

# **Council Meeting Agenda**

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

**Hamilton Council Chambers**

## **Notice of Meeting of Council – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 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, **Hamilton** on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 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 **March 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 01/03.2026/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.

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### 4. MINUTES

#### 4.1 CONFIRMATION OF DRAFT SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 5 MARCH 2026

#### RECOMMENDATION 02/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Draft Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on Thursday 5 March 2026 be confirmed.

[Attachment – Draft Minutes](#)

#### PURPOSE

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

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#### 4.2 CONFIRMATION OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 17 FEBRUARY 2026

#### RECOMMENDATION 03/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 17 February 2026 be confirmed.

[Attachment – Draft Minutes](#)

#### PURPOSE

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

#### 4.3 RECEIVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 17 FEBRUARY 2026

##### **RECOMMENDATION 04/03.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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

**Attachment – Draft Minutes**

##### **PURPOSE**

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

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#### 4.4 RECEIVAL OF DRAFT AUDIT PANEL MEETING MINUTES – 16 FEBRUARY 2026

##### **RECOMMENDATION 05/03.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Draft Minutes of the Audit Panel Meeting of Council held on Monday 16 February 2026 be received.

**Attachment – Draft Minutes**

##### **PURPOSE**

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

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## 5. BUSINESS ARISING – FEBRUARY 2026 COUNCIL MEETING

### RECOMMENDATION 06/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the information be received.

12.1	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr R Cassidy</p> <p><b>THAT</b> 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>	Letter sent
12.2	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr R Cassidy</p> <p><b>THAT</b> 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Review Gifts and Donations Policy;</li> <li>b) Review and complete Gifts and Donations monthly register, individually;</li> <li>c) Council address each of the 13 questions raised and make a submission; and</li> <li>d) Give assurances to the Honourable Minister for Local Government, Director of Local Government and the Integrity Commission that Central Highlands</li> </ul>	Progressing

	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.	
16.3	<p>DONATION REQUEST – GRETNA CRICKET CLUB TROPHY PRESENTATION</p> <p><b>THAT</b> Council provide a donation of \$300 to the Gretna Cricket Club for their annual awards function</p>	Payment has been made – Completed
21.1	<p>CROWN LAND PURCHASE APPLICATION</p> <p><b>THAT</b> 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</p>	Letter sent

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

12.2	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION – CR A Archer</p> <p>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</p>	Progressing
21.11	DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030	Advertised 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 and closes on 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026. Agenda Item 17 <sup>th</sup> March 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 07/03.2026/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>	
2.1	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 February 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>

### 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>
<b>2.1</b>	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 February 2026.</i>	

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## 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.

No workshop has been held since the last Ordinary Meeting.

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## 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.

- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 – Budget
- 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Budget
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 – Budget
- 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026

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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**

Nil

### **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 D MEACHEAM****RECOMMENDATION 08/03.2026/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr**THAT** Council:

- a) revert to holding the ordinary session of Council first, followed by the closed session.
- b) leaves in place the ordinary meeting timing prior to the closed session until at least December 2026, when the matter may be reconsidered by the new Council.

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	March 17, 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	David Meacheam
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council revert to holding the ordinary session of Council first, followed by the closed session.</li> <li>2. That Council leaves in place the ordinary meeting timing prior to the closed session until at least December 2026, when the matter may be reconsidered by the new Council.</li> </ol>
<b>Background Details:</b>	<p>The conduct of the closed session of Council first at each meeting is totally dysfunctional. Since we reverted to conducting the closed session first, those sessions have lasted 92 minutes, 95 minutes, 50 minutes, 10 minutes and 20 minutes. As councillors we then have either a leisurely (half hour plus) or hurried afternoon tea.</p> <p>Meantime, members of the public are left waiting for a 6.00 start to the ordinary session but wondering if they may not be able to attend until 6.30, or later. It's not a good look for the community. We appear to be prioritising our needs above theirs.</p>
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>David Meacheam</i>
<b>Date:</b>	4/3/26

## 12.2 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY

### RECOMMENDATION 09/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr R Cassidy

**Seconded:** Cr

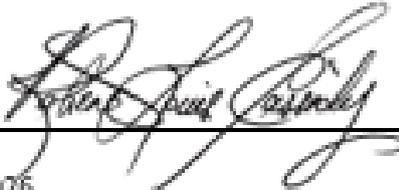
**THAT** Central Highlands Council’s Mayor Lou Triffitt and General Manager Stephen Mackey communicate to Department of State Roads, GM Elspeth Moroni to:

Specifically address protecting sightlines entering Patrick Street from William Street in the letter to Department of State Roads. Vehicles must not park on corners -and, it should be prevented, however. Vehicles should park in designated parking spaces.

Install a 40 km/h Speed Limit sign on either side of the “shopping precinct”.

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).

A pedestrian 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 March 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	Robert L. 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifically address protecting sightlines entering Patrick Street from William Street in the letter to Department of State Roads. Vehicles must not park on corners -and, it should be prevented, however. Vehicles should park in designated parking spaces.</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 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> </li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	As a Council, we must consider road safety. As Development Application 2025/71 was approved 5 March 2026, for 18 Patrick Street, there will be a concentration of pedestrian traffic and vehicular traffic on the Southeast corner of Patrick Street and William Street intersection.
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	5 March 2026



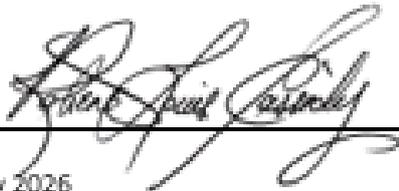
**12.3 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY**

**RECOMMENDATION 10/03.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr R Cassidy

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Central Highlands Council revert to holding Council Meetings at 9:00 a.m. for remainder of the term.

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 March 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	Robert Cassidy
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	That Central Highlands Council revert to holding Council Meetings at 9:00 a.m. for remainder of the term.
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to earlier sunset and darkness and the length of meetings.</li> <li>• Due to increase cost to ratepayers to hold evening meetings, as proved by Council’s Accountant.</li> <li>• Due to increased risk of Councillors, Council Employees and members of the public colliding with nocturnal wildlife along the roads, driving after dusk and Council’s duty-of-care being compromised for all elected members, employees, and contractors.</li> <li>• Due to conspicuous low participation rate by the general public, though Council meetings are well advertised, which confirms my belief they would prefer to spend quality time with their families and pets, during typical supper hours. Watching the evening news would be many ratepayers habit and would find it more informative about their futures than any Council Meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	5 February 2026

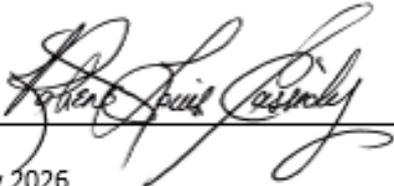
**12.4 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY****RECOMMENDATION 11/03.2026/C****Moved:** Cr R Cassidy**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** That Central Highlands Council create a Communications Policy governing both “strategic” and “operational” communications.

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 March 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	Robert Cassidy
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	That Central Highlands Council create a Communications Policy governing both “strategic” and “operational” communications.
<b>Background</b>	<p>I acknowledge the Mayor, under Section 27 (1) (e) of the Local Government Act 1993 is to act as spokesperson of the Council.</p> <p><b>Strategic intention of a Council Communication Policy</b></p> <p>As a Councillor I advocates for the residents of our municipality as well as the Central Highlands Council’s needs</p>

**12.5 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY****RECOMMENDATION 12/03.2026/C****Moved:** Cr R Cassidy**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Central Highlands Council revert to conducting a separate Council Planning Committee Meeting on the second Tuesday of the month to make recommendations to full Council

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 March 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	Robert Cassidy
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	That Central Highlands Council revert to conducting a separate Council Planning Committee Meeting on the second Tuesday of the month to make recommendations to full Council.
<b>Background</b>	<p>At the 5 March 2026 Special Council Meeting, for DA2025/71 Standing Orders were suspended, after Council Agenda Item 4.1 was moved by Councillor Robert Cassidy and Seconded by Councillor David Meacheam.</p> <p>It is my view that the matters raised during the meeting before the community were either irrelevant to Planning or were already addressed in Council's Planning Officer Comments or covered under Acceptable Solutions, Performance Criteria, Officer Comments, Commentary on proposal or Conditions.</p> <p>All outstanding questions regarding the Development Application, in Councillors' minds, could have been addressed, before the Special Council Meeting, and submitted to members of a Planning Committee Meeting, as we had done successfully, since I was first elected in 2014 or in private conversations with the General Manager and Planning Officer.</p> <p>The only thing a Developer or the Community are interested in is our decision for or against and why, according to the various Acts and Planning. Suspending Standing Orders, before the public, to discuss nuances of Planning might not give them confidence we know Planning.</p>
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	6 February 2026

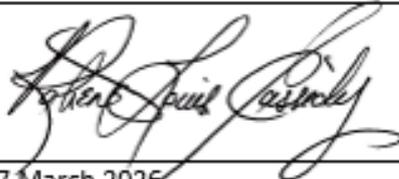
**12.6 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM****RECOMMENDATION 13/03.2026/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** resident Mr Phil Goodwin be added as a member to the Special Committee of Council concerned with improving better Telstra service on the Central Plateau

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	March 17, 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	David Meacheam
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	That resident Mr Phil Goodwin be added as a member to the Special Committee of Council concerned with improving better Telstra service on the Central Plateau.
<b>Background Details:</b>	Mr Goodwin has a depth of knowledge in relation to telecommunications. Via Councillor Hall, he has expressed an interest in joining the Telstra-focussed Special Committee of Council
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>David Meacheam</i>
<b>Date:</b>	9/3/26

**12.7 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY****RECOMMENDATION 14/03.2026/C****Moved:** Cr R Cassidy**Seconded:** Cr

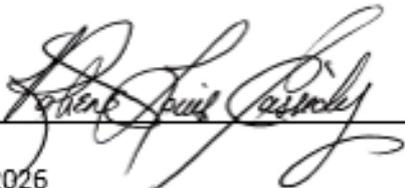
**THAT** Central Highlands Council increase Councillor Travel Allowance to cover the increased fuel and oil costs

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 March 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	Robert Cassidy
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	That Central Highlands Council increase Councillor Travel Allowance to cover the increased fuel and oil costs.
<b>Background:</b>	Currently, fuel cost has risen 35 cents per litre and motor oil cost has risen \$2.01 per litre, even if buying in 20 litre bulk quantity, between 27 February 2026 and 7 March 2026.
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	7 March 2026

**12.8 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR R CASSIDY****RECOMMENDATION 15/03.2026/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) Improve signage on the NW and particularly SE approaches to the Shannon River Bridge (approximately S41.984935 / E146.733279), so there will be no confusion that it is a single lane bridge, regardless how many times Central Highlands Council has advocated that it be widened and that approaching traffic must give way to vehicles established on the bridge.
- b) Many, if not most orange roadside markers along the Highland Lakes Road are severely faded and should be replaced before Winter snow flies.
- c) Recommended Speed signs are faded so badly that it is almost impossible to see them from any distance and there are steep curves without any Recommended Speed signs and should be investigated and installed where appropriate.
- d) The Cattle Grid on the Highland Lakes Road, south of Liawenee Tasmania Police Station, located approximately S41.925649 / E146.684607, is very rough to cross, even at 80 km/h. It needs repair to make level with the road surface.

<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 communicate to Department of State Roads, GM Elspeth Moroni to:</p> <p>Improve signage on the NW and particularly SE approaches to the Shannon River Bridge (approximately S41.984935 / E146.733279), so there will be no confusion that it is a single lane bridge, regardless how many times Central Highlands Council has advocated that it be widened and that approaching traffic must give way to vehicles established on the bridge.</p> <p>Many, if not most orange roadside markers along the Highland Lakes Road are severely faded and should be replaced before Winter snow flies.</p> <p>Recommended Speed signs are faded so badly that it is almost impossible to see them from any distance and there are steep curves without any Recommended Speed signs and should be investigated and installed where appropriate.</p> <p>The Cattle Grid on the Highland Lakes Road, south of Liawenee Tasmania Police Station, located approximately S41.925649 / E146.684607, is very rough to cross, even at 80 km/h. It needs repair to make level with the road surface.</p>
<b>Background:</b>	Information gleaned from my attendance at the Shack Owners Association meeting at Miena 8 March 2026, as well as my observations of the poor state of repair/servicing of the Highland Lakes Road (A5) between Bothwell and Pine Lake.
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	8 March 2026

**12.9 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM****RECOMMENDATION 16/03.2026/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the special committee established to improve Telstra services on the Central Plateau have its remit extended to July 2026

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	March 17
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	David Meacheam
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	That the special committee established to improve Telstra services on the Central Plateau have its remit extended to July 2026.
<b>Background Details:</b>	While Telstra did undertake some works in January to improve service, the results haven't been successful as hoped. Using service strength readings, Committee member Michael Walls has given Telstra good empirical evidence of the continuing insufficiency of service around Great Lake. Further prompts to Telstra have been made, we are awaiting their response.
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>David Meacheam</i>
<b>Date:</b>	6/3/26

**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 17/03.2026/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**

11 February 2026 Minister Vincent catch up  
 15 February 2026 200yrs of Hamilton Meeting Hamilton  
 17 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell  
 26 February 2026 Church Community Meeting Bothwell  
 6 March 2026 Tele meeting – Brett Geeves & Anthony Wade  
 8 March 2026 Shack Owners Meeting Miena

- Business of Council - **11**
- Ratepayer and community members – communications - **21**
- Elected Members - communications - **7**
- Council Management communications - **1**
- Legal Communications - **0**

**Deputy Mayor J Allwright**

17 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell  
 25 February 2026 Tas Water briefing Moonah  
 26 February 2026 Church Community Meeting Bothwell  
 5 March 2026 Special Meeting Bothwell  
 12 March 2026 Tasmanian Population Projections, Technopark Glenorchy

**Cr A Archer**

17 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell  
 5 March 2026 Special Meeting Bothwell

**Cr R Cassidy**

17 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell  
 18 February 2026 LGAT Training / TASCAT Introduction  
 5 March 2026 Special Meeting Bothwell  
 8 March 2026 Shack Owners Meeting Miena

**Cr J Hall**

16 February 2026 Audit Panel Meeting Bothwell  
 17 February 2026 SES Meeting with GM, Finance Committee & Ordinary Meeting Bothwell  
 25 February 2026 Bush Watch Meeting Westerway  
 26 February 2026 Church Community Meeting Bothwell  
 28 February 2026 Community resilience in Focuses Meeting Ellendale  
 5 March 2026 Special Meeting Bothwell  
 8 March 2026 Shack Owners Meeting Miena

**Cr J Honner**

17 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell  
 26 February 2026 Church Community Meeting Bothwell  
 5 March 2026 Special Meeting Bothwell

**Cr D Meacheam**

17 February 2026 Finance Committee and Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell  
 24 February 2026 (presenting, online to a climate emergency organisation), "Councils and communities benefitting from renewable energy projects".  
 26 February 2026 Church Community Meeting Bothwell  
 5 March 2026 Special Meeting Bothwell  
 8 March 2026 AGM of Friends of Great Lake Organisation Miena  
 8 March 2026 Shack Owners Meeting Miena  
 8 March 2026 AGM of Great Lake Community Centre Miena  
 10 March 2026 Online consultation re Bashan development.

**Cr Y Miller**

17 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell

**Cr S Triffitt**

17 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell

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

**RECOMMENDATION 18/03.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Council notes the Mayoral and Elected Members Activities.

27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

The Hon. Bridget Archer MP  
Minister for Health, Mental Health, and Wellbeing  
GPO Box 123  
Hobart TAS 7001  
[consultation@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:consultation@health.tas.gov.au)

Dear Minister

**20 Year Preventative Health Strategy**

It is pleasing to see that the State government is now preparing a long-term plan for preventive care for Tasmania which addresses all areas from Child and Family learning centres to community sport and recreation programmes.

The strategy has also stated that “Support meets us where we are and when we need it, we feel heard, seen and understood. Everyone has the opportunity to live their best life, no matter where they live, what they earn, or who they are”, however, except in rural Tasmania.

