



City of
LAUNCESTON

COUNCIL MINUTES

**COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2023
1.00PM**

The Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council was held at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, St John Street, Launceston:

Date: 9 February 2023

Time: 1.00pm

Certificate of Qualified Advice

Background

To comply with section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas):

1. A general manager must ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council or a council committee is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.
2. A council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless -
 - (a) the general manager certifies, in writing -
 - (i) that such advice was obtained; and
 - (ii) the general manager took the advice into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
 - (b) a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice is provided to the council or council committee with the general manager's certificate.

Certification

I certify that:

- (i) the advice of a qualified person has been sought where required;
- (ii) this advice was taken into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
- (iii) a copy of the advice, or a written transcript or summary of advice provided orally, is included with the agenda item.



**Michael Stretton
Chief Executive Officer**

AUDIO of COUNCIL MEETINGS

An audio recording of this Council Meeting, except for any part held in Closed Session, will be made in accordance with our Council Meetings - Audio Recording Policy - 14-Plx-008.

This Council Meeting was streamed live to and can be accessed at:
www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Listen.

The following information was provided to members of the public in respect of attendance at the Council Meeting.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT THE COUNCIL MEETING

At the Council Meeting, please take care to follow signage and the directions of Council Officers to ensure that physical distancing and other COVID-19 safe behaviour is observed.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - AGENDA ITEM 8

Questions received in writing by close of business Wednesday of the week prior to the Council Meeting are treated as Questions on Notice. Your question and an answer will be published in the Agenda of the Council Meeting. Questions may be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer at contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au, PO Box 396, Launceston TAS 7250, or Town Hall, St John Street, Launceston.

If attending the Council Meeting in person, you may ask up to three questions during Public Question Time. If accepted, your questions will be either answered at the Meeting, or Taken on Notice and answered at a later Council Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

When attending the Council Meeting, you will be asked if you wish to comment on an item in the Agenda. Prior to debate on that Agenda Item, you will be invited by the Chair to move to the public microphone at the doors to the Council Chambers and state your name and address.

Please note the following important information:

- Each item on the Agenda includes a Recommendation prepared by a Council Officer.
- You may speak for up to two minutes, either for or against the Recommendation.
- You may not ask questions or enter into debate with Councillors or Council Officers.
- Your statement is not to be defamatory, inappropriate or abusive, or be intended to embarrass any person, including Councillors or Council Officers.
- The Chair may direct you to stop speaking if you do not follow these rules, or if your statement repeats points that have already been made.
- Audio from our Council Meetings is streamed live via YouTube.

Your respectful contribution is welcome and appreciated.

LEGISLATIVE TERMINOLOGY - GENERAL MANAGER

At the City of Launceston, the positions of General Manager Community and Place, General Manager Organisational Services, General Manager Infrastructure and Assets and General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services do not assume the functions and powers of the term *general manager* in a legislative sense: any legislative functions and powers to be delegated to these roles will be made by Council or the Chief Executive Officer. At the City of Launceston, the title Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*. For the avoidance of doubt, *Chief Executive Officer* means *General Manager* for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* and all other legislation administered by or concerning Council.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. OPENING OF MEETING - ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	7
2. MAYORAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	7
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	7
5. COUNCIL WORKSHOPS	8
5.1. Council Workshop Report - 25 January and 2 February 2023	8
6. COUNCILLORS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATIONS	11
7. COMMUNITY REPORTS	11
7.1. Community Report - Hayden Fox (Project Coordinator) - Healthy Tasmania Pty Ltd.....	11
8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	12
8.1. Public Questions on Notice.....	12
8.1.1. Public Questions on Notice - Ray Norman - Constraints Upon Constituents - 30 January 2023	12
8.2. Public Questions Without Notice.....	13
8.2.1. Public Questions Without Notice - Ron Baines - Birchalls Building and Launceston to Hobart Highway.....	13
9. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR.....	14
9.1. Mayor's Announcements.....	14
10. QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS	15
10.1. Councillors' Questions on Notice.....	15
10.1.1. Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor T G Walker - Code of Conduct Special Committees and Building Better Regions Fund Grant - 25 January 2023.....	16
10.2. Councillors' Questions Without Notice.....	17
10.2.1. Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor T G Walker - Deed of Agreement	16

11. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS	17
12. COMMUNITY AND PLACE NETWORK	18
12.1. Appointment of Cultural Advisory Committee Members	18
13. INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS NETWORK	19
13.1. Proposed Street Name - Saxum Road, Swan Bay	19
13.2. Proposed New Street Name - Leena Rise, Dilston	21
13.3. Launceston Flood Authority Quarterly Report - October to December 2022	23
14. ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES NETWORK	24
14.1. Deed of Declaration - Building Protrusions From 73-75 St John Street, Launceston Over Criterion Place, Launceston	24
15. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK	26
15.1. Submission - Local Government Election Feedback.....	26
15.2. Northern Tasmania Development Corporation Quarterly Report - October to December 2022	41
16. CLOSED COUNCIL	42
16.1. Confirmation of the Minutes.....	42
16.2. Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor T G Walker - Lease - 11 Centre Way, Launceston	42
16.3. Late Agenda Item - DA0123/2022 - 108 Elphin Road, Newstead - Business and Professional Services - Change of Use to a Medical Centre and Construction of a New Car Park.....	42
16.4. End of Closed Session	44
17. MEETING CLOSURE.....	44
18. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE.....	45

1. OPENING OF MEETING - ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The Mayor, Councillor D C Gibson, opened the Meeting at 1.00pm.

The Mayor provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. MAYORAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There were no Mayoral Acknowledgements for this Meeting

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) - section 48

(A councillor must declare any interest that the councillor has in a matter before any discussion on that matter commences).

No Declarations of Interest were identified as part of these Minutes

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 35(1)(b)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council held on 25 January 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION

Moved Councillor A J Palmer, seconded Councillor A J Britton.

