	\$15,000	\$9,663	\$5,337
Community Support & Donations	\$10,000	\$752	\$9,248
Church Grants	\$5,000		\$5,000
Further Education Bursaries	\$1,400		\$1,400
School Awards	\$400		\$400
Central Highlands School Support	\$3,000		\$3,000
<b>Community Event</b>			\$0
ANZAC Day	\$12,000		\$12,000
Australia Day	\$4,000	\$988	\$3,014
Community Event.eg Volunteer week	\$5,000		\$5,000
<b>Community Partnerships</b>			\$0
Highlands Digest Support	\$15,800	\$14,364	\$1,436
Australasian Golf Museum contribution to power	\$5,000		\$5,000
Visitors Centre Contribution to Power	\$5,000		\$5,000
Healthy Connect Project	\$10,000		\$10,000
Brighton Family Day Care	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
<b>Total Community &amp; Economic Development Support &amp; Donations</b>	<b>\$141,600</b>	<b>\$34,485</b>	<b>\$107,115</b>

## Comprehensive Income Statement

31/01/2026

Recurrent Income	Budget 2024-2025	Actual to date prior year	Actual to Date	Budget 2025-2026
Rates Charges	\$4,882,233	\$4,717,569	\$4,943,026	\$4,940,273
User Fees	\$494,250	\$181,898	\$217,368	\$501,651
Grants - Operating	\$3,236,515	\$301,397	\$1,393,995	\$4,428,454
Other Revenue	\$704,366	\$412,471	\$356,628	\$776,217
Grants received in Advance	\$0	\$2,918,101	\$1,746,506	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$9,117,364</b>	<b>\$8,511,236</b>	<b>\$8,657,522</b>	<b>\$10,646,595</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Employee Benefits	\$2,584,261	\$1,655,512	\$2,403,766	\$2,941,952
Materials and Services	\$2,447,768	\$1,626,875	\$876,105	\$3,490,109
Other Expenses	\$1,892,738	\$1,228,448	\$1,033,966	\$2,116,449
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$2,327,800	\$1,473,349	\$1,578,337	\$2,397,634
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$9,252,567</b>	<b>5,984,184</b>	<b>5,892,173</b>	<b>10,946,144</b>
<b>Operating Surplus(Deficit)</b>	<b>(135,203)</b>	<b>2,527,052</b>	<b>2,765,349</b>	<b>(299,549)</b>
Capital Grants & Other	\$2,424,996	\$1,101,244	\$1,560,192	\$1,415,067
<b>Surplus(Deficit)</b>	<b>2,289,793</b>	<b>3,628,296</b>	<b>4,325,541</b>	<b>1,115,518</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>\$5,122,085</b>	<b>\$1,235,413</b>	<b>\$440,995</b>	<b>\$3,561,414</b>