The entire strategy is about shared ownership and shared success every town, every street, every family, every person who calls Tasmania home deserves access to medical support near where they live.

The study has recognised that this can only be achieved with strong teamwork from all levels of government.

Regrettably, in Tasmania there is a clear distinction between the cities and the regional and rural areas of the state. The smaller communities are required to provide funding to be able to obtain services that the cities take for granted. In saying this, Central Highland Council must provide council-built medical facilities for the local doctors as well as providing funding monthly, with our 2,500 ratepayer base.

We are also required to provide a Council residence, in Bothwell, for the use of the doctors and locums, at no cost, and added to this, Central Highlands Council also provide a residence at Ouse for use by the Tasmanian Ambulance Service.

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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)

When the Local doctor from Ouse left several years ago, regarding compliance with COVID vaccinations, council commenced discussions with the State Government and was advised that assistance would be provided for a replacement at the Ouse Medical Centre. Little or no support has been forthcoming, just empty promises. From that point in time, those elderly residents have had to compete to get an appointment with the local doctor, at Bothwell, which could take weeks or attempt to get to an appointment with a medical practice outside the Municipal area.

This may seem simple to some, but when the only option for many was the local bus service, which was a twice weekly service now reduced to once per fortnight, the situation became extremely difficult, even life threatening, especially for the elderly.

Central Highlands Council also administers independent living units in Bothwell and Ouse, which are rented to members of our community who without these units, rented at minimal cost, would struggle. Unfortunately, these are now at the stage of requiring substantial upgrades to remain compliant.

This shows that the Central Highlands Council is doing as the discussion paper suggests our part to help our local community. As it seems we have been diligently supplementing the State government's health services, it would now be pleasing for council to receive the much-needed support from the other tiers of government, who can better afford it.

With this said and now with the Government now developing the 20-year Preventative Health strategy, Central Highlands Council seeks urgent help for our community so they too can feel they are part of a caring and supportive state that looks after communities outside the larger cities.

Please find below a summary of our feedback for the Preventative Health Strategy:

**1. Primary care access is not adequately addressed.**

The Strategy does not offer solutions for rural GP shortages or service instability, despite Central Highlands losing the Ouse GP and now relying on limited part-time care.

**2. Hyper-ageing requires rural-specific planning.**

Our region is already hyper-ageing, yet the Strategy lacks concrete measures such as home modifications, supported transport, or climate-suitable housing improvements.

**3. Transport assumptions are urban-focused.**

With 94% of households relying on cars and public transport now only once per fortnight, active-travel goals are unrealistic without rural-appropriate transport solutions.

**4. Climate and housing risks in high-altitude areas are overlooked.**

Cold homes, wood-heater smoke, and extreme winter conditions pose major health risks that the Strategy does not specifically address.

**5. Digital health depends on rural connectivity.**

Telehealth is essential here, but the Strategy sets no rural digital-inclusion targets despite significant variation in connectivity and digital skills.

**6. Workforce planning is not tailored for small councils.**

The Strategy does not explain how small LGAs with limited staff—like Central Highlands—can realistically resource prevention work.

**7. Data gaps prevent fair measurement.**

Many indicators are unavailable at the LGA level due to small sample sizes, yet the evaluation framework does not outline how rural LGAs will be assessed.

**8. Food security challenges need rural solutions.**

Limited retail options and lower incomes affect access to healthy food, but the Strategy lacks rural food access models.

**9. Emergency readiness must account for isolated residents.**

The Strategy does not address the needs of residents who require medicine delivery, welfare checks, or backup power/internet during snow, frost, or fire events.

Rural Tasmania cannot be an afterthought. The Central Highlands Council respectfully requests that the final Strategy includes explicit funding pathways to ensure equitable preventive health access for all Tasmanians.

Sincerely,



Stephen Mackey,  
General Manager



27 February 2026

Mr Luke Gregory-Murphy  
 Acting Executive Director of Local Government  
 Office of Local government  
 Department of Premier and cabinet  
 P O Box 123  
 Hobart TAS 7001

Dear Luke,

**Response to the Local Government Electoral Reform**

Council thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the exposure draft changes to the legislation as outlined discussion paper on Local Government Electoral reform.

Most of the proposed amendments are supported by council, the ones not or require further clarification are detailed below:

Reform 5     Require that a person lodging a notice of nomination must have it supported by 30 electors entitled to vote in the relevant election.

Council sees no reason to change the current nomination process. There are 25,816 persons enrolled for the division of Derwent were as Central Highlands had 2,499 enrolled at the last election in 2022. If we consider, the service population for Central Highlands as per the grants commission then the number is 6,239.

Considering the above population details for the Legislative Council the numbers base on the proposal for this council would be as follows.

$$30 / 2499 = 1.22\%$$

$$30 / 6239 = .48\%$$

This would mean that a person nominating for the legislative council would require the following number of electors:

$$25,816 \times 1.22\% = 315$$

$$25816 \times .48\% = 124$$

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The percentage of voters required to make a legislative council nomination valid is 0.038% yet for the Central Highlands it will be 1.22% Bringing it into line with the Legislative Council percentage it should be one (1) person to be a valid nomination or change the process for the Legislative council to conform with the proposal for Council elections this would mean 315 for a valid legislative council nomination.

Legislative council are required to have as a minimum 10 electors for a nomination to be valid. This is only for a single candidate not one endorsed by a political party. This is as per the Legislative Council nomination handbook pages 7 & 8.

The term of office for the legislative council is 6 years local government is 4 years. Legislative Councillors remuneration is \$171,000 and Central Highlands councillors' current allowance is \$11,893.

Reform 9 Expressly prohibit dual enrolment, and require a person enrolled on both the House of Assembly roll and the General Manager's Roll to be removed from the latter.

Council seeks clarification as to how this will affect rural properties who currently can nominate a director to vote on behalf of the company as well as voting as an owner occupier on the House of Assembly Role. The provisions in question relate to section 255 Voting by corporations and section 256 Maximum number of votes.

Please also find enclosed council submission on all proposed amendments to the local government electoral reform discussion paper.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Mackey  
General Manager



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### ELECTROL REFORM

- Reform1** Reduce prescription in the statutory framework to enable the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to approve the electoral process.

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 2** Enable the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to approve procedures for voting, including by telephone and electronic means, for interstate and overseas electors and electors with impediments to ordinary participation, or for other classes of person prescribed by regulation.

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 3** Legislate that the Tasmanian Electoral Commission is required to approve procedures in accordance with universal franchise principles, namely all electors, including electors with additional barriers to participation, are to be afforded an opportunity to vote in an independent, secret, and verifiable manner.

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 4** Require the Electoral Commissioner to publish after each election a statement on the implementation of the accessibility principles, after information, including relevant statistics and initiatives undertaken to promote universal participation in the election.

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 5**     **Require that a person lodging a notice of nomination must have it supported by 30 electors entitled to vote in the relevant election.**

Council sees no reason to change the current nomination process. There are 25,816 persons enrolled for the division of Derwent were as Central Highlands had 2,499 enrolled at the last election in 2022. If we consider the service population for Central Highlands as per the grants commission then the number is 6,239.

Considering the above population details for the Legislative Council the numbers base on the proposal for this council would be as follows.

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This would mean that a person nominating for the legislative council would require the following number of electors:

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Legislative council, they are required to have as a minimum 10 electors for a nomination to be valid. This is only for a single candidate not one endorsed by a political party. This is as per the Legislative Council nomination handbook pages 7 & 8.

The term of office for the legislative council is 6 years local government is 4 years. Legislative Councillors remuneration is \$171,000 and Central Highlands councillors' current allowance is \$11,893.

**Reform 6**     **Transfer the responsibility for the maintenance of the General Manager's Roll to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.**

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 7** Amend the definition of “occupier” for enrolment purposes, to refer to actual occupation and use, and clarify that tenants and licensees are occupiers for the purpose of the Act.

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 8** Strengthen verification requirements for application for enrolment on the General Manager’s Roll.

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 9** Expressly prohibit dual enrolment, and require a person enrolled on both the House of Assembly roll and the General Manager’s Roll to be removed from the latter.

Council seeks clarification as to how this will affect rural properties who currently can nominate a director to vote on behalf of the company as well as voting as an owner occupier on the House of Assembly Role. The provisions in question relate to section 255 Voting by corporations and section 256 Maximum number of votes.

- Reform 10** Require new candidates to complete a pre-nomination training course approved by the Director of Local Government.

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 11** Require that the Tasmanian Electoral Commission provides all people submitting a notice of nomination the opportunity to provide a candidate information statement (in an approved format, providing prescribed information) and that the Commission is to publish candidate information through appropriate means.

**REFORM WILL NOT PROCEED**

- Reform 12** Enable the Director of Local Government to publish council performance statements during the election periods.

**REFORM WILL NOT PROCEED**

**Reform 13** Establish that nomination by a registered party is to be included in the information published by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission and printed on the ballot paper.

**REFORM WILL NOT PROCEED**

Council is of the view that this reform should be proceeded with

**Reform 14** Provide for candidates whose nomination form is not lodged by a registered party to request to be identified with a group name.

**THE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DETERMINED NOT TO PROCEED WITH THIS REFORM**

**Reform 15** Introduce new legislation on the dissemination of misleading and deceptive statements (corresponding to the Electoral Act Review Final Report and the amended Section 197 of the Electoral Act 2004).

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 16** Remove the general restriction on publishing a candidate's name or image without their consent.

Council does not support this reform.

**Reform 17** Clarify the definition of electoral advertising.

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 18** Provided that only a candidate, intending candidate, or a nominated person may incur electoral expenditure; expenditure by others to promote or procure election will be an offence.

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 19** Institute authorisation requirements for electoral advertising and associated material.

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 20** Replace advertising expenditure limits with a general expenditure limit, with reference to the Legislative Council expenditure cap in the Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023.

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 21** Require that a candidate is to report expenditure made on their behalf in their electoral expenditure return, in the same manner as personal expenditure. The present requirement to attribute, in full, to each candidate featured in joint advertising will be retained.

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 22** Prohibit any person from incurring any expenditure for or on behalf of a registered party with a view to promoting or procuring the election of a candidate or intending candidate.

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 23** Maintain the \$50 threshold for the disclosure of gifts and benefits and extend this requirement from incumbent councillors to all candidates, who will be required to lodge donation returns with the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 24** Provide that it is an offence for a person other than a candidate or intending candidate to accept a gift or benefit for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate, or for the dominant purpose of influencing the way electors vote in an election; and that it is an offence to make a gift or donation to a person other than a candidate or intending candidate for this purpose.

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 25** Provide that it is an offence for a councillor, intending candidate or candidate, at any time, to accept a donation for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate or intending candidate at a local government election:

- over \$50, including services or goods valued in kind, without recording the basic details of that donor.

- over \$50 in cash
- over \$50 from a foreign donor.

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 26** Provide that a local government election or by-election may not be held such that the polling period overlaps the date of a Tasmanian or Australian Government parliamentary election.

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 27** Provide the Tasmanian Electoral Commission with powers of investigation.

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 28** Align electoral offences and sanctions with those in the Electoral Act 2004.

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 29** Provide a statutory caretaker framework, applying from the notice of election to the date of the issue of the certificate of election for all elections other than by-elections and countbacks.

Council supports this reform.

- Reform 30** Provide during the caretaker period, prohibit a council from making any major policy or financial decisions, namely decisions:

- relating to the appointment, reappointment, remuneration or termination of a general manager (except acting appointments)
- committing the council to expenditure greater than 1 per cent of general revenue or \$100,000 (whichever is greater)
- directing council resources to influence voting
- relating to matters that could reasonably be deferred, except for statutory or routine operational decisions.

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 31** Provide that during the caretaker period; it is an offence for a council to:

- publish any material promoting any candidate or group of candidates or seeking to influence voters.
- publish material related to the election other than information promoting participation or official electoral process information.
- make council resources available to benefit one candidate over others.

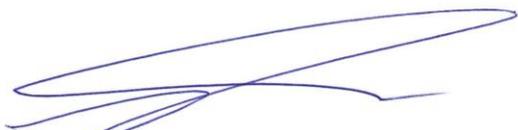
Council supports this reform.

**Reform 32** Provide that major policy or financial decisions of a council during the caretaker period are of no effect and provide that person who incur loss or damage due to an ineffectual decision of a council, who act in good faith, are entitled to recover compensation from the council.

Council supports this reform.

**Reform 33** Increase the proportion of electors signing a petition to compel a council to hold an elector poll to 20 per cent, while restricting the matters about which an elector poll may be held to matters with a legitimate connection to the exercise of a council's functions or powers or to the incorporation of the council. As determined by the council.

Council supports this reform.



Mr Stephen Mackey  
General Manager



4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Mr Gerry Murrell  
Property Officer  
Parks and Wildlife Services  
GPO Box 44  
Hobart TAS 7001

Dear Mr Murrell,

### **Crown Land Purchase Application**

In reference to your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025, regarding a proposed sale of a part of a Crown Reserve Road on Hamilton Plains was subject to a report to council on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

The outcome of these deliberations was 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 Spurr Plains, CT 236836-1.

Council also 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.

If you require any further information on this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Mackey  
General Manager

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

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



5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The Hon. Kerry Vincent  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
GPO Box 123  
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Minister,

**Highland Lakes Road Upgrade and Repair**

The matter of the upgrading and repair of the Highland Lakes Road has been raised with the department for many years, and the only works that has been undertaken on the section between Melton Mowbray and Bothwell is now failing, yet again.

We now request upgrade and repairs as a matter of urgency, in an endeavour to make the road safer for daily commuters, tourists, school bus operators, cattle trucks, farm machinery and for the transportation of over-sized equipment for the next phase of the renewable energy developments in the Central Highlands.

As you would be no doubt aware, during the construction phase of the next Cellers Hill windfarm project large and over-sized vehicles will travel on the Highland Lakes Road between Melton Mowbray and Bothwell.

This is the same section of road where a truck carrying a large blade for one of the wind turbines overturned and severely delayed access to Bothwell and the lakes areas of the Central Highlands. The Government should have learnt from this and commenced a programme of upgrades that include widening and passing bays.

In New South Wales, the State Government used their initiative and commenced a programme of works with the first stage costing in the order of \$128 million for turning lanes, pavement widening and strengthening and drainage works.

It is now time that the State Government took the initiative to undertake these much-needed works to make travelling on the Highland Lakes Road safer for all.

Regards

  
Lou Triffitt

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

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Alexander Street Tel: (03) 6259 5503  
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website [www.centralhighlands.tas.gov.au](http://www.centralhighlands.tas.gov.au)

**15.2 GENERAL MANAGERS ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2026****RECOMMENDATION 19/03.2026/C****Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr**THAT** the Information be received.**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, General Manager

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>
12 February 2026	Southern Tasmanian Organic Waste Group meeting
16 February 2026	Teams Meeting Telstra Service Miena
17 February 2026	Meeting State Emergency Services re Housing Miena Unit
18 February 2026	Meeting TasWater regarding Ellendale Sewer options
18 February 2026	Meeting key staff regarding the Change Room at Gretna Recreation Ground
25 February 2026	Meeting with staff and representatives from Education Department regarding childcare at Ouse
26 February 2026	Community Meeting regarding St Michael and All Angels Church Bothwell
3 March 2026	Teams Meeting GP Services Ouse
4 March 2026	Financial Fraud teams meeting
5 March 2026	Special Council Meeting
6 March 2026	Southern Tasmanian Council Network Meeting Sorell
8 March 2026	Central Highlands Shack owners Meeting Miena
10 March 2026	Meeting Paul McMahan Bashan and Hollow Tree Wind Farms
	Meeting Damian Mackey and Louisa Brown re Renewable Energy co-ordination framework
12 and 13 March 2026	LGAT General Manager Workshop Hobart

## 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 20/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

*THAT the Health and Wellbeing monthly report for March 2026 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

**BACKGROUND**

The following activities were performed during the month prior to the **March 2026** meeting.

