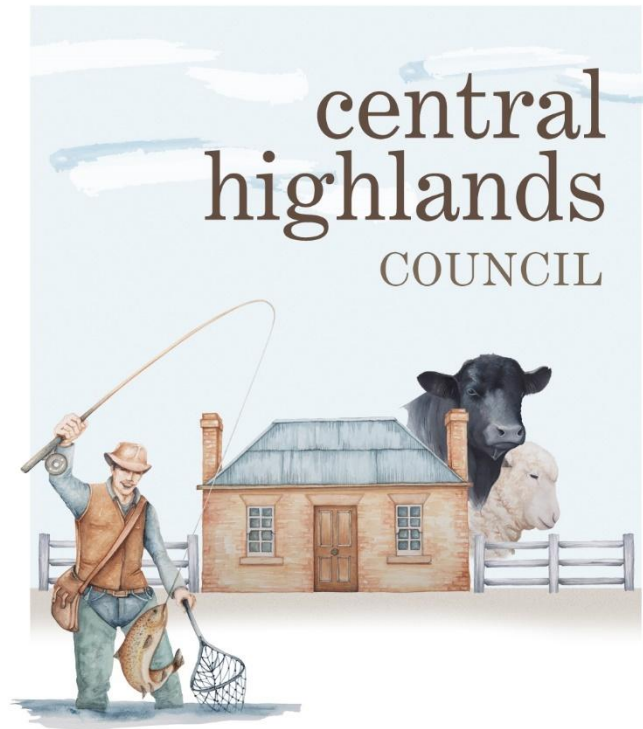




Council Meeting Minutes

16th June 2026

Bothwell Council Chambers

Notice of Meeting of Council – Tuesday 16th June 2026

To Councillors,

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, Notice is hereby given, that an Ordinary Meeting of Central Highlands Council is scheduled to be held in the Council Chamber, **Bothwell** on **Tuesday 16th June 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 **11th** day of **June 2026**.



Stephen Mackey
General Manager

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1. LEGISLATIVE AND STANDARDS COMPLIANCE

The meeting commenced at 9.00 a.m.

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.

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.

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.

1.4 PRESENT

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

1.5 IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Stephen Mackey (General Manager) Zeeshan Tauqeer (Accountant) Louisa Brown (Senior Planning Officer) and Mrs Katrina Brazendale (Minute Secretary)

1.6 APOLOGIES

Nil

1.7 CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

RESOLUTION 01/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

***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.

Supplementary Item 6.1 – Closed Session Confidential Advice

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.

Nil

1.9 MINUTES

1.9.1 CONFIRMATION OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 19 MAY 2026

RESOLUTION 02/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr Y Miller

THAT the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 19 May 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

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.

1.9.2 RECEIVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 9 JUNE 2026

RESOLUTION 03/06.2026/CC

Moved: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Seconded: Cr J Hall

THAT the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of Council held on 9 June 2026 be received; noting comments from Item 8.1 in relation to Policy 2013- 05 Use of Council Vehicles.

CARRIED**For the Motion**

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

PURPOSE

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

Attachment – Closed Finance Committee Minutes of 9 June 2026

1.9.3 BUSINESS ARISING – MAY 2026 COUNCIL MEETING**RESOLUTION 04/06.2026/C**

Moved: Cr Y Miller

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

THAT the information be received.

CARRIED**For the Motion**

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

1.11.2	THAT any outages within a township area be supplied with sufficient alternative drinking water by TasWater for residents during any long period outages	Letter sent 8 th June 26
3.2	Potential Dark Sky Reserve - to a workshop to enable Damian Makey (Consultant) to attend	This item has been relisted on this agenda
10.1	Bushfest Working Group – Committee 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 and Cr R Cassidy	Progressing

Matters still progressing from the April 2026 Council Meeting

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 rd June 2026	Progressing
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20.2	Policy 2013-19 Asbestos	Item was deferred and will be discussed at a workshop
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

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
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Matters still progressing from the February 2026 Council Meeting

12.2	NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr R Cassidy That the Central Highlands Council's Mayor Loueen Triffitt and General Manager Stephen Mackey discuss with Council and Council Employees the concerns raised in the Tasmania Integrity Commission "Local Government Gifts and Donations Consultation paper", dated 2 February 2026. a) Review Gifts and Donations Policy; b) Review and complete Gifts and Donations monthly register, individually; c) Council address each of the 13 questions raised and make a submission; and d) Give assurances to the Honourable Minister for Local Government, Director of Local Government and the Integrity Commission that Central Highlands	Progressing
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	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.	
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Matters still progressing from the December 2025 Council Meeting

12.2	NOTICE OF MOTION – CR A Archer That the Mayor provide council with copies of correspondence forwarded and responses that have been received to date from the Premier to the letters requesting the holding of a cabinet meeting in Bothwell	Progressing
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Matters still progressing from the November 2025 Council Meeting

8.3	Notice Of Motion – Cr D Meacheam That Council establish a working group to progress the improvement of phone and internet services on the Central Plateau; THAT the group established has a 'sunset' date of March 2026; and THAT via our Facebook page and website, 2 interested community group members be invited to membership	Progressing
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REPORT BY Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant

PURPOSE

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

Cr J Honner and Stephen Mackey (General Manager) left the meeting at 9.07 a.m.

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.

Nil

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.

- 7th July 2026 9am Bothwell Council Chambers – Policy Reviews
-

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.*

Cr J Honner and Stephen Mackey (General Manager) returned to the meeting at 9.13 a.m.

1.11.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM**RESOLUTION 05/06.2026/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr R Cassidy

THAT in collaboration with Southern Midlands Council, CHC host in August an information session for intending candidates to the 2026 Local Government elections.

CARRIED 7/2**For the Motion**

Deputy Mayor J Allwright; Cr A Archer; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr Y Miller; Cr D Meacheam and Cr S Triffett

Against the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt and Cr R Cassidy

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.

Date of Meeting:	June 16, 2026
Councillor Name:	David Meacheam
Proposed Motion:	That in collaboration with Southern Midlands Council, CHC host in August an information session for intending candidates to the 2026 local government elections.
Background Details:	In some previous LG election cycles the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) hosted such briefing sessions. The advice of the LGAT CEO, Diona Lester, is that such sessions attract more attendees if run by the local government areas concerned. Mr Lester also advised that LGAT can supply materials for use in such sessions. If this workshop is conducted in the Bothwell Council chamber it would be also likely to attract candidates for election to the Southern Midlands Council. I have discussed this possibility with Mayor Edwin Batt, he advised that they have no such briefing planned, and he too felt it likely candidates from the Southern Midlands would attend. What I'm proposing is a non-partisan briefing, run by the GM's for both CHC and Southern Midlands. A late afternoon or evening session would more likely attract a broad span of possible candidates. As intending candidates themselves, sitting councillors would be free to attend.
Signature:	<i>David Meacheam</i>
Date:	26/5/2026

1.11.2 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM**RESOLUTION 06/06.2026/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr R Cassidy

THAT Council lobby State Growth to lower the speed limit on the Highland Lakes Road hill section toward Apsley from the present 100kph to 60kph.

LOST 2/7**For the Motion**

Cr Y Miller and Cr D Meacheam

Against the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt; Deputy Mayor J Allwright; Cr A Archer; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; and Cr S Triffett

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.

Date of Meeting:	June 16, 2026
Councillor Name:	David Meacheam
Proposed Motion:	That Council lobby State Growth to lower the speed limit on the Highland Lakes Road hill section toward Apsley from the present 100kph to 60kph.
Background Details:	This section of road has been a matter of continuing concern to Council. Most recently 2 Central Highlanders were involved in a speed-related accident on this section of road, resulting in the woman passenger suffering a chest injury, requiring several days of hospital care. Anybody travelling this section of road would appreciate that the present 100kph speed limit is manifestly unsafe. I acknowledge that Council has had only fitful success in moving State Growth to change speed limits. The timing now might be right, with recently elected MLA Peter George raising the matter in Parliament, urging State Growth to lower the speed limit.
Signature:	<i>David Meacheam</i>
Date:	26/5/26

1.11.3 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR D MEACHEAM**RESOLUTION 07/06.2026/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr Y Miller

THAT Council note the report of proceedings at the Tasmanian Energy Development Conference, Devonport, June 3rd and 4th.

CARRIED**For the Motion**

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

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.

Date of Meeting:	June 16, 2026
Councillor Name:	David Meacheam
Proposed Motion:	THAT Council note the report of proceedings at the Tasmanian Energy Development Conference, Devonport, June 3 rd and 4 th
Background Details:	First, thanks to Kim Mallee. Kim is the Director of the Community Power Agency. She secured free attendance at this conference for me and our planner, Louisa. Council's budget this financial year is tight, our free attendance enabled us to learn a lot and have conversations with key government and industry figures. The following were for me the key takeaways from the Conference: 1) Marc White of Goanna Energy Consulting warned of a current tightening of private sector funds (more expensive loans) for new renewable energy developments, with the major conservative political parties backing away from the Paris Accords, dropping targets for emissions reductions, committing to new coal-fired power production and promising extensions to the lives of the major coal-fired plants on the mainland. 2) While the Central Highlands will host the majority of Tasmanian developments in the years ahead, far more conference time focussed on the North West transmission systems and associated industrial development. 3) Commitments to community benefit funding by companies tends to be uneven and sometimes not well linked to local needs. RecFit have a responsibility here to assist with local schemes that aggregate funds to maximise impacts, to get us beyond jerseys for

	sports teams to projects with enduring local benefits. The Community Power Agency are supportive here too. 4) The centrality of the Marinus link in both making renewable developments viable and providing reliable energy for Tasmania in the years ahead. Contrary to the beliefs of many Tasmanians, via Basslink, we now import more power than we export. Conference conversations re the Marinus link complemented advice from Saul Eslake at a seminar in Miena in late May, attended by me and two fellow councillors. 5) Some odd critical comments about community benefit funding by renewable energy firms, that the cost of these funds are ultimately borne by customers. 6) The approval processes for new renewable energy operations are too complex and slow. There hasn't been a single new plant begin producing since Cattle Hill began operating in 2020. 7) A huge emphasis on batteries firming power supplies. Prices of large batteries have fallen by 45% in the past year, increasingly they fill the gaps in supply otherwise provided by gas powered plants. The Cethana pumped hydro project is another instance of a battery, with a closed loop system pumping up to a reservoir when power is abundant and water powering down when demand is high. 8) The IdentiFlight system at Cattle Hill has been upgraded to its 5th version, radically improving early detection of the presence of birds and lessening the incidence of false positives, improving efficiencies. 9) Clyde Russell, Asia Commodities and Energy Columnist for Thomson Reuters gave a compelling account of how the Iran War and closure of the Strait of Hormuz has set up disruption to supplies of not just oil, but a host of other essentials to markets worldwide. In his view a) the war won't end soon, with both the US and Iran believing they have won, and b), disruptions to supplies will continue for years ahead. Sobering.
Signature:	<i>David Meacheam</i>
Date:	5/6/26

Damian Mackey (Contract Planner) and Adam Wilson (Deputy General Manager) attended at 9.31 a.m.