	BUDGET 2025/26	ACTUAL TO 31-Jan-25	ACTUAL TO 31-Jan-26	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
<b>CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$2,017,673	\$1,234,953	\$1,189,464	58.95%	\$828,209
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$281,916	\$169,784	\$178,167	63.20%	\$103,749
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$132,191	\$69,866	\$63,302	47.89%	\$68,889
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$43,994	\$20,042	\$17,576	39.95%	\$26,418
ONCOSTS	(\$470,879)	(\$436,799)	(\$236,200)	50.16%	(\$234,679)
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	\$672,822	\$382,672	\$369,124	54.86%	\$303,698
<b>TOTAL CORPORATE &amp; FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,677,717</b>	<b>\$1,440,518</b>	<b>\$1,581,433</b>	<b>59.06%</b>	<b>\$1,096,284</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>					
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$327,017	\$220,771	\$176,062	53.84%	\$150,955
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$38,628	\$17,990	\$18,536	47.98%	\$20,093
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$18,421	\$9,102	\$8,698	47.22%	\$9,723
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$188,191	\$93,029	\$26,498	14.08%	\$161,693
BWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$32,572	\$26,940	\$26,836	82.39%	\$5,736
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$247,000	\$150,702	\$95,931	38.84%	\$151,069
WASTE SERVICES	\$960,939	\$542,965	\$590,162	60.91%	\$378,777
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	\$1,024,442	\$2,349	\$1,751	0.17%	\$1,022,691
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,845,210</b>	<b>\$1,063,848</b>	<b>\$944,472</b>	<b>33.20%</b>	<b>\$1,900,738</b>
<b>WORKS AND SERVICES</b>					
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$290,284	\$103,565	\$138,222	47.62%	\$152,062
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$17,161	\$8,496	\$16,341	95.22%	\$820
HALLS (HALL)	\$74,349	\$71,595	\$31,474	42.33%	\$42,876
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$100,524	\$90,255	\$68,645	68.29%	\$31,879
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+tennis)	\$130,679	\$62,250	\$57,182	43.76%	\$73,497
TOWN MOWING/TREES&STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$236,008	\$133,917	\$151,183	64.06%	\$84,825
HOUSING (HOU)	\$160,753	\$94,728	\$56,719	35.28%	\$104,034
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$14,801	\$9,268	\$9,492	64.13%	\$5,309
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$2,640	\$1,687	\$0	0.00%	\$2,640
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$1,086,345	\$735,556	\$663,335	61.06%	\$423,010
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$23,316	\$14,002	\$5,365	23.01%	\$17,951
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,388	\$5,853	\$10,518	44.97%	\$12,870
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$51,372	\$12,769	\$20,277	39.47%	\$31,095
2TD-Traffic Data	\$25,000	\$0	\$7,317	29.27%	\$17,683
SUPER. & VD OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$844,041	\$545,192	\$418,576	49.59%	\$425,465
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(\$181,988)	(\$10,478)	(\$70,392)	38.68%	(\$111,596)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$179,936	\$83,646	\$114,241	63.49%	\$65,695
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$305	\$875	43.73%	\$1,125
PLANT MTCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$655,036	\$367,141	\$382,353	58.37%	\$272,683
PLANT INCOME	(\$795,036)	(\$518,131)	(\$281,328)	35.39%	(\$513,708)
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$43,130	\$38,437	\$13,142	30.47%	\$29,988
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$41,842	\$22,412	\$17,113	40.90%	\$24,729
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$0	\$4,542	\$7,716		(\$7,716)
FLOOD REPAIRS		\$0	\$0		
<b>TOTAL WORKS &amp; SERVICES</b>	<b>\$3,025,581</b>	<b>\$1,877,007</b>	<b>\$1,838,365</b>	<b>60.76%</b>	<b>\$1,187,216</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES</b>					
Corporate Services	\$2,677,717	\$1,440,518	\$1,581,433	59.06%	\$1,096,284
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$2,845,210	\$1,063,848	\$944,472	33.20%	\$1,900,738
Works & Services	\$3,025,581	\$1,877,007	\$1,838,365	60.76%	\$1,187,216
<b>Total All Operating</b>	<b>\$8,548,508</b>	<b>\$4,381,373</b>	<b>\$4,380,627</b>	<b>51.24%</b>	<b>\$4,184,237</b>

	BUDGET 2025/26	ACTUAL TO 31-Jan-25	ACTUAL TO 31-Jan-26	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
Computer Purchases	\$7,648	\$31,442	\$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	\$31,442	\$0	0.00%	\$15,648
<b>DEVELOPMENT &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>					
Swimming Pool	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	\$0
	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	(\$1,870)
<b>WORKS &amp; SERVICES</b>					
Plant Purchases	\$170,000	\$83,639	\$0	0.00%	\$170,000
Camping Grounds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Public Conveniences	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Bridges	\$55,000	\$0	\$75,411	137.11%	(\$20,411)
Road Construction & Reseals	\$2,196,099	\$841,029	\$277,068	12.62%	\$1,919,031
Drainage	\$169,000	\$5,388	\$0	0.00%	\$169,000
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$72,000	\$239	\$0	0.00%	\$72,000
Infrastructure	\$105,000	\$31,059	\$2,880	2.74%	\$102,120
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$245,000	\$29,656	\$14,244	5.81%	\$230,756
Rec Grounds	\$402,000	\$45,525	\$2,275	0.57%	\$399,725
Halls	\$0	\$12,930	\$15,971	0.00%	(\$15,971)
Buildings	\$131,667	\$152,636	\$53,146	40.36%	\$78,521
	\$3,545,766	\$1,202,101	\$440,995	12.44%	\$3,104,771
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS</b>					
Corporate Services	\$15,648	\$31,442	\$0	0.00%	\$15,648
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Works & Services	\$3,545,766	\$1,202,101	\$440,995	12.44%	\$3,104,771
	\$3,561,414	\$1,235,413	\$440,995	12.38%	\$3,120,419

## 19. 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

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### 19.1 DERWENT CATCHMENT PROJECT

#### RECOMMENDATION 18/02.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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



## Monthly Report for Central Highlands Council

13 January 2026 – 10 February 2026

### *General business*

Discussions are underway with Barwick's to explore a potential collaboration linked to their future FOGO enterprise. The proposed site will function as the DCP's new depot, which will provide extra space for storage of new machinery associated with the Nature Repair Project.

