



City of
LAUNCESTON

COUNCIL AGENDA

**COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2023
1.00PM**

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council will be held at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, St John Street, Launceston:

Date: 30 November 2023

Time: 1.00pm

Certificate of Qualified Advice

Background

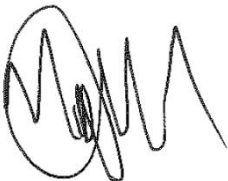
To comply with section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas):

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

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

A limit of three questions received in writing by 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 - 16 and 23 November 2023.....	8
6. COUNCILLORS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATIONS	11
7. COMMUNITY REPORTS	11
7.1. Community Report - Kim Schneiders (Creative Director) and Edwina Blush (Artist and Board Member) - Interweave Arts Association	12
8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	13
8.1. Public Questions on Notice.....	13
8.1.1. Public Questions on Notice - Ray Norman - Committee Review and Waste Management Centre.....	13
8.1.2. Public Question on Notice - Carol Fuller - Unsuccessful Community Grant Bid - Zonta/WR Prevention of Violence Towards Women Metro Bus Campaign	16
8.1.3. Public Questions on Notice - Reon Johns - Councillors' Pecuniary Interest Listing	18
8.2. Public Questions Without Notice.....	19
9. PLANNING AUTHORITY	20
9.1. DA0182/2022 - 83-93 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea - Storage - Change of Use to Contractor's Depot to Store Vehicles and Excess Materials and Carparking	20
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR.....	46
10.1. Mayor's Announcements.....	46

11. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS	48
12. QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS	48
12.1. Councillors' Questions on Notice.....	48
12.1.1. Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor D C Gibson -	
Pump Track	49
12.1.2. Councillor Questions on Notice - Councillor L M McMahon -	
Volunteer Parking Permit - Horticultural Society.....	50
12.2. Councillors' Questions Without Notice	51
13. COMMITTEE REPORTS	52
13.1. Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting - 14 August 2023	52
13.2. Audit Panel Meeting - 31 October 2023	54
13.3. Cultural Advisory Committee Meeting - 5 October 2023	57
14. INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS NETWORK.....	59
14.1. Urban Greening Strategy	59
14.2. Cataract Gorge Walkway	137
14.3. Request to Waive Road Occupation Fee - Max Jago - SunSmart	
Light Show - Alanvale Road, Newnham	141
15. ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES NETWORK	143
15.1. Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill - City of Launceston	
Feedback Submission	143
15.2. Financial Report to Council to 30 September 2023.....	148
16. MEETING CLOSURE.....	159
17. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE.....	159

1. OPENING OF MEETING - ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2. MAYORAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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).

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 16 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

5. COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

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

5.1. Council Workshop Report - 16 and 23 November 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 and attended since the last Council Meeting, for the purposes described:

1. pre-Council Workshop conducted on 16 November 2023:

YMCA Presentation

Councillors were provided with an update on the review of the potential future use of the old YMCA site at 8A Blaydon Street, Kings Meadows.

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

2. Workshop conducted on 23 November 2023:

Draft Annual Plan 2024/2025

Councillors workshopped actions for the draft 2024/2025 Annual Plan.

Expression of Interest Process - 56 Frederick Street, Launceston

Councillors discussed the Expressions of Interest received in relation to the future use of 56 Frederick Street, Launceston.

Road Occupation Fee

Councillors discussed the development of a road occupation fee policy.

Northern Gateway Project

Councillors were provided with information on projects to improve Launceston's gateways.

Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association Site Visit

Councillors toured the Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association facilities.

Carr Villa Site Visit

Councillors toured facilities at Carr Villa.

In Attendance: Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor D C Gibson, 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
Apologies: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood

REPORT:

Regulation 8(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* says that the Agenda of an Ordinary Council Meeting is to include the date and purpose of any Council Workshops held since the last Meeting.

Attendance is recorded for noting and reporting in the Council's Annual Report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

6. COUNCILLORS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATIONS

No Councillors' Leave of Absence Applications have been identified as part of this Agenda.

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 - Kim Schneiders (Creative Director) and Edwina Blush (Artist and Board Member) - Interweave Arts Association

FILE NO: SF6368

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: Shane Eberhardt

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

Kim and Edwina will provide information to Council on who and what the Interweave Arts Association is and their creative input into the Inveresk Cultural Precinct.

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 - Committee Review and Waste Management Centre

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Shane Eberhardt

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions [included as received], submitted to the Council in writing on 8 November 2023 by Ray Norman have been answered by Michelle Ogulin (Acting General Manager Community and Place Network), Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network) and Kathryn Pugh (Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network).

Questions:

1. Will Council that is the elected representatives proactively initiate a review of the Council's advisory committee strategy and immediately revise protocols in acknowledgement of the dysfunctionality and the disconnects built into advisory committee protocols do so on the grounds of nonperformance and as a consequence immediately disband the so-called Homeless Action Committee along with others over time and put in place a standalone independent expert housing advisory forum that tasks the proposed haf to provide citizens and ratepayers with a permanent voice in the process of decision making relative to 21stC housing opportunities in the municipality?

Response:

The City of Launceston disagrees with the suggestion that its Advisory Committees are dysfunctional and believes that they play an important role in providing the Council with alternative perspectives, access to expertise, advice and/or the insight that comes from lived experience as well as increased access to community sentiment in order to support the decision making process. There are currently no plans to disband the Homelessness Advisory Committee.

However, a rolling review of the Council's Committees will be conducted throughout 2024 as part of a continuous improvement approach. Outcomes of the rolling review program will be considered formally as required.

2. Will Council's elected representatives proactively initiate a review of the Council's advisory committee strategy and revise its planning protocols given the State Government flagged changes to the State's planning regulations and put in place housing initiatives like those being implemented by local governance elsewhere and do so in ways relevant to the growing disquiet within the community of place makers and planners and do so being mindful of community voicelessness in civic place making and planning matters and taking account of underlying mediocrity invested the Mcburbian development syndrome that effectively delivers a class of cultural landscaping that pays no attention to the cultural realities and the places geography and then put in place an expert housing action and advisory council with ostbelgien in mind?

Response:

See response provided in Question 1.

3. Will Council that is the elected representatives proactively initiate a performance review of the Council's waste management centre as a Council cost centre with an aim to restructuring the operation towards corporatising it as a standalone community enterprise or as a community owned cooperative that pays returns dividends to its community ownership as either a social dividend or a direct fiscal dividend commensurate with their fiscal and social investments in the operation over time and tied to property ownership?

Response:

The resale shop and recycling centre is operated by a not for profit, Launceston City Mission (LCM). The primary objective in operating the resale shop and recycling centre is to maximise the diversion of materials from landfill through retail, recycling and value adding activities. The secondary objective is for the operator to train and employ people from disadvantaged backgrounds, or those who are long term unemployed or unskilled, at the resale shop to achieve social benefits. This arrangement provides services to operate the recycling centre, resale shop and recover resources from the walking floor at the Launceston Waste Centre (LWC).

LCM completed year two of their five year contract to operate the recycling centre and resale shop facilities. Recovery volumes have remained consistent or slightly decreased in comparison to the previous year. Statistics for 2022/2023 are as follows:

- Over 51,000 vehicles visited the Recycling Centre, 5,000 more visitations than last year.*
- 1,635 tonnes of cardboard, comingled, tyres, e-waste, batteries, paint, soft plastics and metals were recycled, which is slightly more than 2021/2022 volumes.*
- 12 tonnes of polystyrene were recycled which is equivalent to 2,160m³ being diverted from landfill.*
- 4,353 mattresses were stripped and the inner springs recycled. This is approximately 6,800m³ of waste diverted from landfill.*

- *Walking floor resource recovery diverted an additional 195 tonnes (3,050m³) from landfill for the 2022/2023 reporting year.*
- *Over 4,700m³ was diverted from landfill through sales at the resale shop. This is equivalent to diverting 4.7% of waste from landfill.*
- *There were over 61,600 customers at the resale shop during 2022/2023 - an increase of 5,600 customers from last year.*
- *The resale shop had an income of \$748,500 - an increase of about \$150,000 from last year. A total of \$270,000 was invested into social enterprises for youth and children's programs operated by Launceston City Mission.*
- *The contract employed 12 workers or 9.95 Full Time Equivalent positions. Eight volunteers worked in the recycling centre and resale shop amounting to 4,500 volunteer hours.*

The LWC, including the shop and recovery centre, has an operational cost in excess of \$7m a year and requires capital investment in excess of \$30m over the next decade. To support the operations of the LWC there is specialised plant and professional services to manage landfill development and environmental compliance. A community owned cooperative is not considered a suitable management structure for these operations.

8.1.2. Public Question on Notice - Carol Fuller - Unsuccessful Community Grant Bid - Zonta/WR Prevention of Violence Towards Women Metro Bus Campaign

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Shane Eberhardt

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council in writing on 16 November 2023 by Carol Fuller, has been answered by Michelle Ogulin (Acting General Manager Community and Place Network).

Questions:

1. In light of our unsuccessful bid to secure a Community Grant for our Zonta/WR *Prevention of Violence Towards Women*, metro bus campaign and considering the growing violence towards women: 43 women and 11 children murdered in family violence so far this year (six women killed in the last two weeks), what role does/could/should the City of Launceston Council have in raising awareness and educating the community in order to provide social justice and visible action to bring cultural and attitudinal change in the issue of violence against women and children?

Response:

The City of Launceston community grants program is designed to fund projects which directly benefit the Launceston community through social connections and community participation. Similar public education campaigns on metro buses, such as the QUIT campaign and the recent Give Autism A Go campaign, were not funded via the Council's Community Grants Program. It is unlikely they would be funded if they did apply due to the nature of the project (marketing). Whilst the significance of the domestic violence message and the community need is recognised, community grant projects need to have a more direct impact on those immediately in need, rather than a broader approach such as a proposed marketing campaign.

With respect to what the Council is undertaking, it is participating in the 16 Days of Activism Walk. This walk is important for raising awareness about family and domestic violence in the community. The City of Launceston is also committed to providing a safe and supportive workplace for its 500 employees should any of them experience family violence. This includes 15 days' paid family violence leave, financial assistance of up to \$5,000 and changes to work patterns, amongst other support items.

The Council also runs the Launceston Safer Communities Partnership (LSCP) which is currently under review. However, family and domestic violence has been a frequent topic of discussion at the partnership meetings, especially around practical measures that can be provided, such as the current investigation into DV Safe Phones for the community. The City of Launceston will continue to work with the LSCP around ways it can improve family and domestic violence and education to the community.

8.1.3. Public Questions on Notice - Reon Johns - Councillors' Pecuniary Interest Listing

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Shane Eberhardt

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council in writing on 22 November 2023 by Reon Johns, has been answered by Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network).

Questions:

1. Is there a list of Councillor's pecuniary interests? If so, how can a resident gain a copy of this list?

Response:

Pecuniary interests are declared at Council Meetings and a register is maintained of these. They are also recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting when declared.

The Local Government Act 1993 (Tas), Part 5 - Pecuniary Interests (54) states that:

- (2) A person, by notice in writing to the General Manager, may apply to inspect the register of interests.*
 - (3) On receipt of an application, the General Manager is to allow the applicant to inspect the register of interests.*
-

8.2. Public Questions Without Notice

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

9. PLANNING AUTHORITY

Under the provisions of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, Council acts as a Planning Authority in regard to items included in Agenda Item 9 - Planning Authority.

9.1. DA0182/2022 - 83-93 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea - Storage - Change of Use to Contractor's Depot to Store Vehicles and Excess Materials and Carparking

FILE NO: DA0182/2022

AUTHOR: Duncan Payton (Town Planner)

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Michelle Ogulin (Community and Place Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider and determine a development application pursuant to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applicant:	Hazell Bros Investments Pty Ltd
Property:	83-93 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea
Zoning:	Light Industrial
Receipt Date:	6/04/2022
Validity Date:	14/09/2023
Further Information Request:	14/04/2022
Further Information Received:	26/04/2023
Deemed Approval:	1/12/2023
Representations:	Five

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council - 2 November 2023 - Agenda Item 9.1 - DA0182/2022 - 83-93 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea - Storage - Change of Use to Contractor's Depot to Store Vehicles and Excess Materials and Carparking - Item was Laid on the Table

Council - 12 October 2015 - Agenda Item 8.1- DA0176/2015 - 69, 73-75 and 77-79 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea - Manufacturing and Processing - batching plant subdivision and consolidation of three lots with no new lots created, extension of batching plant to proposed Lot 1a and Crown land (CT125392/1) and Service Industry - change of use to automotive mechanic (CT16756/2)

DA0516/2018 - 83-93 Lilydale Road Rocherlea - Storage - Construction of earthworks to fill and level site - provided for the construction of earth works to fill and level the site. This included capping of existing unapproved fill and included a condition requiring further planning approval before the site was used for storage of goods or materials. Under delegated report - 14 December 2018

PLE0006/2022 - enforcement notice issued regarding the use and development of the site for vehicle parking and storage of materials without approval

STANDARDS REQUIRING PLANNING DISCRETION:

- 18.3.1 P1 - All uses - Hours of operation
- 18.3.1 P3 - All uses - Commercial vehicle movements
- 18.4.4 P1 - Outdoor storage areas
- C2.5.1 P1 - Car parking numbers
- C2.6.1 P1 - Construction of parking areas

RECOMMENDATION:

That, in accordance with sections 51 and 57 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston, a permit be granted for DA0182/2022 - Storage - change of use to contractor's depot to store vehicles and excess materials and car parking at 83-93 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea, subject to the following conditions:

1. ENDORSED PLANS AND DOCUMENTS

The use and development must be carried out in accordance with the endorsed plans and documents to the satisfaction of the Manager City Development unless modified by a condition of the Permit:

- a. Site Plan, 83-93 Lilydale Road, version 2, dated 18/09/2023.
- b. Locality Plan, 83-93 Lilydale Road, version 2, dated 18/09/2023.
- c. Rising Main GIS Locality, prepared by PDA, 83-93 Lilydale Road, dated 15/11/2022.
- d. Marked up image of areas to be sealed, undated.

2. LEGAL TITLE

All development and use associated with the proposal must be confined to the legal title of the subject land except construction of access from the adjoining Crown land.

3. HOURS OF CONSTRUCTION

Construction works must only be carried out between the hours of:

Monday to Friday - 7.00am to 6.00pm

Saturday - 8.00am to 5.00pm

No works on Sunday or Public Holidays

4. TASWATER

The development must comply with the requirements of TasWater as detailed in the form Submission to Planning Authority Notice, Reference No. TWDA 2022/00528-LCC, dated 09/01/2023 and attached to the permit.

5. HOURS OF OPERATION

1. The operation of the car park must be confined to:
 - a. 6.00am and 6.00pm - Monday to Friday;
 - b. 6:30am and 1:30pm - Saturdays; and
 - c. Closed Sunday and Public Holidays.
2. The operation of vehicles within the storage area must be confined to:
 - a. 6:30am and 5:30pm - Monday to Friday;
 - b. 7.00am and 1.00pm - Saturdays; and
 - c. Closed Sunday and Public Holidays.

6. SITE LANDSCAPING PLAN

Within six weeks of the date of the coming into effect of this permit, a landscape plan must be submitted for approval by the Manager City Development. The plan must be prepared by a suitably qualified person, drawn to scale and include the following details:

- a. screen fencing to a height of 2.1m along the full length of the frontage boundary with Lilydale Road;
- b. landscaping, to provide a dense screen buffer, not less than 5m wide, of trees and shrubs able to attain a height of between 1m and 5m in front of the screen fence for the full length of the frontage (including a schedule of all proposed trees, shrubs and groundcover including common name and size at maturity);
- c. a. and b. may be incorporated into a landscaped earthen mound achieving not less than 2.1m high solid screening and 5m high landscape screen; and
- d. suitable irrigation or a fixed sprinkler system for the watering of landscaped areas.

Once approved by the Manager City Development, the plan will be endorsed and will form part of the permit. The landscaping must be:

- e. completed within three months of its endorsement by the Manager City Development; and
- f. maintained and not removed, destroyed or lopped without the written consent of the Council.

7. DRIVEWAY AND PARKING AREA CONSTRUCTION

Before the use commences, areas set aside for parking vehicles and access lanes as shown on the endorsed plans must:

- a. be properly constructed to such levels that they can be used in accordance with the plans;
- b. be surfaced with an impervious all weather seal - including the loop road in addition to the area shown on the endorsed marked up image;
- c. be adequately drained to prevent stormwater being discharged to neighbouring property;
- d. be line-marked or otherwise delineated to indicate each car space and access lanes.
- e. include two motorcycle parking bays; and
- f. include delineated safe pedestrian pathways in accordance with the applicable Australian Standard.

Parking areas and access lanes must be kept available for these purposes at all times and maintained for the life of the development.

8. USE OF CAR PARK

- a. Use of the car park must not commence prior to the sealing of the car park, manoeuvring areas and loop road as required by condition 7.
- b. The use of the car park is limited to light vehicles and must not be used for the parking or storage of trucks or trailers.

9. DAMAGE TO THE COUNCIL'S INFRASTRUCTURE

The developer is liable for all costs associated with the repair of damage to the Council's infrastructure resulting from non-compliance with the conditions of the Planning Permit and any by-law or legislation relevant to the development activity on the site. Damage may also include the undertaking of unauthorised works to the Council's infrastructure such as driveways, footpaths and stormwater infrastructure. The developer will also be liable for all reasonable costs associated with the enforcement of compliance with the conditions, by-laws and legislation relevant to the development activity on the site.

10. SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prior to the commencement of the development works the applicant must install all necessary silt fences and cut-off drains to prevent the soil, gravel and other debris from escaping the site. Additional works may be required on complex sites. No material or debris is to be transported onto the road reserve (including the nature strip, footpath and road pavement). Any material that is deposited on the road reserve as a result of the development activity is to be removed by the applicant. The silt fencing, cut off drains and other works to minimise erosion are to be maintained on the site until such time as the site has revegetated sufficiently to mitigate erosion and sediment transport.

11. CONTROL OF DUST EMISSIONS

Dust emissions from the land must be controlled to the extent necessary to prevent environmental nuisance beyond the boundary of the land during development and use.

Such control must include, but not be limited to:

- automated watering of material storage bays; and
 - regular watering of roadways or sealing of roadways
- and be to the satisfaction of the Manager City Development.

12. COVERING OF VEHICLES

Vehicles carrying loads containing material which may blow, or spill must be equipped with effective control measures to prevent the escape of the materials from the vehicles when they leave the land or travel on public roads. Effective control measures may include tarpaulins or load dampening.

13. CONTROL OF NOISE EMISSIONS

Where human sleep disturbance may be caused by the noise from the activity or transport movements from the activity, such noise emissions must be controlled to the extent necessary to prevent environmental nuisance. This may include restricting operating hours.

14. EXTERIOR AND SECURITY LIGHTING

Exterior lighting and security lighting must be baffled to contain direct light to the site and comply with the Australian Standard AS4282 *Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting* or any subsequent versions.

15. SPILL COLLECTION BUND

Any and all environmentally hazardous materials including all chemicals, fuels and oils, held on the land must be stored and handled within a spill collection bund or spill trays which are designed to contain at least 110% of the volume of the largest storage vessel. The spill containment system must be constructed with materials that will prevent contamination of ground water and soil.

16. STORMWATER

No liquids, other than unpolluted rainwater, are to be allowed to discharge or drain to the Council's stormwater system or receiving water bodies or watercourses.

Notes

A. General

This permit was issued based on the proposal documents submitted for DA0182/2022. You should contact the Council with any other use or developments, as they may require the separate approval of the Council. The Council's Planning Staff can be contacted on 6323 3000.

This permit takes effect after:

- a. The 14 day appeal period expires; or*
- b. Any appeal to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Appeal Tribunal (TASCAT) is withdrawn or determined; or*
- c. Any agreement that is required by this permit pursuant to Part V of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 is executed; or*
- d. Any other required approvals under this or any other Act are granted.*

The permit lapses after a period of two years if the development or use has not substantially commenced within that period. An extension may be granted subject to the provisions of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 as amended, by request to the Council.

B. Restrictive Covenants

The granting of this permit takes no account of any covenants applicable to the land. The permit holder and any other interested party, should make their own enquiries as to whether the proposed development is affected, restricted or prohibited by any such covenant.

If the proposal is non-compliant with any restrictive covenants, those restrictive covenants should be removed from the title prior to construction commencing or the owner will carry the liability of potential legal action in the future.

C. Appeal Provisions

A planning appeal may be instituted by lodging a notice of appeal with the Registrar of the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT).

A planning appeal may be instituted within 14 days of the date the Corporation serves notice of the decision on the applicant.

For more information see the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT) website www.tascat.tas.gov.au <<http://www.tascat.tas.gov.au>>

D. Permit Commencement

If an applicant is the only person with a right of appeal pursuant to section 61 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and wishes to commence the use or development for which the permit has been granted within that 14 day period, the Council must be so notified in writing. A copy of the Council's Notice to Waive Right of Appeal is attached.

E. Shared Access

It is noted that the access to the site is over Crown land and that TasRail also has access to its land over this Crown land and the land must be kept clear for that purpose.

F. TasRail Standard Notes

- 1. Where a building or other development is proposed to be located at a setback distance less than 50m from the boundary of the rail corridor, the occupants are likely to be exposed to train horn noise and vibration, noting that TasRail Freight Rail Services operate 24/7 and the configuration, frequency and time of these services is subject to change at any time.*
- 2. Landowners, builders/developers and prospective residents should undertake appropriate due diligence to ensure they are aware of potential exposure to train horn noise and vibration, particularly in relation to building design, material specifications and lifestyle. The train horn is a safety device that is required to be sounded twice per level crossing being on approach and on entry. The minimum duration of each train horn blow is one second. The train driver also has the discretion to sound the horn at any time he/she perceives a risk.*
- 3. Using or creating an unlicensed railway crossing or stock crossing is unsafe and strictly prohibited. Rail Safety National Law requires all private crossings to be subject to an interface agreement (licence). Where a privately owned property interfaces with a rail crossing and/or State Rail Network land please contact property@tasrail.com.au to discuss the necessary authorisations and licencing process.*
- 4. Stormwater or effluent is not permitted to be discharged onto rail land or into the rail drainage system. Should there be a requirement for a service or asset to be installed on rail land in order to connect into an authorised stormwater or other outlet, a separate TasRail Permit is required and will only be approved subject to terms and conditions (costs apply). A Permit Application Form is available by contacting property@tasrail.com.au.*
- 5. Any excavation within 3m of the rail boundary line requires a separate TasRail Permit from property@tasrail.com.au in accordance with section 44 of the Rail Infrastructure Act 2009. A minimum of seven business day's notice is required, but earlier engagement is recommended.*

6. *Rail land is not for private use and should not be encroached for any purpose including for gardens, storage, keeping of animals etc. Dumping of rubbish including green waste into the rail corridor is not permitted.*
7. *No obstruction, installation or works of any kind are permitted inside railway land for any purpose including for structures, unauthorised vehicles, drainage, water pipes, stormwater discharge, electrical or service infrastructure, storage of materials, vegetation clearing, inspections etc. Consideration should also be given to the orientation and siting of above ground structures on adjoining land as well as landscaping to ensure there is no potential to obscure or obstruct the line of sight with respect to a railway crossing.*
8. *As per the Rail Infrastructure Act 2007, the Rail Infrastructure Manager (TasRail) may remove and dispose of unauthorised or unlawful service infrastructure and take such other action as it sees fit. Where this occurs, TasRail may recover its costs of doing so as a debt due to TasRail from that person and retain if applicable any proceeds of disposal. No action lies against TasRail for removing or disposing of the unauthorised or unlawful service infrastructure.*
9. *No persons should enter rail land without formal authorisation from TasRail in the form of a TasRail Permit issued by property@tasrail.com.au.*
10. *Rail Corridors are exempt from the Boundary Fences Act meaning that TasRail is not required to contribute to the cost of boundary fencing.*

G. *Storage of Dangerous Goods*

Dangerous goods/materials must be stored in accordance with the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 or any subsequent versions of the document.

REPORT:

1. UPDATE FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEETING OF 2 NOVEMBER 2023

This application for planning approval was discussed at the Council Meeting held on 2 November 2023. The application was not determined and Council resolved:

That the Item Lay on the Table for a maximum of 30 days in order to undertake further negotiation between the applicant and neighbours.

Following this, the Council's Officers met with the applicant on Tuesday, 14 November 2023 to discuss opportunities to mitigate adverse impacts from the existing concrete plant and from the proposed car park and storage area - the subject of this application. Two meetings were held at the Rocherlea Memorial Hall (Wednesday, 15 November and Thursday, 16 November 2023) to which residents were invited to discuss their concerns.

Meeting with the Applicant

Crossroads General Manager, Scott Callow, advised that additional asphalt and spray seal works in the concrete plant area would be undertaken immediately (ie. completed by end of week beginning 13 November 2023), consistent with the image below:



Image 1 - provided by Scott Callow, Crossroads General Manager.

Image shows proposed area for asphalt in black diagonal lines and area for spray seal in red diagonal lines - including area of storage bins and car parking for current proposal.

Mr. Callow further advised:

- Additional sprinklers would be installed to further dampen stored materials and reduce dust.
- A temporary enclosure around the concrete loading bay was currently being constructed with the aim for it to be installed by the end of November.
- The cost of these works (including proposed asphalt and spray sealing) is over \$100,000.

The possibility of an earthen mound, incorporating a fence, along the front boundary was discussed.

With regard to the current application, Mr. Callow advised that the sealing works, sprinklers and front fencing and landscaping will all be completed prior to the use of the car park.

Meetings with Residents/Representors

As noted, the Council's Officers arranged two informal meetings to discuss the representors concerns. For convenience, these meetings were held at the Rocherlea Memorial Hall.

Four residents attended the Wednesday meeting and two attended on Thursday. The Meetings were run as an informal discussion to provide an opportunity to discuss past and future concerns and to consider the possibility of mitigation leading to a win/win.

The residents expressed their dissatisfaction at the impact on their residential amenity of the dust and noise from the current operation and that they have suffered this for over ten years. They feel that their concerns have been largely ignored and at times treated contemptuously by both the Council and Crossroads. Consequently, the residents have no confidence that any compliance with conditions will last beyond the short term.

The residents' concerns included:

- Current hours of operation - asphalt trucks starting at 5.00am.
- Smell of asphalt.
- Spillage of materials onto Lilydale Road not properly cleaned up by the operator.
- Noise of the batching plant heard inside the dwellings.
- Noise of trucks to and from the site heard inside the dwellings - often outside prescribed hours.
- Trees will not block noise - a solid wall would be better.
- The street sweeper should sweep the site daily to reduce dust.
- The car park will be used for trucks that will start early in the morning.
- Concrete dust covers houses and cars - frequent washing required.
- Dust enters dwellings and outbuildings - even inside cupboards.
- Has been going on for 11 years - why must the residents police this?
- No faith in the system to rectify the problem - a well-built car park will not fix it.

The strong message from the residents was that they believed the asphalt plant and the concrete plant were in an inappropriate location and that more needed to be done by both the operators and the Council to reduce the adverse impact these activities had on the amenity of the residents opposite the site.

Conclusion

The concrete and asphalt facilities have developed and grown over a number of years and have been impacting the residents opposite the site for most of that time. Residents have made multiple complaints to the Council without satisfactory result and whilst remaining hopeful, have little confidence that any improvements will last.

Refusal of the current proposal will likely have no noticeable impact on the current issues experienced by the residents. Rectification or at least significant mitigation of the issues relies upon the active and continued participation of all parties towards a common goal. The operators must be willing to actively seek improvement and to comply with permit conditions. The residents must be willing to continue to bring non-compliance to the immediate attention of the Council. The Council must be willing to actively and promptly address matters of non-compliance.

Notwithstanding the need for active cooperation between the parties to resolve existing issues, the current development application is limited to the site of the proposed car park and storage of surplus materials. Despite the retrospective nature of the current application, the past performance of the adjoining sites is of only incidental relevance in the assessment of the proposal against the provisions of the planning scheme. The operation of the adjoining use cannot be grounds for refusal of this proposal and similarly approval of this proposal cannot be conditional upon improvements to the adjoining uses.

However, the works proposed for the concrete plant site to increase the area of sealed surfaces, to screen the plant and to add additional sprinklers are seen as a positive outcome. Noting that to be effective, the area will need to be swept regularly and the watering system will need to be turned on.

With regard to the current application and the discussions with the operators and the representors, the recommended permit conditions have been modified as necessary and:

- Require the landscape screen to include trees and shrubs from 1m to 5m in height and planted in a manner to create a dense screen buffer.
- Allow the screen fence and landscape requirements to be incorporated into a landscaped earthen mound achieving not less than 2.1m high solid screening and 5m high landscape screen.
- Require sealing of the area of the site proposed in figure 1 plus the loop road through the site.
- Require daily sweeping of the access and manoeuvring areas for the materials storage.
- Limit the use of the car park to light vehicles.
- Require site lighting to comply with the appropriate Australian Standard.

2. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal seeks approval for the development of a car park to be used by employees and customers of, and visitors to, the adjacent Crossroads concrete batching plant.

The proposal also includes the use of the site for the storage of excess materials (such as road base, concrete gravels or products and the like).

It is noted that the proposed car park has been developed and the site has been so used for some time. The application is lodged in response to enforcement actions taken by appropriate Officers of the Council.

It is further noted, and discussed in the assessment, that the proposal seeks hours of operation in excess of those approved (DA0516.2018) for the adjacent concrete batching site.

In response to representations, the proponents have advised:

Hazell Bros would like to advise around the representations received by the LCC for the DA0182/2022 that they would undertake the required mitigation measures as detailed being landscaping (possible bund wall) or screening on the front boundary of the property and look at the minimisation of the dust and wind-blown issues being experienced for the site by way of sprinklers and roadway watering as required as well as possible surface works on roadways that cause a dust issue. Hazell Bros are keen to ensure this work is carried out in consultation with the LCC to ensure it meets the required outcomes.

Further it is noted that the Council has received numerous complaints over several years. Principally, the complaints have centered around noise from truck movements, alarms and the concrete recycler, dust, contaminated stormwater and operating hours.

The Council's Environmental Health Officers have worked with Crossroads' staff to address these concerns resulting in the following:

Noise:

- the site alarm has been set to silent following complaints in February and April 2023.
- traffic through the Crossroads concrete batching site has been made one way to reduce traffic volume and stops and starts from the access between the sites.
- the concrete recycler was repaired over the Christmas period 2022/2023.

Dust:

- sprinklers have been installed for storage bins on the concrete batching plant site.
- Crossroads' street sweeper is routinely used to sweep the yard.

Stormwater:

- an oil separator has been installed to improve the quality of stormwater from the site.

Operating Hours:

- Crossroads has advised drivers of the opening hours of the plant and advise that the drivers are reminded and the proponents seek only to breach these in response to an emergency and to advise the Council's Environmental Health Officers accordingly.
- the proponents have been advised of the restricted operating hours proposed and have advised that whilst the proposal is more closely related to their civil operations, they will accept the limitation.