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.

27 members in the gallery, Gabi Herrmann, Susan Dabbs, Harriot England, Richard Hallett, Janet Monks, Stephen Loring, Yarn Herrmann, Sharlie Vince, Marie Cummins, John Meacheam, Ray Dabbs, David Pilcher, June Pilcher, Cally Lyons, Damian Bester, Leanne Datlen, John Fowler, Dianne Fowler, Beth Poore, Henry Edgell, Wayne Doran, Karen Johnson, Elaine Bowerman, Mavis Housego, Kaye Neil, Margaret Hoskinson and Liz O'Dwyer.

The following question was raised

Stephen Loring – closed session of Council items ‘secret business’ tendering process.

“What is it about the tendering process that it needs to be always discussed by Council in closed session.”

Stephen Mackey (General Manager) replied to the question “The tendered companies do not want it disclosed the amount that they have tendered for the job, and that the specific reason why it’s in closed session.”

2.2 PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

2.2.1 PETITIONS

Nil

2.2.2 DEPUTATIONS

10.30 a.m. - Dianne Fowler

2.2.3 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

2.3 MONTHLY MAYORAL AND ELECTED MEMBERS ACTIVITY

RESOLUTION 08/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr Y Miller

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT the Council notes the Mayoral and Elected Members Activities.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT BY Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

Strategic Plan	
Council Policy	Councillor Code of Conduct Policy
Legislative Context	Local Government Act 1993 Local Government (General) Regulations 2025

	Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2024
Consultation	The community and stakeholders.
Impact on Budget/Resources	Not applicable.
Risk	Allocations for Councillor Conference attendance are included in the operational budget.

PURPOSE

This report aims to provide an overview of the Mayor and Elected Member's monthly activities.

BACKGROUND

The Mayor and Elected members can provide an activity report each month summarising any civic events they attend.

DISCUSSION

The Mayor and Elected Members represent the council at public and civic events and are the political interface between other bodies, governments, and the Council. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the Mayor is designated as the spokesperson for the Council as well as a representative for the Council on regional organisations and at intergovernmental forums at regional, state, and federal levels. Reports below are provided outside the general functions of a Councillor, whereby Councillors meet with ratepayers and attend workshops.

Mayor Loueen Triffitt

19 May 2026 Council Meeting Hamilton
 20 May 2026 Discussions with Deputy Premier Guy Barnett
 2 June 2026 House Fire Safety Meeting Miena
 3 June 2026 Area Connect Meeting Hamilton

- Business of Council - **14**
- Ratepayer and community members – communications - **7**
- Elected Members - communications - **10**
- Council Management communications - **5**
- Legal Communications - **0**

Deputy Mayor J Allwright

19 May 2026 Council Meeting Hamilton
 2 June 2026 House Fire Safety Meeting Miena
 9 June 2026 Finance Committee Bothwell

Cr A Archer

19 May 2026 Council Meeting Hamilton
 9 June 2026 Finance Committee Bothwell

Cr R Cassidy

19 May 2026 Council Meeting Hamilton

19 May 2026	sent letter to stakeholders to raise concerns of a Rate Payer about unsafe condition of and speed along Highland Lakes Road
19 May-1 June 26	sent five emails to various stakeholders regarding Dark Sky information
23 - 28 May 2026	sent 16 emails to MLCs and others regarding flawed Local Government Targeted Reform Bill 2026
24 May 2026	Vietnamese temple event, in Bothwell
30 May 2026	Great Lake Hotel event, in Miena, Economist Saul Eslake presenting
4 June 2026	Submission made to the Aboriginal Heritage Bill 2026 Consultation Draft

Cr J Hall

19 May 2026	Council Meeting Hamilton
23 May 2026	Dark Skys event Miena
27 May 2026	Bush watch Gretna
30 May 2026	SES & Volunteer Fire Brigade Fireworks Great Lake's Lodge Raising money for Xmas lolly Run
2 June 2026	House Fire Safety Meeting Miena
5 June 2026	Machinery Safety Course (Cluny) Work Safety Tasmania
9 June 2026	Finance Committee Bothwell

Cr J Honner

19 May 2026	Council Meeting Hamilton
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Cr D Meacheam

19 May 2026	Council Meeting Hamilton
3-4 June 2026	Tasmanian Energy Development Conference Devonport
9 June 2026	Finance Committee Bothwell
10 June 2026	Telstra pre-meeting preparation online

Cr Y Miller

19 May 2026	Council Meeting Hamilton
2 June 2026	House Fire Safety Meeting Miena

Cr S Triffett

19 May 2026	Council Meeting Hamilton
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2.4 MAYORAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERS LETTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOLUTION 09/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr J Hall

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

THAT the Council notes the Government Departments, Government Agencies and Parliamentary Members Letters and Announcements.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT BY Katrina Brazendale, Executive Assistant



9 June 2026

Taswater
GPO Box 825
DX 15 HOBART
Hobart TAS 7001

Dear Sir or Madam

TASWATER WATER OUTAGE BOTHWELL ANZAC DAY 2026

Council would like to bring to your attention a concern within the community regarding a water outage that occurred during the Anzac Day weekend in Bothwell. This water outage disrupted businesses and the community on Saturday the 25 April 2026.

Businesses in the Bothwell township had to close, during one of Bothwell's busy days on the calendar. It is estimated that 150 visitors and 350 residents were without water for over twelve hours.

Council would like Taswater to make provisions for the community if an outage occurs again by providing the community with drinking water during the outage.

If you require any additional information please contact Mr Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager at awilson@centralhighlands.tas.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

Adam Wilson
Deputy General Manager

Administration & Works & Services

Tarleton Street Tel: (03) 6286 3202
Hamilton, Tasmania 7140 Fax: (03) 6286 3334

Development & Environmental Services

Alexander Street Tel: (03) 6259 5503
Bothwell, Tasmania 7030 Fax: (03) 6259 5722

website www.centralhighlands.tas.gov.au

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events
Minister for Racing
Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 7665
Email: minister.howlett@dpac.tas.gov.au



29 MAY 2026

Councillor Robert Cassidy
Email: Rlc747capt@yahoo.com

Robert
Dear Councillor Cassidy,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Honourable Guy Barnett, and for sharing the extensive material you have gathered regarding Dark Sky Planning Guidelines.

I appreciate the effort you have invested in this body of work and your interest in the potential of dark sky tourism in Tasmania.

As Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events, I can provide some information from a tourism perspective.

Dark sky viewing and the Aurora Australis already feature prominently across Tourism Tasmania's marketing channels, including the Discover Tasmania platform and our winter-focused Off Season campaigns.

The Government's broader vision is reflected in the 2030 Visitor Economy Strategy, which emphasises sustainable growth, regional dispersal and community-led visitor experiences.

Within that framework, we are always pleased to see new initiatives emerging from local communities, particularly those that align with Tasmania's strengths in nature-based and off-season tourism.

At the same time, considerations for Tasmanian Dark Sky Planning Guidelines extend beyond tourism and sit within the remit of other areas of government, including planning, parks and reserves, environment, and energy regulation.

Our focus remains on supporting communities and operators to pursue dark sky initiatives within existing planning and regulatory settings, and on promoting Tasmania's natural advantages through destination marketing and visitor experience development.

Thank you again for your advocacy and for your commitment to promoting dark sky experiences in regional Tasmania.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'JH', is written over the printed name and title.

Hon Jane Howlett MP
Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events

OFFICIAL

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place, HOBART TAS 7000
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: 03 6165 7794
Email: Minister.Archer@dpac.tas.gov.au



Ref: MIN26/1299

27 MAY 2026

Mr Robert Cassidy
Councillor
Central Highlands Council
Rlc747@yahoo.com

Dear Cr Cassidy

Thank you for your email to the Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP, Premier, regarding your proposed use of the old Ouse District School and the former Ouse Hospital. Your correspondence has been forwarded to me as the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing to respond on behalf of the Government. I appreciate the time you have taken to outline your concerns and proposal.

I acknowledge the challenges you have raised in relation to current pressures on the health system. The Department of Health Transfer of Care Protocol continues to deliver significant improvement, with ambulances now spending significantly less time ramped. This is an important step in ensuring paramedics are available in the community where they are most needed.

The Department is also progressing a range of health system reforms guided by the underpinning principle of the *Long-Term Plan for Healthcare in Tasmania 2040*, to provide the right care, in the right place at the right time. The Department has also progressed work across the State to respond to the *Independent Review of Tasmania's Major Hospital Emergency Departments*. This is already addressing many of the issues related to transfer of care delays, access block and patient flow identified.

In regard to your suggestion to repurpose the former Ouse District School and the former Ouse Hospital, I acknowledge the intent behind your proposal. I note that the former Ouse Hospital ceased operating as a district hospital almost two decades ago. Given its distance from tertiary services, the level of clinical support required, staffing challenges, and the significant capital and operational costs that would be involved in bringing the facility up to contemporary health service standards, unfortunately the Department has advised the site is not considered suitable for repurposing as proposed.

The Tasmanian Government remains committed to ongoing investments in the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) to meet future health needs. Guided by the 30-year RHH Masterplan, expansion works are well underway to ensure the hospital continues to service Tasmania for decades to come.

The next phase of the RHH Emergency Department upgrade is now underway, expanding capacity from 81 to 120 treatment points by 2028. This will enhance care delivery and provide a modern, efficient environment for clinicians and patients alike.

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The Department continues to work closely with Primary Health Tasmania and the Australian Government to strengthen GP recruitment and retention across rural and regional communities. This includes a coordinated approach to promoting rural practice, expanding incentive programs, supporting training pathways, and engaging directly with potential providers to highlight opportunities in areas such as Ouse. In addition, the Department is progressing broader workforce initiatives such as rural generalist training, targeted relocation support, and partnerships with universities and primary care organisations to help build a more stable and sustainable primary care workforce for regional Tasmania.