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council held on 25 January 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton

AGAINST VOTE: Nil

5. COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 8(2)(c)

5.1. Council Workshop Report - 25 January and 2 February 2023

FILE NO: SF4401

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider Council Workshops conducted since the last Council Meeting.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 8(2)(c)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, pursuant to Regulation 8(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, notes the Council Workshops conducted since the last Council Meeting, for the purposes described:

1. pre-Council Workshop conducted on 25 January 2023:

kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary Briefing - Workshop 2 of 3

Councillors were provided with information on matters related to the management of the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary.

2. notes attendance at the pre-Council Workshop conducted on 25 January 2023:

In Attendance: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton.

3. Workshop conducted on 2 February 2023:

Albert Hall Update

Councillors were provided with an update on the Albert Hall Project to date.

Councillor Professional Development - Councillor Notice of Motions, and Questions With and Without Notice

Councillors were provided with a presentation on the use of Notices of Motion and Questions With and Without Notice as ways to bring matters formally to the attention of Council as well as the performance of the Planning Authority role.

River Health Action Plan

Councillors were provided with a summary of the construction impacts of the combined drainage systems and some decision points associated with the River Health Action Plan.

Development Application Site Visit Discussion

Councillors discussed the Development Application Site Visit trial to date.

TasWater Update

Councillors were introduced to the TasWater Chief Executive Officer and received an update regarding relevant issues and developments.

Heritage List Review

Councillors received a presentation on the Heritage List Review process and discussed the upcoming requirements.

Local Government Review

Councillors received a presentation and discussed their views on the Local Government Review Stage 2 Options Paper.

Workplace Health and Safety Review - Elected Members

Councillors received a presentation and discussed their views on the Work Health and Safety Review - Elected Members.

Budget 2023/2024

Councillors received a briefing on preparation of the City of Launceston 2023/2024 budget.

4. notes attendance at the Workshop conducted on 25 January 2023:

In Attendance: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton.

Apologies: Councillor L M McMahan

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION

Moved Councillor A G Harris, seconded Councillor A E Dawkins.

That the Council Workshop Report Recommendation, minus the Planning Authority Session, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton
AGAINST VOTE: Nil

6. COUNCILLORS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATIONS

No Councillors' Leave of Absence Applications were identified as part of these Minutes

7. COMMUNITY REPORTS

(Community Reports allow an opportunity for Community Groups to provide Council with a three minute verbal presentation detailing activities of the group. This report is not intended to be used as the time to speak on Agenda Items; that opportunity exists when that Agenda Item is about to be considered. Speakers are not to request funding or ask questions of Council. Printed documentation may be left for Councillors).

7.1. Community Report - Hayden Fox (Project Coordinator) - Healthy Tasmania Pty Ltd

Hayden provided Council with a summary of the *Active Launceston* community program along which has been operating for 15 years. *Active Launceston* is a community driven partnership with the vision of improving the health and wellbeing of the community through physical activity. Hayden provided Council with a few individual stories of interest.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31

8.1. Public Questions on Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31(1)

8.1.1. Public Questions on Notice - Ray Norman - Constraints Upon Constituents - 30 January 2023

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Michael Stretton

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted in writing to the Council on 30 January 2023 by Ray Norman, have been answered by Duncan Campbell (Acting Manager Governance).

Questions:

I now ask if Council will now, and with urgency:

1. Put in place the necessary regulations and protocols that will enable Council, Councillors, and management to do in open council what they are collectively inclined to do, and apparently have already done in camera and closed council; and
2. In doing so, impose financial consequences upon constituents who persist in attempting to communicate inappropriately with Council or Council officers on any matter; and
3. Any financial imposition upon a sanctioned constituent being \$1,000 plus and determined at arms-length by a Magistrate; ...

Response:

With the exception of the Council's Customer Service Charter, the management of customer interactions is generally an operational matter, not a strategic matter for a Council decision.

The Council has established protocols with which to manage requests and enquiries made by members of the public. Those protocols accord with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas). The City of Launceston's Customer Service Charter and Unreasonable Customer and Complainant Conduct Policy include further information. Both of these documents are available on the City of Launceston's website.

The intent in applying these documents is to ensure that the resources and assets of the City of Launceston are appropriately managed. There is no intent to impose financial consequences on a constituent in the administration or exercise of these documents.

8.2. Public Questions Without Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31(2)(b)

8.2.1. Public Questions Without Notice - Ron Baines - Birchalls Building and Launceston to Hobart Highway

1. I have not noticed any information in the Examiner or indeed any other medium regarding the proposed sale of the Council owned Birchalls property. How is that progressing?

The Mayor, Councillor D C Gibson, responded by saying that Birchalls is not on the market and the public expression of interest process is due to conclude. Within the next couple of weeks Councillors will receive the outcome of that process and then the Council will be in a position to share that information with the community and document the next steps.

2. Would the Council consider lobbying the State Government for a four lane highway from Launceston to Hobart with no right turns similar to the Northern Outlet area adjacent to Lindsay Street?

The Mayor, Councillor D C Gibson, stated that at this time, the Council would not be lobbying the State Government for a four lane highway. The Mayor was noted that previous State Governments had discussed this issue and, if indeed Councillors wish to pursue the issue of a four lane highway, it would be revisited. It is not currently a position of the Council.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

9.1. Mayor's Announcements

FILE NO: SF2375

Wednesday 25 January 2023

- Conducted City of Launceston Community Recognition Awards

Thursday 26 January 2023

- Conducted two Citizenship Ceremonies at the Tramsheds Function Centre

Saturday 28 January 2023

- Attended the 2023 Lunar New Year Celebration at Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery

Wednesday 1 February 2023

- Participated in Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation Ltd Meeting

Thursday 2 February 2023

- Officiated at the Festivale Cocktail Party in City Park

Friday 3 February 2023

- Attended the Rainbow Healing Party at Sawtooth Gallery
- Attended the Launceston Greyhound Cup (represented by Councillor Dr George Razay)

Saturday 4 February 2023

- Acted as a judge and attended Festivale

Wednesday 8 February 2023

- Attended the Museum Governance Advisory Board Meeting
-

10. QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

10.1. Councillors' Questions on Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 30

(A councillor, at least seven days before an ordinary Council Meeting or a Council Committee Meeting, may give written notice to the Chief Executive Officer of a question in respect of which the councillor seeks an answer at that Meeting. An answer to a Question on Notice will be provided in writing).