The team has also expanded this month, with four new members joining the ground crew (casual and full-time). This includes two participants from last year's *Connecting to Land and Sea* program, which provided training for Aboriginal-identifying participants to build skills and pathways into the land management sector. Their transition into on-ground roles reflects the program's success in supporting meaningful employment outcomes.

Planning for the Nature Repair Project has progressed, with landscape natural values modelling and planning underway, alongside project design for the associated ranger training program and ongoing discussions with the Australian Government regarding monitoring and evaluation reporting.

### *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 and NRM South have been tracking the insects found in three different pasture and crop settings at Bushy Park, Hamilton and Glenora. This work is building a clearer picture of which insects are present and when, to help inform a discussion on integrated pest management planned for mid-April. The latest round of insect trapping finished in late January, with more monitoring to take place before the workshop.

A seasonal feed budgeting workshop has also been developed for delivery in February and March. The workshop content has been prepared and trialled, with a pilot session run ahead of a workshop at Hamilton. In addition, DCP pasture species trials are being reviewed to measure

how much perennial grass is present, and seasonal updates from these trials will be shared at the workshop

### *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**

The first works of the three-year Clyde River Flood Resilience Project have now commenced, marking a significant milestone for the programme. Initial efforts are focused on Croakers Alley, beginning with the most severely choked and constrained section of the site. Richard Sutcliffe is working in collaboration with the DCP team at the top end of the alley, where good progress is being made. Concurrently, the DCP team has been concentrating on primary control of Californian thistle as part of the wider weed management programme. Aleida and Eve will provide an update at the Council meeting.



*Figure 1. First works on the Clyde River at Croakers Alley.*

### Miena Cider Gum Recovery Program

Follow-up works at St Patricks Plains have focused on evaluating the effectiveness of newly trialled possum deterrents. Camera traps are currently being checked and footage reviewed to determine whether the spiky possum-proof bands are successfully preventing possum access to key trees. This monitoring builds on last month's work assessing the performance of the recently completed possum-proof fencing and associated trials, and will help inform future refinements to browsing management strategies at the site.



*Figure 2. One of our cameras was knocked to face the ground (probably by a possum). Fortunately, it allowed us to capture footage of this healthy little devil at St Patrick's Plains.*

In parallel, funding from Hydro Tasmania is supporting experimental works aimed at improving water retention around mature Miena cider gums. These trials involve creating small, leaky weirs using locally sourced materials to slow water movement and allow rainfall to persist longer around the bases of trees. Different construction approaches will be explored to identify methods that best improve soil moisture retention and build resilience to drought and climate change, which are among the most significant threats facing this species. The underlying geology of the region means water drains rapidly after rainfall events, intensifying drought stress during dry periods.

Hydro Tasmania has been trialling similar water-retention techniques at other sites in the Central Highlands around pencil pine seedlings, using Coir fibre –like materials designed to act as a slow-release water source. However, the use of imported organic materials presents potential biosecurity risks, reinforcing the importance of developing effective, site-appropriate solutions using local materials at St Patricks Plains.

We are adopting and trialling a suite of conservation approaches, so we can address the interacting threats of possum browsing, a drying climate and fire risks to strengthen the species' long-term resilience of the Miena cider gum.

### Hamilton native plant nursery updates

Propagation activities at the nursery have continued at pace, with a strong focus on completing the pricking out of seedlings as the busy growing season progresses. Nursery Manager Karen has been leading this work, supported by Lorraine and Meagan from the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Volunteer support from Daniel has also been invaluable in keeping seedlings moving through the next stages of growth.

Alongside propagation, the nursery team has been strengthening its outreach and operations. Chris Atkinson has joined the team, providing support with plant sales and working directly with farmers and landscapers to coordinate and manage larger orders. He will be helping to promote the nursery's role in supplying locally grown native plants and supporting revegetation and native shelterbelt plantings across the region.