Thank you again for raising these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bridget Archer', written in a cursive style.

Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

2.5 GENERAL MANAGERS ACTIVITIES

RESOLUTION 10/05.2026/C

Moved: Cr J Hall

Seconded: Cr J Honner

THAT the Information be received.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, General Manager

15 May 2026	Meeting with Andrew McMaster and Mark Simmons regarding housing proposal Bothwell.
18 May 2026	Meeting Martin Farley creating preferred futures.
19 May 2026	Council meeting
20 May 2026	Meeting with the Incorporated body wishing to take over management of St Michael and All Angles Church.
20 May 2026	Meeting with HATCH regarding use of council's van.
21 May 2026	Meeting to discuss GP services at Ouse with GP Assist and Primary Health Tasmania.
26 May 2026	Meeting with representatives from St Patick's Plains Wind Farm.
28 May 2026	Meeting regarding Ouse Locum Service
29 May 2026	Meeting Andrew McMaster and Mark Simmons regarding housing project Bothwell.
1 June 2026	Meeting regarding RecFit MOU wind Farm and Solar Farm.
4 June 2026	Meeting Representative of the Visitor Information Centre.
5 June 2026	Meeting with James Oakley regarding St Michael and All Angles Church.
5 June 2026	Meeting Southern Tasmanian Network Committee.
9 June 2026	Finance Committee Meeting.
9 June 2026	Catch Up meeting with Shannan Ahern from Bec Whites office.

9 June 2026	Representative from Tas Fire ams SES Tasmania to talk about support for a grant application for building a new Station at Minea.
10 June 2026	Catch up Meeting with the Education D3epartment regarding Ouse Child Care Services.
11 June 2026	Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority wrap up meeting.
12 June 2026	Meeting to review the Draft MOU with RecFit.

3. STRATEGY, POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING

3.1 DERWENT CATCHMENT PROJECT

RESOLUTION 11/06.2026/C

Moved: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

THAT the Derwent Catchment Project Report be received.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT BY Ella Weston, NRM Facilitator



Monthly Report for Central Highlands Council

14 April 2026 – 11 May 2026

General business

As we approach the end of the financial year, the team is focused on completing current projects, meeting with clients, and securing budgets and scopes of work for the year ahead. This is always a busy period, with efforts concentrated on delivering quality outcomes while planning for another productive year of restoration and natural resource management work.

We were also pleased to welcome Aiden Collins to the ground crew this month. Aiden recently completed his Conservation and Ecosystem Management qualification and brings valuable experience in weed management. He has quickly become a key member of our intensive planting team as we work to complete a significant number of plantings before the end of the financial year.

To help meet the seasonal workload, we were fortunate to receive support from Westaway Berry Farm, whose staff availability aligned perfectly with our peak planting period. Rossi and Ryan joined Aiden, along with Ash and Marlee from our Enviro-dynamics networks, to form a hardworking planting crew that has been out in all conditions getting plants in the ground across multiple projects.



Figure 1. Ryan, Marlee, and Rossi (who have come on to help us with our final planting push for the season) muddy, soggy, and still full of smiles.

We are incredibly grateful for the effort and enthusiasm shown by the whole team during this busy period and are thrilled that Aiden will be staying on with Enviro-dynamics in a longer-term capacity.

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 Nature Repair Pilot was formally launched on 15 May at New Norfolk’s Esplanade, marking a significant milestone for the initiative and bringing together community members, landholders, project partners and stakeholders from across the Central Highlands and Derwent catchment.

Despite chilly and misty conditions, the event was well attended and provided a valuable opportunity for the community to learn more about the Pilot and its vision for the region. A particularly meaningful highlight was the Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony led by Linton Burgess and Jason Andrews-Smith, alongside a young community member, creating a strong sense of connection to Country and setting the tone for the day.



Figure 2. Welcome to Country ceremony with Lynton Burgess and Jonty in the foreground.

The event also featured a chipper demonstration and presentations from Josie and Eve, and the Hon. Rebecca White MP also spoke. Throughout the morning, attendees engaged in conversations about the opportunities the Nature Repair Pilot presents for landholders, communities and the environment. As people learned more about the initiative, there was a growing sense of excitement around what it could mean for the future of the region and how it may positively impact local landscapes, livelihoods and community resilience.

Following the successful launch, work is continuing to build momentum across the Pilot. A key focus remains the development of the modelling and spatial analysis that will help identify and prioritise the most impactful restoration opportunities across the region. This work will provide the evidence base needed to guide future investment and ensure efforts are targeted where they can deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefits.

At the same time, the project team is expanding, with recruitment activities underway to bring additional capacity and expertise into the Pilot. As the initiative moves from planning into delivery, growing the team will be critical to supporting stakeholder engagement, project development and the long-term success of the Nature Repair Pilot.



Figure 3: Rebecca White launching the Nature Repair Pilot on the Esplanade (above).

Figure 4: Jamie McMahon feeds the new chipper at the launch (right).



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 partnered with NRM South and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture to present a pasture update session at Hamilton (May 20). The session featured: updates from local DCP trials assessing pasture species persistence and pasture species composition changes in response to nutrient management and grazing pressure; an introduction to TIA research within the Pasture 365 project from Dr Rowan Smith, in which the agronomy and grazing of more diverse sown pasture mixes is being assessed; a supporting display of pasture specimens; and a summary of recent insect surveys from our IPM workshops, presented by Tim Akroyd of NRM South.



Figure 5. Integrated Pest Management Workshop hosted with NRM South.

DCP and NRM South also delivered another Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshop during the reporting period, continuing to build landholder knowledge of beneficial insects and natural pest management strategies.

DCP pasture network articles are printed monthly in the New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News. Identifying grasses as a core component of pasture assessment is a focus of the current article.

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

Willow removal works were successfully completed for the pre-winter season, with operations now paused until conditions allow works to recommence in Spring/Summer.

The river reach downstream of Andrews Bridge presented significantly different flood mitigation and willow management challenges compared with the Croakers Alley section. While large mature willows remain established along the riverbanks, extensive willow thickets had colonised the river bed, forming dense islands of woody root mass that restricted river flows and contributed to sediment accumulation.

Prior to the onset of winter rainfall in late May, contractors removed as much of these in-stream willow infestations as possible. Works were subsequently suspended due to wet conditions and the inability to safely operate heavy machinery within the river corridor. Remaining willow removal in this section is scheduled for completion by the end of 2026.

To date, approximately 1.5 kilometres of river corridor has undergone willow removal. It is anticipated that the resulting improvement in channel capacity and flow conveyance will provide observable flood mitigation benefits through the Croakers Alley area during the coming winter period.

Restoration planting activities have been completed for the season, with more than 2,500 indigenous plants established within the Croakers Alley area north of the footbridge.

Planting efforts focused on riverbank stabilisation, erosion control and flood damage mitigation, with dense revegetation undertaken along riverbanks and flood spillways. In addition, 15 advanced trees were installed within individual wildlife protection cages. These were complemented by a range of shrubs and groundcovers to create small, visually attractive planting clusters throughout the site.

Planting was strategically undertaken during May to take advantage of warm soil temperatures and the onset of seasonal rainfall, maximising establishment success prior to winter and potential flood events.

Revegetation works for this planting season have now concluded and will recommence in spring. Priority works will include significant amenity-focused planting around the footbridge precinct, together with additional protected tree and shrub plantings along both sides of the river corridor between the footbridge and Andrews Bridge.



Figure 6. Planting activity at Croakers post willow control.

Derwent Native Plant Nursery updates

In May, Karen hosted 32 interstate and international visitors from the International Plant Producers Society, who visited the nursery as part of their annual conference program in Hobart.

New internal and external nursery signage has been completed and will be installed shortly, improving wayfinding and the overall visitor experience.

Plant sales and orders remain strong, with visitor numbers increasing since the nursery expanded its opening hours to four days per week. The nursery has also supported several local restoration projects, supplying plants for recent revegetation works at Glenelg, the property of DCP Chair Charles Downey, as well as ongoing projects at Sorell Creek and Croakers. Chris has also been supporting the planting crew throughout this busy period, providing on-ground supervision and mentoring to ensure plantings are completed to a consistently high standard while helping build the skills and confidence of newer team members.



Figure 7. Planting activity at Glenelg.

Looking ahead, the nursery has secured its largest order to date, with Brighton Council engaging DCP to supply 11,000 plants for community giveaway programs planned for 2027.

Ouse follow-up willow control

Willow control works at the Ouse township are now nearing completion and are expected to wrap up this week. Once completed, site preparation and planting activities will commence over the coming weeks as part of the Minderoo Foundation-funded river restoration works.

At Kenmere Creek, construction of the fenced vegetation islets has been completed, providing protection for future plantings from grazing pressure. Pre-planting weed control has also been undertaken across all planting areas to improve site conditions and maximise establishment success.

Approximately 2,000 native plants are scheduled to be planted across the project sites over the coming weeks, marking the next stage of restoration works along the Ouse River and its tributaries.



Figure 8. Ouse River restoration project fencing installation

Miena Cider Gum Recovery Program

Work continued during the reporting period to support conservation of the critically endangered Miena cider gum population. Following site assessments undertaken earlier in the year, the team installed four new possum exclusion bands, with two installed at Todd's Corner and two at St Patricks Plains. The new expandable wire "floppy" band design replaces older polycarbonate bands and is intended to provide better air circulation around the trunk whilst still preventing browsing from possums. Four camera traps have also been deployed to monitor the bands over the coming weeks and assess their effectiveness, including whether any determined possums manage to find a way around them.

The team also installed 12 leaky weirs at Todd's Corner to help improve soil moisture retention around selected cider gums. Unlike traditional water-harvesting structures designed to completely stop water movement, leaky weirs are constructed to gently slow the flow of water

across the landscape, allowing it to spread out, infiltrate into the soil and remain available to vegetation for longer periods. The structures have been strategically positioned around the drip lines of selected trees, where the majority of fine feeder roots are located, to maximise their benefit to tree health.

By slowing water movement during rainfall events, the leaky weirs help reduce runoff, increase infiltration and improve soil moisture availability during dry periods. This is particularly important for Miena cider gums, which are increasingly vulnerable to drought stress under changing climatic conditions. The trial aims to determine whether small-scale water retention measures can help improve tree resilience and support the long-term conservation of this unique and highly threatened species.