10.1.1. Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor T G Walker - Code of Conduct Special Committees and Building Better Regions Fund Grant - 25 January 2023

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Michael Stretton

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, asked at the Council Meeting on 25 January 2023 by Councillor T G Walker, have been answered by Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer).

Questions:

1. If members of Special Committees (for example, a Community Representative or a Councillor) do not attend a certain number of Meetings, is that covered under the Code of Conduct for Special Committees and is there a way of addressing this?

Response:

The Codes of Conduct for Councillors and Members of Special Committees do not specify how non-attendance at Committee Meetings should be managed. This information is better placed in the Terms of Reference for each Committee where it can be noted under the Terms of Appointment. Currently, very few of the City of Launceston's Committee Terms of Reference note the number of meetings that can be missed by Committee members.

The Terms of Reference for each of the City of Launceston's Special Committees are being reviewed following the recent election. As part of this review, consideration can be given to non-attendance of members and can be included under the Terms of Appointment prior to presentation to Council for adoption.

2. Now that a final decision has been made by the Federal Government to cancel the Building Better Regions Fund grant, will the details of the Deed of Agreement with the proponent be made public?

Response:

Yes, it is intended that the details of the Building Better Regions Fund Grant will be publicly released as soon as reasonably possible.

10.2. Councillors' Questions Without Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 29

(Questions Without Notice, and any answers to those questions, are not required to be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting).

10.2.1 Councillors' Questions Without Notice - Councillor T G Walker - Deed of Agreement

- 1. When will the Deed of Agreement between the City of Launceston and Creative Holdings Pty Ltd for 41-45 Paterson Street, Launceston be made public?**

The Mayor, Councillor D C Gibson, responded that this question would be Taken on Notice and responded to in the Council Agenda of 23 February 2023.

11. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

(This item provides an opportunity for Councillors to briefly report on the activities that have been undertaken in their capacity as a representative of the Council. It is not necessary to list social functions that have been attended).

11.1. Councillor L M McMahon

- **Attended the *Future Youth* Symposium in Launceston**
- **Attended the Launceston Safer Communities Meeting**

11.2. Deputy Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood

- **Attended the *Future Youth* Symposium in Launceston**
- **Chaired the Northern Youth Committee Meeting**

11.3. Councillor S Cai

- **Interviewed candidates for the University of Tasmania Scholarship**
- **Attended the Lunar New Year Celebration**

11.4. Councillor T G Walker

- **Attended the Tamar NRM Leaders' luncheon**

12. COMMUNITY AND PLACE NETWORK

12.1. Appointment of Cultural Advisory Committee Members

FILE NO: SF7357

AUTHOR: Mengda Liu (Cultural Development Officer)

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Dan Ryan (Community and Place Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To appoint community representatives to the Cultural Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorses Dr Abbey MacDonald and Amanda Shepherd as new appointments as community representative members of the Cultural Advisory Committee.

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION

Moved Councillor T G Walker, seconded Councillor A J Britton.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton

AGAINST VOTE: Nil

13. INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS NETWORK

13.1. Proposed Street Name - Saxum Road, Swan Bay

FILE NO: DA0723/2018/SF0621

AUTHOR: Jaclyn Galea (Infrastructure Development Officer)

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Shane Eberhardt (Infrastructure and Assets Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider approval for a new street name Saxum Road for a new residential street resulting from a subdivision located at 170-1194 Windermere Road, Swan Bay (Dilston).

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government (Highways) Act 1982
Survey Co-ordination Act 1944

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, pursuant to the provisions of section 54 of the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982* and section 20E of the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944*, approves the name Saxum Road, Swan Bay which is located off Visum Chase, Swan Bay:



DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION

Moved Councillor A G Harris, seconded Councillor D H McKenzie.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton
AGAINST VOTE: Nil

13.2. Proposed New Street Name - Leena Rise, Dilston

FILE NO: SF0621

AUTHOR: Jaclyn Galea (Infrastructure Development Officer)

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Shane Eberhardt (Infrastructure and Assets Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider approval for a new street name Leena Rise, Dilston for a previously un-named residential street resulting from a subdivision located off Los Angeles Road, Dilston 28 years ago.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government (Highways) Act 1982

Survey Co-ordination Act 1944

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, pursuant to the provisions of section 54 of the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982* and section 20E of the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944*, approves the name Leena Rise, Dilston for a small road stub located off Sherborne Drive, Dilston:



DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION

Moved Councillor T G Walker, seconded Councillor A G Harris.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton
AGAINST VOTE: Nil

13.3. Launceston Flood Authority Quarterly Report - October to December 2022

FILE NO: SF4493

AUTHOR: Debbie Pickett (Personal Assistant Infrastructure and Assets Network)

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Shane Eberhardt (Infrastructure and Assets Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive the Launceston Flood Authority Quarterly Report - October to December 2022.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Launceston Flood Authority Rules, April 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, in accordance with Rule 26 of the *Launceston Flood Authority Rules, April 2020*, receives the Launceston Flood Authority Quarterly Report, October to December 2022 (ECM Document Set ID 5608669).