Seed collection activities have also been a key focus this month. Karen delivered a hands-on seed collection workshop with staff from the Karadi Aboriginal Corporation, focusing on *Themeda triandra* (kangaroo grass). The activity provided an opportunity to share knowledge about seed collection techniques and build capacity. More broadly, seed has been collected by Karen and other team members from various sites across the Central Highlands and Derwent Valley to replenish nursery seed stocks and support propagation programs.



Figure 3. Kangaroo grass seed collection in Hamilton with Karadi Aboriginal Corporation.

## 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.*

January has been a particularly busy month for weed control across the Central Highlands, with crews working across multiple priority sites to address both established infestations and emerging threats.

At Cattle Hill Wind Farm, crews spent several weeks treating widespread thistle infestations. During this work, a foxglove infestation was also identified on the property. The foxglove was controlled and will be closely monitored over coming seasons, with early detection providing a strong opportunity to prevent the establishment of a larger population.



Figure 4. Cattle Hill thistle spraying 2026.

Significant effort was also directed towards ragwort control around Waddamana, including treatment around the power station and extensive work within the Ouse Riverbed both upstream and downstream. Several new and previously unidentified ragwort patches were located during these surveys. Foxglove infestations were also detected within the riverbed. Crews extended their searches into forestry coupes east of Waddamana, locating scattered ragwort plants along road networks. Client-supplied data points suggesting foxglove infestations were investigated and found to be misidentified, with the plants confirmed as a large patch of mullein.



Figure 5. Ragwort in the Ouse riverbed in Waddamana.

Orange hawkweed control and monitoring was a major focus this month, with three specially trained conservation detection dogs and their handlers from TATE Animal Training (NSW) supporting surveys at long-term infestation sites including Bronte Park, Butlers Gorge, Lake Echo, Shannon and Miena. The dogs conducted initial surveys, with ground crews following to treat mapped infestations through targeted spraying and by cutting and bagging flowering heads. At Butlers Gorge, orange hawkweed plants were observed flowering for the first time in 14 years.

Encouraging reductions in orange hawkweed populations were recorded at the Shannon and across parts of Butlers Gorge, with significantly fewer plants detected this season. Surveys were expanded beyond the original core infestation areas, with plants found persisting beneath shrub cover. In contrast, the central infestation area that had dominated previous years was largely clear. The infestation at Bronte Park remains challenging due to ongoing disturbance, with mowing continuing despite repeated advice to the contrary. This activity has contributed to seed spread within a central grassy area, which was blanket-sprayed to maximise treatment

effectiveness, while infestations on the lawns of cooperative local residents were spot-sprayed.



*Figure 6. Mo and the orange hawkweed detection dogs and trainers from TATE Animal Training, at Butler's Gorge.*

Works continued across council roads and State Growth-managed areas, with treatment along the Lyell Highway scheduled for completion by Tuesday 10 January. Gorse control was completed at Interlaken, with additional roadside spraying undertaken along Bashan Road, Thiessen Crescent and Victoria Valley Road. At Dee Lagoon, several days were spent treating broom and gorse near the dam wall. Crews also worked along Florentine Road for STT, targeting extensive infestations of California thistle, blackberry, foxglove, Spanish heath and other priority weeds, with California thistle remaining a particularly significant challenge in this area.

## *Community engagement*

### **Great Lake chemical storage cabinet – Cattle Hill grant**

An Adopt-a-Shore community working bee will be held at Yingina / Great Lake on Sunday 22 February to formally launch the new community weed-control cabinet. Please come along and tell other residents about the day.

The day will include practical weed-control activities along the foreshore, demonstrations of herbicide selection and application, and guidance on how to safely and effectively use the cabinet. Participants will also hear from Karen, Manager of the DCP Hamilton Native Plant Nursery, before taking part in local planting and further foreshore weed treatment alongside the Derwent Catchment Project crew. A flyer with full event details is attached at the end of this report.

### **First Willow Warriors event of the year**

The first Tyenna Willow Warriors working bee was held this month, with volunteers undertaking maintenance on approximately 300 planted trees, along with brush-cutting and the initial removal of invasive pine seedlings. They also planted 100 seedlings. Upcoming events are planned and details shared on social media and the Willow Warriors Facebook group. Once again please pass this around your networks and come along if you can.