This work has been made possible through the ongoing support of Hydro Tasmania, whose funding is helping to deliver practical conservation actions to improve the resilience and long-term survival of the critically endangered Miena cider gum.



Figure 9. New tree band design being installed (Left). Leaky weir constructed (Right).

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.

The weed management team continued control works throughout the reporting period, focusing on broom infestations around Miena township. Treatment was undertaken along Hydro Tasmania walkways and beneath TasNetworks powerline easements around Thiessen Crescent, with significant progress made in reducing broom across public land in the area.

As control efforts advance, the majority of remaining broom infestations are now concentrated on private property. Over the coming weeks, weed officers will be engaging with relevant landholders to discuss their responsibilities under the Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999 and encourage treatment of priority infestations. Where required, compliance notices may be considered to ensure weed management obligations are met.

Additional funding secured for the Dee Lagoon program also enabled several extra days of on-ground works. This allowed the team to finally access and treat a large gorse infestation that had previously been difficult to reach due to access constraints. The infestation was actively encroaching into native forest vegetation, making its treatment an important milestone for the project and a highly satisfying outcome for the team.

Alongside on-ground works, Ella has been focused on end-of-financial-year reporting, mapping and project administration, while also preparing scopes of work and budgets for the 2026–27 program year. Work is also underway on the development of the next Central Highlands Weed Management Plan (2026–2031), which will help guide strategic weed management priorities across the municipality over the coming five years.



Figure 10. Broom management in action – Dee Lagoon

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

RESOLUTION 12/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr J Honner

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.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT BY Damian Mackey, Planning Consultant

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 km², 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	Reports to Councils: consider joining the initiative and membership of the Joint Steering Group, (JSG). Commitment to JSG membership means: • Appointing one elected member, who agrees to be the 'community champion' of the push for Dark Sky Reserve or Community status. • Appointing at least one council officer. • Agreeing to commit a budget of \$3,000? this financial year, plus officer time and the use of Council-owned premises for community consultation). • Councillor and/or council officer to keep their Council informed of progress. • Agreeing to participate in the project to at least the first key decision hold point. • 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.) • 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.	
June 2026 July 2026	JSG to define the project 'Study Area' and, within that, initial draft <i>approximate</i> boundaries of the Dark Sky Place.	

	These are to be determined, in part, by examination of light pollution maps. Note that: • The total area of the Core and Buffer for 'Reserve' status must be at least 700 square kilometres. • Dark Sky 'Community' status may be smaller.	
June 2026 July 2026	JSG to draft (internal) Dark Sky Lighting Policy for Council's to consider adopting: • Based on numerous examples from around Australia. • Including estimation of cost of converting existing non-compliant external lighting to comply with the relevant guidelines. • 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. • These policies will apply only to Council facilities. (i.e.: they are internal only). • Partner Councils will need to adopt a Dark Sky Lighting Policy in order to remain in the project.	
June 2026 July 2026	JSG to draft an introductory consultation program, through which the community and stakeholders will be advised of: • The Dark Sky Reserve/Community concept and council's plan to explore achieving this status. • The pros and cons of living or working in a ID • The coming major public consultation process where everyone will be invited to participate and make submissions. • A call for volunteers to assist with gathering evidence for a submission to the IDA (using light metres and photography).	
July 2026	Reports to Councils: • Confirmation of introductory consultation program, including commitment of necessary council resources. - Including confirmation of indicative Study Area to be depicted on consultation maps. • Receipt of Draft Dark Sky Lighting Policy.	
Aug 2026	Introductory consultation program. • Execute the introductory consultation program.	
Sep 2026 Oct 2026	JSG to create draft Dark Sky Reserve maps. JSG to draft the major consultation program, through which the input of the community and stakeholders will be sought for the Draft Dark Sky Reserve / Community.	

	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.: • Publicity. • Community meetings and/or information drop-in sessions in various localities. • Information on Council websites, including an online questionnaire. • One-on-one discussions with key stakeholders. • Encouragement to complete the online questionnaire or make a written submission. • 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.	
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Oct 2026	<u>Council elections.</u> Collation and analysis of consultation submissions and surveys by Council officers, and the drafting of modifications considered appropriate in response.	
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Nov 2026	<u>New post-election Councils created.</u> Council officers continue above work. Council officers further understand the task of preparing and lodging the Dark Sky Reserve application with the IDA.	
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Dec 2026	Reports to Councils Community and stakeholder consultation outcomes, and recommended subsequent modifications and any key points of contention. Estimation of costs to Councils of lodging the Dark Sky Reserve application with the IDA, including gathering all evidence needed. 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.	
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	Key Decision Hold Point: • Confirmation that newly elected Councils wish to continue the project. • Confirmation of continuing or new elected members on the JSG. • Confirmation of major consultation program. • Adoption of Council (internal) Dark Sky Lighting Policy.	
Jan 2027	Volunteer Work may commence. • Gathering of dark sky evidence: • Light meter readings. • Photographic evidence • This work to continue for much of 2027, until sufficient gathered for lodgement of the Dark Sky application. • Audits of existing external lighting in various communities.	
Feb 2027	Volunteer Work to continue in earnest. • As above.	
Feb 2027	Major consultation program.	
Mar 2027	Execute the major consultation program.	
Apr 2027	Analysis of feedback from major consultation program. • By JSG and council officers.	
May 2027	Reports to Councils • Community and stakeholder consultation outcomes, and recommended subsequent modifications and any key points of contention. • Estimation of costs to Councils of lodging the Dark Sky Reserve application with the IDA, including gathering all evidence needed. • For Council budgeting workshops to consider. (Note: grant opportunities to be monitored.) • 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. Key Decision Hold Point: 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.	
May 2027 June 2027	JSG to draft the final consultation program, through which the input of the community and stakeholders will be sought for the proposed final proposed Dark Sky Reserve/Community. If a Dark Sky Reserve, the associated Draft Planning Scheme Amendment is also drafted. • Publicity. • Community meetings and/or information drop-in sessions in various localities. • Information on Council websites, including an online questionnaire. • One-on-one discussions with key stakeholders. • Encouragement to complete the online questionnaire or make a written submission. Repeat the call for volunteers.	
June 2027	Report to Councils: • Endorsement of, and confirmation to proceed with the final consultation program. Councils' budget confirmations.	
July 2027	Final consultation program. Execute the final consultation program.	
Aug 2027	Reports to Councils Community and stakeholder consultation outcomes, and recommended subsequent modifications and any key points of contention. 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. Key Decision Hold Point:	

	• Confirmation that Councils wish to continue the project.	
Oct – Dec 2027	Finalisation and lodgement of the Dark Sky Reserve application with the International Dark-Sky Association.	

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

ITEM 3.3 - Deferred to later in the meeting

3.4 ANNUAL PLAN 2026-2027**RESOLUTION 14/06.2026/C****Moved:** Cr Y Miller**Seconded:** Cr R Cassidy**THAT** Council approves the Annual Plan 2026-2027.**CARRIED****For the Motion**

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

REPORT BY Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager**Attachment - Annual Plan 2026-2027 (DRAFT)****IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS**

Strategic Plan	Financial Management
Legislative Context	Local Government Act 1993
Consultation	Councillors, Council's Audit Panel and Senior Management Team
Impact on Budget/Resources	As per the Budget Estimates for 2026-2027 if adopted
Risk	The council must ensure that it meets its legislative and governance responsibilities as per section 71 of the Local Government Act 1993.

BACKGROUND

Under Section 71 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council is required to have an Annual Plan. The 2026-2027 Annual Plan is submitted for Council's approval which includes the Budget Estimates for 2026-2027 if adopted.

4. REVENUE GENERATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**4.1 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT TO 31 MAY 2026****RESOLUTION 15/06.2026/C****Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Cr Y Miller**THAT** the Monthly Finance Report to 31 May 2026 be received.**CARRIED****For the Motion**

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

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

Strategic Plan	
Council Policy	Not applicable
Legislative Context	The council's decision-making is under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, and the report details the basis for the recommendation
Consultation	The financial statements form part of the public record within the Council minutes
Impact on Budget/Resources	As attached
Risk	The council must ensure that it meets its financial obligations. This report captures the ongoing financial performance

REPORT BY Zeeshan Tauqeer, Accountant**BACKGROUND**

Financial Expenditure Analysis Report - For the Period Ended 31 May 2026

Rates Reconciliation as at 31 May 2026

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
Rates in Debit 30th June	\$196,877.36	\$217,826.72
Rates in Credit 30th June	\$145,341.00	-\$150,792.81
Balance 30th June	\$51,536.36	\$67,033.91
Rates Raised	\$4,729,920.23	\$4,971,230.43
Penalties Raised	\$60,490.00	\$61,013.13
Supplementaries/Debit Adjustments	\$29,368.78	\$46,106.29
Total Raised	\$4,819,779.01	\$5,078,349.85
Less:		
Receipts to Date	\$4,549,448.44	\$4,821,942.20
Credit Journals	\$20,894.16	\$18,888.82
Pensioner Rate Remissions	\$130,435.03	\$135,893.36
Remissions/Supplementary Credits	\$10,758.57	\$27,872.01
Total Receipts		
Balance	\$159,779.17	\$140,787.37

Bank Reconciliation as at 31 May 2026

	2025	2026
Balance Brought Forward	\$4,234,661.50	\$5,074,654.50
Receipts for month	\$1,456,792.00	\$1,010,699.19
Expenditure for month	\$1,987,738.42	\$1,221,856.97
Balance	\$3,703,715.08	\$4,863,496.72
Represented By:		
Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$1,106,972.39	\$994,993.74
Balance Westpac Bank	\$412,442.86	\$58,196.24
CBA Credit Card	-\$460.98	-\$99.99
Investments(Council Reserves + St Michael's Church)	\$2,184,760.81	\$3,810,406.73
Petty Cash & Floats	\$0.00	
	\$3,703,715.08	\$4,863,496.72
Plus Unbanked Money		
	\$3,703,715.08	\$4,863,496.72
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$0.00	
Unreceipted amounts on bank statements	\$0.00	
	\$3,703,715.08	\$4,863,496.72