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION

Moved Councillor A E Dawkins, seconded Councillor A G Harris.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton
AGAINST VOTE: Nil

14. ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES NETWORK

14.1. Deed of Declaration - Building Protrusions From 73-75 St John Street, Launceston Over Criterion Place, Launceston

FILE NO: SF1664

AUTHOR: Robert Bujnowski (Properties and Legal Officer)

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Nathan Williams (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider declaring, by deed pursuant to Section 75CA of the *Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1884* (Tas), that those parts of the building located at 73-75 St John Street, Launceston which extend above the local highway known as Criterion Place, Launceston may remain so long as the building remains.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1884 (Tas)
Local Government (Highways) Act 1982

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. decides, pursuant to Section 75CA of the *Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1884* (Tas), that those parts of the building located at 73-75 St John Street, Launceston (the building) which extend over the title boundary of an adjacent local highway known as Criterion Place, Launceston (the protrusions) may remain so long as the building remains.
 2. requests the Chief Executive Officer to do all things and exercise all functions and/or powers necessary to execute a deed declaring that the protrusions may remain so long as the building remains.
 3. makes Recommendations 1. and 2. conditional upon the owner of 73-75 St John Street, Launceston paying any costs associated with the registration of such a deed in the Registry of Deeds or the office of the Recorder of Titles.
 4. notes, for the avoidance of doubt, Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by the Council pursuant to section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas).
-

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION

Moved Councillor D H McKenzie, seconded Councillor A G Harris.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton
AGAINST VOTE: Nil

15. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK

15.1. Submission - Local Government Election Feedback

FILE NO: SF7456

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: Michael Stretton

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the content of City of Launceston's submission providing feedback on the 2022 Local Government elections.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)
Local Government Amendment (Elections) Act 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorses the following as the City of Launceston's submission providing feedback in respect of the 2022 Local Government elections.

What do you think worked well with the recent local government elections?

- From the City of Launceston's perspective the administration of the General Manager's roll worked really well and the expectations and timeframes around the closing of the roll were well communicated by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC).
- Advertising and communications around the election were successful.
- The TEC website seemed to work well, however, the process was simply too slow (*refer next answer*).
- The level of engagement from the voting public was good.
- The service level provided by the City of Launceston to support the TEC was exceptional, however, the Council's role was far more significant than it needed to be.
- The role that the media played in assisting with encouraging voter participation worked well.
- The two education campaigns by Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) worked well, encouraging participation as a candidate (seat at the table) and as a community member.

Based on your experiences, what could be improved in future local government elections?

- More needs to be done to boost the standing of candidates in the community as there is still very limited recognition of the role of Local Government and that of the candidates. Voters simply do not know who the candidates are and therefore, the name recognition of the higher profile candidates presents an unfair advantage, exacerbated by the compulsory voting with potentially more people voting solely on name recognition.
 - The result of the election takes too long to achieve.
-

- The postal voting process presented significant resourcing challenges for the City of Launceston particularly towards the latter days of the polling period. For instance, the City of Launceston committed a number of employees to administering what was effectively a polling booth, with lines of people stretching out the door for much of the last couple of days in particular.
- The postal system needs review. Local Government elections should be a mix of *on the day* and postal voting as per State Government elections.
- The role that the Council plays in supporting the TEC needs addressing. Far too many people were reliant on visiting to Town Hall without adequate support from TEC. The Council is essentially paying for the TEC to administer an election, however, for the most part the Council was administering it.
- The need for better pre-thought around *Absent Voters* - no one knew what to do for those who were overseas or interstate and many reports were received that no one ever returned contact when voters tried to contact TEC.
- Better support needs to be provided for those with barriers or disabilities.
- There needs to be an enhanced system for nominations as an elected member. It is suggested to remove the two-steps and without a photograph or biography - your nomination is not accepted.
- Link the need for pre-nomination course or training to the nomination platform - ie. a nomination is not proceeded without having done the first two courses.
- Education about the role of Councillor - linked with the courses that need to be completed before the application is accepted.
- There is a need for a Working With Vulnerable People card clearance before a nomination is accepted.
- The two criteria for not being able to stand are self-regulated - under Mental Health Order or bankrupt. They either need to be cross-referenced and checked or not included.
- More education around compulsory voting needs to be provided to the community.
- Enhancement of needing to vote for Mayor, Deputy and as a Councillor, too.
- It would seem more logical that voters be asked to vote at least to the number of candidates required for each individual council - not for five when 12 are required.
- Overhaul of TEC's communication to their website and App (not active for over two years) during the count and more regular updates to the public.
- The offer of having a *helper* to assist those who need a hand, should perhaps be more widely advertised ahead so many can take advantage.
- The volume of voters that attended Town Hall, especially in the last week before polling closed, impacted the City of Launceston's regular stream of customers wishing to visit the Council's building at the Customer Service Counter - based on the unhappy feedback provided by some members of the public coming into pay for things such as parking fines, rates dog registrations and general enquiries.
- Additional clear, concise signage from the Electoral Commission would have been a bonus for directing the public to the correct counter and or the purpose of crowd/queue.

- Onsite staffing assistance from the TEC in the final days of polling to assist with voter questions and issues which delayed the Council's officers in assisting people requiring supplementary ballot papers, eg:
 - *I am enrolled in another municipality but TEC advised me to go to my nearest Council office; and*
 - *I don't know where I am enrolled but it is compulsory to vote and I don't want to get a fine.*
- More advertising about compulsory voting before the ballot packs were sent out - based on the feedback provided to Council's staff there was a lot of confusion, particularly with elderly, about the envelope with the caricature on it - many thought it was junk mail and discarded it.
- More advertising reminding people to update their electoral details in the months leading up to an election.
- Need to consider attendance or at seniors' facilities (eg. nursing homes, retirement villages) as the elderly seemed to need more assistance regarding the process of voting.

What method would you prefer to see used for voting in future local government elections - postal vote, ballot box, or ability to do either? Why?

- Local Government elections should be a mix of *on the day* and postal as per State Government elections.
- Postal voting offered as a supporting function for people unable to physically attend to vote, eg. voters travelling interstate/overseas, the elderly, etc.

Is there anything else you would like to say about the recent local government elections?

- By restricting candidates to nominate for either the position of Mayor or Deputy Mayor, any unsuccessful Mayoral candidate is excluded from consideration as Deputy Mayor and it is quite possible that the next best candidate is that person (or one of if more than one).
- Maximum tenure of two terms for Mayor - if a Mayor knows they only have two terms there is a better chance of developing a succession plan - this rarely happens in the current scenario, where the incumbent often does not make up their mind to stand for re-election until close to the end of the current term of Council.
- More user friendly signage and directions on how to vote - onsite and included in the ballot packs. A large percentage of calls to our Customer Service Centre were general enquiries from people living interstate that did not understand the process with having a property in Tasmania.

