



City of
LAUNCESTON

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2023
5.30PM**

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

Date: 7 December 2023

Time: 5.30pm

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.



Shane Eberhardt
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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.

Present:

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 L M McMahon
Councillor A J Britton

In Attendance:

Shane Eberhardt (Acting Chief Executive Officer)
Shane Fitzgerald (General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services Network)
Nathan Williams (Chief Financial Officer)
Luke Scott (Acting Team Leader Communications)
Kelsey Hartland (Risk Officer)
Esther Counsel (Team Leader Governance)
Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

Apologies:

Councillor T G Walker
Councillor J J Pentridge
Councillor A J Palmer
Councillor S Cai

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1. OPENING OF MEETING - ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, opened the Meeting at 5.30pm and noted apologies from Councillor T G Walker, Council A J Palmer and Council S Cai

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) - section 48

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

No Declarations of Interest were identified as part of these Minutes

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the City of Launceston Council held on 1 December 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

DECISION: 7 December 2023

MOTION

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

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the City of Launceston Council held on 1 December 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31

4.1. Public Questions on Notice

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

No Public Questions on Notice have been identified as part of this Agenda

4.2. Public Questions Without Notice

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

4.2.1. Public Questions Without Notice - Frank Knott - Questions to the Council and Traffic Concerns

- 1. On 29 November 2023, I forwarded two questions to the Chief Executive Officer regarding traffic in Youngtown and received an automated response. When might I receive a response in respect to those two questions?**

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, responded by saying that the Chief Executive Officer is currently on annual leave so a slight delay is occurring. The Acting Chief Executive Officer is working through those responses.

- 2. With regard to changes in traffic conditions at Riseley Street, Kings Meadows, especially the mandatory turning of drivers from the western lane who are required to turn right into Riseley Street - is this a permanent change or still under review? Might it be possible to consider an additional sign indicating right lane must turn right closer to the Six Ways?**

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, noted that as part of the road reconstruction, the resealing of the road and line markings that the Council lobbied, for over a year, to have undertaken - that arrow has specifically been put there, however, it is under review due to visible traffic congestion. The Council's Officers have been monitoring that intersection as part of that redevelopment that has occurred and it is definitely under review.

4.2.2. Public Questions Without Notice - Rodney Sinfield - Traffic Concerns

- 1. With regard to safety issues concerning the off lane on the highway near the Silverdome joining with the Kings Meadows connector, what advocacy, what can be done and what is being done concerning this site?**

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, responded by saying that the City of Launceston has engaged in positive conversations with the Minister and the Department of State Growth regarding this site. Conversations have been undertaken and further discussions are occurring regarding the failing of that intersection and as a minimum, it is understood that signage indicating approaching cued traffic and further investigations of the traffic flow will occur. The Council is continuing its advocacy to remedy the situation and ongoing conversations will continue.

4.2.3. Public Questions Without Notice - Robin Smith - Brisbane Street Mall and Traffic Infringement Concerns

- 1. Would the Council consider extending the height of the perspex screens around the Brisbane Street Mall Christmas tree?**

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, noted that as a result of a question asked at the last Council Meeting, the Council's staff had undertaken an inspection of the Christmas tree resulting in the lighting being corrected. Since that time, discussions have occurred regarding the ability to raise the height of the perspex around the Christmas tree.

- 2. With regard to the City of Launceston Annual Report, what is the total revenue for metered on-street parking revenue and the total traffic infringements for parking for the year? Is that included in the report?**

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, responded that this question would be answered when discussing Agenda Item 6.

[During discussion of Agenda Item 6 - the Chief Financial Officer advised that the relevant figures could be found on page 134 of the Annual Report]

- 3. An article in the local paper claimed a parking infringement had been issued for the amount of \$97.50. That figure seems not to relate to on-street metered parking - is that correct?**

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, answered by saying that the City of Launceston's Parking By-Law aligns with State's penalty points. There are different rates within the By-Laws for on-street and loading zones. It is difficult to respond to this question accurately as the Council does not currently have the relevant parking infringement ticket nor can it confirm where the parking ticket was issued without seeing the actual ticket.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer also advised that Mr Smith's noted interpretation sounded correct.

4. With regard to parking on the street and in multi-storey car parks in the CBD by older persons it is noted that some customers with mobility issues are finding it difficult to park and walk into the CBD. Currently parking limits in the CBD are one hour and this restricts the public's time available to spend in the central business area. What can be done in regard to this problem?

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, noted that issues such as this are a part of the inclusion enquiries that have been undertaken. There are Committees that consider issues such as this and if individual business owners are experiencing this, then they should contact the Council. People with mobility issues can seek assistance and gain the correct accreditation to utilise parking spots closer to the CBD. Again, issues such as this will be considered when the Council undertakes its work in the City Heart project.

5. Would the Council reconsider its current practice of leaf blowing in the Brisbane Street Mall?

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, encouraged traders with ongoing concerns regarding this issue to make contact with the Council in order to determine who is affected. The Mayor also noted as of this time, it appeared that Mr Smith was the only trader who has raised this issue, however, if there are continue problems around this current practice, then the Council will investigate again.

5. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 16(5)

No Notices of Motion were identified as part of these Minutes

6. ANNUAL REPORTS

6.1. City of Launceston Annual Reports for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

FILE NO: SF7461

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: Shane Eberhardt

DECISION STATEMENT:

To adopt the City of Launceston's Annual Reports for the year ended 30 June 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City of Launceston Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023 (Doc Set ID 4993908) be adopted, together with the Annual Reports for the following City of Launceston entities and Authorities:

1. Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (Doc Set ID 4968941); and
 2. Launceston Flood Authority (Doc Set ID 4993951).
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DECISION: 7 December 2023

MOTION

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

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

CARRIED

7. MEETING CLOSURE

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, closed the Meeting at 6.15pm.