



City of
LAUNCESTON

COUNCIL AGENDA

**COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2025
10:30 AM**

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: 23 October 2025

Time: 10:30 am

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.



Sam Johnson OAM
Chief Executive Officer

VIDEO and AUDIO STREAMING of COUNCIL MEETINGS

The video and audio of open sessions of ordinary Council meetings and special Council meetings that are held in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, will be streamed live via the Council's meeting stream channel on YouTube.

Video and audio streaming and recording of this Council Meeting, except for any part held in Closed Session, will be made in accordance with our Video and Audio Streaming of Meetings Policy - 17-Plx-017.

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

The audio-visual recording equipment will be configured in a way which avoids coverage of the public gallery area and Council will endeavour to ensure images in this area are not streamed. However, Council expressly provides no assurances to this effect and by entering or exiting the Council Chamber or by remaining in the public gallery area, it is assumed that consent has been given to the Council to broadcast images and audio recordings.

The Mayor or their representative will provide notice that the meeting will be recorded through live streaming. By attending a Council meeting, attendees will be taken to have consented to their image, speech or statements being live streamed.

For further information, please refer to our Video and Audio Streaming of Meetings Policy and our Privacy Policy available at:
<https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council-Region/Legislation-and-Policy/Policy>

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 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 - STATEMENT, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	9
2. MAYORAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	9
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	9
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	9
4.1. Confirmation of Minutes	9
5. COUNCIL WORKSHOPS	10
5.1. Council Workshops Report - 16 October 2025	10
6. COUNCILLORS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATIONS AND PARENTAL LEAVE NOTIFICATIONS	13
7. COMMUNITY REPORTS	13
8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.....	14
8.1. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public.....	14
8.1.1. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Jessica Hoyle - Costs of Former Birchalls Site and Information Leaks - 29 September 2025	14
8.1.2. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Rocelyn Ives - Cataract Gorge Peacock Population and Sustainable Transport Options - 2 October 2025	16
8.1.3. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Ian Goninon - Recycling Solar Panels and Electric Car Batteries and Transferring Ownership of QVMAG - 2 October 2025	19
8.1.4. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Timothy Grigg - DA0394/2023 - 2 October 2025.....	20
8.2. Questions Without Notice by Members of the Public.....	21
9. PETITIONS.....	21
10. DEPUTATIONS	21

11. PLANNING AUTHORITY	22
11.1. DA0140/2024 - 40768 Tasman Highway, Waverley - 40K Combined Scheme Amendment - Change of Zone from Rural to Rural Living A; Subdivision - Subdivide Land into 23 Lots and a New Road - PSA-LLP0021	22
11.2. PSA-LLP0035 - 3-7 George Street, Launceston - Section 37 Amendment - Partial rezoning from 'Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery' to Urban Mixed Use.....	33
12. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR.....	49
12.1. Mayor's Announcements.....	49
13. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS	50
14. QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS	51
14.1. Questions on Notice by Councillors	51
14.1.1. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor D C Gibson - Dredging kanamaluka / Tamar River - 2 October 2025.....	51
14.1.2. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Deputy Mayor, Councillor D H McKenzie - Cataract Gorge Inclinator - 2 October 2025	53
14.1.3. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor A G Harris - Paterson Street Bike Cages and Parkiteer - 2 October 2025	55
14.1.4. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor A J Britton - Insurance Flood/Actions of the Sea - 2 October 2025.....	56
14.1.5. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor J J Pentridge - Cataract Gorge Inclinator - 2 October 2025.....	57
14.1.6. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor T G Walker - Term Sheet Leak and Media Opportunity - 2 October 2025.....	59
14.1.7. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor D C Gibson - Frederick Street Kindergarten - 2 October 2025	60
14.2. Questions Without Notice by Councillors	61
15. WRITTEN NOTICES OF MOTION	61

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS	62
16.1. Northern Youth Coordinating Committee Report - 2 September 2025.....	62
17. CONNECTIONS AND LIVEABILITY	65
17.1. Quarterly Report - Connections and Liveability	65
17.2. Special Event Sponsorship 2025/2026	95
17.3. Northern Gateway Preferred Concept - Public Vote Results	105
17.4. City of Launceston Band and Choir	113
17.5. Tamar NRM Funding Agreement	117
17.6. Seaport Place Name Application	122
18. QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY (QVMAG)	125
19. COMMUNITY ASSETS AND DESIGN.....	126
19.1. Quarterly Report - Community Assets and Design.....	126
19.2. St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan and Infrastructure Funding Framework	136
19.3. Response to Notice of Motion - Councillor A E Dawkin - Traffic Calming on Gorge and Trevallyn Roads.....	147
20. DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE.....	152
20.1. Delivery and Performance Quarterly Report	152
20.2. 2025/2026 Budget - Budget Amendments.....	177
20.3. Monthly Financial Performance Report	185
20.4. Request for Remission of Rates and Maintenance Support - Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub	188
20.5. Audit Panel Meeting - 26 September 2025	193
20.6. Correspondence - Minister for Local Government, Office of Local Government - Discussion Paper: Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances.....	196
20.7. Motions - Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General Meeting - 20 November 2025	199

21. STRATEGY AND INNOVATION	210
21.1. Quarterly Report - Strategy and Innovation.....	210
21.2. City of Launceston Annual Plan 2025/2026 - Quarter 1 Progress Report...	220
21.3. NRM North Annual Report FY2025	223
21.4. Efficiency Dividends Report - Quarter 1	225
22. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK	227
22.1. Chief Executive Officer Quarterly Report - 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025	227
22.2. Status Report on Council Decisions as at 16 October 2025	232
22.3. Status Report on Notices of Motions as at 16 October 2025	234
23. LATE ITEMS	236
24. CLOSED COUNCIL	237
24.1. Confirmation of the Minutes.....	237
24.2. Application for Leave by a Councillor - Councillor S Cai.....	237
24.3. Status of Closed Council Decisions as at 16 October 2025.....	237
24.4. End of Closed Session	238
25. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE.....	238
26. MEETING CLOSURE.....	238

1. OPENING OF MEETING - STATEMENT, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 8

An audio visual recording is being made of the meeting.

All persons attending the meeting are to be respectful of, and considerate towards, other persons attending the meeting.

Language and conduct at the meeting that could be perceived as offensive, defamatory or threatening to a person attending the meeting, or listening to the recording, is not acceptable.

2. MAYORAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) - section 48

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – regulation 39(1)(f)

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

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1. Confirmation of Minutes

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 41(1)(b)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council held on 2 October 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

5. COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 10(3)(c)

5.1. Council Workshops Report - 16 October 2025

FILE NO: SF4401

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider Council Workshops conducted since the last Council Meeting.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - Regulation 10(3)(c).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, pursuant to Regulation 10(3)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, notes the Council Workshops conducted and attended since the last Council Meeting, for the purposes described:

1. Council Workshop conducted on 16 October 2025:

Proposed 2026 Council Meeting and Workshop Schedule

Councillors discussed the proposed Council Meeting and Workshop schedule for 2026.

Development of a Register of Interests Policy

Councillors were invited to discuss and provide comments and guidance regarding the development of a Register of Interests Policy.

PSA-LLP0035 - 3-7 George Street, Launceston - Scheme Amendment – Partial Rezoning from “Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery” to Urban Mixed Use Zone

Councillors undertook a site visit to 3-7 George Street Launceston to discuss PSA-LLP0035 - Scheme Amendment – Partial rezoning from “Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery” to Urban Mixed Use Zone.

Princess Theatre Redevelopment Project - Auditorium Seats

Councillors received a presentation on the proposed options for the Princess Theatre auditorium seating.

Visitation Framework and Destination Website

Councillors received a presentation on the draft Visitation Framework to replace the expired Tourism Plan. Councillors were also presented with a proposal for a destination website to support visitation and economic growth within Launceston.

Presentation to Council on the proposed Equity and Inclusion Framework Approach
Postponed.

Wood Smoke Plan

Councillors received an update and participated in a discussion on the proposed actions to reduce wood smoke pollution.

Executive Leader's Updates and General Business

Councillors and Executive Leaders had the opportunity to engage in discussion about current and planned projects.

Councillors Connect

Councillors had the opportunity to raise and discuss matters of concern, share perspectives, and collectively work through issues that may benefit from group discussion.

In Attendance: Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor A G Harris (Chair), Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Prof G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor A J Britton, Councillor K Preece and Councillor R Marsden.
Apologies: Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood

REPORT:

Regulation 10(3)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* 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 Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter meets a legislative requirement.

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Chief Executive Officer have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

6. COUNCILLORS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATIONS AND PARENTAL LEAVE NOTIFICATIONS

Councillors' Leave of Absence Applications will be considered in Closed Council at Agenda Item 24.2 - Councillors' Leave of Absence – Councillor S Cai.

No Parental Leave Notifications 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.)

No Community Reports have been identified as part of this Agenda.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulations 36 to 38

8.1. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 38

8.1.1. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Jessica Hoyle - Costs of Former Birchalls Site and Information Leaks - 29 September 2025

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 29 September 2025 by Jessica Hoyle, have been answered by the Acting Strategic Projects Advisor (Question 1), and the Senior Leader Governance (Question 2).

Question 1:

Re Launceston's white elephant which has cost rate Payers roughly \$11 million. Shame on the councillors that voted to buy this white Elephant you know whom you are. How will the Council try to redeem some of the costs that this has cost all rate payers now you are giving it away?

Response:

A key focus for Council is to ensure the site's redevelopment delivers long-term community benefit, supports CBD revitalisation and generates positive economic outcomes for Launceston. While some aspects of the project remain subject to commercial and contractual obligations, Council is committed to sharing further information with the community as key project stages are reached and details can be released.

Question 2:

Who is the person responsible for these such leaks within Council? This behaviour is not on Mayor Garwood. The manager Sam Johnson is not responsible for the purchase of this white elephant. If Councillor's do not know how to run a business they should not be voting to buy buildings such as this?

Response:

In respect of the question about leaks within Council, further information is provided in answering a question on notice from Councillor T G Walker as listed within this agenda.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Questions on Notice - Jessica Hoyle - costs of former Birchalls site - _redacted
[8.1.1.1 - 1 page]

8.1.2. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Rocelyn Ives - Cataract Gorge Peacock Population and Sustainable Transport Options - 2 October 2025

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 2 October 2025 by Rocelyn Ives, have been answered by the Senior Leader Open Spaces and Sustainability (Question 1-6) and the Senior Leader Infrastructure and Engineering (Question 7).

Question 1:

Do ground staff and the parks and wildlife officer meet regularly to discuss priorities issues re safety management of flora and fauna preservation of his natural values as well as visitor facility and information needs?

Response:

Council has an allocated Bushland Crew within its City Amenities team that have identified maintenance schedules for general maintenance activities and supportive of the Cataract Gorge Conservation Management Plan.

Council has an existing relationship with Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE) for various collaborative outcomes.

Question 2:

Are there specialist ecologists, wildlife experts, tree arborists and technically skilled artisans employed or consulted to make decisions affecting the Gorge's maintenance?

Response:

Yes, Council has many internal profesional services that contribute to strategic decision making regarding works and activities. Where there is a recognised need for a profesional service that does not exist within Council, external advice is sought through engagement.

Question 3:

Is culling of peacocks used as a maintenance tool for a balanced ecology?

Response:

Council recognises that a specific management plan for managing the population of the Peacocks that occupy reserve land of the Cataract Gorge is a gap. Current management documentation has not addressed a strategic way to manage the Peacocks. This would also be a shared responsibility with adjoining land holders and another collaboration opportunity with NRE. Council officers will explore this further.

Question 4:

Would Council be able to provide more signage to deter the feeding of wildlife?

Response:

Council will explore opportunities to further educate community on the feeding of wildlife, including site signage.

Question 5:

Is it possible for it to be made an offence with a penalty given if caught?

Response:

This is something that needs further understanding if regulatory measures can be applied and would be included in any public notification.

Question 6:

Is it possible for Council to provide educational information through a public information campaign about not feeding wildlife?

Response:

Yes, this will be included in Council's actions as a result of exploring opportunities and mentioned in the response to question 4.

Question 7:

Would Council review their transport policy and look at a sustainable and innovative option such as a hop on hop off electric bus service?

Response:

The City of Launceston continues to explore sustainable and innovative transport solutions as part of its Transport Strategy 2020–2040 and Strategic Plan 2025–2035. These plans prioritise reducing emissions, improving public transport accessibility, and supporting future mobility options.

While the Council does not directly operate public transport services, it works closely with the Tasmanian Government and Metro Tasmania to advocate for improvements.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

8.1.3. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Ian Goninon - Recycling Solar Panels and Electric Car Batteries and Transferring Ownership of QVMAG - 2 October 2025

FILE NO: SF4729, SF6381

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 2 October 2025 by Ian Goninon, has been answered by the Team Leader Sustainability.

Question:

What is the City of Launceston doing regarding recycling of solar panels and electric car batteries? I propose that a motion is taken to the Local Government of Australia (LGAT) to encourage the State and Federal Governments look into the end of life of these items and how they will be recycled in the future.

Response:

Currently, the City of Launceston does not have an avenue to recycle used solar panels or car batteries and is awaiting the development of the mandatory product stewardship scheme led by the Federal Government. Under the scheme, the responsibility is placed on manufacturers to responsibly deal with items at the end of their useful life. Similar national stewardships exist for household batteries, e-waste, and paint.

The Australian Federal Government is working with State and Territory Governments to develop a mandatory national scheme for solar panel recycling. This upcoming mandatory product stewardship scheme aims to prevent panels from going to landfill and will shift the cost of recycling to producers and importers. While the details are still being finalised, the goal is to create a system for end-of-life management that includes recycling and remanufacturing.

There are Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) motions currently being put forward that support advocacy for Circular Economic principles which solar panels, batteries and many other materials fall into.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

**8.1.4. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Timothy Grigg - DA0394/2023
- 2 October 2025**

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 2 October by Timothy Grigg, has been answered by the Town Planner.

Question 1:

How do I progress DA0394/2023 when the planners have said no? The reason I want the crossover is because West Street is such a tight street.

Response:

The application (DA0394/2023) seeks retrospective approval for two outbuildings, one located to the northeast of the dwelling and the other in the southwest corner of the dwelling. The proposal also includes a second crossover at the northwest corner of the frontage, which requires the road owner's consent for the application to be considered valid under Section 52 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA), in conjunction with Clause 6.1.2(b) of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and Section 51(1AB)(b) of the Act.

Consent from the road owner is coordinated internally through the Council's Infrastructure and Engineering team, acting as the Road Authority. The proposed second crossover is not supported by the Road Authority, as it would reduce on-street parking on West Street, which is already limited to one side due to the street's width. As a result, the application is not valid to progress in its current form, and the applicant has been advised of the Council's position.

As the application currently includes both retrospective approval for the outbuildings and the second crossover, it can only progress if the plans are amended to remove the second crossover. This would allow DA0394/2023 to proceed solely with retrospective approval for the outbuildings.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

8.2. Questions Without Notice by Members of the Public

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 37

9. PETITIONS

No Petitions have been identified as part of this Agenda.

10. DEPUTATIONS

No Deputations have been identified as part of this Agenda.

11. 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 11 - Planning Authority.

11.1. DA0140/2024 - 40768 Tasman Highway, Waverley - 40K Combined Scheme Amendment - Change of Zone from Rural to Rural Living A; Subdivision - Subdivide Land into 23 Lots and a New Road - PSA-LLP0021

FILE NO: DA0140/2024

AUTHOR: Iain More (Senior Town Planner Policy and Projects)

APPROVER: Chelsea van Riet (Executive Leader Community Assets and Design)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To make a recommendation to the Tasmanian Planning Commission subsequent to the public exhibition period for a draft planning scheme amendment to the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule.

PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applicant: 6ty° Pty Ltd
Address: 40768 Tasman Highway, Waverley
Existing Zone: Rural
Existing Use: Residential

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council Meeting - Thursday 30 July 2025 - Agenda Item 11.2

Initiated Draft Scheme Amendment PSA-LLP0021, to change the zoning from Rural to Rural Living A at 40768 Tasman Highway, Waverley, and unaddressed lot CT104384/4; and approve DA0140/2024 - Subdivision - Subdivide land into 23 lots and a new road.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. in accordance with sections 40K of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, considers the merit of any representation received during public exhibition of Draft Amendment DA0140/2024 and PSA-LLP0021 and,

2. amend Permit DA0140/2024 to include the following condition;

PART 5 (SECTION 71) AGREEMENTS

Prior to the final plan being sealed, a Section 71 agreement must be executed, that provides for the following:

- a. A 40m 'no build zone' from the top of the bank from Distillery Creek. The buffer must be placed onto the folio plan for lots 8, 9, 12, 13, and 14 of the endorsed plans, once registered.
- b. Sediment barriers must be used downslope of any construction on 8, 9, 12, 13, and 14.
- c. The 'no build zone' includes no buildings (habitable or non-habitable), no earthworks, no native vegetation removal, and no fencing.
- d. Declared weeds within the 'no build area' must be actively managed.
- e. The exception to the 'no build area' is future lot 9, which is permitted to remove vegetation, other than within the eastern riparian scrub (SRE) community identified on TASVEG 4.0 mapping, to undertake earthworks for the access purposes.

Once executed, the agreement must be lodged and registered in accordance with Section 78 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

All cost associated with preparing and registering the Agreement must be borne by the applicant.

3. Recommends to the Tasmanian Planning Commission that Draft Amendment PSA-LLP00330 and permit DA0124/2023 be approved as exhibited.

REPORT:

1. BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 30 July 2025 Council considered an application under section 40T of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, for a combined Draft Scheme Amendment and Permit Application to change the zoning from Rural to Rural Living A at 40768 Tasman Highway, Waverley, and unaddressed lot CT104384/4; and approve DA0140/2024 - Subdivision - Subdivide land into 23 lots and a new road.

Council resolved to initiate the rezoning.

As required by the Act, Council then advertised the rezoning for 28 days between Monday 18 August 2025 and Monday 15 September 2025.

2. REPRESENTATION ASSESSMENT

Six (6) representations were received during the exhibition period. A discussion on the concerns raised follows.

2.1 Representation Assessment

#	
1.	Concern: Environmental and Wildlife Impact The area is home to a rich array of native wildlife, including wombats, echidnas, pademelons, bandicoots, possums, wallabies and native hens, and a variety of bird species such as wedge-tailed eagles, lorikeets, owls and superb fairy-wrens. Subdivision will lead to habitat fragmentation, increased roadkill, light and noise pollution, runoff and contamination. Distillery Creek is protected by a Waterway and Coastal Protection overlay and the area includes Riparian Scrub, a threatened native community under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>. The risk of erosion, sedimentation, and pollution from construction and residential activities is significant and unacceptable. The proposed subdivision threatens the natural environment and wildlife habitat that currently characterises this area. The property in question is home to: • Platypus, populations within the river system that forms the boundary of the proposed subdivision • Tasmanian native hens, nesting area • Lapwing plover, nesting area • Native ducks, several species nest in the trees on the property and by the waterways • Wedge-tailed eagles, which regularly hunt in the area The clearing of vegetation and increased human presence will have detrimental impacts on these species. There are no planned communal spaces or avenues to allow native species to live and move through this area. Response: <i>The applicant provided a Flora and Fauna Report, prepared by a qualified person, that identified the threatened flora and fauna on site. The report has provided recommendations to ensure the biodiversity of the site is retained. These recommendations include sediment control and weed management, which have been incorporated into conditions on the permit.</i> <i>Distillery Creek is protected through an existing overlay, and the flora and fauna report acknowledges the need for its protection. The new Part 5 condition with the no build zone will ensure that the unique biodiversity characteristics of the waterway will be protected.</i> <i>All lots are required to retain and treat stormwater on site, with the new road directing stormwater to an existing discharge point, which is considered to be suitable.</i>

2	Concern: Community and Character Concerns - Residents have chosen this area for its quiet, rural character. Urban sprawl undermines the very qualities that attract people to Launceston — open space, clean air and natural beauty. The proposed development would lead to increased traffic, emissions and noise, removal of mature gum trees, displace horses and other rural activities. - Waverley is currently a semi-rural, low-density residential area with strong community ties and significant natural value. This subdivision represents a shift toward urban-style development, which is inconsistent with the existing character of the area due to the smaller proposed block sizes for this development. - The proposal threatens to permanently alter the visual landscape, increase traffic, and place unsustainable pressure on local infrastructure, without providing corresponding benefits to the existing community. Response: <i>The change of zone is a continuous and contiguous expansion of existing rural living land to the east. Rural living offers rural style residential use, and is not considered to be urban-style development. The change of zoning is considered to retain the existing character of the area.</i> <i>The provided agriculture report has determined that the site has limited agricultural use. The provided traffic report acknowledges that the road, with the proposed upgrades, has sufficient capacity to cater for increased vehicle use.</i> <i>The land use pattern of the area east of the Tasman Highway has changed over the past 20 years. The current proposal is in line with expected growth and residential use within this area.</i>
3	Concern: Demand There is no demonstrated urgent need for this subdivision. A subdivision has already been recently approved in nearby Waverley, and another subdivision on Abel's Hill Road has been for sale for quite some time but only one block has been sold. This suggests that further subdivision is premature and unnecessary. Response: <i>A rural living market assessment was prepared by a suitably qualified person that provided detail on the demand for such housing stock. The report concluded there is sufficient demand for such lots.</i>
4	Concern: Adjoining uses The site is surrounded by larger rural living lots that utilise their land for recreational purposes, such as riding motorbikes and buggies. The creation of new residential lots may result in noise concerns from new residents. Response: <i>The subdivision will also be rural living in nature, albeit smaller (1ha) than the adjoining counterparts (2ha). Recreational activities that have the potential to create emissions, such as noise, are governed by the Environmental Management and Pollution control Act 1994, separate to the planning process.</i>

5

Concern: Water Servicing

- A notable concern is our water pressure. Contrary to what TasWater advised and have tested, we often struggle with water pressure, especially during the summer months. We believe this to be because we are at the end of the water line, have had to run our water access pipe the length of our block and in Summer there are a lot more people using water for their gardens. TasWater has tested our pressure and have advised us there is nothing wrong with it, however we beg to differ. We have had our plumber come and inspect our water connections, have installed a new Pressure Reducing Valve on our property recently, but the highest pressure we have been able to get is 400kpa (this is during a weekday when many dwellings on the reticulated water supply are not home). Most dwellings should be able to achieve a minimum of 500kpa.
- We note in the documentation, and particularly the Rural Living Assessment document on page 5, that it states: "Lots are proposed to be serviced by extension of a reticulated pressure water supply network. This will be subject to advice relating to the capacity of the existing system to service the subdivision. In the event that there are any issues, the lots will be serviced by water tanks, as was the case with the nearby Hillside development."