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION 1

Moved Councillor D H McKenzie, seconded Councillor A E Dawkins.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

NO VOTE WAS TAKEN AS AN AMENDMENT WAS PUT

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION 2

Moved Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, seconded Councillor J J Pentridge.

That the Motion be amended as follows:

That Council endorses the following as the City of Launceston's submission providing feedback in respect of the 2022 Local Government elections.

What do you think worked well with the recent local government elections?

- From the City of Launceston's perspective the administration of the General Manager's roll worked really well and the expectations and timeframes around the closing of the roll were well communicated by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC).
- Advertising and communications around the election were successful.
- The TEC website seemed to work well, however, the process was simply too slow (*refer next answer*).
- The level of engagement from the voting public was good.
- The service level provided by the City of Launceston to support the TEC was exceptional, however, the Council's role was far more significant than it needed to be.
- The role that the media played in assisting with encouraging voter participation worked well.
- The two education campaigns by Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) worked well, encouraging participation as a candidate (seat at the table) and as a community member.

Based on your experiences, what could be improved in future local government elections?

- More needs to be done to boost the standing of candidates in the community as there is still very limited recognition of the role of Local Government and that of the candidates. Voters simply do not know who the candidates are and therefore, the name recognition of the higher profile candidates presents an unfair advantage, exacerbated by the compulsory voting with potentially more people voting solely on name recognition.
- The result of the election takes too long to achieve.
- The postal voting process presented significant resourcing challenges for the City of Launceston particularly towards the latter days of the polling period. For instance, the City of Launceston committed a number of employees to administering what was effectively a polling booth, with lines of people stretching out the door for much of the last couple of days in particular.
- The postal system needs review. Local Government elections should be a mix of *on the day* and postal voting as per State Government elections.
- The role that the Council plays in supporting the TEC needs addressing. Far too many people were reliant on visiting to Town Hall without adequate support from TEC. The Council is essentially paying for the TEC to administer an election, however, for the most part the Council was administering it.

- The need for better pre-thought around *Absent Voters* - no one knew what to do for those who were overseas or interstate and many reports were received that no one ever returned contact when voters tried to contact TEC.
- Better support needs to be provided for those with barriers or disabilities.
- There needs to be an enhanced system for nominations as an elected member. It is suggested to remove the two-steps and without a photograph or biography - your nomination is not accepted.
- Link the need for pre-nomination course or training to the nomination platform - ie. a nomination is not proceeded without having done the first two courses.
- Education about the role of Councillor - linked with the courses that need to be completed before the application is accepted.
- There is a need for a Working With Vulnerable People card clearance before a nomination is accepted.
- The two criteria for not being able to stand are self-regulated - under Mental Health Order or bankrupt. They either need to be cross-referenced and checked or not included.
- More education around compulsory voting needs to be provided to the community.
- Enhancement of needing to vote for Mayor, Deputy and as a Councillor, too.
- It would seem more logical that voters be asked to vote at least to the number of candidates required for each individual council - not for five when 12 are required.
- Overhaul of TEC's communication to their website and App (not active for over two years) during the count and more regular updates to the public.
- The offer of having a *helper* to assist those who need a hand, should perhaps be more widely advertised ahead so many can take advantage.
- The volume of voters that attended Town Hall, especially in the last week before polling closed, impacted the City of Launceston's regular stream of customers wishing to visit the Council's building at the Customer Service Counter - based on the unhappy feedback provided by some members of the public coming into pay for things such as parking fines, rates dog registrations and general enquiries.
- Additional clear, concise signage from the Electoral Commission would have been a bonus for directing the public to the correct counter and or the purpose of crowd/queue.
- Onsite staffing assistance from the TEC in the final days of polling to assist with voter questions and issues which delayed the Council's officers in assisting people requiring supplementary ballot papers, eg:
 - *I am enrolled in another municipality but TEC advised me to go to my nearest Council office; and*
 - *I don't know where I am enrolled but it is compulsory to vote and I don't want to get a fine.*
- More advertising about compulsory voting before the ballot packs were sent out - based on the feedback provided to Council's staff there was a lot of confusion, particularly with elderly, about the envelope with the caricature on it - many thought it was junk mail and discarded it.
- More advertising reminding people to update their electoral details in the months leading up to an election.

- Need to consider attendance or at seniors' facilities (eg. nursing homes, retirement villages) as the elderly seemed to need more assistance regarding the process of voting.

What method would you prefer to see used for voting in future local government elections - postal vote, ballot box, or ability to do either? Why?

- Local Government elections should be a mix of *on the day* and postal as per State Government elections.
- Postal voting offered as a supporting function for people unable to physically attend to vote, eg. voters travelling interstate/overseas, the elderly, etc.

Is there anything else you would like to say about the recent local government elections?

- By restricting candidates to nominate for either the position of Mayor or Deputy Mayor, any unsuccessful Mayoral candidate is excluded from consideration as Deputy Mayor and it is quite possible that the next best candidate is that person (or one of if more than one).
- More user friendly signage and directions on how to vote - onsite and included in the ballot packs. A large percentage of calls to our Customer Service Centre were general enquiries from people living interstate that did not understand the process with having a property in Tasmania.

CARRIED 7:5

FOR VOTE: Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer and Councillor L M McMahon

AGAINST VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION 3

Moved Councillor T G Walker, seconded Councillor J J Pentridge.

That Council suspends Standing Orders in order to discuss the submission.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton

AGAINST VOTE: Nil

Standing Orders were suspended at 1.46pm.

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION 4

Moved Councillor A J Britton, seconded Councillor A E Dawkins.

That Council resumes Standing Orders.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton
AGAINST VOTE: Nil

Standing Orders resumed at 2.14pm

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION 5

Moved Councillor T G Walker, seconded Councillor J J Pentridge.