Relevantly, it is noted that complaints were received in February and April this year and these related to the alarm, which is now a silent alarm. Otherwise, no complaints have been received between then and the exhibition of the proposal, indicating that the actions taken by the proponents have resulted in improvements.

It is also noted that the application is limited to the 83-93 Lilydale Road site and that continued operation of the adjoining Crossroads' sites does not form part of this proposal.

3. LOCATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER



83-93 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea (not to scale)

The subject site is a generally rectangular lot of around 1.4ha, located on the southern side of Lilydale Road and adjoining the State Rail Network land to the north.

Access is gained via crown land, some 18m wide, separating the subject site from the Crossroads concrete batching plant to the west. To the east the land is similarly used for storage, notwithstanding approval in 2022 (DA0022/2022) for the use and development of buildings to provide for 41 light industrial tenancies.

TasRail also uses the Crown land strip between the sites for access to the rail infrastructure.

Opposite the site, on the southern side of Lilydale Road, the land is zoned General Residential and developed primarily for single dwellings.

The character of the neighbourhood is thus divided by Lilydale Road, presenting industrial character from the north and residential character from the south.

4. PLANNING SCHEME REQUIREMENTS

The assessment against the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston is detailed in Attachment 1.

5. REFERRALS

REFERRAL	COMMENTS
	INTERNAL
Infrastructure and Assets Network	Conditions recommended.
Environmental Health	Conditions recommended - the Council has received numerous complaints regarding the operational activities relating to the business. These complaints have been reviewed in accordance with <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i> . Where evidence was submitted to substantiate claims, action has been taken. The Council's Environmental Health Officers have engaged with Crossroads to review and update their site management activities to mitigate environmental and nuisance activities. The activities identified in the application: staff parking, storage of equipment and storage of materials, are deemed low impact, with conditions in the permit identified to mitigate environmental nuisances from these activities on 83 - 93 Lilydale Road.
Heritage/Urban Design	N/A
Building and Plumbing	Standard notes recommended for the permit.

REFERRAL	COMMENTS
EXTERNAL	
TasWater	N/A
State Growth	N/A
TasFire	N/A
Tas Heritage Council	N/A
Crown Land	N/A
TasRail	N/A
Environmental Protection Authority	N/A
Aurora	N/A

6. REPRESENTATIONS

Pursuant to section 57 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, the application was advertised for a 14 day period from 29 April to 15 May 2023. Five representations were received. The issues raised are summarised in the following table. All representations received for this application were circulated to Councillors confidentially on 26 October 2023.

<p>Issue 1 The area should be sealed to limit dust from moving vehicles.</p>
<p><i>Response 1</i> <i>An appropriate condition will be included to require roadways through the site to be surfaced appropriately to reduce dust from moving vehicles.</i></p>
<p>Issue 2 A water spray system should be utilised in regard to storage of materials to reduce dust.</p>
<p><i>Response 2</i> <i>An appropriate condition will be included for the installation and operation of sprinklers over stored materials. The proponents have agreed to install such sprinklers as required.</i></p>
<p>Issue 3 Well established trees should be planted to screen the storage and mitigate dust and noise.</p>
<p><i>Response 3</i> <i>An appropriate condition will be included for landscaping and screening along the frontage boundary. The proponents have agreed to install such screening and landscaping as required.</i></p>
<p>Issue 4 The hours of operation are too early for residents on opposite side of Lilydale Road. During busy periods, work has started as early as 3am over the last two years.</p>
<p><i>Response 4</i> <i>The operation of the adjoining concrete batching plant is beyond the scope of this permit application. Proposed operating hours are 5am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 6pm Saturday and Sunday. Assessment of the proposed operating hours against the relevant performance criteria and having regard to the synergy of use with the adjacent site and its approved hours, is contained within the planning report.</i></p>

<p>Issue 5 The existing dust pollution from the concrete plant is detrimental to nearby residents.</p>
<p><i>Response 5</i> <i>Issues arising from the operation of the existing concrete batching plant, located on the adjacent site, are beyond the scope of this permit application.</i></p>
<p>Issue 6 Impact on privacy as the site has been raised and workers can stand on the land and look straight into lounge and bedroom windows.</p>
<p><i>Response 6</i> <i>The ground level was raised as a result of levelling out previous fill material and capping in accordance with permit DA0516/2018. An appropriate screening condition is proposed to mitigate dust and noise. This will also mitigate any perceived overlooking concerns.</i></p>
<p>Issue 7 Current issues with noise and dust from the concrete operation. All the roadways should be sealed to reduce dust.</p>
<p><i>Response 7</i> <i>Whilst it is beyond the scope of this application to address ongoing issues with the operation of the concrete batching plant, appropriate conditions are proposed to minimise dust from the 83-93 Lilydale Road site.</i></p>
<p>Issue 8 The site has already been developed - without approval - for the storing of materials and vehicles. Will the operators continue to act without regard for their neighbours or the Council?</p>
<p><i>Response 8</i> <i>It is acknowledged that the use and development of the site has already commenced. Whilst this is not a desirable outcome, it is significant that the operators have sought the required approval - albeit after receiving an enforcement notice (PLE0006/2022). Relevantly, the proponents have advised that they will undertake required mitigation measures such as landscaping or screening on the front boundary and look at sprinklers and watering or surface works on roadways in consultation with council to ensure it meets the required outcomes. Appropriate conditions to this effect are proposed.</i></p>
<p>Issue 9 Currently trucks dump excess concrete onto the TasRail access road, potentially pollution the waterway behind it.</p>
<p><i>Response 9</i> <i>The current proposal is for the use of 83-93 Lilydale Road and a permit condition activities to be confined to the site is included. Relevantly, in their submission, TasRail has specifically requested conditions that vehicles, materials and other items do not encroach into State Rail Network land.</i></p>

7. CONCLUSION

Subject to the recommended conditions, it is considered that the proposal complies with the Scheme and it is appropriate to recommend for approval.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston contains provisions intended to implement the objectives of the Resource Management Planning System. The application has been assessed using these provisions and as such the economic, environmental and social impacts have been considered.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. DA0182/2022 - 83-93 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea - Planning Scheme Assessment
[9.1.1 - 7 pages]
2. DA0182/2022 - 83-93 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea - Plans for Endorsement
[9.1.2 - 4 pages]

TITLE: RETROSPECTIVE DA0182/2023 - 83-93 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea - Storage - change of use to contractor's depot to store vehicles and excess materials and car parking

FILE NO: DA0182/2022

AUTHOR: Duncan Payton (Town Planner)

GENERAL MANAGER: Dan Ryan (General Manager Community and Place Network)

ATTACHMENT ONE:

PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applicant: Hazell Bros Investments Pty Ltd
Property: 83-93 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea
Zoning: Light Industrial
Receipt Date: 6/04/2022
Validity Date: 14/09/2023
Further Information Request: 14/04/2022
Further Information Received: 26/04/2023
Deemed Approval: 6/11/2023
Representations: 5

3. PLANNING SCHEME REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Zone Purpose

E6.7.1 Precinct 1 - Launceston Central Business District Parking Exemption Area

18.0 Light Industrial Zone

P1 Each lot, or a lot proposed in a plan of subdivision, within an attenuation area must not result in the potential for a sensitive use to be impacted by emissions, having regard to:

- (a) the nature of the activity with the potential to cause emissions, including:
- (i) operational characteristics of the activity;
 - (ii) scale and intensity of the activity; and
 - (iii) degree of emissions from the activity; and
- (b) the intended use of the lot.

Consistent

The proposal is consistent with the purpose of the zone to provide for manufacturing, processing, storage and distribution of goods and materials where site impacts are minimal or can be managed to minimise conflict with other uses.

It is noted that the adjacent site, containing the concrete batching plant, was zoned General Industrial at the time of its development.

18.3.1 All uses

That uses do not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity to residential zones.

Consistent

The proposal satisfies the applicable performance criteria or acceptable solutions.

<p>A1 Hours of operation of a use, excluding Emergency Services, Natural and Cultural Values Management, Passive Recreation or Utilities, on a site within 50m of a General Residential Zone, Inner Residential Zone, Low Density Residential Zone or Rural Living Zone, must be within the hours of:</p> <p>(a) 7.00am to 9.00pm Monday to Saturday; and (b) 8.00am to 9.00pm Sunday and public holidays.</p>
<p>Relies on Performance Criteria</p> <p>The General Residential zoned land on the southern side of Lilydale Road is some 22m from the subject site. The proposal seeks operation hours of 5am - 6pm Monday to Friday and 7am - 6pm Saturday and Sunday. Performance criteria are relied upon.</p>
<p>P1 Hours of operation of a use, excluding Emergency Services, Natural and Cultural Values Management, Passive Recreation or Utilities, on a site within 50m of a General Residential Zone, Inner Residential Zone, Low Density Residential Zone, or Rural Living Zone, must not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity to the residential zones, having regard to:</p> <p>(a) the timing, duration or extent of vehicle movements; and (b) noise, lighting or other emissions.</p>
<p>Complies</p> <p>Having regard to the prescribed matters, it is considered that the proposed hours of operation should be reduced to be compatible with the adjacent concrete batching plant to ensure that there will not be an unreasonable loss of amenity to the adjacent residential zone.</p> <p>(a) It is anticipated that employees of the concrete batching plant will arrive for work shortly before the operating hours of the plan and leave shortly after close of such hours. Use of the storage area would undoubtedly have similar peaks but also continue throughout the day. (b) Representors have raised concerns with the hours of operation, particularly the starting of trucks in the early hours of the morning. Whilst dust has also been raised as a significant concern, this has been discussed previously and appropriate conditions are proposed.</p> <p>Relevantly the approved hours of operation for the concrete batching plant are detailed in DA0176/2015 as 6.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 7.00am to 1.00pm Saturday, with the business closed on Sundays and public holidays.</p> <p>Given that the car parking and storage are directly related to the operation of the concrete batching plant, it is considered that the operation hours of the car park should have a 30 minute window at each end of the day for employees to arrive to start work and leave at the end of the day. The operation of the storage area should be linked to the operation of the concrete batching plant.</p> <p>An appropriate condition limiting the operation hours of the car park and storage area is proposed.</p>
<p>A3 Commercial vehicle movements and the unloading and loading of commercial vehicles for a use, excluding Emergency Services, on a site within 50m of a General Residential Zone, Inner Residential Zone, Low Density Residential Zone or Rural Living Zone, must be within the hours of:</p> <p>(a) 7.00am to 9.00pm Monday to Saturday; and (b) 8.00am to 9.00pm Sunday and public holidays.</p>
<p>Relies on Performance Criteria</p> <p>The proposal seeks hours outside those prescribed in the acceptable solution and performance criteria are relied upon.</p>
<p>A3 Commercial vehicle movements and the unloading and loading of commercial vehicles for a use, excluding Emergency Services, on a site within 50m of a General Residential Zone, Inner Residential Zone, Low Density Residential Zone or Rural Living Zone, must be within the hours of:</p>

(a) 7.00am to 9.00pm Monday to Saturday; and (b) 8.00am to 9.00pm Sunday and public holidays.
Complies Having regard to the prescribed matters, there appears to be no reason why commercial vehicles should enter or leave the site beyond the operating hours of the concrete batching plant. The conditions discussed previously to regulate hours of operation will similarly ensure that there is no unreasonable loss of amenity to the adjacent residential zone.

18.4.1 Building height

To provide for a building height that: (a) is necessary for the operation of the use; and (b) minimises adverse impacts on adjoining properties.
Consistent The proposal complies with the acceptable solution. A1 Building height must be not more than 10m.
Complies The only structures proposed are the material storage bays and these are well below the prescribed 10m.

18.4.2 Setbacks

That building setbacks: (a) are appropriate for the site; and (b) do not cause an unreasonable loss of residential amenity to adjoining residential zones.
Consistent The proposal complies with the acceptable solution. A1 Buildings must have a setback from a frontage of: (a) not less than 5.5m; (b) not less than existing buildings on the site; or (c) not more or less than the maximum and minimum setbacks of the buildings on adjoining properties.
Complies The storage bays are set towards the rear of the site and are more than 5.5m from the frontage.

18.4.4 Outdoor storage areas

Outdoor storage areas do not detract from the appearance of the site or surrounding area.
Consistent The proposal satisfies the performance criteria. A1 Outdoor storage areas, excluding for the display of goods for sale, must not be visible from any road or public open space adjoining the site.
Relies on Performance Criteria The existing outdoor storage areas are visible from Lilydale Road and performance criteria are relied upon. P1 Outdoor storage areas, excluding for the display of goods for sale, must be located, treated or screened to not cause an unreasonable loss of visual amenity.
Complies A condition is proposed to require the provision of a screen and landscaping across the site frontage to prevent any unreasonable loss of visual amenity.

18.4.5 Landscaping

That landscaping enhances the amenity and appearance of the streetscape where buildings are setback from the frontage.
--

<p>Consistent Landscaping will be required to ensure compliance with the acceptable solution.</p>
<p>A1 If a building is set back from a road, landscaping treatment must be provided along the frontage of the site: (a) to a depth of not less than 5.5m; or (b) not less than the frontage of an existing building if it is a lesser distance.</p>
<p>Complies The storage bins are structures and therefore technically buildings. As noted previously, a condition will be applied to require screening and landscaping along the frontage.</p>

C2.0 Parking and Sustainable Transport Code

<p>The purpose of the Parking and Sustainable Transport Code is: C2.1.1 To ensure that an appropriate level of parking facilities is provided to service use and development. C2.1.2 To ensure that cycling, walking and public transport are encouraged as a means of transport in urban areas. C2.1.3 To ensure that access for pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists is safe and adequate. C2.1.4 To ensure that parking does not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity to the surrounding area. C2.1.5 To ensure that parking spaces and accesses meet appropriate standards. C2.1.6 To provide for parking precincts and pedestrian priority streets.</p>
<p>Consistent The proposed use of the site is provided with access, parking and manoeuvring areas to meet the reasonable needs of the site.</p>

C2.5.1 Car parking numbers

<p>That an appropriate level of car parking spaces are provided to meet the needs of the use</p>
<p>Consistent The proposal satisfies the applicable performance criteria.</p>
<p>A1 The number of on-site car parking spaces must be no less than the number specified in Table C2.1, less the number of car parking spaces that cannot be provided due to the site including container refund scheme space, excluding if: (a) the site is subject to a parking plan for the area adopted by council, in which case parking provision (spaces or cash-in-lieu) must be in accordance with that plan; (b) the site is contained within a parking precinct plan and subject to Clause C2.7; (c) the site is subject to Clause C2.5.5; or (d) it relates to an intensification of an existing use or development or a change of use where: (i) the number of on-site car parking spaces for the existing use or development specified in Table C2.1 is greater than the number of car parking spaces specified in Table C2.1 for the proposed use or development, in which case no additional on-site car parking is required; or (ii) the number of on-site car parking spaces for the existing use or development specified in Table C2.1 is less than the number of car parking spaces specified in Table C2.1 for the proposed use or development, in which case on-site car parking must be calculated as follows: N = A + (C - B) N = Number of on-site car parking spaces required A = Number of existing on-site car parking spaces B = Number of on-site car parking spaces required for the existing use or development specified in Table C2.1 C = Number of on-site car parking spaces required for the proposed use or development specified in Table C2.1.</p>

<p>Relies on Performance Criteria</p> <p>The site has an area of 14,133m², less 1500m² that is to be used as a car park. Table C.2.1 seeks the provision of one car parking space per 200m² to comply with the performance criteria. An area of 12,633m² (i.e. 14133-1500=12633) would need 60 car parking spaces. As the site provides a car park of 40 car parking spaces, performance criteria are relied upon.</p> <p>P1.1 The number of on-site car parking spaces for uses, excluding dwellings, must meet the reasonable needs of the use, having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the availability of off-street public car parking spaces within reasonable walking distance of the site; (b) the ability of multiple users to share spaces because of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. variations in car parking demand over time; or ii. efficiencies gained by consolidation of car parking spaces; (c) the availability and frequency of public transport within reasonable walking distance of the site; (d) the availability and frequency of other transport alternatives; (e) any site constraints such as existing buildings, slope, drainage, vegetation and landscaping; (f) the availability, accessibility and safety of on-street parking, having regard to the nature of the roads, traffic management and other uses in the vicinity; (g) the effect on streetscape; and (h) any assessment by a suitably qualified person of the actual car parking demand determined having regard to the scale and nature of the use and development.
<p>Complies</p> <p>Having regard to the prescribed matters, it is considered that the number of on-site car parking spaces provided meets the reasonable needs of the use. Relevantly, the proposed use of the site is for storage of surplus materials from the adjacent concrete batching plant and to provide additional car parking for its employees. The use itself of the site will not generate any increase in the current number of employees of, or visitors to, the adjacent operation, of which the use of the site is clearly an incidental part of.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) One purpose of the use of the site is to provide off-street parking for the concrete batching plant. It will not generate any additional demand for parking. (b) There is no capacity for use of the car park other than that related to the adjacent concrete batching plant. Additional parking is provided on that site. (c) There is no readily available public transport within reasonable walking distance. (d) Other transport alternatives, such as bicycles or scooters are a matter for individuals having regard to the site location at the northern edge of the urban area of Launceston. Taxis are similarly available. (e) The site is not constrained and there is room for additional car parking, although there is no demonstrated need for its provision. (f) On-street parking is not considered to be readily available or suitable in this instance. (g) The proposed parking and storage area will be appropriately screened on its frontage to Lilydale Road. (h) Council's traffic and engineering officers are satisfied that additional car parking is not required. <p>The performance criteria are considered to be satisfied.</p>

C2.5.3 Motorcycle parking numbers

<p>That the appropriate level of motorcycle parking is provided to meet the needs of the use.</p>
<p>Consistent</p> <p>The proposal complies with the acceptable solution.</p>
<p>A1 The number of on-site motorcycle parking spaces for all uses must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be no less than the number specified in Table C2.4; and

(b) if an existing use or development is extended or intensified, the number of on-site motorcycle parking spaces must be based on the proposed extension or intensification, provided the existing number of motorcycle parking spaces is maintained.
Complies For 60 car parking spaces, two motorcycle spaces are sought by table C2.4. A condition will be applied to require the designation of two motorcycle parking spaces within the car park area.

C2.6.1 Construction of parking areas

That parking areas are constructed to an appropriate standard.
Consistent The proposal satisfies the applicable performance criteria.
A1 All parking, access ways, manoeuvring and circulation spaces must: (a) be constructed with a durable all weather pavement; (b) be drained to the public stormwater system, or contain stormwater on the site; and (c) excluding all uses in the Rural Zone, Agriculture Zone, Landscape Conservation Zone, Environmental Management Zone, Recreation Zone and Open Space Zone, be surfaced by a spray seal, asphalt, concrete, pavers or equivalent material to restrict abrasion from traffic and minimise entry of water to the pavement.
Relies on Performance Criteria The car parking area and access and manoeuvring areas are not sealed and performance criteria are relied upon.
P1 All parking, access ways, manoeuvring and circulation spaces must be readily identifiable and constructed so that they are useable in all weather conditions, having regard to: (a) the nature of the use; (b) the topography of the land; (c) the drainage system available; (d) the likelihood of transporting sediment or debris from the site onto a road or public place; (e) the likelihood of generating dust; and (f) the nature of the proposed surfacing.
Complies Having regard to the prescribed matters and proposed permit conditions, the car parking and manoeuvring areas are considered to be readily identifiable and useable in all weather conditions. (a) The use of the land is for storage of surplus areas and overflow parking from the adjacent concrete batching plant. (b) The land is generally level following works pursuant to DA0516/2018. (c) Drainage from the site, historically, generally falls to the north to an existing channel in rail reserve. Council stormwater lines are on the opposite side of Lilydale Road are not connected to the site and are directed to this waterway on the eastern side of 141 Lilydale Road. (d) The majority of traffic movements, other than pedestrian movements from the car park, surfaced with crushed road base material, are between the storage area and the concrete batching plant. The site has been so used for over twelve months without undue concern regarding transport of debris to Lilydale Road. (e) The representors have highlighted the existing dust emission as a major issue. The extent to which the dust is generated by the storage area, rather than the concrete batching plant, is unclear. Nevertheless, it is accepted that dust from the site is likely to be an environmental nuisance if not addressed. Conditions are proposed to require the use of sprinklers to minimise dust from the stockpiles and for the internal road surface to be sealed or otherwise maintained to the satisfaction of the Manager City Development to minimise dust emissions. (f) The existing car park is surfaced with crushed road base material and is considered to have only relatively low usage and thus acceptable. The proponents do not currently propose to

resurface the existing compacted roadway surface, but acknowledge that some works may be necessary, as envisioned by the proposed conditions.
The performance criteria are considered to be satisfied.

C2.6.2 Design and layout of parking areas

That parking areas are designed and laid out to provide convenient, safe and efficient parking.
Consistent
The proposal complies with the acceptable solution.

C2.6.3 Number of accesses for vehicles

That:
(a) access to land is provided which is safe and efficient for users of the land and all road network users, including but not limited to drivers, passengers, pedestrians and cyclists by minimising the number of vehicle accesses;
(b) accesses do not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity of adjoining uses; and
(c) the number of accesses minimise impacts on the streetscape.
Consistent
The proposal complies with the acceptable solution.
A1 The number of accesses provided for each frontage must:
(a) be no more than 1; or
(b) no more than the existing number of accesses, whichever is the greater.
Complies
No additional accesses to Lilydale Road are proposed.

C2.6.5 Pedestrian access

That pedestrian access within parking areas is provided in a safe and convenient manner.
Consistent
The proposal complies with the acceptable solution.
A1.1 Uses that require 10 or more car parking spaces must:
(a) have a 1m wide footpath that is separated from the access ways or parking aisles, excluding where crossing access ways or parking aisles, by:
(i) a horizontal distance of 2.5m between the edge of the footpath and the access way or parking aisle; or
(ii) protective devices such as bollards, guardrails or planters between the footpath and the access way or parking aisle; and
(b) be signed and line marked at points where pedestrians cross access ways or parking aisles.
Complies
The proposal plans have not detailed the specific layout of the car park and an appropriate condition will be imposed to require appropriate marking of car parking spaces and pedestrian ways.



Document Set ID: 4990573
Version: 1, Version Date: 21/11/2023





LEGEND

- - - Title Boundary (per TheLIST)
- S - Sewer (per TheLIST)
- SRM - Sewer Rising Main (per TheLIST)
- - - Top/Toe of Fill

NOTES

Date of Survey: 19th August 2022
 Bearing datum is GDA2020.
 Horizontal datum is grid MGA2020.
 Vertical datum is AHD83.

While reasonable effort has been made to locate all visible above ground services, there may be other services which were not located during survey.

Prior to any demolition, excavation, final design or construction on this site, a comprehensive site investigation should be undertaken to locate all above and below ground service infrastructure.

All coordinates within this file, although stated to the nearest 0.001 metre, are approximate only and are only within 0.015m of the stated coordinate (horizontally and vertically).

The boundaries shown on this plan are taken from TheLIST and are approximate only.

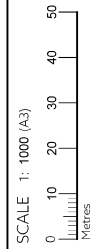
The location of the Sewer Rising Main shown on this plan could not be determined on site using Ground Penetrating Radar or Pot-holing. As such, this plan shows the location of this Sewer Rising Main as taken from TheLIST.

3/23 Brisbane Street Launceston, TAS 7250 PHONE: +61 813 4311 4199 FAX: +61 813 4314 4098 EMAIL: pda@pda.com.au www.pda.com.au	SCALE 1:1000	PAPER (A3)
49459-01	49459-01	49459-01



SEWER RISING MAIN GIS LOCALITY
83-93 LILYDALE ROAD ROCHERLEA

SCALE: 1:1000 (A3)	49459
DATE: 15th NOVEMBER 2022	JB



REV.	APPENDIX	DATE	APPROVED

Document Set ID: 4990573
 Version: 1, Version Date: 21/11/2023

Document Set ID: 4884083
 Version: 2, Version Date: 18/09/2023



10. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

10.1. Mayor's Announcements

FILE NO: SF2375

Thursday 16 November 2023

- Officiated at the Theatre North Season launch, Princess Theatre
- Attended Jack Jumpers versus New Zealand Breakers, Silverdome

Friday 17 November 2023

- Presented the Ariarne Titmus Scholarship, Launceston Aquatic Centre

Saturday 18 November 2023

- Opened the Launceston Gem and Mineral Show, Elphin Sports Centre
- Attended the launch of the Summer Racing Festival, Hobart

Monday 20 November 2023

- Spoke to members of the Rotary Club of Youngtown, Launceston Golf Club

Tuesday 21 November 2023

- Attended Bonza Airline launch, Launceston Airport

Thursday 23 November 2023

- Met with Gold Coast Mayor, Tom Tate, Civic Chambers, Gold Coast

Friday 24 November 2023

- Officiated at the Lighting of the Christmas Tree, Brisbane Street Mall

Saturday 25 November 2023

- Unveiled a plaque for the Centenary Celebrations for Patons and Baldwins Launceston Spinning Mill, Door of Hope

Sunday 26 November 2023

- Officiated at the Thai Food and Cultural Festival 2023, Civic Square
- Attended Launceston City Football Club tribute to Club Legend - Peter Mies, Clubrooms
- Attended *One Day 20* for Mudlark Theatre, Earl Art Centre

Monday 27 November 2023

- Officiated at the opening of the Self-Help Green House, Youngtown

Wednesday 29 November 2023

- Attended the opening of Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania's new office, Elizabeth Street
- Attended the National Trust Tasmania Christmas Party, *Clairville*

Thursday 30 November 2023

- Attended the Children's University Tasmania Graduations, Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre
-

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).

12. QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

12.1. 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).

12.1.1. Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor D C Gibson - Pump Track

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Shane Eberhardt

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to the Council in writing on 15 November 2023 by Councillor D C Gibson, has been answered by Shane Eberhardt (Acting Chief Executive Officer).

Questions:

1. Following Council's decision to support my Notice of Motion on 5 May 2022, there is much excitement about Launceston's first Pump Track. I was thrilled to receive unanimous support and then the budget allocation for this important infrastructure.

Can the community receive an update on this exciting initiative, please?

Response:

The Council is intending to call for tenders for design and construction of a pump track between the North Esk Rowing Facility and Charles St Bridge in coming weeks. Construction is intended to occur in the first half of 2024.

12.1.2. Councillor Questions on Notice - Councillor L M McMahon - Volunteer Parking Permit - Horticultural Society

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Shane Eberhardt

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question submitted to Council on 16 November 2023 by Councillor L M McMahon, has been answered by Michelle Ogulin (Acting General Manager Community and Place Network).

Questions:

1. Is there an opportunity for the City of Launceston to issue parking permits for horticulture volunteers who work at City Park?

Response:

There are many volunteers who work with the City of Launceston in various capacities including serving on Council Committees, at the Gorge and in this case, the horticulture volunteers at City Park.

Due to the number of volunteers offering their services to the Council and in order for the Council to consider offering parking permits to volunteers, the Council's Officers would need to:

- *undertake a review of how many permits would need to be issued (for equity all City of Launceston volunteers should have access to such permits).*
- *determine how such a permit system would work and be reviewed.*
- *determine the annual financial cost to the Council to allow for necessary parking revenue adjustments.*
- *formulate how the permit system would be regulated to enable adequate oversight (ie. would permits be for specific dates and times, or for set weeks/months).*
- *determine the impact on the wider community's access to on-street parking spaces.*

With respect to the City Park horticulturalist volunteers, the parking around City Park is currently free, although time limited to three hours.

12.2. 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).

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

13.1. Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting - 14 August 2023

FILE NO: SF0839

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive a report from the Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the report from the Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 August 2023.

REPORT:

The Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee met on 14 August 2023 and received the following presentations from:

1. Mona Foma who provided an overview of past Mona Foma events and events proposed for in Launceston 2024; and the
2. Youngtown Rotary Club regarding the Soggy Bottom Boat Race who provided commentary on the 2023 event and the proposed 2024 event to be held at the Cataract Gorge.

The Meeting also discussed issues related to the Reimagining the Cataract Gorge Project, the Cataract Walk retaining wall failure and the Duck Reach rock fall.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

2. To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

13.2. Audit Panel Meeting - 31 October 2023

FILE NO: SF3611

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive a report from the Audit Panel Meeting held on 31 October 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the report from the Audit Panel Meeting held on 31 October 2023.

REPORT:

The following is a precis of the substantive Agenda Items dealt with at the Meeting:

6.1 Internal Audit Report

Details Crowe provided the proposed 2024 internal audit schedule.

Action The Audit Panel noted the item.

7.1 Outstanding Internal and External Audit Items

Details Approved the resolution of resolved items and noted the inclusion of updates and comments for remaining items.

Action The Audit Panel approved one outstanding item as resolved.

8.1 Capital Report

Details The Panel noted the results for the quarter ending 30 September 2023.

Action The Audit Panel noted the item.

8.2 Budget Amendments

Details The Panel noted the 2023/2024 Budget Amendments.

Action The 2023/2024 Budget Amendments were approved at Council Meetings held on 10 August, 24 August, 14 September, 21 September and 5 October 2023.

8.3 Financial Statements (Analysis and Commentary)

Details The Panel noted the results for the quarter ending 30 September 2023.

Action The Financial Statements for the period ending 30 September 2023 are presented within this Council Agenda.

9.1 Investment Returns and Balances

Details Discussed the provided summaries.

Action The Audit Panel noted the item.

10.1 Work Health and Safety

Details Noted the Work Health and Safety report dated October 2023.

Action The Audit Panel noted the item.

13.1 Chief Executive Officer's Risk Certificate

Details The Chief Executive Officer's priority list of risk issues were presented and discussed.

Action The Audit Panel noted the item and discussed the various issues raised.

12.1 Future Workforce Plan

Details An update of the City of Launceston Future Workforce Plan was discussed.

Action The Audit Panel noted the item.

12.2 Alignment of Long-Term Strategic Asset Management Plans

Details The requirements for the preparation of long-term strategic asset management plans were discussed.

Action The Audit Panel noted the item.

12.3 Audit Panel Annual Report - 2023

Details The 2023 Audit Panel Annual Report was discussed prior to Council consideration at the 16 November 2023 Meeting.

Action The Audit Panel noted the item.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

13.3. Cultural Advisory Committee Meeting - 5 October 2023

FILE NO: SF7357

AUTHOR: Marcus Grantham (Team Leader Place Making)

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Michelle Ogulin (Community and Place Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive a report from the Cultural Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the report from the Cultural Advisory Committee Meeting held on 4 October 2023.

REPORT:

The Cultural Advisory Committee, at its meeting held on 4 October 2023, discussed:

- The City of Launceston Cultural Strategy 2020-2030 Action Plan and the prioritisation of actions over the next 12 months;
- Feedback from the committee regarding the Expression of Interest process for the Paterson East Street Car Park mural(s), including interest to join the artist selection panel;
- Feedback from the Committee regarding the Council's investigations into transportable gallery/play spaces;
- An update on the status of the Kings Meadows Car Park Public Toilet Block mural; and
- An opportunity to call for new Committee members.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 1: We connect with our community and our region through meaningful engagement, cooperation and representation.