Can you please advise what the issues were with the Hillside development and why they were required to install water tanks?

- As per the Proposed Plan document, there is a notation down the bottom which states: "Water Mains: Proposed water mains are likely to be DN100 with road crossings servicing lots on opposite side of road, subject to results of epanet modelling demonstrating pipe system can meet supply requirements."

Has the epanet modelling been done yet? What were the results?

Can council require a full water network capacity assessment in consultation with TasWater, and that no development be approved unless the infrastructure can be demonstrably upgraded to support additional demand?

Response:

Water servicing of the site is proposed, and TasWater, the regulated entity that monitors and controls such servicing, have provided a Submission to Planning Authority Notice as part of a referral of the proposal. The response requires an upgrade to the trunk water main to service the new lots. When determining water connections, clause 11.5.3 of the scheme requires that each lot be connected to a full water supply, which is what is proposed to meet the provision.

The Hillside subdivision development was a separate application with separate constraints. Within the planning scheme, there is a pathway that allows no water reticulation and on-site water retention instead. In that instance, with the support of TasWater, that was the option that was ultimately supported for Hillside.

	<i>Expanet modelling will occur during detailed engineering design, should the application ultimately be approved.</i> <i>Council cannot require a full water network capacity assessment. TasWater are the regulated entity that determine the appropriateness of water connections.</i>
6	Concern: Easements - On our Certificate of Title we have a registered Easement. This pipeline easement provides us with access to that section of land to lay pipes (on or under the easement), run electricity, inspection manholes, install and maintain a pump and pump house. Reading the note in the Application Documents Planning Report, it states on page 26: "The existing 3-metre-wide pipeline easement along the north-eastern boundary of the site will be largely incorporated into proposed Lot 101 (Road). The remaining section of the easement will be carried over the relevant portion of proposed Lot 9." Looking further at the Proposed Planning document, the size of the easement seems to be halved. And if the easement is incorporated into Lot 101 (the road), how are we meant to run pipes or electricity over/under the road? - The easement provides legal access and rights to Distillery Creek for several properties. The current proposal appears to remove this easement, which is unacceptable without consultation, financial reparations and legal agreement. - Any modification, removal, or redirection of this easement could adversely affect my access to water and infringe on established property rights. I request formal confirmation that: i. The easement will remain intact and unaltered. Should my easement require any relocation or adjustment, this needs to occur through formal agreement with adjustments being formally made to my property title at no cost to myself or other property owners affected. ii. No new connections will be made via this easement without the express consent of affected landowners. Response: <i>The proposal does not remove the pipeline easement from adjoining properties. This easement will remain, and it is intended that it be carried over to newly created lot 9 and includes the road lot.</i>
7	Concern: Lot Size Review We request that the number of blocks which are being proposed potentially be reduced and have a minimum size of 2-Hectares like other properties zoned Rural Living Zone B and directly opposite. This will provide bigger blocks which could potentially have larger building envelopes and bigger setbacks. By reducing the number of blocks, it will also give more space for the people purchasing the land to be able to install their septic systems and water tanks which will alleviate the concerns regarding the water pressure.

	Response: <i>The lot size, being Rural Living A, is considered to be appropriate. Lots 1ha in size are large enough to be classified as rural living, and are large enough in size to accommodate septic systems and water tanks. Lot sizes do not change setback requirements.</i>
8	Concern: Flood Risk • Several of the proposed lots appear to be located on known floodplains along Distillery Creek. This area has a history of flooding during periods of high rainfall. • Residential development on this flood plane is likely to result in increased insurance premiums for neighbouring landowners, or even render some properties uninsurable, given the heightened risk profile introduced by this subdivision as it is currently proposed. Response: <i>The northern section of the site is identified as having potential for flood risk, notably an area which shows the extent of a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event. The proposed no build area will assist in reducing flood risk for future development. Further, the properties within the subdivision are large enough to ensure development is possible without risk of flood.</i>
9	Concern: Stormwater • Please provide clarification on how stormwater from the development will be treated or filtered before it enters the river. • Consider or enforce the use of sustainable stormwater management solutions (e.g., wetlands, retention basins, or biofiltration systems). • Conduct or provide the results of an environmental impact assessment that evaluates the risks to downstream water users. • In the absence of a reticulated sewage system and the proposed use of Bio Cycles, advise if a water quality monitoring program for Distillery Creek will be implemented to monitor the impact and ongoing suitability of water for domestic use. • Reassess the discharge plan in light of community reliance on the river for water supply. Response: <i>The new road will drain stormwater to Distillery Creek via an existing discharge point, whilst all residential lots will contain and treat stormwater on site.</i> <i>While the design of the drain is subject to detailed engineering, it is envisaged that the drain will take the form of a vegetated grassed swale. This type of system is consistent with water sensitive urban design principles, and will attenuate peak flows, promote infiltration, and improve water quality by filtering sediment, nutrients, and hydrocarbons, an appropriate solution for the rural residential context of the site.</i> <i>The planning process cannot articulate the type of on-site sewerage system to be used, and it will be up to the owners at time of future development.</i> <i>Water quality monitoring for Distillery Creek occurs bi-annually by the City of Launceston water scientists.</i>

2.2 Riparian Zone

Discussions with Council's Infrastructure and Engineering team were undertaken during the exhibition period relating to the protection of Distillery Creek, the creek line running along the northern section of the site, and adjoining future lots 9, 12, 13, and 14.

The bi-annual monitoring of urban waterway health undertaken by City of Launceston each year shows that Distillery Creek is in the best health of all of the urban creeks monitored and contains significant natural values. The strip of riparian vegetation along the creek line acts as a wildlife corridor, so development should not impede on wildlife movement along the creek and riparian vegetation.

The greatest threats to the waterway from development is the removal of riparian vegetation, increased suspended sediment and pollutants from runoff and increased runoff flow velocity and volume from new impervious areas (hard surfaces such as roofs, roads, etc).

Condition 8 of the draft permit requires a Soil and Water Management Control Plan to be submitted and approved by Council's Executive Leader Community Assets and Design prior to the commencement of subdivision works. This will ensure that erosion and sedimentation are effectively controlled and managed during construction.

The application proposes to construct a surface drain within a new drainage easement on Lot 14, to convey stormwater from the subdivision road to the creek. Condition 11(a) of the draft permit requires an engineering design for this drainage system to be submitted for approval by Council's Executive Leader Community Assets and Design. While the design is subject to detailed engineering, it is envisaged that the drain will take the form of a vegetated grassed swale. This type of system is consistent with water sensitive urban design principles, and will attenuate peak flows, promote infiltration, and improve water quality by filtering sediment, nutrients, and hydrocarbons - an appropriate solution for the rural residential context of the site. The application also proposes that each lot will incorporate its own on-site stormwater disposal system, thereby avoiding direct discharge from individual lots into the creek.

2.2.1 Riparian Options

There are two pathways available to ensure the protection of the creek.

The first option is to allow the planning scheme to continue its operation with existing overlays. Code C7.0 Natural Assets Code applies to future development (such as dwelling development) within a waterway area. This code requires that buildings and works within a waterway will not have an unnecessary impact on the natural asset. In short, any development within the identified area would need to offer supporting documentation that the waterway will be protected. The findings of the bushfire report, which identifies buildings areas outside of this area, as well as the findings of the flora and fauna report, which also supports the nominated buildings envelopes outside of the native vegetation community.

In short, this option would leave it up to future development to meet the requirements of the scheme.

The second would be the following agreement be placed on relevant lots:

PART 5 (SECTION 71) AGREEMENTS

Prior to the final plan being sealed, a Section 71 agreement must be executed, that provides for the following:

- a. A 40m 'no build zone' from the top of the bank from Distillery Creek. The buffer must be placed onto the folio plan for lots 8, 9, 12, 13, and 14 of the endorsed plans, once registered.
- b. Sediment barriers must be used downslope of any construction on 8, 9, 12, 13, and 14.
- c. The 'no build zone' includes no buildings (habitable or non-habitable), no earthworks, no native vegetation removal, and no fencing.
- d. Declared weeds within the 'no build area' must be actively managed.
- e. The exception to the 'no build area' is future lot 9, which is permitted to remove vegetation, other than within the eastern riparian scrub (SRE) community identified on TASVEG 4.0 mapping, to undertake earthworks for the access purposes.

Once executed, the agreement must be lodged and registered in accordance with Section 78 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

All cost associated with preparing and registering the Agreement must be borne by the applicant.

The above protections are further supported by:

- a. Bushfire Hazard Management Report - The report considers safe construction distances for bushfire safety through build areas, all of which exceed 40m from Distillery Creek.
- b. Flora and Fauna Report - The report addresses the biodiversity of the property. The at risk vegetation was found to be along the creek line. Whilst this vegetation does not extend 40m into the site, the provision of the no-build area will ensure future protections for the vegetation.
- c. C7.0 Natural Assets Code - Waterway Protection - There is an existing waterway protection area that extends 40m from the creek line. Providing a 40m no-build area from the creek is in line with the protections offered by the code.

Option two is considered to be the most appropriate. The subdivision will ultimately remove some non-threatened vegetation over the existing land, however goes so far as to point out the requirement for protection of the threatened communities around the waterway. Whilst the subdivision itself does not propose to remove this identified vegetation, and has nominated envelopes outside of those areas, once the titles are sealed and sold, individual landowners would be able to lodge applications removing the vegetation, subject to appropriate justification. Based on the supporting reports for this application however, the placement of a Part 5 agreement is considered appropriate to retain the health of this ecosystem.

3. RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS

That the following condition be included in permit DA0140/2024:

PART 5 (SECTION 71) AGREEMENTS

Prior to this permit becoming effective, a Section 71 agreement must be executed, that provides for the following:

- a. A 40m 'no build zone' from the top of the bank from Distillery Creek. The buffer must be placed onto the folio plan for lots 8, 9, 12, 13, and 14 of the endorsed plans, once registered.
- b. Sediment barriers must be used downslope of any construction on 8, 9, 12, 13, and 14.
- c. The 'no build zone' includes no buildings (habitable or non-habitable), no earthworks, no native vegetation removal, and no fencing.
- d. Declared weeds within the 'no build area' must be actively managed.
- e. The exception to the 'no build area' is future lot 9, which is permitted to remove vegetation and undertake earthworks for the construction of a road.

Once executed, the agreement must be lodged and registered in accordance with Section 78 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

All cost associated with preparing and registering the Agreement must be borne by the applicant.

4. CONCLUSION

The planning officer is supportive of the application with the recommended modifications.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The amendment to the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule has been assessed against the requirements of the Act. The Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston, and the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule also contain provisions intended to implement the objectives of the Resource Management Planning System. The application has been assessed using these provisions and as such economic, environmental and social impacts have been considered.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (the Act)
Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston & Launceston Local Provisions Schedule
Northern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (NTRLUS) 2018

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. DA0140 2024 Amended Permit [**11.1.1** - 9 pages]
2. Response to Representations - Launceston Local Provisions Schedule - PS A- LL P 0021 & D A 0140-2024 [**11.1.2** - 3 pages]
3. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - D A 0140-2024 - 40768 Tasman Highway Waverley - Representations [**11.1.3** - 18 pages]

11.2. PSA-LLP0035 - 3-7 George Street, Launceston - Section 37 Amendment - Partial rezoning from 'Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery' to Urban Mixed Use

FILE NO: PSA-LLP0035

AUTHOR: Dileep Karna (Town Planner)

APPROVER: Chelsea van Riet (Executive Leader Community Assets and Design)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To decide whether to reject or agree to initiate and exhibit proposed Amendment PSA-LLP0035 to the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule at 3-7 George Street, Launceston pursuant to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applicant:	Planning Ahead Tasmania
Area of the Site:	3-7 George Street, Launceston (CT 169239/1)
Existing Zones:	Urban Mixed Use Zone and 'Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery'
Existing Use:	Bulky Goods Sales and vacant commercial buildings
Receipt Date:	27 August 2025

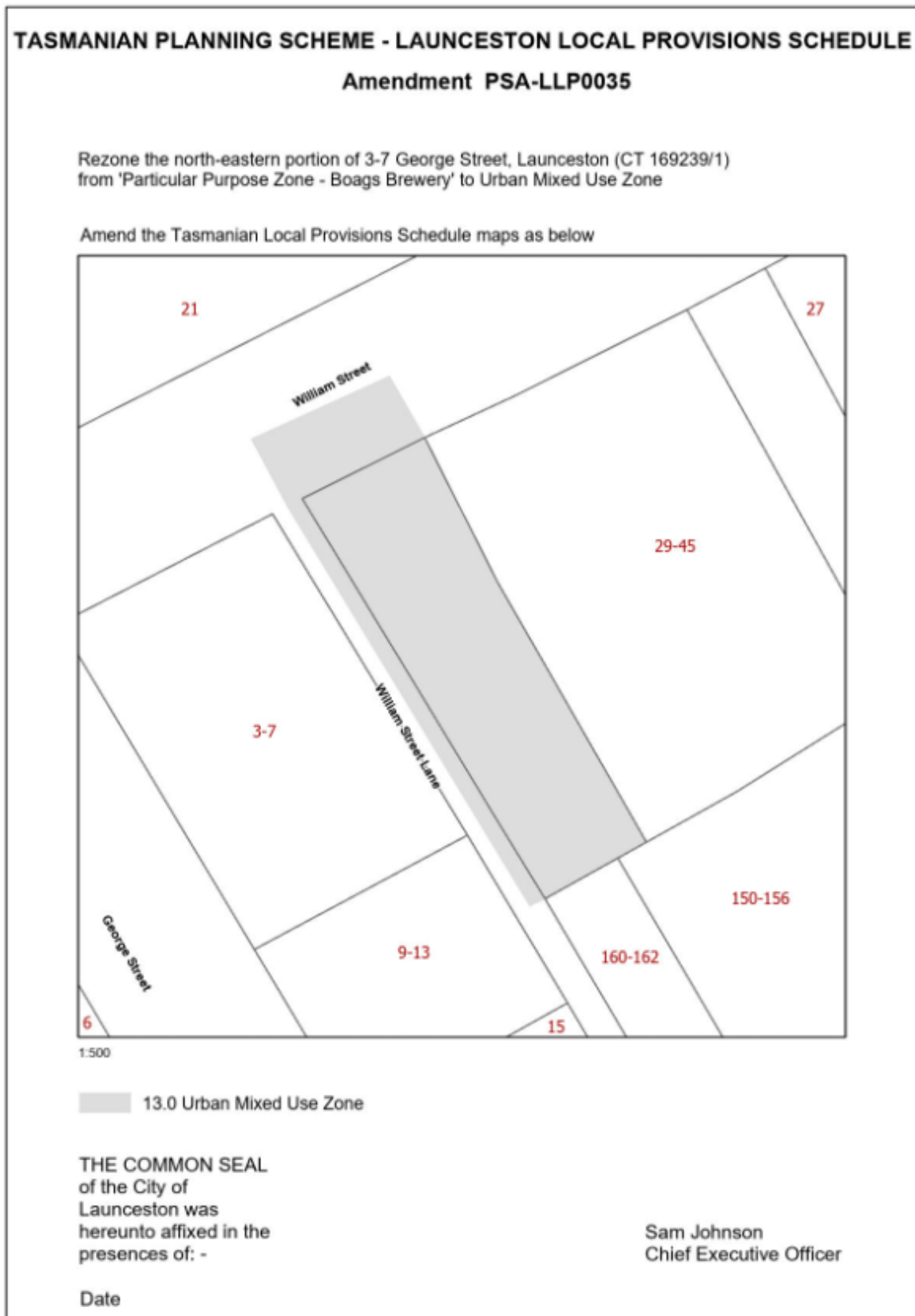
RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, pursuant to:

1. sections 37 and 38 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, agrees to, and initiates scheme amendment PSA-LLP0035 to the Launceston Local Provisions schedule to:
 - i. rezone the north-eastern portion of land from 'Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery' to Urban Mixed Use.
 - ii. amend figures LAU-P7.1 and LAU-P7.2.2 within LAU-P7.0 'Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery'
2. section 40F of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, certifies Draft Amendment PSA-LLP0035 identified in Attachment 1.
3. sections 40G and 40H of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, determines the period for public exhibition be 28 days.



Instrument 1 - Rezoning

TASMANIAN PLANNING SCHEME - LAUNCESTON LOCAL PROVISIONS SCHEDULE

Amendment PSA-LLP0035

Remove the north-eastern portion of 3-7 George Street, Launceston (CT 169239/1) from South Site figure LAU-P7.1 within LAU-P7.0 'Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery'

Amend the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule figure LAU-P7.1 as below



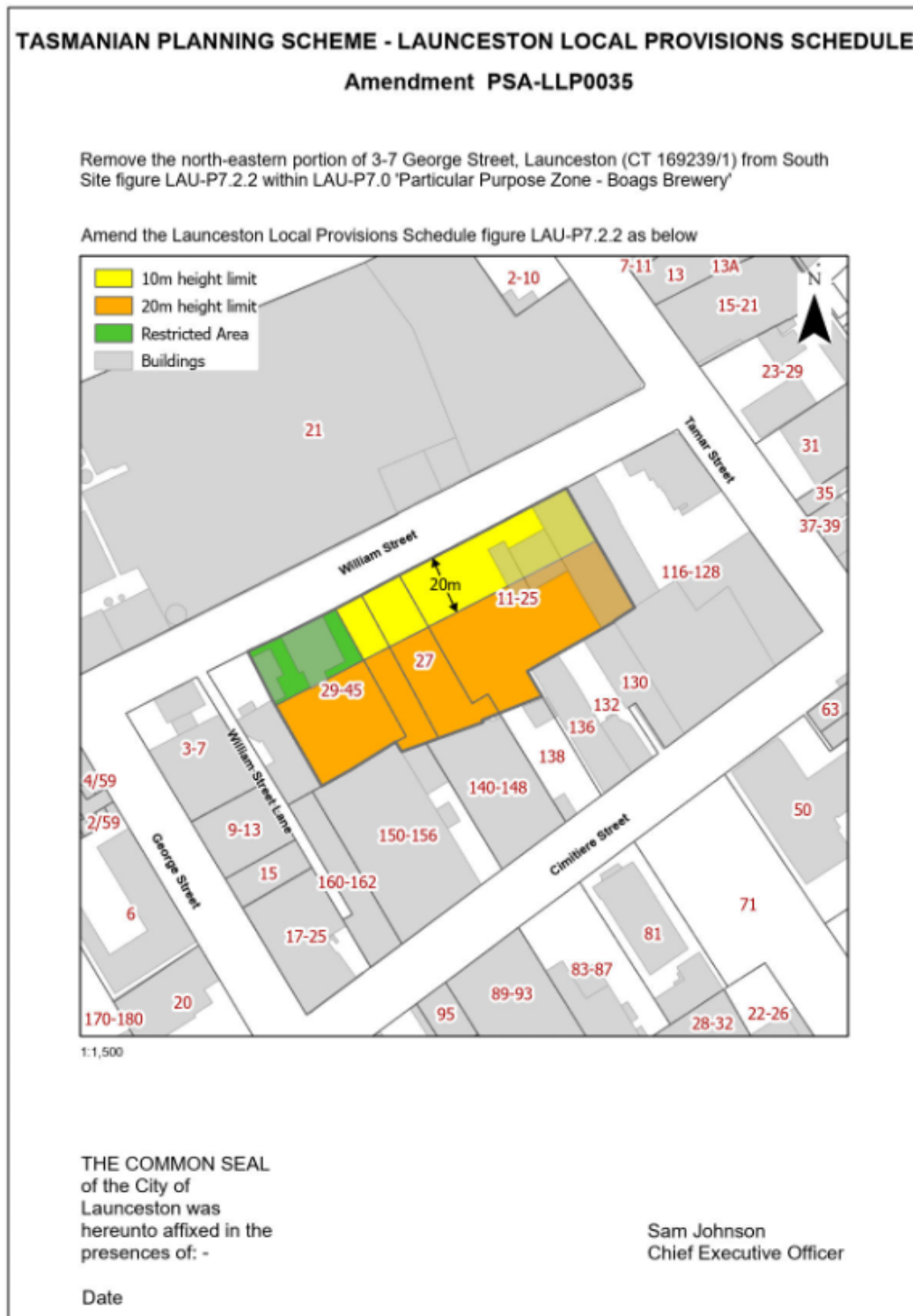
1:1,907

THE COMMON SEAL
of the City of
Launceston was
hereunto affixed in the
presences of: -

Date

Sam Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

Instrument 2 - Amendment to Figure LAU-P7.1 of the 'Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery'



Instrument 3 - Amendment to Figure LAU-P7.2.2 of the 'Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery'

Note: The attached figure has been prepared based on the current figure in LAU-P7.2.2, with the exception of a small section in the northeast portion of the 11–25 William Street buildings, which has been amended to reflect an accurate 20 m setback from the William Street frontage. Consequently, there is a minor adjustment to the indicative location of the buildings. No other changes have been made to the restricted areas.

REPORT: APPLICATION FOR PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Planning Ahead Tasmania has lodged an application under section 37 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 to rezone a portion of land at 3–7 George Street (CT 169239/1) from 'Particular Purpose Zone – Boags Brewery' to the Urban Mixed Use Zone. The area proposed to be rezoned is approximately 714sqm. In addition to the rezoning, the amendment also requires consequential updates to Figures LAU-P7.1 and LAU-P7.2.2 of the Particular Purpose Zone – Boags Brewery to reflect the change.

1.1 Planning History:

Historically, the site was zoned Commercial under the Launceston Planning Scheme 1996 and Urban Mixed Use under the Launceston Planning Scheme 2012, while the adjoining property at 21 Shields Street was zoned 'Particular Purpose Zone – Boags Brewery'. Under the Launceston Interim Planning Scheme 2015, both the subject site and adjoining Boags Brewery properties were included within the Particular Purpose Zone – Boags Brewery (PPZ).

A decision under DA0102/2020 and PSA-LIPS0062 rezoned the western part of the land to Urban Mixed Use Zone to enable bulky goods sales for the occupiers of Tullochs Auctions, who historically operated from the site under a month-by-month lease arrangement. The rezoning was necessary due to the limited range of permissible use classes under the PPZ, particularly the exclusion of bulky goods sales and sought to reinforce the spatial hierarchy of the surrounding Urban Mixed Use Zone while accommodating the approved development.

