

# **Council Meeting Agenda**

**19<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Hamilton Council Chambers**

## **Notice of Meeting of Council – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026**, commencing at **9.00am** with the business of the meeting to be in accordance with the following agenda paper.

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 Part 2, Division 1, a notice of the meeting was published on the Council website on 10 April 2026.

General Manager's Certification

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

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

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

Dated at Bothwell this **14<sup>th</sup>** day of **May 2026**.



Stephen Mackey  
**General Manager**

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## **1. LEGISLATIVE AND STANDARDS COMPLIANCE**

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

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### **1.1 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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### **1.2 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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### **1.3 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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**1.4 PRESENT****1.5 IN ATTENDANCE****1.6 APOLOGIES**

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**1.7 CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA****RECOMMENDATION 01/05.2026/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.

## 1.8 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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## 1.9 MINUTES

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### 1.9.1 CONFIRMATION OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 17 MARCH 2026

#### RECOMMENDATION 02/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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

[Attachment – Draft Minutes](#)

**REPORT BY** Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant

### 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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### 1.9.2 RECEIVAL OF DRAFT AUDIT PANEL MEETING MINUTES – 12 MAY 2026

#### RECOMMENDATION 03/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Draft Minutes of the Audit Panel Committee held on Tuesday 12 May 2026 be received.

[Attachment – Draft Minutes](#)

**REPORT BY** Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant

### 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.

**1.9.3 BUSINESS ARISING – APRIL 2026 COUNCIL MEETING****RECOMMENDATION 04/05.2026/C****Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr**THAT** the information be received.

15.2	Council Support – Defibrillator Servicing For Derwent Bridge And Bronte Park - That Council approve a community request for Council to replace batteries and pads for public Defibrillators located at Bronte Park and Derwent Bridge.	Progressing – Pads received and will be delivered on 15 May 2026
16.2	Council's Vacant Land - That Council consider advertising by EOI for these areas	Progressing – Advertising has been undertaken and closes on the 29 May 2026
18.2	LGAT Representative on the Threatened Species Community Review Committee - That Council Nominate Eve Lazarus For The Local Government Representative on the Threatened Species Community Review Committee	Nomination has been submitted
19.2	Draft Aboriginal Heritage Bill 2026 - That all comments on the Draft Aboriginal Heritage Bill 2026 be forwarded to Council's Planning Officer by Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026	Progressing
19.3	Draft Land Use Planning And Approvals (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026 - that all comments on the draft land use Planning And Approvals (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026 be forwarded to council's Planning Officer by Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026.	Completed – A copy of the letter is attached to item 2.3 of this agenda.
19.4	Preventing Delays In Development Assessment Timeframes Position Paper - that all comments on the position paper be forwarded to council's planning officer by Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026.	Completed – A copy of the letter is attached to item 2.3 of this agenda.
20.1	Southern Tasmania Council Network - That pursuant to Regulation 17 (1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) That Council authorise the General Manager to sign and seal the Service Agreement for the Southern Tasmania Councils Network with Regional Development Australia Tasmania for the administration of the STCN.	Completed
20.2	Policy 2013-19 Asbestos	Item was deferred and will be discussed at a workshop

20.3	Economic Development And Community Development Special Committee Membership	Item was deferred and will be discussed at a workshop
20.4	Central Highlands Council Strategic Plan 2025-2030 THAT Council a) after formally advertising and receiving comments adopt the Central; Highlands Council Strategic Plan 2025 to 2030 without amendments; b) write advising those who made representation that council has adopted the strategic plan without amendment and thanking them for their submission; and c) further review the Strategic Plan after the council elections later this, be undertaken to ensure the plan aligns with the views of the new council and the community.	Progressing
20.5	Policy 2013 – 18 Employment And Recruitment	Item was deferred and will be discussed at a workshop
20.6	Policy 2015 - 37 Information Management (Recordkeeping)	Item was deferred and will be discussed at a workshop
20.7	Policy 2017 - 51 Staff Code Of Conduct Policy	Item was deferred and will be discussed at a workshop
20.8	Policy no. 2025-67 Social Media Policy	Item was deferred and will be discussed at a workshop
20.9	POLICY 2025 - 68 Private Works Policy	Item was deferred and will be discussed at a workshop
20.10	Memorandum Of Understanding With Tasmania Police Closed Circuit Television Systems - That Council approve the General Manager to sign the Closed Circuit Television System - Memorandum of Understanding between Tasmania Police and Central Highlands Council	Completed

**Matters still progressing from the March 2026 Council Meeting**

12.9	NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr D Meacheam THAT the special committee established to improve Telstra services on the Central Plateau have its remit extended to July 2026	Progressing
21.4	<p>OMBUDSMAN TASMANIA RIGHT TO INFORMATION –</p> <p>That the Deputy General Manager:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Progressing

**Matters still progressing from the February 2026 Council Meeting**

12.2	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr R Cassidy</p> <p>That the Central Highlands Council’s Mayor Loueen Triffitt and General Manager Stephen Mackey discuss with Council and Council Employees the concerns raised in the Tasmania Integrity Commission “Local Government Gifts</p>	Progressing
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	<p>and Donations Consultation paper”, dated 2 February 2026.</p> <p>a) Review Gifts and Donations Policy;</p> <p>b) Review and complete Gifts and Donations monthly register, individually;</p> <p>c) Council address each of the 13 questions raised and make a submission; and</p> <p>d) Give assurances to the Honourable Minister for Local Government, Director of Local Government and the Integrity Commission that Central Highlands Council is fully compliant, #1 with current legislative requirements and the intentions of the Commission “Local Government Gifts and Donations Consultation paper”, dated 2 February 2026, going forward.</p>	
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### 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
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### Matters still progressing from the November 2025 Council Meeting

8.3	<p>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</p>	Progressing
17.4	<p>DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL (DAP) CONSULTATION</p>	Progressing

**REPORT BY** Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant

#### PURPOSE

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

## 1.10 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.

### RECOMMENDATION 05/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the information be received.

**REPORT BY** Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant

#### PURPOSE

This report aims to provide an overview of the workshops undertaken from the previous meeting.

A workshop was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at the Council Chambers, Hamilton commencing at 9.00 a.m.

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

**Also in Attendance:** Stephen Mackey (General Manager), Katrina Brazendale (Executive Assistant), Zeeshan Tauqeer (Accountant), Damian Mackey (Contract Planner) and Louisa Brown (Planner).

**Apologies:** Cr D Meacheam and Cr S Triffett

The workshop focussed on the following items for discussion:

- LUPAA (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026
- LUPAA delays in development assessment timeframes
- 2026/2027 Budget
- Economic Development and Community Development Special Committees

The workshop concluded at 12.30 p.m.

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### 1.10.1 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.

- TBC

## **1.11 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.*

**1.11.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM****RECOMMENDATION 06/05.2026/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council consider extending the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to Councillors. And that this be a matter for consideration in the **2027-2028 budget**.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

*Under Division 2 – Motions, Section 19 (1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, a councillor may give to the general manager, at least 7 days before a meeting a written notice of a motion and the supporting information and reasons for the inclusion of the motion on the next meeting agenda.*

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	May 19, 2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	David Meacheam
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	That Council consider extending the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to Councillors. And that this be a matter for consideration in the <b>2027-2028 budget</b> .
<b>Background Details:</b>	<p>As part of my work with the Better Politics Foundation, I was surprised to learn that Central Highlands Council's Employee Assistance Program doesn't include coverage for Councillors.</p> <p>Councillors are particularly subject to psychological harm from interactions with both residents and fellow Councillors. Extending the Employee Assistance Program should be a natural part of our duty of care to all within Council.</p> <p>I am conscious that the 2026-2027 budget processes are now largely complete, and we are struggling to achieve a balance, hence I ask this be considered in next year's budget processes.</p>
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>David Meacheam</i>
<b>Date:</b>	11/5/26

**1.11.2 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR J HALL**

**RECOMMENDATION 07/05.2026/C**


**Moved:** Cr J Hall

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** any outages within a township area be supplied with sufficient alternative drinking water by TasWater for residents during any long period outages.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

*Under Division 2 – Motions, Section 19 (1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, a councillor may give to the general manager, at least 7 days before a meeting a written notice of a motion and the supporting information and reasons for the inclusion of the motion on the next meeting agenda.*

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	19-5-2026
<b>Councillor Name:</b>	John Hall
<b>Proposed Motion:</b>	Taswater water outage - ANZAC Day
<b>Background Details:</b>	Businesses had to close, and being one of Bothwell’s busy days with about 150 visitors and 350 residents, and being without water for over 12 hours, with everyone unprepared, Taswater could have made provisions for the community to have drinking water available. With 5% annual increases, they could implement options for water outages over 3 hours.
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	10-5-2026

## 2. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

### 2.1 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.

## 2.2 PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

### 2.2.1 PETITIONS

Nil

### 2.2.2 DEPUTATIONS

Nil

### 2.2.3 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

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## 2.3 MONTHLY MAYORAL AND ELECTED MEMBERS ACTIVITY

### RECOMMENDATION 08/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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

**REPORT BY** Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant

### IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

<b>Strategic Plan</b>	
<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**

21 April 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell
25 April 2026	Anzac Dawn Service Gretna
25 April 2026	Anzac Day Service Bothwell
5 May 2026	Planning Workshop with Damien and Louisa Hamilton
5 May 2026	Budget Workshop Hamilton
7 May 2026	Outgoing Businesses Afternoon tea Bothwell Town Hall
11 May 2026	Hamilton 200 Meeting Hamilton

- Business of Council - **11**
- Ratepayer and community members – communications - **14**
- Elected Members - communications - **7**
- Council Management communications - **2**
- Legal Communications - **0**

**Deputy Mayor J Allwright**

21 April 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell
29 April 2026	Bushwatch Meeting Westerway
5 May 2026	Budget Meeting, Hamilton
11 May 2026	Hamilton 200 Meeting Hamilton
12 May 2026	Audit Panel Bothwell

**Cr A Archer**

21 April 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell
21 April 2026	Plant Committee Meeting Bothwell
5 May 2026	Planning Workshop with Damien and Louisa Hamilton
5 May 2026	Budget Workshop Hamilton

**Cr R Cassidy**

21 April 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell
21 April 2026	Plant Committee Meeting Bothwell
5 May 2026	Planning Workshop with Damien and Louisa Hamilton
5 May 2026	Budget Workshop Hamilton
7 May 2026	Outgoing Businesses Afternoon tea Bothwell Town Hall

**Cr J Hall**

15 April 2026	Peter Birchall Memorial BBQ Bothwell
21 April 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell
21 April 2026	Plant Committee Meeting Bothwell
25 April 2026	ANZAC Day Dawn service Gretna
25 April 2026	ANZAC Day Service Bothwell
26 April 2026	CWA Fund Raiser (RAW) Bothwell Town Hall
29 April 2026	Bush Watch Meeting Westerway
5 May 2026	Planning Workshop with Damien and Louisa Hamilton
5 May 2026	Budget Workshop Hamilton
7 May 2026	Outgoing Businesses Afternoon tea Bothwell Town Hall
11 May 2026	Meeting Back to Hamilton 200 Years Hamilton
12 May 2026	Audit Panel Meeting Bothwell

**Cr J Honner**

21 April 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell
25 April 2026	Anzac Dawn Service Arthurs Lake
25 April 2026	Anzac Day Service Bothwell
5 May 2026	Budget Workshop Hamilton

**Cr D Meacheam**

On Leave

**Cr Y Miller**

21 April 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell
25 April 2026	Anzac Dawn Service Hamilton
5 May 2026	Budget Workshop Hamilton

**Cr S Triffett**

21 April 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting Bothwell
25 April 2026	Anzac Dawn Service Hamilton

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

### RECOMMENDATION 09/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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

**REPORT BY** Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant



## CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

**12 May 2026**

**Ed Beswick**

Chief Executive Officer

Thrive Group

Sent via: [ebeswick@thrivegroup.org.au](mailto:ebeswick@thrivegroup.org.au) cc: [nbolt@thrivegroup.org.au](mailto:nbolt@thrivegroup.org.au)

**Re: Support for Thrive Group – Early Childhood Service Development in Bothwell**

Dear Mr Beswick

Central Highlands Council is pleased to support Thrive Group as you progress funding applications to establish early childhood education and care services in Bothwell.