<b>COUNCIL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>External Grants</b>	Tas Active Infrastructure Grants (DPAC): - \$500,000 for Gretna Cricket Ground changerooms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deed has been signed and funds received.</li> <li>• Planning application has been approved.</li> <li>• Tender process being finalised and will be advertised in coming weeks.</li> </ul>
	Collaboration with HATCH for “Ouse Park Party” - children’s and family’s event in April holidays. Grant submission to Communities for Children successful.
<b>TICT award submission</b>	Coordination of Bothwell’s entry into Tourism Industry Council Tourism’s Tiny Tourism Towns awards for 2026.  Submission involves video, travel itinerary, travelogue, detailed tourism profile for Bothwell, and engagement with local operators. Submission due 26 March
<b>GP access at Central Highlands Community Health Centre Ouse.</b>	Engagement with Director of GP Practice to develop business case, and to look at where critical support and action is needed, for them to offer locum service at CHCH.  Engagement with Primary Care Tasmania’s Practice Improvement team to look at how PHT can support services at CHCH.
<b>Childcare Project</b>	<u>Family Day Care Ouse</u> Engagement with DECYP to find alternative location, and funding arrangement, for Happy HOuse Daycare, given insecure long-term tenure at Ouse Schools. Discussions have been had with private property owner in Ouse who is interested in considering long-term lease for family Daycare, pending details of arrangement.  <u>Thrive Group Childcare training</u> – eight local people are signed up for free childcare qualification training which began January 2026.  <u>Thrive Group Grant Submission</u> Thrive Group have submitted a grant application to Federal Government’s Building Early Education Fund. Proposal is to establish an interim childcare facility in Bothwell prior to launch of new Center being built at Bothwell School in 2028. Funding would be for a demountable facility, potentially on Council land corner of Patrick and George St.
<b>Community Grants</b>	Coordination of community grants programs and review and update of grants documents.

<b>Recfit Community Benefits Fund</b>	Contributing to MOU and Community Benefits Fund aims and focus areas.
<b>Meeting: St Michaels &amp; All Angels</b>	Preparation and follow-up for community meeting.
<b>ANZAC Day</b>	Preparation for ANZAQC Day 2026
<b>REPRESENTATION MEETINGS and EVENTS</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Tourism Industry Council, local tourism operators regarding tourism award submission for Bothwell</li> <li>• Meeting with GP collective, Primary Health Tasmania re securing a GP at Central Highlands Community Centre Ouse.</li> <li>• Southern Regional LGA Homelessness Working group meeting.</li> <li>• Southern Regional LGA Sports &amp; Rec group meeting.</li> <li>• Meetings with DECYP facilities management group regarding Ouse School and relocation of Family Daycare.</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT</b>	
<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>Ouse Hall Hire</b>	Liaising with Ouse Table Tennis club and HATCH Exercise classes around long-term lease arrangements, co-use, third-party use, cleaning and improvements at Ouse Hall.
<b>RSA courses</b>	Engaging with SW Jobs Hub for local training.
<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>Council social media</b>	<p>Facebook followers: 2.9K</p> <p>February Posts: Profile posts – Census Jobs, St Michaels and All Angels meeting, lost dogs, vandalism, community services day at Miena, community programs at Ash Cottage.</p>

<b>Community Standards Facebook</b>	Development of new community standards for Council's Facebook.
<b>Highland Digest</b>	Provision of relevant council and community content.



*Happy faces at Wayatinah Social and Sporting Club's fishing competition – junior prizes funded through a Council Community Grant*

## 16.2 DONATION REQUEST – LIONS CLUB OF KINBOROUGH INC CIRCUS QUIRKUS

### RECOMMENDATION 21/02.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council approve a request from Lions Club of Kingborough for a donation of \$350 for sponsoring five tickets for children to attend the annual Circus Quirkus festival for local disadvantaged children

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

**Attachment - Redacted donations request letter.**

### BACKGROUND

Council has received a request from Lions Club of Kingborough for \$350 for sponsoring children to attend the annual Circus Quirkus festival in April for local disadvantaged children and those with additional needs.

Circus Quirkus is an annual, non-animal circus event that provides a fun, inclusive day out for disadvantaged children and those with additional needs. Held at the Federation Concert Hall in Hobart, it brings joy to thousands of young people supported by more than 50 local charities and community organisations.

Sponsorship covers the attendance cost for children who would otherwise miss out, helping deliver both a memorable experience and essential community support.

Council's Community Development Officer will work with the Lions Club to maximise the promotion of the event to Central Highlands families and local disability services. The aim will be to ensure at least five local children are able to attend.

It is proposed that this expenditure be made against the Community Support and Donations project within the Community and Economic Development Budget, which has around \$9,000 remaining for this financial year.

### 16.3 COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST – BOTHWELL GOLF CLUB HIGHLAND LASSIES AND HIGHLAND GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

#### RECOMMENDATION 22/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

THAT Council allocate \$2,000 financial assistance to the Bothwell Golf Club to support the delivery of the 2026 Highland Lassies event and the 2026 Highland Golf Championships.

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

**Attachments** - [Grant request letter from Bothwell Golf Club.](#)

#### BACKGROUND

Council has received a Community Grant application from the Bothwell Golf Club seeking financial assistance to support the delivery of two major annual events: the Highland Lassies, scheduled for 20 March 2026, and the Highland Golf Championships, scheduled for 25 July 2026.

The Highland Lassies and Highland Championships are annual, established events that attract significant participation, with 100 or more golfers travelling from across Tasmania to take part. These events showcase Bothwell's historic golf course and contribute strongly to community activity, regional visitation, and economic benefit.

The Golf Club highlights that these events have flow-on benefits for a range of local businesses, including fuel stations, accommodation providers, food outlets, and other small businesses, due to increased visitation and event-associated spending. The events contribute to community wellbeing, tourism, recreation, and utilisation of local facilities.

The Club has requested financial support from Council to offset event delivery costs and ensure the ongoing success and accessibility of these long-standing community events.

#### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There is currently \$3,530 remaining in the Community Grants allocation for the 2025-26 financial year.

## 16.4 ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS 2026

### RECOMMENDATION 23/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council accept the ANZAC Day 2026 arrangements report and nominate Councillor representative(s) for each of the services.

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

**Attachment - Draft ANZAC Day 2026 Poster (to be finalised)**

### BACKGROUND

The annual ANZAC Day commemorations will take place across the municipality on Saturday 25 April 2026. Arrangements have been updated from the 2025 ANZAC Day planning schedule to reflect new information and operational changes for 2026.

Key updates for this year include:

- A BBQ catered by the Hamilton Inn will occur after the 11:00am Hamilton service
- Efforts underway to secure buglers for both the Gretna and Bothwell services, pending confirmation.
- There has not been any advice received that a service is occurring at Great Lake Community Centre this year.
- New Australia Flag to be purchased for Hamilton event
- Thorough review of sound systems to take place over coming weeks, and new equipment purchased if necessary.

### ANZAC Day 2026 Schedule

Ceremony	Time	Council Support
Arthurs Lake Roadhouse	6:00am	Wreath.
Bronte Park Historic Village	6:00am	Wreath, \$200 contribution to post-event community BBQ.
Fentonbury War Memorial	6:00am	Creation and printing of service book, wreaths, \$200 contribution to post-event catering at Westerway Hall.
Gretna Cenotaph	6:00am	Creation and printing of service book, PA system, wreaths, funding post-event catering at Gretna Hotel. Attempting to secure a bugler for 2026.
Bothwell Memorial Cenotaph	11:00am	Creation and printing of service book, PA system, wreaths, funding post-event catering at Castle Hotel. Attempting to secure a bugler for 2026.
Hamilton Memorial Cenotaph	11:00am	Creation and printing of service book, PA system, wreaths, event coordination. Post-event catering provided by Hamilton Inn (BBQ lunch).

## DISCUSSION

Councillors are requested to confirm attendance for ceremonies, and if they be involved formally (i.e. laying a Council wreath or involved in order of service).

Please see **draft** schedule based on previous years for discussion:

- *Arthurs Lake – Cr Honner: laying wreath on behalf of Council*
- *Bronte Park – Cr Meacheam: laying wreath on behalf of Council*
- *Fentonbury – Deputy Mayor Allwright: laying wreath on behalf of Council*
- *Gretna - Mayor Triffitt: MC*
  - o *Cr Hall: wreath on behalf of Council*
  - o *Cr Miller: laying Council wreath on behalf of service animals*
- *Bothwell: Mayor Triffitt: MC*
  - o *Cr Honner - wreath on behalf of Council*
- *Hamilton: Deputy Mayor Allwright: MC*
  - o *Cr Triffett (in the place of the late Councillor Tony Bailey): wreath on behalf of Council*
  - o *Cr Miller: wreath on behalf of Council*

Staff will continue liaising with local groups regarding service delivery, catering, logistics, floral tributes, and coordination with schools. Confirmation of bugler and schools participation will be advised once secured.

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## 16.5 GRANT OFFER - LIBRARIES TAS REGARDING OUSE ONLINE ACCESS CENTRE

### RECOMMENDATION 24/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council accept a five year grant of \$125,000 from the State Government to fund the Ouse Online Community Access Centre.

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

**Attachment** – [Ouse OAC 2023–24 Auditors report, Quote for digital services provision and Digital Inclusion Review.](#)

## BACKGROUND

Libraries Tasmania has offered Council a one-off \$125,000 payment, representing five years of funding (\$25,000 p.a.), for Council to take on ongoing operation of the Ouse Online Community Access Centre (OOAC) beyond the current funding round. This \$25,000 support will be a \$5,000 annual increase on the Centre's current \$20,000 annual grant. Council also currently contributes \$15,800 per annum to the OAC, in addition to property maintenance costs.

Under the proposed model, Council would also assume responsibility for IT provision (PCs and Wi-Fi). Based on the costs provided, it is estimated that the expenditure for the OOAC would be \$63,605 annually, with an estimated \$55,474 in income.

Alternatively, if Council does not accept the five years of funding, Libraries Tasmania will offer the Ouse OAC committee three years of funding (\$25,000 p.a.). It is possible that the Libraries Tasmanian funding will be continued beyond the initial three years.

### **Community-Managed OACs in Tasmania**

Community-managed Online Access Centres are funded by Libraries Tasmania through the Digital Connections Grants Program and are overseen locally by a management committee, a coordinator and volunteers.

### **Local Context – Ouse Online Access Centre**

The OOAC is in a Council-owned building and provides essential digital access and support for residents—particularly older people, those on low incomes, and those without reliable internet or mobile coverage. In June 2025, Council provided a letter of support to Libraries Tasmania confirming the Centre's importance and ongoing commitment to the service and building.

### **Offer from Libraries Tasmania**

In 2025, the State Government commenced a Digital Inclusion Review of the 18 Online Access Centres to consider ongoing funding from the State Government. Following this review, some Tasmanian OACs will cease at the end of 30 June 2026; some will be rolled into other services such as Libraries, and some will continue through a 3-, or 5-year grant.

Central Highlands Council is being offered a one-off payment of \$125,000 (equivalent to five years of funding) to take on the operation of the OOAC beyond the current grant end date of 30 June 2026, and with no further payment beyond this.

Should Council not accept this grant, Libraries Tasmania will offer the Online Access Centre a direct grant of three years, with a possibility, but no commitment, of on-going funding.

### **Strategic context and future change - from Digital Inclusion Review**

- Statewide, OACS are expected to transition out of the standalone model over the next three years, with digital support instead delivered through existing community services like Libraries Tasmania, Service Tasmania and Neighbourhood Houses.
- Digital support will continue locally through trained Digital Champions—staff or volunteers embedded in community hubs and given consistent statewide training in basic digital help and online safety.
- Central Highlands is identified as a Tier 1 high-priority area, with high digital vulnerability and very limited access to in-person support. This high priority indicates that there may be a likelihood of continued support to OOAC, should the centre be funded directly under a three-year funding model.

### Scope of Services at OOAC

The OOAC operates as a local technology hub for residents who lack devices, internet access or the digital skills needed to engage with essential online services.

It provides public computers, school holiday programs, homework help, free Wi-Fi, printing, scanning, document support, device troubleshooting, assistance with government and non-government portals, digital literacy help and a supportive environment for vulnerable users.

The centre opens 4 days a week, at 6 hours a day. The Centre receives 266 to 525 visits per quarter, reflecting steady community demand. There are currently two coordinators who share a four day a week role. The OOAC functions as an incorporated volunteer group, and volunteers support the centre through in-kind labour.

### The Main User Groups:

- **Residents experiencing hardship or digital exclusion**, needing help to complete essential online tasks such as banking, MyGov, Centrelink, Medicare, or superannuation access.
- **Vulnerable community members at risk of scams**, requiring immediate intervention, secure device support and guidance to stay safe online.
- **Children and young people**, school holiday programs, homework assistance.
- **Travellers and visitors** needing urgent access to computers, internet and printing/scanning facilities to manage administrative or financial matters while away.

### Proposed Service Arrangement under the five years grant to Council (2026–27 to 2030–31)

1. Grant funding: Accept \$125,000 (one-off) from Libraries Tasmania, equivalent to \$25,000 p.a. for five years—\$5,000 more than the current \$20,000 grant (25% uplift).
2. Council contribution: Continue \$15,800 p.a. support.
3. Council-provided IT
  - NBN service: \$143 per month
  - IT hardware (one-off): \$9,828.5 total (4 × PCS ≈ \$6,600; Firewall / router switch \$896.50; Microsoft Office 2021: \$1,188; Labour: \$1,144.)
4. Minimum service levels: The Centre to open at least 24 hours per week, provide free access to public PCs and Wi-Fi, and offer drop-in digital support for residents and visitors. Ongoing regular governance and partnership meetings with the OOAC.

**Costs, income & net balance for 5 years running OOAC**

	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Over 5 years</b>
Grant Received	\$25,000	\$125,000
Council subsidy	\$15,800	\$79,000
Income OOAC	\$11,579	\$57,895
Interest Income	\$3,095	\$15,475
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$55,474</b>	<b>\$227, 370</b>
Wages and Salaries	\$40,529	\$202,645
Superannuation	\$6,082	\$30,410
OOAC Operational Costs	\$5,733	\$28,665
Digest Operational Costs	\$5,323	\$26,615
Insurance	\$2,256	\$11,280
Upfront IT	\$1,966	\$9,830
Monthly NBN - \$143	\$1,716	\$8,580
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>\$63,605</b>	<b>\$318,025</b>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>-\$8,131</b>	<b>-\$40,655</b>

*\*Any operating deficit is currently borne by the OOAC, not Council*

**Risks and Opportunities**

Council faces risks from:

- It is likely (though not guaranteed), that if the OOAC was funded directly for three years that the funding would continue beyond that. Conversely, if Council took up the 5-year offer, then it would be the responsibility of Council and the OOAC to fund entirely beyond this, with no further grant funding available from Libraries Tasmania.
- volatile operating costs,
- reliance on limited staff and volunteers
- extra annual cost
- fluctuating service demand driven by benefits cycles, tourism and connectivity issues.

Conversely, the five-year grant ensures:

- an important service remains for locals and visitors which may likely increase in relevance as more services become purely on-line
- provides stable funding and a \$5,000 annual increase in annual operational costs
- supports an opportunity for a service review
- strengthens service reliability through Council-managed IT
- offers opportunity to align with community development and digital inclusion initiatives.

**DISCUSSION**

That Council determine whether to accept the \$125,000 grant and enter into a five-year service arrangement. The alternative option would be that Libraries Tasmania offers the OOAC a grant directly for three years.