During the earlier rezoning process, the northern portion of the site remained under the ownership of Boags Brewery and was used for storage purposes. At that time, it was still required for brewery operations and therefore retained within the Particular Purpose Zone.

1.2 Current Site Conditions:

The subject site comprises a single title divided by William Street Lane. The western portion of the site contains a large warehouse-type building, formerly used by *Tullochs Auctions* as a bulky goods sales area of approximately 1300sqm over two levels. There are also two conjoined two-storey townhouses, with a combined floor area of approximately 300sqm over two levels, which are currently unoccupied.

The eastern portion of the site contains a storage warehouse of approximately 550 sqm, located on the part of the land proposed to be rezoned. William Street Lane dissects the site, and the remainder of the land proposed for rezoning, towards William Street, is utilised for private access and parking.

The site (CT 169239/1) is no longer utilised by Boags for storage or by Tullochs Auctions and is currently unoccupied. The land has been sold by Boags and is now owned by Mark Alan French.

2. Rationale for Supporting the Amendment:

2.1 Purpose of the Amendment

The purpose of the amendment is to modify the zoning of the subject site to maximise its development potential, particularly the northeastern portion of CT 169239/1. The site comprises two parcels of land within a single Certificate of Title, separated by William Street Lane, which provides access to the subject site and to adjoining rear properties.

The site has a total area of 1789sqm, of which approximately 1075sqm is currently zoned Urban Mixed Use, with the balance zoned 'Particular Purpose Zone – Boags Brewery'. This split zoning creates inconsistencies in the application of planning provisions. In particular, the Particular Purpose Zone limits or prohibits a range of uses that would otherwise be permissible in the Urban Mixed Use Zone. These restrictions constrain opportunities for future development, both on the subject land and in conjunction with adjoining land and prevent the landowner from fully utilising existing infrastructure and capitalising on the site's historic context and character.

The proposed rezoning will resolve this inconsistency by applying a single zone across the site. This will provide greater flexibility in allowable uses, ensure consistency with the adjoining Urban Mixed Use Zone, and facilitate more efficient and integrated development outcomes.

2.2 Why the northeastern portion was not included in the previous rezoning application?

During the earlier rezoning process, the eastern portion of the site remained under the ownership of Boags Brewery and was used for storage purposes. At that time, it was still required for brewery operations and therefore retained within the Particular Purpose Zone. Since then, Boags has divested this land, deeming it surplus to operational requirements. The purpose of the current PPZ is to support the functional needs of the brewery; however, with the site no longer required for that purpose, the ongoing application of the PPZ to the eastern portion is neither relevant nor strategically appropriate. Rezoning the land to Urban Mixed Use Zone will resolve the split-zone issue across the title and reinforce the spatial hierarchy of the surrounding Urban Mixed Use Zone, maximising opportunities for future redevelopment in line with the applicable standards of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

2.3 Why the Urban Mixed Use Zone is Preferred?

The Urban Mixed Use Zone provides for a wide range of commercial, business, community and residential uses that enhance the vitality of urban centres. Rezoning the site to this zone aligns with the Scheme's intent to encourage mixed-use outcomes in well-located urban areas.

The amendment will:

- Enable redevelopment opportunities appropriate to the Principal Activity Centre;
- Provide a clearer and more consistent planning framework; and
- Improve certainty for landowners, developers and the community.

This approach supports the efficient reuse of underutilised land, encourages investment, and contributes to the strategic consolidation of the Launceston Principal Activity Centre.

No alternative zoning was considered appropriate. The land is surplus to the operational requirements of the Boags Brewery and is privately owned. The Urban Mixed Use Zone is the most suitable zoning as mixed-use activity is the dominant and intended land use in the immediate surrounding area.

3. NEXT STEPS

If the proposed planning scheme amendment is agreed to, the next steps in the process are as follows:

- The proposed amendment will be exhibited for 28 days
- The proposed amendment will be brought back to a Council meeting if representations are received or major modifications are required. In response to any representations, the Planning Authority could also recommend that the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) does not approve the amendment.
- The TPC will assess and decide whether to approve the amendment, approve the amendment with modifications or reject the amendment.

If the amendment is refused, a person may not make another change that is substantially the same within 2 years of the decision, unless there are changes to the scheme or the regional strategy, to the satisfaction of the TPC.

4. Subject site and Surrounding Uses

The subject site is located at 3–7 George Street, Launceston and comprises two parcels contained within a single title, CT 169239/1, with a total area of approximately 1,789sqm. The site is semi-irregular in shape and occupies a prominent corner position at George Street and William Street, with the portion subject to this amendment located on the northern side of William Street Lane.

4.1 Zoning and Overlays:

The following zones and overlays currently apply to the site:

- Aerial map of the site
- Urban Mixed Use Zone and 'Particular Purpose Zone – Boags Brewery'
- Parking and Sustainable Transport Code (Parking Precinct Plan)
- Local Historic Heritage Code
- Tasmanian Heritage Register
- Safeguarding of Airports Code (Airport Obstacle Limitation Area)
- LAU-P7.0 Particular Purpose Zone – Boags Brewery



Figure 1: Subject site (Source: SAM Mapping)



Figure 2: Subject site and existing zoning (Source: SAM Mapping)



Figure 3: Parking and Sustainable Transport Code - Parking Precinct Plan (Source: SAM Mapping)



Figure 4: Local Historic Heritage Code - Local heritage place (Source: SAM Mapping)



Figure 5: Tasmanian Heritage Register (Source: SAM Mapping)



Figure 6: LAU-P7.0 Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery (Source: SAM Mapping)

4.2 Surrounding context:

The site adjoins the Urban Mixed Use Zone to the west and south, and the 'Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery' to the north and east. The surrounding locality supports a diverse mix of land uses including the brewery, food services, offices, vehicle parking, and community meeting spaces.

5. STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

5.1 Strategies

The following is a discussion of how the proposal is consistent with the regional land use strategy and any applicable regional areas as required for amendments to the Local Provisions Schedule (LPS) of section 34 (2) (c) of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA)*.

5.1.1 Regional Strategy

The Northern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy (NTRLUS) was originally declared by the Minister for Planning in accordance with the relevant provisions of LUPAA on 27 October 2011. The current version was amended on 23 June 2021 and provides a framework for the sustainable use and development of land within the region.

The NTRLUS is a strategic regional plan for the eight council areas in the north and north-east of Tasmania. It has a 20-year time horizon to 2032 for integrated infrastructure, land use development and transport planning, and is underpinned by economic development, social and environmental strategies. It defines three land use categories to direct the allocation of all land in the region:

- Urban Growth Areas
- Rural Areas
- Natural Environment Areas

This site falls within the Urban Growth Area.

The detailed assessment against the relevant principles, policies, and actions of the NTRLUS is provided in **Attachment 2** to this report.

5.1.2 City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

The City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035 (LSP) is prepared under the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas). The detailed assessment against the principles and goals of the LSP is provided in **Attachment 2** to this report.

5.1.3 State Policies

A detailed assessment against the relevant state policies is provided in Attachment 2 to this report.

5.2 Statutory Considerations

5.2.1 Section 32 - Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993

Section 32 of LUPAA provides for the contents of a Local Provisions Schedules (LPS), and Section 34 outlines the LPS Criteria.

Attachment 2 provides detailed assessment of the amendment against the requirements of these provisions. The amendment is considered to satisfy all the listed considerations and meet the LPS Criteria.

5.2.2 Tasmanian Heritage Council (THC)

The application was referred to THC, who advised that this amendment does not require heritage referral as it does not contain heritage works or development.

5.2. Section 56S - Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008

The application was referred to TasWater under section 17 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Regulations 2004*. TasWater has issued its Submission to Planning Authority Notice (TWDA 2025/01057-LCC) dated 4/09/2025, with no objection to the draft amendment.

5.2.4 Landowner Consent

The land is owned by Mark Alan French, and consent was provided on 26/08/2025 by the Trustee of The George Street Unit Trust.

6. CONCLUSION

The proposed planning scheme amendment seeks to change the zoning of a portion of land from 'Particular Purpose Zone - Boags Brewery' to Urban Mixed Use Zone. For the above reasons, it is assessed that the proposed planning scheme amendment is consistent with the objectives and other requirements of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Acts 1993*, the intent of the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston* and is consistent with the Northern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy and State Policies.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The Tasmanian Planning Scheme 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

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. PSA-LLP0035 Attachment 1 Map & Figure [**11.2.1** - 3 pages]
2. PSA-LLP0035 Attachment 2 - Strategic Assessment [**11.2.2** - 14 pages]
3. Tas Water - Submission to Planning Authority Notice [**11.2.3** - 2 pages]
4. PSA-LLP0035 - Application Documents [**11.2.4** - 39 pages]

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

12.1. Mayor's Announcements

FILE NO: SF2375

Saturday 26 September 2025

- Attended AFL Grand Final Hawthorn Brunch and Game, Melbourne

Friday 3rd October 2025

- Attended and participated in Launceston Men's Choir concert, Launceston

Saturday 4 October 2025

- Attended Hawthorn Football Club Peter Crimmins Medal function, Melbourne

Wednesday 8 October 2025

- Officiated at Embroidery Guild Exhibition, Launceston

Thursday 9 October 2025

- Attended Government House, Consular Corps of Tasmania Reception, Hobart

Friday 10 October 2025

- Officiated at MINDS DO MATTER Art Exhibition Launch, Launceston

Monday 13 October 2025

- Attended Lilydale Hall site visit with Lilydale District Progress Association, Lilydale.
- Officiated Civic Reception to recognise 45 years of service, Launceston Learning Centre for Seniors, Launceston
- Officiated Launceston Chamber of Commerce + S. Group Business networking event, Launceston

Tuesday 14 October 2025

- Officiated Launceston Competitions Association AGM, Launceston

Wednesday 15 October 2025

- Attended Hospitality Tasmania Awards for Excellence, Hobart

Thursday 16 October 2025

- Officiated North Festival Launch, Launceston

Friday 17 October 2025

- Attended Northern Suburbs Community Centre AGM, Launceston
 - Attended Cape Hope Foundation Cocktail Party, Launceston
 - Officiated and Attended Encore Theatre Production, Opening Night of GEORGY GIRL, Launceston
-

13. 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.)

14. QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 34 and 35

14.1. Questions on Notice by Councillors

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 35

**14.1.1. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor D C Gibson - Dredging
kanamaluka / Tamar River - 2 October 2025**

FILE NO: SF2375

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 2 October 2025 by Councillor D C Gibson, have been answered by the Executive Advisor.

Question 1:

What happened to the funds (\$4 million one off and \$1 million annually) committed to targeted dredging for the kanamaluka/Tamar River; noting that this was not about the health of the waterway but about improving access for rowing clubs, yacht club, marina and other users?

Question 2:

Can any of these funds be allocated for prop washing around the Seaport area?

Question 3:

Will the EPA allow targeted dredging applications?

Response:

In April 2021, the Tasmanian Liberal Party released an election commitment to provide \$1 million per year to support the establishment and ongoing operations of the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) and \$4 million over two years for a targeted dredging program for the upper Kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary.

Post election, the Department of State Growth was tasked with working with stakeholders and regulators to explore the feasibility of implementing the proposed \$4 million targeted dredging program.

City of Launceston staff have contacted the state government seeking an update on the feasibility assessment and to provide responses to the questions include in the Notice of Motion.

As soon as City of Launceston staff receive a response it will be provided to Councillors.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

**14.1.2. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Deputy Mayor, Councillor D H McKenzie
- Cataract Gorge Inclinator - 2 October 2025**

FILE NO: SF2375

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 2 October 2025 by Deputy Mayor, Councillor D H McKenzie, has been answered by the Senior Leader Open Spaces and Sustainability.

Question 1:

For those people who rely on the inclinator to access the Gorge, does Council have an alternate way for them to access the Gorge when the inclinator is not operational?

Response:

Unfortunately, access to Gorge is limited with the inclinator. As the current inclinator has been unreliable the following process has been developed and will be available on Council's website.

Working Procedure – Personal Mobility Issue Access to First Basin (Inclinator Out of Service)

1. Check Inclinator Status

- a. Before visiting, call Launceston City Council Customer Service (6323 3000) to confirm if the inclinator is operating.

2. If the Inclinator is Not Operating

- a. Call 0419 339 789 (Inclinator/First Basin contact) to notify operational staff of your expected arrival time (preferably 24hrs in advance) and need for boom gate access.

3. At the Boom Gate

- a. On arrival, call 0419 339 789 again.
- b. Staff will open the gate and walk in front of your vehicle to ensure pedestrian safety.

4. Drop-Off

- a. Drive into the Basin and drop off the user at the turnaround area.
- b. Staff will assist to ensure safe passage through pedestrian areas.

5. Parking

- a. *After drop-off, park the vehicle in the car park above the chairlift ticket booth (see attached map). This removes the need for staff to reopen the boom gate.*
- b. *At pick-up time, drive back to the turnaround area to collect the user, then exit via the boom gate, which will automatically open on departure.*

Any Service disruptions regarding the Inclinator are also advised on Council's website 'Service Disruptions'.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

**14.1.3. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor A G Harris - Paterson Street
Bike Cages and Parkiteer - 2 October 2025**

FILE NO: SF2375

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 2 October 2025 by Councillor A G Harris, have been answered by the Team Leader Building Asset Management.

Question 1:

When does Council expect to conclude its considerations about the suitability of the current bike cages and make a decision on if or when they can be reopened to the cycling public?

Response:

The Building Assets and Investigation Team have only recently acquired these assets; at this stage we are unable to provide a confirmed date of completion. Our intention is to work diligently to ensure minimal disruption whilst ensuring thorough considerations are given to providing the most suitable solution for the community.

Question 2:

Will Council consider the Parkiteer Bike Cage Network that is available at more than 40 metro train stations in Melbourne and over 170 locations? These cages provide 24-hour undercover secure parking for cyclists and are accessible using a smart card system is available when a Parkiteer user pays a \$50 deposit and registers their details on the Parkiteer website.

Response:

The City of Launceston will consider all available information to ensure the most appropriate solution is provided.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

**14.1.4. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor A J Britton - Insurance
Flood/Actions of the Sea - 2 October 2025**

FILE NO: SF2375

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 2 October 2025 by Councillor A J Britton, has been answered by the Senior Leader Governance.

Question 1:

[On behalf of a member of the public regarding their Insurance Policy.] They are covered for a flood but not by actions of the sea, which includes tidal wave, king tide, and high tide. As far as I know the Tamar River on its own will not flood the city but will only flood due to a high or king tide. I was just wondering if the Council would be able to investigate that for anyone out there who may be worried about their insurance cover?

Response:

The kanamaluka/Tamar River on its own does not typically flood under normal conditions, however as it is subject to tidal influences low-lying areas along the river are vulnerable during king tides or as a result of storm surge. These combined conditions can result in localised minor flooding.

Not all insurance policies are the same, and do not cover the same things or exclude the same things. The Insurance Council of Australia explains flood insurance at the following link: <https://insurancecouncil.com.au/resource/flood-insurance-explained/>

It is very important that people talk to their insurers if they are not clear on what their insurance covers them for.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

14.1.5. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor J J Pentridge - Cataract Gorge Inclinator - 2 October 2025

FILE NO: SF2375

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 2 October 2025 by Councillor J J Pentridge, have been answered by the Senior Leader Open Spaces and Sustainability.

Question 1:

Are Council considering removing the inclinator altogether due to the consistent operational issues?

Response:

Council has progressed a future feasibility and design proposal for the Cataract Gorge Inclinator containing six conceptual designs, with associated cost estimates. These options include:

- a) refurbishing and upgrading the existing inclinator cabin and infrastructure system making it more contemporary*
- b) replacing the existing inclinator cabin and infrastructure with a new contemporary system or*
- c) construction considerations to re-imagine the existing inclinator system at the Gorge with new options like lifts or escalators.*

The primary objective of the project was to identify improved asset operational reliability, reduce escalating operational inefficiencies and maintenance costs, ensure safety compliance, and enhance user experience for both visitors and locals.

The findings will be presented to a Council Workshop later this calendar year with a recommendation and future project scope regarding the design options.

Question 2:

What are some ways that Council are considering to address the excessive use and misuse of the inclinator to prevent the recurring maintenance issues?

Response:

Considerations of this have been incorporated into the feasibility project, as mentioned in response to Question 1, and will be further addressed as part of Council's future direction and Workshop Outcomes.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

**14.1.6. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor T G Walker - Term Sheet
Leak and Media Opportunity - 2 October 2025**

FILE NO: SF2375

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 2 October 2025 by Councillor T G Walker, has been answered by the Chief Executive Officer.

Question:

In media reports this week, both [the Mayor] and the Chief Executive Officer have stated their concern, implying that a Councillor has unlawfully shared information regarding the term sheet for the development of the Birchall's building. Do you have any specific evidence that it was not a Councillor that has done that?

Response:

As previously stated by both the Mayor and myself, the unauthorised disclosure of confidential information, particularly relating to the term sheet for the Birchall's building development is of serious concern.

It is important to reiterate that the matter remains under preliminary review. As such, it would be inappropriate to speculate or provide further comment while that process is ongoing. Doing so risks undermining the integrity of the review and potentially prejudicing any outcomes.

In reviewing the referenced article in detail, it is important to note that at no point does it specifically identify or name a Councillor as the source of the leak. The article refers to a "representative," which may include either elected or paid individuals. This distinction is critical in maintaining procedural fairness and avoiding assumptions that are not supported by evidence.

Council remains committed to upholding the highest standards of confidentiality and governance. Repeated instances of unauthorised disclosures not only destabilise decision-making processes but also erode public trust in the institution we are all entrusted to serve. These incidents are also resource intensive, and regrettably result in unnecessary costs to our community. We appreciate Councillor Walker's active interest in this matter and welcome any information that Councillors or members of the public may have that could assist in resolving this issue constructively.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

14.1.7. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor D C Gibson - Frederick Street Kindergarten - 2 October 2025

FILE NO: SF2375

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 2 October 2025 by Councillor D C Gibson, has been answered by the Project Manager Design and Construction.

Question 1:

What is the status of the Frederick Street Kindergarten project?

Response:

The project at 56 Frederick Street to allow the Launceston History Centre to take up their new tenancy is progressing well. An agreed scope of works has been developed and detailed design is underway. This design will form the basis of a construction and redevelopment tender package, which will be released this year with construction projected to begin in Quarter 1 2026.

The project largely consists of remediation and compliance work and is a careful balance between conservation of the building and ensuring compliance with contemporary the building and access codes. To ensure the centre will meet access requirements a disability consultant has been engaged with their recommendations being reviewed by Heritage Tasmania.

The key aspects of the project are

- Construction of new toilet amenities*
- Installation of a mobility lift*
- Widening doorways*
- Removal of internal paint finishes*
- Structural stability works*
- Reconfiguration of staircase to create increased circulation space.*

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

14.2. Questions Without Notice by Councillors

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 34

15. WRITTEN NOTICES OF MOTION

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 19

No Written Notices of Motion have been identified as part of this Agenda.

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS

16.1. Northern Youth Coordinating Committee Report - 2 September 2025

FILE NO: SF0136

AUTHOR: Claudia Taylor (Youth Development Officer)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive a report from the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the report from the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 2 September 2025.
-

REPORT:

The Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC) met on Tuesday, 2 September 2025 and conducted the following business:

- The committee reaffirmed its strategic goal to deliver independence workshops aimed at enhancing life skills among young people. These workshops focus on critical areas such as financial literacy and employment readiness, supporting youth to build confidence and self-sufficiency.
 - Following the successful Financial Literacy Workshop, attended by 25 young people, participants provided valuable feedback highlighting the importance of these sessions. Feedback indicated that content should be tailored to different skill levels, leading to a recommendation to split future workshops into beginner and intermediate streams. This outcome informs ongoing workshop development to better meet young people's needs. The event was supported by the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) and featured strong engagement from NYCC members and their respective youth groups.
 - Looking ahead, the committee endorsed an upcoming Employment Workshop scheduled for 13 September 2025 at Launceston Library, Civic Square. This session aims to build employability skills, including resume writing and understanding workplace rights. The workshop is co-designed by the City of Launceston Youth Advisory Group (YAG) and includes active involvement of NYCC members and partners such as NEBHub and Upturned Tasmania. It targets youth aged 14 to 21, with separate streams for first-time job seekers and young professionals.
-

Presentations at the meeting included:

- Graham Lilywhite from the City of Launceston provided an overview of the “Christmas in the City” program, inviting children and youth up to 18 years to design festive banners for the Brisbane Street Mall.
- Oscar O’Shea (City of Launceston) and Jeremy Hollister (NEBHUB) outlined details of the upcoming Life Skills Employment Workshop.

Reports from member organisations detailed ongoing youth engagement initiatives:

- YAG is leading the employment workshop and preparing an end-of-year report for Council.
- West Tamar Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is delivering first aid training and planning various youth events including a Youth Festival and Relay for Life.
- YNOT is adapting the Tasmanian Youth Forum model to regional forums and promoting the Tasmanian Youth Voice Network for youth participation.
- The Youth Reference Group (headspace) is organising activities for Mental Health Week and expanding outreach in schools and communities.

The next and final meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday 4 November 2025 at the Town Hall Reception Room, City of Launceston, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

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 Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Strategic Pillar 1 - Prosperity

Goal 1.2 Launceston's economy is resilient and sustainable, with significant growth in its gross regional product (GRP) through a diverse economic base supported by a skilled workforce, enabling business environment, and facilitation of investment opportunities.

Objective 1.2(c)	Advocate and collaborate with the State Government, education institutions, industry partners and non-profits to support improvements in adult literacy (including digital literacy) and to support skills development in key sectors.
-------------------------	--

Strategic Pillar 1 - Prosperity

Goal 1.3. Launceston's attractive employment opportunities, enviable lifestyle and our reputation as a forward-thinking city make it the destination of choice for professionals, entrepreneurs and innovators.

Objective 1.3(b)	Attract and retain young professionals (25 - 34 year-olds) to Launceston.
-------------------------	---

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.2 Participation in cultural and recreational activities is widespread across the community and promotes health and wellbeing at all ages while bridging social, cultural and geographical gaps.