10-Year Goal: To seek out and champion positive engagement and collaboration to capitalise on the major opportunities and address the future challenges facing our community and region.

Focus Areas:

1. To develop and consistently utilise contemporary and effective community engagement processes.

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

1. To promote and enhance Launceston's rich heritage, culture and natural environment.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Acting General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

14. INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS NETWORK

14.1. Urban Greening Strategy

FILE NO: SF0808

AUTHOR: Kathryn Pugh (Manager Parks and Sustainability)

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Kathryn Pugh (Infrastructure and Assets Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the City of Launceston Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040 for endorsement and adoption.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop - 16 February 2023 - Urban Greening Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. endorses the *City of Launceston Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040* (ECM Doc Set ID 4989278); and
 2. if Recommendation 1 is resolved in the affirmative, makes the *Launceston Street Tree Strategy 2012* (ECM Doc Set ID 2327406) redundant as it will be superseded by the *City of Launceston Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040*.
-

REPORT:

The Council has committed to playing an important leadership role in the greening of Launceston. The City of Launceston's Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040 (the Strategy) sets out the City's vision for a resilient, connected and diverse urban forest that will contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community and to the creation of a vibrant, liveable and sustainable City. This Strategy has been developed within the framework of the *Greater Launceston Plan* and the *City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024* and alongside the City of Launceston Sustainability Strategy and Transport Strategy.

The Strategy is the product of a collaborative process, developed with many stakeholders including local academics, businesses, interest groups and the broader community. The Council commissioned Geoneon Pty Ltd and the University of Tasmania to help lay the foundation for the development of the Urban Greening Strategy. Geoneon used satellite imagery and sophisticated artificial intelligence software to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the extent of the current canopy cover, identify key actions, and create a baseline to assist in measuring changes over time.

The Council worked with the University of Tasmania to seek input from the community including workshops with key stakeholder groups to identify values, beliefs, perceptions, preferences and concerns regarding the greening of the city. Whilst Launceston is known for its leafy parks and significant trees, the urban forest that people enjoy today only covers around 19% of the urban area (below the national standard of 39%) and lacks species diversity.

Armed with this background analysis and input, the Council has developed the Strategy. The Strategy sets out guiding principles that relate to urban greening:

- Mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Reduce the urban heat island effect
- Transition to a water sensitive city
- Design for health and wellbeing
- Design for liveability and sustainability
- Create healthier ecosystems
- Design for heritage sensitivity

The Strategy delivers five key themes and targets for development of an urban forest, which includes not only tree canopy in the public and private domain but also other forms of urban greening:

1. Retain and Increase Canopy Cover
Target: Achieve a 40% Canopy Cover in the Launceston Urban Area by 2040.
2. Improve Urban Forest Diversity and Resilience
Target: To have no more than 5% of any tree species, no more than 10% of any genus and no more than 20% of any family in Launceston's urban forest.
3. Support Biodiversity and Conservation of the Urban Forest
Target: Develop a biodiversity health check and implement a vegetation condition assessment to ensure improvement of urban biodiversity.
4. Develop Integrated Infrastructure to support the Urban Forest and Liveability
Target: Increase numbers of street trees by planting 18,000 new street trees by 2040 (equivalent to the increase of tree canopy cover to 40%).
5. Increase Community Knowledge and Participation
Target: Benchmark and improve community-reported engagement and satisfaction through Tomorrow Together.

The *City of Launceston's Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040* replaces the *Street Tree Strategy 2012* and shifts a focus from managing trees on an individual basis towards delivering a whole of forest approach which encompasses trees and all other forms of vegetation, recognising that urban forests have economic, social and cultural benefits whilst conserving biodiversity, maintaining soil and water values and mitigating against heat impact and climate change. The Strategy focuses on the forest in Launceston, but it also draws on and supports many other strategic objectives of the community and the Council.

For example, increased canopy cover encourages more people to walk, cycle and to use public transportation so they are less car reliant and enhances community health and supports the Council's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Strategy provides a framework for how the City of Launceston will progress towards achieving the urban greening vision. The associated *Implementation Plan 2023-2040* (the Plan) sets out how the Council plans to meet the vision of the Strategy and guides the management and resource allocation over the next 17 years to align with timings of the City's existing plans and strategies. Considering the key challenges, opportunities, business and community feedback, the Plan sets out a priority list of short, medium and long-term actions to achieve the urban greening vision. A target that will more than double the canopy cover in the next 17 years is bold and will require the Council, businesses, community groups and individuals to work together to achieve it.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Urban forests have many positive impacts for the community; they promote health and wellbeing, bolster social interaction, reduce incivility, and increase sense of place. They help cities adapt to climate change, provide habitats for a wide range of wildlife, reduce wind speed, can lower noise levels from traffic, lessening the chance of stormwater damage and improve management of water resources and can soak up carbon-dioxide, helping to lessen climate change. Urban forests are also good for the economy: they attract people to shopping areas, increase property values, and reduce cooling costs.

The Strategy recognises the critical role urban greening plays in social equity and focuses attention on those neighbourhood priority areas within surrounding suburbs, which are most affected when it comes to heat impact and vulnerability. The urban forest's multifunctionality addresses some of the greatest sustainability issues facing cities and enhances social equity, protects the most vulnerable people from urban heat island effects, supports active and public transportation corridors through shading and cooling, promotes economic prosperity and create places which support liveability, enhancing the health and wellbeing of current and future generations.

Adoption of the Strategy will have positive economic, environmental and social impacts, and will help achieve our overarching goal of making Launceston the most liveable regional city.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

2. To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.

Strategic Priority 5: We serve and care for our community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflects needs and expectations of our community.

10-Year Goal: To offer access to services and spaces for all community members and to work in partnership with stakeholders to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

Focus Areas:

5. To promote and support active and healthy lifestyles of our community.

Strategic Priority 6: We protect our environment by caring for our unique natural assets and amenity and sensitively managing future development opportunities.

10-Year Goal: To enhance the unique natural character, values and amenity of our City by minimising the impacts of our organisations and our community's activities in the environment.

Focus Areas:

1. To reduce our and the community's impact on the natural environment.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

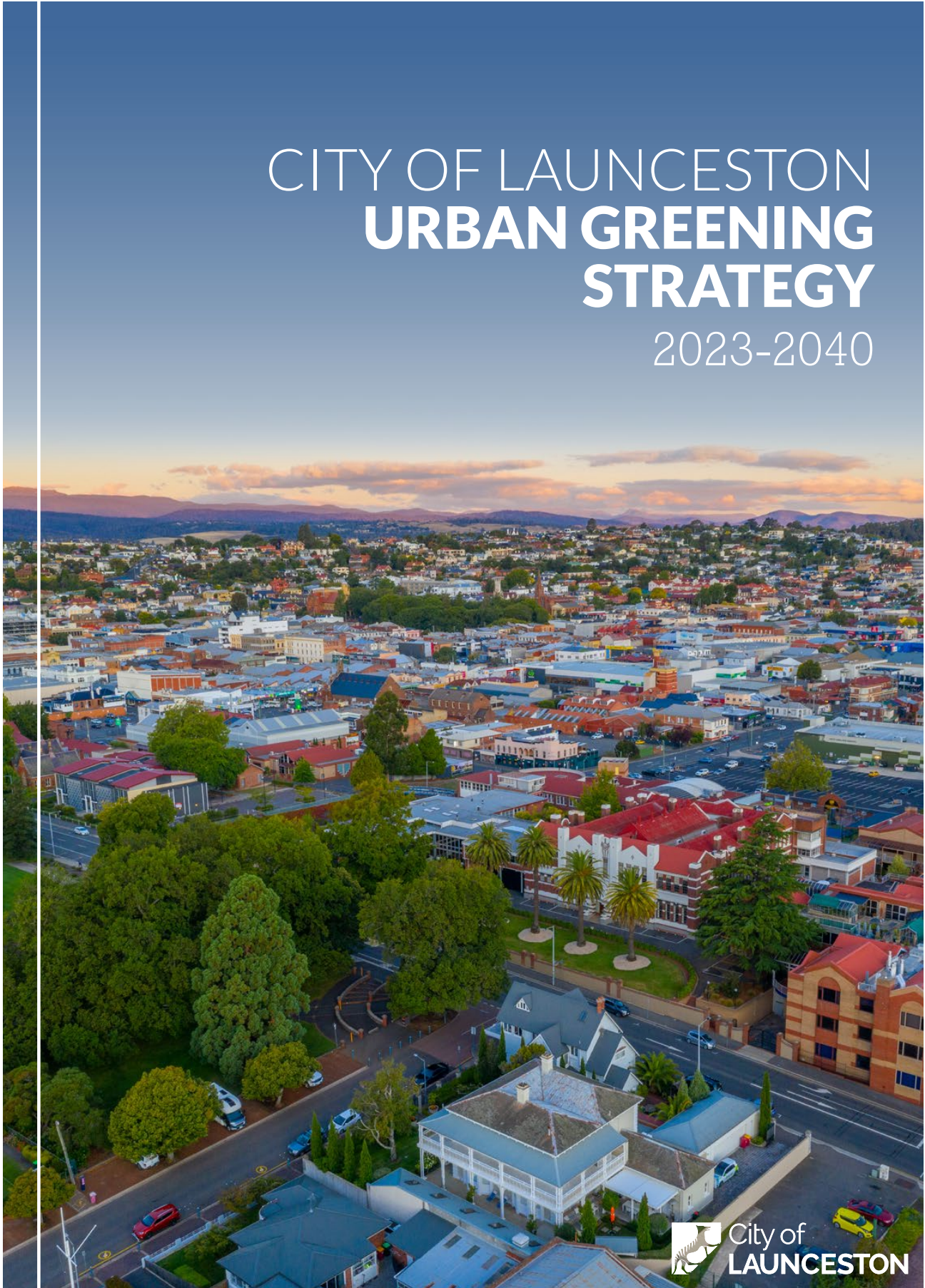
Most deliverables within this Strategy will be achieved through existing operational or capital budgets. Some specific projects will seek State or Federal funding and will likely require additional funds of the Council as a contribution

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Acting General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Launceston Urban Greening Strategy - 2023-2040 [14.1.1 - 56 pages]
2. Urban Greening Implementation Plan - 2023-2040 [14.1.2 - 18 pages]



Foreword	3
Organisational Vision, Mission, Values	7
Executive summary	8
1 Background and Context	10
1.1 Context for the Urban Greening Strategy	11
1.2 What is the Urban Forest?	17
1.3 Benefits of the Urban Forest	18
2 Issues Challenges and Opportunities	22
2.1 Launceston's Existing Levels of Canopy Cover	23
2.2 Biodiversity	26
2.3 Urban Heat Island Effect	27
2.4 Urban Densification and Competition for Space	31
2.5 Social Equity	32
2.6 Community Engagement	34
3 A Vision for Launceston's Urban Forest	36
4 Principles, Themes and Priorities	38
4.1 Principles	39
4.2 Themes	39
5 Implementation framework	42
5.1 Governance	43
5.2 Measurement, Monitoring and Review	44
Glossary	46
Bibliography	47

Acknowledgment of Country

The City of Launceston acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of this land on which the city and its surrounds are located, and pays respect to the Elders – past, present and future. Their legacy is evident in the natural and cultural values of this special place, and it speaks to us of the duty we have to preserve these values for future generations.

Cover image: iStock



CITY OF LAUNCESTON
**URBAN GREENING
STRATEGY**
2023-2040

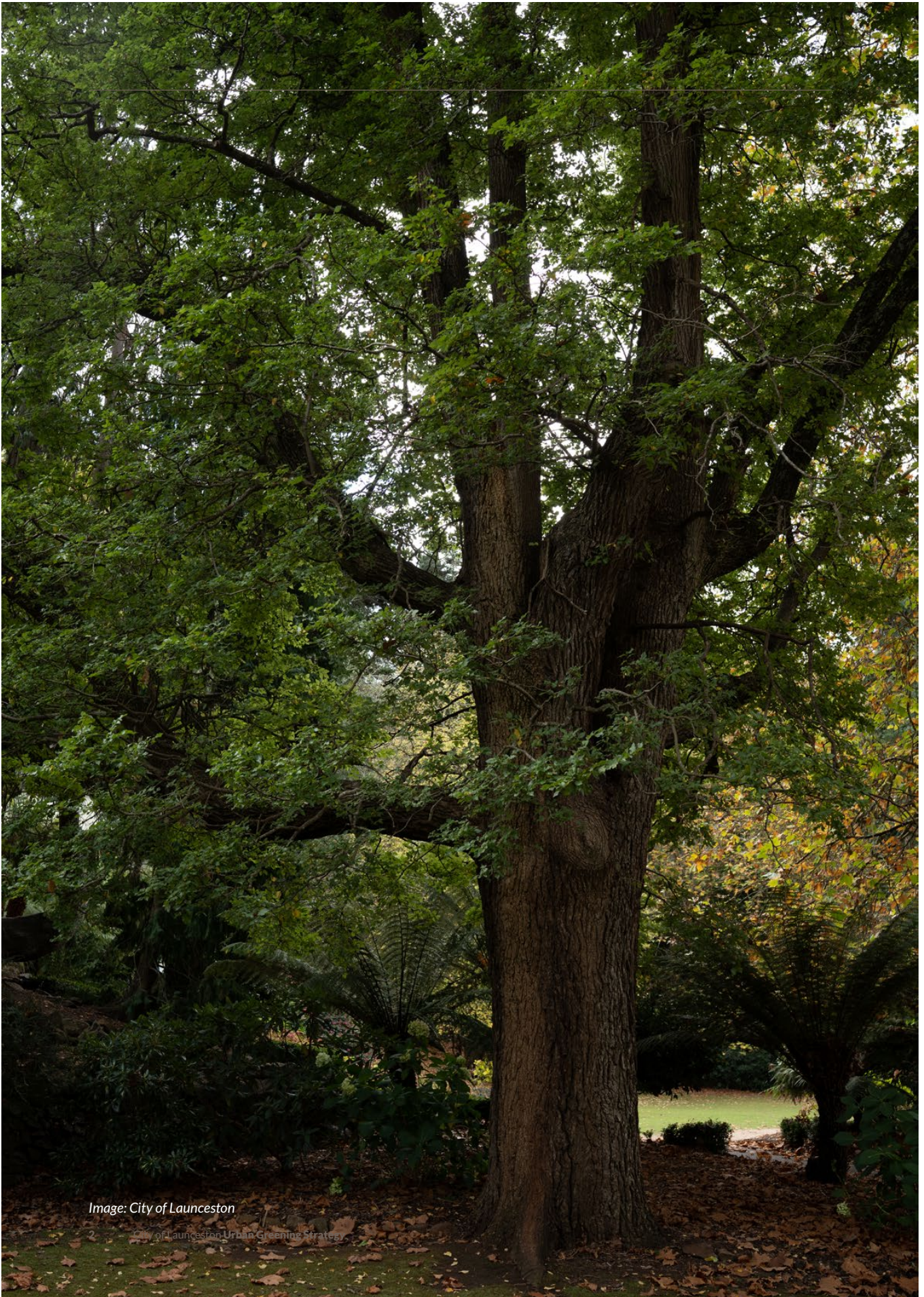


Image: City of Launceston

City of Launceston Urban Greening Strategy

Foreword

Mayor's Message

The Vision for the City of Launceston in the Greater Launceston Plan is for a compact, highly accessible green city with robust sustainable communities and a vibrant diverse inner city core.

Launceston's spectacular Cataract Gorge and City Park exist due to those that have gone before us. The Council recognises that while these places delight tourists and residents, it's the rich tapestry of greenery in private gardens, along streets and waterways, and in a multitude of our parks and recreational areas that enhance the visual amenity of our City, create a strong sense of identity in a location, enhance biodiversity in the urban environment and mitigate the impacts of climate change, particularly reducing the effects of heat.

I am proud of the recent investments by the Council in Civic Square. We have transformed the space into a wonderful green oasis for the community to enjoy. Most days you can find people sitting in the shelter of the trees having their lunch, reading a book, sharing a chat and a cuppa, or watching their children play in the interactive water feature outside the library. The space also includes an edible garden and provides a wonderful location for events and community gatherings adding to a vibrant and inclusive city centre.

While some parts of our community have good canopy cover, many parts still do not. As a community we can do better for today and for future generations.

Over the past year the Council staff have been working with the Launceston Chamber of Commerce on a shared commitment to the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure in the City. In a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in May 2022, both organisations committed to develop an urban greening strategy and implementation plan that builds on recent and current projects and establishes priority actions and timelines to enhance the greening of Launceston.

I am pleased that the Department of State Growth has joined the MOU and will partner with the Council on the greening of our State owned roads.

The Urban Greening Strategy sets out a bold target aimed at more than doubling the canopy cover in our urban area by 2040.

This is a shared strategy built from valuable community input and informed by robust analysis on where and how we need to enhance our canopy cover.

From Newnham in the north to Relbia in the south, and from Waverley in the east to Summerhill in the west, the Council will work with the Launceston Chamber of Commerce and the broader community to protect our current trees, plant new street trees, enhance our parks and recreational areas, and encourage residents and businesses to continue to green their properties. Everyone in the City can play a vital role in bringing the strategy to life. By working together we have the opportunity to transform the urban landscape and create a vibrant, liveable city.

I encourage you to participate in actions that will help to reach the goal of 40% canopy cover by 2040.

This is our opportunity to invest in the City's future and add to the greening legacy for generations to come.



Matthew Garwood
Mayor

CEO's Message

The Council is committed to playing an important leadership role in the greening of Launceston. A target that will more than double the canopy cover in the next 17 years is bold and will require the Council, businesses, community groups and individuals to work together to achieve it.

Over the past 12 months, the Council has commissioned Geoneon Pty Ltd and the University of Tasmania to help lay the foundation for the development of the Urban Greening Strategy. Geoneon Pty Ltd used 2021 satellite imagery and sophisticated artificial intelligence software to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the extent of the current canopy cover, identify key actions, and create a baseline to assist in measuring changes over time.

The analysis tells us that the current canopy cover in the Launceston urban footprint at 19%. While this is well below the national best practice benchmark of 39% we are not alone. The most recent assessment of canopy cover in comparison cities across Australia is: City of Hobart (16.7%), Melbourne (22%), Sydney (15.5%); we all have more work to do. Brisbane is the standout performer in this area with a canopy cover of 44% which offers us many lessons.

In addition, the Council worked with the University of Tasmania to seek input from the community including workshops with key stakeholder groups to identify values, beliefs, perceptions, preferences, and concerns regarding the greening of the city. This feedback has been instrumental in the development of the strategy.

Armed with this background analysis and input, the Council has embarked on a two stage planning process. This strategy establishes the broad themes, objectives, and targets to 2040.

The Urban Greening Strategy has five key themes and targets:

1. Retain and Increase Canopy Cover

Target: Achieve a 40% Canopy Cover in the Launceston Urban Area by 2040 (Currently 19.49%)

2. Improve Urban Forest Diversity and Resilience

Target: To have no more than 5% of any tree species, no more than 10% of any genus and no more than 20% of any family in Launceston's urban forest.

3. Support Biodiversity and Conservation of the Urban Forest

Target: Develop a biodiversity health check and implement a vegetation condition assessment to ensure improvement of urban biodiversity.

4. Develop Integrated Infrastructure to support the Urban Forest and Liveability

Target: Increase numbers of street trees by planting 18,000 new street trees by 2040, this is equivalent to the increase of tree canopy cover to 40%

5. Increase Community Knowledge and Participation

Target: Benchmark and improve community reported engagement and satisfaction through Tomorrow Together.

Under each of these themes sit a number of objectives that provide direction for the second stage of more detailed implementation planning. The implementation plan will outline the actions required to reach the targets in this strategy. Progress to implement the plan will be reviewed each year with a full review of the strategy every five years.

The Urban Greening Strategy focuses on the forest in Launceston but it also draws on and supports many other strategic objectives of the community and the Council. For example, increased canopy cover encourages more people to walk, cycle and to use public transportation so they are less car reliant and enhances community health and supports our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Council looks forward to working with you to create an accessible green city with robust sustainable communities and a vibrant diverse inner city core.



Michael Stretton
Chief Executive Officer



Image: City of Launceston



Image: istock

City of Launceston Urban Greening Strategy

Organisational Vision, Mission, Values

Greater Launceston Plan Community Vision Statement

Sustainable prosperity for greater Launceston will be achieved by consolidating and building nationally and internationally recognised strategic advantage for the region through a focus on creativity and innovation, maintaining exceptional environmental and liveability qualities and ensuring a diverse, connected and inclusive region.

Our Vision

Inspired people, working together to create the best outcomes for our community.

Our Purpose

We are a progressive organisation, working with our community to create a positive future for Launceston.

Our Values



Our people matter

- We value clear and open communication
- We support and encourage each other
- We respect diversity
- We recognise individual needs, experience and strengths



We care about our community

- We take pride in our work and pursue a standard of excellence
- We genuinely listen, and value collaborative relationships
- We strive towards the best outcome for our community
- We make responsible and sustainable decisions



We bring an open mind

- We actively seek opportunities to continuously improve
- We respect and explore different ideas and perspectives
- We embrace change that leads to positive outcomes
- We value innovation and creativity.



We go home safe and well

- We show care for people and look out for one another
- We speak up and support others to be healthy and safe
- We take personal responsibility for our own health and wellbeing
- We value work-life fit

Executive summary

This is the City of Launceston's first Urban Greening Strategy and sets out the City's vision for a resilient, connected and diverse urban forest that will contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community and to the creation of a vibrant, liveable and sustainable city.

It is the product of a collaborative process, developed with many stakeholders including local academics, businesses, interest groups and the broader community.

This Strategy has been developed within the framework of the Greater Launceston Plan and the Launceston's Strategic Plan, and alongside the *City of Launceston Sustainability Strategy and Transport Strategy*.

The City of Launceston's Urban Greening Strategy replaces the *Street Tree Strategy* and shifts a focus from managing trees on an individual basis towards delivering a whole-of-forest approach, which encompasses trees and all other forms of vegetation, recognising that urban forests have economic, social and cultural benefits whilst conserving biodiversity, maintaining soil and water values and mitigating against heat impact and climate change.

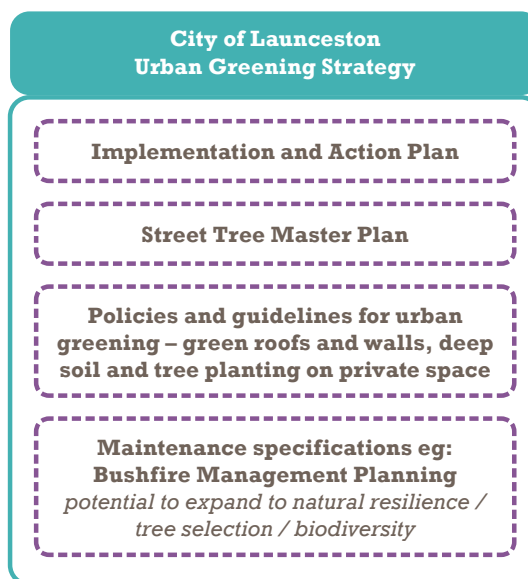
Whilst Launceston is known for its leafy parks and significant trees, the urban forest that people enjoy today only covers around 19% of the urban area and lacks species diversity. This is below the national standard of 39%.

The Urban Greening Strategy sets out guiding principles that relate to urban greening that go beyond tree canopy and are as follows:

- mitigate and adapt to climate change
- reduce the urban heat island effect
- transition to a water sensitive city
- design for health and wellbeing
- design for liveability and sustainability
- create healthier ecosystems
- design for heritage sensitivity

This strategy also delivers five key themes and targets (see figure 1) for development of an urban forest, which includes not only tree canopy in the public and private domain, but also other forms of urban greening.

An action plan for urban greening will be further developed through an implementation plan and subordinate documents. It is also intended to indirectly guide other aspects of the Council operations, such as specifications and policies relating to green infrastructure, as well as development assessment and open space management, over time.



Key:

This Strategy

To be created / explored



Figure 1: Launceston's Urban Forest Vision, Key Themes and Targets

1 | Background and Context

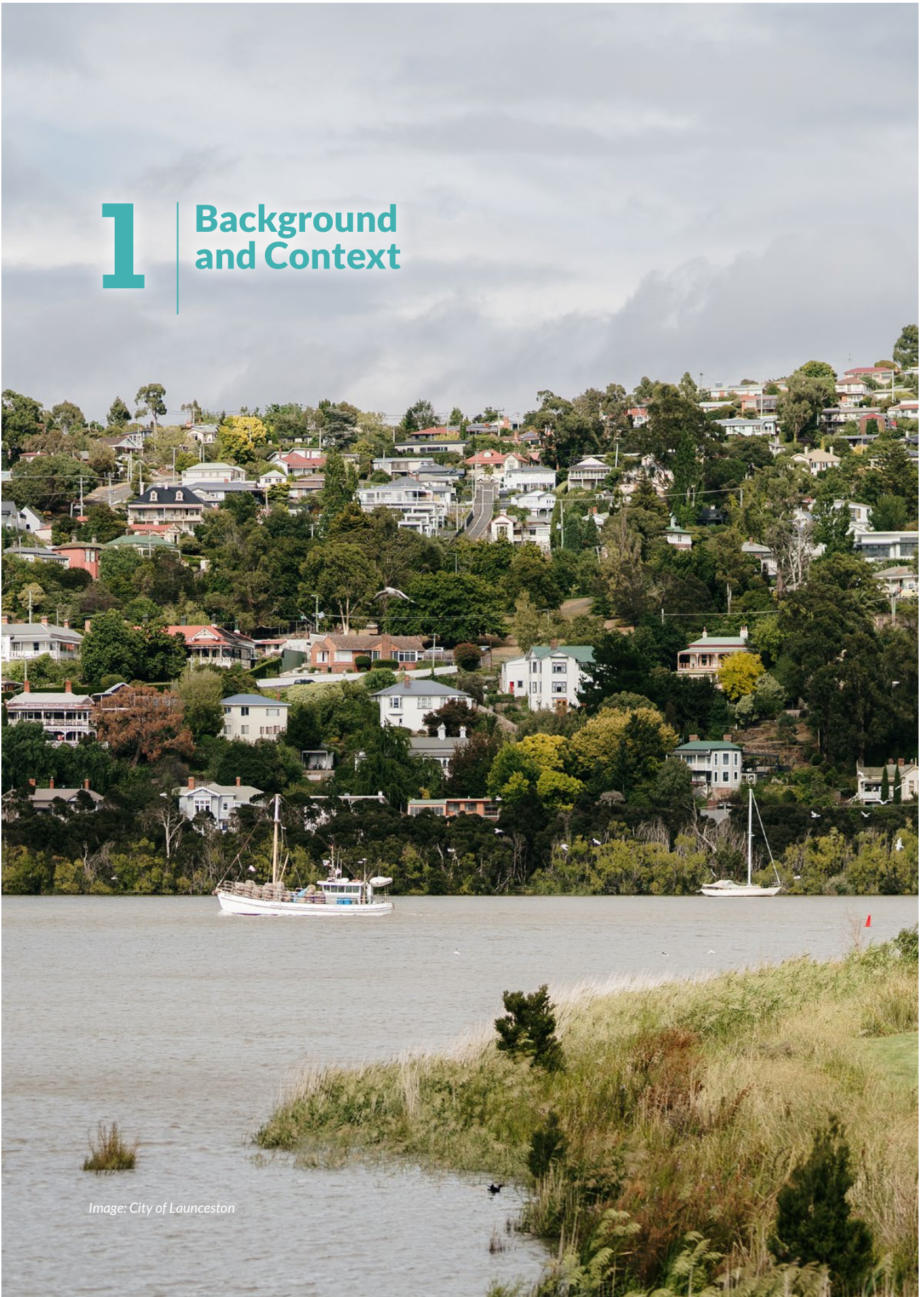


Image: City of Launceston

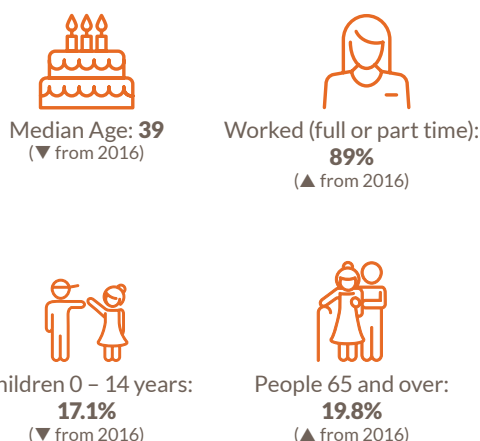
1.1 Context for the Urban Greening Strategy

Launceston is Tasmania's largest city by population, (Census data, 2021) and is the economic, social and cultural hub of Northern Tasmania. Its position at the junctions of the North Esk and South Esk rivers and kanamaluka/Tamar estuary has long made it a key settlement and transport hub. It is also a major tourist destination, welcoming a third of Tasmania's visitors. As a growing region, the Greater Launceston population is expected to increase from 66,800 to 75,800 under a high-growth scenario (exclusive of associated urban growth in neighbouring LGAs). These people live, work and study in Launceston and also welcome over half a million visitors a year to the city (2018).

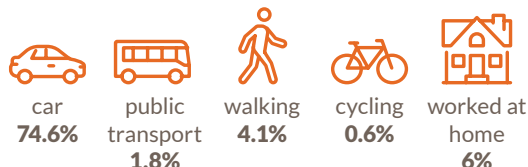
Demographic Context

Launceston residents have a median age of 39 (Census data, 2021) which is slightly younger than Tasmania as a whole, and comparable to Australia generally. This age has reduced slightly since 2016, despite falling numbers of children, indicating a growing young working age population. It also has a comparable older population (19.6% that are 65+ years old) with the rest of Tasmania (20.9%), although Launceston's population tends to be older than the national average (17.2%).

Census data also shows that of those of working age residents, 89% work full or part-time, a rise since 2016 despite the COVID-19 pandemic. This figure is also comparable to the state and national employment levels. Most workers are in the household services sector, followed by goods related and business services. The household services sector includes health, education, hospitality, and art and recreation, and is increasingly important to Launceston's local economy, growing in proportion from 36% in 2010 to 43% in 2019. This growth suggests that meeting the local population's needs is largely driving Launceston's economy. Having a connected, diverse and healthy green city is vital for future liveability and sustainability.



Travel to work:



Top languages used at home (other than English):
Nepali (2.3%), Mandarin (1.2%)

The large working age population generally travels to work by car, although over 10% of workers either walk, cycle or work from home.

An Urban Greening Strategy has the potential to respond to this context by supporting:

- the natural setting of Launceston and the regional blue and green infrastructure of the kanamaluka/ Tamar estuary and Esk rivers
- tourism to the city through beautification and a greater sense of the natural setting within the city
- economic prosperity by creating inviting places to work, shop, and invest
- a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by making streets more pleasant for workers who walk or cycle to work, or work from home, as well as supporting recreational walking, cycling and multi-modal transport
- population health by providing urban cooling to the more vulnerable, including older and very young residents and those living in less-well insulated homes.