**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 – FEBRUARY 2026**

**RECOMMENDATION 25/03.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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

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

**BACKGROUND**

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

<b>Grading &amp; Sheeting</b>	
<b>Maintenance Grading</b>	
<b>Potholing / shouldering</b>	14 Mile Road
<b>Spraying:</b>	
<b>Culverts / Drainage:</b>	Victoria Vally new culvert Cider Gum Drive Thiessen Crescent
<b>Occupational Health and safety</b>	Monthly Toolbox Meetings Day to day JSA and daily prestart check lists completed. Monthly workplace inspections completed. Playground inspections Traffic management diary
<b>Bridges:</b>	
<b>Refuse / recycling sites:</b>	Cover Hamilton Tip twice weekly Push up green waste Bothwell
<b>Other:</b>	Replace damaged road signs Strickland Road Trim all trees Ouse bus shelter

	<p>New camera pole base Hamilton  Trim tree over Dunrobin Bridge  Removed dead tree Hamilton rose garden  Replace sign Berry Drive  Replace bins Bothwell  Preparation for Hamilton recreation ground for show</p>
<b>Slashing:</b>	<p>Victoria Valley Road  Woodwards Road  Church road Osterley  Norly Road  Lanes Tier Road</p>
<b>Municipal Town Maintenance:</b>	<p>Collection of town rubbish twice weekly  Maintenance of parks, cemetery, recreation ground and Caravan Par  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>Buildings:</b>	<p>Install ridge capping Wayatinah BBQ area</p>
<b>Plant:</b>	<p>Service PM843 Toyota  Service PM705 Mack Truck  Brake repairs PM720 dog trailer  New front brakes pm815 Triton  Hose repairs PM753 Bomag land Fill Compactor  New rear tyres New Holland Tractor  Two new batteries Cat Loader pm666</p>
<b>Private Works:</b>	<p>Gravell Andrew Dally  Laurance Jones premix</p>
<b>Casuals</b>	<p>Toilets, rubbish and Hobart  Hamilton general duties  Mowing and brush cutting  Gardening</p>
<b>Program for next 4 weeks</b>	<p>Ellendale footpath capital works  Drainage Berry drive Capital works  Continue with Thousand Acre Lane capital works  Potholing municipal roads  Install 2 bush shelters Hamilton</p>

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

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

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION 26/03.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Monthly Finance Report to 28 February 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 28 February 2026

# Financial Summary Report

Until February 2026

## Bank Balance Summary

Between January 2024 and February 2026, Council’s total bank balance decreased from \$7,178,036 to \$5,206,243, representing a reduction of \$1,971,793.

As at February 2026, the Council’s bank balance of \$5,206,243 comprises the following components:

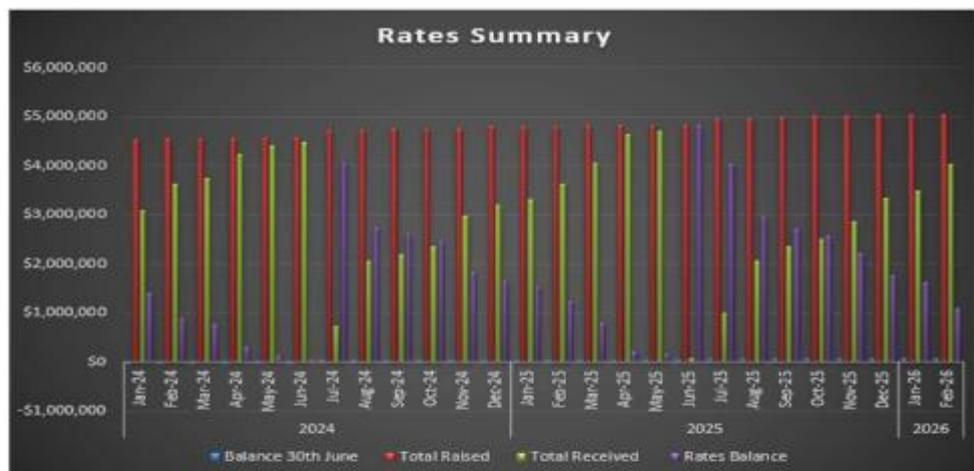
- Council Reserves: \$3,680,337
- Tascorp (St Michael and All Angels’ Church, Bothwell): \$90,134
- Financial Assistance Grants, Rates and Fees: \$1,425,193
- Community Grants: \$10,579



## Rates Summary

Council raised \$5,039,435 in rates for the financial period, which includes applicable penalties.

As at February 2026, Council has collected \$4,018,906 in rate payments. The remaining balance of \$1,087,563 is expected to be received by 31 April 2026, as part of the final and fourth instalment of rates.



## Community and Economic Development

As at February 2026, Council has utilised 25% of the Community and Economic Development budget, equating to \$36,721 out of a total budget of \$141,600.

The largest expenditure within this category relates to Highlands Digest Support, totalling \$14,364.

The Derwent Catchment Grant (second payment) for the Clyde River Project, valued at \$540,677, had not been received as at February 2026.

Similarly, the Gretna War Memorial Oval Grant of \$500,000 had not yet been received.

## Council Expenditure

Overall Council expenditure utilisation ranges between 23% and 62% across different departments.

Total operating expenditure as at February 2026 is \$4,798,478, representing 56% of the total operating budget of \$8,548,508.

Key observations include:

- Works and Services recorded the highest expenditure at 67% of its allocated budget.
- Cemetery expenditure increased due to the purchase of materials.
- Development and Environment has utilised 36% of its total budget.

- **Swimming Pool expenditure** increased due to maintenance and staffing costs. This expenditure is expected to reduce in the coming weeks as the winter season approaches.
- **Corporate and Financial Services** expenditure is currently progressing in line with budget expectations.

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## Capital Expenditure

As at February 2026, Council has utilised 23% of the capital budget, with total capital expenditure of \$825,640.

Major capital works include:

- **Hollow Tree Road** – Completed
- **Thousand Acre Lane** – In progress
- **Ellendale Footpath** – In progress
- **Waddamana Road** – In progress
- **Tor Hill Road** – In progress

The majority of capital expenditure relates to road projects, with \$646,489 spent on roads as at February 2026. This figure is expected to increase in the coming months as projects progress.

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## Income Statement Summary

Council's recurrent income totals \$9,175,346, while expenditure totals \$6,518,104, including depreciation.

Council capital grants totalling \$1,560,192, which include funding related to the **Gretna War Memorial Oval Grant**. The payment for this grant had not yet been received as at February 2026 and is expected in the coming weeks.

Council also received:

- \$371,580 representing outstanding LRCI grant balances from previous financial years.
- \$633,868 under the **Road to Recovery Program** for 2025-2026 Financial Year.

The remaining Road to Recovery funding of \$305,739 is expected to be received before June 2026.

**Rates Reconciliation as at 28 Feb 2026**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
<b>Rates in Debit 30th June</b>	\$196,877.36	\$217,826.72
<b>Rates in Credit 30th June</b>	\$145,341.00	-\$150,792.81
<b>Balance 30th June</b>	\$51,536.36	\$67,033.91
Rates Raised	\$4,729,920.23	\$4,971,230.43
Penalties Raised	\$36,021.97	\$33,837.66
Supplementaries/Debit Adjustments	\$25,577.02	\$34,367.14
Total Raised	\$4,791,519.22	\$5,039,435.23
<b>Less:</b>		
Receipts to Date	\$3,460,748.41	\$3,836,677.59
Credit Journals	\$19,188.78	\$18,463.40
Pensioner Rate Remissions	\$129,513.82	\$135,893.36
Remissions/Supplementary Credits	\$10,566.41	\$27,872.01
		\$4,018,906.36
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$1,223,038.16</b>	<b>\$1,087,562.78</b>

**Bank Reconciliation as at 28 Feb 2026**

	2024	2025
Balance Brought Forward	\$5,505,002.40	\$5,030,156.23
Receipts for month	\$1,503,201.51	\$1,140,293.55
Expenditure for month	\$1,846,085.26	\$964,205.99
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<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$5,162,118.65</b>	<b>\$5,206,243.79</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Represented By:</b>		
Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$1,269,324.28	\$1,131,086.73
Balance Westpac Bank	\$245,496.01	\$306,136.20
CBA Credit Card	-\$1,361.39	-\$1,450.17
Investments(Council Reserves + St Michael's Church)	\$3,648,659.75	\$3,770,471.03
Petty Cash & Floats	\$0.00	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>\$5,162,118.65</b>	<b>\$5,206,243.79</b>
Plus Unbanked Money		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>\$5,162,118.65</b>	<b>\$5,206,243.79</b>
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$0.00	\$0.00
Unreceipted amounts on bank statements	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>\$5,162,118.65</b>	<b>\$5,206,243.79</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 28 Feb 2026**

No.	Bank Accounts	Investment Period	Current Interest		Due Date	BALANCE
			Rate %			2025
<b>11100 Cash at Bank and on Hand</b>						
11105	Bank 01 - Commonwealth - General Trading Account					\$ 1,131,086.73
11106	Bank 02 - Westpac - Direct Deposit Account					\$ 306,136.20
	1118 CBA Credit Card					-\$ 1,450.17
11199	<b>TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND</b>					\$ 1,435,772.76
<b>11200 Investments</b>						
11207	Bank 6		0	0.00		\$ -
11207	Bank 5		60	4.09	3/03/2026	\$ 503,490.75
11115	Bank 04		59	4.21%	2/04/2026	\$ 510,060.26
11110	Tascorp( St Michael and All Angels' Church, Bothwell)	At CALL (29/07/2025)		3.85%		\$ 90,133.50
11115	Bank 16		90	4.28%	28/04/2026	\$ 2,666,786.52
11299	<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>					\$ 3,770,471.03
<b>TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS AND CASH ON HAND</b>						<b>\$ 5,206,243.79</b>

	<b>Council Reserve</b>					\$ 3,680,337.53
	<b>Tascorp (St Michael and All Angels' Church, Bothwell)</b>					\$ 90,133.50
	<b>FAG&amp; RATES&amp;FEES</b>					\$ 1,425,193.33
	<b>Community Grants</b>					\$ 10,579.43
						\$ 5,206,243.79

**Comprehensive Income Statement**

28/02/2026

	Budget 2024-2025	Actual to date prior year	Actual to Date	Budget 2025-2026
<b>Recurrent Income</b>				
Rates Charges	\$4,682,233	\$4,717,569	\$4,943,026	\$4,940,273
User Fees	\$494,250	\$201,959	\$242,086	\$501,651
Grants - Operating	\$3,236,515	\$437,256	\$1,822,174	\$4,428,454
Other Revenue	\$704,366	\$413,729	\$421,555	\$776,217
Grants received in Advance	\$0	\$2,918,101	\$1,746,506	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$9,117,364</b>	<b>\$8,688,614</b>	<b>\$9,175,346</b>	<b>\$10,646,595</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Employee Benefits	\$2,584,261	\$1,857,125	\$1,862,650	\$2,941,952
Materials and Services	\$2,447,768	\$1,823,192	\$1,767,788	\$3,490,109
Other Expenses	\$1,892,738	\$1,295,645	\$1,097,605	\$2,116,449
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$2,327,800	\$1,473,349	\$1,790,061	\$2,397,634
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$9,252,567</b>	<b>6,449,311</b>	<b>6,518,104</b>	<b>10,946,144</b>
<b>Operating Surplus(Deficit)</b>	<b>(135,203)</b>	<b>2,239,303</b>	<b>2,657,242</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>3,340,547</b>	<b>4,217,434</b>	<b>1,115,518</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>\$5,122,085</b>	<b>\$1,806,629</b>	<b>\$825,640</b>	<b>\$3,561,414</b>

	BUDGET 2025/26	ACTUAL TO 28-Feb-25	ACTUAL TO 28-Feb-26	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
<b>CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$2,017,673	\$1,374,582	\$1,294,793	64.17%	\$722,880
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$281,916	\$188,472	\$193,986	68.81%	\$87,930
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$132,191	\$70,752	\$64,066	48.47%	\$68,125
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$43,994	\$22,388	\$20,008	45.48%	\$23,986
ONCOSTS	(\$470,879)	(\$543,926)	(\$282,619)	60.02%	(\$188,260)
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	\$672,822	\$429,738	\$394,199	58.59%	\$278,623
<b>TOTAL CORPORATE &amp; FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,677,717</b>	<b>\$1,542,006</b>	<b>\$1,684,432</b>	<b>62.91%</b>	<b>\$993,285</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>					
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$327,017	\$242,214	\$220,074	67.30%	\$106,943
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$38,628	\$20,896	\$19,140	49.55%	\$19,488
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$18,421	\$10,535	\$8,847	48.03%	\$9,574
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$188,191	\$110,990	\$31,289	16.63%	\$156,902
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$32,572	\$35,927	\$36,731	112.77%	(\$4,159)
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$247,000	\$176,314	\$104,572	42.34%	\$142,428
WASTE SERVICES	\$968,939	\$682,040	\$621,466	64.14%	\$347,473
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>\$1,281,265</b>	<b>\$1,043,871</b>	<b>36.69%</b>	<b>\$1,801,339</b>
<b>WORKS AND SERVICES</b>					
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$290,284	\$117,955	\$152,273	52.46%	\$138,011
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$17,161	\$11,264	\$19,043	110.96%	(\$1,882)
HALLS (HALL)	\$74,349	\$85,061	\$35,521	47.78%	\$38,828
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$100,524	\$105,216	\$80,205	79.79%	\$20,319
REC. & RESERVES(Rec-Reserve)	\$130,679	\$74,457	\$70,469	53.93%	\$60,210
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$236,008	\$152,009	\$178,318	75.56%	\$57,690
HOUSING (HOU)	\$160,753	\$98,973	\$60,712	37.77%	\$100,041
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$14,801	\$10,480	\$11,359	76.74%	\$3,442
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$2,640	\$1,687	\$0	0.00%	\$2,640
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$1,086,345	\$789,420	\$719,777	66.26%	\$366,568
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$23,316	\$15,951	\$5,796	24.86%	\$17,520
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,388	\$5,853	\$10,518	44.97%	\$12,870
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$51,372	\$14,174	\$21,508	41.87%	\$29,864
2TD-Traffic Data	\$25,000	\$0	\$8,537	34.15%	\$16,464
SUPER. & I/D OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$844,041	\$762,007	\$478,074	56.64%	\$365,967
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(\$181,988)	(\$12,432)	(\$56,267)	30.92%	(\$125,721)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$179,936	\$84,485	\$134,892	74.97%	\$45,044
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$305	\$875	43.73%	\$1,125
PLANT MTCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$655,036	\$390,678	\$406,426	62.05%	\$248,610
PLANT INCOME	(\$795,036)	(\$702,786)	(\$326,999)	41.13%	(\$468,037)
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$43,130	\$39,644	\$15,940	36.96%	\$27,190
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$41,842	\$23,324	\$18,050	43.14%	\$23,792
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$0	\$4,542	\$8,792		(\$8,792)
FLOOD REPAIRS		\$0	\$0		
<b>TOTAL WORKS &amp; SERVICES</b>	<b>\$3,025,581</b>	<b>\$2,072,267</b>	<b>\$2,053,819</b>	<b>67.88%</b>	<b>\$971,762</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES</b>					
Corporate Services	\$2,677,717	\$1,542,006	\$1,684,432	62.91%	\$993,285
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$2,845,210	\$1,281,265	\$1,043,871	36.69%	\$1,801,339
Works & Services	\$3,025,581	\$2,072,267	\$2,053,819	67.88%	\$971,762
<b>Total All Operating</b>	<b>\$8,548,508</b>	<b>\$4,895,538</b>	<b>\$4,798,478</b>	<b>56.13%</b>	<b>\$3,766,386</b>

	BUDGET 2025/26	ACTUAL TO 28-Feb-25	ACTUAL TO 28-Feb-26	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
Computer Purchases	\$7,648	\$28,584	\$0	0.00%	\$7,648
Equipment	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$6,000
Miscellaneous	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$2,000
	<b>\$15,648</b>	<b>\$28,584</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$15,648</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>					
Swimming Pool	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	\$0
	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,870</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>(\$1,870)</b>
<b>WORKS &amp; SERVICES</b>					
Plant Purchases	\$170,000	\$467,215	\$2,317	1.36%	\$167,683
Camping Grounds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Public Conveniences	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Bridges	\$55,000	\$18,065	\$75,411	137.11%	(\$20,411)
Road Construction & Reseals	\$2,196,099	\$838,643	\$646,489	29.44%	\$1,549,610
Drainage	\$169,000	\$4,898	\$0	0.00%	\$169,000
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$72,000	\$239	\$0	0.00%	\$72,000
Infrastructure	\$105,000	\$28,235	\$2,880	2.74%	\$102,120
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$245,000	\$28,185	\$27,151	11.08%	\$217,849
Rec Grounds	\$402,000	\$188,601	\$2,275	0.57%	\$399,725
Halls	\$0	\$11,755	\$15,971	0.00%	(\$15,971)
Buildings	\$131,667	\$190,339	\$53,146	40.36%	\$78,521
	<b>\$3,545,766</b>	<b>\$1,776,175</b>	<b>\$825,640</b>	<b>23.29%</b>	<b>\$2,720,126</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS</b>					
Corporate Services	\$15,648	\$28,584	\$0	0.00%	\$15,648
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Works & Services	\$3,545,766	\$1,776,175	\$825,640	23.29%	\$2,720,126
	<b>\$3,561,414</b>	<b>\$1,806,629</b>	<b>\$825,640</b>	<b>23.18%</b>	<b>\$2,735,774</b>

## Community &amp; Economic Development

## 2025/2026 Budget

	BUDGET 2025/26	Actual to Date 28/02/2026	Remaining Balance
<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	\$2,349	\$2,651
<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	\$1,662	\$8,338
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	\$1,963	\$2,037
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>\$36,721</b>	<b>\$104,879</b>

## 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 27/03.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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



## Monthly Report for Central Highlands Council

10 February 2026 – 10 March 2026

### *General business*

The Boyer (Barwick's) depot and office site is progressing, with DCP moving equipment and operational gear onto the site this week. Establishing this base will support the growing on-ground program and provide a central hub for staff, equipment and operational coordination.