Objective 3.2(a)	Achieve an improvement in health and wellbeing through addressing barriers to inclusion and promotion of physical and social activity such as community arts, sports and recreation.
-------------------------	--

Objective 3.2(b)	Broaden and increase participation in arts, cultural, and community events to foster community identity, leadership and capacity building, resilience, pride & a sense of belonging.
-------------------------	--

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. NYCC 2 September 2025 DRAFT Minutes [16.1.1 - 4 pages]

17. CONNECTIONS AND LIVEABILITY

17.1. Quarterly Report - Connections and Liveability

FILE NO: SF7708

AUTHOR: Anne Hemingway (Executive Assistant - Connections and Liveability)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive a report about activities of the Connections and Liveability Team between 1 July 2025 and 30 September 2025.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the Connections and Liveability Team Quarterly Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025.
-

REPORT:

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Carr Villa Memorial Park

During the past quarter, the Carr Villa team has experienced a noticeable increase in service provision across all activities, compared to the same period last year. The team has coordinated 56 burials (+7%) and cremations rose significantly with 172 completed (+168%). This increase reflects our continued support of a Northwest funeral home for cremations, as well as the impact of the cremator being offline for six weeks during 2024 for refurbishment. In addition, 63 ash placements (+35%) were completed for families.

These increases also extended across to the Client Services Team. The team conducted more than 90 family appointments (+28%), facilitated the purchase of 102 ash placement locations (+27%) and arranged 13 pre-purchased Rights of Burial (+8%). The team also coordinated the production of over 100 bronze memorial plaques (+27%). Visitor numbers remained strong, with just under 23,000 people attending the site throughout the quarter. This growth has also delivered a 44% increase above budgeted revenue.

In addition to day-to-day services, the service has offered opportunities that support the evolving deathcare needs of our community. Highlights this quarter included a well-attended Father's Day Memorial Service and our involvement in Dying to Know Day, during which chapel and crematorium tours were offered to encourage open conversations and promote informed end-of-life decision-making.

Launceston Leisure and Aquatic Centre

The Learn to Swim program has maintained strong and consistent participation, with over 2,200 students enrolled over this period. The Adult Swim Program remains well-attended, with 45 participants enrolled in the six-week course that commenced in early August.

LAFit has enhanced the delivery of its group fitness timetable through the successful recruitment of additional Group Fitness Instructors and a Health and Fitness Instructor, enabling greater scheduling flexibility and improved program coverage. The Health and Fitness team visited two primary schools in Launceston's Northern Suburbs to deliver presentations focused on healthy lifestyle education, supporting our commitment to promoting wellbeing beyond the gym. Promotional campaigns during the quarter included Winter Warmers in August and Kicking Goals in September, both designed to engage members and encourage positive health behaviours.

School holidays commenced late in the quarter, with inflatable equipment, basketball hoops and interactive water play features receiving strong participation and positive feedback from attendees. Aquatic membership numbers experienced a slight increase, continuing the upward trend observed in the previous quarter.

Preparations are underway for the seasonal opening of the Lilydale Pool, scheduled for 1 December. Operational planning and site readiness activities have commenced to ensure a smooth and successful start to the summer season.

Building Surveying

During the past quarter, the Building Surveying team processed 55 applications across 32 locations in Northern Tasmania, representing an estimated construction value of \$11.7 million.

The highest concentration of applications was recorded in Kings Meadows, Perth and Newstead. Applications were lodged across seven Council areas, with the majority (56%) situated within the Launceston Municipality. An additional 10% each were received from Meander Valley, Northern Midlands and West Tamar Councils.

The three primary application categories were:

- New dwellings – 25%
- Alterations or additions – 38%
- Sheds, garages, or carports – 25%
-

LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

Placemaking

Laneway activation

The festival's expression of interest process for artists has closed with more than 60 submissions received. Following review by an independent assessment panel the shortlisted artists will be curated into the events program. The festival will be held in March 2026.

Skate of Mind workshops

The Placemaking and Community Development teams have collaborated to develop a program of workshops and activations with Big Hart focusing on skateboarding. Workshops will be aimed at specific age groups in school hours and then the broader youth community in public spaces. Digital art and beginner skating will be the focus, with the workshops culminating in a significant performance piece as part of the Street art Festival.

Howick Street mural

The design for the Howick Street mural has been received by the Cultural Advisory Committee and approved for delivery. Traffic management plans have been received and work is scheduled to be delivered before end of the calendar year.

Birchall's mural

CoL officers collaborated with teaching staff at George Town's Indie School to develop a mural design for the rear of Birchall's. The boards were delivered to the school and students painted the mural over a term in class time. The final work was installed in September.

Seaport mural

The design for the Seaport Levee wall mural has been received by the Cultural Advisory Committee and the artist has been contracted to deliver the associated works. Given the project's proximity to road which is managed by the Department of State Growth (DSG), coordination is underway with traffic management, DSG and the artist to ensure the project is booked in and delivered during the summer period.

Artbox

An Artbox is a small outdoor gallery space (10ftx10ft) with glass/perspex walls so that community can view an exhibition 24 hours a day in the public realm. Research into best practice for outdoor gallery spaces has taken place. Several municipalities and other community focused organisations were spoken to ensure council's design is best practice and contemporary. A request for quote is currently being advertised for the design and construction of two artboxes for placement at various locations across the municipality. The Placemaking team expects the first trial exhibition to be installed in the last quarter of 2025/2026.

Songwriting workshops

Music Tas and The Push facilitated youth songwriting workshops across Tasmania. Arts and Culture officers have supported the delivery in Launceston by providing a Council hall and additional support. Workshops took place in the October school holidays across 2 full days.

StoryWalk

A StoryWalk is traditionally a series of signs along an outdoor trail which depict a complete children's book, a page at a time. StoryWalks encourage and support literacy, exercise and authors/illustrators. StoryWalk has progressed with internal viability discussions with parks to find a suitable location to trial the program, and support has been sought from Libraries Tasmania to identify appropriate means for working with authors and published works. Publishing houses and author illustrators have been scoped for initial interest in the project.

Northern Gateway

The Northern Gateway Expression of Interest submissions have been through the process of shortlisting by a panel of City of Launceston staff and industry professionals. The shortlisted artists have been supported through a paid concept design period by consultants Urban Arts Projects with the final three concepts presented to the panel. Two of the presented works were recommended to be progressed to a community vote. Councillors were presented with the concepts and the panel recommendation on 28 August.

Public voting for Northern Gateway was a success with more than 1,000 votes lodged during the 4-week voting period. The voting process included mainstream media, social campaigns, the distribution of posters across Council venues and associated pop-ups to encourage access to the voting process.

Arts & Culture Grants

The four 2025 grant recipients have started implementing projects. Arts and Culture Officers have attended workshops and booked into attend upcoming performances. We look forward to receiving acquittal documentation in Quarter 2.

Heritage

Heritage List Review

Council's Local Heritage List is being updated to ensure our beautiful city continues to grow and thrive, while respecting our history for generations to come. Heritage belongs to all of us and it is a part of who we are. It is what we inherit, appreciate today and think is important to protect and pass onto future generations.

The following heritage datasheets have been completed by our Heritage Team (inclusive of informal public consultation) and have been submitted for formal amendment to our Planning Team, which will be brought to Council in due course:

- Newstead Crescent Heritage Precinct
- Mayne Street Heritage Precinct
- Significant Trees, comprising 48 items equalling 650 trees
- Two archaeological items.

The following heritage precinct is out for informal public consultation at present:

- Babington Street Heritage Precinct.

The following items are currently being drafted by our Heritage Team:

- St Leonards Heritage Precinct
- Glen Dhu Heritage Precinct and
- 20+ individual heritage places.

Heritage Interpretation – Stage 2

A suitably qualified heritage interpretation specialist has been engaged to prepare a Heritage Interpretation Plan for Council-owned site(s) within Launceston, with the intent to expand the project's reach throughout the municipality in future years. The Heritage Interpretation Plan will draw on the recommendations provided within the Heritage Interpretation Framework, and engage with the community and a Council-appointed Tasmanian Aboriginal engagement specialist.

Stage 2 will be considered a trial to test the future expansion of the project throughout the municipality and will be limited to one or more (depending on size / breadth of required content) key areas within the inner-city area.

A heritage interpretation specialist and Tasmanian Aboriginal engagement specialist have been engaged for the project, with project initiation and site selection currently underway. The output for Stage 2 would comprise a Heritage Interpretation Plan for a Council-owned site(s) inclusive of installation / action plan, concept design / content ready for Stage 3 installation (2026/27 FY), inclusive of indicative costings.

Heritage Interpretation – Make Your Mark Launceston

Project planning is currently underway for the Make Your Mark Launceston project. A series of plaques is proposed for installation at significant historic sites across the city — such as the Post Office or Macquarie House, amongst others — each featuring a stylised line illustration of the location alongside a short description of its historical significance. At each stop, visitors of all ages would be invited to create a direct rubbing of the plaque using paper and pencil, capturing the artwork by taking a textured imprint. This low-tech, interactive experience encourages exploration, curiosity, and artistic engagement with the city's history — all without the need for screens or devices.

A printed booklet (also downloadable) and branded pencils will be available for collection at the Tourist Centre and Customer Service, though participants are welcome to bring and use their own materials.

Heritage Strategy

The Heritage Strategy has been developed to guide City of Launceston towards a strategic and integrated approach to heritage management. It aligns with, and delivers on, key planning frameworks including the City of Launceston strategic Plan 2025-2035, Aboriginal Partnerships Plan, Cultural Strategy and Greening Strategy.

The Strategy identifies a series of opportunities with key recommendations, informed by local, national and international research and stakeholder consultation. It provides an implementation plan for how City of Launceston will work alongside the community and heritage organisations to ensure the history of Launceston is understood, protected, managed and celebrated, leaving a legacy for future generations to come.

The Strategy has undergone internal consultation and will shortly be distributed for targeted stakeholder consultation (heritage professionals).

Heritage Sketch

The City of Launceston Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) maintains an ongoing endorsement of a competition for school-aged students aimed at inspiring young community members in fostering an interest and appreciation of our city's heritage. From 2014-2023, this competition was a photography competition known as Heritage Snap. In 2024, with support from the HAC, the competition was expanded to become an art competition, Heritage Sketch. The 2025 competition closed on Friday 19 September, with 330 entries received.

The winning entries will be displayed at an exhibition at Launceston Library (18 October – 2 November 2025), while all entries will be entered into an online exhibition on the CoL webpage.

An award ceremony will be held for the winners, presented by Mayor Garwood.

Heritage Grant Scheme – Caring for Heritage Grant

With support from the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC), council maintains a strong commitment to the preservation and promotion of heritage within our city. As such, our heritage team has prepared guidelines for a grant for heritage property owners who share this commitment to heritage and who are currently planning conservation works at their property within the Launceston municipality.

The grant will be a direct outcome of the Heritage Strategy and will be progressed once the Heritage Strategy and new Grants Policy have been endorsed by Council.

Activation

Junction Banners were installed and are currently being swapped out for the previous iteration of the Launceston Place branding banners.

Hawks banners were reinstalled for the Hawks preliminary final in both Civic Square and Brisbane Street Mall.

Seaport banner systems have been installed and after a production delay, the banners are now up. We are currently awaiting LED light strips for our contracted electrician to install. Tidy Town banners have been designed and have gone to production for both the Brisbane Street Mall and Civic Square.

Enquiry (and now booking made) from the Festival of Voices for city wide Flagtrax banners for the festival in July 2026.

Enquiry from Launceston Central for North Festival banners. Launceston Central have decided not to proceed with banners this year.

Quotes have been received for side opening storage containers for the proposed Civic Square storage space. Internal meetings to secure in principle approval for use of the space are currently underway.

The Quadrant Mall furniture trial is progressing with work focusing on securing a suitable location for a storage cabinet. While a location has been identified it will require an underground survey prior to final site selection.

Christmas in the City

The Deck the Malls children's art competition has launched and media release completed. A trial banner was produced, template/entry form created, poster designed, terms and conditions updated, and entry boxes made and distributed to: Launceston Library, Town Hall Customer Service, Starting Point Neighbourhood House in Ravenswood, Launceston Aquatic Centre, QVMAG at Inveresk, and the Northern Suburbs Community Centres in both Mowbray and Newnham, and The Shed Rocherlea.

The Christmas tree frame was sent for repairs and re-powdercoating. The Christmas tree construction contract RFQ was completed and a successful contractor selected. A presentation about Christmas was provided to the North Youth Coordinating Committee. Finally, a meeting was booked with Launceston Central on the Christmas plan for 2025. Measurements have been taken of the glass panels from the Christmas tree security surround (stored at Remount Road). Request for Quote sent for glass panels to be replaced with Abrasive Resistant Polycarbonate.

Long-term all-weather solution being investigated for the Tree Frame and other decorations to better preserve the tree and prevent weather damage. Quotes received for 20' and 40' side opening storage container. Location of container/s to be determined. Security contract quotes requested and received for the protection of the tree during the Christmas period.

Community Development

Launnie Connecting Community

After five months in the suburb of Waverley, the Community Connector is working on the following projects:

Waverley Wonders is a group of grades 3-6 students at Waverley Primary School. Waverley Wonders focuses on offering young people who care about their community the opportunity to grow ideas, build leadership skills and take charge of ideas and projects important to them. Waverley Wonders meets weekly during school terms and achieved the following throughout July-September 2025:

- a tour of Waverley Mills
- created a Kindness Wall
- crocheting with Kayden
- designed and presented a logo for the Faraday Connect community group
- planned and executed Theo's Mashed Potato Day.

Past ABCDE Learning Site (now Launnie Connect) Community Builders met for the final **2025 Build the Builders** at The Shed UTAS. This is an informal group who connect to support each other to support the community and a way to sustain asset-based community development work.

Seniors Morning Tea in Waverley

Waverley residents engaged with seniors in Waverley by hosting a seniors morning tea to find out the needs of seniors in Waverley. The event took place in July in the Waverley Primary School Hall. The Slam Nans entertained the guests, and the event was well received. Feedback from the morning tea has been considered by locals for future senior engagement.

Vinnies Community Advisory Committee

The Senior Leader of Liveable Communities and Community Connector are a part of the new Vinnies Advisory Committee for the previously managed YMCA building. The Community Connector has facilitated a workshop with Kings Meadows Primary School students to rename the former YMCA building.

Connection Time

Connecting Times are a social catch up to connect within a community. The only existing food take-away in Waverley is Café and Ceylon Cuisine who make Sri Lankan food. Tiroshi and Rishi made their traditional hoppers on site at the school hall and members from the community attended.

Sustainable Community Driven Development Event

Tasmanian Councillors, Council CEOs and leaders and Community Development staff met on Thursday 28 August 2025 in Hobart for the [Local Government Sustainable Community Driven Development workshop](#). Cormac Russell and numerous Tasmanian community experts discussed the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach to development. The Community Connector was invited to facilitate a workshop and sit on a panel, sharing their skills and experience.

Awards

Launnie Connecting Community was a finalist for the LG Professionals Tasmania Community Service Delivery Awards. This award honours Councils for excellence in community services through effective processes, innovative projects, strong leadership and active citizen engagement that help shape community attitudes and behaviours.

Theo's Mashed Potato Day

Theo is a grade 5 student at Waverley Primary School and a member of Waverley Wonders. His idea is to connect community by hosting a mashed potato day. Theo shared his community building idea at the Launnie Connect Waverley community workshop in April 2025 and Council's Community Connector worked with Theo and the Waverley Wonders to plan the mashed potato event which occurred in the new kitchen and dining hall at the school on Monday 22 September 2025.

Waverley Asset Map

The Waverley asset map is generated by the local community to identify and utilise the assets which are important to Waverley in community projects and initiatives. Participating in an asset map exercise allows people to understand and utilise the amazing assets in their community and to focus on all the strengths they have. The map was designed, printed and distributed to the school, community groups, residents and business in Waverley.

My Place My Future

The Community Development Officer Northern Suburbs continued to:

- Facilitate Community Action Groups (Faraday Connect, Community Together 7248, and Rocherlea Action Project) during July, August and September 2025.
- Collaborate with Business Tasmania to hold two small business workshops in quarter 2.
- Progress the Digital Inclusion Working Group and the Road Safety Working Group with bi-monthly meetings.

Collaborative City of Launceston Projects

Officers participated in the Torrens Park Mayfield community planting day on 20 August 2025 (12 community members + 20 school children from East Tamar Primary School).

Officers also helped facilitate the Hargrave Crescent Reserve community celebration BBQ on 25 September 2025 (approximately 40 people in attendance including TasTAFE students, community members and East Tamar Primary students).

City of Launceston hosted the Commissioner for Children and Young People for two days in September, visiting four primary schools in the Northern Suburbs working with the Children's Week 2025 theme "Everyone should know about Children's Rights". This work will be further developed for outcomes during Children's Week 2025.

Community Champions

The Community Champions program of capacity-building workshops began this quarter and included two elements:

- The Healthy and Connected Communities Program (Aug/Sept) guided participants through identifying local needs, building partnerships, securing and sustaining funding, applying evidence and sharing successes to foster stronger, healthier communities. Twelve participants successfully completed the six-week program.
- The Amplify Your Impact workshop, held on 23 September 2025, equipped 25 participants with the tools, confidence and language to craft compelling community stories that capture attention, change perspectives and inspire action.

Food Security

Officers continued to work closely with the Food and Resilience Movement (FaRM) project as they progress to have water connected on site. A fence is currently being completed with planting to start early September. Signage, web collateral and marketing materials are in development with collaborative partners.

Officers and the City of Launceston are founding members of the LIFE project (Launceston Independent Food Enterprise - pilot) which involves the establishment of the North's first social supermarket. Current partners include: Eat Well Tasmania, Food Secure Tasmania, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Loaves and Fishes, OzHarvest, UTAS, Community Housing Ltd, City Mission (Project North), Rotary Club of Tamar Sunrise, and the Northern Suburbs Community Centre. A partnership project proposal is being developed for Executive Leadership and Council.

Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework (CYSOF)

Key stakeholders were consulted as part of the development of Council's Child and Youth Safety Policy. A variety of approaches were taken to ensure safe and efficient gathering of input from different cohorts:

- Questions about safety included in the Youth Engagement Framework survey - 73% of respondents identified safety as their highest priority.
- A survey of child and youth focussed organisations to understand their progress towards compliance with the CYSOF and help define council's role as a leader in the cultural shift required to create a child safe city.
- Art therapist facilitated workshops to elicit the priorities of young people with regards to safety in the city.
- Interviews with adult survivors of child sexual abuse to better understand systemic obstacles to preventing, reporting and recovering from child sexual abuse.
- Child rights workshops with the Interim Children's Commissioner to educate and gauge the understanding of children's rights in primary school aged children.

Initial consultation findings and elements of the Child and Youth Safety Policy were taken to Council workshop for discussion on 2 September 2025. Findings from the consultation will shape the Child and Youth Safety Policy and Procedure. The draft policy and procedure will be shared with community stakeholders for comment and the final draft integrating their feedback will be taken to Council meeting for adoption in November.

The Child and Youth Safety Working Group has met regularly to discuss developing issues and shape the policy and procedure.

Children's week activities this year will contribute to the development of a child safe city. The theme of the week is "Everyone should know about children's rights". Civic square will be adorned with children's rights banners and activities. Children from primary schools involved in workshops with the Commissioner for Children and Young People will be bussed to town on 23 October 2025 to participate in activities promoting broader knowledge of children's rights.

Homelessness

Community Development Officers responded to 213 sleeping rough requests this quarter. For comparison, 13 customer service requests were received across the same quarter in 2024, representing a 1538% increase in customers and staff requests and reports in this reporting period.

Concerted efforts have been made to increase the community's uptake of customer service request processes, including Snap Send Solve and so while 1538% is a substantial increase in customer service requests, this partly points to a broader awareness of the various ways to report homelessness. The team will continue to monitor and report the number of customer service requests.

One Homelessness Advisory Committee meeting took place (19 August 2025). Officers have also attended one Northern Community Action Group meeting and two meetings with the Homelessness Week Working Group. The Community Development Officer - Inclusion resigned in July and the vacant position was filled in September.

A Housing Ends Homelessness event was held at the City of Launceston Town Hall for Homelessness Week on 4 August 2025. This was in partnership with:

- Catholic Care
- Winteringham
- Shelter Tasmania
- Housing Connect
- Salvation Army
- Homes Tasmania
- Shekinah House
- St Vincent De Paul Society
- Launceston Benevolent Society.

Other Council supported events were the Vinnies Walk to raise awareness, Beyond the Lease by Housing Connect, and the Launceston Benevolent Society Open Day. Community Development is currently undertaking a review of our Homelessness Statement of Commitment.

Aboriginal Partnership Plan

The review of the Aboriginal Partnership Plan is underway. Teams responsible for actions in the plan have been asked to summarise actions and outcomes achieved because of its implementation. These will be used to review the plan and propose next steps in establishing a sustainable and trust-based method of engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community. Officers have established relationships with key individuals who have helped shape the organisation's approach.

One particularly successful element arising from the plan's implementation has been the establishment of Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training, with very positive responses from staff across the organisation. Having a deeper shared understanding of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and story embedded in governance, leadership and officer level creates a strong foundation for ongoing work in this space.

Community Development and Heritage Officers are working closely to establish an Aboriginal Community Engagement Framework for the organisation. The first stage of this was the commissioning of Milangkani Projects (Theresa Sainty) to develop an engagement framework for the Heritage Interpretation Plan. An engagement specialist, Jenname Consultancy and Training (Rachel Dunne), has been engaged to lead the first round of engagement with the Aboriginal Community. Both organisations are Aboriginal led and controlled organisations. Learnings from this process will be used to develop an engagement framework for use by the whole organisation.

Smaller projects recently delivered or currently underway include:

- The development of guidelines for the writing and speaking of an Acknowledgement of Country to be included in the corporate brand guidelines.
- Plans to hang the Rod Gardner watercolours purchased as a part of the Homelessness Statement of Commitment in the Reception Room to start improving the Aboriginal Cultural Safety of our key spaces.
- Feedback provided to include Aboriginal acknowledgement and Palawa language as key elements of the Reception and Visitor Information Centre redevelopment.
- Internal education about the meaning and significance of NAIDOC week and promotion of the Aboriginal community invitation to attend the annual flag raising ceremony.

Multicultural Community

Throughout the first quarter of the 2025-26 financial year responsible officers have been focused on issues arising from networking and key stakeholder meetings alongside identified focus areas. Attendance at key meetings such as the Refugee Settlement Network (north), Network for Harmony (statewide) and Pacific Assistance Labour Mobility Scheme (PALM) fora provide ongoing opportunities to connect with key stakeholders.