Role of the Urban Greening Strategy

The City of Launceston's Urban Greening Strategy replaces the *Street Tree Strategy (2012)* and shifts a focus from managing trees on an individual basis towards delivering a whole-of-forest approach. A whole-of-forest approach encompasses both trees and other forms of vegetation, recognising that urban forests have economic, social and cultural benefits whilst conserving biodiversity, maintaining soil and water values and mitigating against climate change.

Implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy will require coordination across the Council's operations and integration with a wide range of initiatives.

The diagram on the following page (figure 2) illustrates the relationship of the Urban Greening Strategy to City of Launceston's strategy and planning documents, which underpin and inform it, to complimentary documents that will support its implementation and to other strategies that the Urban Greening Strategy helps to deliver.

But, the Urban Greening Strategy cannot be delivered by the Council alone. Implementation of actions to green our city will require the participation of many organisations, businesses, and individuals.



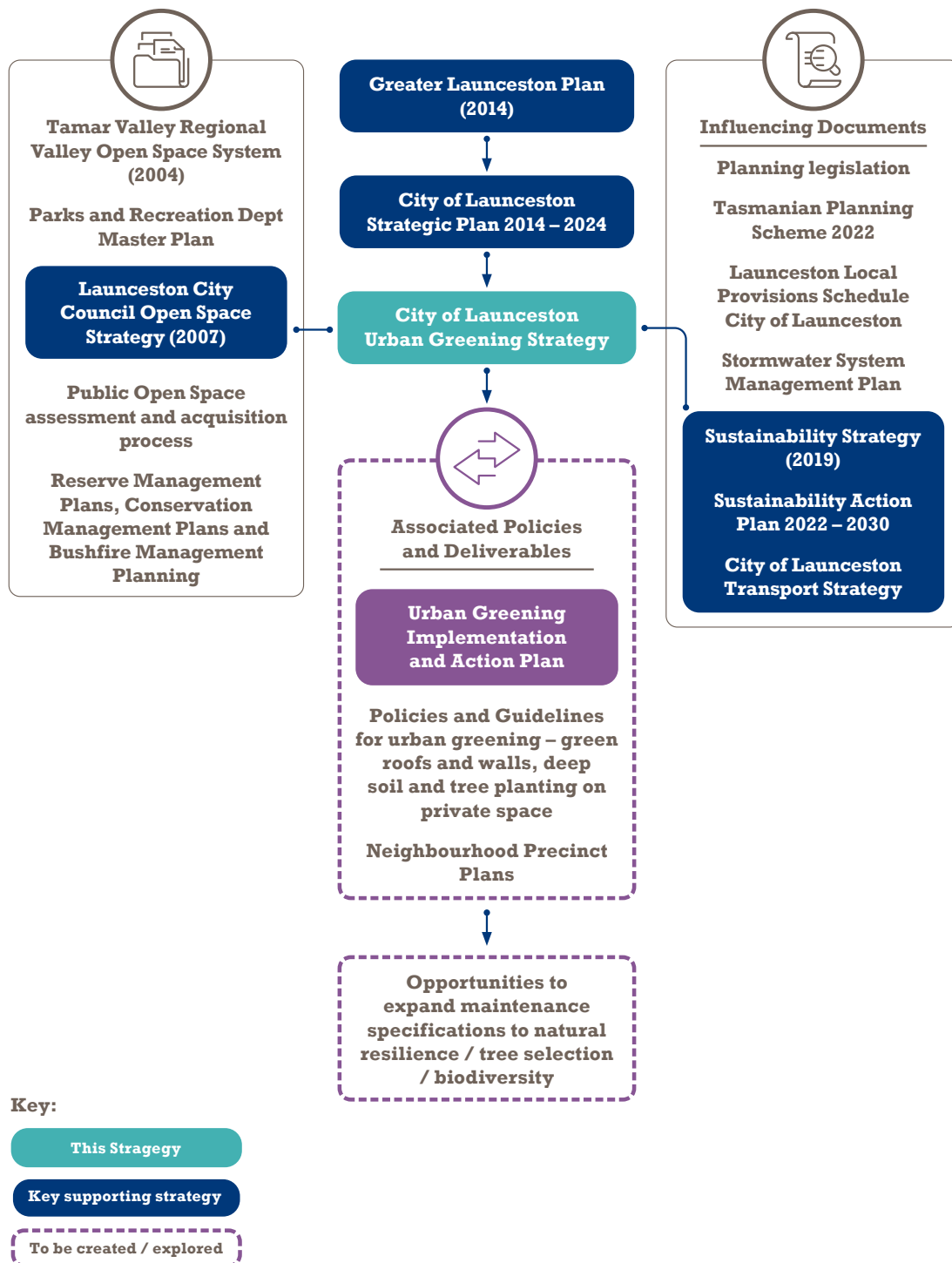


Figure 2: Relationship of Documents

Why not just a Street Tree Strategy?

The *Launceston Street Tree Strategy (2012)* defined the management of the City of Launceston’s urban treescapes. The Street Tree Strategy emphasised connectivity within identified Central Activities Districts and other retail nodes driving a vision of a “liveable green network with attractive and usable tree-lined streets connecting areas of interest for all road and footpath users to safely experience and explore the city”.

The *Street Tree Strategy* sought to address the imbalance between treed city parks and more sparsely planted streets within the city, as well as an absence of many notable tree avenues. The 2012 strategy prioritised long corridors for planting across the municipality. Since this time the City of Launceston had continued to plant trees, with significant achievements made in increasing the level of street tree planting overall.

However, a review of the *Street Tree Strategy* in 2020 found that the strategy’s scope was insufficient to deliver a dense network of treed linkages that will realise the benefits of significant increase to urban forest canopy cover, nor did it address the creation of a green infrastructure network holistically. With the focus on longer treed corridors, the 2012 strategy also did not recognise or respond to equity issues with

more recent development providing limited shading in suburban development areas. The review emphasises the need for a broader and stronger approach to the strategic management of Launceston’s urban forest, with a stronger focus on trees and other vegetation in the total canopy distribution, including on private land and the use of alternative greening infrastructure such as arbours, green walls, and low plantings.

The urban forest’s multifunctionality addresses some of the greatest sustainability issues facing cities. They enhance social equity and protect the most vulnerable people from urban heat island effects, they support active and public transportation corridors through shading and cooling, promote economic prosperity, and create places which support liveability, enhancing the health and wellbeing of current and future generations.

The Urban Greening Strategy applies to all the urban areas in the City of Launceston (as outlined in figure 3), including the Central Business District and roads, especially major arterial roads connecting with the city. It recognises the critical role it plays in social equity and focuses attention on those neighbourhood priority areas within surrounding suburbs, which are most affected when it comes to heat impact and vulnerability.



Image: City of Launceston

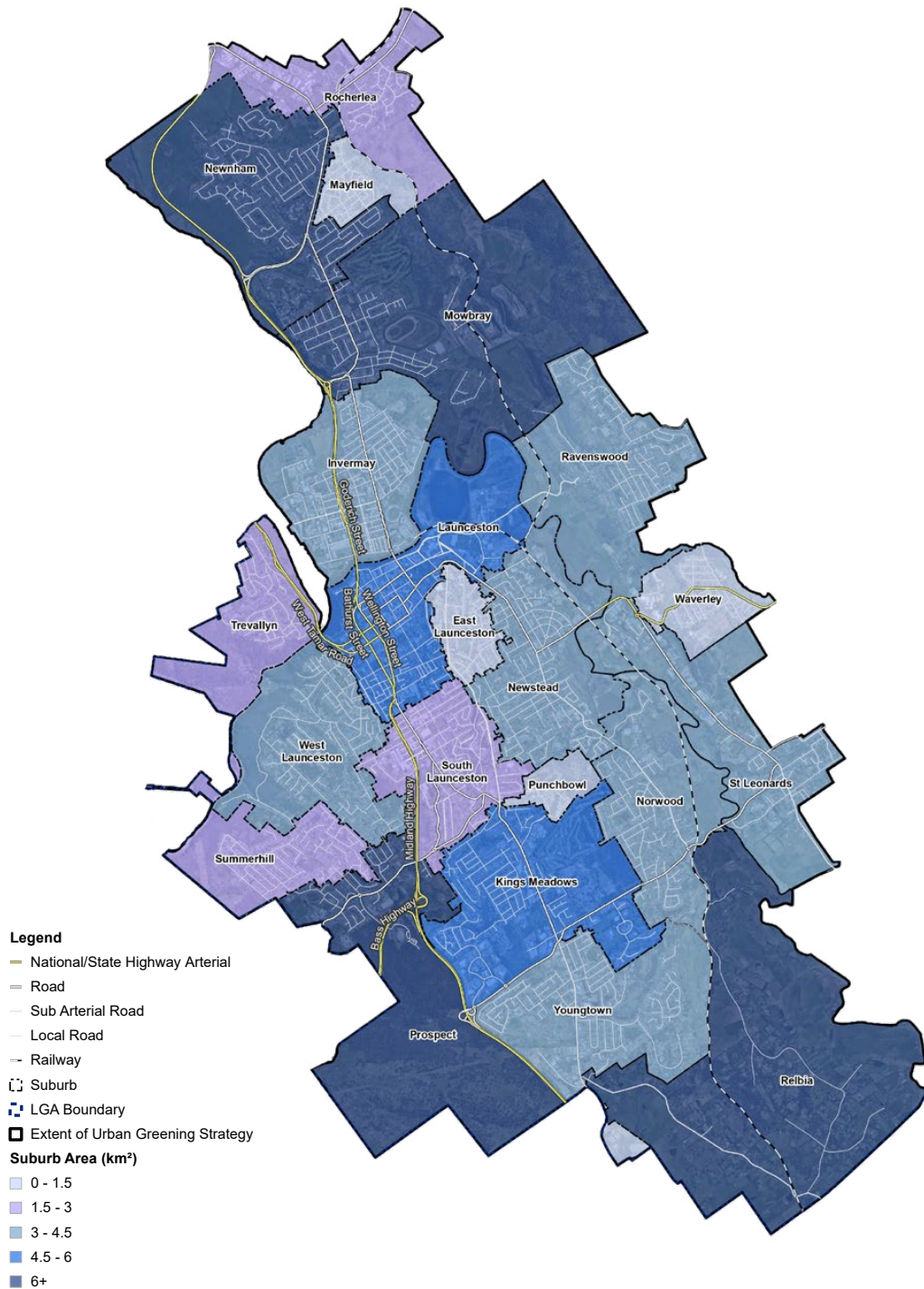
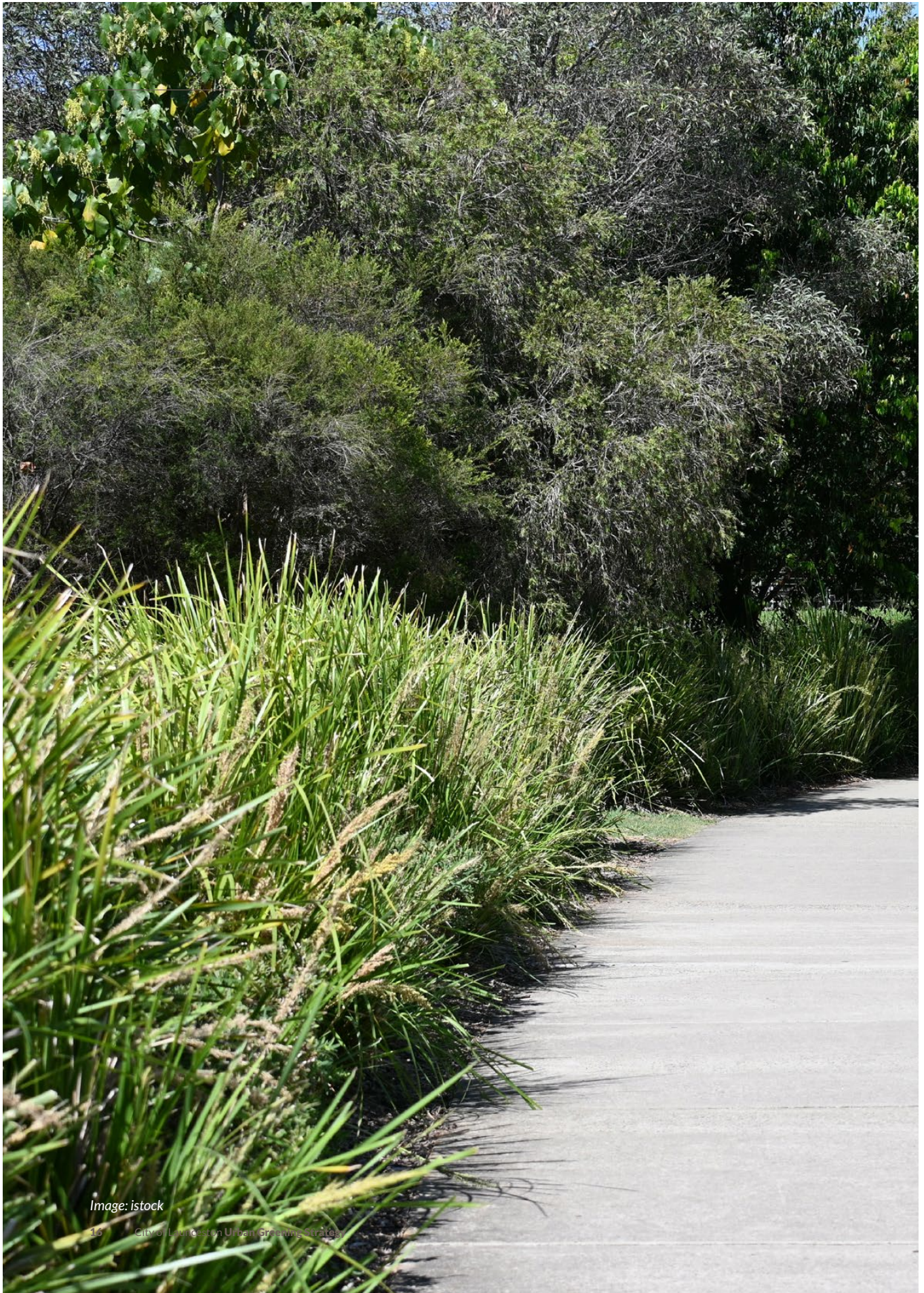


Figure 3: City of Launceston's Urban Areas



1.2 What is the Urban Forest?

The urban forest is made up of all the trees, shrubs, grassland and other vegetation, growing on public and private land within the city, and the soil and water that supports them.

This includes vegetation located in parks, private gardens, plazas, reserves, along main roads, local streets, in commercial areas, railways and waterways, and other green infrastructure such as balconies, walls and roofs.

The urban forest provides important ecosystem services such as air and water filtration, oxygen, shade, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling and habitat for fauna. Whilst trees and shrubs are a critical element of urban forests, the Urban Greening Strategy encompasses a holistic approach to the cumulative benefits of all vegetation and associated ecosystems across the city and extends beyond the singular approach to tree management.

This strategy addresses the broader issues of climate change, urban heat island effects, urban densification and social equity, recognising that every part of the city, both public and private, contributes to and can be influenced by the urban forest.

The urban forest plays a significant role in enriching quality of life of its urban communities by supporting health and wellbeing, and making a city more liveable, attractive, sustainable and productive.



Image: City of Launceston

1.3 Benefits of the Urban Forest

Research has found that urban forests provide a wide range of important benefits for the community, environment and economy that extend beyond aesthetic and recreational values into an interconnected landscape, holistically feeding into the resilience, sustainability and prosperity of cities.

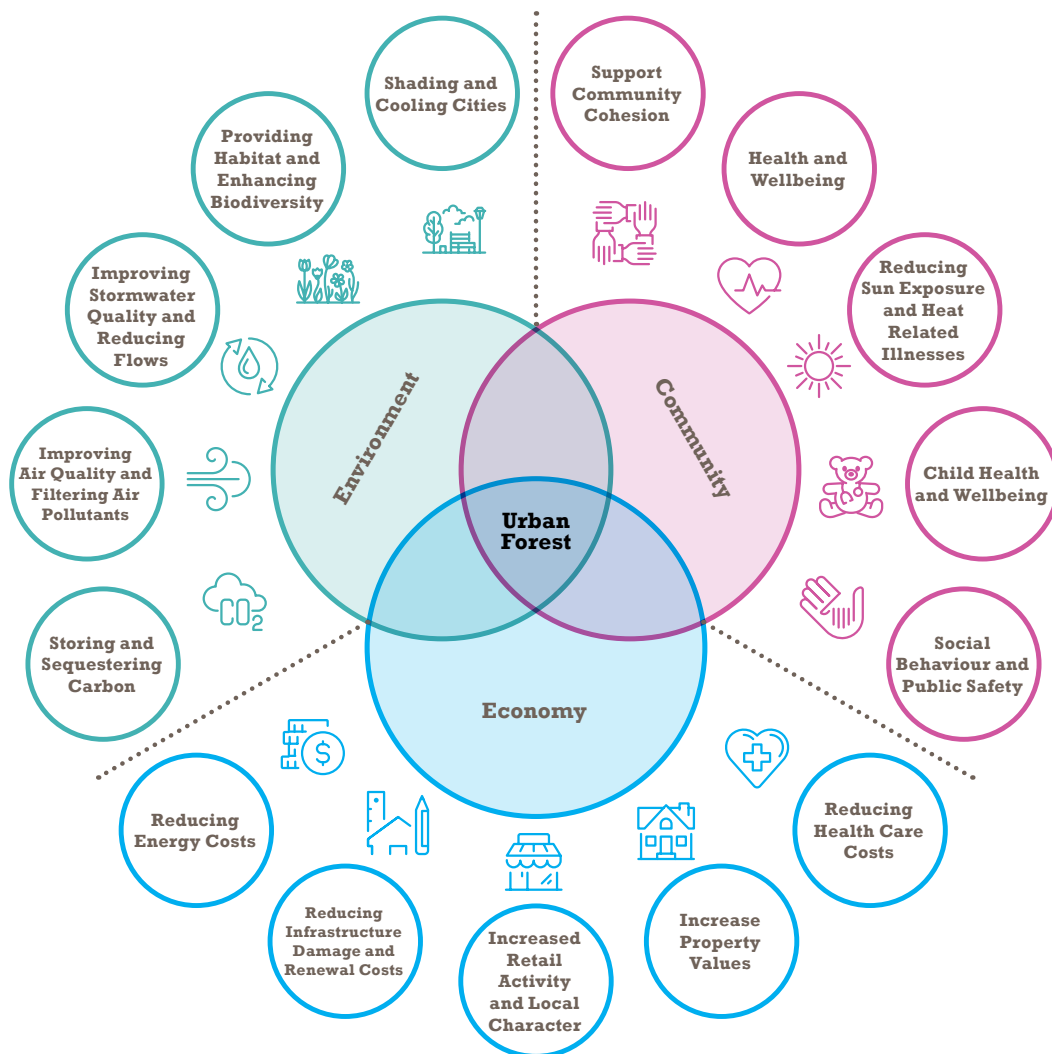


Figure 4: Urban Forest Benefits Diagram

1.3.1 COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Urban forests have many positive impacts for the community; they promote health and wellbeing, bolster social interaction, reduce incivility, and increase sense of place.

Some of the community benefits of the urban forest include:



Support Community Cohesion

Neighbours living in areas with more trees and green space are more likely to know each other and to help each other during times of crisis (Holtan et al., 2015). Green spaces are the setting for many everyday recreational opportunities such as sport, walking the dog or having a picnic, and provide spaces for events, festivals and entertainment throughout the city. These green spaces facilitate gatherings and interactions and play an important role in bringing diverse groups together within a public environment, supporting community cohesion and inclusion.



Health and Wellbeing

Neighbourhoods that are greener have also been found to have higher levels of happiness, social connectedness, and support, and better physical and mental health (Wolf et al., 2020). People living in such areas generally experience lower levels of stress and anxiety, lower levels of domestic violence and incivility, and higher levels of cooperation and overall sense of wellbeing.

Giving people access to green open spaces within the city encourages outdoor physical activity that can reduce people's risk of developing chronic heart disease, diabetes, dementia, obesity and some cancers.

Research shows that good tree canopy cover can increase the use of public transport and improve active transport and walkability in a neighbourhood. Trees provide shade over bus stops, footpaths and cycle paths at the right time of the day, such as when children are walking home from school in the mid-afternoon (Langenheim et al., 2020).



Reducing Sun Exposure and Heat Related Illnesses

Sun exposure can have negative effects on physical and mental wellbeing. Trees provide shade from the potentially harmful effects of UV damage. Prolonged exposure to the sun can lead to skin cancer and heat related mortality for people over 65 years increases when temperatures exceed 30 degrees Celsius. Research indicates that quality shade from tree cover can reduce exposure to UV radiation by up to 75%. (Parsons et al., 1998)

Child Health and Wellbeing



Children attending schools with more greenery have been found to have higher test scores and better concentration (Kuo et al., 2018). Green spaces boost creativity, encourage exploration and adventure, promote physical activity and enable more experiential learning. These diverse benefits coagulate to have a significant impact on children's development and learning.

Social Behaviour and Public Safety



Access to nature can have a positive effect on the social behaviour of communities. There are generally lower levels of crime in neighbourhoods with more street trees (Lin et al., 2021).

1.3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Trees and other vegetation are good for the environment; they help cities adapt to climate change, provide habitats for a wide range of wildlife, reduce wind speed, can lower noise levels from traffic, lessening the chance of stormwater damage and improve management of water resources and can soak up carbon-dioxide, helping to lessen climate change (Roy et al., 2012). Urban forests make cities more liveable and should be core elements of a city's long-term planning (Riedman et al., 2022).

Some of the environmental benefits of the urban forest include:

Shading and Cooling Cities



The urban forest can mitigate the urban heat island effect by shading and cooling the built environment. Plant leaves reflect sunlight, absorb less heat than the built environment and protect hard surfaces from absorbing heat.

Through the process of transpiration trees draw up water from the soil and release it from their leaves into the atmosphere, cooling air temperatures by between 3°C and 11°C (Wong et al., 2021). The provision of shade to rooftops, streets and footpaths can reduce surface temperatures by up to 20 degrees Celsius, (Kovats et al., 2004; Cheng et al., 2019). This reduces day and night-time temperatures in summer and improves thermal comfort within the city, providing health and economic benefits. Shaded streets encourage more walking and riding, and shaded buildings reduce the need for air conditioning, mitigating insufficient insulation and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Trees in front of private dwellings that shade roofs and windows can also reduce heat stress on occupants, and when properly placed, trees can also funnel breezes.

Providing Habitat and Enhancing Biodiversity



Urban trees provide many benefits for other species. Where trees are planted in corridors alongside creeks and streams, connecting reserves and habitat patches to each other, they flourish with more insects, birds, and animals than in areas with fewer trees and provide critical movement corridors for wildlife, contributing to biodiversity conservation.

Studies have found that there are a greater diversity and number of birds, lizards and other small animals in cities with higher forest cover and where gardens have more trees and shrubs (Wood and Esain, 2020).

Improving Stormwater Quality and Reducing Flows



Trees and understory vegetation reduce the risk of flash flooding and slow flow rates during storm events by capturing heavy rainfall in their canopies, slowing flow with vegetation, and filtering stormwater with their root systems. This delays the time at which run off occurs, decreases stress on sewer systems, improves soil moisture and health, protects natural areas and reduces the nutrient load of nitrogen and phosphorus, sediment loads, and heavy metal content from entering waterways. (Webber et al., 2020)

Improving Air Quality and Filtering Air Pollutants



Trees and other vegetation trap, absorb and filter air pollution, capture greenhouse gases and improve air quality. Through the process of photosynthesis trees remove carbon dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter from the atmosphere and clean the air we breathe.

Storing and Sequestering Carbon



Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas associated with driving climate change. Trees capture, secure and store carbon dioxide within their biomass and use photosynthesis to convert carbon dioxide and water into sugar and oxygen.

1.3.3 ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Urban forests are good for the economy, they attract people to shopping areas, increase property values, and reduce cooling costs and stormwater expenses (Mckercher, 2020; Roy et al, 2012).

Some of the economic benefits of the urban forest include:



Reducing Energy Costs

Shading buildings in the summer can keep buildings cool naturally, reducing the need for air-conditioning and lowering energy costs. (McDonald et al., 2020)

Research suggests that landscaped vegetation when planted correctly around buildings can provide heating savings of 5 to 15 % and cooling savings of 10 to 50%. (McPherson et al., 1993)



Reducing Infrastructure Damage and Renewal Costs

Shading key assets, such as road surfaces and asphalt from harmful UV rays can increase the life span of infrastructure and reduce maintenance and renewal costs.



Increased Retail Activity and Local Character

City streets that are lined with trees attract people to linger at shopping areas and promote increased spending in retail areas.

The quality of the urban environment helps to develop a city's character and define its image. Well-designed green spaces with corridors that link between places play a role in developing local character, fostering a sense of connection to place, increasing accessibility, attracting tourism and boosting business activity. Research has shown that when a community feels connected to a place this results in stronger economic activity.



Increase Property Values

Urban forests enhance neighbourhood characteristics and aesthetics, resulting in increasing property values. Research has shown that treed suburbs, tree-lined avenues, and street trees and landscaped vegetation outside the front of houses can increase property values (Pandit et al., 2013).



Reducing Health Care Costs

In urban areas where there are more trees above footpaths, roads and cycleways, people are more likely to walk and exercise, making them physically fitter (Veitch et al., 2022). Increased levels of physical activity and improved mental health can help alleviate the burden on the national health system and reduce health care costs for the community. Higher levels of tree canopy cover (30% or more) are associated with lower incidence of cardio-vascular disease (Astell-Burt et al., 2021) and studies have shown that people who have a view over natural areas recover faster from illness and disease (Wolf et al., 2020).

2 | Issues Challenges and Opportunities



Image: City of Launceston

2.1 Launceston's Existing Levels of Canopy Cover

Canopy cover describes the percentage of urban land covered by tree canopy when viewed from above.

A key objective of many urban forest plans is to increase canopy cover to provide shade and cooling and increase the absorption of carbon dioxide in the environment. Canopy cover is commonly used as an indicator of the success of the urban forest.

In 2021 Geoneon Pty Ltd. developed an artificial intelligence-based algorithm using a method called Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) to map canopy cover across City of Launceston's urban areas. The canopy cover is defined by the extent of leaves, branches and stems of trees viewed from above. The model was trained and run on high-resolution (50cm), multispectral (8-band) satellite imagery from 2021. The main advantage of this technology is its cost-effectiveness and reproducibility, which makes it easier to monitor the urban forest canopy cover over time.

The Council contracted GeoNeon to accurately determine the extent of the current canopy cover using this methodology. This analysis provides a baseline of the canopy distribution and density across the area of interest, suburbs, land-use types, and categories prior to the implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy.

The results of the research indicated that the urban canopy cover base line for City of Launceston was 19.49%. This sits well below the national standard of 39% as identified in the Institute for Sustainable Futures Urban Tree Canopy Benchmark report.

Figure 5 identifies the key areas where canopy cover is an issue. Most significant are the northern suburbs of Invermay (6.9%), Newham (7.7%) and Rocherlea (10.3%) and the urban core (6.9%). These areas have a high proportion of suburban land use which are characterised by larger lots with significant building envelopes or urban density that makes integration of trees more challenging. Across the municipality, most of the existing canopy coverage is on private

land (56% of total canopy). There is an opportunity to increase tree canopy on private land across the region but specifically in the northern suburbs and urban core. Where development has already occurred, landowners should be incentivised to help achieve the canopy increase on private lots.

Further to this, Geoneon analysed the percentage of canopy cover along the City of Launceston's cycling paths and around bus stops, health centres and educational facilities.

The analysis indicated most of City of Launceston's cycle paths have less than 5% canopy cover within a two-metre corridor and that the canopy cover of schools and health facilities vary depending on their location, with southern schools having more surrounding canopy cover than their northern counterparts, and health facilities in the centre of the City of Launceston have less canopy cover than in surrounding suburbs.

The percentage of canopy cover across bus stops in urban areas shows that most bus stops (57%) have a canopy cover between 0% and 7.5% while the remaining bus stops (43%) have a canopy coverage between 7.5% and 45%.

Active commuting to school is a known way to mitigate the negative effects of school drop-off, including air pollution, high traffic, motor vehicle collisions, and lack of exercise for children (Koszowski et al, 2019; Rothman et al, 2017; Lazkiewicz and Sikorsia, 2020). Studies have shown that one way to increase healthy and children-friendly routes for the walk to school is to increase green infrastructure (Laszkiewicz and Sikorsia, 2020).

There are significant opportunities for the City of Launceston to increase canopy cover along cycle path, at bus stops and around schools to promote the use of active transport.