We have also advertised for an administrative position, with a preference for someone from the local region. The role will be primarily based at the Boyer office and will provide administrative support to field operations and management systems, including governance, WHS, finance and compliance functions, while assisting with the day-to-day coordination of the field team. As the on-ground team continues to grow and the Nature Repair Pilot project gets underway, additional administrative capacity is required to support staff logistics, maintain operational systems, and ensure governance, reporting and financial processes continue to operate effectively.

### *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**

Our DCP pasture species trials are progressively being assessed across the region with a seasonal update being presented at Thorpe, Bothwell (04 03 26). At this site there are significant differences in ground cover attributable to the sown grasses. The phalaris plots currently have essentially no permanent perennial ground cover, even though there has been a developing phalaris presence across the trial. The plants are resting as root mass, but not as established plant bases, which can have some consequence for potential soil movement. Assessment of the current degree of phalaris presence however must wait for autumn to progress further.

Cocksfoot plots and their survival and demise is more visible. Uplands cocksfoot is proving most resilient on the north facing slope of the trial, and three other cultivars have significantly declined in presence. Now in its fifth year since sowing, differences in survival are becoming

apparent after a period of comparative similarity, at least up to year three. Two cocksfoot cultivars that shone brightest initially, now appear poorest.



Figure 1. The real line in the sand. Survival to the right, death and disappearance to the left. The cultivar sown makes a difference.

Other sites are illustrating similar cultivar themes but differing plant responses to grazing pressure. At Westerway phalaris plots are looking superior to cocksfoot plots. This may be due to differential grub impact and the tolerance of phalaris, and to differing seasonal management of grazing pressure. It seems possible that more intensive grazing pressure associated with lambing paddocks is suppressing phalaris development whilst mid spring rest may promote or recover it.

A multispecies paddock demonstration is being monitored, and a Tasmanian institute of agriculture multi species pasture trial will be viewed as part of a DCP field day. DCP pasture network articles are printed monthly in the New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News.

## *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**

Works have continued this month at the northern end of Croakers Alley, focusing on the most severely choked and constrained sections. Richard Sutcliffe has been working in collaboration

with the DCP team, utilising a 20-tonne excavator to remove large willow trees. Works at this northern section are expected to be completed within the month.



Figure 2. Willow removal progress and stump treatment at Croakers Alley.

Large volumes of willow biomass have been removed from the site. Extensive areas of blackberry, which had formed dense thickets exceeding 4 m in height, and hawthorn have also been removed. Some woody weed debris has been piled for burning later in the appropriate season. A number of large hollow logs have been retained on site to provide habitat and fauna shelter as part of the revegetation works.

The site is now being progressively cleaned and prepared for revegetation. Upcoming works include seeding bare ground and planting native sedges, grasses and rushes in autumn, followed by planting native trees and shrubs after winter. Primary willow removal works will also continue between the Croakers Alley footbridge and Andrews Bridge in the coming month.

Aleida and Eve attended the Council meeting in February to present the Project Plan and



provide a progress update.

Figure 3. Croakers Alley willow removal (weir to the left).

### **Hamilton native plant nursery updates**

Work at the Hamilton Native Plant Nursery has continued steadily over the past month, with a focus on seed collection, processing and preparation for the upcoming planting season.

Seed collection has been ongoing across the Central Highlands and Derwent Valley, helping ensure a good mix of locally sourced species for future propagation. Collected seed has been progressively cleaned, dried and prepared for storage to maintain quality and viability.

Within the nursery, several practical improvements have been made to support day-to-day operations. Part of the nursery has been reorganised to improve workflow and plant management, and additional irrigation has been installed to strengthen watering capacity through the warmer months. Irrigation has also been monitored closely to maintain plant health during summer.

A full plant stocktake has been completed to help guide propagation priorities, plant availability and upcoming orders. Planning for the autumn planting season has progressed and planting is now underway, including works associated with the Charles Downe planting program. Preparation of plant orders for winter delivery has also commenced.

The nursery has continued to engage with the community through local events, attending both the Bushy Park Show and planned attendance at the upcoming Hamilton Show. These events provide valuable opportunities to connect with landholders, promote the use of locally grown native plants and highlight the nursery's role in supporting revegetation across the region. Planning is also underway for upcoming April events, including the Honey Bee Festival and the New Norfolk Autumn Festival.

Work has also begun exploring options for integrating point-of-sale and stock management systems, as well as the potential for online sales, to help streamline nursery operations and improve access to nursery plants for the community.



Figure 4. Stocktake and happy seedlings at the DCP Hamilton Native Plant Nursery.

### *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.*

Lyell Highway spraying continued throughout the month, with the crew completing the section between Gretna and Hamilton. This work continues to support the broader regional weed management program by maintaining control along a key transport corridor connecting the Central Highlands and surrounding areas.

A significant portion of the month was spent spraying along Florentine Road, where infestations were extremely dense. The team successfully treated the entire length of the road (approximately 80 km) from Maydena to Wayatinah. This was a major achievement and took several weeks to complete, with crews reporting some of the densest Californian thistle infestations they have encountered. As Florentine Road is a major connecting route between the Central Highlands and the Derwent Valley, and links with the Lyell Highway and several council-managed roads that are also treated as part of the program, this work is an important complement to ongoing weed management efforts.



Figure 5. A scenic forested fill-up point on Florentine Road.

Controlling weeds along this corridor will play an important role in preventing the spread of declared weeds into sensitive areas of the Central Highlands. In particular, foxglove populations are present along Florentine Road and are well established near Maydena at the southern end of the road but have not yet become widespread in the Central Highlands. Early intervention along this corridor will help limit further spread. It is also worth noting that approximately one-third of the municipality, including sections of Florentine Road, falls within the Class A eradication zone under the new Foxglove Biosecurity Program.



Figure 6. Dense Californian thistle infestations on Florentine Road, sprayed by the crew.

The team also completed treatment work at Waddamana, targeting infestations within the Ouse River bed and surrounding Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) coupes. Surveys were also undertaken on TasNetworks and Hydro Tasmania land around Miena to assess the presence of broom. In addition, spraying was completed along Victoria Valley Road and gorse infestations east of Pelham were treated. Finally, the team visited Tarraleah to develop a treatment plan for the coming this year's cross tenure control.

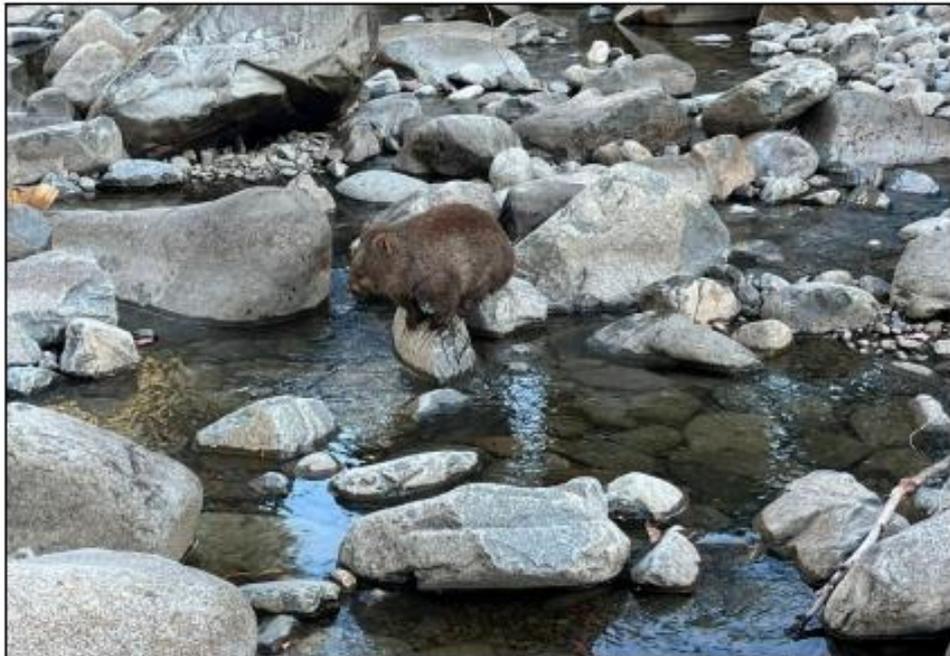


Figure 7. DCP crew came across this little guy in the Ouse riverbed while treating ragwort...



Figure 8. Californian thistle also treated in Waddamana.

## Community engagement

### Adopt-a-Shore and Great Lake chemical storage cabinet

The Adopt-a-Shore community working bee was successfully held at Yingina / Great Lake on Sunday 22 February to formally launch the new community weed-control cabinet at the Great Lake Community Centre. The cabinet was funded through the Hydro Tasmania and Cattle Hill Community Grants Program and provides local residents with access to herbicide and equipment to support ongoing weed management in the area.



Figure 9. Community weed control cabinet launch at the Community Centre!

The event saw a turnout of enthusiastic local residents who were keen to learn about local weed issues and how they can use the cabinet. Community members were already accessing herbicide on the day to treat weeds around the community centre, demonstrating immediate uptake of the initiative. Recent surveys conducted by the Derwent Catchment Project across Hydro Tasmania, TasNetworks and Council land around Miena and Great Lake highlighted that the majority of current weed infestations in the area are concentrated on private land. It was therefore particularly encouraging to see the level of interest from the community in using the cabinet to support weed control on their own properties across the broader landscape.

Following the cabinet launch, participants visited a nearby property on Jones Road that was experiencing a significant broom infestation. The site was used as a demonstration area, where Justin from the DCP crew, who has extensive experience managing weeds in the region, provided practical guidance on herbicide selection, application techniques and identification of key weed species. Participants were able to ask questions and observe best-practice treatment methods as several square metres of broom were cut and paste treated.



Figure 10. Participant Sue hauling armfuls of broom to pile.

This was followed by a discussion with Karen from the DCP Hamilton Native Plant Nursery, who spoke about suitable local species for planting and distributed native seedlings for residents to plant on their properties. There was also strong interest in the Miena cider gum restoration work being undertaken by DCP, with many attendees already aware of the project and keen to hear more.

Overall, the day was a great success and highlighted the strong sense of community in the Great Lake area. Local residents expressed enthusiasm not only for managing weeds on their own properties but also for helping neighbours tackle infestations. The new cabinet is expected to play an important role in supporting ongoing weed management efforts around Yingina / Great Lake.

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 28/03.2026/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.

#### DISCRETIONARY

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2025/72	Charlie Ellis Architecture	254 Nant Lane, Bothwell	Bond Store (Change of Use)
2026/02	Central Highlands Council	3457 Lyell Highway, Gretna	New Club Change Rooms & Amenities & Addition to Existing Structure
2025/66	James Downie	Marlborough Road, Miena (CT 243894/1)	Dwelling

## ANIMAL CONTROL

### Statistics

Total Number of Dogs Registered in 2024/2025 Financial Year – 966  
 Total Number of Kennel Licences Issued for 2024/2025 Financial Year – 52

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

<b>Statistics as of 10 March 2026</b>	
Number of Dogs Impounded during last month	0
Number of Dogs Currently Registered	949
Number of Dogs Pending Re-Registration	6
Number of Kennel Licence Renewals Issued	35

## 20.2 DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW

### **RECOMMENDATION 29/03.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council adopt the Dog Management Policy 2026.

**REPORT BY** Kathy Bradburn, Senior Administration

**Attachments - Dog Management Plan 2026 (with amendments)**

### **BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the *Dog Control Act 2000* Council has now completed the public consultation process into the review of the Dog Management Policy. The document was on public display, with advertisements placed in the Mercury Newspaper, New Norfolk News, Highland Digest, posters placed in local businesses throughout the Municipality, advertised on Council's Facebook page and website. The Policy was on public display from the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025 with comments closing on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026. During this time two submissions were received.

The submissions received have identified several opportunities to make Council's Dog Management Policy clearer, fairer, and more helpful for dog owners, residents, farmers, and visitors.

## **Overall finding**

The policy is fundamentally strong, compliant with the *Dog Control Act 2000*, and effective in its main regulatory areas. However, several opportunities exist to modernise the policy, strengthen fairness and clarity, and better meet community and animal welfare expectations.

## **Key Improvements Identified**

### **1. Clearer Places for Dogs**

- **Consider creating designated off-leash exercise areas** in major towns (so dogs have a safe place to run).
- **Review signage** around towns, parks, reserves and entrances so locals and visitors know the rules.

### **2. Better Registration & Microchipping Support**

- Run annual registration reminders and provide information on microchip/desexing.
- Improve checks to ensure all dogs are registered, making it easier to reunite lost pets with owners.

### **3. Fairer Handling of Barking & Nuisance Complaints**

- Include details on an **informal early step**, courtesy letter, before a formal complaint and fee is required.
- Clarify that complaint fees are **refunded if the issue is substantiated**.

### **4. Stronger Animal Welfare Commitments**

- Make it clear that Council's priority is to **rehoming unclaimed dogs**, with all unclaimed dogs transported to the Dogs Home of Tasmania.
- Ensure all impounded dogs receive appropriate care.

Below is an assessment of the submissions received and the Dog Management Plan 2026 with amendments shown in red has been included in the attachments.

## **Conclusion**

The Dog Management Policy is fundamentally sound and compliant, but updating it as recommended would improve clarity and community understanding, enhance responsible dog ownership and increase fairness and transparency.