Topics covered include: Humanitarian Arrivals in Launceston, Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP) visa holders - transitions, PALM scheme and Pacific Engagement Visa (PEV) holders, staff and program changes in Launceston and Hobart, emerging issues and events, residential Alcohol and Other Drugs Rehabilitation, economic pathways to Refugee Integration, support for victim/survivors of Domestic and Family Violence, refugees with disabilities, incoming changes to the 2026 Humanitarian Integration Settlement program (HISP) and Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP). Officers have identified action areas which are reflected in the multicultural action plan.

The further development of the welcome packs for PALM workers and a series of meetings with experienced PALM workers have occurred to gather ideas for improvement in welcome initiatives and resources. This has led to an increased understanding of community needs and further actions to ensure that this project is providing new workers with useful supplies. Our Finding Freedom film (produced by the City of Launceston, featuring the voices of refugee community members) was launched at the Refugee Week event hosted by City of Launceston. 100 community members attended the event in partnership with Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) Tasmania and Welcome Cultural Services. The Youth Officer continues to periodically meet with the MRC Youth group to keep abreast of multicultural youth needs and aspirations.

Equity and Inclusion

A desktop audit of state and local government initiatives was undertaken to ascertain benchmarking. Purposive sampling was used to ascertain national best practice approach to documents of similar scope and scale. Information gathered in raw data form was used to inform the project planning development. The Equity and Inclusion draft project plan has been developed and cohorts proposed for inclusion are ages and stages, access, culture and linguistic diverse communities. Separate data collection and co-design processes are being undertaken with the Aboriginal and the LGBTQIA+ communities, however, this framework/strategy aims to offer the overarching strategic principles and vision comprising each of these priority populations.

Youth

Annual plan item, the Youth Engagement Framework and Action plan, has undergone final drafting and is with Executive Leadership for feedback. Throughout July youth surveying was condensed into a data report by Capire Consulting Company informing the Youth Engagement Framework draft. This process provided officers with a clearer understanding of the needs of young people and data that could be included in the final document. This annual plan item is on track for presentation to Council workshop for feedback in November.

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) had a focus on creating further opportunities for young people to develop their skills for independence. In September the group organised a workshop "Skills for Employment" featuring two groups of young people aged 14-17 and 18-21. This gave those involved the opportunity to learn valuable skills for pre-employment and then aspects relevant to understanding their rights once employed. The Northern Youth Coordinating Committee also met, and key outcomes included stakeholders informing peers of upcoming school holiday-based youth activities. This information allowed organisations and programs to collaborate where possible and ensure a coordinated approach to opportunities for young people.

Visitation and Sponsorship

Destination Partnerships

Hawthorn Football Club

The 2025 AFL season has been highly successful for the City of Launceston's partnership with the Hawthorn Football Club, attracting close to 58,000 spectators across matches at UTAS Stadium, the strongest attendance figures in several years. This reinforces the critical role that AFL fixtures play in strengthening Northern Tasmania's winter economy, with strong advocacy from the local business community to retain and expand games in Launceston.

Hawthorn has confirmed its commitment to play four Launceston games in both 2026 and 2027, and while negotiations for 2028 and beyond with the Tasmanian Government are ongoing, the Club has entered a new two-year brand and match-day partnership with the City of Launceston. Covering the 2025 and 2026 seasons, this agreement aims to amplify Launceston's profile, highlight the city's capacity to host major events and drive increased visitation.

Key partnership activations delivered this quarter include:

- **Community activation:** Unique finals watch party featuring an inflatable screen at Seaport, extending the match-day experience beyond the stadium.
- **Brand Tasmania collaboration:** Joint photoshoots during home games to build a refreshed visual library showcasing Launceston's atmosphere and connection to AFL.
- **City promotion:** Installation of Launceston-branded city banners and corflutes featuring promotional offers from CBD businesses to encourage game-day spending.
- **National exposure:** Launceston ribbons featured at the MCG during select matches, providing significant national brand visibility. The partnership continues to strengthen Launceston's national profile, enhance the city's visitor economy and position it as Tasmania's leading regional events destination in the lead-up to the Tasmanian AFL team's introduction.

Business Events Tasmania

Through its long-standing partnership with the City of Launceston, Business Events Tasmania (BET) continues to play a critical role in attracting high-value visitation and driving economic growth through conferences, meetings and incentive travel. Supported by Council's investment, BET delivered strong results for Launceston and the North between January and June, aligning with key growth sectors and expanding its Visionary Program ambassador network.

This partnership has underpinned 64 new bids for Launceston and Northern Tasmania, representing 10,554 delegates, 28,150 room nights and an estimated \$31.4 million in economic impact. Of these, 21 bids focused on Launceston specifically, generating an estimated \$10.4 million in potential visitor expenditure. Nineteen events are now confirmed for 2025–2027 which are expected to deliver 2,646 delegates, 6,534 room nights and \$7.4 million in direct economic benefit.

The City of Launceston recently endorsed a new one-year funding agreement with BET, reinforcing its commitment to transparency, collaboration and return on investment. This continued partnership ensures Launceston remains competitive in securing national and international business events and strengthens its position as a leading regional destination for high-value visitation.

Launceston Airport and local business

Supporting collateral continues to be developed to strengthen Launceston's profile and improve the visitor experience. The *Launnie Guides* have been refreshed, and a new *Launnie for All Abilities* guide has been introduced to provide clear, accessible information on inclusive venues, routes and attractions.

Maps are consistently updated and restocked across key visitor touchpoints, including the Launceston Airport, Du Cane Brewery and QVMAG, with the display panels in each stand replaced to align with the updated guide design.

Work is also underway to install a dedicated Launceston city map and guide stand at the Launceston Transit Centre, creating a visible and welcoming point of connection for visitors arriving via the city's bus network.

Events Framework

The Draft Events Framework for Launceston is now in its final stages of development, marking an important step in shaping the city's future approach to event delivery, partnerships and investment. Building on the foundation of the previous Event Strategy, the Framework represents a more holistic and future-focused direction that aligns with Council's 10-Year Strategic Plan and broader state-led initiatives.

The Framework aims to:

- Provide a more integrated and strategic approach to event planning, investment and delivery.
- Align event activity with Council priorities, regional infrastructure opportunities and place-making objectives.
- Strengthen Launceston's brand, visitation outcomes and community connection.

Key shifts include moving from a funding-first model to a leadership role that shapes event priorities, supporting new event development in areas such as the night-time economy, gastronomy, sport and culture, and reframing support for commercially mature events to create space for innovation and growth.

The draft is currently undergoing final consultation with key stakeholders before being presented to Council for endorsement. Feedback received through this process will help ensure the Framework reflects community aspirations, supports industry needs, and positions Launceston as a vibrant, sustainable and leading events destination.

Community Grants

During the July-September 2025 quarter, the City of Launceston delivered the second round of the Community Grants (Organisations) program for the 2024/25 financial year. Following Council endorsement on 29 May 2025, a total of \$35,000 was awarded to 10 local projects that foster connection, inclusion, creativity and wellbeing.

Funded initiatives reflected a strong focus on community participation and sustainability, including *The Pamper Project for Women with an Intellectual Disability*, *Accessible Filmmaking in Launceston*, *ReDress: ReGift – Sharing Skills to Keep Clothing in Use for Longer*, and *The Listening Table – Launceston*. Other projects supported music, performance, youth leadership and creative arts engagement. Collectively, these initiatives highlight the strength of Launceston's community-led sector and the enduring value of the program in promoting inclusion and wellbeing.

Assessment for the first 2025/26 grant round will take place in the coming period.

Event Sponsorship

The Grants and Sponsorship team facilitated the final round of event sponsorship for the 2025/26 financial year, covering both major and small event categories. Following Council endorsement on 21 August 2025, \$113,727 in sponsorship funding was approved for 19 events scheduled between January and July 2026.

Supported events include the Launceston Cup, Tasmanian Open & Inclusive Championships, Fungi the Festival, Launceston Ukulele Jamboree, Launceston Relay for Life, World Street Eats, and Launceston Regatta, among others. This diverse event portfolio demonstrates Council's commitment to fostering cultural, sporting and community experiences that enrich local life, encourage visitation, and deliver economic and social benefits across the region.

Special Event Funding

During the quarter, the team also facilitated assessment of three major applications through the Special Event Sponsorship Program, which supports large-scale or one-off events that attract significant visitation, drive economic benefit and elevate Launceston's national profile as a premier events destination. Funding recommendations will be presented for Council approval in October 2025 and are as follows:

- **2025 18/U & 16/U Australian Tennis Championships** - This national junior championship will return to Tasmania for the first time since the 1990s, bringing more than 300 players, families and officials to Launceston across two weeks. The event will generate an estimated \$1 million+ in direct economic benefit, deliver strong community engagement through school and volunteer programs, and leave a legacy of skill development for local coaches and officials. It positions Launceston as a host city for the next generation of Australian tennis talent.
- **Judo Australia National Championships 2025** - Returning to Launceston after two decades, this event will attract around 550 competitors and 1,500 visitors to the Silverdome, generating an estimated \$1.5–\$1.75 million in economic activity. The Championships will boost winter visitation, provide extensive volunteer opportunities, and deliver national exposure through livestreaming and partnerships with Judo Australia, Events Tasmania, and Visit Northern Tasmania - reinforcing Launceston's reputation as a capable and inclusive sporting destination.

- **Island Escape Winter Festival 2026** - A new multi-day celebration of Northern Tasmania's food, music and creativity, Island Escape will activate the Inveresk Precinct and CBD, drawing thousands of visitors and generating substantial winter tourism and economic activity. The event will champion local producers, artists and businesses, while positioning Launceston as Tasmania's signature winter destination. Its inclusive program will foster community connection and year-round pride in the city's cultural identity.

Together, these three events represent significant investment in Launceston's cultural and sporting landscape - delivering measurable economic impact, enhancing community engagement and strengthening the city's national reputation as a dynamic, year-round events destination.

Event Facilitation

During this quarter, the Events Facilitation team supported 23 facilitated events and 17 non-facilitated events across the Launceston municipality.

Key highlights included the Junction Arts Festival, held in Princes Square, which this year celebrated its 15th anniversary with a two-weekend program of performances, installations and community engagement activities.

We also supported the Cancer Council's Women's 5km Walk/Run, which once again brought the community together for an inspiring cause. The event commenced from City Park, followed a route through the CBD and concluded back at City Park with a range of food vendors and family-friendly activations.

Looking ahead to the next quarter, our new event officers are delivering the Albert Hall Community Day and the city's signature festive events - Lighting of the Tree and Carols in the Park. These events will celebrate community connection and mark the start of Launceston's festive season.

Visitation Framework

Development of the City of Launceston Visitation Framework progressed this quarter, establishing a shared strategic direction for how Launceston attracts, welcomes and engages visitors. The framework positions visitation as a whole-of-city responsibility, recognising its role in supporting the local economy, strengthening community pride and celebrating Launceston's creative and cultural identity as a UNESCO City of Gastronomy. Work has focused on refining the framework's structure around three core pillars, People, Place, and Prosperity, supported by measurable actions that align with the City's 10-Year Strategic Plan and complement major initiatives such as the City Heart Project and Events Framework.

Consultation with Myriad Research has informed a strong evidence base, highlighting key opportunities to grow Launceston's visitor economy through winter visitation, heritage-based storytelling and urban nature experiences.

Actions within the framework include collaboration with major festivals to capture visitor data during winter events, integration of new heritage storytelling projects and ongoing work to improve visibility of RV infrastructure to encourage longer stays. The framework also embeds sustainability and accessibility principles to ensure that Launceston's visitor offer is inclusive, environmentally responsible and future-ready.

The next phase will focus on finalising the draft framework for Council endorsement, followed by development of supporting collateral for community and industry communication. The framework embeds principles of sustainability, inclusivity and data-led decision-making, ensuring that Launceston's visitor offer is authentic, environmentally responsible and future-ready.

Launnie Merchandise

The Launnie merchandise range is being refreshed to create a cohesive and contemporary visual identity across all touchpoints. Updated designs have been developed for t-shirts, canvas bags, caps, and drink bottles, along with new pull-up banners for use at city events and industry functions. These refreshed assets enhance the city's storytelling, strengthen brand recognition, and ensure consistent visibility of the Launnie place brand across both local and visitor-facing settings.

In addition, the team is collaborating with local icon Waverley Woollen Mills to create bespoke merchandise that showcase Launceston's craftsmanship and heritage. These premium pieces will be featured in the Launceston Visitor Information Centre, offering visitors a tangible connection to the city's creative and cultural identity.

Caravan and Motorhome Market

Kanamaluka RV Rest -The Council has formally approved a pre-commitment of \$354,526 towards the proposed Kanamaluka RV Rest project, supporting an application to the Tasmanian Government's Spirit Preparedness Fund.

This initiative aims to deliver a centrally located overnight RV facility at the Roundhouse site in Northern Inveresk, featuring powered bays, accessible amenities, a dump point and improved signage. The project responds to increasing demand from the self-drive visitor market ahead of the arrival of the new *Spirit of Tasmania* vessels in 2026.

If external funding is secured, Council's matched contribution will be included in the 2026-2027 budget, enabling delivery of vital visitor infrastructure that enhances Launceston's capacity, supports sustainable tourism and strengthens its position as Northern Tasmania's gateway for caravan and motorhome travellers.

Northern Inveresk dump point project - The Northern Inveresk Dump Point Project is now underway, supported by \$55,000 in funding from the Department of State Growth. The project will deliver a new compliant RV dump point and drinking water station at the Northern Inveresk car park, formerly home to a similar facility addressing a key infrastructure gap for the growing caravan and motorhome market.

Delivered in collaboration with Recreation and Parks and leveraging existing TasWater infrastructure, the project also includes new signage, utility connections and landscaping improvements. This initiative aligns with the Tasmanian Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 and the City of Launceston Strategic Plan, supporting sustainable visitor growth and improved amenity for self-drive travellers. Delivery is expected within seven months of funding confirmation.

Council Led Events

Albert Hall - Two major events are currently underway at Albert Hall. The Events Team has been providing logistical support for the Cancer Council Gala, including attending onsite meetings with internal stakeholders and Theatre North to ensure a smooth delivery. Our team will also assist on the night and has coordinated a headline singer to perform as part of the celebrations marking the reopening of the Hall for this event on 25 October 2025.

Programming and activations for the Community Open Day have now been finalised. The day, to be held on Sunday 9 November 2025, will activate various spaces throughout the Hall to create a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere for the public to celebrate this iconic venue's reopening. Highlights include live music performances featuring strings, pianists and choirs; a local author's book reading; children's activities; heritage displays; and the beloved City Park Train operating free of charge while the Albert Hall doors are open between 10am – 4pm.

Remembrance Day - Planning and coordination are progressing well, with the Events Team providing support to the RSL for the delivery of this important annual commemoration.

Lighting of the Tree event - Preparations for this event are well underway, with programming focused on community engagement and showcasing local talent at this year's event on Saturday 29 November 2025. The lineup will feature performances by emerging local artists, supported by professional musicians and the City of Launceston RSL Band will also be making an appearance. This event will be topped off by providing a memorable moment with a child from Make-A-Wish joining Mayor Garwood and Santa to do the important and official role of lighting the tree! Activations will be centered around the Brisbane Street Mall this year.

Carols in the Park 2025 - Carols planning is tracking well with fortnightly meetings being held with the Volunteer Advisory Committee. The Expressions of Interest (EOI) process was highly successful, receiving over 30 applications from members of the local community. Alongside programming, logistical planning is progressing strongly, with key infrastructure and operational arrangements now confirmed for our event on Sunday 21 December 2025. We have taken on feedback from last year's event and moved the finish time to 8pm.

OPEN SPACES AND SUSTAINABILITY

Parks & Recreation

- West Tamar Fitness Trail Upgrade - The tender was awarded to Zanetto Civil, start date of 27 October 2025 to commence construction, aiming for completion by the end of the calendar year.
- Bridge Renewal Work - Design is underway for the renewal of the deck and handrail on Footbridge 1801 within Cataract Gorge. Design work underway for the Royal Park viewing deck, which will enhance safety and accessibility
- City Park Play Space Renewal - Development Application finalised, working with Don Rail to gift the existing play train 'Hutch" with intent to restore to a full operational locomotive.
- Punchbowl Play Space Renewal - out to tender, closes 13 October 2025
- Oakden Park Playground Install complete - landscaping scheduled for the next quarter.
- QVDF started reinstallation in City Park with expected completion in October 2025.
- Lilydale Falls Community engagement kicked off, future of Lilydale Falls.
- Assessment of planning slips, development applications, crossover referrals, and drainage referrals, providing direction and advice on potential impacts of public trees and open-space assets.
- Facilitated several event applications for the use of Council's parks and reserves. These include *World Street Eats*, *Junction Festival*, *Firefighting Championships*, *The Wilderness Society's Nature Book Festival*, *Run for Palestine*, *RIVAL in the North 2025*, *St Giles Burn*, *Friday Night Eats*, *Australian Institute of Architects 2025 Tasmanian Awards*, *RSPCA Million Paws Walk 2025*, and *Wellways Annual Dog Walk and Lunch*.
- Coordinated and delivered a Tree Planting Workshop for Council's Operations staff.
- Presented at Councillor Workshop on the North East Rail Trail (NERT) project to outline recent progress and key milestones.
- Establishment and maintenance of **Fuel-Modified Buffer Zones (FMBZ)** across several priority reserves. This quarter's work included treatments at Woods Reserve, Trevallyn Reserve, Ti Tree Crescent Park, Meadow Ridge Reserve, Ingamells Street Reserve, Thrower Street Reserve, Christina Park Reserve and Norwood Bushland Reserve.
- Pinkard Street Chicane - Following multiple requests from the community to reduce illegal motorbike access to Warwick Place Park, a chicane has been installed to improve this issue. Initial feedback from the public has been positive, with a reduction in motorbike activity.
- Upgrade to tramway lights - After identification of a failing asset associated with the tramway between the North Inveresk carpark and Architecture School which was transferred from UTAS, emergency works were undertaken to make the site safe and planning is underway for the upgrade to the lighting and event power infrastructure.
- Cataract Walk upgrades - As part of the Reimagining the Gorge Project, the lighting infrastructure has been renewed, and improvements have been made to the handrail to improve the experience along the Cataract Walk. These works are approaching completion in the following Quarter.

Cataract Gorge Bushfire Recovery Works

The fire recovery program at Cataract Gorge has continued to progress steadily this quarter. The final engineering report from Pitt & Sherry was completed, providing detailed recommendations for both cliff stabilisation and the restoration of tracks and bridges damaged by the fire. Cliff stabilisation works commenced in August and were completed over a two-week period, including the removal of an informal camp site. Managing public access during this time proved challenging, as some pedestrians entered closed areas and damaged fencing designed to restrict access. To address this, a targeted communication campaign was shared through Council's media channels to improve public understanding and compliance. Restoration works on the fire-affected bridges and tracks began in mid-September and are now about halfway complete. Although wet and windy spring weather has caused minor delays, completion is anticipated by late October 2025. A second community update is scheduled for release next week to inform residents of progress and reinforce safety messaging.

Structured Sports

Bookable, our endorsed online booking platform, went live to the community for Churchill Park, Youngtown Oval, Rocherlea Oval and Royal Park.

- Open Spaces managed a total of 421 individual bookings during the quarter.
- Skate Park Upgrade Project - Construction underway.
- Hobblers Bridge Netball Court and Lighting Upgrade - Following recent building approval, the light poles have been installed and commissioning is underway. Court surfacing is scheduled to begin soon.
- St Leonards BMX received Landowner Consent to undertake a Sports Lighting Upgrade.
- ROSP Implementation Plan first stage complete with CoL fiscalilty structured sport analysis planning underway in the following quarter.
- Windmill Hill Tennis court remediation works underway.

Urban Greening

- Torrens Street Landscaping, as a result of the Mayfield Urban Greening precinct plan, is now complete. This included 1 day of community planting.
- Street Tree masterplan - Initial planning phase complete, stakeholder engagement of concept is currently underway.
- Waverley School Micro Forest project design and planning complete.
- LCH project Cameron Street Greening - initial project scope planning complete.
- LCH project Wellington Street Greening - Initial project scope planning complete.
- New Landscape Peace Garden - complete, re-opening of the site by Peace Trust.
- Brisbane Street Mall Trees - completed theme change over, tree surround restore works underway.
- Pump Track landscaping complete.
- Community engagement for new landscape design of Russell Street Park.

Sustainability

Community Emissions Action Plan (CEAP)

The Community Emissions Action Plan (CEAP) was unanimously endorsed by Council on 11 September, after over 1,000 responses in 18 months of conversation with our community.

The CEAP includes two key targets:

1. A 50% emissions reduction by 2035 (including a 10% reduction to be achieved through council-led actions).
2. Net zero emissions by 2050.

The Low Carbon Launceston Community Pledge went live in the last week of September 2025.

Formation of the Climate Adaptation Working Group and Mainstreaming Climate Adaptation with Dr Nina Rogers

The Climate Adaptation Working Group was formed, containing members from a broad range of Council departments.

Dr Nina Rogers spoke to City of Launceston leaders on strengthening our adaptation efforts and building a shared understanding of mainstreaming climate adaptation as core to the resilience of our organisation.

Climate Change Act Review

A response to the State Climate Change Act review was submitted, focusing on strengthening the Act to ensure climate adaptation, resilience, and local government responsibilities are embedded into legislative and policy frameworks.

Repair Cafe

3 Repair Cafe sessions were held during the quarter, with a 76% successful repair rate across 125 items (158.81kg). We also continued the Crop Swap table across these sessions. This quarter we were featured on Channel 7 and WIN news.

Car Free Day and Active Transport

We hosted a breakfast and coffee event to promote Car Free day and encourage active transport for Council workers and the community. We collaborated with Metro to offer a GreenCard to staff for free travel on the day.

A specific mapping layer has been developed for cycling infrastructure assessment. We've updated 700 segments and are proceeding with submission to google maps and beginning gap analysis.

The Adaptation Game Launceston

The Adaptation Game Launceston game boards were finalised and printed. Internal Council games and an initial round of facilitator training has been held. The bulk of preparations for the community launch in Q2 have been completed.