Council values the strong collaboration developed over recent months and acknowledges the community's immediate need for high-quality care while the facility funded through the Federal Government's Building Early Education Fund is being developed at Bothwell District High School.

Council offers in-principle support of working with Thrive Group on practical service options, including the potential use of suitable Council-owned land for a demountable Family Day Care dwelling, subject to planning requirements, approvals and lease negotiation.

Council also recognises the important work Thrive Group is undertaking to build a sustainable local early childhood workforce, including support for local residents completing qualifications and engagement of local Diploma-qualified educators. Alongside long-day-care, Council also supports complementary services such as Outside School Hours Care and the expansion of Family Day Care in Bothwell to meet diverse family needs.

Central Highlands Council endorses Thrive Group's efforts to secure funding to progress these services and deliver improved early learning outcomes for children and families across our region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Mackey', written over a white background.

**Stephen Mackey**

General Manager

Central Highlands Council



State Planning Office  
Department of State Growth  
GPO Box 536  
Hobart  
TAS 7001

8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Emailed; [haveyoursay@stateplanning.tas.gov.au](mailto:haveyoursay@stateplanning.tas.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madame,

**Response to Draft LUPAA (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026**

Central Highlands Council considers that the proposed amendments to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 as set out in the Bill are reasonable. However, the following points are noted:

The change to Section 14 to make it clear that a State Planning Provision may contain a map, overlay, list or any other provision that provides for the spatial application of the SPPs to land is sensible.

However, the explanation of the six-step process in the discussion paper regarding the method for removing redundant State overlays is of concern as it is excessively bureaucratic and a waste of Council resources. Across all 29 Councils, this will waste many thousands of dollars of rate payer money.

Essentially, the process involves the State Government directing Local Government to ask the State Government to make the change, plus asking the State Government to exempt the change from the need for public exhibition.

It is recommended that the Bill introduce a straight forward mechanism whereby State overlays can be updated efficiently.

The change to Section 80 whereby a lease capable of exceeding 10 years is not to be considered a subdivision if for the installation, operation or maintenance of telecommunications facilities, renewable energy infrastructure or other utility that is reasonably necessary for or incidental to those purposes, is supported on the proviso that this change will not diminish Council's ability to levy rates on such developments.

Yours faithfully

  
**Stephen Mackey**  
General Manager

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

Development & Environmental Services  
Alexander Street  
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Tel: (03) 6259 5503  
Fax: (03) 6259 5722

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



State Planning Office  
Department of State Growth  
GPO Box 536  
Hobart  
TAS 7001

8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Emailed;** [haveyoursay@stateplanning.tas.gov.au](mailto:haveyoursay@stateplanning.tas.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

#### **LUPPA – Preventing delays in development assessment timeframes**

Please find the following comments on the above document below from Central Highlands Council.

The reduction and simplification of the State Planning Provisions (SPPs) should remain an overarching goal of the State Government, as this will have the biggest effect on minimising delays in the planning approval process. Whilst this has been a nominal policy of the current Government since 2014, the reality is that the SPPs (that it has developed since then) are longer than any previous planning scheme in Tasmania.

The tendency within Tasmania's State planning apparatus to jump to the regulatory pathway to solve an issue or achieve a goal should always be tempered by a broad socio-economic cost-benefit analysis and exhaustive consideration of non-regulatory alternatives.

Central Highlands Council operates the land use planning and approvals system with common sense and courtesy towards applicants and members of the public alike, in which attention is paid to good communication with all parties

The delays in the development assessment timeframes that may exist in other Councils to the extent that a need was seen for the Position Paper to be written could, we suggest, be largely avoided by adoption of a common sense and courteous approach.

Most of the specific questions asked in the Position Paper can be resolved by the adoption of the above approach by Council officers.

In response to the questions raised regarding what constitutes a valid application, Council agrees that improvements should be made to section 51A of the Act to clarify a "valid application", specifically relating to the payment of application fees.

The level of information required to ensure an application is valid should as a minimum include the current section 6.1.3 (c) which includes floor plans and elevations as a minimum.

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In respect to request for additional information, Council believes that there should not be a limit on the amount of information requests made within the timeframe for an RFI. However, although best practice in generating a collaborative RFI is preferable, when Council is waiting on a response from other agencies, this cannot always be achieved.

Most Council's in Tasmania use software to monitor applications and timeframes. The software Council uses has timeframes inbuilt which automatically generates a "clock" and assessment times. The software also notes the number of RFI's made.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Mackey', written over a horizontal line.

**Stephen Mackey**  
General Manager



Housing Australia

7<sup>th</sup> May 2026**Re: Consent to Submit Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) Round 3 Application****Land Address:** Ellendale Road, Ellendale**Property Identification Number:** 9549212**Title Number:** 185607/1**Current Owner:** Central Highlands Council

The Central Highlands Council provides this letter to confirm its consent for Homes Tasmania to prepare and submit an application under Round 3 of the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) in relation to the land located at Ellendale Road, Ellendale, Tasmania ("the Site").

The Central Highlands Council is the current owner of the Site. The proposed HAFF application is to be progressed by Homes Tasmania with the objective of delivering social housing outcomes that respond to demonstrated housing need and are aligned with Council's strategic objectives and community priorities within the Central Highlands municipality.

The Central Highlands Council acknowledges and agrees that:

1. Homes Tasmania may nominate the above-referenced land within a HAFF Round 3 application and include all supporting and associated documentation required for assessment by Housing Australia.
2. This consent is provided solely for the purpose of enabling the submission and assessment of a HAFF Round 3 funding application.
3. Any future development of the Site remains subject to further Council approvals, statutory requirements, and the negotiation of appropriate agreements should HAFF funding be successful.

This consent is provided in good faith to support the assessment of the HAFF application and reflects Council's intention to continue working collaboratively with Homes Tasmania to progress social housing outcomes should funding be approved.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Thill

Mayor

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7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC  
Minister for Housing and Planning  
GPO Box 123  
Hobart Tas 7001

Dear Minister Vincent (Kerry),

**Re: Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) Round 3 Application**

Thank you for our recent discussion regarding Council's ongoing commitment to improving housing outcomes for the Central Highlands Community.

It was pleasing to receive your correspondence dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 confirming that Housing Tasmania will lodge a HAFF Round 3 funding submission for the proposed two Independent Living Units on Council owned land at Ellendale.

Council is in the process of organising a letter of support to be included with the funding submission.

Again, thank you for your ongoing support for Central Highlands Council and our Community.

I look forward to catching up soon

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Loueen Triffitt', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Loueen Triffitt  
Mayor

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# CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

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26-03-2026

**The Honorable Bridget Archer MP**  
**Member for Bass**  
**Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Sent via email: [bridget.archer@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:bridget.archer@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Minister Archer,

**Re: Partnership Opportunity to Deliver a Visiting GP Service in Ouse, Tasmania**

I am writing on behalf of Central Highlands Council to outline a practical and achievable solution to the ongoing challenges faced by the Ouse community in accessing primary healthcare, and to seek the Tasmanian Government's partnership in progressing this opportunity.

The Central Highlands community continues to experience extremely limited access to general practitioner services, with only one GP practicing in the Bothwell area. This places pressure on residents—particularly older people, families, and those with limited transport—and contributes to avoidable reliance on emergency departments and hospital services elsewhere.

Council considers equitable access to primary healthcare to be fundamental to community wellbeing and consistent with the Tasmanian Department of Health's strategic focus on providing high-quality, patient-centred care, delivered as close to home as possible.

Through discussions with the GP Collective, Council has identified a GP model operating two days per week as a realistic and workable solution. While modest in scale, this would improve regular access to primary care, support early intervention and prevention, and contribute to better local health outcomes. Importantly, it aligns with the Department's priority to reform the delivery of care in the community and ensure Tasmanians receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

This initiative is not intended as a standalone local government response. Rather, it represents a genuine opportunity for collaboration between Council, the Tasmanian Government, the Commonwealth, service providers, and the local community.

Council has a strong partnership with the Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH), a community-based organisation in Ouse, which is well placed to provide

community insight and support strong local ownership—an important factor in building sustainable and trusted local health services.

Indicative costings from the GP Collective indicate that the service would require approximately \$1,000 per day to bridge the gap between Medicare revenue and the costs of service delivery, including GP availability, travel, administration, and service fees. At two days per week, this equates to an annual operating requirement of approximately \$100,000. In addition, there would be a once-off establishment cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000 to fund initial medical supplies and basic IT infrastructure to enable the clinic to operate.

Council sees strong alignment between this proposal and the Tasmanian Government's Strategic Health Priorities 2024–2028, particularly in strengthening community-based care, improving access for rural Tasmanians, and reducing pressure on acute and emergency services. While the level of investment required is relatively modest, the benefits to the community and broader health system are immediate and meaningful.

At this early stage, Council is seeking to engage with the Tasmanian Government as part of current budget and planning considerations and would welcome discussions regarding:

- State Government participation in the ongoing operating costs of the service;
- Support for, or contribution toward, initial establishment costs; and
- Opportunities to align this initiative with existing state-based rural or primary healthcare programs.

Council believes this proposal represents a practical and collaborative example of how governments, service providers, and communities can work together to address rural healthcare challenges in a way that aligns strongly with the Department of Health's strategic direction.

I would welcome the opportunity to receive your feedback and to continue discussions, including the development of a formal proposal to progress this initiative.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to improving health outcomes for communities across the Central Highlands.