That the Motion be amended as follows:

That Council endorses the following as the City of Launceston's submission providing feedback in respect of the 2022 Local Government elections.

What do you think worked well with the recent local government elections?

- From the City of Launceston's perspective the administration of the General Manager's roll worked really well and the expectations and timeframes around the closing of the roll were well communicated by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC).
- Advertising and communications around the election were successful.
- The TEC website seemed to work well, however, the process was simply too slow (*refer next answer*).
- The level of engagement from the voting public was good.
- The service level provided by the City of Launceston to support the TEC was exceptional, however, the Council's role was far more significant than it needed to be.
- The role that the media played in assisting with encouraging voter participation worked well.
- The two education campaigns by Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) worked well, encouraging participation as a candidate (seat at the table) and as a community member.

Based on your experiences, what could be improved in future local government elections?

- More needs to be done to boost the standing of candidates in the community as there is still very limited recognition of the role of Local Government and that of the candidates. Voters simply do not know who the candidates are and therefore, the name recognition of the higher profile candidates presents an unfair advantage, exacerbated by the compulsory voting with potentially more people voting solely on name recognition.
- The result of the election takes too long to achieve.
- The postal voting process presented significant resourcing challenges for the City of Launceston particularly towards the latter days of the polling period. For instance, the City of Launceston committed a number of employees to administering what was effectively a polling booth, with lines of people stretching out the door for much of the last couple of days in particular.
- The postal system needs review. Local Government elections should be a mix of *on the day* and postal voting as per State Government elections.
- The role that the Council plays in supporting the TEC needs addressing. Far too many people were reliant on visiting to Town Hall without adequate support from TEC. The Council is essentially paying for the TEC to administer an election, however, for the most part the Council was administering it.
- The need for better pre-thought around *Absent Voters* - no one knew what to do for those who were overseas or interstate and many reports were received that no one ever returned contact when voters tried to contact TEC.
- Better support needs to be provided for those with barriers or disabilities.
- There needs to be an enhanced system for nominations as an elected member. It is suggested to remove the two-steps.
- Link the need for pre-nomination course or training to the nomination platform.
- Education about the role of Councillor.
- There is a need for a Working With Vulnerable People card clearance before a nomination is accepted.
- The two criteria for not being able to stand are self-regulated - under Mental Health Order or bankrupt. They either need to be cross-referenced and checked or not included.
- More education around compulsory voting needs to be provided to the community.
- Enhancement of needing to vote for Mayor, Deputy and as a Councillor, too.
- It would seem more logical that voters be asked to vote at least to the number of candidates required for each individual council - not for five when 12 are required.
- Overhaul of TEC's communication to their website and App (not active for over two years) during the count and more regular updates to the public.
- The offer of having a *helper* to assist those who need a hand, should perhaps be more widely advertised ahead so many can take advantage.
- The volume of voters that attended Town Hall, especially in the last week before polling closed, impacted the City of Launceston's regular stream of customers wishing to visit the Council's building at the Customer Service Counter - based on the unhappy feedback provided by some members of the public coming into pay for things such as parking fines, rates dog registrations and general enquiries.

- Additional clear, concise signage from the Electoral Commission would have been a bonus for directing the public to the correct counter and or the purpose of crowd/queue.
- Onsite staffing assistance from the TEC in the final days of polling to assist with voter questions and issues which delayed the Council's officers in assisting people requiring supplementary ballot papers, eg:
 - *I am enrolled in another municipality but TEC advised me to go to my nearest Council office; and*
 - *I don't know where I am enrolled but it is compulsory to vote and I don't want to get a fine.*
- More advertising about compulsory voting before the ballot packs were sent out - based on the feedback provided to Council's staff there was a lot of confusion, particularly with elderly, about the envelope with the caricature on it - many thought it was junk mail and discarded it.
- More advertising reminding people to update their electoral details in the months leading up to an election.
- Need to consider attendance or at seniors' facilities (eg. nursing homes, retirement villages) as the elderly seemed to need more assistance regarding the process of voting.

What method would you prefer to see used for voting in future local government elections - postal vote, ballot box, or ability to do either? Why?

- Local Government elections should be a mix of *on the day* and postal as per State Government elections.
- Postal voting offered as a supporting function for people unable to physically attend to vote, eg. voters travelling interstate/overseas, the elderly, etc.

Is there anything else you would like to say about the recent local government elections?

- By restricting candidates to nominate for either the position of Mayor or Deputy Mayor, any unsuccessful Mayoral candidate is excluded from consideration as Deputy Mayor and it is quite possible that the next best candidate is that person (or one of if more than one).
- More user friendly signage and directions on how to vote - onsite and included in the ballot packs. A large percentage of calls to our Customer Service Centre were general enquiries from people living interstate that did not understand the process with having a property in Tasmania.
- Consider the development of education opportunities for school aged students.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton
AGAINST VOTE: Nil

THE MOTION AS AMENDED IS THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION 6

Moved Councillor A G Harris, seconded Councillor T G Walker.

That the Motion be amended as follows:

That Council endorses the following as the City of Launceston's submission providing feedback in respect of the 2022 Local Government elections.

What do you think worked well with the recent local government elections?

- From the City of Launceston's perspective the administration of the General Manager's roll worked really well and the expectations and timeframes around the closing of the roll were well communicated by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC).
- Advertising and communications around the election were successful.
- The TEC website seemed to work well, however, the process was simply too slow (*refer next answer*).
- The level of engagement from the voting public was good.
- The service level provided by the City of Launceston to support the TEC was exceptional, however, the Council's role was far more significant than it needed to be.
- The role that the media played in assisting with encouraging voter participation worked well.
- The two education campaigns by Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) worked well, encouraging participation as a candidate (seat at the table) and as a community member.

Based on your experiences, what could be improved in future local government elections?