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 31 May 2026

No.	Bank Accounts	Investment Period	Current Interest Rate %	Due Date	<u>BALANCE</u>	
					2026	
11100	Cash at Bank and on Hand					
11105	Bank 01 - Commonwealth - General Trading Account				\$	994,993.24
11106	Bank 02 - Westpac - Direct Deposit Account				\$	58,196.24
1118	CBA Credit Card				-\$	99.99
11199	TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND				\$	1,053,089.49
11200	Investments					
11207	Bank 6		0	0.00	\$	-
11207	Bank 5		60	4.76	6/07/2026 \$	510,624.69
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)		4.35%	\$	91,007.76
11115	Bank 16		90	4.85%	27/07/2026 \$	2,695,242.96
11299	TOTAL INVESTMENTS				\$	3,810,406.73
TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS AND CASH ON HAND					\$	4,863,496.22
Council Reserve					\$	3,719,398.97
Tascorp (St Michael and All Angels' Church, Bothwell)					\$	91,007.76
FAG& RATES&FEES					\$	549,720.68
Capital Grants (Gretna Cricket ground Changing room)					\$	500,000.00
Community Grants					\$	3,368.81
					\$	4,863,496.22

Comprehensive Income Statement

31/05/2026

	Budget 2024-2025	Actual to date prior year	Actual to Date	Budget 2025-2026
Recurrent Income				
Rates Charges	\$4,682,233	\$4,716,364	\$4,943,026	\$4,940,273
User Fees	\$494,250	\$394,878	\$345,411	\$501,651
Grants - Operating	\$3,236,515	\$476,262	\$2,262,852	\$4,428,454
Other Revenue	\$704,366	\$709,647	\$750,550	\$776,217
Grants received in Advance	\$0	\$2,918,101	\$1,746,506	
Total Revenues	\$9,117,364	\$9,215,252	\$10,048,345	\$10,646,595
Expenditure				
Employee Benefits	\$2,584,261	\$2,690,436	\$2,655,182	\$2,941,952
Materials and Services	\$2,447,768	\$2,450,887	\$2,823,537	\$3,490,109
Other Expenses	\$1,892,738	\$1,571,143	\$1,503,660	\$2,116,449
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$2,327,800	\$2,104,785	\$2,340,653	\$2,397,634
Total Expenditure	\$9,252,567	8,817,251	9,323,032	10,946,144
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	(135,203)	398,001	725,313	(299,549)
Capital Grants & Other	\$2,424,996	\$1,525,149	\$1,865,931	\$1,415,067
Surplus(Deficit)	2,289,793	1,923,150	2,591,244	1,115,518
Capital Expenditure	\$5,122,085	\$3,927,786	\$2,225,305	\$3,561,414

	BUDGET 2025/26	ACTUAL TO 31-May-25	ACTUAL TO 31-May-26	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ADMIN HAMILTON	\$2,017,673	\$1,875,159	\$1,668,533	82.70%	\$349,140
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENDITURE(AMEH)	\$281,916	\$260,749	\$252,024	89.40%	\$29,892
MEDICAL CENTRES(MED)	\$132,191	\$98,209	\$93,467	70.71%	\$38,724
STREET LIGHTING(STLIGHT)	\$43,994	\$29,164	\$24,676	56.09%	\$19,318
ONCOSTS	(\$470,879)	(\$492,729)	(\$399,974)	84.94%	(\$70,905)
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONS(CDR+EDEV)	\$672,822	\$553,236	\$512,900	76.23%	\$159,922
TOTAL CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$2,677,717	\$2,323,788	\$2,151,626	80.35%	\$526,091
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
ADMIN BOTHWELL	\$327,017	\$304,638	\$378,976	115.89%	(\$51,959)
ENVIRON HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)	\$38,628	\$28,253	\$25,451	65.89%	\$13,177
ANIMAL CONTROL(AC)	\$18,421	\$13,662	\$13,901	75.46%	\$4,520
PLUMBING/BUILDING CONTROL (BPC)	\$188,191	\$137,244	\$51,910	27.58%	\$136,281
SWIMMING POOLS (POOL)	\$32,572	\$43,231	\$45,115	138.51%	(\$12,543)
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DEV)	\$247,000	\$277,302	\$145,454	58.89%	\$101,546
WASTE SERVICES	\$968,939	\$929,048	\$893,696	92.23%	\$75,243
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (EP)	\$1,024,442	\$2,751	\$493,788	48.20%	\$530,654
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	\$2,845,210	\$1,736,129	\$2,048,291	71.99%	\$796,919
WORKS AND SERVICES					
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (PC)	\$290,284	\$177,969	\$207,840	71.60%	\$82,444
CEMETERY (CEM)	\$17,161	\$16,130	\$26,059	151.85%	(\$8,898)
HALLS (HALL)	\$74,349	\$98,932	\$56,486	75.97%	\$17,863
PARKS AND GARDENS(PG)	\$100,524	\$134,343	\$119,695	119.07%	(\$19,171)
REC. & RESERVES(Rec+tennis)	\$130,679	\$124,003	\$98,356	75.27%	\$32,323
TOWN MOWING/TREES/STREETSCAPES(MOW)	\$236,008	\$211,439	\$188,430	79.84%	\$47,578
HOUSING (HOU)	\$160,753	\$117,350	\$73,275	45.58%	\$87,478
CAMPING GROUNDS (CPARK)	\$14,801	\$15,618	\$18,040	121.88%	(\$3,239)
LIBRARY (LIB)	\$2,640	\$1,687	\$0	0.00%	\$2,640
ROAD MAINTENANCE (ROAD)	\$1,086,345	\$1,053,006	\$961,895	88.54%	\$124,450
FOOTPATHS/KERBS/GUTTERS (FKG)	\$23,316	\$18,785	\$6,790	29.12%	\$16,526
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (BRI)	\$23,388	\$8,675	\$17,609	75.29%	\$5,779
PRIVATE WORKS (PW)	\$51,372	\$23,468	\$32,335	62.94%	\$19,037
2TD-Traffic Data	\$25,000	\$0	\$11,043	44.17%	\$13,957
SUPER. & I/D OVERHEADS (SUPER)	\$844,041	\$807,671	\$744,086	88.16%	\$99,955
QUARRY/GRAVEL (QUARRY)	(\$181,988)	(\$75,668)	(\$129,419)	71.11%	(\$52,569)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(NRM)	\$179,936	\$131,065	\$161,303	89.64%	\$18,633
SES (SES)	\$2,000	\$305	\$1,025	51.23%	\$975
PLANT M/TCE & OPERATING COSTS (PLANT)	\$655,036	\$604,671	\$622,704	95.06%	\$32,332
PLANT INCOME	(\$795,036)	(\$822,142)	(\$521,909)	65.65%	(\$273,127)
DRAINAGE (DRAIN)	\$43,130	\$43,588	\$36,753	85.21%	\$6,377
OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES (OCA)	\$41,842	\$28,576	\$23,105	55.22%	\$18,737
WASTE COLLECTION & ASSOC SERVICES (WAS)	\$0	\$5,001	\$13,464		(\$13,464)
FLOOD REPAIRS		\$0	\$0		
TOTAL WORKS & SERVICES	\$3,025,581	\$2,724,472	\$2,768,964	91.52%	\$256,617
DEPARTMENT TOTALS OPERATING EXPENSES					
Corporate Services	\$2,677,717	\$2,323,788	\$2,151,626	80.35%	\$526,091
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$2,845,210	\$1,736,129	\$2,048,291	71.99%	\$796,919
Works & Services	\$3,025,581	\$2,724,472	\$2,768,964	91.52%	\$256,617
Total All Operating	\$8,548,508	\$6,784,389	\$6,968,882	81.52%	\$1,579,626

	BUDGET 2025/26	ACTUAL TO 31-May-25	ACTUAL TO 31-May-26	% OF BUDGET SPENT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE					
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Computer Purchases	\$7,648	\$35,955	\$0	0.00%	\$7,648
Equipment	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$6,000
Miscellaneous	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$2,000
	\$15,648	\$35,955	\$0	0.00%	\$15,648
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
Swimming Pool	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	\$0
	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	(\$1,870)
WORKS & SERVICES					
Plant Purchases	\$170,000	\$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	\$2,569,706	\$1,793,426	81.66%	\$402,673
Drainage	\$169,000	\$4,898	\$20,947	12.39%	\$148,053
Parks & Gardens Capital	\$72,000	\$239	\$0	0.00%	\$72,000
Infrastructure	\$105,000	\$28,235	\$58,922	56.12%	\$46,078
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	\$245,000	\$28,343	\$112,885	46.08%	\$132,115
Rec Grounds	\$402,000	\$315,117	\$32,887	8.18%	\$369,113
Halls	\$0	\$11,755	\$15,971	0.00%	(\$15,971)
Buildings	\$131,667	\$204,388	\$62,539	47.50%	\$69,128
	\$3,545,766	\$3,889,961	\$2,225,305	62.76%	\$1,320,461
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS					
Corporate Services	\$15,648	\$35,955	\$0	0.00%	\$15,648
Dev. & Environmental Services	\$0	\$1,870	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Works & Services	\$3,545,766	\$3,889,961	\$2,225,305	62.76%	\$1,320,461
	\$3,561,414	\$3,927,786	\$2,225,305	62.48%	\$1,336,109

ITEM 4.2 - Deferred to later in the meeting

ITEM 4.3 - Deferred to later in the meeting

4.4 DRAFT COUNCIL FEES AND CHARGES 2026-2027

RESOLUTION 16/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr Y Miller

THAT the Council approved the Fees and Charges for 2026-2027.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT By Zeeshan Tauqeer, Accountant

ATTACHMENT - Draft Fees and Charges 2026-2027.

BACKGROUND

Under Section 205 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council may impose fees and charges in respect of any one or all of the following matters –

- a) *The use of any property or facility owned, controlled, managed or maintained by the council;*
- b) *Services supplied at a person's request;*
- c) *Carrying out work at a person's request;*
- d) *Providing information or materials, or providing copies of, or extracts from, records of the council;*
- e) *any application to the council;*
- f) *any licence, permit, registration or authorisation granted by the council;*
- g) *any other prescribed matter.*

These fees and charges have been increased in accordance with Council's adopted Long-Term Financial Plan of March CPI plus .5%. This grants a total increase of 5.6% across imposed fees and charges

10.17 a.m.- Dianne Fowler addressed the meeting regarding the community making an offer to purchase St Michael and all Angels Church Bothwell.

4.5 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH BOTHWELL (TITLE 104491/2)**Moved:** Cr A Archer**Seconded:** Cr R Cassidy

THAT the Council with the funds raised by the community make an offer to purchase St Michael and all Angels Church Bothwell (title 104491/2) from the Anglican Dioceses of Tasmania on the following conditions.