**Assessment of Submissions**

**Submission 1**

ISSUE	COMMENT
<p><b>4.1 Responsible Ownership &amp; Education</b></p>	
<p><b>Issue:</b> The policy’s Responsible Ownership Code (Section 2) is comprehensive in listing owner obligations, but it focuses mainly on <i>what not to do</i> (or else face penalties). It lacks emphasis on <i>how to do things right</i> and does not explicitly encourage positive actions like dog training, socialisation, or desexing (beyond the indirect fee incentive). In its current form, it’s a set of rules without guidance or motivational elements. This could be a missed opportunity to foster a culture of responsible pet ownership through education and positive reinforcement.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change:</b> Augment the Responsible Ownership section to include <b>encouraging, educational language</b> and tips. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add a preamble or conclusion to the Code of Responsible Ownership that highlights positive practices. For instance: <i>“Council encourages all dog owners to not only abide by the above requirements, but to embrace practices that enhance your dog’s behaviour and wellbeing, such as early socialisation of puppies, attending obedience training classes, regular exercise, and de-sexing (unless part of a registered breeding program). These practices help fulfill your responsibilities and lead to a happier pet and community.”</i></li> <li>• Within the list of responsibilities, a line could be inserted like: <i>“Ensure your dog receives adequate training and socialisation to become a good citizen pet (seek out puppy school or obedience classes, which also help prevent problem behaviours). Owners are encouraged to utilise humane, reward-based training methods, as recommended by animal welfare experts.”</i> This doesn’t impose a legal requirement (so it doesn’t conflict with the Act), but it sets an expectation and guidance.</li> <li>• Similarly, explicitly mention desexing in the code: even though the fee structure incentivises it, the code could say: <i>“Consider de-sexing your dog at an appropriate age. De-sexed dogs often live healthier lives and are less likely to roam or display certain aggressive behaviours. Council supports de-sexing through discounted registration fees and community education.”</i> This aligns with RSPCA’s advocacy for widespread desexing.</li> </ul> <p>These additions turn the code from a purely regulatory list into a mini guide for being a responsible owner in a proactive sense.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p><b>4.2 Declared Areas / Leash Rules / Signage</b></p>	
<p><b>Issue 1: Lack of Off-Leash Exercise Areas</b>, The policy currently does not designate any “dog exercise areas” where dogs can be off-lead for free running and play. It only states that Council may consider written requests from groups to declare such areas, which implies none exist by default. As a result, aside from private property, there is effectively nowhere owners can legally let dogs off-leash within the municipality, given that all towns and many recreation areas are leashed or prohibited. This is</p>	

<p>problematic from both a dog welfare perspective and a practical standpoint.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change: Establish and declare designated off-leash dog exercise areas.</b> Council should proactively identify one or more suitable locations and formally declare them exercise areas under section 20 of the Act. Potential options: a part of a Council-owned park or sports field during certain hours (when not in use by sports); a section of the foreshore at an inland lake where water birds are not nesting (if any) or a low-conflict area; or even a large fenced enclosure created on council land specifically for dogs. Given the rural context, perhaps there is an unused paddock or common area that could be repurposed. Community consultation can help identify spots that locals feel are appropriate. Once identified, list these in the policy (or as an appendix or schedule) so it's clear. For example: <i>"Declared Exercise Areas: [Location X], dogs may be off-lead at all times (or specified times) provided they remain under effective control."</i> Council may start with one in each major town (e.g. one in Bothwell, one in Hamilton or elsewhere) if feasible. Even a small area is better than none, dogs don't need vast acreage if the space is safe and designated for them.</p> <p>Council might worry about wildlife or livestock with off-leash areas. Thus, choose locations carefully: e.g., a fully fenced dog park would contain dogs and mitigate those concerns. If fencing is not immediately possible, pick areas well away from wildlife-sensitive zones. The policy can specify conditions (like dog must be under effective control and not harass wildlife, etc., though that's already an overarching requirement). For instance, <i>"Bothwell Dog Exercise Area, the old showground, off-leash allowed, dogs must be within sight and under voice command."</i></p>	<p>Council to investigate possible sites for declared designated off-leash dog exercise area and budget for works required taking into account and recommendations from the Town Structure Plans.</p> <p>No change proposed to Dog Management Policy</p>
<p><b>Issue 2: Insufficient Signage and Public Awareness of Rules.</b> The policy text lists detailed restrictions (down to specific reserve code numbers, etc.), but the average person will not know all these by memory. As of now, there's no mention of how these rules are communicated on the ground. In practice, some areas in Central Highlands have little or no signage about dog rules. For example, a visitor driving into one of our towns might not see a sign that "Dogs must be on leash in this town" (if such signage isn't there). Someone walking near a conservation area might not know it's a dog-prohibited reserve without seeing the boundary signage. If signage is missing or unclear, compliance suffers, people often break rules unknowingly.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change: Implement a Dog Management Signage and Communication Plan.</b></p> <p>This would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Signs at Town Entrances:</b> Similar to how some towns have signs like "Welcome to X, Dog on Leash Area" or specific icons, we could have signage as you enter Bothwell, Hamilton, etc., stating that dogs must be on leash in public and to pick up after them.</li> <li>• <b>Signs at Parks/Reserves:</b> For every declared prohibited or restricted area, ensure at the usual</li> </ul>	<p>Consideration be given to erecting further signage at town entrances.</p> <p>Dog signage is already in place at Council's parks and reserves as well as the residential areas surrounding Great Lake, Arthurs Lake,</p>

<p>entry points there is signage. E.g., at the start of a popular walking trail that enters a conservation area, put “NO DOGS, Nature Reserve” with the universal no-dog symbol. At playgrounds and sports grounds, signpost the 10m and on-leash rules. For any new off-leash areas provided, put signs delineating their boundaries and rules (like “Off-Leash Area: Dog must remain under effective control. Please pick up after your dog.”).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consistency and Quality:</b> Use clear wording and possibly pictograms. Ensure durability (our weather can be harsh). The policy can mention this plan: e.g., “Council will erect and maintain clear signage in all declared areas (prohibited, restricted, and exercise areas) to inform the public of the dog management requirements.” It might also note that “Maps and information on declared areas will be published on Council’s website and available at Council offices” to catch those who plan ahead. A simple brochure or map online showing, say, all towns (shaded as on-leash), key reserves (marked no-dogs), and any off-leash zones would greatly help visitors and locals alike.</li> </ul> <p>This doesn’t need to clutter the policy document itself with the details of each sign, but an added commitment in the policy to proper signage will ensure it is treated as a priority, not an afterthought.</p>	<p>Bronte Park, Bronte Lagoon, Bradys Lake, Derwent Bridge. A review to be undertaken to ensure signage is adequate.</p> <p>The Declared Prohibited Areas listed within the Policy are those areas where dogs are prohibited by State Government agencies, including State Reserves, National Parks, Conservation Areas, Historic Sites and Regional Reserves. The responsibilities for declaration of, and enforcement within these areas, lie with the landowner and not within the jurisdiction of Council.</p>
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<p><b>4.3 Registration, Fees, and Compliance Support</b></p>	
<p><b>Issue:</b> While the current fee structure is quite robust and fair, there is room for further measures to <b>maximise registration compliance</b> and to <b>encourage responsible pet ownership behaviours</b> beyond what fees alone can do. Specifically, not all dogs in the municipality may be registered, there are likely some non-compliant owners (national trends suggest a percentage of dogs remain unregistered in many communities). Additionally, some owners might face barriers to desexing or microchipping their pets (cost, access), which if not addressed can undermine the fee incentive approach (e.g., they keep an animal entire and unregistered). The policy doesn’t mention active strategies to identify unregistered dogs or assist owners in meeting requirements aside from fees and penalties for late payment.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change: Introduce proactive registration compliance and support initiatives. This could include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Periodic Compliance Audits:</b> The policy or accompanying practice could note that Council will periodically check for unregistered dogs. For example, cross-referencing the microchip database with Council’s registration records to find dogs in our area that are chipped but not registered, then sending reminders. Or conducting street-by-street surveys (Rangers observing where dogs are present and verifying registration). Even announcing that these audits happen can prompt people to register to avoid fines.</li> </ul>	<p>Council does not have full access to the national microchip database to be able to undertake cross referencing but every effort is made by Council staff to undertake compliance audits where practical.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Education on Registration:</b> Include messaging in Council newsletters, social media, local newspaper around June/July emphasising why registration is important and highlighting the discount period. Maybe an annual “Register your pet” campaign each winter, so it’s in people’s minds.</li> <li>• <b>Microchipping &amp; Desexing Clinics:</b> Work with local vets or the Dogs’ Home to host an annual low-cost microchipping day in the municipality. Possibly tie in a desexing voucher program (some councils partner with vets to offer a certain number of discounted desexings for low-income pet owners). The policy can express support for such programs: <i>“Council will endeavour to facilitate low-cost microchipping opportunities to assist owners in complying with mandatory microchipping and encourage those who have not yet registered to do so.”</i> and <i>“Council supports desexing initiatives and will explore partnerships to make desexing more accessible, thereby supporting the reduced registration fee incentive.”</i> For example, Council could budget a small amount to subsidise a “Desex and Register” drive, owners who desex during the drive get first-year registration free or some similar hook.</li> <li>• <b>Recognise Responsible Owners:</b> Consider implementing a “Responsible Dog Owner” accreditation or reward (optional, but some councils do this). For instance, if someone has kept their dog desexed, microchipped, registered on time for say 5 years with no infringements, they could get an extra discount or a certificate. This is more of a community relations gesture but it signals Council appreciates responsible owners (who are the majority). The policy could mention exploring a recognition program.</li> </ul> <p>While these specifics may be operational, including the intent in policy (e.g. “Council will actively promote and enforce dog registration to achieve full compliance, through education campaigns, reminder notices, and periodic audits”) sets the tone that registration is not just passive (waiting for people to file forms) but an active priority.</p>	<p>Noted. Messaging already occurs through Council’s newsletter, social media and local newspapers.</p> <p>Council held numerous microchipping sessions when microchipping was introduced to reduce the cost burden on dog owners. Unfortunately due to the low number of new dogs requiring microchipping further days have not been viable (i.e. minimum number of dogs required to hold a session not met).</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>No changes to Dog Management Policy being proposed.</p>
<p><b>Issue:</b> Another minor point on the fee structure: the policy doesn’t explicitly mention that assistance dogs (guide dogs, hearing dogs) are free to register, though it lists the category. By convention and possibly by law, these dogs are exempt from fees. Ensuring that is the case (and perhaps extending exemption to PTSD support dogs or similar if recognised) is important to note.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change:</b> Clarify in the fee schedule that Special Assistance Dogs are fee- exempt (if that is Council’s practice, if not, it’s recommended they should be, as most councils do so to support people with disabilities). This is a very small edit but has symbolic significance to those who rely on such animals.</p>	<p>Section 4 relates to the fee structure and not the specific fees being charged. Although the fee structure is not listed within the Policy as the fees are set by Council as part of the Budget each year it has now been noted within the policy that Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs &amp; Special Assistance Dogs do not attract a fee.</p>
<p><b>4.4 Nuisance (Barking), Roaming, Breeding and Kennel Licensing</b></p>	

**Issue 1: Nuisance Barking Complaints Process,** The policy mandates formal complaints with a fee for nuisances, which is legally sound, but there is **no mechanism for early intervention or mediation** before reaching that formal stage. Many barking issues can be resolved by notifying the dog owner or providing them advice, without the neighbour needing to lodge a formal complaint. The strict stance of “only official complaints” might result in situations festering (if a neighbour is hesitant to lodge a complaint, the barking continues) or relationships souring (if they do lodge immediately, it becomes adversarial). Essentially, there’s a step missing in the escalation ladder: an informal complaint or a warning to the owner.

**Recommended Change: Adopt an informal preliminary step for nuisance complaints.** The policy could outline a procedure such as:

1. *Initial notification:* If Council receives a noise nuisance report (even without the official form), an ACO may contact the dog owner (keeping the complainant anonymous) to inform them that a concern has been raised and provide advice on rectifying the issue (e.g., not leaving the dog outside all night, or enrichment tips). This could be done by letter or phone. **No fee** at this stage, since it’s not an official complaint, just a courtesy intervention.
2. *Monitoring:* The ACO might also use this opportunity to observe the situation (drive past at times to verify barking, for instance). This builds evidence and avoids sole reliance on neighbour testimony.
3. *Escalation to formal complaint:* If the barking continues and the neighbour wants to pursue, then proceed with the formal complaint and fee, and all that entails (official notice to comply, potential infringement etc.).

In the policy text, this could be described as: *“Council encourages complainants, where possible, to first approach the dog’s owner or request Council’s assistance in notifying the owner of the issue prior to lodging a formal complaint. In many cases, owners may not be aware their dog is causing a nuisance (for example, barking when they are away). Council may, as a first step, issue an advisory letter to the dog owner outlining the complaint and suggesting ways to address the problem, while keeping the complainant’s identity confidential. If the nuisance persists despite this informal intervention, the affected person may then lodge a formal complaint under section 47 of the Act (with the prescribed fee) for Council to take enforcement action.”*

Additionally, encourage neighbourly communication: *“Council encourages neighbours to communicate openly where safe to do so, sometimes a polite conversation can resolve a dog noise issue amicably. Council can provide pamphlets on barking dog solutions that complainants may wish to give to their neighbour.”*

An informal notification procedure is already being used by Council Staff but no formal procedure document exists.

A formal procedure document could be created to formalize this practice.

This procedure document would sit outside the Dog Management Policy but could be noted within the policy.

**Issue 2: Clarity on Complaint Fee Refund,** As previously noted, the policy should explicitly assure complainants that if their complaint is justified, their fee gets refunded. This is

<p>a simple clarification to reduce hesitancy to lodge valid complaints.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change:</b> In the Complaints section, add: <i>“The complaint fee is refundable if the General Manager determines the complaint has substance (i.e., the dog is found to be creating a nuisance as defined by the Act).”</i> This way people know it’s essentially a deposit to prevent frivolous reports, not revenue or a charge to be lost if their cause is valid.</p>	<p>Section 9 of the Dog Management Policy to be amended to clearly state the fee will be refunded on substantiation of the complaint and sufficient evidence to enable Council to initiate proceedings.</p>
<p><b>Issue 3: Roaming Dogs (dogs “at large”)</b>, The policy covers impounding and responsibilities to not let dogs roam, which is good. One thing to emphasise or possibly adjust for rural context: farmers in our area have rights under the Dog Control Act to protect livestock (they can shoot dogs attacking livestock under certain conditions). While the policy doesn’t need to restate that, education to dog owners about roaming can highlight the serious risks (to wildlife, stock, and the dog itself). Possibly, Council could commit to stronger enforcement on repeat roamers because in rural areas roaming can be disastrous (sheep kills, etc.).</p> <p><b>Recommended Change:</b> Ensure that when advising owners or in public communications, Council highlights the importance of containing dogs (e.g., “do not let your dog wander, both for community safety and the dog’s safety, landowners are legally allowed to destroy dogs chasing livestock, and dogs wandering near roads often get hit”, etc.). Perhaps incorporate into responsible ownership code: <i>“Dogs are not allowed to roam unsupervised”</i> is already there, maybe add rationale: <i>“Roaming dogs are at risk and can cause harm; Council takes roaming incidents seriously.”</i></p> <p>Also, Council might develop an escalating approach: first impound, caution the owner; second time the same dog is impounded, issue an infringement (since the Act allows a fine for dog at large). The policy could mention that persistent roaming will not be tolerated. This is somewhat implied but could be explicit. Given the major sheep farming in CHC, this is an area to be strict.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>No changes required to Dog Management Policy.</p>
<p><b>Issue 4: Breeding and Kennel Licences (puppy farms)</b>, As noted, the policy replicates legal process well. But Tasmania is moving to tighten breeding rules (e.g., the government announced a limit of 10 fertile females per facility, etc.). Council should be ahead of the curve or at least prepared. Also, there’s community concern generally about large puppy farms and poor conditions. While CHC might not have any now, being vigilant is key.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change:</b> In the Kennel Licence section, add a policy point that: <i>“In assessing licence applications, Council will have particular regard to animal welfare standards and scale of operation. Intensive breeding operations (so-called “puppy farms”) are not supported by Council, any kennel licence with a large number of breeding dogs will be subject to stringent conditions or may be refused in public interest. Council will also incorporate any new animal welfare regulations for dog breeding into licence</i></p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Minor amendments proposed to this section of the Dog Management Policy.</p>