- More needs to be done to boost the standing of candidates in the community as there is still very limited recognition of the role of Local Government and that of the candidates. Voters simply do not know who the candidates are and therefore, the name recognition of the higher profile candidates presents an unfair advantage, exacerbated by the compulsory voting with potentially more people voting solely on name recognition.
- The result of the election takes too long to achieve.
- The postal voting process presented significant resourcing challenges for the City of Launceston particularly towards the latter days of the polling period. For instance, the City of Launceston committed a number of employees to administering what was effectively a polling booth, with lines of people stretching out the door for much of the last couple of days in particular.
- The postal system needs review. Local Government elections should be a mix of *on the day* and postal voting as per State Government elections and review the need for a candidate booklet.

- The role that the Council plays in supporting the TEC needs addressing. Far too many people were reliant on visiting to Town Hall without adequate support from TEC. The Council is essentially paying for the TEC to administer an election, however, for the most part the Council was administering it.
- The need for better pre-thought around *Absent Voters* - no one knew what to do for those who were overseas or interstate and many reports were received that no one ever returned contact when voters tried to contact TEC.
- Better support needs to be provided for those with barriers or disabilities.
- There needs to be an enhanced system for nominations as an elected member. It is suggested to remove the two-steps.
- Link the need for pre-nomination course or training to the nomination platform.
- Education about the role of Councillor - linked with the courses that need to be completed before the application is accepted.
- There is a need for a Working With Vulnerable People card clearance before a nomination is accepted.
- The two criteria for not being able to stand are self-regulated - under Mental Health Order or bankrupt. They either need to be cross-referenced and checked or not included.
- More education around compulsory voting needs to be provided to the community.
- Enhancement of needing to vote for Mayor, Deputy and as a Councillor, too.
- It would seem more logical that voters be asked to vote at least to the number of candidates required for each individual council - not for five when 12 are required.
- Overhaul of TEC's communication to their website and App (not active for over two years) during the count and more regular updates to the public.
- The offer of having a *helper* to assist those who need a hand, should perhaps be more widely advertised ahead so many can take advantage.
- The volume of voters that attended Town Hall, especially in the last week before polling closed, impacted the City of Launceston's regular stream of customers wishing to visit the Council's building at the Customer Service Counter - based on the unhappy feedback provided by some members of the public coming into pay for things such as parking fines, rates dog registrations and general enquiries.
- Additional clear, concise signage from the Electoral Commission would have been a bonus for directing the public to the correct counter and or the purpose of crowd/queue.
- Onsite staffing assistance from the TEC in the final days of polling to assist with voter questions and issues which delayed the Council's officers in assisting people requiring supplementary ballot papers, eg:
 - *I am enrolled in another municipality but TEC advised me to go to my nearest Council office; and*
 - *I don't know where I am enrolled but it is compulsory to vote and I don't want to get a fine.*
- More advertising about compulsory voting before the ballot packs were sent out - based on the feedback provided to Council's staff there was a lot of confusion, particularly with elderly, about the envelope with the caricature on it - many thought it was junk mail and discarded it.

- More advertising reminding people to update their electoral details in the months leading up to an election.
- Need to consider attendance at seniors' facilities (eg. nursing homes, retirement villages) as the elderly seemed to need more assistance regarding the process of voting.

What method would you prefer to see used for voting in future local government elections - postal vote, ballot box, or ability to do either? Why?

- Local Government elections should be a mix of *on the day* and postal as per State Government elections.
- Postal voting offered as a supporting function for people unable to physically attend to vote, eg. voters travelling interstate/overseas, the elderly, etc.

Is there anything else you would like to say about the recent local government elections?

- By restricting candidates to nominate for either the position of Mayor or Deputy Mayor, any unsuccessful Mayoral candidate is excluded from consideration as Deputy Mayor and it is quite possible that the next best candidate is that person (or one of if more than one).
- More user friendly signage and directions on how to vote - onsite and included in the ballot packs. A large percentage of calls to our Customer Service Centre were general enquiries from people living interstate that did not understand the process with having a property in Tasmania.
- Consider the development of education opportunities for school aged students.

LOST 3:9

FOR VOTE: Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker and Councillor J J Pentridge

AGAINST VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahan, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION 7

Moved Councillor D H McKenzie, seconded Councillor A E Dawkins.

That Council endorses the following as the City of Launceston's submission providing feedback in respect of the 2022 Local Government elections.

What do you think worked well with the recent local government elections?

- From the City of Launceston's perspective the administration of the General Manager's roll worked really well and the expectations and timeframes around the closing of the roll were well communicated by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC).

- Advertising and communications around the election were successful.
- The TEC website seemed to work well, however, the process was simply too slow (*refer next answer*).
- The level of engagement from the voting public was good.
- The service level provided by the City of Launceston to support the TEC was exceptional, however, the Council's role was far more significant than it needed to be.
- The role that the media played in assisting with encouraging voter participation worked well.
- The two education campaigns by Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) worked well, encouraging participation as a candidate (seat at the table) and as a community member.

Based on your experiences, what could be improved in future local government elections?

- More needs to be done to boost the standing of candidates in the community as there is still very limited recognition of the role of Local Government and that of the candidates. Voters simply do not know who the candidates are and therefore, the name recognition of the higher profile candidates presents an unfair advantage, exacerbated by the compulsory voting with potentially more people voting solely on name recognition.
- The result of the election takes too long to achieve.
- The postal voting process presented significant resourcing challenges for the City of Launceston particularly towards the latter days of the polling period. For instance, the City of Launceston committed a number of employees to administering what was effectively a polling booth, with lines of people stretching out the door for much of the last couple of days in particular.
- The postal system needs review. Local Government elections should be a mix of *on the day* and postal voting as per State Government elections.
- The role that the Council plays in supporting the TEC needs addressing. Far too many people were reliant on visiting to Town Hall without adequate support from TEC. The Council is essentially paying for the TEC to administer an election, however, for the most part the Council was administering it.
- The need for better pre-thought around *Absent Voters* - no one knew what to do for those who were overseas or interstate and many reports were received that no one ever returned contact when voters tried to contact TEC.
- Better support needs to be provided for those with barriers or disabilities.
- There needs to be an enhanced system for nominations as an elected member. It is suggested to remove the two-steps.
- Link the need for pre-nomination course or training to the nomination platform.
- Education about the role of Councillor.
- There is a need for a Working With Vulnerable People card clearance before a nomination is accepted.
- The two criteria for not being able to stand are self-regulated - under Mental Health Order or bankrupt. They either need to be cross-referenced and checked or not included.
- More education around compulsory voting needs to be provided to the community.