1. That the purchase price be the sum raised by the community plus interest received on these funds.
2. That council work with a locally incorporated body that has been established to operate the church as a community facility and that will source all necessary funding for the ongoing maintenance of the Church.
3. That the incorporated body set up to manage St Michael and all Angels Church is to be make the church available for Funerals, Weddings and other religious events.
4. The purchase to include all outbuildings on the site and contents in the church.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION**Moved:** Cr D Meacheam**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor J Allwright

- 5 THAT on or before June 2028 Council pass full ownership and responsibility for the church to the cathedral in the Highlands Group

LOST 2/7**For the Motion**

Deputy Mayor J Allwright; Cr D Meacheam

Against the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt; Cr A Archer; Cr R Cassidy Cr J Honner; Cr J Hall Cr Y Miller; and Cr S Triffett

**RESOLUTION 17/06.2026/C
THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS PUT****CARRIED 8/1****For the Motion**

Mayor L Triffitt; Deputy Mayor J Allwright Cr A Archer; Cr R Cassidy Cr J Honner; Cr J Hall Cr Y Miller; and Cr S Triffett

Against the Motion

Cr D Meacheam

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, General Manager**DISCUSSION**An onsite tour of the church can be arranged if required.**Management Comment**

The Local Government Act 1993

178 Purchase of land

A council may purchase or lease land for any purpose which it considers to be of benefit to the council or the community.

170 Acquisition of land

A council may acquire land for prescribed purposes in accordance with the Land Acquisition Act 1993

Council will need to investigate the building's suitability, and consideration must be given to how this work will be funded, as well as who will bear the cost of any upgrades required to enable Council ownership. It is also necessary to clarify the building's long-term use and how ongoing maintenance and associated costs will be funded.

Council at the November 2024 meeting resolved not to support the following motion:

That Council at the Request of the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania commence further investigation regarding the possibility of the purchase of St Michael and All Angels Church Bothwell by Central Highlands Council with the funds that have been raised and which are held by Council.

Since this decision was made further information has been provided giving more detail in regard to the condition of the buildings and some repairs that may need to be funded in the early years if ownership is taken over by council.

Recommended Works (Immediate)

1. *Install overflows in the gutters and rain heads to discharge water clear of the walls. Works to include the installation of roof leaf guards and replacing the defective flashing at the chancel roof/tower junction.*
2. *Make good the loose tower/chancel wall junction gutter and flashing.*
3. *Fix the underpurlins to the gable walls.*
4. *Replace the dislodged louvers in the tower lancets.*

Recommended Works (within 5 years)

1. *Allow to replace the skillion roof cladding.*
2. *Make good faulty pointings.*
3. *Make good stone defects on top of tower.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In February this year, Council held a community meeting in Bothwell attended by over 80 residents and representatives of the Anglican Diocese.

The community expressed strong support for retaining St Michael and All Angels as a valued community and heritage asset, emphasising its deep historical connections and cultural significance.

There was strong support for exploring a range of creative community and tourism uses, supported by volunteer involvement and strategic planning. Existing funding and potential grant opportunities were noted positively, with general acknowledgement of the need for sustainable management, including ongoing maintenance costs, heritage obligations, and impacts on ratepayers.

There was broad agreement that future governance should involve a collaborative approach between Council and the community, including suggestions for an incorporated Friends of St Michaels group.

Feedback forms were provided at the event for immediate or later submission, inviting community ideas, comments, and concerns regarding the future of St Michael & All Angels Church in Bothwell.

The received community submissions strongly supported retaining the church for community use, recognising its heritage value and importance to Bothwell's identity. There was clear support for community-led governance with Council involvement, and a range of potential uses including cultural, tourism, and community functions. Submitters also identified practical funding options, including existing trust funds, grants, and compatible income-generating activities.

5. LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS

5.1 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

RESOLUTION 18/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr J Honner

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

THAT the Development & Environmental Services Report be received.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

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
2024/61	P D A Surveyors	3 Ponsonby Street, Hamilton	Two Lot Subdivision (One Lot & Balance)
2026/22	Mr Cabins Pty Ltd	2296 Marlborough Road, Little Pine Lagoon	Dwelling
2026/25	S Lawes	Ellendale Road, Fentonbury (CT 217578/1)	Dwelling

NO PERMIT REQUIRED CERTIFICATE

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2026/31	Design East Pty Ltd	15 Fleming Drive, Miena	Dwelling & Outbuilding
2026/32	J Dickson	10 George Street, Bothwell	Dwelling
2026/35	K L Lang	12 Bronte Estate Road, Bronte Park	Dwelling & Outbuilding

OTHER

DA NO.	APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2026/28	PDA Surveyors	69 & 71 Wilburville Road, Wilburville	Adhesion Order

ANIMAL CONTROL

Statistics as of 05 June 2026	
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

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

5.3 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING RESUMED

NOT REQUIRED

6 ORGANISATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS RELATIONS ADVOCACY AND FACILITATION

6.1 HEALTH AND WELLBEING – MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLUTION 19/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr S Triffett

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

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

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

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

BACKGROUND

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

COUNCIL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	
External Grants	Tas Active Infrastructure Grants (DPAC): - \$500,000 for Gretna Cricket Ground changerooms. Tender has closed and awaiting decision.
GP access at Central Highlands Community Health Centre Ouse.	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. Meeting with Primary Health Tasmania and Tasmanian Health Service both on-line and on-site to progress proposal and look at models of collaboration.

Childcare Project	<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> – have applied for Federal Government Grant to establish interim facility in Bothwell prior to launch of childcare at Bothwell School in 2028.
Community Grants	Coordination of community grants programs and review and update of grants documents.
Recfit Community Benefits Fund	Contributing to MOU & Community Benefits Fund aims and focus areas.
Council House Ouse	Liaising with Tasmanian Health Service and Ambulance Tas for Council property at 3 Victoria Valley Rd, regarding new lease.
Ambulance Service report	Commence report on Ambulance Services in the Central Highlands – assessing both volunteer and paid services, service gaps, and opportunities.
Defibrillators	Purchase and install of Defib batteries and pads – Derwent Bridge and Bronte Park.
Ash Cottage – neighbourhood House	Ash Cottage announced as neighbourhood House, with ongoing State government funding to support project.
MEETINGS and REPRESENTATION	
	Meetings with DECYP facilities management group regarding Ouse School and relocation of Family Daycare.
	Ash Cottage – Australia's Biggest Morning Tea event
	Attend Nature Repair Pilot launch – Derwent Catchment Project.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT	
School Holidays programs	Listen Louder exhibition – children's photography and filmography workshop and exhibition. Collaboration with salvation Army, Communities for Children and Action Crew.
Ouse Hall Hire	Liaising with Ouse Table Tennis club and HATCH Exercise classes around long-term lease arrangements, co-use, third-party use, cleaning and improvements at Ouse Hall.

COMMUNICATION and MEDIA	
Rates Newsletter	Finalisation of community information and layout for printing.
Website	Uploading content new website.
Council social media	Facebook followers: 3K. Profile posts – Ani-smoking campaign, 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,
Highland Digest	Provision of relevant council and community content.



Images of Listen Louder kids photography exhibition at Hamilton Hall

Deputy Mayor J Allwright left the meeting at 10.48 a.m.

6.2 ASH COTTAGE – MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLUTION 20/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr Y Miller

Seconded: Cr D Meacheam

THAT the information be received.

CARRIED

For the Motion

Mayor L Triffitt; Cr A Archer; Cr R Cassidy; Cr J Hall; Cr J Honner; Cr Y Miller; Cr D Meacheam and Cr S Triffett

REPORT BY Catherine Bannister, Administration Assistant HATCH

BACKGROUND

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

Ash Cottage has been busy as usually this month with Exercise continuing on a Tuesday, even with the colder weather approaching we still have a steady number of participants.

With Yoga we finished our 10-week program and extremely excited to again offer this program again, which commenced on the 21st of this month, this will continue if we have interest.

Cook and chat this month was an oldie but a goodie with simple curried sausages and mash potato. You would be surprised how many people don't know how to cook it. We thought it fitting again with the cooler weather approaching.

We also held our annual Cuppa for Cancer. We decided to change it up this year and offer Slow cooked Venison or Chicken and gravy rolls, as well as a cuppa around a fire pot and some marshmallows and mud cake for dessert. It was a beautiful day with the sun shining and a yarn or six where had. We raised over \$200.

Both our Food Hub and Meal Delivery program are gaining new participants each month, and both are going strong.

Our Free Swap Op Shop has seen an abundance of people and donations going through the doors again this month, a very popular asset of Ash Cottage.

Cr A Archer left the meeting at 10.53 a.m.

6.3 COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST – ARTHURS LAKE FIRE BRIGADE

Deputy Mayor J Allwright and Cr A Archer returned to the meeting at 10.55 a.m.

RESOLUTION 21/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr J Hall

Seconded: Cr J Honner

THAT Council allocate \$3,000 to the Arthurs Lake Fire Brigade towards insulating and lining the meeting room and kitchen area of their station.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

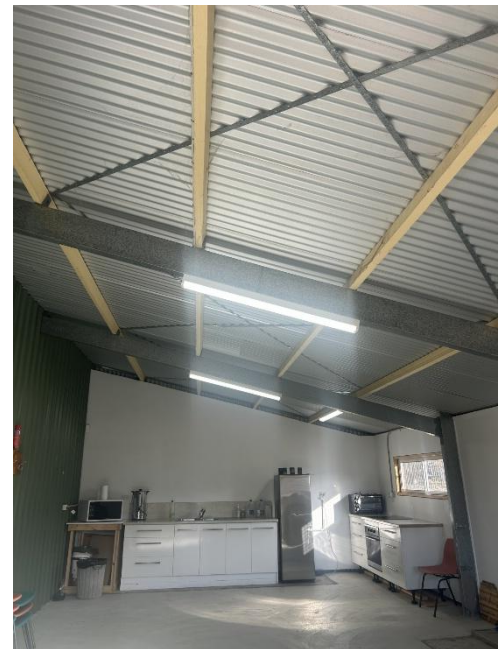
Attachments - Redacted grant application and Budget information

BACKGROUND

Council have received a grant application from Arthurs Lake Fire Brigade towards costs for insulating and lining for the area of their station used for meetings, induction, training and functions. Personal Protective clothing, which needs to be kept in a dry and warm environment will also be housed in this area.