Yours sincerely,

**Mayor Loueen (Lou) Triffitt**  
Central Highlands Council

**2.5 GENERAL MANAGERS ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2026****RECOMMENDATION 10/05.2026/C****Moved:** Cr**Seconded:** Cr**THAT** the Information be received.**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, General Manager

22 April 2026	Meeting with Martin Farley regarding Jigsaw development for council reporting.
23 April 2026	Meeting with prospective Volunteer Ambulance officer from Ellendale
24 April 2026	Southern Tasmanian Councils Network meeting Hobart City Council
27 April 2026	Meeting with the Miena Telstra Working Group re meeting with Telstra on the 29 April 2026
28 April 2026	Meeting with the Mayor and Madeline Ogilvie regarding mobile phone services Central highlands.
29 April 2026	Meeting with Telstra at Miena.
30 April 2026	Budget meeting with Staff
1 May 2026	Ouse Childcare Meeting with the Education Department
1 May 2026	Meeting with Martin Farley regarding council KPI's
4 May 2026	Staff Budget meeting
5 May 2026	Budget Workshop
6 May 2026	Meeting with Martin Farley on Performance reporting programmes
7 May 2026	Meeting with Goldwind Benefit Sharing Catch up
7 May 2026	Meeting with Louisa and Damian in preparation for the ReCFIT meeting
7 May 2026	ReCFIT meeting to discuss the review of the draft MOU
7 May 2026	Afternoon tea Thank you to the outgoing owners of the Bothwell Chemists and Bothwell Superstore.
8 May 2026	Meeting with Michael Patterson regarding the Pelham co-contribution by Council.
11 May 2026	Bushfest meeting
12 May 2026	Audit Panel Meeting
13 May 2026	Monthly catch up with Shannan Aherne from Bec Whites office
14 May 2026	Meeting with Martin Farley Development of Agenda Templates and AI

**3. STRATEGY, POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING**

**3.1 DERWENT CATCHMENT PROJECT**

**RECOMMENDATION 11/05.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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

**REPORT BY** Ella Weston, NRM Facilitator



## Monthly Report for Central Highlands Council

14 April 2026 – 11 May 2026

### *General business*

Bri has recently commenced administrative support work for DCP, and we are thrilled to have her on board. She brings strong existing connections to the Derwent Catchment and broader community, which is a fantastic asset for the team. Bri will primarily be based out of our new Boyer office, which is now fully set up and operational.

Eve was recently nominated for appointment to the Threatened Species Community Review Committee, a statutory advisory body established under the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995. The Committee provides advice to the Minister on matters relating to threatened species conservation, including recovery planning, land management agreements and the social and economic implications of conservation actions. The nomination reflects recognition of Eve's extensive experience and leadership in natural resource management and biodiversity conservation, and highlights the growing profile and influence of the Derwent Catchment Project within the state conservation sector.

Ella also travelled to Melbourne to attend the AABR Grassland Restoration Conference, which brought together more than 300 practitioners, researchers and restoration specialists from across Australia. The conference featured a wide range of inspiring speakers from throughout Victoria and beyond, many of whom are tackling the same complex restoration challenges we face in Tasmania. It was both motivating and reassuring to see the strong connectedness of restoration efforts occurring nationally, and the important role our work plays within that broader landscape.

The conference also provided an excellent networking opportunity, with considerable interest shown in the Derwent Catchment Project model and approach. Conversations throughout the event highlighted growing national interest in landscape-scale restoration, as well as the emerging role of Nature Repair Markets in supporting long-term environmental outcomes.

These discussions reinforced the value and timeliness of progressing our Nature Repair Plan and demonstrated the relevance of our work within the evolving restoration and environmental investment space.

### *Strategic Planning*

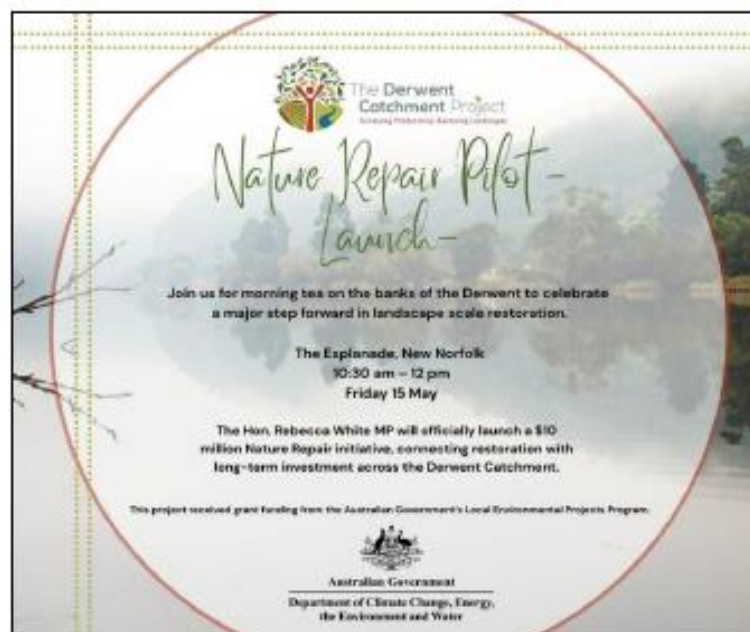
*Strategic Actions: 4.1 Continue to fund and support the Derwent Catchment Project and 4.7 Support and assist practical programs that address existing environmental problems and improve the environment.*

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

The Pilot continues to progress full steam ahead, with preparations now well underway for the formal launch event this Friday, 15 May, on the Esplanade at New Norfolk. The event will be attended by the Hon. Rebecca White MP and marks an important milestone in the development of the initiative. (Councillors are warmly invited to attend for morning tea. Please RSVP to [eve@derwentcatchment.org](mailto:eve@derwentcatchment.org) if you would like to join us).

Eve and Josie have been working hard to progress the Plan and coordinate preparations for the launch, alongside ongoing stakeholder engagement and project development activities. The broader team has also come together to contribute their expertise across modelling, mapping and spatial analysis to support identification and prioritisation of restoration opportunities throughout the catchment.

Work remains focused on developing a strong pipeline of projects across river restoration, biosecurity, threatened species conservation and climate adaptation, while also laying the groundwork for long-term regional collaboration and investment.



## *Agri-best practice programs*

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

### **Climate Smart Farming**

DCP continued work with NRM South to trap insects in pasture and forage paddocks on seven farms across the upper Derwent in support of an Integrated Pest Management workshop. The workshop was delivered with experts Paul Horne and Rebecca Addison of IPM Technologies in the Westerway Hall (April 16, 2026). Six producers attended, seeing what insects were collected on their farms, discussing what beneficial insects were present and how they act to control relevant pest species. Forage brassica pests, red legged earth mite and pasture grubs were all discussed. The potential for a trial exploring the role of a cocktail of fungal and bacterial agents in controlling pasture grubs was raised, with some interest expressed. We will progress this as an activity.

A pasture update session will be presented at Hamilton on May 20, combining presentations from DCP, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and NRM South. This session will feature updates from local DCP pasture trials and recent results from TIA research within the Pasture 365 project, in which the agronomy and grazing of more diverse sown pasture mixes are being assessed.

DCP pasture species trials are being assessed to measure pasture species/cultivar survival following the summer/autumn dry. This assessment includes measures of plant size and distribution encapsulated in a plant frequency measure, and an estimation of the ground cover contribution from the sown species. Late summer and late autumn assessments allow the impact of differing species and cultivar responses to be observed. There are some clear differences.

The impact of introducing strategic rest from grazing in summer and autumn is also being assessed at two sites where sown pastures have been stressed by drought, grazing pressure and annual weed grass incursion. All this work is aimed at supporting carrying capacity in grazing systems in the face of change.

DCP pasture network articles are printed monthly in the New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News. Autumn, its variability and impacts on carrying capacity is a focus of the current article.



Figure 1. Here the frequency of cocksfoot and phalaris is measured using a one meter square grid. The rigours of drought and grazing pressures have drastically reduced the presence of previously dominant cocksfoot. Species composition shifted to a dominance of vulpia and sub. Phalaris has survived, but needs an investment of rest to grow and resurrect a more effective species composition.

### *Restoration and conservation*

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

#### **Clyde River Flood Resilience Project**

Primary willow removal and woody weed control at Croakers Alley has been completed for the full length of the river between the weir and Andrews Bridge. Cumbungi blocking the river around Andrews Bridge has also been removed. Willow removal below Andrews bridge has been commenced and will be completed this month.

Planting for restoration of the river banks and aesthetic value is underway with 500 plants already planted around the weir area. Advanced trees and vegetation islands will be planted at strategic locations. Follow up spray of Californian thistles on the west side of the river has been undertaken. Weed control, particularly Californian thistle and blackberry, will be an ongoing task in this area.



Figure 3. Planting underway!



Figure 4. Riverbank stabilisation plantings

**Hamilton Derwent (!) Native Plant Nursery updates**

The nursery team has had another huge month, with planting season now well and truly underway across a number of projects throughout the catchment. Thousands upon thousands of plants have been put in the ground over the past month, marking a major effort by the team and an exciting start to the season’s restoration works.

The Honey Bee Festival was held on 19 April and provided a great opportunity to engage with the community and showcase the nursery and broader restoration program. Chris has also

been busy organising new signage for the nursery, helping to improve visibility and create a stronger identity for the site.



*Figure 5. Karen at our stall at the Honeybee festival*

To support the busy planting schedule, four new casual staff members have joined the team this month to assist with getting plants in the ground. Chris and Karen have both been working hard supervising staff and coordinating planting activities across multiple projects to ensure works are delivered efficiently and to a high standard.

The nursery has also commenced advertising its new opening hours, now operating Tuesday to Friday from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

And finally - exciting news! The nursery has officially undergone a name change and will now be known as the Derwent Native Plant Nursery.

**Poatina intake restoration**

Planting, seed broadcasting, brush matting, and jute matting installation was undertaken at Poatina Intake as part of our work for Hydro to rehabilitate an illegal camping area. Majority of the works prior to this point were earthworks to prevent access to sites. We finished up by doing some infill planting and the other listed actions, however there is an established seedbed at the site and a lot of regeneration already observed, so cleared sites are expected to readily infill vegetation-wise naturally largely through exclusion of campers.

**Ouse follow-up willow control**

Planting works are about to kick off on the Ouse as part of the Minderoo Foundation grant funding to do follow-up river restoration works. In preparation for planting, substantial pre-planting works have been undertaken across the sites, including weed control, brush cutting and general site preparation to improve planting conditions and maximise establishment success. The project also includes construction of protective cages around vegetation islets to exclude cattle and protect newly planted native species from grazing pressure.

Willow removal works progressed near the bridge and township.



Figure 6. Willow removal on the Ouse.