<p><i>conditions (e.g., limits on number of breeding females, health testing, etc.)</i>.” This signals Council’s stance against puppy farms and readiness to enforce higher standards.</p> <p>Additionally, maybe commit to inspecting licensed kennels annually at renewal (the policy implies inspections can happen and at application, but an annual check or surprise inspections could be mentioned to ensure ongoing compliance with conditions).</p>	
<p><b>Issue 5: Information Accessibility for Kennel Licences</b>, Minor, but ensure the process is clearly explained to the public. Perhaps have an information sheet or webpage: how to apply, what requirements must your kennel meet, etc. Because some people may not even realise they need a licence when they get a third dog.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change:</b> Possibly mention: <i>“Council will provide guidance to those seeking a kennel licence on how to meet requirements (e.g., example site plans, welfare guidelines).”</i> This way, responsible folks can more easily comply, and irresponsible ones have no excuse.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>A Kennel Licence Application Pack providing information and process is available from Council’s Offices and Website. The Dog Management Policy has been updated to advise where information can be found.</p>
<p><b>4.5 Dangerous Dogs &amp; Restricted Breed Process</b></p>	
<p><b>Issue 1: Emphasise Behaviour over Breed (Avoid Breed Discrimination)</b>, The policy lists restricted breeds as required by law, but it doesn’t explicitly communicate Council’s philosophy regarding how breed is regarded. Given public sensitivity, it would be wise to state that Council focuses on individual dog behaviour and risk when taking enforcement action, and that aside from the few prohibited breeds, no lawful breed will be targeted without cause. Essentially, reassure that Council isn’t “breedist”. Also, if possible, highlight that even dogs of the restricted breeds will be treated per guidelines, meaning if they are declared restricted breed, they must follow same controls as dangerous, but owners have due process (the Act allows appeal if they think it’s not that breed).</p> <p><b>Recommended Change:</b> Add a statement in the Dangerous Dogs section along the lines of: <i>“Council notes that a dog of any breed or mix can be dangerous if not properly managed. Council will not declare a dog dangerous or take restrictive action based on breed or appearance alone, only on evidence of aggressive behaviour or risk (except as required for the restricted breeds listed by law). All assessments will be based on the individual dog’s behaviour and circumstances.”</i></p> <p>And/or in the Restricted Breed sub-section: <i>“Restricted breed dogs are identified strictly according to State Government guidelines. Council does not impose breed restrictions beyond those mandated by legislation.”</i> If there are guidelines (some states have visual identification guidelines for pitbulls), referencing their use might assure due process.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>No changes to Dog Management Policy are being proposed.</p>
<p><b>Issue 2: Owner Support &amp; Rehabilitation</b>, Once a dog is declared dangerous, the regime is mostly punitive (though necessary). However, Council could consider if any program or referral can help owners manage these dogs safely. For example, in some places owners of dangerous dogs might be required or encouraged to attend a dog</p>	

<p>behaviour course or have sessions with a trainer. Though not in our legislation, Council could at least give information.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change:</b> When notifying an owner of a dangerous dog declaration (or even during investigation phase), provide them educational resources (like “Understanding Dog Aggression” pamphlet, list of certified dog behaviorists, etc.). The policy might say: <i>“Council will provide advice to owners of declared dangerous dogs on managing their dog safely (for instance, muzzle training guidance, etc.), in addition to enforcing the legislated requirements.”</i> Also ensure they know about the appeal process clearly and the steps to possibly get declaration revoked if behaviour improves (though realistically, dangerous dog declarations in Tas remain for life unless court overturns, except guard dogs can be un-declared when they cease guarding). Maybe mention the guard dog undeclaration process explicitly (the policy does, actually, saying GM may revoke when notified guard duties ended).</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Council’s Animal Control Officer provides assistance and guidance to the owners of dogs declared dangerous.</p> <p>Dog Management Policy updated accordingly.</p>
<p><b>Issue 3: Transparency to Public on Dangerous Dogs,</b> Council keeps a Dangerous Dog Register as required, but by law that register is not open for public inspection except by written request. Some councils, however, will proactively notify nearby residents if a dangerous dog is in their vicinity (without giving owner details, maybe just “a dangerous dog resides in your street, ensure you’re cautious”). The policy doesn’t mention if Council will do any community notification.</p> <p><b>Recommended Consideration:</b> Should Council inform immediate neighbours when a dog is declared dangerous next door? This can be sensitive (privacy vs right to know). Perhaps not in policy, but consider protocol. Since the Act allows a person to request details in writing, Council could handle on case-by-case. No specific change recommended in text here, but raising it as a thought for implementation.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>As required by legislation, signage is erected at the premises where a declared dangerous dog resides.</p> <p>No changes to the Dog Management Policy are being proposed.</p>
<p><b>Issue 4: Enforcement of Dangerous Dog Conditions,</b> The policy is strong that Council will inspect and act on breaches. Just reinforce that in implementation. Possibly add: <i>“Any breach of dangerous dog conditions will be dealt with firmly, including infringement or seizure if necessary, as these conditions are critical for public safety.”</i> But this is likely understood.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>No changes to the Dog Management Policy are being proposed.</p>
<p><b>4.6 Enforcement Model &amp; Proportionality</b></p>	
<p><b>Issue:</b> Ensure <b>consistency and officer training</b> in enforcement. The policy sets good guidelines, but the human element is consistency. If one ranger gives warnings while another always fines, that’s an issue.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change:</b> Internally, develop standard operating procedures so all Authorised Officers apply cautions vs fines in similar situations. The policy itself could mention: <i>“Council enforcement officers will be guided by this policy and internal protocols to ensure a consistent approach. All officers are trained in animal handling and conflict resolution to carry out duties professionally and humanely.”</i> Mention of training is good for community confidence (e.g. that rangers know how to calmly interact with dogs, not escalate situations, ties to RSPCA’s call for humane handling).</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>No changes to the Dog Management Policy are being proposed.</p>

<p><b>Issue:</b> Using <b>Data-Driven Enforcement</b>. Council should periodically review its infringement and complaint data to identify patterns, e.g. if many infringements are for off-leash in a certain area, maybe that area needs better signage or even to be reconsidered as off-leash at certain times.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change:</b> State that Council will monitor enforcement statistics and community feedback to adjust education and resource allocation. For instance, <i>“Council will monitor dog management incidents and complaints annually to identify any emerging issues and target education or enforcement accordingly (for example, if roaming incidents spike in a particular locality, Council might organise a community meeting or letter drop there about containment).”</i></p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>4.7 Animal Welfare and Rehoming Pathways</b></p>	
<p><b>Issue:</b> The policy’s language around unclaimed dogs could be improved to underline Council’s commitment to humane outcomes (rehoming vs euthanasia). We covered this in Part A, “disposed of or destroyed as sees fit” is legally correct but cold. Also, no mention that Council ensures impounded dogs are well cared for, though we trust they are. Making that explicit is beneficial.</p> <p><b>Recommended Change:</b> Revise the Impounding section wording to explicitly prioritise rehoming: <i>“If the dog is not claimed in the above timeframe, Council will, wherever practicable, find a suitable new home for the dog (for example, by transferring it to the Dogs’ Home of Tasmania for rehoming). Only if a dog is unsuitable for rehoming (due to serious behavioural or health issues) or no home can be found will it be humanely euthanised.”</i> Also: <i>“Dogs impounded by Council are provided with appropriate care (food, water, shelter and any urgent veterinary care) during the holding period, in accordance with Council’s legal and welfare obligations.”</i> This aligns with RSPCA policy that pound dogs deserve good welfare. If Council has a 100% rehoming rate for adoptable dogs via Dogs Home, say it! (That’s something to be proud of).</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Council has a signed agreement with the Dogs Home of Tasmania. All unclaimed dogs are transferred to the Dogs Home.</p> <p>Minor inclusions around this have been included in the Dog Management Policy.</p>
<p><b>Issue:</b> No mention of cat management, outside scope of Dog Policy, but some councils include a line like “Council recognises responsible pet ownership includes cats, but under current legislation cats are managed under separate provisions” etc. Probably not needed here, but just a note that community sometimes raises cats when talking about animal control. Not necessary to add to dog policy except maybe to say dogs shouldn’t attack cats (that might be under not endanger domestic animals which covers it).</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>No changes to the Dog Management Policy are being proposed.</p>
<p><b>4.8 Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Cycle</b></p>	
<p><b>Issue:</b> The Dog Management Policy must be reviewed every 5 years by law. However, many things can change in between, legislation updates (like the Dog Control Act might get amended, or Animal Welfare Act updates on breeding as noted), or emerging issues (e.g., if there’s a spate of dog attacks). If Council only formally reviews every 5 years, it might operate with an outdated policy in the interim. Additionally, without interim evaluations, it’s hard to know if the policy is meeting its objectives or if adjustments are needed in practice.</p>	

<p><b>Recommended Change:</b> Introduce a section in the policy on <b>Implementation and Review</b> that commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Annual Reporting:</b> Council’s Animal Management section can produce a brief annual report or summary to Council (and public) on dog management statistics: number of registrations, complaints, infringements, impounds, adoptions, etc., and any educational activities done. This keeps the Council members informed and accountable on how the policy is working year to year.</li> <li>• <b>Mid-term Review or Ongoing Review:</b> Perhaps state: <i>“Council will continually monitor the effectiveness of this policy and may amend it if required. A comprehensive review including public consultation will occur at least every five years as required by the Act, or sooner if significant issues or legislative changes arise.”</i> This way, if say in 2023 new breeding laws came, Council could update the policy in 2024 without waiting for 2025.</li> <li>• <b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):</b> Optionally, set some targets to strive for, which can be evaluated. For example: “increase the percentage of registered dogs by X% in next year”, “reduce dog-related complaints by X% through education,” “0 dog attack incidents in public places per year,” “rehoming rate of unclaimed dogs 100% for those deemed suitable.” These give a yardstick to measure success of the policy’s implementation. Including them in policy is not common, but even internally, Council can have them.</li> </ul>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Annual Reporting is required as part of Council’s Annual Plan.</p> <p>No changes to the Dog Management Policy are being proposed.</p>
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**Submission 2**

ISSUE	COMMENT
<p><b>Recommended Change:</b> Page 8 of 18, Section 2.3 the word “attach” should be corrected to “attack”</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Dog Management Policy to be amended</p>
<p><b>Issue:</b> A property owner may have a right to own more than two dogs, but neighbours have an equal right to not have to listen to them barking all day and night</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>Issue:</b> I believe there should be an appendix that lists the web links to the various Acts or legislation</p> <p><a href="https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/asmade/act-2000-102">https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/asmade/act-2000-102</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-1993-063">https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-1993-063</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-1967-042">https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-1967-042</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/2019-08-11/sr-2010-039">https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/2019-08-11/sr-2010-039</a></p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Dog Management Policy to be amended.</p>

## 20.3 DRAFT AMENDMENT 01-2026 OF THE STATE PLANNING PROVISIONS - SECONDARY RESIDENCES

### RECOMMENDATION 30/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** all comments on Draft Amendment 01-2026 of the State Planning Provisions be forwarded to Council's Planning Officer by Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**REPORT BY** Kathy Bradburn, Senior Administration

**Attachments - Draft Amendment 01-2026 – s30D Consultation Draft and Draft Amendment 01-2026 – Explanatory Document**

#### DETAILS

The Tasmanian Government is proposing Amendment 01-2026 of the State Planning Provisions (SPPs) to increase the allowable gross floor area and further clarify the requirements for secondary residences (or granny flats).

Draft amendment 01-2026 of the SPPs proposes to increase the maximum gross floor area for secondary residence from 60m<sup>2</sup> to 90m<sup>2</sup> and includes other amendments to further clarify the requirements applicable to secondary residences.

In accordance with section 30C of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* the Minister for Housing and Planning has prepared Terms of Reference in relation to the preparation of the draft amendment which are available for viewing on the Planning in Tasmania website: [www.stateplanning.tas.gov.au](http://www.stateplanning.tas.gov.au). The Minister has also prepared draft amendment 01-2026 of the SPPs in accordance with the Terms of Reference and accompanying explanatory document.

Council's Planning Officer has reviewed, and is in support, of draft amendment 01-2026 of the SPPs.

Comments are being sought and are to be forwarded to Council's Planning Officer by Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to enable a response to be submitted.

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## 20.4 MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING

### RECOMMENDATION 31/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the report be received and noted.

**REPORT BY** Kathy Bradburn, Senior Administration

**Attachments** - Discussion paper & consultation questions, New Apartment Code, New Residential Zone, Revised Inner Residential Zone and Revised General Residential Zone

#### **Details**

The State Planning Office has identified Council as a key stakeholder for proposed changes to the State Planning Provisions (SPPs) in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme to make it easier to develop medium density housing across Tasmania.

The proposed changes to the SPPs have been drafted with the following key elements:

- New Apartment Code
- New Residential Zone
- Revised Inner Residential Zone
- Revised General Residential Zone
- Consequential changes to SPPs Definitions, Parking and Sustainable Transport Code, Miscellaneous exemptions, application requirements and incorporated documents

Targeted consultation is intended to inform key stakeholders of the range of SPPs that could be activated to make it easier to develop medium density housing.

Written comments can be provided until 5pm Friday, 8 May 2026 by email to the State Planning Office at: [haveyoursay@stateplanning.tas.gov.au](mailto:haveyoursay@stateplanning.tas.gov.au)

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## 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.

### 21.3 CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN 2025 - 2030

#### **RECOMMENDATION 32/03.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council after formally advertising and receiving comments adopt the Central; Highlands Council Strategic Plan 2025 to 2030 without amendments.

That Council write advising those who made representation that council has adopted the strategic plan without amendment and thanking them for their submission.

That after the council elections later this year a further review will be undertaken of the Strategic Plan to ensure the plan aligns with the views of the new council and the community.

**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, General Manager

## DISCUSSIONS

The response is an example of the scrutiny which Councils and other levels of government, agencies, GBEs, companies etc will be subject to from the combination of individuals and groups who are comfortable with the use of AI, are able to craft a focused prompt and have documents/and data to inform the response, in this instance the strategy and community workshop notes.

The submission provides a comprehensive review and evaluation, identify weaknesses from the position of a community located away from the traditional Central Highlands economy but now increasingly important as the source of both residential development and renewable energy generation and from both perspectives a significant contributor to the “effective population”.

As a general observation, the recommendations within the submission are factors to be considered within the plans strategic initiatives, in particular as council reviews its financial management plan, asset management plan for example and implements the strategy, socio-economic, health and wellbeing strategies through its annual operating plan. As these are worked through, some of the issues raised may filter upwards to become the business process and rules.

The recommendations are considered in the sequence provided in the submission.

### 1. Adopt a Formal Community Engagement & Accountability Framework:

While included as a strategy/principle within the business model, the mechanisms and schedules have not been codified as identified within the submission but will form a part of the review process. The General Manager reporting to Council, this will provide the basis for reporting to the community as Council decides. The principles of transparency, trust & accountability are built into the strategy from Councillors input into it.

### 2. Incorporate Equity in Resource Allocation Decisions:

Council has an ongoing obligation to maintain its asset base and invest in capital works on a benefit-cost basis. Assets and asset categories are not evenly distributed across the municipality so cost cannot be explicitly attached to catchment population or rate revenue generated. It may be that for a particular year expenditure appears to exclude some areas to the benefit of others but over say a decade, this may balance out.

Again, the review of the financial management strategy and link to the asset management plan and Council strategies will form the basis to clarify the recurrent expenditure and capital investment programs on a rolling 5 year basis and at a less detailed level for the following 5 years. The parameters for the benefit-cost analysis will include factors such as community socio-economic benefits such as included in the submission, making the criteria, safety, economic benefit, equity for example explicit.

This supports Councillors in their conversations with the community, contributing to confidence & trusts.

To address community concerns about fair distribution of investment, Council should articulate the principles by which it will allocate budgets and infrastructure projects across different areas. This can be done by publishing an addendum to the Strategic Plan or

within the annual budget documents that shows planned capital and operational spending by locality or precinct, linked to need indicators (population growth, usage, etc.). The Plan does hint at equity considerations in revenue[70], but more is needed on the spending side. Adopting an “equity-weighted” approach, for instance, ensuring high-growth areas receive a proportional share of new investment, could be a model[73]. Council might set a policy that areas growing by a certain percentage get priority for certain upgrades, or that historically under-served communities get a dedicated budget each year. By making these criteria explicit, Council can justify its decisions to the public in a transparent way, and communities like Miena or Bronte Park can see a path for improvements, not just hear that they must wait. This should be combined with publishing justifications for major projects[72], as the community requested, so that whether a project is in Hamilton or Derwent Bridge, people understand the rationale (be it safety, economic benefit, equity, etc.).

### 3. Define Timelines and Milestones for Key Initiatives:

Timelines are important and a focus of our specific purpose plan reviews. The challenge has been to develop some certainty into timelines, without confidence in the underpinning foundation documents such as the 10year financial plan. The financial plan frames our capacity to deliver, once reviewed this will provide increased certainty in publishing them. As we are moving to a target based business model, the dates must reflect reality.

In other instances, the specific dates for outcome delivery are dependent upon other players, in this instance Council will report on progress and dates for completion of its part in the process.