- Enhancement of needing to vote for Mayor, Deputy and as a Councillor, too.
- It would seem more logical that voters be asked to vote at least to the number of candidates required for each individual council - not for five when 12 are required.
- Overhaul of TEC's communication to their website and App (not active for over two years) during the count and more regular updates to the public.
- The offer of having a *helper* to assist those who need a hand, should perhaps be more widely advertised ahead so many can take advantage.
- The volume of voters that attended Town Hall, especially in the last week before polling closed, impacted the City of Launceston's regular stream of customers wishing to visit the Council's building at the Customer Service Counter - based on the unhappy feedback provided by some members of the public coming into pay for things such as parking fines, rates dog registrations and general enquiries.
- Additional clear, concise signage from the Electoral Commission would have been a bonus for directing the public to the correct counter and or the purpose of crowd/queue.
- Onsite staffing assistance from the TEC in the final days of polling to assist with voter questions and issues which delayed the Council's officers in assisting people requiring supplementary ballot papers, eg:
 - *I am enrolled in another municipality but TEC advised me to go to my nearest Council office; and*
 - *I don't know where I am enrolled but it is compulsory to vote and I don't want to get a fine.*
- More advertising about compulsory voting before the ballot packs were sent out - based on the feedback provided to Council's staff there was a lot of confusion, particularly with elderly, about the envelope with the caricature on it - many thought it was junk mail and discarded it.
- More advertising reminding people to update their electoral details in the months leading up to an election.
- Need to consider attendance or at seniors' facilities (eg. nursing homes, retirement villages) as the elderly seemed to need more assistance regarding the process of voting.

What method would you prefer to see used for voting in future local government elections - postal vote, ballot box, or ability to do either? Why?

- Local Government elections should be a mix of *on the day* and postal as per State Government elections.
- Postal voting offered as a supporting function for people unable to physically attend to vote, eg. voters travelling interstate/overseas, the elderly, etc.

Is there anything else you would like to say about the recent local government elections?

- By restricting candidates to nominate for either the position of Mayor or Deputy Mayor, any unsuccessful Mayoral candidate is excluded from consideration as Deputy Mayor and it is quite possible that the next best candidate is that person (or one of if more than one).
- More user friendly signage and directions on how to vote - onsite and included in the ballot packs. A large percentage of calls to our Customer Service Centre

were general enquiries from people living interstate that did not understand the process with having a property in Tasmania.

- Consider the development of education opportunities for school aged students.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton

AGAINST VOTE: Nil

15.2. Northern Tasmania Development Corporation Quarterly Report - October to December 2022

FILE NO: SF2367/SF3532

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: Michael Stretton

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation quarterly report from October to December 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation quarterly report from October to December 2022.

Karina Damberg (Northern Tasmania Development Corporation) spoke for the Recommendation

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION

Moved Councillor A E Dawkins, seconded Councillor A G Harris.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton
AGAINST VOTE: Nil

16. CLOSED COUNCIL

This decision requires an absolute majority of Council

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council moves into Closed Session to consider the following matters:

16.1 Confirmation of the Minutes

Regulation 35(6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* states that at the next closed meeting, the minutes of a closed meeting, after any necessary correction, are to be confirmed as the true record by the council or council committee and signed by the chairperson of the closed meeting.

16.2 Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor T G Walker - Lease - 11 Centre Way, Launceston

Regulation 15(2) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* states that a part of a meeting may be closed to the public to discuss:

- (b) information that, if disclosed, is likely to confer a commercial advantage or impose a commercial disadvantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposes to conduct, business.

16.3 Late Agenda Item - DA0123/2022 - 108 Elphin Road, Newstead - Business and Professional Services - Change of Use to a Medical Centre and Construction of a New Carpark

Regulation 15(2) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* states that a part of a meeting may be closed to the public to discuss:

- (i) matters relating to actual or possible litigation taken, or to be taken, by or involving the council or an employee of the council.

16.4 End of Closed Session

To be determined in Closed Council.

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION

Moved Councillor A G Harris, seconded Councillor A J Britton.

That Council moves into Closed Session.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton
AGAINST VOTE: Nil

Council moved into Closed Session at 2.36pm
Council returned to Open Session at 3.51pm

16.4 End of Closed Session

RECOMMENDATION:

That, pursuant to Regulation 34(1)(b) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, resolves to report in Open Session that it has considered the following matters in Closed Session.

Agenda Item	Matter	Brief Description
16.1	<i>Closed Council Minutes - 25 January 2023</i>	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Closed Meeting of the City of Launceston Council held on 25 January 2023.</i>
16.2	<i>Councillors' Question on Notice - Councillor T G Walker - Lease - 11 Centre Way, Launceston</i>	<i>Question on Notice posed at Council Meeting held on 25 January 2023 was responded to as required.</i>
16.3	<i>Late Agenda Item - DA0123/2022 - 108 Elphin Road, Newstead - Business and Professional Services - Change of Use to a Medical Centre and Construction of a New Car Park</i>	<i>Councillors considered the preferred position in dealing with a planning appeal DA0123/2022 - 108 Elphin Road, Newstead - Business and Professional Services - Change of Use to a Medical Centre and Construction of a New Car Park.</i>

DECISION: 9 February 2023

MOTION

Moved Councillor A G Harris, seconded Councillor A J Britton.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Dr G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton

AGAINST VOTE: Nil

17. MEETING CLOSURE

The Mayor, Councillor D C Gibson, closed the Meeting at 3.52pm.

18. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held at 1.00pm on 23 February 2023 at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 18-28 St John Street, Launceston.