The station is currently unlined and insulated and this support would significantly improve the usability of the space and assist in retaining and attracting new members of this important service organisation. Arthurs Lake Fire Brigade is currently the only volunteer and social

Tas Fire have committed to install a heat pump in the meeting area; therefore, it is imperative the ceiling is insulated and lined to avoid excess power use.



DISCUSSION

The total project cost is \$3,738, plus an estimated in-kind contribution of \$1,000 volunteer time installing insulation and lining. This leaves a shortfall of \$1,738 after the potential Council Grant contribution. The Arthurs Lake Fire Brigade propose to seek additional funding through the Tasmanian Fire Service, and additional grant opportunities to meet the remaining shortfall.

There is currently \$5,336 remaining in the Community Grants budget for the 25-26 financial year.

6.4 CHURCH GRANT REQUEST – ST ANDREWS ANGLICAN CHURCH ELLENDALE**RESOLUTION 22/06.2026/C****Moved:** Cr J Honner**Seconded:** Cr J Hall

THAT Council allocate \$1,000 to the St Andrews Anglican Church Ellendale towards entryway roof repairs

CARRIED**For the Motion**

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

REPORT BY Kat Cullen, Community Development Officer

Attachment - Redacted grant application

BACKGROUND

Council have received a grant application from the church committee for St Andrews Anglican Church in Ellendale. Following a recent building inspection, it was identified that the roof flashing on the entryway and damaged, and that this is resulting in leaking into the entryway ceiling.

DISCUSSION

The total project cost is \$1,800, leaving a shortfall of \$800 after the potential Council Grant contribution. The Church committee and local community aim to contribute \$800 to meet the remaining shortfall.

There is currently \$5,000 remaining in the Community Grants budget for the 25-26 financial year.



7 RECURRENT OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

7.1 WORKS & SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT – MAY 2026

RESOLUTION 23/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr S Triffett

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

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

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT BY Jason Branch, Works & Services Manager

BACKGROUND

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

Grading & Sheeting	Dennistoun Road, Bashan Road, Victoria Valley Road
Maintenance Grading	Browns Marsh Road,
Potholing / shouldering	Wihareja Road, Nant Lane, Dennistoun Road, Bashan road, Bluff Road, Wool Pack Road, Mark Tree Road, Dillions Road, Silver Plains
Spraying:	
Culverts / Drainage:	Cleaning culverts Pine Tier Road Cleaning culverts and drainage Gowen Brea Cleaning culverts Victoria Valley Road
Occupational Health and safety	Monthly Toolbox Meetings Day to day JSA and daily prestart check lists completed Monthly workplace inspections completed Playground inspections Drum Muster and Bag Muster training
Bridges:	
Refuse / recycling sites:	Cover Hamilton Tip twice weekly
Other:	Completion of bus shelters Hamilton Works on Waddamana Road, Black Spot Repairs in Bothwell toilets Vegetation McCullums Road Scrubbing vegetation Bothwell WTS entrance Repair storm water drain Ouse Trim trees Hamilton township Edge breaks Ellendale Road Cold mix holes Mark Tree Road Repair water break Hamilton rec and Queens Park

	Guide posts Pelham Road Replace sign Hollow tree Road Replace Street blade Allison's Road Repair stock ramps Woodsprings road Repair
Slashing:	Hollow Tree Road
Municipal Town Maintenance:	Collection of town rubbish twice weekly Maintenance of parks, cemetery, recreation ground and Caravan Park. Cleaning of public toilets, gutters, drains and footpaths. Collection of rubbish twice weekly Cleaning of toilets and public facilities General maintenance Mowing of towns and parks Town Drainage
Buildings:	
Plant:	PM 815 Triton service PM 824 Hilux service and new battery PM 821 new blade actuator (warranty) PM 845 Kenworth truck service PM 847 Ford Ranger new tyres Scales calibrated in loaders
Private Works:	Gravel supply Derwent Catchment Concrete driveway Ellendale Green waste removal resident Bothwell backhoe and truck hire.
Casuals	Cleaning toilets and gardening
Program for next 4 weeks	Grading and Re-sheeting of Municipal Roads Commence roadworks Tor Hill (Black spot) Complete roadworks Waddamana (Black Spot) Edge breaks Ellendale Road Return to Ellendale footpath and continue hot mix Tree removal Dennistoun Road Sewer line install Hamilton Office/Depot Repair bird bath Queens Park

7.2 ROAD RACE – 11 JULY 2026

RESOLUTION 26/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

THAT Council give permission and write letter of support for the usage of Pelham Road for the Pelham Tier Road Race for the Hobart Wheelers Cycle Club.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

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 Broadmarsh on Saturday July the 11th. 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 Broadmarsh Hall travelling along Broadmarsh Road and then into Pelham Road to the Crossroads and returning to the Broadmarsh Hall.

The crossroads will be marshalled by an official.

Hobart Wheelers Club have recently been granted permission from Council for an event out of Bothwell

8 CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND LEVERAGE

Nil

9 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Nil

10 MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

10.1 HAMILTON 200 YEAR CELEBRATIONS DEFERRAL FOR 12 MONTHS

RESOLUTION 24/06.2026/C

Moved: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Seconded: Cr Y Miller

THAT due to the delay in holding meetings and the rush in attempting to organize an appropriate event, together with the holding of the Local Government Elections later this year it is proposed that the Hamilton 200-year celebrations be deferred for 12 months.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT BY Stephen Mackey, General Manager

DISCUSSION

I have received three requests for the Hamilton 200 Years celebrations to be deferred. The details of these are as follows:

1. As a long-time resident of Hamilton, I was unaware of the 200 -year celebrations in October 2026 until a local informed me of the planned celebrations.

As our family have been in the district for many generations, I have a lot of memorabilia and photos which I am happy to share, but the timing is too short for me to find them in the back room and boxes.

I would like the council to consider postponing it for a year to allow myself and other residents to gather what we can find (along with being part of the committee) to help make it a successful weekend for Hamilton.

2. I have been asked to write to you in regard to the National Trust Tasmania's possible involvement in the celebrations to mark 200th anniversary of the establishment of Hamilton.

Although I'm not certain what form this involvement might take, considering the Trust does not own any properties in the area, we are happy to listen to any ideas put forward by your organising committee.

It is an important milestone, well worth making, but I am concerned that there is not a great deal of time between now and the proposed date. I imagine there is a great deal of preparation and work involved organising such an event.

Please let me know if you feel the Trust can help in some way.

3. After the meeting, a couple of weeks ago in Hamilton I was concerned that the preparations for this celebration were very much behind schedule.

As it is nearly the end of May, there are very few weeks for us to make the necessary arrangements to make this 200-year celebrations a great success.

Preparations for festivals or celebrations in communities takes a long lead time, to make sure all the community are involved and preparations are locked in well in advance.

All in the Council area want the 200-year celebrations in Hamilton to be a wonderful day and involve all the people in the surrounding areas.

I am asking council to consider that we postpone the 2026 celebrations and have it next year.

A quirky suggestion by someone in our community., was call it “**The Hamilton 200 plus one Bi Centenary Celebrations**” in 2027!!

This would give all of us time to really make the Hamilton celebrations one of a attracting many people to the village which would bring with it economic benefits.

Thank you for considering my request.

11. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

Nil

The meeting was suspended at 11.15 a.m. for a short break and reopened at 11.35 a.m.

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION 25/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Cr J Honner

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:

<i>Item Number</i>	<i>Matter</i>	
6.1	<i>Confidential Advice (Supplementary Item)</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(h)(ii) information that is provided to the council on the condition that it be kept confidential</i>

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

13. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting re-opened to the public at 11.55 a.m.

3.3 DRAFT 2013-13 RATES & CHARGES POLICY

RESOLUTION 26/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr D Meacheam

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT Council endorse Policy 2013-13 Rates & Charges Policy.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT BY Adam Wilson, Deputy General Manager

Attachment – Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the revised Rates and Charges Policy.

A review has been undertaken to ensure the policy remain current, compliant with legislation, and aligned with contemporary local government practice and operational requirements.

This policy provides a high level framework within which Council will set rates and charges to be levied on properties within its municipal area. It is intended to inform the decision making process, however does not represent the making of specific decisions with respect to property rating. Such decisions will be made annually, or as required, in accordance with relevant legislative requirements.

Council rates are a form of property tax levied by Local Government as the primary source of funding for the many mandatory and discretionary services that are provided. Rates are administered in line with the Local Government Act 1993 which allows some flexibility for each Council to make decisions that suits its local community.

As rates are a method of taxation, the total amount of rates paid may directly relate to the services used by each ratepayer.

Property values (set by the Valuer-General) play an important role in determining how much each individual ratepayer contributes to the cost of delivering Council services and activities.

All land within a Council area, except for land specifically exempt (e.g. Crown land, Council occupied land and other prescribed land) is rateable. Council also raises revenue through fees and charges, which are set, giving consideration to the cost of the service provided and any equity issues.

BACKGROUND

As part the Council's ongoing commitment to good governance, continuous improvement,

and legislative compliance, a review has been undertaken of Policy No. 2013 – 13 Rates and Charges Policy.

The review assessed the policies' relevance, clarity, usability and alignment with current legislation included in the *Local Government Act* 1993.

The revisions made to the policy are primarily in nature and include:

- clarification of responsibilities and procedural steps;
- improved alignment with contemporary governance standards;
- removal of outdated references;
- consolidation of duplicated information; and
- improved formatting to enhance readability.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Regular, structured reviews of Council policies is essential to ensure they remain contemporary, relevant, compliant with legislation and supportive of robust governance practices.

Endorsement of the revised policy will ensure that Council's policy remains current, compliant with legislation, and aligned with contemporary local government practice and operational requirements.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following legislation are relevant to this policy:

- *Local Government Act* 1993.

The Local Government Act 1993 requires Council's policy to take account of the following matters:

- a) That rates constitute taxation for the purposes of the Local Government rather than a fee for service;
- b) The value of rateable land is an indicator of the capacity of the ratepayer in respect of that land to pay rates.

The revised policy continues to meet statutory obligations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any financial implications associated with implementing this policy can be met within Council's existing budget allocations.