### **Miena Cider Gum Recovery Program**

The team was recently working near Great Lake undertaking cider gum surveys and bushfire assessment work to support development of a future fire management plan for the area. Laurie and Stu carried out surveys to assess which cider gums were currently in seed and suitable for future seed collection, helping to support long-term conservation and propagation efforts for this important species.

Assessments were also undertaken to identify trees and locations suitable for the installation of leaky weirs around the bases of selected cider gums. These structures are designed to slow and retain water within the landscape, helping to improve soil moisture and support tree health and resilience during increasingly dry conditions.

Work to conserve the critically endangered Miena cider gum has also included specialist seed collection undertaken near Great Lake. We were fortunate to have the assistance of arborists Shawn Green (Island Habitat) and Steve Pearce (The Tree Projects), who braved cold and wintry conditions to climb several large mature trees and collect seed from across the population. Seed collected through the project will be stored with the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, ensuring secure and genetically diverse seed sources are available for future conservation plantings and restoration efforts.

In addition, bushfire hazard and fuel assessments were completed to improve understanding of how fire may move through the area and identify opportunities to reduce risk to this highly vulnerable population. Unlike most eucalypts, cider gums are particularly sensitive to fire, and many trees in the Todd's Corner population were lost during an escaped burn in 2019. With support from Hydro Tasmania, this project is contributing to the long-term protection and management of these unique trees and the surrounding landscape.

The team also selected suitable trees for trial installation of a new possum exclusion band design. These sites will be monitored using camera traps to assess effectiveness and animal interactions, helping to inform future protection measures for threatened vegetation and habitat values.



*Figure 7. Laurie and Stu in survey mode near Yingina!*



*Figure 8. Miena cider gum seed collection.*

## 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.*



*Figure 9. Previously unmapped Spanish heath near Miena, treated along a roadside.*

Monitoring and follow-up assessments will recommence next season as part of the continued weed management program. Whilst roadside surveys are continuing, it is evident that foxgloves in the Ellendale region will be a priority based on recent survey and treatment findings and proximity to the TWWHA buffer.

Weed management activities for Central Highlands Council have now been completed for the current treatment season. Over the past month, final follow-up treatments and inspections were carried out across multiple priority areas, with a focus on controlling declared and highly invasive weed species throughout the municipality.

Key works completed this month included treatment of horehound along Tor Hill Road, and extensive control works on Meadsfield Road targeting gorse, broom, briar and horehound, with efforts concentrated in the most heavily infested sections. Blackberry and foxglove infestations were also treated along Gully Road and Hall Road.

Additional roadside and corridor treatments were undertaken across Dillons Road, Marriot Road, Clarks Road, Holmes Road, Risby's Road, Pillies Road and Jones River Road. Around the Miena area, broom infestations were treated along with several previously unmapped sections of Spanish heath identified during field inspections.

These works have significantly reduced weed presence in priority locations and will support ongoing containment and long-term management objectives across the region.



Figure 10. Thickets of Holly at the Dee lagoon foreshore, mixed into natives. The crew have been cutting and painting trees in this area to minimise off-target damage.

Works have also continued at Dee Lagoon, where significant infestations of holly and broom along the foreshore have been targeted. These dense infestations are intermixed with native vegetation and have required careful cut-and-paint treatment methods to minimise off-target impacts. Spraying has also been undertaken on previously untreated gorse encroaching into surrounding bushland areas. This site is one of our long-running cross/blind tenure weed control sites, with Hydro, TasNetworks, and STT all contributing funds towards treatment.

### *Community engagement*

An excursion walk-and-talk information session is currently being planned with Aleida for Bothwell District School students and the school community to showcase the work taking place at Croakers and provide an opportunity to learn more about the restoration activities underway at the site.

Planning is also underway for a National Tree Day event later in the year in partnership with the school. The event will provide students with a hands-on opportunity to participate in revegetation activities and learn about the importance of native vegetation, river health and landscape restoration within their local catchment.

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

## 3.2 POTENTIAL DARK SKY RESERVE

### RECOMMENDATION 12/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the proposal to seek International Dark Sky Place status for all or part of the Central Highlands Municipal Area be investigated, as outlined below in the Attachment below.

**REPORT BY** Damian Mackey, Planning Consultant (SMC)

**Attachments** Draft (abridged) Project Plan is included in the agenda

Playbook: International Dark Sky Places, 2018; International Dark-Sky Association

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to progress the process to investigate a proposal for part or all of the Central Highlands Municipal Area to become an internationally recognised Dark Sky 'Place'.

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the December Council meeting it was resolved to undertake a preliminary investigation into the idea of part or all of the Central Highlands Municipal Area becoming an International Dark Sky 'Reserve'.

This is a status bestowed by the International Dark-Sky Association on areas meeting certain criteria, primarily very low levels of night sky light pollution and a commitment by the community.

Subsequently, initial investigations have revealed that there is a level of support for the idea amongst a selection of tourism operators, and that neighbouring councils are also interested in parts of their municipalities becoming part of a 'Central Tasmanian Dark Sky Place'.

It is therefore appropriate for Council to determine if it wants to progress the idea further through a more structured process.

#### **DARK SKY PLACE – PROPOSED INVESTIGATION PROCESS**

Attached below is an abridged draft Project Plan for investigating the proposal that part or all of the Central Highlands to be a Dark Sky Place.

Key principles within the draft project plan are:

- Community and stakeholder consultation is of the highest importance.
  - An application to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) will fail if it does

- not demonstrate strong community support.
- Council is also unlikely to support an endeavour that does not have community support.
- Key decision points are embedded through the process following the consultation phases.
  - Council will be asked to confirm its continued involvement at these points.
  - This includes after the October local government elections, when 'new' councils will be in place.
- The category of 'Place' to be determined later in the process.
  - All Dark Sky designations are known as 'Places'. These are categorised as 'Sanctuaries', 'Reserves', 'Communities', etc.
  - The December Council report referred to investigating 'Reserve' status. This is the highest status for a land area that includes private land and villages. There are less than 30 of these in the world, and they have the highest 'x-factor' in terms of boosting tourism.
  - However, the 'Reserve' status is also the strictest. The community may ultimately wish to seek Dark Sky 'Community' status instead.
  - Both options should be considered through the process and discussed with the community with the final decision made in the later stages.
- The 'Central Tasmanian Dark Sky (Reserve or Community)'.
  - Of all the non-National Park / WHA areas of Tasmania, a pursuit of light pollution maps reveals that Central Tasmania has the least light pollution and is the furthest away from the 'light domes' over the State's cities and larger towns.
  - It therefore makes sense for Central Tasmania to be heart of a Dark Sky Place, with the darker, nearby parts of neighbouring municipalities to be part of it, should those communities wish so.
  - It is noted that a Dark Sky 'Reserve' must be very large, at least 700 square kilometres, and needs to include a core area and a buffer area. Dark Sky 'Communities', on the other hand, can be smaller.
- A Joint Steering Group.
  - It is proposed that neighbouring Councils be invited to participate in the process.
  - Such Partner Councils will need to provide a council officer and an elected member to participate in a Joint Steering Group, reserve a monetary contribution of \$3,000 in the coming financial year, and make council

resources available for community and stakeholder consultation.

- The elected member will need to be prepared to be the ‘community champion’ of the Dark Sky Place initiative.
- Partner Councils will need to adopt an (internal) Council Dark Sky Lighting Policy.
  - Many Councils around Australia, and some in Tasmania, have such policies on the basis that it is a good idea to minimise night sky light pollution from Council-owned external lighting, regardless of whether they are seeking to be part of a recognised Dark Sky Place.
  - If a Council will not adopt a Council Dark Sky Lighting Policy, they should not be able to remain as a Partner Council in the pursuit of a Central Tasmanian Dark Sky Place.
- Resourcing:
  - It is proposed that in the 2026/2027 financial year, the investigation process is resourced ‘in-house’ through officer time and a modest cash contribution of \$3,000 per partner council.
  - Grant opportunities will also be pursued as and when they arise.
  - Evidence-gathering for the eventual application to the IDA will largely be undertaken by community and stakeholder volunteers.
    - It is common for such evidence to be gathered by volunteers.
    - If it is not possible to gather sufficient volunteer help, then this will be evidence that the initiative is not generally supported by the community, and Council’s continued pursuit of it will need to be questioned.
  - In the 2027/2028 financial year, the formal application to the IDA will be undertaken, (provided Council has made the ultimate decision to go forward).
    - This will likely require significant resourcing.
    - It is intended that the necessary budget will be known prior to Council’s budgeting workshop process in the first half of 2027, enabling Council to consider allocating the funds for the 2027/2028 financial year.
    - Again, grant opportunities will be monitored and may be a further source of funds.
- Management Entity / Structure:
  - The investigation process will consider and determine the appropriate on-going management entity. This may well not be Council, even if the eventual Dark Sky Place only involves one Council.

**ATTACHMENT****Central Tasmanian Dark Sky Place (Reserve or Community) – Project Plan – Draft 12 May 2026**

*(Initial draft to be finalise by the Joint Steering Group)*

- Aim:** To investigate the establishment of the Central Tasmanian Dark Sky Place (*Reserve or Sanctuary*), recognised by the International Dark-Sky Association, (IDA).
- Outline:** To be centred on part or all of the Central Highlands Municipal Area. The Central Highlands Council to ‘drive the process’, (at least initially). Other councils on the periphery to be invited to participate as Partner Councils.
- There will be key decision hold points through the process where any council (including Central Highlands) may determine not to continue.
- Community and stakeholder consultation is recognised as crucial to ascertain the level of support for the project and to provide voluntary assistance.
- IDS Places:** International Dark-Sky *Reserve* is one category of International Dark Sky *Places*. Other ‘Place’ types include *Community*, *Park*, and *Sanctuary*.
- Communities are lower in rank (and therefore tourism draw-card prestige) than Reserves, of which there are less than 30 in the world. This rarity is an indication of the difficulty in achieving this status, but is also an indication of their greater tourist-drawing power.
- The intent of this project is to aim for either IDS *Reserve* or *Community* status, with the ultimate decision to be made later in the process.
- Note that the highest level, IDS *Sanctuary* status, can only really be achieved in large and remote environmental reserve areas, such as some National Parks and World Heritage Areas. This status is being pursued by Destination Southern Tasmania for a part of Tasmania’s south west wilderness.
- The night sky in IDS Places must be proven to meet certain light pollution measurement parameters.
- IDS Reserve:** An area proposed for IDS Reserve status must have a Sky Quality above 21.2 mags/arcsec Zenith Luminance.
- An IDS Reserve is defined as *public or private land of substantial size (at least 700 km<sup>2</sup>, or about 173,000 acres) possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and nocturnal environment, and that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment.*
- The IDS Reserve consists of two regions:*
- 1) A “core” area meeting the minimum criteria for sky quality and natural darkness, and

- 2) A “peripheral” or “buffer” area that supports dark sky values in the core and receives similar benefits.