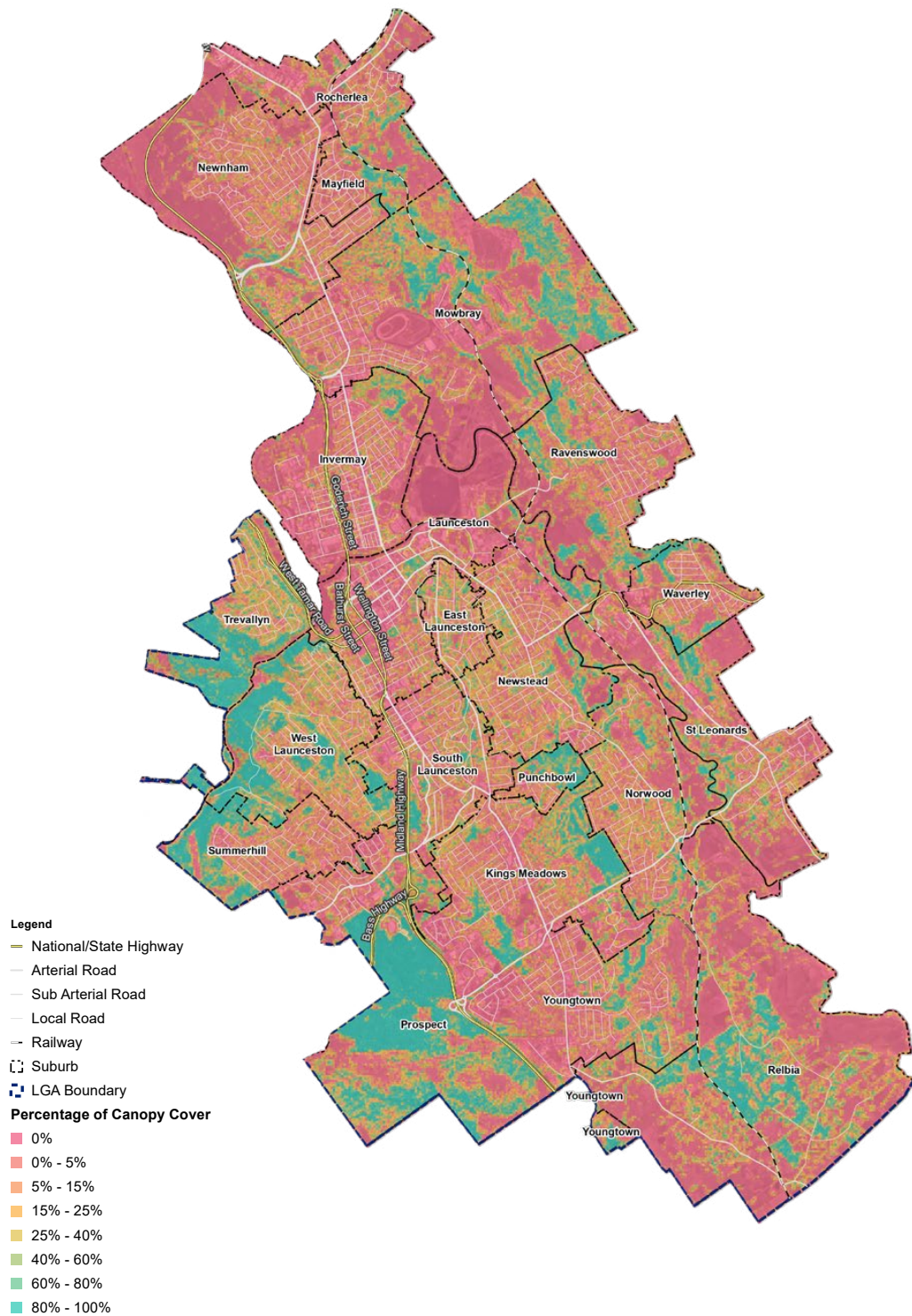


Figure 5: Percentage of Canopy Cover

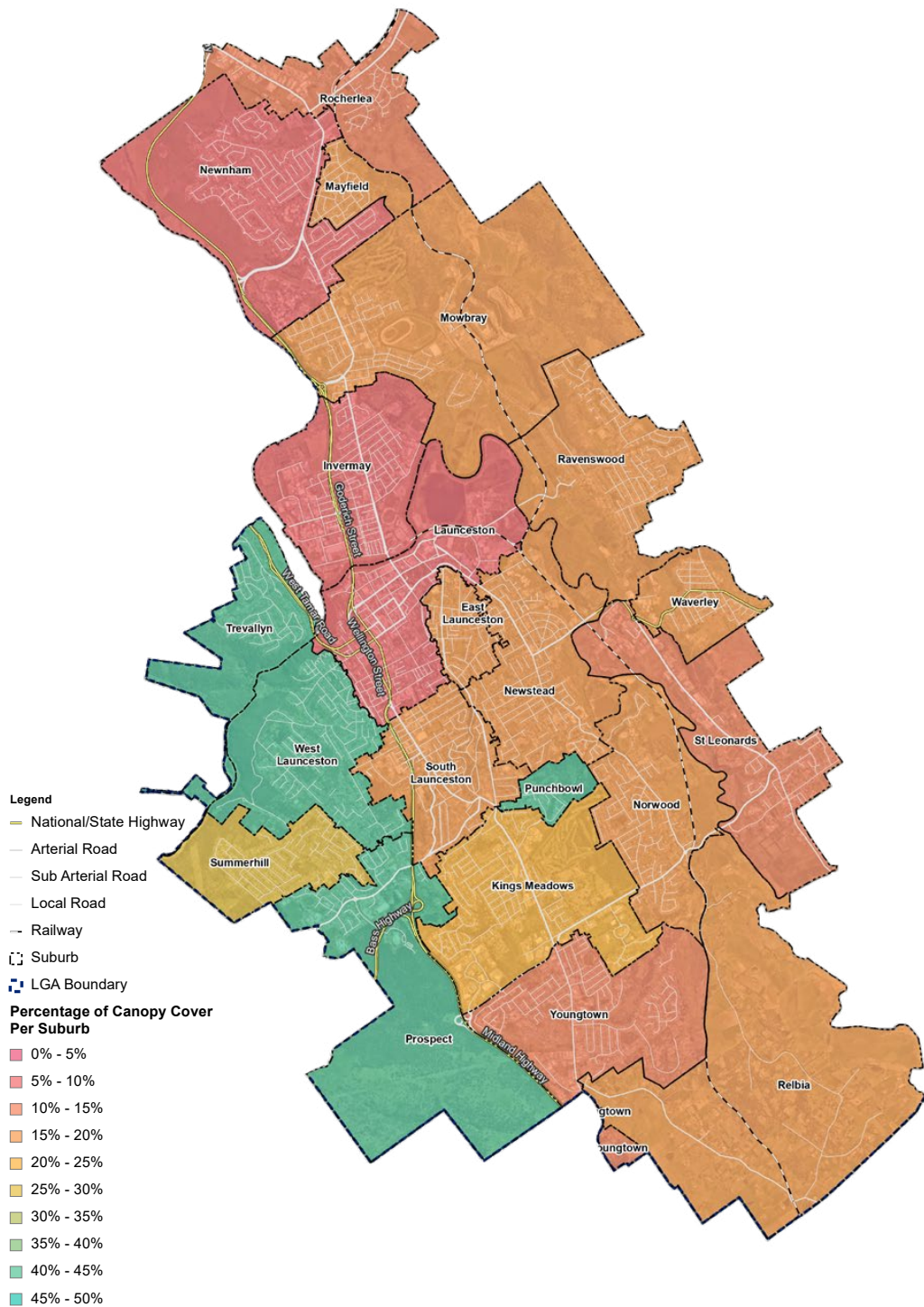


Figure 6: Percentage of Canopy Cover per Suburb

2.2 Biodiversity

A healthy urban forest supports biodiversity and provides broad environmental and health benefits to the community. Biodiversity is necessary for functioning ecosystems and enables the growth and preservation of flora and fauna (Berthon et al., 2021; Wood & Esaian, 2020). An urban forest provides a suitable environment to increase biodiversity in urban areas (Fuller et al., 2007). Supporting greater biodiversity in cities is a core part of climate change adaptation and increases resilience. Green space with greater biodiversity delivers physical and psychological benefits for the community. It is important that the Urban Greening Strategy is grounded in the biodiversity of the local environment so that enhanced or complementary ecosystems can be established. In practice, this means ensuring tree species are locally appropriate to support greater diversity of insects and animals.

Spatial areas that are more 'wild' or larger in scale have a greater potential to provide biodiversity benefits (Uchida et al., 2021). These areas also support smaller scale areas of greening which are nearby. These places provide opportunities for green linkages and increased canopy to create connections for wildlife and improve broader biodiversity outcomes.

Improved biodiversity will be achieved through the selection of appropriate species and the creation of green corridors connecting urban areas to the broader ecosystem. This will provide new habitat for plants and animals increasing resilience to climate impacts.



Image: istock

2.3 Urban Heat Island Effect

The urban heat island effect is a common phenomenon worldwide and occurs when temperatures in built-up urban areas have significantly warmer air and land surface temperatures than surrounding suburban and rural areas.

This occurs because heat-absorptive thermal mass materials, like buildings, concrete and bitumen absorb and retain daytime heat. After a hot day, these urban areas can be up to 7% warmer than surrounding areas. Whilst urban heat island effects occur all year round, they become more prominent in the hot weather. At night these materials continue to release heat after air temperatures have cooled and prevent night-time cooling. The effect occurs at all times of year, but creates a significant issue during hot weather.

Urban heat islands can put pressure on the city and exacerbate heat stress as people cannot recover from the heat stress in the day. This disproportionately affects vulnerable people, including the elderly, very young children or people with pre-existing medical conditions.

Heatwaves are known as the deadliest climatic disaster in Australia causing more than five times more fatalities than bushfires. In recent decades, heatwave events have increased in intensity, frequency, and duration across Australia (Steffen et al, 2014; Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangement, 2020). Extreme heat events in urban areas have significant negative impacts, including increasing pressure on physical and mental health, on power systems and the economy, as well as decreasing productivity of the population (UNEP, 2021). People living in dense areas are at greater risk during heatwaves because of the heat island effect.

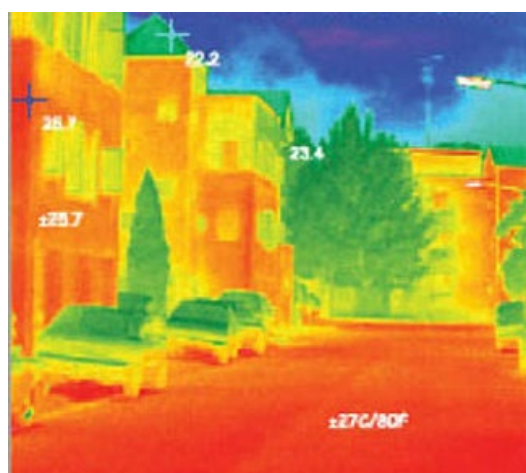
With temperatures predicted to rise with climate change, the urban heat island effect has the potential to adversely impact the liveability of cities and health and well-being of the community.

Trees with high canopy cover and other vegetation in cities play a significant role in decreasing extreme heat and cooling surrounding areas by providing shade and evapotranspiration, mitigating heat retention and regulating temperature extremes.

To better understand the correlation between heat

and tree coverage and the urban heat island effect in the City of Launceston, recent analysis calculated the Land Surface Temperature, the urban heat island effect and the correlation between tree canopy coverage and temperature. Figure 7 shows the summer median temperature anomalies occurring between suburbs in relationship to percentage of canopy cover.

Launceston's core has the equal lowest percentage of canopy cover of any suburb in the municipality (6.9%). In contrast to the northern suburbs with a high proportion of suburban land use, increasing canopy coverage in Launceston will primarily need to be achieved in the public realm with street trees the priority opportunity. Along with greening of public spaces and buildings with street trees, using low plantings, green walls or arbour structures will also provide an effective strategy to reduce the urban heat island effect.



Thermal imaging of a streetscape (City of Melbourne 2014)

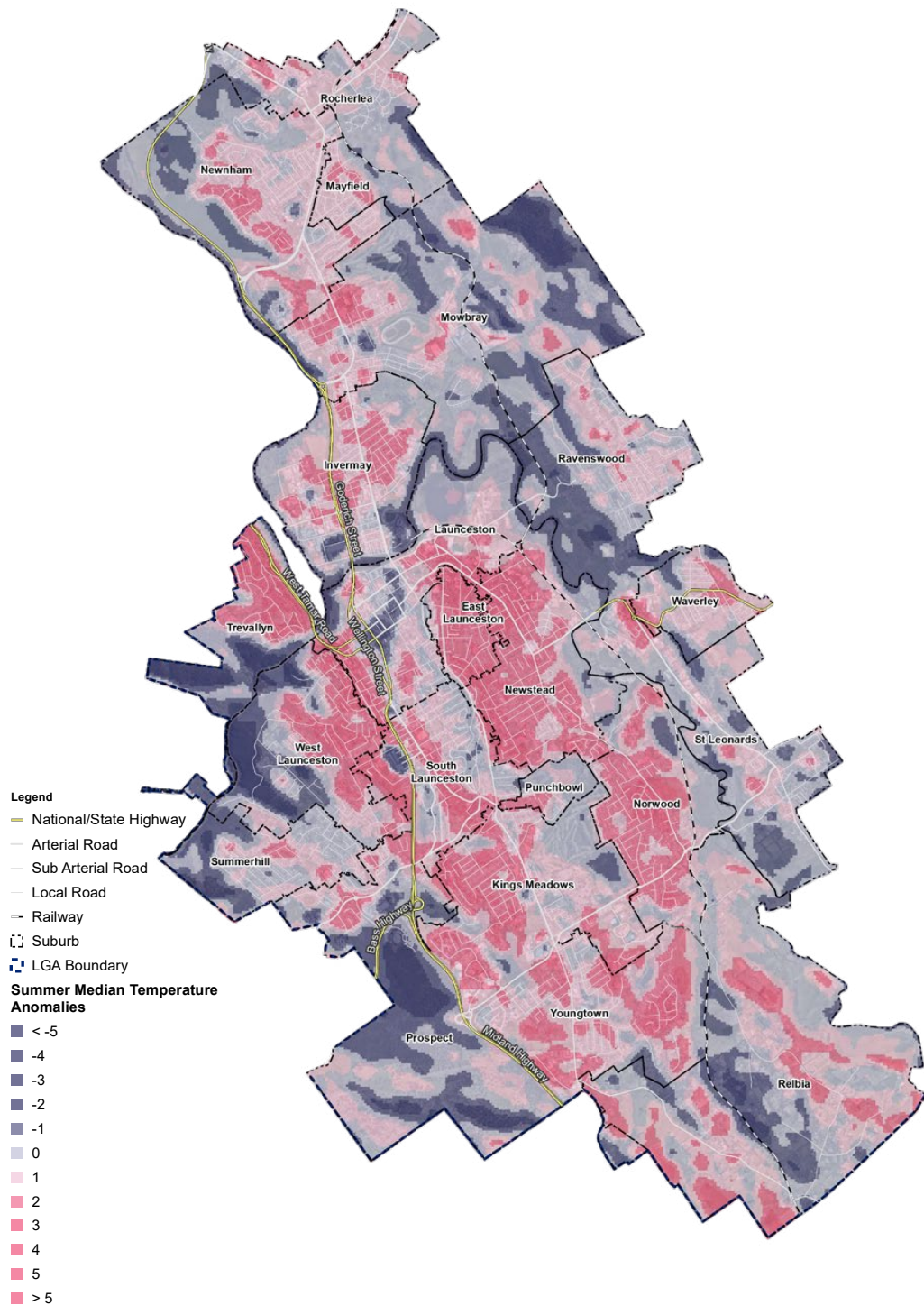


Figure 7: Summer Median Temperature Anomalies



Image: istock

City of Launceston Urban Greening Strategy 29



Image: City of Launceston



Image: City of Launceston

2.4 Urban Densification and Competition for Space

As Launceston grows in population, new dwellings will be needed. This urban development will result in increased density both in existing areas, and the addition of new suburbs. Urban density relates to the number of people inhabiting a given urbanised area.

The development of land for large scale or single family residential has a major impact on tree canopy loss; higher-density development in urban infill, smaller block sizes in greenfield developments, increased building footprints, the preference for level sites, the use of impervious materials, higher land values and landowners redeveloping to the maximum allowable building size all play critical roles in reducing vegetation on private land. As vegetation on private land shrinks, opportunities for conservation are challenged, people's connection with nature is limited and the urban forest is reduced. New developments will need to protect, maintain, nurture and enhance trees and other vegetation on private land to expand the urban forest.

For new developments, there are opportunities in the assessment process to protect existing canopy cover and other vegetation. The development application process could seek opportunities to minimise the footprint of driveways on private property which can impact existing trees and other vegetation and identify areas for deep soil and new trees. There may be future opportunities for planning controls to influence improved greening and canopy development outcomes.

The competition for space extends into the public domain as the development pressures of roads, transport networks and services all pose threats to the urban forest. Making space on the streetscape for carriageways, footpaths and nature strips has a significant impact on street trees, new or modified roadworks affect the retention of street trees, overhead powerlines conflict with the management of trees, and underground services impacting the space needed for street trees to grow and mature. The provision of new street trees and protecting existing canopy is a priority, yet challenging with these constraints.

To achieve the urban forest objectives, greater collaboration is needed with and between utility providers. Greater collaboration can enable the co-location of cables which can reduce infrastructure costs and protect existing trees, while also future proofing opportunities for new trees and other vegetation by protecting appropriate planting areas on streets and medians.

Other areas of competition that limit the available space for tree planting include the open space needed for recreation in parks, parking in streets, driveway crossings and awning construction. A balance must be maintained between tree cover and areas of canopy free open space. The implementation plan should look for innovative planting opportunities to allow for canopy cover in contested spaces, and where this is not achievable identify other forms of urban greening such as green roofs, vertical gardens, arbours and green structures that mitigate against heat impact and utilise water sensitive urban design.

2.5 Social Equity

The urban forest can play a role in social equity however, research shows that urban forest cover is not equitably distributed across many cities and the impact of heat is not evenly distributed across the population (Nesbitt et al., 2019).

Studies have shown that during heatwave events, vulnerable community members – including younger children, the elderly, people who are unwell or socially isolated, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, public housing tenants, and socio-economically disadvantaged people are the most impacted as they are less likely to be able to afford or access thermal comfort (UNEP, 2021).

Age is a critical factor in determining the vulnerability to extreme heat. People over 65 years old and youth less than 5 years old are the most vulnerable. Tasmania has a greater proportion of vulnerable population with 19.8% of the population over 65 years old (Campbell et al, 2019).

Launceston's residents are currently unprepared for extreme heat events. Launceston has a cool, temperate climate, and historically buildings and public spaces have not been designed with high temperatures in mind. Average temperatures in Tasmania have risen 1.1 degrees Celsius since 1910. This warming has been accompanied by reduced annual rainfall and heightened bushfire risk (Commonwealth of Australia, 2021). By the middle of this century (2040-2059), Launceston is expected to see a further 0.3°C temperature rise. The number of hot days above 30°C is also expected to rise to around 8 days a year and by the end of this century, the City of Launceston's annual average temperature could increase by up to 3.3°C (Grose, n.d.). Very hot days are expected to be 3-4°C hotter than currently experienced. Heatwaves will become more common, occurring up to twice a year. Warm spells will last up to two weeks (Grose, n.d.; White et al., 2010) and the number of summer days above 25°C will more than double to around 70 days per year (Grose, n.d.).

Because Tasmania has a rapidly ageing population, as does Launceston (Denny and Pisanu, 2019), it is important to take steps now to lessen the effects of extreme heat in the decades ahead.

One response that can help cool Launceston in the future is to plant more trees now. Recent studies have shown that people living in areas covered by less trees have a 5% higher risk of death from heat related causes (Schinasi et al, 2018; UNEP, 2021).

Urban greening is already being used by other cities in Australia and internationally to make cities cooler and more liveable (Bowler et al., 2010). A key goal of this Strategy is to support equitable distribution of the urban forest so that all can benefit from it. This means ensuring planting is prioritised in the areas where canopy cover is lowest and where residents are most vulnerable.

Figure 8 shows the correlation between socio-economic disadvantage, age vulnerability, and median temperatures. This shows the areas where people are at the greatest risk during extreme heat events. This mapping should inform the implementation priorities, identifying areas for planting to increase equity and improve resilience. Key areas where limited canopy coverage results in high levels of vulnerability to heat include the northern suburbs (particularly Invermay, Newnham, Rocherlea and Mowbray), and to the south in Youngtown. These areas have a combination of high vulnerability and low canopy cover. The community benefit of increased canopy in these areas is very high.

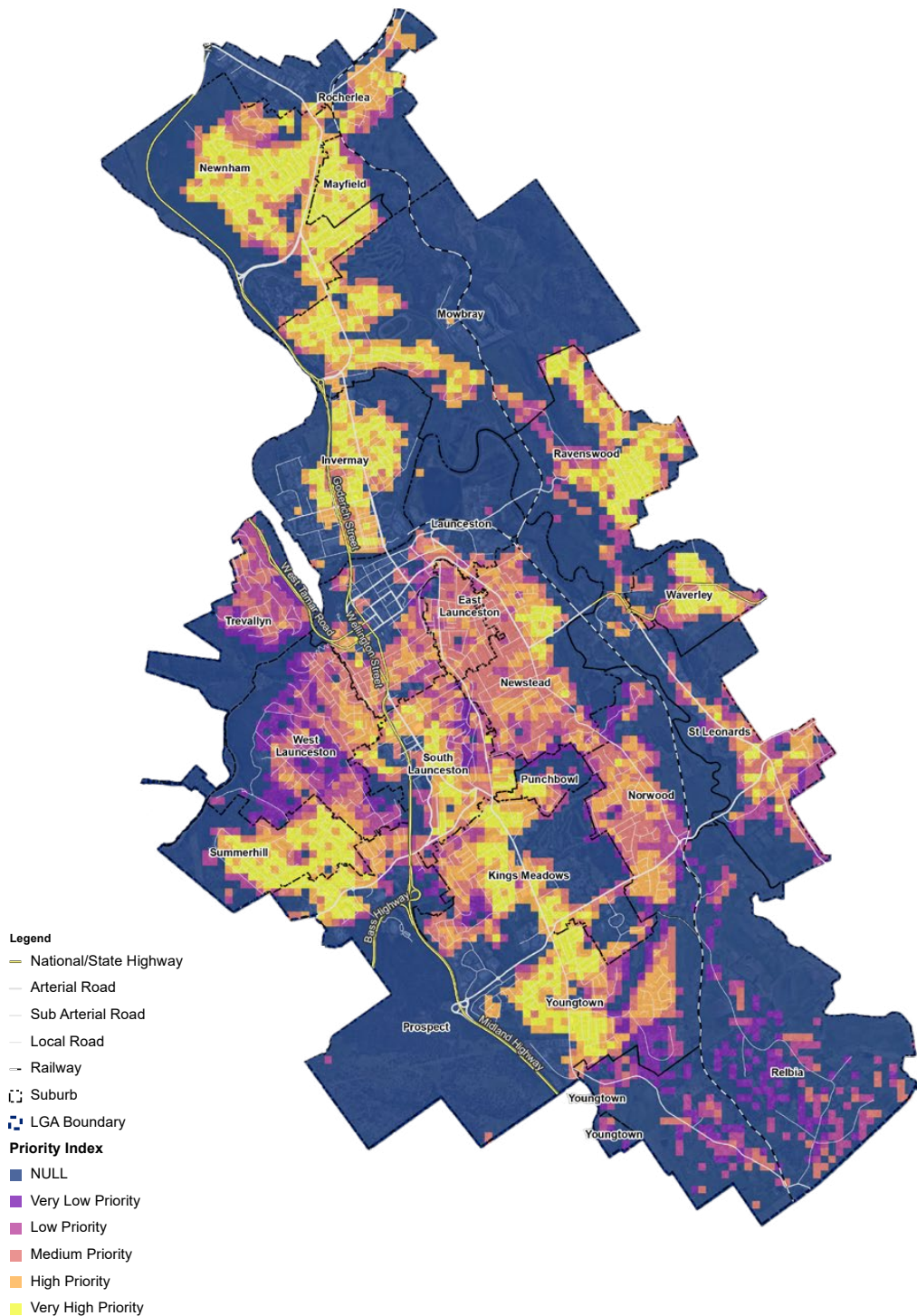


Figure 8: Priority Areas - Correlation between Socio-Economic Disadvantage and Summer Median Temperature

2.6 Community Engagement

The knowledge, awareness, perspectives, and perceptions of a city's residents and workers are important for the success for urban greening strategies (Kendal et al., 2022). Even with the best tree planning and management policies in place, unless residents and business owners value trees, urban greening will be challenging, and maintaining larger trees in the urban landscape will be difficult (Kirkpatrick et al., 2012). People's perception, attitudes and values can affect whether trees are seen as important and worth looking after, or a nuisance and a burden (Kirkpatrick et al., 2012). Where communities and businesses are involved in decision-making about urban trees, have the opportunity express diverse viewpoints and learn about the perspectives of others, there is a higher chance of success in urban forestry and greening (Carmichael et al., 2018).

It is essential that the implementation of Launceston's Urban Greening Strategy occurs in a collaborative and participatory way to ensure the wider community and landowners understand the many benefits that trees can provide, that species selection can reduce risks, and can increase 'buy-in' to the urban greening strategy (Barron et al., 2021; Kendal et al., 2022). It will be necessary to work closely with residents, to understand their needs, preferences and concerns, and then to share experiences and test different approaches that may work better in particular places.

Some of the ways that local communities have been involved in delivering urban forest strategies are through 'Adopt-A-Tree' programs where the community can request free street trees in exchange for tree care and watering, free tree giveaway programs where community members plant trees on private land and balconies, community co-design planting processes, tree inventories supported by community participation, community gardens, education programs such as planting days that involve the community in ongoing management of the urban forest. Incentives like 'Adopt-A-Patch' where schools or groups use a patch as an outdoor classroom create a sense of connection between trees and places. Another example from the City of Melbourne allows community members to communicate with trees by writing them an email. The implementation plan intends to develop a program for how the community is to be engaged in a participatory way.

In May and June 2022, the University of Tasmania held five workshops on behalf of the City of Launceston. This consultation included community groups, residents, business, culturally and linguistically diverse residents, older people, and the Council staff and decision-makers.

Participants spoke with deep affection about the benefits of trees in Launceston. Some of the benefits included making the city more beautiful, providing shade in summer, attracting birds and wildlife into the city, providing fruit and seasonal colour, creating a sense of belonging, and improving people's health and wellbeing. Overall, workshop participants were supportive of efforts to increase tree canopy cover across the city, especially in those areas where residents face cost of living challenges and where tree canopy cover is currently very low.

Participants also identified numerous concerns related to trees in the city. Concerns identified included overshadowing, damage to pavements, pipes and house foundations, concerns about safety and vandalism, and concerns about maintenance costs for the Council and property owners.

New ways of working together are required to understand diverse perspectives and to ensure that urban greening strategies can better meet the needs of all residents, within budget and staffing limitations and complex planning and decision-making frameworks (Ordóñez et al, 2020). Through the engagement a range of innovative solutions were suggested by participants including:

- providing incentives for tree planting
- opportunities to retain trees and greenery on private property
- working with the community to pilot demonstration projects

Broadly, there was strong support to commit to a bold vision to increase canopy cover within the city. Across all the workshops, the most frequently mentioned aspect of a liveable city was greenery – both trees and greenspace. The community holds a strong affinity for trees already and understand the importance of increased tree canopy to mitigate climate impacts in the future. The community appreciates the complexities of tree planting in urban settings. Participatory engagement and activities during the implementation will further strengthen community support.

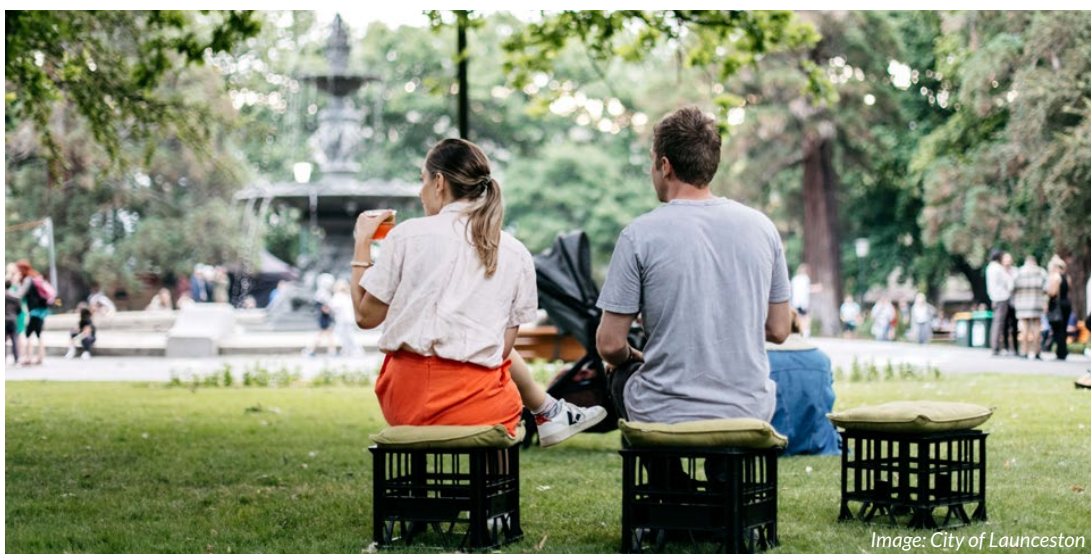


Image: City of Launceston

3 | A Vision for Launceston's Urban Forest

The City of Launceston's Urban Forest will be resilient, connected and diverse and will contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community and to the creation of a vibrant, liveable and sustainable city.



Image: istock

The Urban Greening Strategy is part of a broader system that contributes towards creating a sustainable and liveable city.

The Urban Forest Vision is complementary to *Launceston Sustainability Strategy (2019)*, *Launceston City Deal (2017)*, *City of Launceston Open Space Strategy (2007)* and *City of Launceston Transport Strategy (2020-2040)* and is underpinned by these five themes.

The five themes were derived from an alignment with sections of the *City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan (2014 - 2024)*, which were structured on the

overarching goals within the Greater Launceston Plan. These five themes have also been influenced by the *Street Tree Strategy (2012)*, *Launceston City Heart Master Plan* and *My Place My Future (Northern Suburbs Revitalisation Plan)*. Each theme informs priority objectives for the basis of interventions and applies a key target to monitor success.

The following section provide an overview of the principles driving decisions, the five themes and the priority objectives which support them.



Figure 9: Launceston's Urban Forest Vision, Key Themes and Targets

4 | Principles, Themes and Priorities



Image: istock

4.1 Principles

Principles will guide decision-making to achieve the vision and directly address the local issues and challenges.

The Guiding Principles for developing the urban greening in the City of Launceston are:

- mitigate and adapt to climate change
- reduce the urban heat island effect
- transition to a water sensitive city
- design for health and wellbeing
- design for liveability and sustainability
- create healthier ecosystems
- design for heritage sensitivity

4.2 Themes

THEME 1

Retain and Increase Canopy Cover

Priority Objectives

- T1.1** Increase upper, mid and low canopy cover in the City of Launceston in parks, recreation and open space areas, civic spaces, streets and road corridors and in residential areas, including private and public areas.
- T1.2** Monitor tree health and, as appropriate, replace dead trees and vacant tree sites in areas where trees previously existed.
- T1.3** Monitor, maintain and enhance the urban forest in the network of Parks and Recreation areas and Environmental Management areas.
- T1.4** Enhance resilience of most vulnerable human populations and mitigate the impacts of extreme heat by increasing canopy cover.
- T1.5** Promote nature-based solutions to greening areas of high density, such as green roofs, vertical gardens, arbours and structures.
- T1.6** Develop a policy and guidelines to encourage the inclusion of trees and other vegetation in planning and development processes.
- T1.7** Develop a policy and guideline to minimise tree loss through the development assessment process.

Target

Achieve a 40% canopy cover in the Launceston Urban Area by 2040

THEME 2

Improve Urban Forest Diversity and Resilience

Priority Objectives

- T2.1** Seek positive solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation including planting species variety for current climate, seasonal adaptation and future climate scenarios.
- T2.2** Identify priority planting areas for local species and species diversity, including native and non-native heat and drought tolerant trees and plant accordingly.
- T2.3** Understand soil suitability and where possible plant in deep soils or environments that provide appropriate solutions for nutrition and water storage.
- T2.4** Integrate the urban forest with water sensitive urban design, using stormwater and other sources of irrigation that minimises water consumption.
- T2.5** Provide appropriate protection for existing trees and other vegetation.
- T2.6** Work with other infrastructure providers to:
 - a.) address any infrastructure challenges which prevent the planting of trees and other vegetation, and
 - b.) develop strategies to maintain street trees.

Target

To have no more than 5% of any tree species, no more than 10% of any genus and no more than 20% of any family in Launceston's urban forest.

THEME 3

Support Biodiversity and Conservation of the Urban Forest

Priority Objectives

- T3.1** Develop a species Biodiversity Report to:
 - a.) identify local species and habitat corridors and plant appropriately, and
 - b.) engage with stakeholders and develop a planting strategy.
- T3.2** Maintain responsible environmental management and conservation of natural resources.
- T3.3** Create and protect natural habitat corridors between reserves, open and green space.
- T3.4** Promote, provide and maintain other urban ecosystems, such as green roofs, walls, gardens and other structures.
- T3.5** Improve vegetation and facilitate safe native fauna movement along transport and service corridors.