RISK ISSUES

Regularly reviewing and updating Council policies is essential to maintaining an effective governance framework and mitigating organisational risk. The adoption of the Rates and Charges Policy will assist in reducing the likelihood of non-compliance with legislative and regulatory obligations. Ensuring the policy remain current also provides greater clarity regarding roles, responsibilities, and procedural expectations across the organisation.

Updating the policy strengthen transparency and accountability in setting the General Rate, thereby reducing Council's exposure to operational, financial, and reputational risks. A clear contemporary policy supports consistent organisational practice and promotes informed decision making. These improvements contribute to building and maintaining community confidence in Council's governance and organisational integrity.

Conversely, failure to update this policy would increase the potential for outdated, inconsistent, or unclear practices, which may lead to governance deficiencies, reduced transparency, and elevated risk exposure. Keeping the policy current ensures that Council continues to operate in a responsible, defensible, and compliant manner.

OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Council has the following options to consider:

- Endorse the amended Rates and Charges Policy as presented;
- Request further amendments to the policy; or
- Reject the proposed amendments and retain the current version of the policy.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS / CONCLUSION

As part of Council's ongoing commitment to good governance and continuous improvement, a review was undertaken of Council's Policy 2013 – 13 Rates and Charges Policy.

The review considered the policy's relevance, clarity, and alignment with current legislative requirements, industry standards, and operational practices. The proposed amendments are the result of this review, ensuring that the policy remains current, transparent, and consistent with legislative obligations and best practice.

Key updates include:

- Updated to policy details.
- Variation to General Rate.

These amendments demonstrate Council's commitment to effective governance, responsible resource management, and maintaining community confidence in Council decision making.

It is therefore recommended that Council consider and endorse the proposed amendments and additions in the attached policy document.

4.2 COUNCIL RATES RESOLUTION 2026-2027

RESOLUTION 27/06.2026/C

Moved: Cr R Cassidy

Seconded: Deputy Mayor J Allwright

THAT Council by absolute majority, approves the following Rates Resolution for 2026-2027.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT BY Zeeshan Taugeer, Accountant

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

NOTICE OF 2026-2027 RATES & CHARGES

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Fire Service Act 1979*, the Central Highlands Council makes the following rates and charges upon rateable land within the municipal area of Central Highlands ("the municipal area") for the financial year 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 in respect to land in the municipal area which is separately valued under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*: -

Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, in the following resolutions, words defined in the *Local Government Act 1993* have the same meaning as they have in that Act.

Unless the context otherwise requires, in the following resolutions, the following words and expressions have the meaning set out below:

'Act' means the *Local Government Act 1993*.

'AAV' means the assessed annual value as determined by the Valuer-General under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001* and adjusted under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

'land' means a parcel of land which is shown as being separately valued in the valuation list prepared under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*.

'municipal area' means the valuation district of the Council under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*.

'valuation list' means, in respect of the financial year, the valuation list, supplementary valuation list or particulars of adjustment factors provided to the Council by the Valuer-General under Section 45 of the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*.

General Rate

1. Pursuant to Sections 90 and 91 of the Act, the Council makes a General Rate in respect of all rateable land (except land which is exempt pursuant to Section 87 of the Act) consisting of two components, being:

- a) **2.6523398** cents in the dollar of the AAV (“the AAV Component”); and
- b) A fixed charge of **\$524.45**.

Variation to General Rate

2. Pursuant to Section 107 of the Act, Council hereby declares by absolute majority that the AAV Component of the General Rate varies for land within the municipal area which is used or predominantly used for wind farm electricity generation – private purposes to **99.00 cents** in the dollar of AAV.

Waste Management Charge

3. Pursuant to Section 94 of the Act, Council makes a waste management service charge for land within the municipal area (including land which is otherwise exempt from rates pursuant to Section 87 of the Act, but excluding land owned by the Crown to which Council does not supply any of the following services) of **\$421.00** (“the Waste Management Service Charge”).

4. Pursuant to Sections 94 and 107 of the Act, Council hereby declares by absolute majority that the Waste Management Service Charge varies within the municipal area as follows:

- a) for land used or predominantly used for commercial purposes to which Council supplies or makes available a garbage and recycling kerbside waste collection service, Council varies the Waste Management Service Charge to **\$745.00**;
- b) for land to which Council does not supply or make available a garbage or recycling kerbside waste collection service and which is used or predominantly used for:
 - i. residential purposes;
 - ii. industrial purposes;
 - iii. public purposes;
 - iv. primary production purposes;
 - v. sporting or recreational facilities purposes; or
 - vi. quarrying or mining,

Council varies the Waste Management Service Charge to **\$281.00**; and

- c) for non-use of the land, Council varies the Waste Management Service Charge to **\$169.00**.

Fire Service Contribution

5. Pursuant to Section 93A of the Act and the provisions of the *Fire Services Act 1979* (as amended), Council makes the following service rates for land within the municipal area:
 - a) Bothwell volunteer brigade district fire rate of 0.295000 cents in the dollar on the AAV, subject to a minimum amount of **\$52.00**, in respect of all land within the Bothwell Volunteer Brigade Rating District.
 - b) a general land fire rate of **0.2672694** cents in the dollar on the AAV, subject to a minimum amount of **\$52.00**, in respect of all land within the municipal area which is not within the Bothwell Volunteer Brigade Rating District.

Separate Land

In relation to all rates and charges for the 2026/2027 year, as previously made, for the purposes of these resolutions the rates and charges shall apply to each parcel of land which is shown as being separately valued in the valuation list prepared under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*.

Instalments

6. Pursuant to Section 124 of the Act, the rates for 2026/2027 shall be payable in four instalments, the dates by which the rates are due to be paid are:

Instalment No. 1 **31 August 2026**

Instalment No. 2 **30 November 2026**

Instalment No. 3 **26 February 2027**

Instalment No. 4 **30 April 2027**

Where a ratepayer fails to pay any instalment within 21 days from the date on which it is due, the ratepayer must pay the full amount owing.

Penalty

7. Pursuant to Section 128 of the Local Government Act 1993, if any rate or instalment is not paid on or before the date it falls due, a penalty of **10%** of the unpaid instalment or part thereof, shall be applied.

Adjusted Values

8. For the purposes of this resolution, any reference to the assessed annual value includes a reference to that value as adjusted pursuant to Section 89 and Section 89A of the *Local Government Act 1993* as amended.

These rates are for the year commencing **1st July 2026 and ending 30th June 2027** and are payable to the Council at its Offices at Alexander Street, Bothwell or Tarleton Street, Hamilton.

4.3 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2026-2027

RESOLUTION 28/06.2025/C

Moved: Cr D Meacheam

Seconded: Cr R Cassidy

THAT the Council approves the Annual Budget Estimates for 2026-2027.

CARRIED

For the Motion

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

REPORT BY Zeeshan Tauqeer, Accountant

Attachment - [Draft Annual Budget Estimates for 2026-2027.](#)

BACKGROUND

Section 82 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires the General Manager to prepare budget estimates of the Council's revenue and expenditure for each financial year.

Following on from Council's Budget Workshops held on 24th March 2026, 31st March 2026 and 5th May 2026; the Draft Budget Estimates for 2026-2027 have been prepared and are submitted to Council for adoption. The budget estimates are required to be adopted by Council by Absolute Majority.

These Budget Estimates have been prepared in accordance with Council's adopted Long-Term Financial Plan and incorporate the March 2026 CPI increase of 5.1%. As a result, all expenditure and revenue projections have been adjusted by an average of 5.1% across all areas. Rate revenue has been increased by 6%, consisting of the March 2026 CPI increase of 5.1% plus 0.9%. This adjustment is intended to ensure that Council maintains a strong and sustainable fiscal position in the current economic environment

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**RESOLUTION 29/06.2026/C****Moved:** Cr R Cassidy**Seconded:** Cr J Honner

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

Item Number	Matter	
2.1	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Meeting of Council held on 19 May 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>
2.2	<i>Confirmation of the Finance Committee Minutes - Closed Session held on 9 June 2026.</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(H) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to Council on the condition it is kept confidential.</i>
5.1	<i>Council notes the Government Departments, Government Agencies and Parliamentary Members Letters and Announcements</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>
5.2	<i>Tender CHC 05-26 Supply And Stockpile Of Crushed Red Gravel</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(e) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.</i>
5.3	<i>Tender no. CHC 03-26 - Service for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Recycling Bins at Waste Transfer Stations and Collection of Recyclables</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(e) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.</i>
5.4	<i>Settlement and release agreement between Telstra and the Central Highlands Council</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(e) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal</i>
5.5	<i>Tender no. CHC 04-26 - Greta Ablution Block and Deck Addition</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(e) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal</i>

5.6	<i>Council's Vacant Land</i>	<i>Regulation 17 (2)(e) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal</i>
5.7	<i>Waddamana Bridge Replacement – Bashan Road</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>

CARRIED**For the Motion**

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

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 12.10 p.m.

13. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting re-opened to the public at 12.42 p.m.

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:

<i>Item Number</i>	<i>Matter</i>	<i>Decision</i>
2.1	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes - Closed Session of the Meeting of Council held on 19 May 2026.</i>	<i>THAT the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 May 2026 be confirmed.</i>

2.2	<i>Confirmation of the Finance Committee Minutes - Closed Session held on 9 June 2026.</i>	<i>THAT the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Finance Committee held on 9 June 2026 be received.</i>
5.1	<i>Council notes the Government Departments, Government Agencies and Parliamentary Members Letters and Announcements</i>	<i>Noted</i>
5.2	<i>Tender CHC 05-26 Supply And Stockpile Of Crushed Red Gravel</i>	<i>THAT Council accept the tender of Fieldwicks Pty Ltd</i>
5.3	<i>Tender no. CHC 03-26 - Service for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Recycling Bins at Waste Transfer Stations and Collection of Recyclables</i>	<i>THAT Council accept the tender of Thorp Waste</i>
5.4	<i>Settlement and release agreement between Telstra and the Central Highlands Council</i>	<i>Noted</i>
5.5	<i>Tender no. CHC 04-26 - Gretna Ablution Block and Deck Addition</i>	<i>THAT Council accept the tender of Jarrod Horne Builders</i>
5.6	<i>Council's Vacant Land</i>	<i>THAT Council issue a 12 month lease on those properties, subject to conditions</i>
5.7	<i>Waddamana Bridge Replacement – Bashan Road</i>	<i>Noted</i>
6.1	<i>Confidential Information</i>	<i>Noted</i>

15. CLOSURE

Mayor Triffitt thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 12.44 p.m.