*The IDS Reserve is formed through a partnership of landowners and/or administrators that recognize the value of the natural nighttime environment through regulations, formal agreements, and long term planning. The core and the peripheral zone together are referred to collectively as the “Reserve”.*

### **IDS Community:**

An International Dark Sky Community (IDSC) is defined as a town, city, municipality or other similar political entity that has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of quality lighting policies, dark-sky education, and citizen support of the ideal of dark skies.

### **Council Dark Sky Lighting Policy:**

Each Partner Council will need to adopt a Council Policy for its own external lighting. This will provide a program for all existing lighting to be brought into compliance with appropriate guidelines for minimising light pollution, and all for future new lighting to comply.

### **Future Statutory Controls (for Reserve status):**

The establishment of an International Dark Sky ‘Reserve’ would ultimately necessitate the creation of a statutory planning scheme mechanism (such as a code with map overlay) to enable the Councils to impose conditions on future Planning Permits requiring external lighting to comply with the relevant Australian Standard to minimise night sky light pollution.

Whether ‘Reserve’ or ‘Community’ status is ultimately pursued is to be determined later in the process after significant community and stakeholder consultation.

### **Existing External Lights:**

The project will need to work with the owners of existing non-compliant external lighting to endeavour to bring them into compliance. This will need to be done through encouragement and advocacy.

Grant funding opportunities will be monitored with a view to enabling Partner Councils to financially off-set the cost of bringing existing lights into compliance.

**Resourcing:** The initial stages are to be resourced by the partner councils, primarily through officer time and use of other internal resources.

However, an initial amount of \$3,000 is requested to be pledged from Partner Councils.

Grant funding opportunities will be monitored and applied for when opportunities arise.

The completion of the application to the Dark Sky International and the collation of all necessary evidence will likely require significant resources. It is intended that an estimation of this cost will be

determined by early 2027, in time for each Council to consider proceeded and therefore including their required contribution in the 2027/2028 budget.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers have played a large role in other Dark Sky Place application processes, including in:

- Gathering light meter reading and photographic evidence, in preparation for the application to the IDA.
- Conducting audits of existing external lighting in the public realm.
- General advocacy.

Management of volunteers will nevertheless require resourcing.

Whether sufficient volunteers can be gathered will, in itself, be a test of the community’s appetite to pursue the whole Dark Sky initiative.

**Attachments:**      [Playbook: International Dark Sky Places.](#)

Timeline	Element	Est. Cost
May 2026 June 2026	<p><b>Reports to Councils: consider joining the initiative and membership of the Joint Steering Group, (JSG).</b></p> <p>Commitment to JSG membership means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointing one elected member, who agrees to be the ‘community champion’ of the push for Dark Sky Reserve or Community status.</li> <li>• Appointing at least one council officer.</li> <li>• Agreeing to commit a budget of \$3,000? this financial year, plus officer time and the use of Council-owned premises for community consultation).</li> <li>• Councillor and/or council officer to keep their Council informed of progress.</li> <li>• Agreeing to participate in the project to at least the first key decision hold point.</li> <li>• Agreeing to consider adopting an internal council policy to reduce and ultimately eliminate light pollution from Council owned buildings and infrastructure. (Draft to be provided soon.)</li> <li>• Acknowledging that, ultimately, a Dark Sky Reserve in part of their municipality would need statutory measures for future development, meaning a code with mapped overlay in their Council’s LPS, should that Council ultimately agree to pursue ‘Reserve’ status.</li> </ul>	
June 2026 July 2026	<p><b>JSG to define the project ‘Study Area’</b> and, within that, initial draft <i>approximate</i> boundaries of the Dark Sky Place.</p>	

	<p>These are to be determined, in part, by examination of light pollution maps.</p> <p>Note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The total area of the Core and Buffer for 'Reserve' status must be at least 700 square kilometres.</li> <li>• Dark Sky 'Community' status may be smaller.</li> </ul>	
<p>June 2026 July 2026</p>	<p><b>JSG to draft (internal) Dark Sky Lighting Policy for Council's to consider adopting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on numerous examples from around Australia.</li> <li>• Including estimation of cost of converting existing non-compliant external lighting to comply with the relevant guidelines.</li> <li>• Some Councils have a Dark Sky Lighting Policies regardless of whether they are in a Dark Sky Place, recognising the benefits of minimising light pollution.</li> <li>• These policies will apply only to Council facilities. (i.e.: they are internal only).</li> <li>• Partner Councils will need to adopt a Dark Sky Lighting Policy in order to remain in the project.</li> </ul>	
<p>June 2026 July 2026</p>	<p><b>JSG to draft an introductory consultation program,</b> through which the community and stakeholders will be advised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Dark Sky Reserve/Community concept and council's plan to explore achieving this status.</li> <li>• The pros and cons of living or working in a ID</li> <li>• The coming major public consultation process where everyone will be invited to participate and make submissions.</li> <li>• A call for volunteers to assist with gathering evidence for a submission to the IDA (using light metres and photography).</li> </ul>	
<p>July 2026</p>	<p><b>Reports to Councils:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation of introductory consultation program, including commitment of necessary council resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Including confirmation of indicative Study Area to be depicted on consultation maps.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Receipt of Draft Dark Sky Lighting Policy.</li> </ul>	
<p>Aug 2026</p>	<p><b>Introductory consultation program.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Execute the introductory consultation program.</li> </ul>	
<p>Sep 2026 Oct 2026</p>	<p><b>JSG to create draft Dark Sky Reserve maps.</b></p> <p><b>JSG to draft the major consultation program,</b> through which the input of the community and stakeholders will be sought for the Draft Dark Sky Reserve / Community.</p>	

	<p>This would include strategies for: raising awareness and enthusiasm for the Reserve/Community locally; opportunities for learning about astronomy and night photography; citizen science projects; what are the potential impacts of the reserve - how might we benefit; what might be impacts/ opportunities for locals - ie how we educate people about retrofitting lighting etc.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicity.</li> <li>• Community meetings and/or information drop-in sessions in various localities.</li> <li>• Information on Council websites, including an online questionnaire.</li> <li>• One-on-one discussions with key stakeholders.</li> <li>• Encouragement to complete the online questionnaire or make a written submission.</li> <li>• Repeat the call for volunteers to assist with gathering evidence for a submission to the IDSA and/or undertaking external light audits in the public realm in various communities.</li> </ul>	
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<p>Oct 2026</p>	<p><b><u>Council elections.</u></b></p> <p>Collation and analysis of consultation submissions and surveys by Council officers, and the drafting of modifications considered appropriate in response.</p>	
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<p>Nov 2026</p>	<p><b><u>New post-election Councils created.</u></b></p> <p>Council officers continue above work.</p> <p>Council officers further understand the task of preparing and lodging the Dark Sky Reserve application with the IDA.</p>	
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<p>Dec 2026</p>	<p><b><u>Reports to Councils</u></b></p> <p>Community and stakeholder consultation outcomes, and recommended subsequent modifications and any key points of contention.</p> <p>Estimation of costs to Councils of lodging the Dark Sky Reserve application with the IDA, including gathering all evidence needed.</p> <p>Initial draft of future planning scheme amendment to introduce a Code (or Specific Area Plan) with a mapped overlay through which Councils will be able to condition future Development Applications so that external lighting meets the appropriate guidelines to minimise night sky light pollution.</p>	
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	<p><b>Key Decision Hold Point:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation that newly elected Councils wish to continue the project.</li> <li>• Confirmation of continuing or new elected members on the JSG.</li> <li>• Confirmation of major consultation program.</li> <li>• Adoption of Council (internal) Dark Sky Lighting Policy.</li> </ul>	
Jan 2027	<p><b>Volunteer Work</b> may commence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gathering of dark sky evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light meter readings.</li> <li>• Photographic evidence</li> <li>• This work to continue for much of 2027, until sufficient gathered for lodgement of the Dark Sky application.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Audits of existing external lighting in various communities.</li> </ul>	
Feb 2027	<p><b>Volunteer Work</b> to continue in earnest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above.</li> </ul>	
Feb 2027	<b>Major consultation program.</b>	
Mar 2027	Execute the major consultation program.	
Apr 2027	<p><b>Analysis of feedback from major consultation program.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By JSG and council officers.</li> </ul>	
May 2027	<p><b>Reports to Councils</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community and stakeholder consultation outcomes, and recommended subsequent modifications and any key points of contention.</li> <li>• Estimation of costs to Councils of lodging the Dark Sky Reserve application with the IDA, including gathering all evidence needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Council budgeting workshops to consider.</li> </ul> <p>(Note: grant opportunities to be monitored.)</p> </li> <li>• Initial draft of future planning scheme amendment to introduce a Code (or Specific Area Plan) with a mapped overlay through which Councils will be able to condition future Development Applications so that</li> </ul>	

	<p>external lighting meets the appropriate guidelines to minimise night sky light pollution.</p> <p><b>Key Decision Hold Point:</b></p> <p>Confirmation that Councils wish to continue the project, given the issues raised through the major consultation program and financial resources needed for the 2027/2028 financial year.</p>	
<p>May 2027 June 2027</p>	<p><b>JSG to draft the final consultation program</b>, through which the input of the community and stakeholders will be sought for the proposed final proposed Dark Sky Reserve/Community.</p> <p>If a Dark Sky Reserve, the associated Draft Planning Scheme Amendment is also drafted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicity.</li> <li>• Community meetings and/or information drop-in sessions in various localities.</li> <li>• Information on Council websites, including an online questionnaire.</li> <li>• One-on-one discussions with key stakeholders.</li> <li>• Encouragement to complete the online questionnaire or make a written submission.</li> </ul> <p>Repeat the call for volunteers.</p>	
<p>June 2027</p>	<p><b>Report to Councils:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsement of, and confirmation to proceed with the final consultation program.</li> </ul> <p><b>Councils' budget confirmations.</b></p>	
<p>July 2027</p>	<p><b>Final consultation program.</b></p> <p>Execute the final consultation program.</p>	
<p>Aug 2027</p>	<p><b>Reports to Councils</b></p> <p>Community and stakeholder consultation outcomes, and recommended subsequent modifications and any key points of contention.</p> <p>Final draft of future planning scheme amendment to introduce a Code (or Specific Area Plan) with a mapped overlay through which Councils will be able to condition future Development Applications so that external lighting meets the appropriate guidelines to minimise night sky light pollution, if a Dark Sky 'Reserve' is to be pursued.</p> <p><b>Key Decision Hold Point:</b></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation that Councils wish to continue the project.</li> </ul>	
Oct – Dec 2027	<b>Finalisation and lodgement of the Dark Sky Reserve application with the International Dark-Sky Association.</b>	

Potential Partner Councils:

Southern Midlands Council - especially area around University of Tasmania telescope.