Target

Develop a biodiversity health check and implement a vegetation condition assessment to ensure improvement of urban biodiversity.

THEME 4

Develop Integrated Infrastructure to support the Urban Forest and Liveability

Priority Objectives

- T4.1** Combine green infrastructure with urban development to improve urban amenity and city attractiveness.
- T4.2** Create a green network that provides linkages between places and connects people to key destinations e.g., public transport and open spaces, key public spaces or places and habitat corridors.
- T4.3** Align green network to the walking and cycling corridors as in the *City of Launceston Transport Strategy 2020-2040*, to encourage the use of active and public transport.
- T4.4** Integrate the green network with urban stormwater infrastructure and promote water sensitive urban design.
- T4.5** Provide approachable and accessible green elements and use trees, green structures, and other plantings as shaded and welcoming places to sit or stay in the city centre.

Target

Increase numbers of street trees by planting 18,000 new street trees by 2040, this is equivalent to the increase of canopy cover to 40%

THEME 5

Increase Community Knowledge and Participation

Priority Objectives

- T5.1** Increase community education on the role of trees and other vegetation in climate change mitigation and urban heat island effect.
- T5.2** Raise awareness of the Urban Greening Strategy and promote the benefits of greening City of Launceston's parks, recreation areas and open space areas, civic spaces, and roads.
- T5.3** Partner with the community and establish an Urban Greening Advisory Committee to support community participation, address community concerns and provide guidance on the management of the urban forest.
- T5.4** Create opportunities for the community, including youth and minority groups to act and take ownership of the urban forest.
- T5.5** Promote and incentivise the planting of trees and other vegetation on private land.

Target

Benchmark and improve community reported engagement and satisfaction through Tomorrow Together.

5 | Implementation framework



Image: City of Launceston

5.1 Governance

This strategy puts forward principles and themes that will guide the long-term planning, development and management of the City of Launceston's urban greening. It also outlines a set of targets to evaluate the success of implementation. A more detailed implementation and action plan, with interim targets will be developed.

Key considerations in developing an effective urban greening strategy include political leadership, stakeholder engagement, supporting design standards and guidelines, financial support, long-term monitoring, and supportive regulatory frameworks.

The City of Melbourne Urban Forest Strategy is widely used as a benchmark for the development of resilient urban forest strategies in Australia (2020 Vision, 2013). The City of Melbourne has used three main steps, which are mapping and modelling to inform priorities; engage and consult with experts and senior representatives of the Council; and engage with community through workshops (Hartigan et al, 2021).

Over the past year, the City of Launceston has completed the following activities:

- **Map and model to inform priorities.**
Engaged Geoneon Pty Ltd to map and model the current canopy cover, identify vulnerable populations, and identify priorities for urban greening
- **Engage with the community through workshops.**
Worked with the University of Tasmania to engage with key stakeholder groups to determine the level of understanding of urban greening, identify key priorities for the strategy, understand what has and hasn't worked in the past, and identify engagement opportunities for the future.
Worked with the Launceston Chamber of Commerce on a shared commitment to the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure in the city. In an MOU signed in May 2022, both organisations committed to develop an urban greening strategy and implementation plan that builds on recent and current projects and establishes priority actions and timelines to enhance the greening of Launceston
- **Engage and consult with senior representatives of the Council, community leaders, and experts.**
Completed a series of workshops with the Council experts and community leaders to inform the development of the strategy.
- **Identify, implement, monitor and review.**
The next step is to develop an implementation and adaptive planning process to meet the objectives in the strategy, establish interim milestones, and establish a monitoring, review, and adjustment cycle.

5.2 Measurement, Monitoring and Review

The implementation plan will drive the delivery of the strategy through short, medium and long-term actions that will be monitored and measured within set timeframes to help track the progress of implementing each of the principles, themes and actions to improve our urban forest by 2040 and beyond.

The adaptive planning approach will include a review of progress every year, with the opportunity to make operational adjustments in the implementation plan.

This strategy will be subject to a review every 5 years.



Image: City of Launceston



Image: iStock

City of Launceston Urban Greening Strategy 45

Glossary

Biodiversity	Refers to the wide variety of ecosystems and living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, their habitats and their genes, and the ecological complexes of which they are part. Biodiversity also refers to the degree of variation of life forms within a given species or ecosystem, and is a measure of the health of ecosystems
Canopy Cover	The area over which tree branches and foliage cover when viewed from above.
Density	In relation to canopy cover, the trees per unit of area. In relation to urban areas, the number of people (residents or workers) per unit of area, which typically correlates to built-up areas with more buildings and pavement (and thus less green cover).
Ecosystem	A system across various geographic scales where living organisms, weather and the physical environment interact.
Green Infrastructure	The network of green spaces which intersperse, connect and provide vital life support for humans and other species within urban environments. It includes elements such as green networks and links, cemeteries, community gardens, domestic gardens, roof gardens, green walls, living walls and verges.
Liveability	A combination of conditions required for community to live with adequate physical and mental wellbeing.
Resilience	The capacity to adapt or recover from change and continue to develop. Ecological resilience refers to the capacity of an ecosystem or natural population to recover from impacts to function following natural or human-caused disturbances. Social resilience is the ability of human communities to withstand and recover from stresses, such as environmental change or social, economic or political upheaval.
Sustainability	Meeting the needs of the current population while protecting and providing resources to meet the needs of future generations.
Urban Forest	The urban forest is made up of all the trees, shrubs, grassland and other vegetation, growing on public and private land within the city, and the soil and water that supports them.
Urban Forestry	'The art, science and technology of managing trees and forest resources in and around urban community ecosystems for the physiological, sociological, economic and aesthetic benefits trees provide society' (Helms, 1998).
Urban Heat Island	Described the effect where developed urban areas capture and store heat at a higher rate than natural and biodiverse areas.
Whole-of-Forest Approach	The whole-of-forest approach recognises the contribution of all trees and other vegetation to the ecological system and their symbiotic relationship. Each individual tree and all other plants provide a combined contribution of benefits which are amplified by connected corridors and the forest as an entire system. The forest includes all trees and other vegetation in the municipality irrespective of land ownership.

Bibliography

- Aznarez, C., Svenning, J., Taveira, G., Baró, F., & Pascual, U. (2022). Wildness and habitat quality drive spatial patterns of urban biodiversity. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, Volume 228
- Astell-Burt, T. and Feng, X (2019). Association of urban green space with mental health and general health among adults in Australia. *JAMA Network Open*
- Astell-Burt, T., Navakatikyan, M.A., Walsan, R., Davis, W., Figtree, G., Arnolda, L. and Feng, X. (2021). Green space and cardiovascular health in people with type 2 diabetes. *Health & Place*, 69, p.102554.
- Astell-Burt, T., Navakatikyan, M., Eckermann, S., Hackett, M. and Feng, X., (2022). Is urban green space associated with lower mental healthcare expenditure?. *Social Science & Medicine*
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021.
- Bardsley, D.K., Moskwa, E., Weber, D., Robinson, G.M., Waschl, N. and Bardsley, A.M., (2018). Climate change, bushfire risk, and environmental values: examining a potential risk perception threshold in peri-urban South Australia. *Society & Natural Resources*
- Barron, S., Sheppard, S., Kozak, R., Dunster, K., Dave, K., Sun, D. and Rayner, J., (2021). What do they like about trees? Adding local voices to urban forest design and planning. *Trees, Forests and People*
- Berthon, K., Thomas, F. and Bekessy, S., (2021). The role of 'nativeness' in urban greening to support animal biodiversity. *Landscape and Urban Planning*
- Bijoor, N.S., McCarthy, H.R., Zhang, D. and Pataki, D.E., (2012). Water sources of urban trees in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. *Urban Ecosystems*
- Bowler, D.E., Buyung-Ali, L., Knight, T.M. and Pullin, A.S., (2010). Urban greening to cool towns and cities: A systematic review of the empirical evidence. *Landscape and Urban Planning*
- Brown, J.A. (2020). Influences of environmental and social factors on perceived bio-cultural services and disservices. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*
- Bush J, (2020). The role of local government greening policies in the transition towards nature-based cities. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*
- Byrne, J. and Sipe, N., (2010). Green and open space planning for urban consolidation—A review of the literature and best practice, Issues Paper 11, Urban Research Program, Griffith University, Brisbane Australia
- Byrne, J., Ambrey, C., Portanger, C., Lo, A., Matthews, T., Baker, D. and Davison, A., (2016). Could urban greening mitigate suburban thermal inequity?: the role of residents' dispositions and household practices. *Environmental Research Letters*
- Callaghan C T, Major R E, Lyons, M B, Martin J M, Kingsford R T (2018) The effects of local and landscape habitat attributes on bird diversity in urban greenspaces. *Ecosphere*. 9, e02347.
- Campbell-Arvai, V. and Lindquist, M., (2021). From the ground up: Using structured community engagement to identify objectives for urban green infrastructure planning. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 59, p.127013.
- Campbell S L, Remenyi T A, Williamson G J, White C J, Johnston F H (2019) The Value of Local Heatwave Impact Assessment: A Case-Crossover Analysis of Hospital Emergency Department Presentations in Tasmania, Australia. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2019, 16, 3715.
- Carmichael, C.E. and McDonough, M.H., (2018). The trouble with trees? Social and political dynamics of street tree-planting efforts in Detroit, Michigan, USA. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 31, 221-229.
- Chandra, K.K., Kumar, R. and Baretha, G., (2022). Tree Benefits in Urban Environment and Incidences of Tree Vandalism: A Review for Potential Solutions. *Urban Ecology and Global Climate Change*, 163-181.

- Cheng, J., Xu, Z., Bambrick, H., Su, H., Tong, S. and Hu, W., (2019). Impacts of heat, cold, and temperature variability on mortality in Australia, 2000–2009. *Science of the Total Environment*, 651, 2558-2565.
- City Of Launceston (2021) City of Launceston Transport Strategy 2020-2040. Launceston, Tasmania.
- City of Launceston, Codesign Studio, Aspect Studios, Urban&Public (2015) Launceston City Heart People, Place, Lifestyle. Launceston, Tasmania.
- City of Launceston. (2012) Launceston Street Tree Strategy 2012. Launceston, Tasmania.
- City of Launceston. (2014) Strategic Plan. Launceston, Tasmania.
- City of Launceston. (2018) Tree Management Policy. Launceston, Tasmania.
- City of Launceston. (2019) My Place. My Future. Launceston, Tasmania.
- City of Launceston. (2019) Sustainability Strategy. Launceston, Tasmania.
- City of Launceston. (2020) Nature Strip Policy. Launceston, Tasmania.
- City of Launceston. (2021) Launceston City Deal.
- City of Melbourne (2014) Urban Forest Strategy Making a Great City Greener 2012-2032. Melbourne, Australia.
- City of Sydney (2013) Urban Forest Strategy. Sydney, Australia.
- City of Perth. (2016) Urban Forest Plan 2016-2036. Perth, Australia.
- Clark, C., Ordóñez, C. and Livesley, S.J., (2020). Private tree removal, public loss: Valuing and enforcing existing tree protection mechanisms is the key to retaining urban trees on private land. *Landscape and Urban Planning*
- Coleman, A.F., Ryan, R.L., Eisenman, T.S., Locke, D.H. and Harper, R.W., 2021. The influence of street trees on pedestrian perceptions of safety: Results from environmental justice areas of Massachusetts, US. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*
- Commonwealth of Australia (2021) Climate Change in Australia: Tasmania's Changing Climate.
- Croeser, T., Ordóñez, C., Threlfall, C., Kendal, D., van der Ree, R., Callow, D. and Livesley, S.J., (2020). Patterns of tree removal and canopy change on public and private land in the City of Melbourne. *Sustainable Cities and Society*
- CSIRO, (2020). Climate change in Australia: Climate information, projections, tools and data (climate analogues)
- Cook N, Hughes R, Taylor E, Livesley S, Davern M (2015) Shading liveable cities: exploring the ecological, financial and regulatory dimensions for the urban tree canopy. University of Melbourne. Working Paper.
- Cristóbal, J., Ninyerola, M., and Pons, X. (2008), Modeling air temperature through a combination of remote sensing and GIS data, *J. Geophys. Res.*
- Crooks K, Sanjayan M (2006). *Connectivity Conservation*. Cambridge University Press: New York, NY, USA.
- Daniel C, Morrison T H, and Phin, S., (2016). The governance of private residential land in cities and spatial effects on tree cover. *Environmental science & policy*.
- Dennis, M., Cook, P.A., James, P., Wheeler, C.P. and Lindley, S.J., (2020). Relationships between health outcomes in older populations and urban green infrastructure size, quality and proximity. *BMC Public Health*.
- Denny, L. and Pisanu, N., (2019). Regional population trends in Tasmania: Issues and options, *Insight Nine*, Institute for the Study of Social Change, Hobart, Australia.
- Department of Health (2016) Heatwave ready Tasmania Resources for residential aged care facilities in Tasmania. State of Tasmania 2016.
- Department of State Growth. (2016) *By Foot, Bike, or Bus*. Hobart, Tasmania.
- Eisenman T S, Coleman A F, LaBombard G (2021) *Street Trees for Bicyclists, Pedestrians, and Vehicle Drivers: a Systematic Multimodal Review*. *Urban Sciences*.

- Draus, P., Haase, D., Napieralski, J., Roddy, J. and Qureshi, S., (2019). Wounds, ghosts and gardens: Historical trauma and green reparations in Berlin and Detroit. *Cities*.
- Draus, P., Haase, D., Napieralski, J., Qureshi, S. and Roddy, J., 2021. Lurking in the bushes: informality, illicit activity and transitional green space in Berlin and Detroit. *Cultural Geographies*, 28(2), 319-339.
- Eisenman, T.S., Jariwala, S.P. and Lovasi, G.S., (2019). Urban trees and asthma: a call for epidemiological research. *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*.
- Ellena M, Breil M, Soriani S (2020) The heat-health nexus in the urban context: a systematic literature review exploring the socio-economic vulnerabilities and built environment characteristics. *Urban Climate*.
- Endreny, T.A., (2018). Strategically growing the urban forest will improve our world. *Nature Communications*.
- Fernandes, C.O., da Silva, I.M., Teixeira, C.P. and Costa, L., (2019). Between tree lovers and tree haters. Drivers of public perception regarding street trees and its implications on the urban green infrastructure planning. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*
- Fischer, L.K., Brinkmeyer, D., Karle, S.J., Cremer, K., Huttner, E., Seebauer, M., Nowikow, U., Schütze, B., Voigt, P., Völker, S. and Kowarik, I., (2019). Biodiverse edible schools: Linking healthy food, school gardens and local urban biodiversity. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*.
- Filazzola, A., Shrestha, N. & MacIvor, J.S. (2019). The contribution of constructed green infrastructure to urban biodiversity: A synthesis and meta-analysis.
- Fuller, R.A., Irvine, K.N., Devine-Wright, P., Warren, P.H. & Gaston, K.J. (2007). Psychological benefits of greenspace increase with biodiversity. *Biol. Lett.* 3390-394
- Flynn a, Mcgreevy C, Mulkerrin E (2005) Why do older patients die in a heatwave? *QJM International Journal of Medicine*.
- Fors, H., Hagemann, F.A., Sang, Å.O. and Randrup, T.B., 2021. Striving for inclusion—A systematic review of long-term participation in strategic management of urban green spaces. *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities*.
- Geoneon (2022) Urban Forest Strategy Technical Report. University of Tasmania. Jason Byrne, Emma Williams, Bradley Johnson, Roxane Bandini-Maeder
- Goh, K., 2018. Safe cities and queer spaces: The urban politics of radical LGBT activism. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.
- Government Architect New South Wales (2020) Greener Places: An urban green infrastructure design framework for New South Wales. Sydney, Australia.
- Grose MR (n.d.) Local Climate Profile: Launceston City Municipality, Hobart, Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre.
- Hansen F, Barton D N, Venter Z S, Nowell M S, Cimburova Z (2021) Utilising LiDAR data to map tree canopy for urban ecosystem extent and condition accounts in Oslo. *Ecological Indicators*.
- Hansen, A., Nitschke, M., Saniotis, A., Benson, J., Tan, Y., Smyth, V., Wilson, L., Han, G.S., Mwanri, L. and Bi, P., 2014. Extreme heat and cultural and linguistic minorities in Australia: perceptions of stakeholders. *BMC Public Health*.
- Harrington, L.J., 2021. Rethinking extreme heat in a cool climate: A New Zealand case study. *Environmental Research Letters*.
- Hartig T, Mitchell R, De Vries S, Frumkin H (2014) Nature and Health. *Annual Review of Public Health*.
- Hartigan, M., Fitzsimons, J., Grenfell, M. and Kent, T., 2021. Developing a metropolitan-wide urban forest strategy for a large, expanding and densifying capital city: Lessons from Melbourne, Australia. *Land*.
- Ho H C, Knudby A, Chi G, Aminipouri M, Lai D Y-F (2018) Spatiotemporal analysis of regional socio-economic vulnerability change associated with heat risks in Canada..
- Ho H C, Knudby A, Huang W (2015) A Spatial Framework to Map Heat Health Risks at Multiple Scales. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.
- Holtan, M.T., Dieterlen, S.L. and Sullivan, W.C., 2015. Social life under cover: tree canopy and social capital in Baltimore, Maryland. *Environment and Behavior*, 47(5), 502-525.

- Ignatieva, M., Meurk, C., van Roon, M., Simcock, R., & Stewart, G. (2008). How to put nature into our neighbourhoods : application of low impact urban design and development (LIUDD) principles, with a biodiversity focus, for New Zealand developers and homeowners. Manaaki Whenua Press.
- Johnson D P, Wilson J S, Luber G C (2009) Socioeconomic indicators of heat-related health risk supplemented with remotely sensed data. International Journal of Health Geographics 2009.
- Kashfi S A, Bunker, J M, Yigitcanlar T (2016) Modelling and analysing effects of complex seasonality and weather on an area's daily transit ridership rate. Journal of Transport Geography.
- Kendal, D., Ordóñez, C., Davern, M., Fuller, R.A., Hochuli, D.F., van der Ree, R., Livesley, S.J. and Threlfall, C.G., (2022). Public satisfaction with urban trees and their management in Australia: the roles of values, beliefs, knowledge, and trust. Urban Forestry & Urban Greening.
- Kirkpatrick, J.B., Davison, A. and Daniels, G.D., (2012). Resident attitudes towards trees influence the planting and removal of different types of trees in eastern Australian cities. Landscape and Urban Planning.
- Kirkpatrick, J.B., Davison, A. and Daniels, G.D., (2013). Sinners, scapegoats or fashion victims? Understanding the deaths of trees in the green city. Geoforum.
- Kirkpatrick, J.B., Davison, A. and Harwood, A., (2013). How tree professionals perceive trees and conflicts about trees in Australia's urban forest. Landscape and Urban Planning.
- Koeser, A.K., Klein, R.W., Hasing, G. and Northrop, R.J., (2015). Factors driving professional and public urban tree risk perception. Urban Forestry & Urban Greening.
- Kozowski C, Gerike R, Hubrich S, Götschi T, Pohle M, Wittwer R (2019) Active mobility: bringing together transport planning, urban planning, and public health. In: Müller, B., Meyer, G. (Eds.), Towards User-Centric Transport in Europe: Challenges, Solutions and Collaborations, Lecture Notes in Mobility. Springer International Publishing, Cham.
- Kovats, R.S., Hajat, S. and Wilkinson, P., (2004). Contrasting patterns of mortality and hospital admissions during hot weather and heat waves in Greater London, UK. Occupational and Environmental Medicine.
- Kuo, M., Browning, M.H., Sachdeva, S., Lee, K. and Westphal, L., 2018. Might school performance grow on trees? Examining the link between "greenness" and academic achievement in urban, high-poverty schools. Frontiers in Psychology, 9, p.1669.
- KPMG (2021) Demystifying Natural Capital and Biodiversity.
- Lachowycz K, Jones A P (2013) Towards a better understanding of the relationship between greenspace and health: Development of a theoretical framework. Landscape and Urban Planning.
- Landry F, Dupras J, Messier C (2020) Convergence of urban forest and socio-economic indicators of resilience: a study of environmental inequality in four major cities in Eastern Canada. Landscape and Urban Planning.
- Langenheim N, White M, Tapper N, Livesley SJ, and Ramirez-Lovering D, 2020. Right tree, right place, right time: A visual-functional design approach to select and place trees for optimal shade benefit to commuting pedestrians. Sustainable Cities and Society.
- Lanza K, Durand C P, (2021) Heat-Moderating Effects of Bus Stop Shelters and Tree Shade on Public Transport Ridership/ International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.
- Lazkiewicz E, Sikorsia, D 2020 Children's green walk to school: An evaluation of welfare-related disparities in the visibility of greenery among children.
- Lee, H. and Mayer, H., (2018). Maximum extent of human heat stress reduction on building areas due to urban greening. Urban Forestry & Urban Greening.
- Leone M, D'Ippoliti D, De Sario M et al (2013) A time series study on the effects of heat on mortality and evaluation of heterogeneity in European and Eastern-Southern Mediterranean cities: results of EU CIRCE project. Environmental Health.

- Li, Zhao-Liang & Tang, Bohui & Wu, Hua & Yan, Guangjian & Wan, Zhengming & Trigo, Isabel & Sobrino, Jose. (2013). Satellite-Derived Land Surface Temperature: Current Status and Perspectives. *Remote Sensing of Environment*.
- Lin, B., Meyers, J. and Barnett, G., 2015. Understanding the potential loss and inequities of green space distribution with urban densification. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 14(4).
- Lin, J., Wang, Q. and Huang, B., 2021. Street trees and crime: What characteristics of trees and streetscapes matter. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*.
- Lo AY, Byrne, JA and Jim CY. 2017. How climate change perception is reshaping attitudes towards the functional benefits of urban trees and green space: Lessons from Hong Kong. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*.
- Lonsdale M, Fuller R (2014) Biodiversity Sciences And Solutions for Australia. Chapter 8 Cities and Towns. CSIRO.
- Matthews, T., Lo, A.Y. and Byrne, J.A., 2015. Reconceptualizing green infrastructure for climate change adaptation: Barriers to adoption and drivers for uptake by spatial planners. *Landscape and Urban Planning*.
- Maclaurin, J. & Sterelny, K. (2008). *What Is Biodiversity?*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Marques, B., McIntosh, J., Hatton, W. & Shanahan, D. (2019). Bicultural landscapes and ecological restoration in the compact city: The case of Zealandia as a sustainable ecosanctuary. *Journal of Landscape Architecture*
- Marselle, M.R., Bowler, D.E., Watzema, J., Eichenberg, D., Kirsten, T. and Bonn, A., (2020). Urban street tree biodiversity and antidepressant prescriptions. *Scientific Reports*.
- McDonald, R.I., Kroeger, T., Zhang, P. and Hamel, P., (2020). The value of US urban tree cover for reducing heat-related health impacts and electricity consumption. *Ecosystems*, 23(1), 137-150. Mckercher, B., 2020. Anatomy of successful tourism shopping districts. *International Journal of Tourism Cities*.
- McGehin M, Mirabelli M (2001) The Potential Impacts of Climate Variability and Change on Temperature-Related Morbidity and Mortality in the United States. *Environmental Health Perspectives*.
- McPherson E.G, Rowntree R., 1993. Energy Conservation Potential of Urban Tree planting. *Journal of Arboriculture* 19(6), 324.
- Meyers J, Langston A, Devereux D and Lin BB (2020) Mapping land surface temperatures and heat-health vulnerability in Darwin. CSIRO, Australia.
- Miao, C., Yu, S., Hu, Y., Liu, M., Yao, J., Zhang, Y., He, X. and Chen, W., 2021. Seasonal effects of street trees on particulate matter concentration in an urban street canyon. *Sustainable Cities and Society*.
- Miao Q, Welch E W, Sriraj P (2019) Extreme weather, public transport ridership and moderating effect of bus stop shelters. *Journal of Transport Geography*.
- Moore, T., Ridley, I., Strengers, Y., Maller, C. and Horne, R., 2017. Dwelling performance and adaptive summer comfort in low-income Australian households. *Building Research & Information*.
- Ngo N S (2019) Urban bus ridership, income, and extreme weather events. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*.
- Norton, B.A., Coutts, A.M., Livesley, S.J., Harris, R.J., Hunter, A.M. and Williams, N.S., 2015. Planning for cooler cities: A framework to prioritise green infrastructure to mitigate high temperatures in urban landscapes. *Landscape and Urban Planning*.
- Ordóñez, C., Threlfall, C.G., Livesley, S.J., Kendal, D., Fuller, R.A., Davern, M., van der Ree, R. and Hochuli, D.F., 2020. Decision-making of municipal urban forest managers through the lens of governance. *Environmental Science & Policy*.
- Ordóñez-Barona, C., Bush, J., Hurley, J., Amati, M., Juhola, S., Frank, S., Ritchie, M., Clark, C., English, A., Hertzog, K. and Caffin, M., 2021. International approaches to protecting and retaining trees on private urban land. *Journal of Environmental Management*.
- Pandit, R., Polyakov, M., Tapsuwan, S. and Moran, T., 2013. The effect of street trees on property value in Perth, Western Australia. *Landscape and Urban Planning*.

- Park, C.E., Jeong, S., Harrington, L.J., Lee, M.I. and Zheng, C., 2020. Population ageing determines changes in heat vulnerability to future warming. *Environmental Research Letters*.
- Parsons, P., Neale, R., Wolski, P. & Green, A. 1998, 'The shady side of solar protection', *Medical Journal of Australia*, 168: 327-to330.
- Pearce L M , Kirkpatrick J B, and Davison A (2013) Using size class distributions of species to deduce the dynamics of the private urban forest. *Arboriculture and urban forestry*.
- Phelan K, Hurley J, Bush J (2018) Land-use Planning's Role in Urban Forest Strategies: Recent Local Government Approaches in Australia. *Urban Policy and Research*.
- Pomerantz, M. and Taha, H., 2001. Cool surfaces and shade trees to reduce energy use and improve air quality in urban areas. *Solar Energy*.
- Porter, L., Hurst, J. and Grandinetti, T., 2020. The politics of greening unceded lands in the settler city. *Australian Geographer*.
- Renaissance Planning Pty Ltd. (2014) Greater Launceston Plan. Melbourne, Victoria.
- Riedman, E., Roman, L.A., Pearsall, H., Maslin, M., Ifill, T. and Dentice, D., 2022. Why don't people plant trees? Uncovering barriers to participation in urban tree planting initiatives. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*.
- Roman, L.A., Conway, T.M., Eisenman, T.S., Koeser, A.K., Ordóñez Barona, C., Locke, D.H., Jenerette, G.D., Östberg, J. and Vogt, J., (2021). Beyond 'trees are good': Disservices, management costs, and tradeoffs in urban forestry.
- Rothman L, Buliung R, Howard A, Macarthur C, Macpherson A (2017) The school environment and student car drop-off at elementary schools. *Travel Behaviour Sociology*.
- Roy S, Byrne J and Pickering C. (2012). A systematic quantitative review of urban tree benefits, costs, and assessment methods across cities in different climatic zones. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*.
- Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (2020) Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements Report. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.
- Sangiorgio V, Fiorito F, Santamouris M (2020) Development of a holistic urban heat island evaluation methodology. *Nature Research*.
- Saunders, A., Duncan, J., Hurley, J., Amati, M., Caccetta, P., Chia, J. and Boruff, B., (2020). Leaf my neighbourhood alone! Predicting the influence of densification on residential tree canopy cover in Perth. *Landscape and Urban Planning*.
- Schinasy L H, Benmarhnia T, De Roos A J (2018) Modification of the association between high ambient temperature and health by urban microclimate indicators: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Environmental Research* 161 (February), 168-180.
- Schwaab J, Meier R, Musetti G, Seneviratne S, Burgi C, Davin L (2021) The role of urban trees in reducing land surface temperatures in European cities. *Nature Communication* 12, 6763 (2021).
- Seebass K (2017) Who is feeling the heat? : vulnerabilities and exposures to heat stress- individual, social, and housing explanations. *Nature and Culture*.
- Shanahan, D.F., Lin, B.B., Gaston, K.J., Bush, R. and Fuller, R.A., 2014. Socio-economic inequalities in access to nature on public and private lands: A case study from Brisbane, Australia. *Landscape and Urban Planning*.
- Steffen W, Hughes L, Perkins S (2014) Heatwaves: hotter, longer, more often. *Climate Council of Australia Limited*.
- Stover V W, McCormack, E D (2012) The impact of weather on bus ridership in Pierce County, Washington. *Journal of Public Transportation*.
- Tong, S., Wang, X.Y., Yu, W., Chen, D. and Wang, X., 2014. The impact of heatwaves on mortality in Australia: a multicity study. *BMJ Open*.
- Uchida, K., Blakey, R.V., Burger, J.R., Cooper, D.S., Niesner, C.A. & Blumstein, D.T. (2021). Urban Biodiversity and the Importance of Scale. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*.
- United Nations Environment Programme, Cool Coalition, RMI, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Mission Innovation, Clean Cooling Collaborative (2022) *Beating the heat: a sustainable cooling handbook for cities*.