Thermal Imaging Cameras and HEAT

Along with an update of the existing Home Energy Audit Toolkits (HEAT) that are available for the community to borrow, two thermal imaging cameras and two induction stovetops have been purchased and are now available for borrowing.

Internal Sustainability Initiatives

These included a Plastic Free July Reuseable Cup campaign and Car Free Day promotion.

Significant works in progress during Q1 included:

- Installation of EV chargers to CH Smith Carpark, in order to meet existing EV fleet commitments. This has proved more difficult than expected due to Fire Engineering recommendations.
- Energy Upgrade Accelerator Program - developing a program in collaboration with Community Development, focusing on increasing thermal comfort and energy efficiency on Launceston's existing, older homes.
- City of Launceston's Carbon Footprint Calculation.

Fire Management Plan

Work has commenced on a new Fire Management Plan for the Launceston Waste Centre. This will entail collaboration with the TasFire service, reviewing current practices and ensuring staff safety. The plan will comply with EPN 7175/3.

Waste and Recycling App

Work is still continuing on the app with a draft for review expected mid-late October 2025. Testing will take a few weeks before the final version is released.

Waste Centre Signage

A full audit on the Waste Center signage was completed. This is to make sure that there is a good customer experience at the Waste Centre, pricing is clear and what items are accepted is clearly delineated. Additional signage was ordered on the back of this.

SAP Materials Audit

To comply with the SAP requirements, a Material Audit of all CoL's facilities is being undertaken. This involves assessing how waste is being disposed of within CoL and making recommendations on how we can improve as an organisation.

Annual Waste Voucher postage

The annual waste vouchers have been posted out to CoL's residents.

Ground and surface water monitoring program

This was completed in August for the Waste Centre and Heritage Forest.

Launceston landfill planning workshop

The workshop was a presentation and discussion with the intent to give Councillors a comprehensive understanding of the Launceston Waste Centre, existing plans and future opportunities.

The focus of this workshop was to inform Councillors of:

1. The landfill development plan 2022
2. Russells Plains landfill feasibility assessment 2025
3. Sustainable landfill pricing model
4. Future CoL waste and resource recovery plan

Launceston Waste Centre Annual Reporting

The annual reports for the Launceston landfill and organics processing facility have been completed and submitted to the EPA as part of the compliance requirements under the Environment Protection Notice No. 7175/3.

Container Refund Scheme (CRS)

With the commencement of the Tasmanian CRS in May 2025, CoL have been in negotiations with Veolia to work towards an agreement which outlines how the eligible 10 cent containers collected in curbside recycling is shared between the recycling facility and CoL. The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) protocol produced by the Tasmanian Government outlines a 50/50 share between the MRF and CoL. In September, CoL received the first CRS container payment from Veolia.

QVMAG

The first reporting period of 2025/26 welcomed continued growth for the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery across a range of fronts.

Following on from the institution's highest year of visitation on record during the 2024/25 financial year, quarter one has welcomed a positive trajectory of visitation for the new reporting period, totalling 35,292 visitors across both the Museum at Inveresk and the Art Gallery at Royal Park, spanning local, national and international audiences.

The Museum at Inveresk welcomed a total of 26,169 visitors during the period. Incentivised by key offerings such as the full-dome immersive screenings in the Launceston Planetarium, key exhibitions on display - including the block buster family-fun exhibition *Six Extinctions* – and feature events, including the *Arts on Site for Teens* series, community NAIDOC Week events, *In Conversation* exhibition floor talks within both *This Vanishing World* and *David Hamilton: Fragments and Artefacts*, and more.

A standout program series on offer at the Museum at Inveresk during the reporting period was the activation of the Launceston Planetarium, in partnership with local cosmic-rock band *Golden Sunbird*.

This limited event series as part of Science Week 2025 at QVMAG saw locals kick back and enjoy a live music performance set to the backdrop of the Launceston's incredible 4k full-dome experience.

As part of broader Science Week celebrations, the institution welcomed schools from across northern Tasmania to a week-long science education extravaganza, alongside hosting an adult's pub trivia night at Du Cane Brewery - welcoming over 80 guests for science engagement fun on the evening.

The Art Gallery at Royal Park welcomed 9,123 visitors through its doors during the first quarter, with many visitors engaged in the feature exhibition on display, *Sam Jinks || Mortal Reflections*.

This feature exhibition has offered a showcase of works by leading contemporary sculptural artist Sam Jinks, through an activation of the entire first floor of the Art Gallery. This incredible, immersive display generated a suite of flow on public programs as on-site activations for community, including a program under the QVMAG *Music + Art* series titled “Three Spotlights”.

This event series welcomed three musicians to the first floor of the Art Gallery, within the *Mortal Reflections* exhibition, for a free public live music performance series.

During the reporting period, a total of three exhibitions opened to the public, welcoming 411 community visitors to celebratory opening events across the Museum and Art Gallery sites.

Exhibition openings for this period included:

- *Sam Jinks || Mortal Reflections* – Art Gallery at Royal Park
- *Shapeshifting: Art of Helen Wright* – Art Gallery at Royal Park
- *David Hamilton: Fragments and Artefacts* – Museum at Inveresk
- *Traces: Chris Bell* – Art Gallery at Royal Park

In total for the first quarter, 3,145 visitors were engaged in programming at QVMAG on-site, with a further 178 audience members engaged with QVMAG via off-site public programming, such as annual feature events like *Curators in the Pub* and *Science Week Pub Trivia*.

The reporting period saw a high volume of community interaction with the institution through public enquiries, welcoming a total of 552 queries, spanning general questions and booking enquiries.

Shop sales for the quarter reached \$152,937 - cementing a positive start year ahead for this commercial revenue source.

On the research front, a total of 502 specimens were digitised (images) for the collection database. This incredible body of work further enhances QVMAG’s collection to researchers across the globe, while accessing the collection of Australia’s largest regional museum.

Finally, marketing efforts of the institution remained strong during quarter one, spanning both legacy marketing mediums (television, print media, radio, etc) and digital marketing mediums.

A total social media reach of 343,585 was achieved for the period, spanning organic and paid advertising across Facebook and Instagram.

Search engine advertising provided strong audience engagement returns for the period, with deployed campaigns celebrating total audience impressions of 511,729 users – with YouTube content achieving an additional total impression count of 278,824 users viewing QVMAG content.

STAKEHOLDER EXPERIENCE

Customer Service

Online Bookings

492 new bookings were made online this quarter; 376 (~76%) of those bookings were for the Road Safety Centre.

There are now 3,238 registered customers, an increase of 607 (~18%) this quarter.

Parking Administration

The Residential Parking Permit Scheme continues to perform well, with 70 new applications received and processed since its implementation. Overall, the scheme is operating efficiently and meeting community demand.

597 parking applications were received this quarter. Of these:

- 88 applications have been made stand
- 122 applications have been withdrawn
- 20 applications are awaiting further information from the customer and
- 367 applications remain pending

Additionally:

- 2,023 Overdue Reminders and 3,476 Final Reminders were posted
- 42 Payment Plans were processed
- 944 infringements were referred to MPES

Statistics

Phone calls received: 12,049, compared to 11,203 last year (increase of almost 8%)

- Average wait time in queue 2.08 minutes
- Average call duration time 4.07 minutes

Customer Service Request (CSR) created: 6,017, compared to 6,595 last year (down by almost 8%).

Top 4 categories:

1. Parking – 1,112
2. Waste – 715
3. Road/Footpath Maintenance – 629
4. Recreation Areas – 588

Noteworthy

- Council Building/Toilets - 333
- Graffiti - 71

Emails received: 9,758, compared to 9,165 last year (increase of over 6%).

Customer Experience Research

Led by Customer Service, a Customer Experience (CX) Pilot Project was initiated examining customer experience when interacting with Council. The key objective was to understand these experiences and promote a more consistent, customer-focused approach across the organisation.

Common customer interactions were analysed end-to-end, to identify pain points and improvement opportunities. The project included interstate visits to high-performing councils, yielding valuable insights into CX governance and culture, in turn informing future actions. Employee input was crucial, with staff valuing the collaborative workshops and focus on practical, role-enhancing solutions.

Findings are being prepared and will be presented at an upcoming Council Workshop, noting some 'quick wins' have already been actioned.

Overall, the pilot has increased organisational awareness of customer and employee needs, delivered early improvements, and laid the foundation for ongoing service enhancement aligned with community expectations and CX best practice.

Reportable Complaints

Contractor Complaint	Total for Complaint Type	24
Dissatisfaction with CoL Position	Total for Complaint Type	4
Escalation of Non-Delivery of Service	Total for Complaint Type	16
Personnel Complaint	Total for Complaint Type	8

Launceston Visitor Information Centre

The team at the Launceston Visitor Information Centre (LVIC) has been busy operating the Centre whilst also preparing for the October 2025 relocation to the Town Hall Customer Service Centre.

July to September 2025 quarterly results:

- The LVIC welcomed 5,012 visitors; a 1% decrease compared to the same period in 2024.
- Visitor spend through the LVIC totalled \$108,536.65; a 1% decrease from the same period in 2024.
- Retail sales totalled \$4,027.45; a decrease of 1.1% for the same period in 2024. The most popular retail categories were Bridestowe Estate products, plush toys, socks, magnets and postcards.

Communications

The Communications Team delivered a productive quarter, advancing the City of Launceston's strategic communication goals through collaborative support for Council's strategies, projects, decisions and initiatives.

Our focus has been on promoting infrastructure upgrades, cultural events, and public engagement opportunities, while delivering high-quality internal and external communications collateral.

Internal communications and brand alignment

The team collaborated with departments across the organisation to produce effective internal communications materials, supporting seamless information flow and alignment with Council priorities. The team oversaw a refresh of the fortnightly internal staff newsletter, which saw a record click rate this quarter. The team also updated collateral to reinforce brand consistency and enhance staff engagement, including producing a range of templates.

Media engagement

This quarter, the team issued 17 media releases to inform the community about key Council activities and opportunities.

Highlights include:

- Royal Park Skate Park upgrade: Coverage of enhancements to this popular recreational facility, emphasising improved safety and community access.
- Council decision to cease the Tiger Bus: Communicated the rationale and next steps for this service closure.
- Launch of a new street art festival: Promoted this exciting cultural initiative to celebrate local creativity and vibrancy.
- Next steps for the Birchalls redevelopment: Highlighted progress on this significant urban renewal project.
- Relocation of the Launceston Visitor Information Centre: Shared details on the move to a more central location for better customer service and visitor information support.
- Public engagement opportunities for the Northern Gateway public art project - Encouraged community input on this landmark artwork.

These releases generated wide media coverage, amplifying Launceston's progress in infrastructure, culture, and community involvement and keeping our community informed.

Additionally, the Senior Communications Officer responded to a wide range of media queries from media outlets and journalists across Tasmania.

Between 1 July and 30 September 2025, proactive and reactive media liaison resulted in nearly 600 mentions across digital, print, television and radio media outlets.

Digital and social media growth

The City of Launceston's digital channels continued to serve as vital tools for real-time community interaction, with content focused on the quarter's projects providing engaging visuals and updates. This approach sustained audience growth and participation across platforms, contributing to stronger connections with residents.

- Social media video views were up 66.1% compared to the same quarter last year, indicating a significant progression in social media video production.
- The Council scored 2,080,064 impressions in total this quarter across all social media channels.
- Instagram has recorded significant audience growth, with a 598% increase in growth of followers compared to the same quarter last year.
- Key performing posts include:
 - Mayoral post council meeting updates
 - Duck Reach Walking Track
 - Princes Square water fountain maintenance
 - Royal Park Skate Park redevelopment
 - Birchalls redevelopment updates.

Campaign highlights

The Communications Team provided strategic support for several high-impact initiatives, driving awareness and participation:

- Heritage Sketch: Promoted this program to celebrate and preserve Launceston's historical assets through creative community involvement.
- World Car Free Day: Highlighted this event to advance sustainability goals under the Community Emissions Action Plan.
- Community Engagement for the Future of Lilydale Falls: Facilitated consultations to gather input on the management and enhancement of this natural reserve.

Looking ahead

As we enter the next quarter, the Communications Team will build on this momentum by prioritising digital innovation and storytelling, aligning our efforts with the Strategic Plan's pillars - Prosperity, Place and People.

The team is undertaking improvements to the external community electronic newsletter, preparing to support Christmas events in the city, developing new internal communications and merchandise policies, working with the Place Making Team on new promotional street banners for the CBD and supporting Council's Recruitment Strategy.

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 Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Strategic Pillar 1 - Prosperity

Goal 1.1 Launceston is a premier visitor destination, celebrated for its natural beauty, creative and historic city centre, welcoming community, and rich food culture.

Objective 1.1(a)	Grow and celebrate our identity as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.
Objective 1.1(b)	Enhance Launceston's reputation nationally and internationally as a leading host city for events and festivals, while leveraging our history and natural beauty to encourage extended and expanded stays.
Objective 1.1(c)	Expand Launceston's position as an arts and cultural hub by providing an environment for creative industries to thrive.

Strategic Pillar 2 - Place

Goal 2.3 Launceston's community is connected to our Aboriginal and built heritage, while growing a city of the future.

Objective 2.3(a)	Encourage and facilitate recognition of Aboriginal cultural heritage as a means of retaining a sense of place and connection to Country
Objective 2.3(b)	Ensure that significant heritage elements are respected while addressing the future housing, commerce and recreational needs of the community.
Objective 2.3(c)	Implement planning guidelines (particularly within the CBD) to encourage adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, and infill development that promotes our city's built heritage character.

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.1 Community members have access to green, diverse, and inclusive open spaces and facilities enabling them to lead active lives, enjoy nature, and connect with others.

Objective 3.1(a)	Enhance community members' access to climate-change resilient leafy, well-maintained, inclusive public open spaces, prioritising areas with low wellbeing measures.
Objective 3.1(b)	Leverage Launceston's network of waterways by rehabilitating and connecting riparian corridors, connecting them with the public open space network and supporting improvements to the Kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary and surrounding precinct.

Objective 3.1(c)	Ensure neighbourhoods are well-served through community activity hubs that are accessible and inclusive, provide a range of amenities, create opportunities for a diverse range of community activities and support Launceston's diverse cultural, economic, and age groups.
-------------------------	--

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.2 Participation in cultural and recreational activities is widespread across the community and promotes health and wellbeing at all ages while bridging social, cultural and geographical gaps.

Objective 3.2(a)	Achieve an improvement in health and wellbeing through addressing barriers to inclusion and promotion of physical and social activity such as community arts, sports and recreation.
Objective 3.2(b)	Broaden and increase participation in arts, cultural, and community events to foster community identity, leadership and capacity building, resilience, pride & a sense of belonging.
Objective 3.2(c)	Leverage the City of Gastronomy designation to foster a sense of shared identity, enhance understanding of cultural diversity, promote grassroots food culture, and enhance food security.

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.3 As northern Tasmania's cultural and commercial centre, Launceston's historic city heart is buzzing with activity throughout the day and into the night.

Objective 3.3(a)	Intensify baseline activity in the city centre by facilitating an increase in inner-city living and working.
Objective 3.3(b)	Implement bold initiatives that increase nighttime activity, optimise dwell time, maximise appeal to locals and visitors, and add to the City's vibrancy and safety.
Objective 3.3(c)	Create a walkable centre and optimise the use of public space by reducing car dominance and expanding opportunities for greening and alternative forms of transport.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

17.2. Special Event Sponsorship 2025/2026

FILE NO: SF5892

AUTHOR: Roshani Hamal (Acting Grant and Sponsorship Officer)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider Special Event Sponsorship from the Special Events Sponsorship funding 2025/2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. approves the following Special Events to receive the recommended sponsorship amount from the 2025/2026 Special Event Sponsorship Budget.

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Requested	\$Assess	\$Recommended
Tennis Australia	2025 18/U & 16/U Australian Tennis Championships	72%	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Judo Federation of Australia Limited	Judo Australia National Championships	84%	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Island Events Pty Ltd	Island Escape Winter Festival	92%	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Total Recommended (\$)					\$75,000
Available Funds (\$)					\$64,000
Balance					-\$11,000

The total amount requested across the three events was \$80,000. Based on scoring and assessment, the recommended funding level totals \$75,000. However, the available budget is \$64,000, resulting in a shortfall of \$11,000.

The Event Sponsorship Assessment Panel recommends to Council that we reallocate available partnerships funding to offset the current shortfall. The budget available is \$100,000, drawn from previous MOU agreements:

- \$25,000 (bi-annual) from the expired agreement with *Ten Days on the Island (TDOTI)*.
- \$50,000 previously allocated to *Mona Foma* festivals.

REPORT:

1. 2025 18/U & 16/U Australian Tennis Championships

The 2025 18/U and 16/U Australian Tennis Championships will bring a premier national sporting event to Launceston, marking the first time Tasmania has hosted a national junior tennis championship since the 1990's. Across two weeks, over 300 of Australia's best emerging players, their families, Tennis Australia staff and officials will converge on the Launceston Regional Tennis Centre, generating strong visitation and economic activity for the city.

The event provides significant community, economic and reputational benefits. With more than 200 attendees expected each week, including athletes, coaches and officials, the championships will deliver a measurable boost to accommodation providers, restaurants and local businesses. There is strong potential for local partnerships, including official hotel and restaurant designations, and volunteer engagement opportunities such as ball kid roles, event support and shuttle services.

Beyond its economic impact, the event offers substantial community engagement. Local schools and spectators will be invited to attend matches, with finals days promoted as showcase events for the Tasmanian tennis community. A welcome dinner or tourism activation could further highlight Launceston's unique attractions. Development opportunities for local coaches, officials and volunteers through workshops with Tennis Australia's high-performance staff will leave a lasting legacy.

The championships celebrate the future stars of Australian tennis, following in the footsteps of Ash Barty, Nick Kyrgios and Alex De Minaur, all former champions of these age groups. By hosting this event, Launceston positions itself as a stage for the nation's brightest talent, while inspiring the next generation of Tasmanian players.

Overall, the event will drive economic benefit, strengthen community pride, promote Launceston nationally and provide enduring development opportunities for local sport.

2. Judo Australia National Championships

The Australian National Judo Championships represent the pinnacle of judo competition nationally and are set to return to Launceston for the first time in over 20 years. Held at the Silverdome, a proven venue from the 2005 championships, this prestigious event will bring together over 550 elite competitors from across Australia, with more than 90% travelling from interstate.

The event is expected to attract over 1,500 interstate visitors including athletes, coaches, officials and families, staying a minimum of three nights. This will inject an estimated \$1.5 million to \$1.75 million directly into Launceston's visitor economy through accommodation, hospitality, tourism and event-related spending with local businesses.

The Championships will also support community engagement, offering extensive volunteer opportunities and up-skilling for the local judo community. Judo Australia will partner closely with Judo Tasmania and local clubs to deliver long-term capacity building and participation benefits.

With strong support from Events Tasmania, Visit Northern Tasmania and the City of Launceston, the event will be widely promoted, further enhancing Launceston's reputation as a major sporting and tourism destination. It will also boost winter visitation during a typically quieter period for local tourism operators.

The event will be livestreamed nationally, showcasing Launceston to tens of thousands of online viewers and promoting inclusivity through its multicultural participant base. Hosting the Championships will deliver lasting economic, social and reputational benefits for the Launceston community.

3. Island Escape Winter Festival

The Island Escape Winter Festival is a bold new celebration of Northern Tasmania's food, culture, music and creativity, designed to stimulate Launceston's economy, tourism and community connection during the low winter season. Delivered by the experienced Island Events Group, producers of the iconic Launceston BeerFest NYE, the festival promises strong economic, cultural and social returns.

Spanning multiple days at the Inveresk Precinct, the festival will attract thousands of interstate and intrastate visitors, directly injecting significant revenue into Launceston's hospitality, retail and accommodation sectors. It will support local producers, artisans, musicians and event staff, generate jobs and showcase Tasmania's world-class talent and produce.

The diverse program includes live music, culinary masterclasses, storytelling, truffle experiences, whisky tastings, family activities and themed evenings like the Masquerade Night and Rodeo Sunday. This inclusive, multigenerational approach encourages longer stays and broader community participation.

The festival will also activate the Launceston CBD through satellite events, encouraging exploration and dispersal beyond the main site. Local training partnerships will provide hands-on experience for students and volunteers, while stakeholder collaboration ensures shared benefits across sectors.

Island Escape positions Launceston as a leading winter destination, offering a signature cultural experience that fosters pride, connection and return visitation. It will help combat seasonal isolation, uplift community wellbeing, and establish a sustainable winter tourism asset with long-term regional impact.

Assessment process:

1. The Grants and Sponsorship Officer received the applications through Smarty Grants (an online portal).
2. The applications were reviewed by the Grants and Sponsorship Officer to confirm eligibility and to ensure all relevant information had been provided.
3. The Events Sponsorship Assessment Panel assessed and scored the eligible applications based on their merit against the criteria. The panel then convened a meeting for score moderation.
4. The assessment score informed the panel's recommendation to Council for funding and these recommendations are subject to the budget available.

5. All funding decisions for assessed applications are made by the full Council via a report to a Council Meeting.

Assessment Criteria:

Participation	Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities (15%).
Creativity and Innovation	Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent (10%).
Community Spirit	Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place (15%).
Tourism and profile	Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation (20%).
Asset Usage	Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets (15%).

Aggregated scores of assessment criteria:

Each member of the assessment panel scores the assessment criteria on a scale of 0 to 5. The individual scores are then combined and the total scores for each criterion are multiplied by the respective criterion's weighting. This weighted total is divided by the number of panel members who provided the assessment, resulting in a final percentage.

The normal distribution of funds (according to score) is as follows:

81-100% = 100% of requested funds
61-80% = 75% of requested funds
50-60% = 50% of requested funds
<50% = No funding provided

Below are the summary and aggregated scores of the assessment criteria for this application.

Aggregated Scores:

Event	Tennis Australia		
2025 18/U & 16/U Australian Tennis Championships			
SPESP044			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	51	75
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	2	28	50
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	3	54	75
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	5	95	125
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	4	72	100
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	60	75
Total		360	500
Panel Members		5	
% Score		72.00%	

The 2025 18/U & 16/U Australian Tennis Championships application assessment resulted in a score of 72%.

Using the distribution funds formula for event sponsorship, an application with a score between 61% and 80% is recommended to receive 75% of the amount requested.