*Figure 7. Willow Warriors plantings and maintenance.*

**Bothwell District High collaboration**

Planning is underway for a potential education and engagement partnership with Bothwell District High School linked to upcoming restoration works on the Clyde River. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 11 February with teaching staff and the school principal to explore opportunities for student involvement, curriculum connections, and participation in a community engagement day associated with the Clyde River Flood Resilience Project.

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

## 20. 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

### 20.1 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

#### RECOMMENDATION 19/02.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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

**REPORT BY** Kathy Bradburn, Senior Administration

#### PLANNING PERMITS ISSUED UNDER DELEGATION

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

#### **NO PERMIT REQUIRED**

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2026/01	R W Stephens	223 Barren Plains Road, Miena	Shed
2026/03	Wilkin Design & Drafting	4 Wilkies Court, Doctors Point	Shed

#### **PERMITTED**

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2025/70	Systembuilt Homes	172 Bluff Road, Gretna	Dwelling

**DISCRETIONARY**

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2025/67	Woolcott Land Services	463 Rockmount Road, Ellendale	Visitor Accommodation

**ANIMAL CONTROL****Dog Management Policy Review**

Comments on the Dog Management Policy closed on **11<sup>th</sup> February 2026**. Submissions received will now be reviewed and a report prepared for the March Council Meeting.

**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.

<b>Statistics as of 11 February 2026</b>	
Number of Dogs Impounded during last month	0
Number of Dogs Currently Registered	942
Number of Dogs Pending Re-Registration	6
Number of Kennel Licence Renewals Issued	35

**20.2 COUNCIL SUBMISSION: DRAFT SOUTHERN TASMANIAN REGIONAL LAND USE STRATEGY.****RECOMMENDATION 20/02.2026/C****Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council endorse and submit the enclosed submission to the Draft Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (STRLUS).

**REPORT BY** Damian Mackey, Planning Consultant

**Attachments** - Proposed Council Submission and Niche Consultancy – Comments re: Structure Plans.

**LINK** Draft Southern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy:  
<https://shapingtasmania.com.au/southern-region>

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is consider and endorse a submission to the Draft Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (STRLUS).

## **BACKGROUND**

The Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (STRLUS) is intended to be a medium-term plan to facilitate and manage change, growth, and development, whilst protecting natural values and managing risks, within Southern Tasmania to 2046.

Section 5A of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* provides for the making of Regional Land Use Strategies. All planning scheme amendments are required to align with these strategies

Since the preparation of the first STRLUS in 2010, the Southern Tasmanian region has experienced significant population growth and new economic and social conditions are driving change. Most significantly, the Housing Crisis has deepened.

There have also been changes to the Tasmanian planning framework including the introduction of state-wide Tasmanian Planning Scheme and, recently, the declaration of a suite of Tasmanian Planning Policies (which come into effect in July 2026.)