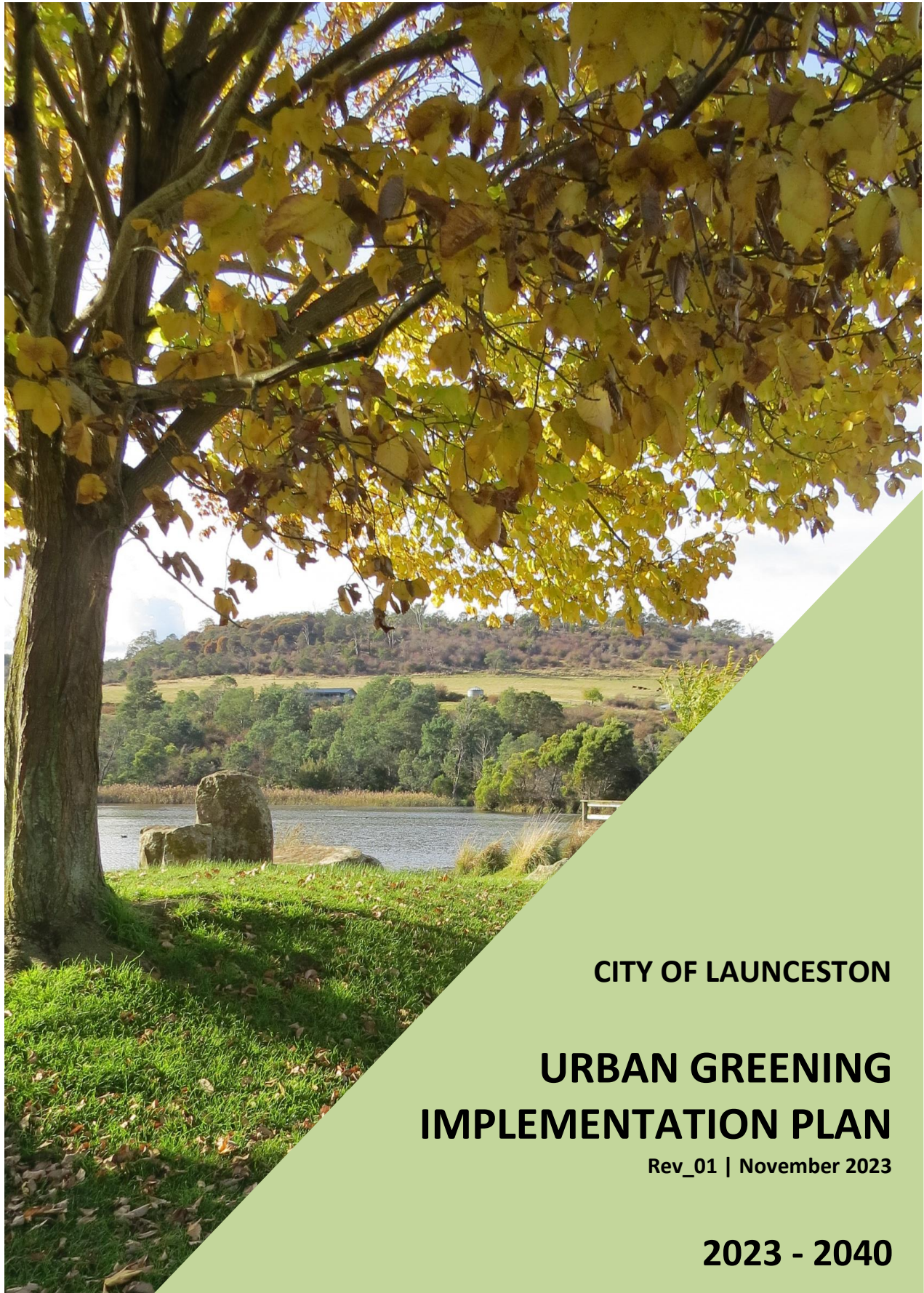
- Vandentorren S, Bretin P, Zeghnoun A, Mandereau-Bruno L, Croisier A, Cochet C, Riberon J (2006) People living at home. *European Journal of Public Health*.
- Veitch, J., Ball, K., Rivera, E., Loh, V., Deforche, B., Best, K. and Timperio, A., (2022). What entices older adults to parks? Identification of park features that encourage park visitation, physical activity, and social interaction. *Landscape and Urban Planning*.
- Villanueva K, Badland H, Hooper P, Koohshari M J, Mavoa S, Davern M, Roberts R, Goldfield S, Giles-Corti B (2015) Developing indicators of public open space to promote health and wellbeing in communities. *Applied Geography*.
- Webber, J.L., Fletcher, T.D., Cunningham, L., Fu, G., Butler, D. and Burns, M.J., (2020). Is green infrastructure a viable strategy for managing urban surface water flooding?. *Urban Water Journal*.
- White CJ, Grose MR, Corney SP, Bennett JC, Holz GK, Sanabria LA, McInnes KL, Cechet RP, Gaynor SM & Bindoff NL (2010) *Climate Futures of Tasmania: Extreme Events Technical Report.*, Hobart, Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre.
- White J G, Antos, M J, Fitzsimons J A, Palmer G C (2005) Non-uniform bird assemblages in urban environments: The influence of streetscape vegetation. *Lands. Urban Plan.*
- Wolch, J.R., Byrne, J. and Newell, J.P., (2014). Urban green space, public health, and environmental justice: The challenge of making cities 'just green enough'. *Landscape and Urban Planning*.
- Wolf, K.L., Lam, S.T., McKeen, J.K., Richardson, G.R., van den Bosch, M. and Bardekjian, A.C., (2020). Urban trees and human health: A scoping review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.
- Wood, E M., & Esaian, S. (2020). The importance of street trees to urban avifauna. *Ecological Applications*
- World Economic Forum (2022) *The Global Risks Report 2021*.
- World Health Organisation (2016) *Urban green spaces and health*. Copenhagen: WHO Office for Europe.
- Yan J, Zhou W, Han L, Quian Y (2018) Mapping vegetation functional types in urban areas with WorldView-2 imageries: Integrating object-based classification with phenology. *Urban For. Urban Green.*
- Wong NH, Tas CL, Kolokotsa DD, and Takebayashi H (2021) Greenery as a mitigation and adaptation strategy to urban heat. *Nature Reviews Earth & Environment*.
- Wood, E.M. and Esaian, S., (2020). The importance of street trees to urban avifauna. *Ecological Applications*
- Yu W, Vaneckova P, Mengersen K, Pan X, Tong S (2010) Is the association between temperature and mortality modified by age, gender and socio-economics status? *Scienced of the Total Environment*.
- Zhou M, Wang D, Li Q, Yue, Y, Tu W, Cao R (2017) Impacts of weather on public transport ridership: Results from mining data from different sources. *Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies*.
- Zhou, D, Xiao J, Bonafoni S, Berger C, Deilami K, Zhou Y, Frolking S, Yao R, Qiao Z, Sobrino JA (2019) *Satellite Remote Sensing of Surface Urban Heat Islands: Progress, Challenges, and Perspectives*. *Remote Sens.*
- Zuniga-Teran, A.A., Staddon, C., de Vito, L., Gerlak, A.K., Ward, S., Schoeman, Y., Hart, A. and Booth, G., (2020). Challenges of mainstreaming green infrastructure in built environment professions. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*.



Image: City of Launceston

Town Hall, 18 St John Street Launceston
T 03 6323 3000
E contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au
www.launceston.tas.gov.au





CITY OF LAUNCESTON

**URBAN GREENING
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Rev_01 | November 2023

2023 - 2040

Revision	Date	Author	Changes
01	30.11.2.23	K. Pugh, R. Coombes	-

Cover photo: Waverley Lake, Launceston
Photo credit: City of Launceston

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
URBAN GREENING VISION	1
PRINCIPLES	1
THEMES AND TARGETS	2
PLANNING AND FUNDING OF THE PLAN	2
DELIVERY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION	2
IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	3
ACTION TYPE	3
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN STRUCTURE	3
ACTIONS BY TYPE	4
PLANNING	4
GOVERNANCE	6
ON-GROUND	10

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

INTRODUCTION

In 2023 the City of Launceston drafted its first *Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040*. This strategy replaces the *Street Tree Strategy (2012)* and shifts a focus from managing trees on an individual basis towards delivering a whole-of-forest approach.

The *Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040* sets out the vision, principles, themes and objectives for Launceston's urban forest and aims to enhance the social, environmental, economic benefits for all of Launceston residents, to create a more vibrant, liveable and sustainable city.

This *Urban Greening Implementation Plan* sets out how The Council plans to meet the vision of the Urban Greening Strategy and guides the management and resource allocation over the next 17 years to align with timings of the City's existing plans and strategies.

Considering the key challenges, opportunities, business and community feedback, this implementation plan sets out a priority list of short-, medium- and long-term actions to achieve the urban greening vision.

The Implementation Plan should be read in conjunction with the *Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040*.

URBAN GREENING VISION

The City of Launceston's urban forest will be resilient, connected and diverse and will contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community and to the creation of a vibrant, liveable and sustainable city.

Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040

PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles of the Launceston Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040 are to:

- mitigate and adapt to climate change;
- reduce the urban heat island effect;
- transition to a water sensitive city;
- design for health and wellbeing;
- design for liveability and sustainability;
- create healthier ecosystems; and
- design for heritage sensitivity.

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

THEMES AND TARGETS

To achieve the vision of the Urban Greening Strategy five key themes and associated targets have been developed. Each theme is further supported by priority objectives to assist in delivery and implementation of actions. The key themes and targets are as follows:



Figure 9. Launceston's Urban Forest Vision, Key Themes and Targets
(Source: Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040)

PLANNING AND FUNDING OF THE PLAN

The Implementation Plan has been segmented into four-year planning cycles or phases to coincide with the City of Launceston four-year planning processes. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis consistent with the annual planning and budget cycle for the city. The Council actions will be prioritised and funding or other resources will be sought from The Council, the private sector, grant programs, and other levels of government.

DELIVERY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A critical component of the Urban Greening Implementation Plan is to undertake regular reviews to ensure that progress is made, targets are met, outcomes are measured, new information is considered, and the ongoing delivery of actions across the urban area are achieved.

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

A review of the Implementation Plan will occur annually and will include an evaluation of the progress, timelines, funding, and success criteria as outlined in the Urban Greening Strategy. As numerous actions will take many years to view results, a full review of the Strategy and Implementation Plan will take place every four years and may include revision of strategic priorities and addition or amendment of actions over time.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

The Implementation Plan includes actions over the next 16+ years divided into the following phases. Some actions will be ongoing over the life of the planning and implementation horizon.

Stage	Timeframe
Ongoing	
Short Term	1-4 Years
Medium Term	5-8 years
Long Term	9+ years

ACTION TYPE

Several types of actions have been identified in the plan. Some actions may span across several categories, but have been categorised by their primary aim. The types include:

Action Type	Description
Planning	Preparation of plans that inform implementation
Governance	Guidelines, processes, or governance groups that support greening activities
On-ground	Physical actions that result in greening of the urban area or actions that empower the community to participate in greening

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN STRUCTURE

The Implementation Plan has been divided into the types of actions required to implement the plan. Each section is further segmented into stages of time (ongoing, short-term, medium term, and long term). This format is designed to align with the City of Launceston planning cycles and the types of expertise or resources required to implement the various actions in the plan.

Each action identifies the themes that it addresses.

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

ACTIONS BY TYPE

The actions in this section have been sorted by the type of action (planning, governance, and on-ground), sequenced over the stages of the strategy (Stage 1, Stages 1 & 2, Stage 2, Stage 2 & 3, Stage 3, and ongoing).

PLANNING

Planning		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
P-1	Establish canopy cover targets and milestones for each priority area or green zone to achieve the canopy cover target of 40% by 2040.	▲			●	●			
P-2	Develop and implement a monitoring program to reassess the vulnerability index and monitor the land surface temperature (LST) and the evolution of the urban forest to assess results of tree planting on LST.	▲			●				
P-3	Identify opportunities for establishing an in-perpetuity funding source such as an Urban Greening Trust.	▲			●	●	●	●	●
P-4	Prepare and implement biodiversity corridor plans that contain necessary structural elements for provision of habitat and safe native fauna movement, including ground cover (leaf litter, twigs/sticks, low herbage), middle storey shrubs and an over storey. Priority corridors: 1. Kings Meadows Rivulet Newnham Creek Newnham Reserve 2. Distillery Creek North Esk Trail West Tamar Trail	▲	▲		●	●	●		

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

Planning (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
P-5	<p>Develop Reserve Management Plans for Launceston's native reserves, including vegetation management and planting plans, management strategies for threats to biodiversity (including biological threats such as virus, bacteria, fungus, and animal pest management), and climate threats.</p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cambridge Street Reserve Hardwicke Street Reserve Cataract Gorge Carr Villa Memorial Bushland Youngtown Regional Reserve West Tamar Trail North Esk Trail Fraser Street Reserve 	▲	▲		●	●	●	●	●
P-6	Create incentives to encourage developers to incorporate green infrastructure into projects.		▲		●	●			●
P-7	Explore opportunities for delivering a community Native Food (Bush Tucker) / Forest Food Program.		▲						●
P-8	Work with community leaders to develop strategies to protect vegetation and deter vandalism.			▲		●			●
P-9	<p>Develop and implement neighbourhood precinct plans for identified priority areas based on the vulnerability index, with a focus on paths that link bus stops and public places such as playgrounds, schools, aged care and medical facilities.</p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Newnham, Mowbray, Mayfield Invermay, Ravenswood, Waverley Summerhill, Kings Meadows, Youngtown 	▲	▲	▲	●	●		●	●

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

GOVERNANCE

Governance		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
G-1	Establish an integrated Project Advisory Group across the relevant internal departments within The Council to achieve integrated urban greening outcomes in the Council projects, masterplans, strategies and policies, and strategic and capital works projects.	▲			●			●	●
G-2	Prepare a 4-year works delivery plan, including budget and resourcing, for identified priority areas or green zones to increase canopy cover in City of Launceston’s parks, recreation and open space areas, civic spaces, built environments, streets and road corridors.	▲			●		●	●	
G-3	Adopt a tool to calculate the economic value of trees.	▲			●	●	●		●
G-4	Investigate integration of tree inventory into Launceston’s strategic asset management plan to better manage funding, scheduled works program and auditing processes.	▲			●	●	●		
G-5	Implement a Significant Tree Register, including policy, guidelines and procedures for management of significant trees.	▲			●	●	●		●
G-6	Develop a suite of green infrastructure guidelines and specification documents to assist in nature-based / alternative greening solutions in areas of high density or where space is limited. This can include greening buildings, green walls, green rooftops, green boxes, pergolas, canopy ladders, arbours, and other structures. Guidelines to include a list of tree species and maintenance procedures to manage vegetation to address building awnings, larger spaces, movement and transport needs.	▲	▲		●	●	●	●	●
G-7	Adopt Guidelines for micro greening (similar to City of Perth Micro Greening in the City and Committee of Sydney Nature Positive Sydney) to encourage community to make small actions towards building the urban forest.	▲			●		●	●	●
G-8	Develop an agreement or memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of State Growth (DSG) for the gateways to the City, including design and installation, ongoing maintenance and replacements.	▲						●	●

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

Governance (continued)		Stage			Theme				
	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
G-9	Register to become a <i>Trees Cities of the World</i> .	▲							●
G-10	Establish an Urban Greening Advisory Committee to support community participation, address community concerns and provide guidance on the management of the urban forest.	▲							●
G-11	Encourage and enable the establishment of volunteer groups such as 'Friends of' groups to work collaboratively with the Council to achieve the objectives of the Urban Greening Strategy.	▲					●		●
G-12	Update the Nature Strip Guidelines to include pictures and graphics to encourage greater engagement with verge gardens to improve biodiversity, climate resilience + health and wellbeing benefits	▲							●
G-13	Review and revise standard drawings, policies, and procedures to assist in the planting of trees and other vegetation, and engage with the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and surrounding Councils to promote widespread adoption.	▲	▲		●		●		
G-14	Adopt a standard tree offset pricing policy to compensate for removal of the Council trees for the benefit of private stakeholders.		▲		●	●	●		●
G-15	Update and maintain the tree inventory, develop a methodology/adopt a tool to consistently record data on trees and conduct an annual audit of tree health and monitoring of urban forest for potentially catastrophic vectors of decline e.g. pests, diseases, stressors.		▲		●				
G-16	Create a requirement for developers to provide a table of changes when providing updated plans to identify when changes to nominated public open space and trees or vegetation are impacted or removed.		▲		●				
G-17	Engage with service providers, emergency management agencies and other local governments to develop guidelines for co-location of underground and overhead assets and street plantings. Documentation should include guidance on pruning around overhead wires, pruning and vegetation management for hazard management, co-location of underground infrastructure within the road reserve, root pruning, cable bundling, undergrounding assets.		▲		●	●	●		

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

Governance (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
G-18	Develop guidelines and procedures for implementing wildlife corridors and habitat patches along transport and service corridors and encourage the application of techniques in new developments. Key existing corridors include Vermont Road, Kings Meadows Connector, St Leonards Rd and East Tamar Highway.		▲		●	●	●		
G-19	Develop Greening Heritage Planting guidelines to address plantings in heritage areas sympathetic to the built environment.		▲					●	●
G-20	Develop collaborative relationships with water management entities and identify opportunities for green network integration.		▲				●	●	●
G-21	Create an online portal map for community to map the trees they have planted that contribute to the urban forest canopy targets.		▲						●
G-22	Prepare a State of the Urban Forest Report every four years to document progress on the implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy. The report will align with the themes and objectives of the Strategy, report outcomes against targets, include a reassessment of canopy cover, include a biodiversity health check, identify any strategic changes impacting urban greening, and propose any modifications of the Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040.		▲	▲	●		●		●
G-23	Develop a set of criteria for tree selection, review existing Council planting lists, and improve species diversity selection to include resilient species which perform well in both current and future climates.			▲	●	●	●		
G-24	Develop and deliver a <i>Greening Façade Improvement Grants Program</i> to encourage business owners, operators, and landlords to enhance the presentation of their buildings through greening.	▲	▲	▲					●

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

Governance (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
G-25	Identify community and stakeholder financial resources to support plantings and maintenance of greening.	▲	▲	▲					●
G-26	Develop principles and implement guidelines and tools for greening for new residential estates, subdivisions and large developments to achieve Urban Greening Targets by engaging with planners and private developers.	▲	▲	▲	●	●			●
G-27	Capitalise on partnerships with organisations such as Rotary, Tamar NRM, TAFE, not-for-profits and other organisations to deliver joint outcomes for the implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy.	▲	▲	▲					●

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

ON-GROUND

On-Ground		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
O-1	Create a register to collect and collate information on local soil types and appropriate species for each soil type.	▲				●			
O-2	Install planter boxes with cascading plants in the Council-owned multi-story car parks. Priorities: 1. Paterson St car parks (East and West) 2. Elizabeth St car park 3. CH Smith car park	▲			●		●	●	●
O-3	Install in ground trees or planter boxes in identified the Council-owned street-level car parks. Priorities: 1. Cimitiere St car park 2. Bathurst St car park 3. Churchill Park car park 4. UTas Inveresk car parks	▲			●		●	●	●
O-4	Develop an artist's impression to show the community what a 40% canopy cover looks like in 2040 and what Launceston's urban areas and streets will look like in 100 years.	▲							●
O-5	Create green gateways to mark important entrances to the City for our locals and visitors. Priorities 1. Northern Outlet - Mowbray roundabout to Forster St (swamp-tolerant native species) Southern Outlet - Westbury Rd overpass to Metro Bus Terminal 2. Tasman Highway - Waverley Lilydale Road - Rocherlea	▲	▲			●	●	●	

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

On-Ground (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
O-6	Gather seeds from thriving local trees and propagate for succession and new plantings.		▲		●	●			
O-7	Develop procedures to manage threats to the urban forest including biological threats such as virus, bacteria, fungus, and animal pest management.		▲		●	●			
O-8	Encourage community involvement on private land to enhance habitat corridors for key threatened species, including swift parrot, eastern barred bandicoot, spotted-tailed quoll and green and gold frog.		▲				●		●
O-9	Explore partnerships with privately owned car parks to install cascading or street level plantings. Priorities: 1. Kings Meadows shopping precinct 2. Mowbray shopping precinct 3. Central Business District (CBD)		▲		●		●	●	●
O-10	Implement a water conservation and efficiency plan for City of Launceston's assets and operations by undertaking a water efficiency analysis across all of the Council's assets to identify excessive water uses in high priority areas and implement water efficiency procedures and/or technologies identified in efficiency analysis (<i>Also see Action 6.26 of the Sustainability Action Plan</i>).		▲	▲		●	●	●	
O-11	Utilise stormwater to water trees and gardens and increase passive irrigation to improve soil moisture levels.		▲	▲		●	●	●	
O-12	Identify and mark key locations with feature trees that provide a memorable vista, e.g. Civic spaces in the CBD (Quadrant Mall as current example), Cataract Gorge.		▲	▲	●			●	
O-13	Identify and create green thresholds to mark important transitions for our locals and visitors.		▲	▲			●		

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

On-Ground (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
O-14	Implement urban greening opportunities for traffic calming applications, including planting in medians, outstands and chicanes.		▲	▲	●	●	●	●	●
O-15	Achieve a minimum of 20% canopy cover in, and within 400m, of all schools through collaboration with Department of Education, schools, school communities, not-for-profit and community organisations. Priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> schools with <5% canopy cover schools with 5-7% canopy cover schools with 7-9% canopy cover schools with 9-14% canopy cover schools with >14% canopy <i>Note - priority areas identified in GeoNeon Technical report (2022)</i>	▲	▲	▲	●	●		●	●
O-16	Replace dead trees and vacant tree sites, or consider alternative greening option where replacement is not feasible. Priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Newnham plantings (vicinity of Vermeer, Goya, Monet, Picasso, Van Gogh etc.) Invermay (e.g. Forster St, Holbrook St.) Kings Meadows 	▲	▲	▲	●	●		●	●
O-17	Implement water sensitive urban design delivery or nature-based solutions for flood mitigation in areas for identified storm water sensitivity and flood prone areas through implementation of the Urban Waterways Health Program. Priority Catchments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Newnham Creek Kings Meadows Rivulet Jinglers Creek 	▲	▲	▲		●	●	●	
O-18	Protect trees (existing and new) from collision in high traffic areas.	▲	▲	▲	●	●			
O-19	Use integrated design techniques to protect trees and other greening from potential removal due to trip hazards or other public safety nuisances.	▲	▲	▲	●	●			●

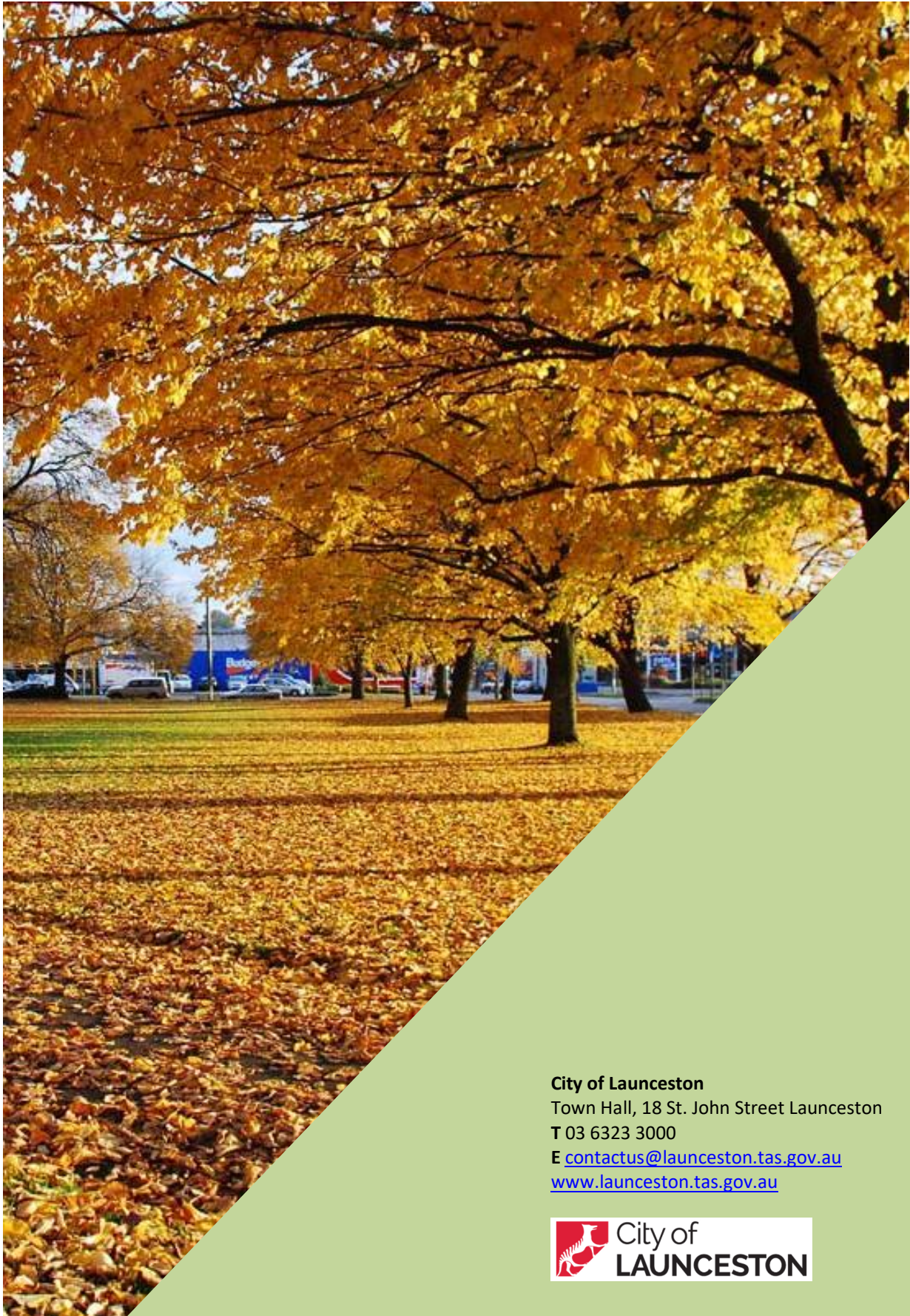
Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

On-Ground (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
O-20	<p>Develop a program to encourage micro-greening in civic spaces and laneways in shopping precincts, including small interventions like simple pot plants, vines growing up a wall or hanging baskets from shop awnings; complement this greening with seating to rest and relax. Trial or pilot greening approaches in high density areas.</p> <p>Priority precincts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Central Business District Mowbray Kings Meadows 	▲	▲	▲	●	●	●	●	●
O-21	Develop and implement a program to encourage private landowners to install micro-greening on balconies and urban rooftops.	▲	▲	▲			●	●	
O-22	Create a tree canopy avenue along Cameron St, connecting City Park with QVMAG at Royal Park.	▲	▲	▲				●	
O-23	<p>Develop and implement a staged delivery plan for identified priority areas or green zones where canopy cover needs to be increased in the City of Launceston's CBD.</p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Kingsway George St (Cameron - York) St John St (Esplanade - Frederick) Cameron St (City Park - QVMAG Royal Park - planning) Cameron St (City Park - QVMAG Royal Park - implementation) Charles St (Cameron - Balfour) Elizabeth St (George - Margaret) Frederick St (Charles - Margaret) Paterson St (Wellington - George) York St (George - Wellington) 	▲	▲	▲	●	●	●	●	●

Launceston Urban Greening Implementation Plan 2023 - 2040

On-Ground (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
O-24	<p>Use plantings to promote sustainable and active transport especially around central activity centres, education facilities, health facilities and cycling routes.</p> <p>Priority investigation of routes along Launceston's levee network, and routes that link to and from the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ University Inveresk and Newnham campuses ▪ Central Business District employment centre ▪ South Launceston health precinct 	▲	▲	▲	●		●	●	●
O-25	<p>Develop and deliver an external engagement program to inform, educate and inspire community about the benefits of trees and other vegetation, provide guidance on planting and maintenance, and the role increased canopy coverage has in sequestering carbon, mitigating against climate change and reducing the urban heat effect.</p> <p>Priority activities include: planting days, nursery open days and pop-up demonstrations, establishment of community gardens, informal seminars, and workshops on urban forest maintenance and neighbourhood character.</p>	▲	▲	▲	●		●		●
O-26	<p>Work with communities in areas of low canopy cover and high heat vulnerability index to educate and overcome resistance to trees and develop unique engagement methods that demote negative behaviour and vandalism and promote protection and connection to trees.</p>	▲	▲	▲	●				●

Back cover image: Brickfields Reserve
Photo credit: City of Launceston



City of Launceston
Town Hall, 18 St. John Street Launceston
T 03 6323 3000
E contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au
www.launceston.tas.gov.au



14.2. Cataract Gorge Walkway

FILE NO: SF7577

AUTHOR: Michael Newby (Chief Infrastructure Officer)

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Kathryn Pugh (Infrastructure and Assets Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the appointment of a contractor for the reconstruction of two sections of retaining wall located at the western end of Cataract Walk.

Recommendation 1 requires an absolute majority of Council.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015
Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

pre-Council Workshop - 16 November 2023 - Cataract Gorge Walkway

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. pursuant to Regulation 27(i)(i) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*, resolves by absolute majority:
 - (a) to accept a tender submitted by Invision Developments Pty Ltd for the Retaining Wall Emergency Removal, Contract No: CD.046/2023, the anticipated cost for the contract being \$375,000 (exclusive of GST).
 - (b) determines that the public tender process has not been applied to this matter as there is an immediate need to remediate the retaining wall and re-open the Cataract Walkway for visitors and local recreational users; a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders because of extenuating circumstances and time constraints associated with the current closure.
 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to release, where appropriate, to agents of Council relevant information that relates to the consideration and determination of this matter.
-

REPORT:

Late in the winter season 2023, two sections of retaining wall that support the Cataract Walk within the Gorge Reserve were identified as displaying typical signs of structural failure and accelerating movement. Following the identification of the retaining wall structural failure, an engineering assessment deemed that the affected sections must be rebuilt.

Given the current closure of the Cataract Walk in place, it is timely that the Council remediates these sections and minimises future disruptions of the Cataract Walk.

Owing to the importance of the Cataract Walkway as the primary pedestrian access to the Gorge Reserve and Cataract Basin for residents and visitors, emergency procurement processes were enacted. These processes are based on application of section 27(i)(i) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*.

As such, a contractor with available capacity and capability was engaged to provide expert advice and submit a tender (quotation for works).

Given the nature of the works, the availability of suitably qualified trade's people is limited. Having recently successfully worked on a structurally similar project on behalf of the Council, Invision Developments were engaged directly to work with consulting engineers and assist in the project planning and design process required to determine an appropriate remediation response. The contractor has also completed sections of stone work with in the Gorge Reserve to a high standard.

The Council's Officers are confident the tender received presents value given the complexity of work, the site constraints and the rates received. Further confidence can be derived from rates received for other similar projects at South Esk Road and Ockerby Gardens.

Under the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015* there is provision provided for the non-application of the public tender process as outlined below:

27. Non-application of public tender process

...

- (i) a contract for goods or services, if the council resolves by absolute majority and states the reasons for the decision, being that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders because of -*
- (i) extenuating circumstances; or*
 - (ii) ...*

This procurement is based on application of section 27(i)(i) due to the need to undertake these works coincident with the current closure. A traditional public tender process would require a greater period of time to complete and would result in the extension (in time) of the current closure.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES:

Not considered relevant to this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The objective of the works is to remove the risk to public associated with the Cataract Walk retaining structures as described in this report. Without remediation, the longevity of these sections of Walk cannot be assured.

Without immediate remedial works being undertaken, there is also a risk to the Council that the current closure of the Cataract Walk would need to be extended, causing further disruption to this important tourism site.

There are inherent construction risks associated with this project. The Council's Officers have and will continue to work closely with the consulting engineer and appointed contractor to deliver this project in a safe and timely manner. Appropriate safety in design and contractor safety documentation has been received by the Council's Officers.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The objective of the works is to remove the risk to public associated with the Cataract Walk retaining structures as described in this report. Without remediation, the longevity of these sections of Walk cannot be assured.

Without immediate remedial works being undertaken, there is also a risk to the Council that the current closure of the Cataract Walk would need to be extended, causing further disruption to this important tourism site.

There are inherent construction risks associated with this project. The Council's Officers have and will continue to work closely with the consulting engineer and appointed contractor to deliver this project in a safe and timely manner. Appropriate safety in design and contractor safety documentation has been received by the Council's Officers.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funding for this project will be allocated via the 23705: Alexandra Suspension Bridge project. The closure of the Cataract Walk has resulted in the reprioritisation of a broader works package at the Cataract Gorge Reserve.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Acting General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

14.3. Request to Waive Road Occupation Fee - Max Jago - SunSmart Light Show - Alanvale Road, Newnham

FILE NO: SF1077

AUTHOR: Nick Browne (Manager Infrastructure and Engineering)

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Kathryn Pugh (Infrastructure and Assets Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider an application to waive the fee for the proposed occupation of Alanvale Road for the SunSmart Light Show Christmas Display.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop - 23 November 2023 - Road Occupation Fee

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes the proposal by Max Jago to close and occupy Alanvale Road, Newnham to hold the SunSmart Light Show event on 24 December 2023; and
 2. agrees to remit 100% of the fee associated with the occupation in the amount of \$8,800.
-

REPORT:

Background

Max Jago has made enquiries with the City of Launceston regarding the feasibility of conducting a Christmas Eve light show at his property at 36 Alanvale Road, Newnham. The proposal included the closure and occupation of Alanvale Road between University Way and Bethune Place, Newnham.