Derwent Valley Council - especially the Upper Derwent Valley region.

Northern Midlands Council - especially southern portions of the Heritage Highway Tourism Region (those south enough so as not to be adversely effected by the Launceston light dome).

West Coast and Meander Valley to also be invited.

Other Partner Organisations: (To be expanded by the Joint Steering Group)

Tasmanian branch of the International Dark Sky Association.

Tourism organisations.

Key tourism operators.

Stakeholders: (To be expanded by the Joint Steering Group).

The Community.

TasNetworks (street lights, depots).

Farmers.

Hydro Tasmania, (facilities, depots).

Forestry Tasmania

#### 4. REVENUE GENERATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

##### 4.1 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT TO 30 APRIL 2026

##### **RECOMMENDATION 13/05.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Monthly Finance Report to 30 April 2026 be received.

#### **IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS**

<b>Strategic Plan</b>	
<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 30 April 2026

**Rates Reconciliation as at 30 April 2026**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</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	\$48,976.76	\$47,288.61
Supplementaries/Debit Adjustments	\$27,859.53	\$42,304.78
Total Raised	\$4,806,756.52	\$5,060,823.82
<b>Less:</b>		
Receipts to Date	\$4,479,075.96	\$4,622,943.89
Credit Journals	\$19,768.23	\$18,863.72
Pensioner Rate Remissions	\$130,435.03	\$135,893.36
Remissions/Supplementary Credits	\$10,566.41	\$27,872.01
Total Receipts		
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$218,447.25</b>	<b>\$322,284.75</b>

**BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 30 April 2026**

No.	Bank Accounts	Investment Period	Current Interest Rate %	Due Date	<u>BALANCE</u> 2026
<i>11100 Cash at Bank and on Hand</i>					
11105	Bank 01 - Commonwealth - General Trading Account				\$ 1,095,364.21
11106	Bank 02 - Westpac - Direct Deposit Account				\$ 175,099.13
1118	CBA Credit Card				-\$ 571.87
11199	<b>TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND</b>				<b>\$ 1,269,891.47</b>
<i>11200 Investments</i>					
11207	Bank 6		0	0.00	\$ -
11207	Bank 5		60	4.35	4/05/2026 \$ 506,875.86
11206	Bank 04	30 Days			
11115	Bank 04		59	4.66%	1/06/2026 \$ 513,531.32
11110	Tascorp( St Michael and All Angels' Church, Bothwell)	At CALL (29/07/2025)		4.10%	\$ 90,702.11
11115	Bank 16		90	4.85%	27/07/2026 \$ 2,695,242.96
11299	<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>				<b>\$ 3,806,352.25</b>
<b>TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS AND CASH ON HAND</b>					<b>\$ 5,076,243.72</b>

	<b>\$ 3,715,650.14</b>
<b>Council Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 3,715,650.14</b>
<b>Tascorp (St Michael and All Angels' Church, Bothwell)</b>	<b>\$ 90,702.11</b>
<b>FAG&amp; RATES&amp;FEES</b>	<b>\$ 763,526.86</b>
<b>Capital Grants</b>	<b>\$ 500,000.00</b>
<b>Community Grants</b>	<b>\$ 6,364.61</b>
	<b>\$ 5,076,243.72</b>

**Bank Reconciliation as at 30 April 2026**

	2024	2025
Balance Brought Forward	\$5,024,035.20	\$5,561,851.41
Receipts for month	\$621,725.42	\$640,673.56
Expenditure for month	\$1,411,099.12	\$1,126,281.25
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$4,234,661.50</b>	<b>\$5,076,243.72</b>
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<b>Represented By:</b>		
Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$675,709.92	\$1,095,364.21
Balance Westpac Bank	\$374,587.74	\$175,099.13
CBA Credit Card	\$0.00	-\$571.87
Investments(Council Reserves + St Michael's Church)	\$3,184,363.84	\$3,806,352.25
Petty Cash & Floats	\$0.00	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>\$4,234,661.50</b>	<b>\$5,076,243.72</b>
Plus Unbanked Money		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>\$4,234,661.50</b>	<b>\$5,076,243.72</b>
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$0.00	
Unreceipted amounts on bank statements	\$0.00	
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	<b>\$4,234,661.50</b>	<b>\$5,076,243.72</b>
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## Comprehensive Income Statement

30/04/2026

	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	\$381,220	\$319,901	\$501,651
Grants - Operating	\$3,236,515	\$340,402	\$1,828,424	\$4,428,454
Other Revenue	\$704,366	\$535,833	\$551,845	\$776,217
Grants received in Advance	\$0	\$2,918,101	\$1,746,506	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$9,117,364</b>	<b>\$8,893,125</b>	<b>\$9,389,701</b>	<b>\$10,646,595</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Employee Benefits	\$2,584,261	\$2,303,458	\$2,407,119	\$2,941,952
Materials and Services	\$2,447,768	\$2,229,085	\$2,764,145	\$3,490,109
Other Expenses	\$1,892,738	\$1,503,743	\$1,471,331	\$2,116,449
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$2,327,800	\$2,104,785	\$2,130,175	\$2,397,634
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$9,252,567</b>	<b>8,141,071</b>	<b>8,772,770</b>	<b>10,946,144</b>
<b>Operating Surplus(Deficit)</b>	<b>(135,203)</b>	<b>752,054</b>	<b>616,931</b>	<b>(299,549)</b>
Capital Grants & Other	\$2,424,996	\$1,525,149	\$1,865,931	\$1,415,067
<b>Surplus(Deficit)</b>	<b>2,289,793</b>	<b>2,277,203</b>	<b>2,482,862</b>	<b>1,115,518</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>\$5,122,085</b>	<b>\$3,038,953</b>	<b>\$1,808,779</b>	<b>\$3,561,414</b>

	BUDGET	ACTUAL TO	ACTUAL TO	% OF BUDGET	BALANCE OF
	2025/26	30-Apr-25	30-Apr-26	SPENT	BUDGET
<b>CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$2,017,673	\$1,707,137	\$1,579,043	78.26%	\$438,630
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$281,916	\$228,702	\$233,668	82.89%	\$48,248
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$132,191	\$97,979	\$92,304	69.83%	\$39,887
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$43,994	\$26,886	\$24,676	56.09%	\$19,318
ONCOSTS	(\$470,879)	(\$543,426)	(\$339,721)	72.15%	(\$131,158)
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	\$672,822	\$515,129	\$487,540	72.46%	\$185,282
<b>TOTAL CORPORATE &amp; FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,677,717</b>	<b>\$2,032,407</b>	<b>\$2,077,511</b>	<b>77.59%</b>	<b>\$600,206</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>					
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$327,017	\$285,848	\$324,139	99.12%	\$2,878
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$38,628	\$26,397	\$23,892	61.85%	\$14,736
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$18,421	\$13,662	\$12,972	70.42%	\$5,449
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$188,191	\$127,407	\$49,627	26.37%	\$138,564
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$32,572	\$43,231	\$45,015	138.20%	(\$12,443)
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$247,000	\$250,619	\$139,325	56.41%	\$107,675
WASTE SERVICES	\$968,939	\$859,227	\$857,144	88.46%	\$111,795
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	\$1,024,442	\$2,744	\$493,372	48.16%	\$531,070
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,845,210</b>	<b>\$1,609,135</b>	<b>\$1,945,486</b>	<b>68.38%</b>	<b>\$899,724</b>

<b>WORKS AND SERVICES</b>					
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$290,284	\$159,534	\$194,235	66.91%	\$96,049
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$17,161	\$14,290	\$23,001	134.03%	(\$5,840)
HALLS (HALL)	\$74,349	\$97,378	\$48,671	65.46%	\$25,678
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$100,524	\$123,650	\$106,444	105.89%	(\$5,920)
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+tennis)	\$130,679	\$107,959	\$94,590	72.38%	\$36,089
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$236,008	\$170,362	\$183,089	77.58%	\$52,919
HOUSING (HOU)	\$160,753	\$112,157	\$71,849	44.70%	\$88,904
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$14,801	\$15,220	\$17,730	119.79%	(\$2,929)
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$2,640	\$1,687	\$0	0.00%	\$2,640
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$1,086,345	\$935,614	\$806,854	74.27%	\$279,491
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$23,316	\$17,609	\$6,663	28.58%	\$16,653
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,388	\$8,675	\$17,579	75.16%	\$5,809
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$51,372	\$20,264	\$28,994	56.44%	\$22,378
2TD-Traffic Data	\$25,000	\$0	\$11,043	44.17%	\$13,957
SUPER. & IID OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$844,041	\$855,387	\$678,829	80.43%	\$165,212
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(\$181,988)	(\$64,812)	(\$106,005)	58.25%	(\$75,983)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$179,936	\$125,749	\$161,138	89.55%	\$18,798
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$305	\$1,025	51.23%	\$975
PLANT MITCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$655,036	\$510,354	\$534,286	81.57%	\$120,750
PLANT INCOME	(\$795,036)	(\$793,964)	(\$331,028)	41.64%	(\$464,008)
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$43,130	\$41,820	\$26,169	60.67%	\$16,961
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$41,842	\$27,719	\$22,113	52.85%	\$19,729
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$0	\$4,878	\$8,792		(\$8,792)
FLOOD REPAIRS		\$0	\$0		
<b>TOTAL WORKS &amp; SERVICES</b>	<b>\$3,025,581</b>	<b>\$2,491,835</b>	<b>\$2,606,058</b>	<b>86.13%</b>	<b>\$419,523</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES</b>					
Corporate Services	\$2,677,717	\$2,032,407	\$2,077,511	77.59%	\$600,206
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$2,845,210	\$1,609,135	\$1,945,486	68.38%	\$899,724
Works & Services	\$3,025,581	\$2,491,835	\$2,606,058	86.13%	\$419,523
<b>Total All Operating</b>	<b>\$8,548,508</b>	<b>\$6,133,377</b>	<b>\$6,645,411</b>	<b>77.74%</b>	<b>\$1,919,453</b>