Event	Judo Federation of Australia Limited		
Judo Australia National Championships			
SPESP041			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	60	75
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	2	30	50
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place.	3	66	75
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment.	5	120	125
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation.	4	84	100
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets.	3	60	75
Total		420	500
Panel Members		5	
% Score		84.00%	

The Judo Australia National Championships Judo Australia application assessment resulted in a score of 84%.

Using the distribution funds formula for event sponsorship, an application with a score between 81% and 100% is recommended to receive 100% of the amount requested.

Event	Island Events Pty Ltd		
Island Escape Winter Festival			
SPESP050			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	63	75
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	2	44	50
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place.	3	69	75
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment.	5	120	125
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation.	4	96	100
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets.	3	66	75
Total		458	500
Panel Members		5	
% Score		91.60%	

The Island Escape Winter Festival application assessment resulted in a score of 91.60%. Using the distribution funds formula for event sponsorship, an application with a score between 81% and 100% is recommended to receive 100% of the amount requested.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

There is limited financial risk if the sponsorship recipient does not fully meet contractual obligations. This is mitigated through funding agreements. There is reputational risk to Council if funded events do not deliver intended outcomes or fail to meet community expectations.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommended event sponsorship will:

- result in a positive economic impact to the Launceston community through delivering tourism and economic returns to the Launceston Community, building the City's profile and reputation as a great place to live, visit and invest,
- have minimal negative impact on the environment,
- provide several valuable social impacts for our community through community participation, building of community spirit and inclusiveness.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Strategic Pillar 1 - Prosperity

Goal 1.1 Launceston is a premier visitor destination, celebrated for its natural beauty, creative and historic city centre, welcoming community, and rich food culture.

Objective 1.1(a)	Grow and celebrate our identity as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.
Objective 1.1(b)	Enhance Launceston's reputation nationally and internationally as a leading host city for events and festivals, while leveraging our history and natural beauty to encourage extended and expanded stays.
Objective 1.1(c)	Expand Launceston's position as an arts and cultural hub by providing an environment for creative industries to thrive.

Strategic Pillar 1 - Prosperity

Goal 1.2 Launceston's economy is resilient and sustainable, with significant growth in its gross regional product (GRP) through a diverse economic base supported by a skilled workforce, enabling business environment, and facilitation of investment opportunities.

Objective 1.2(a)	Capitalise on our competitive advantages by focusing on key sectors including food and agricultural innovation, research & development, advanced manufacturing, healthcare and circular economy initiatives.
-------------------------	--

Strategic Pillar 1 - Prosperity

Goal 1.3. Launceston's attractive employment opportunities, enviable lifestyle and our reputation as a forward-thinking city make it the destination of choice for professionals, entrepreneurs and innovators.

Objective 1.3(b)	Attract and retain young professionals (25 - 34 year-olds) to Launceston.
-------------------------	---

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.2 Participation in cultural and recreational activities is widespread across the community and promotes health and wellbeing at all ages while bridging social, cultural and geographical gaps.

Objective 3.2(a)	Achieve an improvement in health and wellbeing through addressing barriers to inclusion and promotion of physical and social activity such as community arts, sports and recreation.
-------------------------	--

Objective 3.2(b)	Broaden and increase participation in arts, cultural, and community events to foster community identity, leadership and capacity building, resilience, pride & a sense of belonging.
Objective 3.2(c)	Leverage the City of Gastronomy designation to foster a sense of shared identity, enhance understanding of cultural diversity, promote grassroots food culture, and enhance food security.

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.3 As northern Tasmania's cultural and commercial centre, Launceston's historic city heart is buzzing with activity throughout the day and into the night.

Objective 3.3(b)	Implement bold initiatives that increase nighttime activity, optimise dwell time, maximise appeal to locals and visitors, and add to the City's vibrancy and safety.
-------------------------	--

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The budget adjustment consideration of this item has been approved by the Executive Leader Delivery and Performance.

The 2024/2025 Special Event Sponsorship Budget:

Organisation	Event	\$Recommended	Available Funds 2025/2026	Balance (\$)
Tennis Australia	2025 18/u & 16/u Australian Tennis Championships	\$15,000		
Judo Federation of Australia Limited	Judo Australia National Championships	\$30,000		
Island Events Pty Ltd	Island Escape Winter Festival	\$30,000		
Total Recommended (\$)		\$75,000	\$64,000	-\$11,000

The panel recommends funding shortfall of \$11,000 be sourced from other available budget lines.

Funding is available in the budget allocation for Event Partnerships funding that has not yet been allocated to a specific event.

The alternate option is to fund the 3rd ranked event (Tennis Australia) the remainder of the allocation, \$4000.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interest in declaring this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 05 Plx 018 Event Sponsorship Assessment Panel Terms of Reference 0 [17.2.1 - 3 pages]
2. Redacted application Judo Australia National Championship [17.2.2 - 20 pages]
3. Redacted application - 2025 18 U & 16 U Aus Tennis Championships [17.2.3 - 20 pages]
4. Redacted application - Island Escape Winter Festival [17.2.4 - 24 pages]

17.3. Northern Gateway Preferred Concept - Public Vote Results

FILE NO: CD035/2024

AUTHOR: Hannah Koch (Arts and Culture Officer)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability) and Chelsea van Riet (Executive Leader Community Assets and Design)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To approve the recommended commission for the Northern Gateway Public Art Project.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 23 November 2023 – Northern Gateway Project
Pre-Council Workshop – 16 May 2024 – Northern Gateway Project – Check in
Closed Council – 23 January 2025 – 23.3 - Tender – Northern Gateway CD035/2024
Workshop – 28 August 2025 – Northern Gateway Concept Design

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the results of the Northern Gateway public vote; and
2. endorses the recommendation to award the Northern Gateway Project commission to the preferred artist concept, Sky Vessels.

REPORT:

Background

The Northern Gateway project ("the Gateway") is part of the Tasmanian Government's Infrastructure for the 21st Century roads packages 2021 election commitment to deliver gateway beautification projects in Tasmania's main regional centres: Hobart, Burnie and Launceston.

As the regional hub of Northern Tasmania, the City of Launceston secured a \$1 million grant from the Tasmanian State Government in October 2024 to deliver the Gateway which will be a prominent public art piece positioned on the Southern Outlet. The statement piece will welcome visitors and locals alike to our vibrant city and the broader Northern Tasmanian region. Specifically, this project will deliver an iconic public artwork that provides an impactful and memorable experience for all who access or pass through the area. The public art is intended to celebrate Launceston as the gateway to Tasmania's northern region and convey an artist's interpretation of Launceston's identity as a city.

The planned site for the artwork is a grassy embankment on the right-hand side of the Midland Highway at the Pipeworks Road overpass, as visitors approach the city.

The final location in the corridor will require engineering assessment, design consideration, relevant traffic assessments and Tasmanian State Government approval.

Grant funding is administered by the Department of State Growth (DSG) and is released to Council in instalments. Failure to deliver the project will result in the Council repaying the grant. DSG have final approval of project milestones and practical completion.

In February 2025, following the advertised tender, the Council engaged Urban Art Projects (UAP) to deliver the artwork. UAP's responsibilities include managing the project from start to finish, which involves, but is not limited to, conducting an artist procurement process, facilitating community consultation with shortlisted artists, liaising with the City of Launceston to select an artist, working with artists to develop their designs, and working with the selected artist (following the public vote) to construct and install the final public artwork.

UAP contracted Era Advisory to advise and undertake community consultation through the Council's own media and engagement platforms such as Tomorrow Together.

Project completion is scheduled for August 2026.

Community Engagement (Stage 1)

From 19 May until 13 June 2025, Council's Tomorrow Together webpage hosted the publicly advertised community engagement opportunity for the project which asked the community "What does Launceston mean to you?". The highlights from this engagement include:

- 972 visitors to the page.
- 70,000 views on a social media video which advertised the project and engagement opportunity.
- 33 contributions to the ideas wall, which included themes for built heritage, rivers and water, Palawa heritage, mountains and hills, journey through time, and animals and wildlife.

Artist Selection Process

From 19 May until 13 June 2025, Council's Tomorrow Together webpage hosted the publicly advertised artist expression of interest (EOI) for the project. The highlights from this EOI include:

- 40 quality artist applications received.
- 70,000 views on the video which advertised the opportunity.

An artist selection panel was formed, comprised of:

- Independent Tasmanian arts curator
- Cultural Advisory Committee member
- CoL Project Manager
CoL Senior Leader Communities
- CoL Senior Leader Governance
- CoL Strategic Projects Advisor
- CoL Arts and Culture Officer

Each panel member independently assessed each artist application before attending an assessment panel meeting to discuss the scores and decision.

Three preferred candidates were selected and engaged to complete a paid concept design.

UAP provided each artist with an artist's brief, including information on the site, feedback received from Council's public engagement period (stage 1), and a curatorial vision *In Clouds* which engaged artists through the dovetailing of Launceston's Public Art Strategy curatorial theme of 'confluence' of rivers, people, cultures and time.

The developed artwork concepts were then presented to each artist selection panel member for individual review. The concepts were also provided to DSG for review. The panel scored the concepts independently before attending a panel meeting to discuss and shortlist the concepts.

The three concepts and the panel recommendation of two preferred concepts were presented to the Councillors for information and workshop on 28 August 2025.

The decision was made at this workshop that artist names would be suppressed during the vote to ensure that the public is voting on artwork merit in a fair and transparent way.

Community Engagement (Stage 2 - Public Vote)

From 15 September until 12 October 2025, Council's Tomorrow Together webpage hosted a publicly advertised community engagement opportunity which asked the community to vote on which artwork was their preferred. Information about each concept was presented to allow the community to make an educated choice.

The opportunity to vote was widely featured across various platforms. These included the following:

Local media reports:

- 7News
- WIN TV
- The Examiner
- The Mercury
- ABC Mornings (radio)
- ABC Drive (radio)

Promoted by Council on various media channels including:

- Physical posters advertising the opportunity to vote were displayed at Town Hall, Launceston Aquatic Centre, QVMAG and the Launceston Waste Centre
- Inclusion in City of Launceston October enews (8439 subscribers)
- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- City of Launceston website homepage (Latest news)

Council officers also delivered two pop-up voting events to encourage input from young people who may not have access to online voting tools or transport to Town Hall.

The standout results from the digital engagement include:

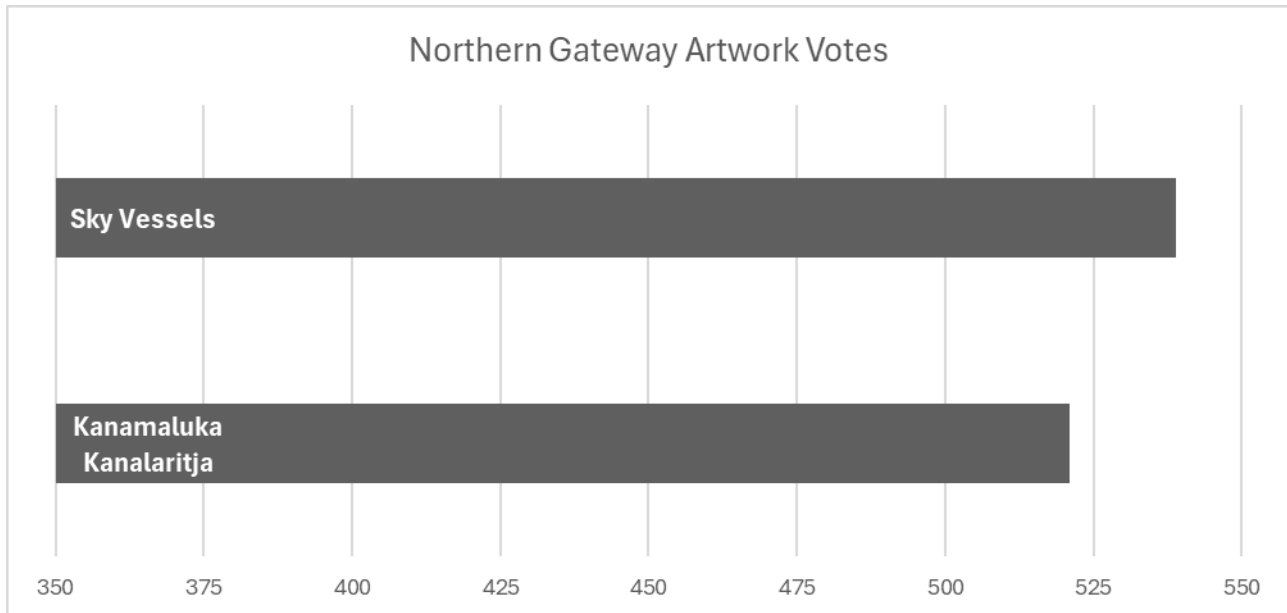
- Initial media release post 'Have your Say' reached over 150,000 people in the Northern region over the four-week voting period.
- Supporting media collateral to maximise awareness and drive votes included videos that performed exceptionally well across our digital platforms, achieving more than 190,000 total views in the four-week voting period.
- The City of Launceston's social media posts promoting voting and project details appeared 295,000 times in people's feeds during the four-week voting period.

The highlights from the voting engagement include:

- 6325 visitors to the tomorrow together page
- 963 online registered votes submitted
- 97 in-person votes submitted, gathered from Town Hall customer service, Door of Hope (pop-up voting event) and Launceston Aquatic Centre (pop-up voting event)

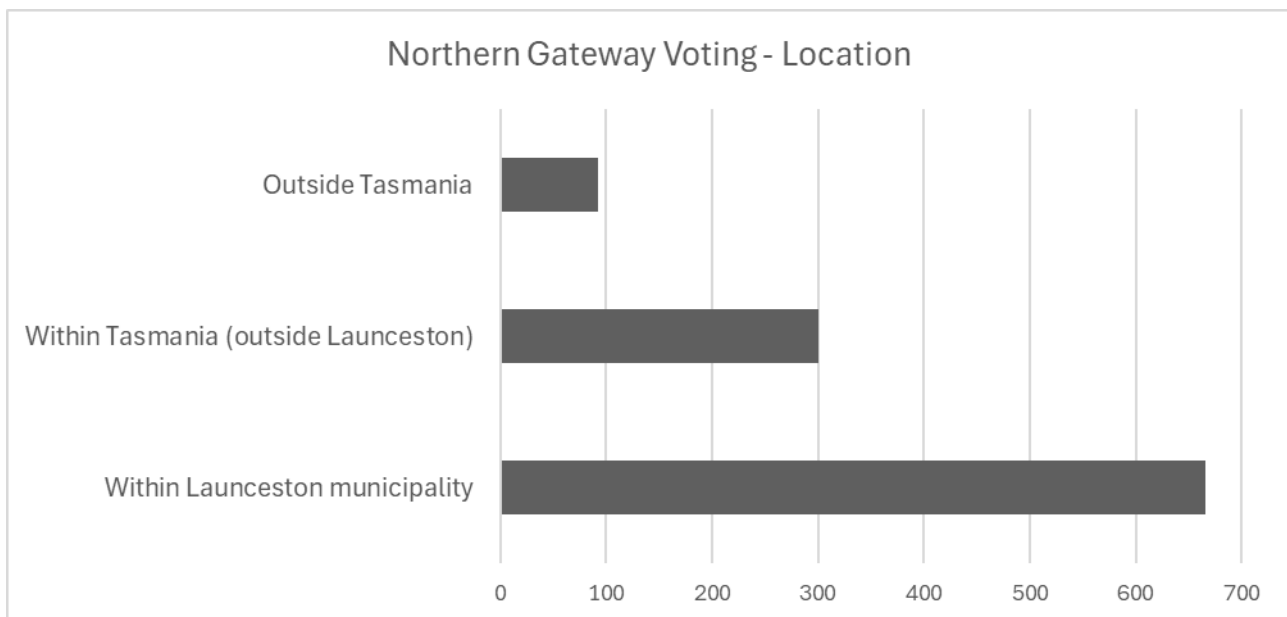
Results

A total of 1,060 votes were submitted. Sky Vessels received the majority of votes (539 – 50.85%) and is the preferred outcome. Kanamaluka Kanalaritja received fewer votes (521 – 49.15%) but still attracted interest from a large portion of the community, highlighting a diversity of perspectives.



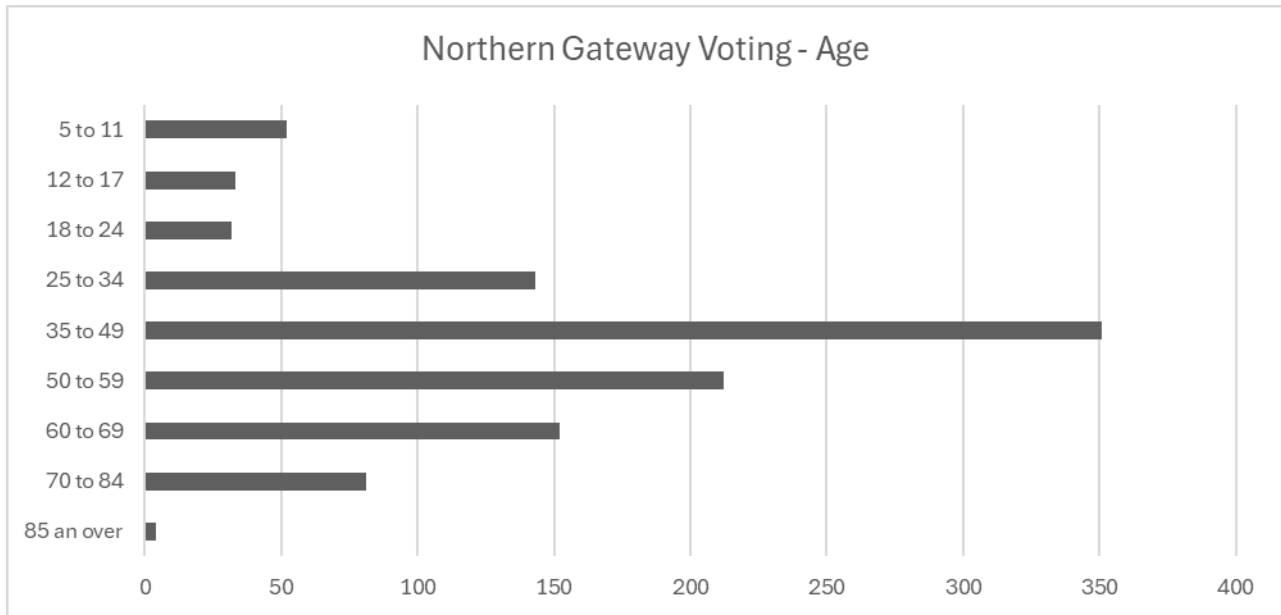
Location

The majority of votes received, 666 (63%), were from within the Launceston municipality, 301 (28%) from elsewhere in Tasmania, and 93 (9%) from outside the state. Although promotion was focused on Launceston and surrounding suburbs, the breadth of location is important to capture the preference of visitors, from both inter and intra state.



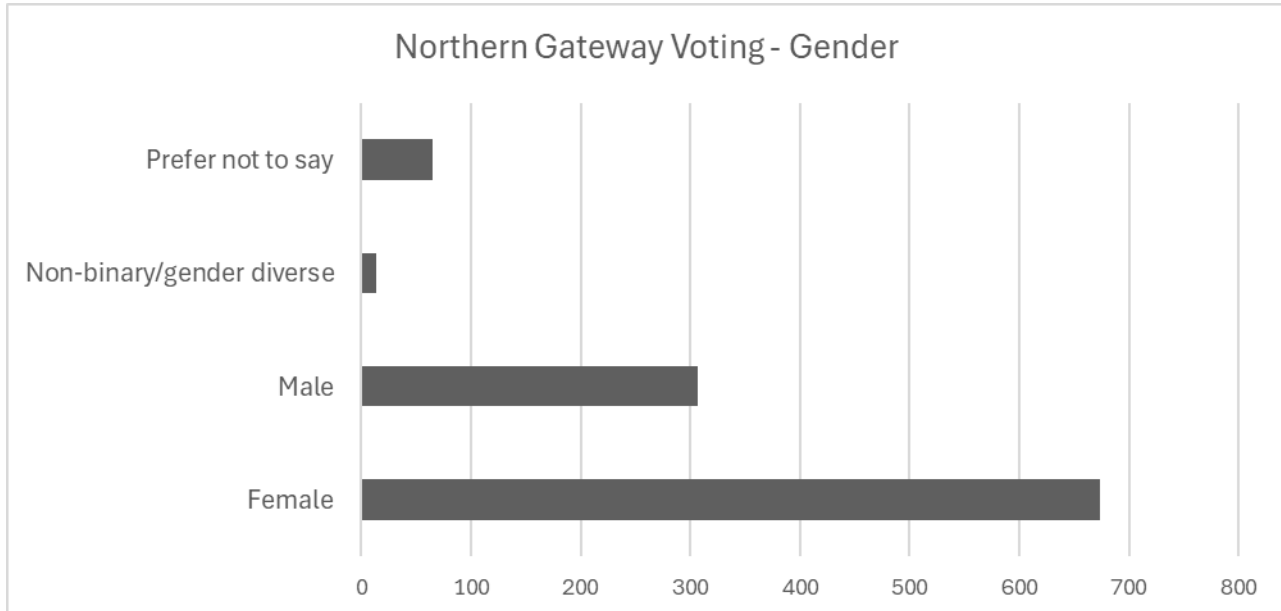
Age

Compared to the City of Launceston's overall age profile, the voting sample was broadly representative across most age groups, with some underrepresentation among younger and older demographics, a trend commonly seen in other engagements as well.



Gender

While the survey itself didn't ask voters to identify their gender, this information was captured through registration details and paper forms. Females made up the majority of respondents, with 674 (64%) participating - a trend that's consistent with previous community engagements.



Next steps

The next steps in this project are:

- Final approval
 - Council to endorse preferred concept and award commission.
- Technical design period
 - Technical Assist phase with Urban Art Projects (UAP) Technical Design team.
 - Technical design approved by Council (if required) and DSG.
- Final location confirmation
 - The council will enter into a formal agreement with the Crown for use of the land on which the artwork is placed.
- Fabrication
 - Shop drawings, fabrication and finishing.
 - Packing and transportation.
- Installation
 - On-site installation.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Approval of the recommendations outlined in this report should consider the below risk considerations:

- Public image and reputation – A wide marketing campaign and in person pop-ups are mitigation efforts to ensure a broad section of the community has been captured in the voting process.
- Fraudulent voting - Risk mitigations have been taken to minimise fraudulent voting e.g. Mandatory registration, and supervised in-person voting.
- WHS - Installation of the final structure will involve appropriate traffic management and risk management documentation.
- Budget overrun - A 10% contingency is a risk mitigation strategy for any potential budget overruns.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommendations outlined in this report will:

- result in a positive social impact for the Launceston cultural and creative community by building the city's profile and reputation as a great place to live and visit.
- have minimal negative impact on the environment.
- provide positive economic impact to Launceston contractors who may be used during the installation phase of this project.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Strategic Pillar 1 - Prosperity

Goal 1.1 Launceston is a premier visitor destination, celebrated for its natural beauty, creative and historic city centre, welcoming community, and rich food culture.