Mr Jago has been advised by the Council's Officers that a road closure would be supported, however, would attract a road occupation fee of \$8,800 in line with the Council's Adopted Fees and Charges 2023/2024.

The Council has received an application from Mr Jago requesting that the Council consider waiving the fee associated with this event. In support of his application, Mr Jago states that the Christmas Eve SunSmart Light Show is a community event supported by thousands of community members.

Consideration

The intent of the road occupation fee is to discourage activities occurring within the road reserve that impact our community. However, it is acknowledged that some activities within the road reserve provide community benefit, namely community events and the discouragement of these events is not the Council's objective.

This event is well supported by the Launceston community and provides community benefit to those in attendance.

The event does have an impact on the transport network in this area, so is not without community impact. Yet, given that the event is proposed on a Sunday evening, the impact on the travelling public is not considered to be unacceptable. The Council has advised Mr Jago that a road closure would be acceptable.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

15. ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES NETWORK

15.1. Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill - City of Launceston Feedback Submission

FILE NO: SF2189

AUTHOR: Nathan Williams (Chief Financial Officer)

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider and make a submission on the proposed new Tasmanian Fire and Emergency Service Bill.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Fire Service Act 1979

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

Proposed new Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop - 27 October 2023 - Long Term Financial Plan

Workshop - 9 November 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council provides the following submission to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management in respect of the proposed new Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill (the Bill), noting that the funding options are currently being reconsidered:

1. the proposed changes to the Bill are not supported due to a lack of community consultation, particularly with those in rural areas, inadequate timeframes allowed for Councils and the public to consider the proposal and an overall lack of information provided in a timely manner.
 2. any changes to the Bill that adversely affect a certain property type classification or properties in certain parts of Tasmania, are phased in over a period of at least five years to assist those properties in managing any potential increases to their levy payable.
 3. consultation be ongoing between the relevant State Government authorities and Councils on the new legislation and funding arrangements by way of the proposed working group to be established and that there be appropriate Local Government representation in this group and/or by directly engaging with each Council.
-

4. the State Government communicates changes effectively and clearly to the public, so as to reduce both the burden and any potential backlash on frontline Council staff. Clarity needs to be provided that is a State Government levy, collected by Councils.
 5. more clarity be provided on what the charitable concessions are, and that the proposed concession rate threshold to be reconsidered from 30% to assist with properties that will experience significant increases under the proposed new funding models and that the exemption criteria be broadened.
-

REPORT:

Tasmanian Councils collect the fire services rate on behalf of the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) under the current *Fire Service Act 1979* which prescribes the current funding arrangements for the State Fire Commission (SFC). This includes a property-based levy. Under this levy, where you live determines what you pay for the fire service. As a result, some households pay \$44 per annum and some pay over \$400 per annum. This is because the rates are currently set according to the local government area where a property is and whether it is supported by a career, volunteer or retained brigade.

There is currently no differential rate charged based on property type. For example, an industrial factory would pay the same fire levy as a residential property (assuming the same AAV) which does not reflect the complexity involved in attending to a fire or emergency at these different property types.

The proposed new Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill will unite the TFS and State Emergency Service (SES) and introduce a new funding model, with two options provided for public consultation.

Currently, in the City of Launceston municipality, a differential rate is charged based on property location being either the Urban, Rural or Lilydale brigade (as independently determined by the Valuer-General).

As noted in the draft bill, fire and emergency services regularly cross municipal boundaries and urban brigades will travel to rural areas, meaning the differential location rate is outdated and inequitable, particularly for urban properties such as the majority of the City of Launceston.

The current breakdown of properties by type is listed below:

Urban Fire Rate - 93% of properties

Rural Fire Rate - 6% of properties

Lilydale Fire Rate - <1% of properties

It is the Council's understanding that the new Bill seeks to achieve three main objectives:

1. provide a more equitable funding stream between rural and urban areas;
 2. distinguish between different property classifications to reflect the complexities involved in attending fire and emergencies at these properties and that the new levy is charged accordingly; and
 3. increase the level of funding available for the TFS to meet ongoing operational needs.
-

Excerpts outlining the two new funding options, which are now being reconsidered, are provided below from the TFS website:

Option 1 - a Single Rate Across Tasmania

To resolve the current situation where Tasmanians pay more than 29 different property rates (see table 1), the Government proposes that all residential properties pay a fixed amount - 1%.

This means no matter where you live in Tasmania, everyone is paying the same rate.

For a property with an average AAV, this would therefore be \$180. If you have a higher value AAV, you will pay more. If you have a lower value AAV, you will pay less.

In doing this we can be confident that Tasmania has a fair and sustainable funding model that is applied equitably across Tasmania.

As part of equalising the current payment model we are proposing there would be different rates for other land classifications. This is to recognise that the fire and emergency response at commercial or industrial premises are often of greater risk or complexity to respond to than residential property.

Table 2 - Proposed Land Classifications - Option 1

Land Classification	Rate
Commercial	2.4 %
Community Services	0.5 %
Industrial	3.2 %
Other	0.5 %
Primary Production	2.4 %
Residential	1.0 %

Option 2 - a Two-Tiered Rate Across Tasmania

Option 2 proposes a two-tiered rate to be introduced across Tasmania with one rate for urban areas and another for regional areas.

The outcome of Option 2 would be that urban areas continue to pay similar rates as they do now - but, the rate would be standardised removing inequities between cities.

For regional areas there will be a smaller increase than under Option 1, but the goal of equalisation for these areas would still be achieved meaning there is greater equity between rural areas.

In practice, this will result in regions paying less than a pensioner in an urban area.

The proposed two-tier system is in Table 3.

Table 3 - Proposed Land Classifications - Option 2

Land Classification	Rate
Commercial	2.6 %
Community Services	0.6 %
Industrial	3.4 %
Other	0.6 %
Primary Production	1.2 %
Residential (Urban)	1.2 %
Residential (Rural)	0.6%

The proposed new funding model in the TFES Bill:

- *abolishes the Insurance Fire Levy;*
- *simplifies the **property-based levy** (currently known as the Fire Service Contribution, which is paid through your council rates); and*
- *continues the existing **Motor Vehicle Levy** in its current form but extends it to include motorcycles.*

The current fire levy is approximately 1.17% of AAV for any property in an Urban classification or approximately 0.30% for Rural or Lilydale.

Financial modelling for the City of Launceston properties shows that under Option 2, residential properties will pay a slightly higher levy (between \$5-\$10 in most cases) but the impact will be more significant in Commercial, Industrial and Primary Production properties particularly those currently sitting in the Rural and Lilydale brigade classification.

It should be noted that under Option 1, Commercial, Industrial and Primary Production properties would see an even larger increase to their fire levy.

A breakdown of current Fire Levy rates charged and the proposed two new funding models proposed can be found below:

	% AAV Charged					
	Current Fire Levy			Proposed New Funding Models		
	Urban	Rural	Lilydale	Option 1	Option 2	
Commercial	1.12%	0.30%	0.31%	2.40%	2.60%	
Community Services	1.12%	0.30%	0.31%	0.50%	0.60%	
Industrial	1.12%	0.30%	0.31%	3.20%	3.40%	
Other	1.12%	0.30%	0.31%	0.50%	0.60%	
Primary Production	1.12%	0.30%	0.31%	2.40%	1.20%	
Residential - Urban	1.12%	0.30%	0.31%	1.00%	1.20%	
Residential - Rural	1.12%	0.30%	0.31%	1.00%	0.60%	

The concession rate is proposed to be increased from 20% to 30%. The Council submits that that a further increase be considered to assist ratepayers already struggling with cost of living pressures to be insulated from the potential shock of a significantly increased levy on several properties. The criteria for exemption is unchanged in the new bill, the Council contends that the criteria also be broadened.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Maintaining the status quo funding model would be a preferable outcome to ratepayers across Tasmania, both new funding options provided will lead to an increase on annual rates notices across the State.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Household, business and other entities are finding their budgets are already stretched due to cost of living pressures, and this proposed new bill adds another cost.

It is important to distinguish that this is a levy collected by Councils purely on behalf of the State Government.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

1. To provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community.
2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.
5. To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Council raises the applicable levy amount as directed annually by the Tasmanian Fire Service. The effect on the Council's operating result will be nil as the levy is collected on behalf of the State Government and then remitted accordingly.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

15.2. Financial Report to Council to 30 September 2023

FILE NO: SF3611

AUTHOR: Samuel Kelty (Manager Finance)

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the Council's financial performance for the period ended 30 September 2023.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Audit Panel - 31 October 2023 - Agenda Item 8.1 - Capital Report

Audit Panel - 31 October 2023 - Agenda Item 8.3 - Financial Statements (Analysis and Commentary)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the operational and capital financial reports for the period ended 30 September 2023, noting the operational report discloses an underlying deficit of \$1.061m as compared to the budgeted underlying deficit of \$3.295m, comprising of a \$0.855m favourable revenue variance and a \$1.376m favourable expenditure variance.

REPORT:

Operational Report:

The Statement of Comprehensive Income for the three months to 30 September 2023 follows the below commentary disclosing significant variances.

The report discloses an underlying deficit of (\$1.061m) for the quarter ending 30 September 2023, compared to a budgeted deficit of (\$3.295m). The positive budget variance of \$2.233m is comprised of a positive income variance of \$0.855m and a positive expense variance of \$1.376m.

Many revenue sources are above budget, with main contributions to the favourable variance coming from; rates from supplementary valuations, workers compensation premium adjustment, sundry income and fees from a range of sites including parking, Carr Villa, Launceston Aquatic Centre, road and facilities occupation and City Development.

Revenue items below budget include fines and penalties from on street parking and interest income, with lower than budget investment returns offered.

Favourable expense variances were mainly attributable to labour costs, due to vacancies across the organisation, and depreciation, caused by both changes to asset lives and timing differences in the commissioning of new assets in the road asset class. While rate remissions were over budget due to an application received after the budget was finalised.

Variances are disclosed in detail below:

<u>Income</u>	VARIANCES	
	Favourable/(Unfavourable)	
Rates (Attributable to Supplementary Rating Valuations)		\$137,210
User Fees and Charges		
Parking - On Street	\$76,822	
Parking - Off Street	\$49,192	
Launceston Waste Centre		
Carr Villa	(\$62,105)	
Fee income for both burials and ash placement higher than budgeted	\$81,902	
Launceston Aquatic		
Due to strong growth in Aquatic Memberships and Learn to Swim. Aquatic Membership Revenue has increased by 64% as compared to the September Quarter last year.	\$107,435	
Other Fees individually less \$50,000.	<u>\$15,867</u>	\$269,112
Statutory Fees and Charges		
Road Reserve and Facilities Occupation Fees		
New fee introduced from 1 July 2023 which was not included in budget.	\$130,120	
City Development Applications, which represents a \$14,000 increase as compared to the September Quarter last year.	\$102,239	
Parking Fines		
Fines Off-Street - Predominantly due to cessation of the graduated penalties settlement structure noting the infringement tickets are now starting at a higher value without discount for early payment.	\$68,831	
Fines On-Street	(\$131,438)	
Late Penalties on Fines - Below budget in line with fine above	(\$75,870)	
Other variances individually less than \$50,000	<u>(\$7,406)</u>	\$86,476
Revenue Grants		\$49,481
Includes a \$14,891 favourable variance for Employee Traineeships and Incentives (Federal and State Funding) and		

CPI increases being greater than budgeted for several grants.

Interest		
Interest rates on investments less than budgeted		(\$61,005)
Bequests		\$7,009
Other Income		
Workers compensation insurance premium adjustment from prior years.	\$149,241	
Sundry income individually less than \$50,000	<u>\$217,179</u>	\$366,420
Total Revenue Variance		\$854,703
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Employee Benefits		\$1,105,490
Labour Savings due to vacancies across Networks		
		\$21,443
Material and Services		
		(\$1,375)
Impairment of Debts		
		\$431
Finance Cost - Borrowing costs		
Depreciation		
Waste Centre Rehabilitation Assets - higher than forecast change in asset value at the end of the 2022/2023 Financial Year due to a change in the Waste Centre Rehabilitation Liability Calculations.	(\$91,310)	
Road Assets - due to combination of asset lives adjustments and timing differences from when assets are commissioned.	\$393,637	
Other depreciation expenditure individually less than \$50,000	<u>(\$28,406)</u>	\$273,921
Rate Remissions and Abatements		
Pertaining to additional Charitable Aged Care Rates Remission approved after completion of Council's annual budgeting process.		(\$107,649)
Waste Centre State Landfill Levy		
Attributable to less clean fill and Sawdust being received at the Launceston Waste Centre.		\$86,268
Total Expenditure Variance		\$1,378,528
Variance as Included in Underlying Result		\$2,233,232

CITY OF LAUNCESTON
Statement of Comprehensive Income
For Year to Date 30 September 2023

	2023/24 YTD \$ Actual	2023/24 YTD \$ Budget	Variance YTD \$ Fav/(Unfav)
REVENUES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Rates	21,023,564	20,886,354	137,210
User Fees and Charges	6,640,113	6,371,001	269,112
Statutory Fees & Charges	1,716,443	1,629,967	86,476
Capital Grants	1,890,412	1,890,412	-
Financial Assistance Grants	53,999	53,999	-
Other Operational Grants	417,276	367,795	49,481
Interest	1,195,975	1,256,980	(61,005)
Investment Revenue	681,000	681,000	-
Bequests	25,509	18,500	7,009
Other Income	878,404	511,984	366,420
	<u>34,522,695</u>	<u>33,667,992</u>	<u>854,703</u>
EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Maintenance of Facilities and Provision of Services			
Employee Benefits	11,584,225	12,689,715	1,105,490
Materials and Services	12,471,924	12,493,368	21,443
Impairment of Debts	2,000	625	(1,375)
Finance Costs			
Interest on Loans	5,923	5,923	(0)
Provision for Rehabilitation	12,500	12,500	0
Lease Liability Borrowing Cost	-	431	431
Depreciation	6,521,685	6,795,606	273,921
State Government Fire Service Levy	2,244,332	2,244,332	-
State Government Landfill Levy	458,482	544,750	86,268
Rate Remissions and Abatements	392,602	284,953	(107,649)
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	2,977	-	(2,977)
	<u>33,696,652</u>	<u>35,072,203</u>	<u>1,375,551</u>
Comprehensive Result Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>826,043</u>	<u>(1,404,211)</u>	<u>2,230,254</u>
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	(2,977)	-	(2,977)
Capital Grants	1,890,412	1,890,412	-
	<u>1,887,435</u>	<u>1,890,412</u>	<u>(2,977)</u>
Underlying Result Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(1,061,391)</u>	<u>(3,294,623)</u>	<u>2,233,232</u>

**CITY OF LAUNCESTON
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 30 September 2023**

	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22
	YTD	YTD	YTD
	\$	\$	\$
EQUITY			
Capital Reserves	252,924,029	241,794,778	222,424,143
Revenue Reserves	959,753,380	969,157,021	969,529,758
Asset Revaluation Reserves	1,071,347,474	886,685,961	765,657,870
Investment Reserves	(13,774,375)	(21,054,758)	(27,404,666)
Trusts and Bequests	2,734,479	2,548,018	2,318,197
Operating Surplus	826,043	4,322,297	(374,612)
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>2,273,811,030</u>	<u>2,083,453,317</u>	<u>1,932,150,690</u>
Represented by:-			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	58,157,838	59,268,066	87,548,833
Rates and Sundry Receivables	51,333,547	49,711,132	46,963,100
Less Rates not yet Recognised	(62,367,267)	(58,983,999)	(56,020,920)
Investments	55,645,774	39,132,984	10,009,100
Inventories	1,083,727	1,065,924	875,040
Assets Held for Sale	7,116,285	1,116,285	4,518,168
	<u>110,969,903</u>	<u>91,310,392</u>	<u>93,893,321</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Deferred Receivables	257,556	257,556	257,556
Investments	239,332,737	232,052,353	225,702,446
Superannuation Surplus	2,279,000	2,864,000	2,025,000
Intangibles	3,774,096	4,014,998	4,293,789
Infrastructure and Other Assets	1,785,384,999	1,607,923,900	1,478,448,066
Right of Use Assets	194,033	187,937	223,175
Museum Collection	204,599,786	203,866,696	203,691,191
	<u>2,235,822,207</u>	<u>2,051,167,439</u>	<u>1,914,641,221</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,346,792,110</u>	<u>2,142,477,831</u>	<u>2,008,534,542</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Deposits and Prepayments	3,223,862	2,758,765	2,430,972
Employee Provisions	7,067,007	7,533,124	7,685,006
Rehabilitation Provision	20,467	8,400,351	7,919,825
Interest-bearing Liabilities	20,000,000	-	9,000,000
Lease Liabilities	79,883	30,519	28,506
Contract Liabilities	-	-	1,296,155
Sundry Payables and Accruals	5,952,250	3,540,105	9,413,878
	<u>36,343,469</u>	<u>22,262,863</u>	<u>37,774,341</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Provisions Non Current	985,782	1,016,438	1,024,329
Superannuation Obligation	-	-	-
Interest-bearing Liabilities Non Current	6,000,000	26,000,000	26,000,000
Lease Liabilities	117,296	204,472	234,991
Rehabilitation Provision	29,534,534	9,540,741	11,350,191
	<u>36,637,611</u>	<u>36,761,651</u>	<u>38,609,511</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>72,981,080</u>	<u>59,024,514</u>	<u>76,383,852</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>2,273,811,030</u>	<u>2,083,453,317</u>	<u>1,932,150,690</u>

Loan Balances

The loan balance as at 30 September 2023 is \$26m. The loan balance is interest free in accordance with the State Government's Local Government Loans Program, with repayments due on the dates listed below:

22 January 2024	\$10,000,000
27 May 2024	\$10,000,000
21 May 2025	<u>\$6,000,000</u>
	\$26,000,000

Capital Report

The Capital Report shows a total approved budget of \$82.8m, including both the Council's and external funds.

Set out below is a reconciliation of the available funds:

Available Funds	Total \$m
Gross Carryover 1 July 2023	40.2
Funding - Council 30 September 2023	24.9
Funding - Other 30 September 2023	17.7
Total Estimate	<u>82.8</u>

The following table provides a progress report showing the number and value of projects:

Program Status	Projects		Budget	
	No.	%	\$'000	%
NS - Not Started	76	42.0	14,870	18.0
PD - Preliminary Design	40	22.1	19,424	23.5
IP - In Progress	55	30.4	48,437	58.4
PC - Practical Completion	5	2.8	65	0.1
CA - Cancelled	5	2.7	0	0.0
	181	100.0	82,797	100.0
		%		%

The table shows that 58.40% of projects in value are in progress and 0.08% are completed as at 30 September 2023.

A review has been undertaken of the budgeted funds identified above as *Gross Carryover 1 July 2023*. Projects with a total budget of \$40,226,971, which have had \$17,034,571 of actual expenditure and commitments incurred leaving a total budget available of \$23,192,400 have been carried over from the 2022/2023 financial year into the current year. A number of general reasons have been identified for the carry over, which are covered in more details in the Attachments (Attachment 2 - Capital Projects Carried Over from 2022/2023).

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.
5. To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

As detailed within the report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Capital Expenditure Report - Summary by Network 1 [15.2.1 - 1 page]
2. Capital Projects Carried Over from 2022/2023 [15.2.2 - 3 pages]



City of Launceston - Capital Expenditure Report

Summary by Network

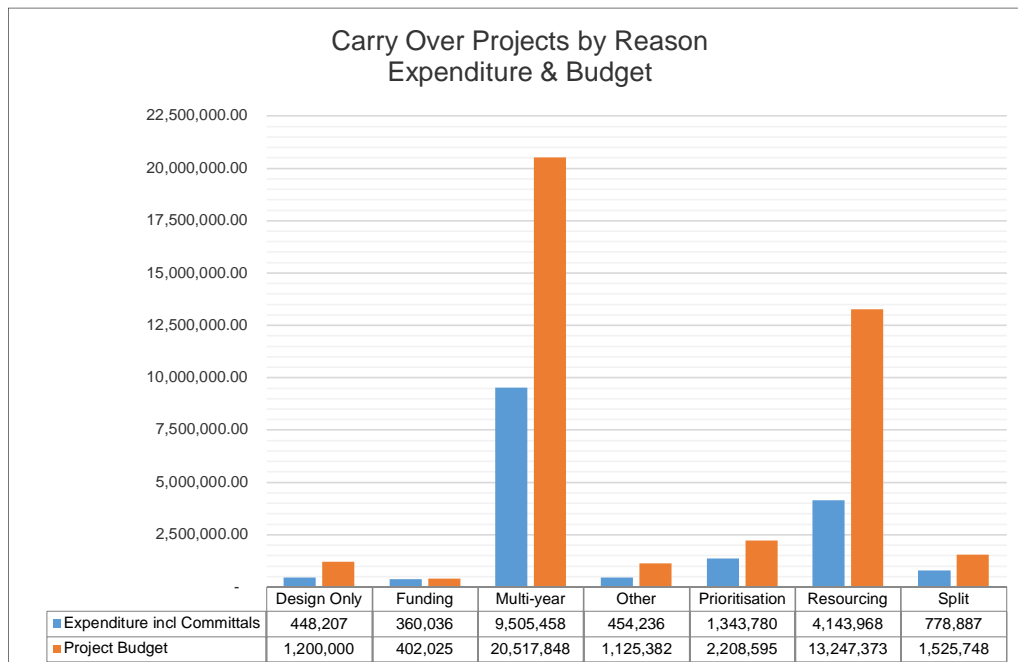
For the Period to : 30 September 2023

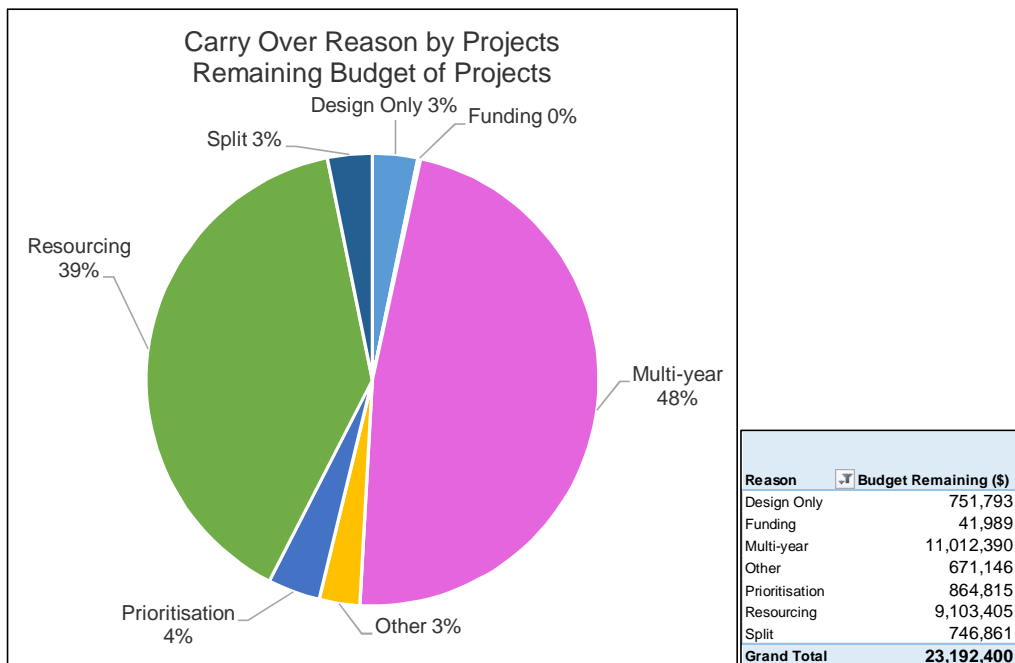
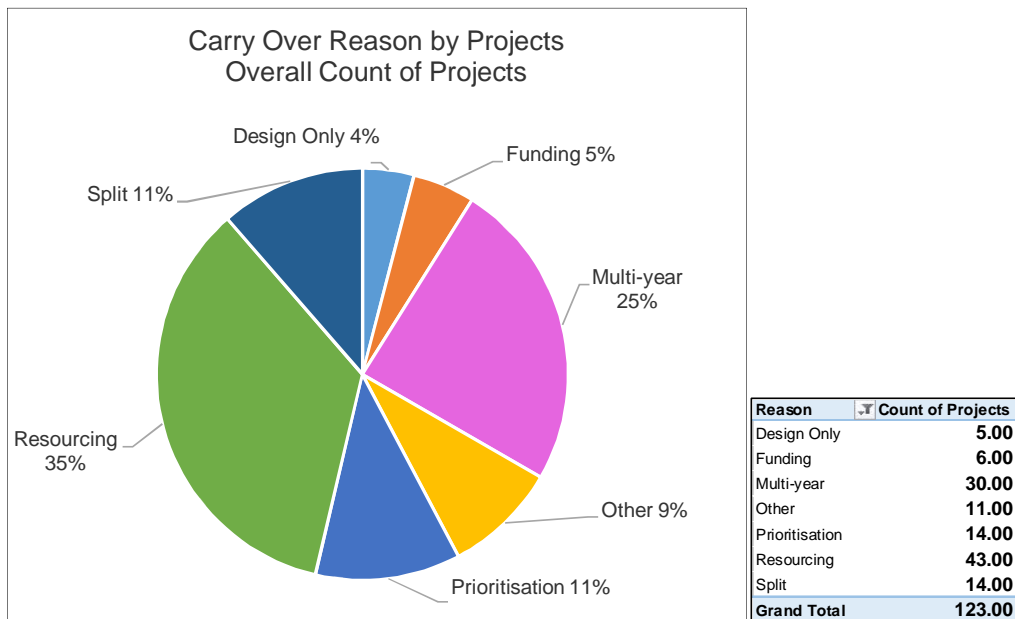
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Funds	Actual Expenditure				Projected Expenditure			Variance	
	TOTAL ESTIMATE	W.I.P. JULY 1	ACCRUED ORDERS	YTD EXPEND.	TOTAL ACTUAL EXPEND.	COMMITTED COSTS	ACTUAL PLUS COMMITTED	PERCENT OF BUDGET	COMPLETED PROJECTS	POSSIBLE INCOMPLETE PROJECTS
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	\$	\$
GRAND SUMMARY										
NETWORK										
Office of the Chief Executive	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	-	-
Organisational Services	2,231,538	32,750	-	186,009	218,759	622,626	841,385	38%	(9,079)	(9,079)
Creative Arts & Cultural Services	4,257,861	1,159,070	1,530	128,107	1,288,707	68,627	1,357,334	32%	(590)	(590)
Community and Place	3,350,662	181,732	-	103,785	285,517	349,505	635,022	19%	(526)	(526)
Infrastructure and Assets	66,956,654	8,412,103	198,543	2,410,844	11,021,490	8,072,974	19,094,464	29%	(8,810)	(8,810)
Land Sales (see analysis below)	6,000,000	91,369	-	-	91,369	-	91,369	0%	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	82,796,715	9,877,023	200,073	2,828,744	12,905,841	9,113,733	22,019,574	27%	(19,005)	(19,005)
Analysis of Land Sales for 2023/2024										
Paterson Street (24127.0002)	6,000,000	91,369	-	-	91,369	-	91,369			
Total Land Sales	6,000,000	91,369	-	-	91,369	-	91,369			

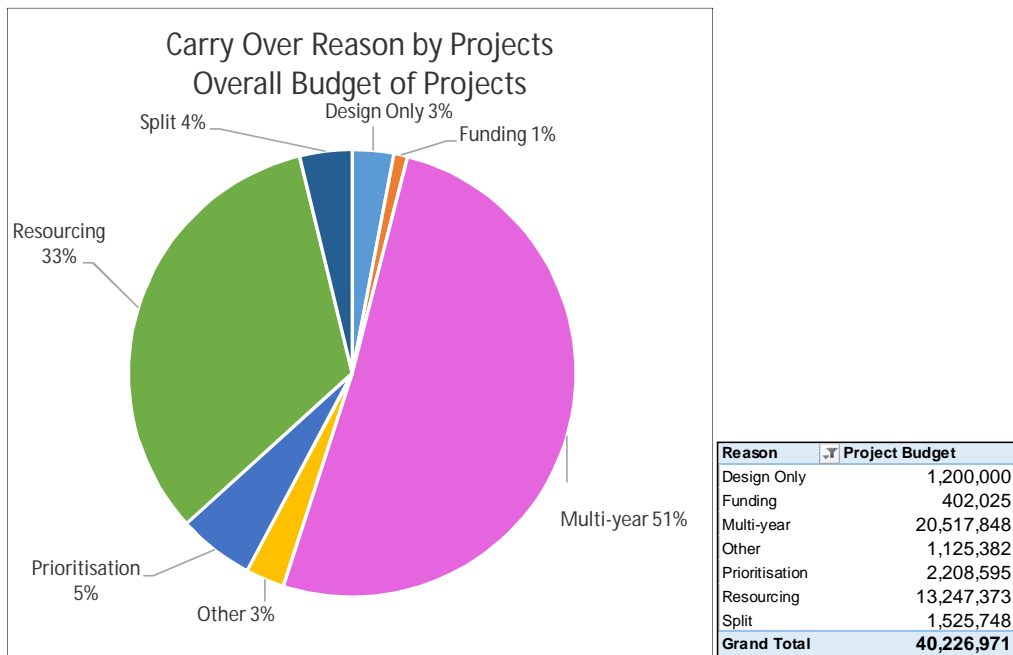
Capital Projects Carried Over from 2022/2023 Financial Year

Reasons Identified for Carry Overs

- Design Only** Projects that have been funded previously for the design component only. These projects carry forward for the delivery stage to be undertaken.
- Funding** Projects that have either had external funding granted during the year and are not due for completion, projects that have been delayed to enable additional funding to be sourced, or projects that are waiting for grant funding to be approved prior to commencing.
- Multi-Year** Projects that were expected to be delivered over multiple years.
- Prioritisation** Projects that have been intentionally delayed to enable other projects of higher priority to be delivered.
- Resourcing** Resourcing issues have caused these projects to be delayed, resourcing refers to internal resources and external resources such as delay of materials, contractor availability and also where a project tender process has not been successful and other options to deliver have had to be explored.
- Split** Projects that have been split to allow excess budget to carry over, these projects tend to be program projects.
- Other** Other minor reasons, which can include scheduling around other projects or operational requirements, unknown timing of projects due to subdivisions or waiting on internal decisions (eg building sale).







16. MEETING CLOSURE

17. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held at 1.00pm on 14 December 2023 at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 18-28 St John Street, Launceston.