	BUDGET 2025/26	ACTUAL TO 30-Apr-25	ACTUAL TO 30-Apr-26	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
Computer Purchases	\$7,648	\$35,955	\$0	0.00%	\$7,648
Equipment	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$6,000
Miscellaneous	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$2,000
	<b>\$15,648</b>	<b>\$35,955</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	\$709,215	\$52,317	30.77%	\$117,683
Camping Grounds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Public Conveniences	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Bridges	\$55,000	\$18,065	\$75,411	137.11%	(\$20,411)
Road Construction & Reseals	\$2,196,099	\$1,695,573	\$1,414,110	64.39%	\$781,989
Drainage	\$169,000	\$4,898	\$8,768	5.19%	\$160,232
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$72,000	\$239	\$0	0.00%	\$72,000
Infrastructure	\$105,000	\$28,235	\$53,402	50.86%	\$51,598
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$245,000	\$28,185	\$103,052	42.06%	\$141,948
Rec Grounds	\$402,000	\$308,257	\$32,602	8.11%	\$369,398
Halls	\$0	\$11,755	\$15,971	0.00%	(\$15,971)
Buildings	\$131,667	\$196,706	\$53,146	40.36%	\$78,521
	<b>\$3,545,766</b>	<b>\$3,001,128</b>	<b>\$1,808,779</b>	<b>51.01%</b>	<b>\$1,736,987</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS</b>					
Corporate Services	\$15,648	\$35,955	\$0	0.00%	\$15,648
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Works & Services	\$3,545,766	\$3,001,128	\$1,808,779	51.01%	\$1,736,987
	<b>\$3,561,414</b>	<b>\$3,038,953</b>	<b>\$1,808,779</b>	<b>50.79%</b>	<b>\$1,752,635</b>

## Community & Economic Development

### 2025/2026 Budget

	BUDGET 2025/26	Actual to Date 30/04/2026	Remaining Balance
<b>Strategic Project- Whole of Community</b>			
Community & Economic Development Support	\$10,000	\$4,469	\$5,531
Health & Wellbeing Plan (2020-2025) Implementation	\$5,000		\$5,000
Economic and Tourism Development Strategic Project	\$5,000	\$5,933	(\$933)
<b>Youth and Children Strategic Projects</b>			\$0
New- Family Day Care Seeding Fund Bothwell	\$5,000	\$349	\$4,651
New- Ouse Family Day Care Support	\$5,000	\$2,070	\$2,930
Youth Service & Activities	\$5,000	\$1,227	\$3,773
Children's Services and Activities	\$5,000	\$265	\$4,735
Bothwell High School Breakfast Club	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Glenora School Breakfast Club	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Westerway School Breakfast Club	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
New-Bothwell Playgroup Support	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
<b>Community &amp; Donation and Financial Assistance</b>			\$0
Community Grants	\$15,000	\$11,663	\$3,337
Community Support & Donations	\$10,000	\$3,616	\$6,384
Church Grants	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Further Education Bursaries	\$1,400	\$350	\$1,050
School Awards	\$400	\$455	(\$55)
Central Highlands School Support	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
<b>Community Event</b>			\$0
ANZAC Day	\$12,000	\$10,429	\$1,571
Australia Day	\$4,000	\$3,187	\$813
Community Event.eg Volunteer week	\$5,000	\$271	\$4,729
<b>Community Partnerships</b>			\$0
Highlands Digest Support	\$15,800	\$14,364	\$1,436
Australasian Golf Museum contribution to power	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Visitors Centre Contribution to Power	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Healthy Connect Project	\$10,000		\$10,000
Brighton Family Day Care	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
<b>Total Community &amp; Economic Development Support &amp; Donations</b>	<b>\$141,600</b>	<b>\$66,649</b>	<b>\$74,951</b>

## 4.2 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET BRIEFING REPORT

### RECOMMENDATION 14/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the Community and Economic Development Budget for 2026-27 briefing report be received.

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

### INTRODUCTION

The Community and Economic Development budget has, in recent years, included several ongoing and legacy allocations that have not always aligned with clear delivery timeframes or strategic project structures. As a result, expenditure has at times been lower than forecast, with funding carried forward as opportunities and priorities evolved.

During 2025–26, progress has been made to strengthen project definition and improve alignment with Council priorities, resulting in increased activity and clearer use of funds. It is currently estimated that approximately \$76,000 will be expended prior to the end of the financial year, however some underspend is still expected.

Delivery has also occurred within the context of limited staffing capacity, with the Community Development Officer role delivered at three days per week. This has required a careful focus on achievable projects and has influenced the pace at which new strategic initiatives can be developed and implemented.

The 2026–27 Community and Economic Development budget builds on recent improvements and has been developed to provide greater clarity, more focused priorities, and a manageable number of initiatives that can be effectively delivered within available resources. The budget supports continued community wellbeing, economic development and social inclusion outcomes, while ensuring funding allocations are purposeful, transparent and aligned with Council's role.

### BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 2026–27 CED budget is structured around six focus areas, which are outlined below

1. Strategic Community & Economic Development
2. Youth, Children and Family Supports
3. Community Grants, Donations and Education Support
4. Health, Ageing and Vulnerable Residents
5. Community Events and Civic Participation
6. Community Partnerships and Facilities

## **1. STRATEGIC COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Community & Economic Development Support**

**Budget: \$10,000 (maintained)**

Provides core operational support for community engagement, meetings, incidental costs and general delivery of the Community and Economic Development function. This allocation enables flexibility and responsiveness within the program.

### **Economic and Tourism Development Strategic Project**

**Budget: \$8,000 (increase of \$3,000)**

Funding supports:

- Updating, redesigning and reprinting tourism brochures
- Refreshing visitor information board maps
- Development of Tourism page for website
- Historically, this budget area has also included initiatives such as Tourism Industry Council Award submission, and support for the Tasmanian Autumn Festival

The increase reflects a need to modernise tourism materials and strengthen visitor economy.

## **2. YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY SUPPORTS**

This area represents the most significant increase in the 2026–27 budget and reflects Council's focus on long-term community sustainability.

### **Family Day Care Support – Ouse**

**Budget: \$20,000 (increase of \$15,000)**

Funds rental costs for the Ouse Family Day Care service, which currently remains the Central Highlands only childcare service, and is at risk due to potential sale of the Ouse school where it is currently located.

#### **Removed / Consolidated:**

- Bothwell Family Day Care Seeding Fund
- Brighton Family Day Care funding

These allocations have been absorbed into support for the Ouse service, consolidating Council's childcare investment into a single, more sustainable service model.

**Youth Services and Activities — At the Heart Project****Budget: \$40,000 (increase of \$35,000)**

A 12-month, youth-led municipality-wide project delivered in partnership with the Jeder Institute and local schools, clubs and organisations Funding supports:

- Youth-led community events and activities
- Creative, sporting and recreational programs
- School-holiday initiatives
- Leadership development and job-readiness skills
- Establishment of youth networks, and Youth Policy to guide on-going initiatives.

This represents a shift from ad-hoc activities to a coordinated, place-based youth development approach.

**Children's Services and Activities****Budget: \$5,000 (maintained)**

Supports school-holiday and out-of-school programs such as football clinics and dance classes for children under ten.

**School Meals Programs**

Ongoing support is maintained with minor adjustments:

- Bothwell High School Breakfast Club reduced by \$1,000 to align with other schools
- Glenora and Westerway School Breakfast Clubs maintained

**Central Highlands Playgroup Support**

Reduced to \$500, reflecting need and Playgroup being otherwise well-supported.

**3. COMMUNITY GRANTS, DONATIONS AND EDUCATION SUPPORT****Community Grants****Budget: \$15,000 (maintained)**

Continues as Council's primary funding stream for community organisations through a structured and transparent process.

**Community Support & Donations****Budget: \$5,000 (reduced by \$5,000)**

Reduced given lower demand and a preference for requests to be managed through the Community Grants program.

### **Education and Recognition**

These allocations reinforce Council's commitment to education and youth achievement, with ongoing support for:

- Further Education Bursaries
- School Awards
- School Association projects at Bothwell, Westerway and Glenora Schools.

## **4. HEALTH, AGEING AND VULNERABLE RESIDENTS**

### **Health Ageing Project**

**Budget: \$5,000 (maintained)**

Supports re-establishment of community exercise programs in Hamilton and Bothwell, delivered in partnership with HATCH and Corumbene.

### **Homelessness Strategic Support Project**

**Budget: \$5,000**

Responds to increased requests for assistance related to homelessness and housing insecurity. There are very limited services for people facing homelessness in the Central Highlands. This funding will allow Council to take leadership in this area, with funding to support:

- Establishment of a local homelessness working group
- Development of resources to guide Council response
- Practical pathways to assist affected residents

#### **Removed:**

Church Grants (\$5,000), due to no uptake for more than four years.

Health & Wellbeing Plan (2020–2025) implementation funding, as the plan period has concluded.

## **5. COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION**

### **ANZAC Day**

**Budget: \$10,000 (reduced by \$2,000)**

Reduced to better reflect typical expenditure while maintaining delivery of this important annual event.

## **Australia Day**

**Budget: \$4,000 (maintained)**

### **Removed:**

General community event funding

## **6. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND FACILITIES**

### **Highlands Digest**

**Budget: \$15,000**

Continued support for a key community communication platform.

### **Community Facilities — Power Contributions**

Maintained contributions for:

Australasian Golf Museum

Visitor Information Centre

### **Removed:**

Healthy Connect Project (\$10,000), due to no recent delivery or expenditure.

## **KEY CHANGES SUMMARY**

### **Major Investment Areas**

- Youth services and youth-led development
- Consolidated family day care support
- Economic and tourism development
- Older residents, and homelessness programs

### **Programs Discontinued**

- Health & Wellbeing Plan implementation
- Church Grants
- Healthy Connect Project
- Standalone community event funding
- Individual family day care seeding funds

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2026–27 Community and Economic Development budget reflects a deliberate transition from historically underutilised and legacy-based allocations toward clearer priorities, stronger accountability and more strategic investment. It balances ambition with realistic delivery capacity and focuses on youth, families, vulnerable residents and economic resilience while responsibly discontinuing programs that no longer demonstrate impact or demand.

## 5. LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS

### 5.1 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

#### RECOMMENDATION 15/05.2026/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
2026/13	J Warner	254 Nant Lane, Bothwell	Signage
2026/12	J Warner	3415 Highland Lakes Road, Bothwell (CT 140433/1)	Signage
2026/11	J Warner	1 Elizabeth Street, Bothwell (CT 164109/3 & 164767/1)	Signage (Two)
2025/75	J Warner	Nant Lane, Bothwell (CT 151816/2)	Signage
2026/18	Engineering Plus	105 Jones Road, Miena	Addition to Outbuilding
2026/15	Nova Land Consulting	51 Schaw Street, Bothwell	Boundary Re-Organisation (Two Lots)
2026/23	Design To Live Pty Ltd	1 Cramps Bay Esplanade, Cramps Bay	Dwelling

#### **PERMITTED**

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2026/24	J S & K A Houldsworth	28 Bronte Estate Road, Bronte Park	Change of Use to Visitor Accommodation

#### **NO PERMIT REQUIRED**

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2026/29	M D Hockley	Victoria Valley Road, Victoria Valley	Outbuilding

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

<b>Statistics as of 12 May 2026</b>	
Number of Dogs Impounded during last month	0
Number of Dogs Currently Registered	943
Number of Dogs Pending Re-Registration	6
Number of Kennel Licence Renewals Issued	35

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**5.2 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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**5.3 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING RESUMED****NOT REQUIRED**

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## 6 ORGANISATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS RELATIONS ADVOCACY AND FACILITATION

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

#### RECOMMENDATION 16/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

*THAT the Health and Wellbeing monthly report for March 2026 be received.*

#### IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

<b>Strategic Plan</b>	
<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 **May 2026** meeting.