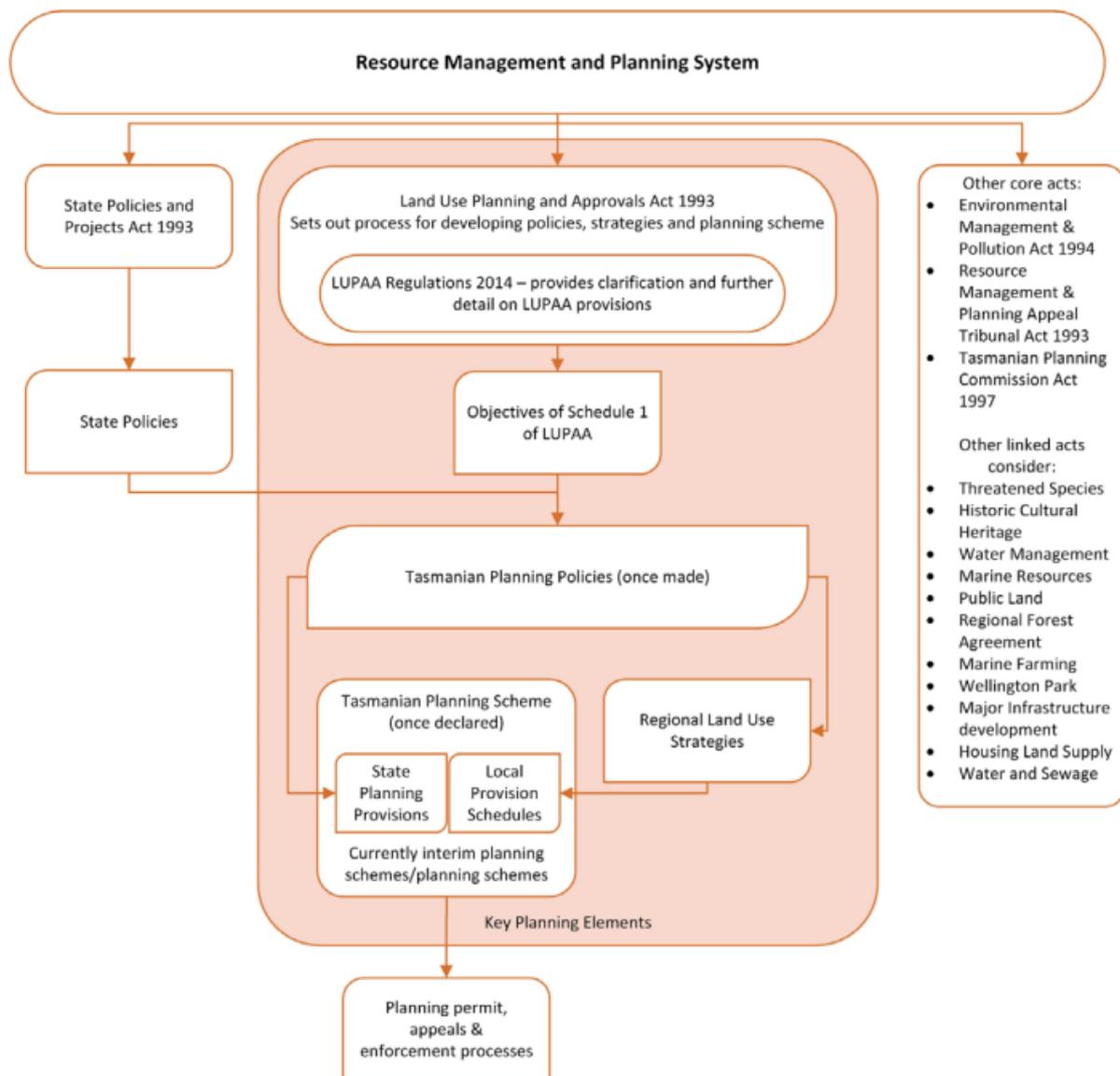
In the context of these changes, the Tasmanian Government and the 12 Southern Councils committed to conduct a comprehensive review of the 2010 STRLUS. In February 2023, a Steering Committee was established consisting of State Planning Office representatives and several Mayors and General Managers of southern Councils. In August 2023, a Regional Planning Coordinator was appointed. This position was responsible for working with the Southern Councils, the State Planning Office, infrastructure providers and State Agencies to coordinate the development of an updated STRLUS.

In early 2025 the Steering Committee was disbanded and the Regional Planning Coordinator role ceased. The State Government, through the State Planning Office, assumed full control.

In November 2025 a draft was released for comment with a deadline of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. Councils have been allowed an extension of time to February 27 to enable submissions to be go through February Council meetings.

## **REGIONAL LAND USE STRATEGIES WITHIN THE PLANNING SYSTEM**

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



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

The initial intention was that they would be reviewed every five years. However it has now been 15 years and the current review process is therefore considered long overdue.

The southern region is somewhat ahead of the north and northwest regions in the review process.

**COUNCIL SUBMISSION**

Attached is the proposed Council submission for consideration and endorsement.

Included are issues of concern submitted by Council during 2024 that remain unaddressed. These have been added to through consideration of the Draft STRLUS in an officer-level workshop and then through an elected member workshop. In addition, the planning consultants appointed by Council to develop Structure Plans for the towns of Bothwell, Hamilton and Ouse have provided the comments which are proposed to form an addendum to Council’s broader submission.

In summary, the Draft STRLUS raises significant concerns. These are especially acute for rural councils as the document is biased towards growth in Greater Hobart and misunderstands the role rural communities play in contributing to the economic prosperity of all Tasmanians.

Key points are:

### **1. No Acknowledgment of the Housing Crisis.**

The Draft STRLUS is silent in regard to the Housing Crisis, which is the worst it has been in a century and would appear to be the most important issue to most members of the community. The existence of the Housing Crisis is also not acknowledged in the new Tasmanian Planning Policies, which is equally startling.

The 'business as usual' approach to our housing supply system embedded within the Draft STRLUS is a major flaw.