The Strategic Plan should be supplemented with a high-level implementation schedule. This doesn't have to pin down every action, but it should identify, say, the top 10 strategic initiatives and provide target timelines (e.g., “By 2024-25, complete rezoning proposals for target towns; By 2025-26, secure funding for medical service expansion; By 2027, deliver new housing lots in X town,” etc.). Currently, the lack of timelines is a major critique[11]. Introducing timelines will help Council in staging the work and help the community hold Council accountable in a fair way (they will know not to expect certain outcomes before a given year). It will also facilitate intergovernmental discussions, for example, if upgrading the Marlborough Highway is a 2026 goal in the Plan, Council can use that in negotiations with the State Government. Internally, staff can align grant applications and projects to these milestones. We understand not everything can be rigidly scheduled, but even indicative timing for strategic moves (like rolling out structure plans, or infrastructure advocacy phases) would be beneficial. Additionally, identifying quick wins versus long-term projects could manage public expectations. As it stands, many community-driven priorities appear delayed to “at least 2026/2027”[117], by clarifying this and perhaps expediting a few critical ones (if feasible), Council can maintain community support and momentum.

### 4. Enhance Focus on High-Growth and Emerging Areas:

Council has recently completed a structure plan for parts of the municipality. It has also submitted and funding application to Regional Development Australia to extend this work with a focus on aspects such as community facilities and infrastructure.

Balancing recurrent and capital expenditure across asset classes, condition, community benefits and financial capability is a key focus of Councils strategic transition. This includes the consideration of multiple risk categories and need arising from increase population, visitation and traffic flows

The Plan should be adjusted or interpreted flexibly to include emerging growth areas in its scope. Specifically, Council should commit to extending planning and infrastructure assessments to locales like Miena, Bronte Park, Wilburville, and Derwent Bridge, which were repeatedly mentioned as overlooked[118][119]. This doesn't mean abandoning the focus on the four primary towns but running parallel efforts so that these other areas have structure plans or development plans initiated within the Plan period. For example, Council could resolve to commence a Miena community plan or a Great Lake area strategy in 2025, ensuring that by mid-plan period there's clarity for that area's residents and shack owners about future development (housing, roads, services). Additionally, rebalancing the capital works program to fund some "quick fix" projects in these areas (like road sealing were justified by traffic[120], or enhanced maintenance) would show responsiveness. Essentially, the recommendation is to align the Plan's implementation more closely with actual growth patterns, so that fast-growing communities feel supported, not left behind. This will prevent small issues from compounding (for instance, inadequate sewage in a growing shack community could become an environmental health issue if not preemptively addressed).

#### 5. Strengthen Environmental and Emergency Initiatives

Emergency preparedness from an individual and community perspective is a key Council focus and the priority in negotiation with State Government and industry, including in Council's discussion with large scale industry entities such as Hydro and other renewable energy providers in the strategic investment in health, accident fire and other events to improve our local response capability.

Organisations such as STT have in place initiatives to detect, analyse and automate response mechanisms for fire, Council is considering how to link with such technologies as a part of our emergency response planning with .....

Council has taken initial steps to develop its climate change transition plan....

Amenity is a key determinant of resident wellbeing and visitor experience

Partnership with the community

Given community worries about environmental sustainability and emergency preparedness, Council should bolster the Plan's actions on these fronts. This could involve explicitly incorporating a Climate Change Adaptation and Emergency Management Plan as a deliverable of the Strategic Plan. The Plan already calls for developing an adaptation strategy[39], Council should prioritise this and perhaps set a date (e.g., complete by 2026)

and involve the community in its creation. On emergency management, Council might commit to tangible steps like securing funding for the smoke detection camera network within a year, conducting a community emergency response workshop in each major locality, or establishing local emergency coordination groups. While some of this operational detail may be outside the Strategic Plan's typical content, including a few concrete commitments in the Plan or as a policy resolution will reassure residents that this critical area is not deferred indefinitely. Similarly, for environmental management, the Council could initiate local projects (even small ones) such as lake shoreline clean-ups, tree planting, or invasive species control with community volunteers, activities that show environmental stewardship. These can tie into the Health and Wellbeing Plan or NRM partnerships but should be visible locally. By doing so, Council addresses the gap noted by residents that they didn't see "Council-led conservation efforts or sustainability programs" in the Plan[22]. It shows that beyond relying on state regulation, the local government is taking ownership of its natural assets.

6. Implement Clear Monitoring and Reporting of Plan Progress: Finally, it is recommended that Council institute a monitoring mechanism specifically for the Strategic Plan. This could be an annual Strategic Plan Progress Report to Council (and the community) each year, evaluating how Council is tracking against each of the nine areas in this review. For example, it can list what was done in the past year for strategic clarity (did we communicate well?), for financial sustainability (did we achieve budget targets, secure new revenue?), for land use (did we start the rezoning process?), etc., aligned with KPIs where possible. Such a report could be in plain English summary form for the public, complementing the formal Annual Report. The community explicitly asked for annual reporting and mid-year reviews with measurable outcomes tied to community-identified goals[121]. Delivering this will operationalise the accountability principle set in the Plan[48]. Additionally, establishing an ongoing dialogue, perhaps via the suggested advisory panel or an annual "State of the Highlands" community meeting, will keep the Plan a living document. It prevents surprises and allows mid-course corrections with community input if something isn't working. As one community participant pointed out, this is about ensuring transparency in project funding and decision-making moving forward[122].

Adopting these reporting practices will make it much easier for Councillors to see if strategic objectives are on track and for the community to stay engaged and supportive, rather than only raising issues at the end of the five-year term. In conclusion, the Strategic Plan 2025–2030+ provides a strong foundation and direction for Central Highlands Council. By implementing the recommendations above, which essentially boil down to clarifying, communicating, and committing, the Council can enhance the Plan's impact and align it more closely with community aspirations. This will transform a solid strategic vision into on-the-ground reality, ensuring that by 2030 the Central Highlands is indeed a more vibrant, equitable, and resilient place, as both the Council and its constituent's desire. With these adjustments, the Plan will not only be a guiding document for internal decision-making but also a living contract with the community, one that visibly responds to their concerns and measures its success by their wellbeing.

## 21.3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### RECOMMENDATION 33/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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

**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, General Manager

#### **Economic Development Special Committee**

1. Mr John Stephenson
2. Mr James Johns
- 3.
- 4.

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

1. Mr Stephen Loring
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

#### **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.

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**21.4 MOTION FROM AUDIT PANEL****RECOMMENDATION 34/03.2026/C****Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr**THAT** Council adopt the Risk Management Register.**IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS**

<b>Strategic Plan</b>	6.1 Ensure Council fulfils its legislative and governance responsibilities, and its decision making is supported by sustainable policies and procedures
<b>Council Policy</b>	Policy No. 2015 - 41 Risk Management Policy and Strategy
<b>Legislative Context</b>	Local Government Act 1993
<b>Consultation</b>	Council's Audit Panel and Senior Management Team
<b>Impact on Budget/Resources</b>	As per 24/25 Council approved budget
<b>Risk</b>	The council must ensure that it meets its legislative and governance responsibilities as per the Local Government Act 1993.

**REPORT BY** Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager**Attachments - Risk Management Register (DRAFT)****BACKGROUND**

The previous Risk Management Register was approved by Council in the June 2025.

The Audit Panel met on Monday 16 February 2026 and reviewed the risk management register.

The Audit Panel made the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION***Moved: Cr J Hall                      Seconded: Deputy Mayor J Allwright**THAT Council adopt the Risk Management Register.***CARRIED***For the Motion: Mr I McMichael (Chair); Deputy Mayor J Allwright; and Cr J Hall*

## 21.5 OMBUDSMAN TASMANIA RIGHT TO INFORMATION

### RECOMMENDATION 35/03.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Deputy General Manager:

- a) document and implement procedures which mandate additional checking of the information intended to be released under the Right to Information Act 2009 when this contains personal information assessed as being exempt under s36 of that Act.
- b) develop a written guidance document to inform staff that administrate Right to Information requests on how to respond to the inadvertent release of personal information identified as exempt under s36 of the Right to Information Act 2009; and
- c) review Council's redaction methods and naming conventions regarding documents to be released under the Right to Information Act 2009 to ensure that these are effective and that personal information is not inadvertently released.

### IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

<b>Strategic Plan</b>	6.1 Ensure Council fulfils its legislative and governance responsibilities and its decision making, supported by sustainable policies and procedures.
<b>Legislative Context</b>	<i>Local Government Act 1993 Ombudsman Act 1978 Right to Information Act 2009 Personal Information Protection Act 2004</i>
<b>Council Policy</b>	<i>Policy No. 2014 – 30 Privacy (Personal Information) Policy</i>
<b>Consultation</b>	Senior Management Team
<b>Impact on Budget/Resources</b>	As per 25/26 Council approved budget
<b>Risk</b>	The council must ensure that it meets its legislative and governance responsibilities as per the <i>Local Government Act 1993, Ombudsman Act 1978, Right to Information Act 2009 and Personal Information Protection Act 2004</i>

**REPORT BY** Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager

**Attachments** - Letter Ombudsman Tasmania 4 March 2026, Investigation Report – March 2026, Ombudsman Tasmania and Media release – 11 March 2026

## BACKGROUND

The Ombudsman wrote to the General Manager on the 4 March 2026 regarding an investigation report that was undertaken by the former Ombudsman, Mr Richard Connock, under section 13 of the *Ombudsman Act* 1978 into administrative action at public authorities.

This investigation reviewed concerns about the inadvertent release of personal information by public authorities implementing decisions on assessed disclosure applications under the Right to Information Act 2009.

The investigation by the former Ombudsman has now been concluded and the Ombudsman provide a copy of the Investigation Report dated March 2026, the report made the following recommendations:

1. Document and implement procedures which mandate additional checking of the information intended to be released under the Right to Information Act 2009 when this contains personal information assessed as being exempt under s36 of that Act.
2. Council should develop a written guidance document to inform their staff as to how to respond to the inadvertent release of personal information identified as exempt under s36 of the Right to Information Act 2009. This should contain an expectation that, if practicable, the affected individuals be notified of the breach and the type of information released and be informed of their rights under the Personal Information Protection Act 2004 to complain about the release of their personal information.
3. Council should undertake an audit of their past 30 decisions or those made within the last 12 months under the Right to Information Act 2009 (whichever is fewer) in which information was found to be exempt under s36. This audit should ascertain if any personal information has been released in error and if process changes are needed to reduce commonly occurring errors. Appropriate steps should be taken to rectify any breaches of the Personal Information Protection Act 2004 if these are identified in the audit.
4. When regularly deal with information relating to children and victim survivors of sexual abuse, specifically but not limited to the Department for Education, Children and Young People, should conduct an additional review of the appropriateness of their information disclosure practices. This review should focus on whether these practices limit harm and do not cause additional trauma, in recognition of the sensitivity of the personal information of which they are the custodians.
5. Council should review their redaction methods and naming conventions regarding documents to be released under the Right to Information Act 2009 to ensure that these are effective and that personal information is not inadvertently released.

The Deputy General Manager as the Right to Information Officer has undertaken a review and Council have only received one Right to Information request in the past 12 months.

In accordance with the Right to Information Act 2009, Council's Right to Information Officer reviewed the Right to Information request and the seventeen (17) documents that were identified by Council after considering the Right to Information request.

One (1) document an email 25 January 2023 – following inspection, Council's Right to Information Officer was satisfied that part of the information was exempt information pursuant to section 36 of the Right to Information Act 2009, being the personal information of a person.

The relevant personal information was removed from the document before providing a copy to the person requesting the information under the Right to Information request.

The Deputy General Manager will develop a written guidance document to inform staff that administrate Right to Information requests on how to respond to the inadvertent release of personal information identified as exempt under s36 of the Right to Information Act 2009. This guidance document will contain an expectation that, if practicable, the affected individuals be notified of the breach and the type of information released and be informed of their rights under the Personal Information Protection Act 2004 to complain about the release of their personal information.

The Deputy General Manager document and implement procedures which mandate additional checking of the information intended to be released under the Right to Information Act 2009 when this contains personal information assessed as being exempt under s36 of that Act.

The Deputy General Manager will review Council's redaction methods and naming conventions regarding documents to be released under the Right to Information Act 2009 to ensure that these are effective and that personal information is not inadvertently released.

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## 21.6 LGAT MOTIONS FOR THE APRIL GENERAL MEETING

### Motion 1      **Second Generation Rodenticides – Hobart City Council**

#### **RECOMMENDATION 36/03.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council supports the proposed motion by Hobart City Council as written.

**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, General Manager

#### **Decision Sought**

That Tasmanian councils cease using second-generation rodenticides at council facilities if they are still being used.

That Tasmanian councils be encouraged to engage with their communities to encourage avoidance of second-generation rodenticides, identified by the word 'poison' on packaging as opposed to 'caution'

#### **BACKGROUND COMMENT**

The City of Hobart does not use second-generation rodenticides in its facility bait boxes and understands that other councils around the country also avoid its use.

There is currently a national campaign being undertaken to ban second-generation rodenticides as they are deadly to birds of prey and other wildlife that eat both live prey and carrion. Stricter use guidelines have been proposed, but councils could act immediately to cease their use and encourage awareness throughout the community.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has *“concluded that the way products containing second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs\*\*) are currently used is creating current risks to \*non-target animals, including native wildlife.*

*This conclusion has led the APVMA to propose suspending SGAR products so that stricter controls around their use can be implemented quickly.*

*The controls on use that could be put into place during a suspension are designed to remove the most likely routes of native wildlife exposure, to manage the risks while the review is finalised.*

*The suspension of SGARs, if enacted, would occur as soon as possible after the end of a six-week consultation with the product registration holders and state and territory governments.*

*If the suspension goes ahead, SGAR products could still be used, but only in accordance with the enforceable new instructions, conditions and use patterns that will apply nationally.”*

Support for the City’s motion will ensure a consistent, statewide approach to rodent management to ensure best practice and alignment across jurisdictions.

## **Motion 2      Changing Local Government’s role in delivering immunisation programs**

### **RECOMMENDATION 37/03.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council supports the proposed motion By West Tamar Council as written.

**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, General Manager

### **Decision Sought**

That LGAT advocates for the following:

1. That the Tasmanian Government remove or modify section 57 of the *Public Health Act 1997* which requires Councils to develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area.
2. That the Tasmanian Department of Health take primary responsibility for delivery of school-based immunisation programs in Tasmania.

3. That Section 57 (1) if not removed be replaced with:

*“A Council may develop and implement an approved **Program** for immunisation in its municipal area by liaising with the Tasmanian Health Service who is required to carry out school-based immunisation programs statewide.”*

### **BACKGROUND COMMENT**

Under section 57 of the *Public Health Act 1997*, a council must develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area.

#### **57. Council immunisation programs**

(1) A council must develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area.

(2) The Director may require a council to provide any information the Director determines relating to its immunisation program.

For most councils this includes delivering the National Immunisation Program (NIP) to high school students. This is the School-Based Immunisation Program (SBIP). Some councils also deliver community immunisation clinics.

Delivering an immunisation program is a specialised activity, requires the employment or contracting of nurse immunisers or health professionals, and the management of specialised medical processes including administering vaccines, managing adverse reactions and the storage and transport of vaccinations.

Victoria and Tasmania are the only States where local Councils deliver school based immunisation programs. All other States coordinate this function through State government departments.

The Tasmanian Department of Health is considered to be best placed to manage the resourcing and risks associated with implementing an immunisation program across the state, including school-based immunisation programs.

This is especially the case as the State Government has implemented its school nurse program. Now that a school nurse program has been implemented it is Council's belief that running school immunisation programs should no longer be a requirement and that Council can and should be able to choose to opt in to providing these programs when and if it believes that it is appropriate to do so.

## **21.7 RELATED PARTY DECLARATIONS – QUARTERLY UPDATE**

### **FOR ACTIONING (if required)**

**Report by** Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant

#### **BACKGROUND**

As part of Council's legislative requirements under the AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures, local governments must disclose related party relationships, transactions and outstanding balances, including commitments, in the annual financial statements.

All Councillors and Senior Managers must declare any close family member or any entities that they control or jointly control, which have any transactions between them and Council; whether it is monetary or not, needs to be identified and disclosed.

These declarations are completed an annual basis but from time to time, circumstances may change throughout any one year and therefore, a new updated declaration must be completed.

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## **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.