COUNCIL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	
<b>External Grants</b>	Tas Active Infrastructure Grants (DPAC): - \$500,000 for Gretna Cricket Ground changerooms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender currently advertised.</li> </ul>
<b>TICT award submission</b>	Coordination of Bothwell's entry into Tourism Industry Council Tourism's Tiny Tourism Towns awards for 2026. Bothwell has been named a finalist in Tassie's Top Tourism Towns Awards for 2026.
<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.
<b>Childcare Project</b>	<u>Family Day Care Ouse</u> - Federal grant application has been submitted for financial assistance for relocation of Ouse Family Daycare.

	<u>Thrive Group Childcare</u> – applying for Federal Government Grant in late May to establish interim facility in Bothwell prior to launch of childcare at Bothwell School in 2028.
<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 & Community Benefits Fund aims and focus areas.
<b>Council House Ouse</b>	Liaising with Tasmanian Health Service and Ambulance Tas for Council property at 3 Victoria Valley Rd, regarding new lease.
<b>Thankyou event</b>	Thankyou event for local departing businesses Bothwell.
<b>MEETINGS and REPRESENTATION</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings with DECYP facilities management group regarding Ouse School and relocation of Family Daycare.</li> <li>• Council Budget meeting</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT</b>	
<b>School Holidays programs</b>	Support for school holiday programs in 2026 to be run through Action Crew Central Highlands. Ouse Park Party 28 April, followed by Hamilton Hall children's photography exhibition 15-16 May.
<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 and engaging with community about registering for training.
<b>ANZAC Day</b>	Coordination of local services, and working ANZAC day
<b>Ouse Park Party</b>	Collaboration with HATCH Action Crew, Playgroup, Communities for Children for Children for Families fun day at Ouse recreation Ground 28 April 11:00am – 2:00pm. Over 60 children, and over 40 adults attending.
<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>	Facebook followers: 3K. Profile posts – Fuel supply and free public transport information; Tasmanian Autumn Festival; lost dog; ANZAC Day; Bothwell Volunteer Ambulance; Ouse park Party, bulky waste collection, swimming pool season close,
<b>Highland Digest</b>	Provision of relevant council and community content.

## 6.2 ASH COTTAGE – MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

### RECOMMENDATION 17/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** the information be received.

**REPORT BY** Catherine Bannister, Administration Assistant HATCH

### BACKGROUND

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

Things have continued as normal this month at Ash Cottage. We have had a steady flow of people through the doors to access the Food Hub and Free Op shop. Meals are heading out the doors through our meal delivery program.

We have just finished our 10-week program of Yoga and about start again on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Exercise is still on every Tuesday from 9:30am at the Ouse Hall.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 we held a “Party in the Park” at the Ouse Recreation Ground with face painting, sausage sizzle, craft corner and scavenger hunt. Playgroup Tasmania joined us and brought some toys and activities as well as Community for Children with their travelling tea party, David and Evi from “Listen Louder” and Kat Cullen from Council and a visit from both the Maydena and Hamilton Police Officers. It was a great success with over eighty people in attendance. It was made possible through a grant from Community for Children.

## 7 RECURRENT OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

### 7.1 WORKS & SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

#### RECOMMENDATION 18/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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

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

#### BACKGROUND

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

<b>Grading &amp; Sheeting</b>	14 Mile Road, Lower Farm Road, Victoria Valley Road
<b>Maintenance Grading</b>	Section of Woodsprings Road, Bronte Estate, Bronte Heights, Bronte waste transfer station road, Bronte Lagoon Road, Bradys Lake Road, Woodward's Bay Road, A section of Meadsfield Road, Strickland Road, Pearce's Road, Triffett Road
<b>Potholing / shouldering</b>	Victoria Valley Road, Bashan Road, Silver Plains Road
<b>Spraying:</b>	
<b>Culverts / Drainage:</b>	Cleaning culverts 14 Mile Road and Lower Farm Road Clean storm water drains Bothwell
<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 Telehandler training 10 staff
<b>Bridges:</b>	Councils Bridge report received
<b>Refuse / recycling sites:</b>	Cover Hamilton Tip twice weekly
<b>Other:</b>	Completion of Ellendale Footpath Works ANZAC Day set ups and clean-up of memorials Cold mix holes Ellendale Road Install bollard over culvert at Ouse Install noticeboard on Ouse Hall Repair lock Ouse Hall Repair water break Queens Park Replace missing street blade Allison Road Install signs Bethune and Dunrobin campgrounds Undertake bulky rubbish run Dig-outs Rotherwood Road Removed fallen Pine Tree Osterley Cemetery Clean up works Hamilton landfill

	<p>Pick up dumped rubbish Hollow Tree Road  Re-sealing works completed on Pelham Road  Re-sealing works completed on Arthurs Lake Road  Replace missing street blade Belchers Road  Pour concrete slabs for bus shelters</p>
<b>Slashing:</b>	Rotherwood Road, Maryvale Road, Woodsprings Road Tor Hill Road and Hollow Tree Road
<b>Municipal Town Maintenance:</b>	<p>Collection of town rubbish twice weekly  Maintenance of parks, cemetery, recreation ground and Caravan Park.  Cleaning of public toilets, gutters, drains and footpaths.  Collection of rubbish twice weekly  Cleaning of toilets and public facilities  General maintenance  Mowing of towns and parks  Town Drainage</p>
<b>Buildings:</b>	
<b>Plant:</b>	<p>PM843 Toyota Hilux serviced  PM813 Water cart strengthen frame  PM717 New bushes  PM733 Komatsu grader serviced  PM740 Hino Tipper new clutch  PM778 Ford Ranger serviced</p>
<b>Private Works:</b>	<p>Wesley Dexter gravel delivery  Steve Holloway gravel delivery  Greg Ramsey gravel delivery  Cody Bannon dry hire medium truck  Blue Stone Excavations and Hire gravel supply  Shane Jones concrete premix  Thorpe Farm side arm slasher hire  Shaw Contracting landfill fees</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>Grading and Re-sheeting of Municipal Roads  Finish Hamilton Bus Shelters  Commence roadworks Waddamana (Black Spot)</p>

## 7.2 BOTHWELL ROAD RACE – 13 JUNE 2026

### RECOMMENDATION 19/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council give permission and write letter of support for the usage of Dennistoun Road, Nant Lane and Alexander Street for the Bothwell Road Race for the Hobart Wheelers Cycle Club.

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

**Attachment** – Tas Police permit application, Event Management plan, Risk Assessment, Traffic guidance scheme, Advertisement to be placed in Southern Midlands Regional News and Insurance Certificate

### BACKGROUND

Hobart Wheelers Cycle Club seek to conduct a race out of Bothwell on Saturday June the 13th. For this purpose, they need approval from the Road Manager of the roads they seek to use, such that they can then obtain a Police Permit for the event.

They seek to use roads under Central Highlands Council administration. Their intended course is as detailed below.

The race will begin with cyclists departing from the centre of Bothwell heading north on Dennistoun Rd. Cyclists will then turn left (west) onto Nant Lane and then continuing to another left turn to then head south on Highland Lakes Road, returning to Bothwell. Within Bothwell cyclists will turn left (east) onto Alexander Street to complete their first lap. At the western end of Alexander Street, they will then head north on Dennistoun Road again.

Cyclists will always be making left-hand turns, and hence will have to yield to any traffic approaching from right. All turns will be marshalled by an official.

On the completion of the last lap, when heading south on Highland Lakes Road, cyclists will pass through the finish line on Highland Lakes Road itself.

Hobart Wheelers Club have been granted permission from Council for this same event and route on previous occasions in the past

### Event Outline -

Date : June 13

Set up : 10:30am

Event Start : 12:00pm

Pack down :2:30pm

Start/ finish / Rego : In front of Library

Presentations : Castle Hotel

Community : We have approached the CWA to cater as they have previously .

First aid : Provided by St John's

Numbers : Competitors approx 60 , spectators approx 40 , officials 10

## 8 CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND LEVERAGE

Nil

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## 9 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Nil

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## 10 MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

### 10.1 BUSHFEST WORKING GROUP (COMMITTEE)

#### **RECOMMENDATION 20/05.2026/C**

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council set up a committee comprising the following councillors to work with the Bushfest co-ordinator to develop a long term - plan for this event and provide a report to council on measured to be put in place to control all cost associated with the conduct this event.

- Mayor L Triffitt
- Cr J Hall
- Cr A Archer
- Cr R Cassidy

#### **Attachment –Bushfest Budget**

**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey, - General Manager

#### **BACKGROUND**

During the recent budgets sessions held with staff and councillors to scrutinise all costs associated with all council operations it was determined that it was now appropriate for council to undertake a review into the operations, costs associated and the benefits to the community of Bushfest.

It was felt the best way to undertake this review was to set up a committee to work with the Bushfest Co-ordinator to develop a long-term plan that ensures that the cost for the conduct of the event is controlled and that there is ongoing benefit to the community for its continuation.

The major reason for a committee being formed is based on the cost blow outs since its inception. The original cost was in the order of \$60,000 which is now for the 2026/27 a budget estimate of \$195,000.

## 10.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### RECOMMENDATION 21/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

**THAT** Council withhold the setting up of the Economic Development and Community Development Special Committees until after the next council elections.

**REPORT BY** Stephen Mackey - General Manager

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

- 1.Mr John Stephenson
- 2.Mr James Johns
- 3.Mr Howard Hanson
- 4.Mr Richard Hallett

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

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

#### **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.

At the last Council meeting concern was raised regarding the time taken for the development of these committees and the fact that there needs to be more input into the membership, and their functions. It is now closing in on the elections for council so it would appear that it may be in councils best interests to hold off in establishing the Economic Development and Community Development committees until after the next council elections.

## 11. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

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## 12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

### RECOMMENDATION 22/05.2026/C

**Moved:** Cr

**Seconded:** Cr

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

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Matter</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 April 2026.</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(H) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.</i>
<b>5.1</b>	<i>Black Spot Funding Tor Hill Road</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(e) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.</i>
<b>5.2</b>	<i>Budget Allocation for Payment to Telstra – Pelham Tower Co-Funding</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(h) - Information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to the 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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### 13. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

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

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### 14. 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><i>Item Number</i></b>	<b><i>Matter</i></b>	<b><i>Decision</i></b>
<b>2.1</b>	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 April 2026.</i>	
<b>5.1</b>	<i>Black Spot Funding Tor Hill Road</i>	
<b>5.2</b>	<i>Budget Allocation for Payment to Telstra – Pelham Tower Co-Funding</i>	

### 15. CLOSURE

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