### **2. No Mention of Tasmania's Housing Target Under the National Housing Accord.**

Australia has set a nominal housing target under the National Housing Accord. Whilst this may be aspirational, it is important to acknowledge this target if we are to address the Housing Crisis. Tasmania is currently achieving only 51% of this target and the Draft STRLUS should, at the very least, name it as a goal.

### **3 A Passive Acceptance of Demographic Projections and a Lack of Aspirational Planning**

Population and demographic projections claim that, over the next 25 years:

- Tasmania's population growth will slow down.
- Tasmania's population will age significantly .

Instead of passively accepting thus future, we should take the demographers' projections as a call to action.

Strategic land use planning does not have to be passive and reactive. It can be – and should be – proactive and aspirational. Tasmania can choose to aim to change the future from what it would otherwise be.

### **4 Confusing Past Supply with Past Demand**

A critical flaw in the Draft STRLUS is in adopting past housing growth as a proxy for demand - when the region has under-supplied housing for decades.

### **5 Maintaining an Unrealistic View of the Residential Land Supply Industry**

Land developers do not line up to subdivide on time and in sequence in an orderly fashion, and market forces act to set prices. Our strategic planning system has to account for these facts.

### **6 Ignoring Future Climate Change Driven Immigration**

The Draft STRLUS does not acknowledge that climate change-induced immigration to Tasmania will accelerate over coming decades. This additional increase in future demand will exacerbate the Housing Crisis if we do not act to increase supply now.

## **7 A Flawed Concept of Settlement Growth Boundaries.**

The Settlement Growth Boundary (SGB) concept within the STRLUS is mis-construed and is not fit for purpose. It is short-sighted, focussing only on the next land to be rezoned for residential use.

## **8 Unnecessarily Micro-Managing Rural Communities and Regional Towns**

The Draft STRLUS endeavours to direct local-level outcomes for matters that have no regional strategic planning implications, thereby unreasonably restricting growth and economic development initiatives. It presumes to know everything at the local level, both current and future. This will hamper revitalisation efforts by local communities and their Councils, and limit future economic prosperity.

## **9 Absence of Aspirational Social-Economic Planning**

The Draft STRLUS is focussed on the status quo and is purged of practical aspirational thinking.

## **10 Incorrect Definition of the Aboriginal Community.**

The Draft STRLUS states that the only members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community are those descend from members of the Northeast Nation and that no others survived European colonisation. This statement is not supported.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Following the close of submissions, the State Planning Office and the Minister for Planning will assess the submissions and determine if any changes are warranted. The advice of the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) will then be sought. The TPC may choose to hold public hearings to which those who made submissions would be invited. It will then provide advice back to the Minister / State Planning Office regarding any changes it may consider appropriate. Finally, the Minister will determined and approval the final form of the STRLUS. This might be towards the end of 2026.

## **FINANCIAL**

There are no direct funding implications beyond Council officer involvement in representing Council at any TPC public hearings.

Broader financial impacts on Council and the community are likely to arise from the Draft STRLUS's bias towards growth within Greater Hobart and unnecessary restrictions on rural communities.

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

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

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

### 21.1 CROWN LAND PURCHASE APPLICATION – 155 HAMILTON SPUR PLAINS

#### **RECOMMENDATION 21/02.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council advise the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania that council has no objection to the application to purchase a section of Crown land reserved road for consolidation to the property at 155 Hamilton Spur Plains, CT 236836-1 Council has no objection to the Crown sealing the final plan of survey, pursuant to section 121 of the Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993.

**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, General Manager

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) is assessing an application received from a local resident on Hamilton Plains Road to purchase a section of Crown Land reserved road for consolidation to her property at 155 Hamilton Spur Plains, CT 236836-1.

For PWS to make an informed decision on whether to proceed with the application, I am seeking comment from a local Government and planning perspective as it relates to any requirement and/or limitations under the respective planning scheme.

If Council support is provided and the sale proceeds in the form outlined in the attached plan, would Council have any objection to the Crown sealing the final plan of survey, pursuant to s. 121 of the Local government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993.

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## **21.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

### **RECOMMENDATION 21/02.2026/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.
- 3.
- 4.

#### **Community Development Special Committee**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, General Manager

[Attachment - Terms of reference for these committees.](#)

#### **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.

**22. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**

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**23. CLOSURE**

Mayor Triffitt thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.