Objective 1.1(c)	Expand Launceston's position as an arts and cultural hub by providing an environment for creative industries to thrive.
-------------------------	---

Strategic Pillar 2 - Place

Goal 2.3 Launceston's community is connected to our Aboriginal and built heritage, while growing a city of the future.

Objective 2.3(a)	Encourage and facilitate recognition of Aboriginal cultural heritage as a means of retaining a sense of place and connection to Country
-------------------------	---

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.2 Participation in cultural and recreational activities is widespread across the community and promotes health and wellbeing at all ages while bridging social, cultural and geographical gaps.

Objective 3.2(b)	Broaden and increase participation in arts, cultural, and community events to foster community identity, leadership and capacity building, resilience, pride & a sense of belonging.
-------------------------	--

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This project is financially serviced by grant funding from the Tasmanian State Government (\$1M).

The Council has allocated \$900,000 of the funding for the commissioning of the artwork through a public tender, with an additional \$100,000 set aside as a 10% contingency to cover any unforeseen expenses. The commission includes a \$5,000 artist fee for concept design and a \$50,000 final commissioning fee for the selected artist. Any remaining contingency funds will be used to further enhance the project.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Northern Gateway Scoring Matrix [17.3.1 - 2 pages]
2. Northern Gateway Project 2023 [17.3.2 - 1 page]
3. Northern Gateway Project 2024 Workshop [17.3.3 - 1 page]
4. Workshop report 28 Aug [17.3.4 - 4 pages]

17.4. City of Launceston Band and Choir

FILE NO: SF4238

AUTHOR: Anne Hemingway (Executive Assistant - Connections and Liveability)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a recommendation on the Expressions of Interest for the appointments of a City of Launceston Band and a City of Launceston Choir.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 23 May 2005 – City Band for Launceston

Council – 30 May 2005 – Agenda item 13.2 – City Band for Launceston

Council – 26 April 2010 – Agenda item 3.9 – City of Launceston Band and Choir

Council – 10 September 2012 – Agenda item 19.1 – City of Launceston Choir

Council – 17 September 2020 – Agenda item 19.3 – City of Launceston Band and City of Launceston Choir

Workshop – 4 June 2020 – City of Launceston Band and City of Launceston Choir

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. approves the appointment of a City of Launceston Band and the appointment of a City of Launceston Choir, each to be sponsored by Council for five years; and
2. approves the appointment of:
 - A. The RSL Band as the City of Launceston Band in accordance with the following conditions:
 - (a) The band will adopt the name “City of Launceston RSL Band” for the period of this agreement.
 - (b) The band will perform at significant events each year during the duration of its appointment.
 - (c) The band covers all its own administrative costs associated with its adoption by Council, including stationery, uniforms and travel.
 - (d) The band is given authority to bear the City of Launceston logo, if they wish, on their band uniforms, stationery and other promotional materials for the duration of the appointment.
 - (e) The band appoints a Council Liaison Officer.
 - (f) That an annual grant of \$5000 be paid to the City of Launceston Band (with any additional fees for events outside of the agreement to be negotiated).

- B. Vox Harmony Choir as the City of Launceston Choir in accordance with the following conditions:
- (a) The choir will adopt the name “Vox Harmony – City of Launceston Choir” for the period of this agreement.
 - (b) The choir will perform at significant events each year during the duration of its appointment.
 - (c) The choir covers all its own administrative costs associated with its adoption by Council, including stationery, uniforms and travel.
 - (d) The choir is given authority to bear the City of Launceston logo for the duration of its appointment, if it wishes, on its choir uniforms, stationery and other promotional materials for the duration of the appointment.
 - (e) The choir appoints a Council Liaison Officer.
 - (f) That an annual grant of \$3000 be paid to the City of Launceston Choir (with any additional fees for events outside of the agreement to be negotiated).
-

REPORT:

Expressions of Interest were advertised in The Examiner Newspaper on 6 September 2025 for a City of Launceston Band and a City of Launceston Choir.

Appointment of City of Launceston Band

Two applications were received – Launceston RSL Brass Inc and Launceston City Band Inc, with Launceston RSL Brass Inc meeting all criteria of the appointment.

Appointment of City of Launceston Choir

Only one application was received - from Vox Harmony Choir. Vox Harmony Choir meets all criteria of the appointment.

Both the RSL Band and Vox Harmony Choir have previously been appointed as the City of Launceston sponsored Band and Choir.

City of Launceston RSL Band:

The band was originally formed in 1940 as the Invermay School Band and soon progressed to a community band. The band has been operating continuously for the last 85 years.

The band is a traditional brass band, consisting of brass and percussion instruments. The ensemble is capable of providing a wide variety of musical styles from traditional to contemporary. The band provides capability to perform both onstage and on parade and can perform as a full ensemble (27 players) or small brass ensemble. This flexibility allows for a diverse range of performance requirements.

The band competes as a B grade contesting band, within the State and national Band associations being 1 of only 2 B grade bands in Tasmania. The band has had success having won at both National and State level and is the current State B grade champion, having held the title for the past ten years. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at QVMAG. Additional rehearsals are held in respect of specials events to ensure a high standard is maintained.

They have also embarked on a junior band development program in conjunction with Mowbray Primary School, hoping for junior musicians to ultimately feed into the band to ensure on-going viability.

The Band's Constitution identifies five core objectives for the organisation:

- To promote a general love and knowledge of Band music, good fellowship amongst Band members and amongst the community in general.
- The study of and presentation of musical works and precision drill.
- To encourage and help young people in the community to become enthusiastic members of the Band.
- To strive for the advancement of the Band, both musically and socially, at all times.
- To assist any other charitable organisations in the community, where possible.

Many of the band's members are also active within other Launceston based musical groups and musical theatre companies.

Vox Harmony Choir:

Vox Harmony is a non-auditioned community choir, open to all adults in the greater Launceston area. Aspiring members must apply to join the choir, as there is a cap on numbers. Membership usually sits at around 70 members, with the choir year running from July-June. In July they take a new intake of members, with a lot of existing members continuing their membership. A number of members are from the original choir in 2009.

Vox Harmony was formed in 2009, with most founding members previously involved with the Adult Education choir in Launceston during the preceding three years. Singing experience is not a pre-requisite to join the choir.

The choir is made up of men and women, aged between 19 to 70. There is a wide representation of occupations and interests. The choir rehearses weekly during school terms.

The Aim of Vox Harmony Choir is:

- To provide an opportunity for people from the Launceston community with all ranges of singing experience, to enjoy and perform music.
- To foster a social environment where new friendships are formed over the common bond of music and improve general mental health.
- To learn to sing safely and improve vocal technique.
- To give the gift of music and choral singing to the wider community through performances.
- To donate funds to the greater Launceston Community.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The City of Launceston Band and Choir contribute greatly to many social events including sister city visits and civic receptions. Both the Band and Choir foster community inclusion and provide entertainment at a range of community events.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.2 Participation in cultural and recreational activities is widespread across the community and promotes health and wellbeing at all ages while bridging social, cultural and geographical gaps.

Objective 3.2(b)

Broaden and increase participation in arts, cultural, and community events to foster community identity, leadership and capacity building, resilience, pride & a sense of belonging.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The annual fees for the City of Launceston Band and Choir will be funded from the Civic Affairs budget. Additional fees for performing at events outside the Agreement

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

17.5. Tamar NRM Funding Agreement

FILE NO: SF3419

AUTHOR: Matthew Jordan (Senior Leader Open Spaces and Sustainability)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the funding payment to Tamar NRM for the financial term 2025 – 2026.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop - 25 May 2023 – Tamar Natural Resource Management (Tamar NRM)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. approves the payment to Tamar Natural Resource Management (Tamar NRM) of \$211,236.86 ex GST for 2025/26 as invoiced and budgeted for with the intention to develop a future funding agreement and governance framework, prior to Council endorsement of any future funding proposed by Tamar NRM.

REPORT:

In May 2023, a report was presented to Council workshop to regarding a 3 year funding agreement and partnership with Tamar Natural Resource Management (Tamar NRM), West Tamar Council and Georgetown Council.

The first year of this funding agreement (\$206,286 2024/25FY) was paid to Tamar NRM with the current financial contribution pending and future 2026/27FY yet to be agreed.

This year's payment 2025/26 FY has now been invoiced and funding has been included in the annual budget however no formal written agreement is available or has been entered into. This leaves Council in a position of making payment that are not tied to specific services or outcomes.

Summary of historical findings on record:

- **2018 Funding Agreement**

Council Minutes (ECM Doc Set ID: 3805345) record the following resolution:

That Council, by absolute majority, pre-commits funding for 2018/2019 of \$120,510, 2019/2020 of \$124,125, and 2020/2021 of \$127,849 to Tamar NRM to deliver their Strategic Direction 2018 – 2021. (ECM Doc Set ID: 3808164)

- **2021 Funding Agreement**

Council Minutes (ECM Doc Set ID: 4509877) record the following resolution:

That Council, by absolute majority, pre-commits funding to Tamar Natural Resource Management for 2021/2022 of \$127,849, 2022/2023 of \$127,849, and 2023/2024 of \$127,849 to deliver a continuation of their Strategic Direction 2018–2021. (ECM Doc Set ID: 3808164).

- **2023 Correspondence**

On 14 November 2023, Ben Hooper (President, Tamar NRM) emailed Council requesting a meeting to discuss the 2024–2027 funding proposal (ECM Doc Set ID: 4987091).

In his email, Ben outlined:

- Tamar NRM has operated on the same budget since 2017, with no increase requested in 2020 due to COVID-related budget constraints.
- Inflation and rising costs have eroded funding value, limiting capacity to deliver services.
- For 2024–2027, Tamar NRM seeks a significant funding increase, with contributions indexed annually to CPI.
- Next steps: requested a meeting to present the proposal, clarify details, and negotiate arrangements. A summary of the proposed funding model was attached.

On 14 November 2023, Ben Hooper (President, Tamar NRM) emailed Council the below funding model:

Proposed Tamar NRM Funding Model - 2024-2027

This document sets out the current funding arrangement between Tamar NRM and our supporting Councils and proposes a model for the next funding round for the 2024-2027 period.

Tamar NRM Inc. has been delivering outstanding regional outcomes for our community and environment for 25 years, thanks to the generous support of the City of Launceston, West Tamar, and George Town Councils. Our focus on delivering education, extension, and practical on-ground activities to support the health and sustainability of the Tamar Region has been possible due to the steadfast support of our funding councils.

Traditionally, the funding agreement is reviewed every three years with the current agreement set to expire in June 2024.

The unique funding arrangement we have with our Councils has provided Tamar NRM with stability and security to engage in strategic planning and on-ground community-based outcomes that go beyond short-term project funding cycles and bring long-term results to the region.

Tamar NRM's Strategic Plan aligns closely with the funding councils' strategic goals and objectives. We focus on environmental education, sustainable living,

sustainable agriculture, weeds, and biodiversity, which help achieve the desired outcomes Councils seek to deliver to the region.

Tamar NRM has not asked for an increase in Council contributions since 2017, nor have we received any increases that take into account rises in the CPI. Tamar NRM is therefore proposing an increase in the next funding round, inclusive of annual CPI, to reflect the increases in operational costs and ensure the level of activity and community support can be maintained.

Current annual contributions (GST exclusive) 2017-2024:

- *City of Launceston - \$127,849*
- *West Tamar Council - \$51,434*
- *George Town Council - \$14,577*

Proposed annual contributions (GST and CPI exclusive) for 2024-2027:

- *City of Launceston - \$195,286*
- *West Tamar Council - \$71,796*
- *George Town Council - \$20,103*

- **2024 Correspondence**

- 23 January 2024 – Ben Hooper emailed the Mayor (ECM Doc Set ID: 5030095), noting that the three-year funding agreement is due for renewal and seeking Council's feedback on the proposed funding request.
- 21 February 2024 – The Mayor responded, advising that Parks and Sustainability Manager had provided details regarding draft budget expectations and confirming Council's intention to continue working with Tamar NRM (ECM Doc Set ID: 5030095).

Tamar NRM's annual remit specifically for the City of Launceston has provided on the following outcomes:

Biodiversity:

- *City of Launceston Reserves partnership to support community volunteers including at Carr Villa and Cambridge Street Reserves*
- *Support Council with Youngtown Reserve, Jinglers Creek, Newnham Creek and Hargrave Reserve rehabilitation works*
- *Support Council with Torrens Street Urban Greening Project*

Weeds:

- *A Guide to Weeds in the Tamar Valley*
- *Annual Boneseed Blitz*
- *Annual Ragwort Raid*
- *Funded projects include Pipers River Catchment Gorse Eradication Program*
- *Detection and eradication of Nassella Weeds (Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle Grass)*

Sustainable Living:

- *Sustainable Living Festival and Business and Community Awards*
- *Sustainable Business Network*
- *Community Garden Network Gatherings*
- *Tamar And Meander Valley Community Garden Open Days*
- *Facilitate Catch It in the Catchment Event*

Sustainable Agriculture:

- *Facilitate the Tamar Valley Farm Discussion Group - including facilitate funded activities and events funded through the Tas Farm Innovation Hub.*

Environmental Education:

- *Source to Sea Excursion - schools and community groups participate from around Launceston*
- *Great Southern Bioblitz*
- *World Wetland Day - Tamar Is Wetland*
- *Education sessions with local schools e.g. Community Cleanup Day @ Punchbowl Reserve with Scotch Oakburn, Children's Week @ Invermay Primary School*

Officers are proposing that payment be made this year in recognition that there is a mutual understanding and expectation, and consequences to business continuity if this is not progressed, but that during this year council officers evaluate the benefits and outcomes of the arrangement and both parties prepare a written agreement and governance framework for a future funding arrangement for Council's consideration.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Recognised risks of not entering into the arrangement this year would result in implications to environmental, financial/business interruption and reputation or public image outcomes.

By operating without an Agreement Council has no oversight or influence on what will be delivered on behalf of Council with the provided funding.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The impacts identified would be in line with Tamar NRM's annual deliverables mentioned in the report above.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Strategic Pillar 1 - Prosperity

Goal 1.2 Launceston's economy is resilient and sustainable, with significant growth in its gross regional product (GRP) through a diverse economic base supported by a skilled workforce, enabling business environment, and facilitation of investment opportunities.

Objective 1.2(a)	Capitalise on our competitive advantages by focusing on key sectors including food and agricultural innovation, research & development, advanced manufacturing, healthcare and circular economy initiatives.
-------------------------	--

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.1 Community members have access to green, diverse, and inclusive open spaces and facilities enabling them to lead active lives, enjoy nature, and connect with others.

Objective 3.1(a)	Enhance community members' access to climate-change resilient leafy, well-maintained, inclusive public open spaces, prioritising areas with low wellbeing measures.
Objective 3.1(b)	Leverage Launceston's network of waterways by rehabilitating and connecting riparian corridors, connecting them with the public open space network and supporting improvements to the Kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary and surrounding precinct.
Objective 3.1(c)	Ensure neighbourhoods are well-served through community activity hubs that are accessible and inclusive, provide a range of amenities, create opportunities for a diverse range of community activities and support Launceston's diverse cultural, economic, and age groups.

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.2 Participation in cultural and recreational activities is widespread across the community and promotes health and wellbeing at all ages while bridging social, cultural and geographical gaps.

Objective 3.2(b)	Broaden and increase participation in arts, cultural, and community events to foster community identity, leadership and capacity building, resilience, pride & a sense of belonging.
-------------------------	--

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

\$211,236.86 ex. GST.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

17.6. Seaport Place Name Application

FILE NO: SF7786

AUTHOR: Anne Hemingway (Executive Assistant - Connections and Liveability)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To determine whether to pursue a place name application for Seaport.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. endorses the preparation of an application for Seaport to be registered as an unbounded locality.

REPORT:

Background

The area to the north of Royal Park has been informally known as Seaport for several years. Despite this, there has been no official name for the area. This creates limitations in facilitating a sense of place and identity for the area.

Seaport is located behind the levee, and there is limited visual connection to the CBD despite its proximity. Businesses have advised that tourists can have difficulty finding the area, often driving past before they realise they have missed the entry point.

An official name would allow for directional signage and maps to reference Seaport. This would assist locals and tourists in finding and enjoying the area.

To formalise a name, the City of Launceston would need to apply to Placenames Tasmania. Following initial discussions with Placenames Tasmania, it is proposed that the City of Launceston apply for the creation of an unbounded locality.

Unbounded Locality

An unbounded locality is defined as "an area of community or cultural significance that has historical and local recognition." It is described as 'unbounded' as it does not have defined boundaries. As such it does not result in changes to property addresses, but can be signposted and appear on maps. Current unbounded localities in Launceston include Home Point and Brisbane Street Mall.

Application

A place name application requires:

- Evidence of consultation of the affected community
- Evidence of endorsement from the affected community
- Historic and/or community justification of the proposed name

Consultation

As part of the application to the creation of an unbounded location, it is required that the impacted community is consulted. Affected landowners must be made aware of the proposal, and it is imperative that there is evidence of endorsement. Consultation will include the use of letter drops to the residents and owners of the Seaport area, along with those at Home Point due to the proximity.

Placenames Tasmania advised that, as part of the assessment, there will be an advertising period of at least 28 days to the broader community. It has also recommended that Property Services Tasmania be notified due to the potential impact on crown land.

History

Initial review of the site indicates that the name Seaport was used from the early 2000s, following the subdivision of land. Due to the limited history of the name, it is advised that council efforts are focused on community usage of Seaport.

Justification

Where a business or organisation has a significant association with the area and has contributed to the establishment of the feature, it may be accepted as a Place Name. From discussions with Placenames Tasmania it is likely that Seaport can meet this definition.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Potential Risk	Management of Risk
Lack of response from the community	Advise all interested parties that community support is required for the application to proceed, include replied paid envelopes and printed survey form in letter drop.
Under or over engagement of the broader community due to Placenames Tasmania consultation	Engagement should be focused on those directly or closely affected by the proposal i.e. residents and owners along Seaport Boulevard and Home Point Parade. Broader consultation will be limited to social media posts to reduce consultation fatigue.
Community providing feedback outside purpose of the engagement	Clear messaging around the project and its purpose to eliminate requests for items outside the project scope.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Strategic Pillar 2 - Place

Goal 2.2 Launceston's transport system connects communities, reduces car dependency in activity centres and corridors, and promotes active transportation options.

Objective 2.2(b)	Work with partners to enable convenient daily travel by supporting public transport and investing in key road infrastructure between Launceston and rural and regional communities and surrounding facilities (e.g. Launceston Airport, Bell Bay).
Objective 2.2(c)	Develop a safe, pleasant and connected walking and active transportation network that is integrated with the transport system, across Launceston's urban footprint.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of community engagement is minimal and can be funded through existing budget allocations.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Seaport - proposed unbounded locality [17.6.1 - 1 page]

18. QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY (QVMAG)

No items have been identified as part of this Agenda.

19. COMMUNITY ASSETS AND DESIGN

19.1. Quarterly Report - Community Assets and Design

FILE NO: SF7719

AUTHOR: Alison Flood (Executive Assistant - Community Assets and Design)

APPROVER: Chelsea van Riet (Executive Leader Community Assets and Design)

DECISION STATEMENT:

That Council receive the report noting the activities of the Community Assets and Design team for the period 1 July to 30 September 2025.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council

1. receives the report noting the activities of the Community Assets and Design team for the period 1 July to 30 September 2025.
-

EXECUTIVE LEADER REPORT:

The new financial year has brought a focus on the Annual Plan deliverables and key projects including City Heart. A number of major projects continued to receive focus as they move towards major milestones. The Asset Management Project has received positive, organisation-wide engagement and will contribute to improved decision making with clearer accountabilities.

EXECUTIVE LEADER STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS:

- Northern Tasmania Development Corporation
- Hutchinsons Builders
- Hansen Yuncken
- Property Council
- Department of State Growth
- State Planning Office.

SENIOR LEADER CITY AMENITIES

City Amenities achieved a significant uplift in customer service performance this year, reflecting a strong commitment to responsiveness and continuous improvement. Since the beginning of the year, overdue customer requests have fallen from 583 to 141 a reduction of more than 75 per cent while average completion times improved from 82 to 49 days. The team continues to manage an average of 670 requests per month, maintaining performance despite high demand.

Parks Services delivered another productive quarter focused on tree planting, landscape renewal, and summer preparation works. Over 200 new street trees were planted across the municipality, contributing to urban greening objectives. Riverbend Park works included 20 advanced trees, 100 shrubs, and 150 metres of pine bark renewal, while City Park received new turf and garden bed mulching. Brisbane Street Mall tree replacements continued, including 200 permanent plants added into the quadrant mall, alongside fertilising, aeration, and irrigation works across major parks and sports fields. Invermay Park and Inveresk were successfully handed over from the University of Tasmania, with a dedicated crew now maintaining these sites and Heritage Forest.

Roads teams delivered a range of maintenance and renewal activities across urban and rural areas. Stormwater maintenance was completed, including Gross Pollutant Trap, tide flap, and penstock inspections, alongside gully pit and subsoil drain works. Rural crews undertook open drain maintenance in Lilydale and supported other teams with tree removal, material transport, and waste centre tasks. Urban Roads crews replaced concrete footpaths in Newstead and Newnham, supported asphalt and landscaping works at Riverbend Park and the Civic precinct, and completed school area footpath upgrades during holidays.

Waste Services maintained focus on presentation, efficiency, and environmental outcomes. A new mini sweeper delivered notable productivity gains, completing Brisbane Street Mall paver cleaning in three hours rather than three nights. Pressure cleaning targeted key CBD streets, with graffiti, moss, and lichen removal across suburban footpaths. Street sweeping continued across suburbs, complemented by rough sleeping site clean ups and seasonal weed control in the CBD.

SENIOR LEADER CITY DEVELOPMENT

Last financial year, Planning Assessments approved \$469 million of development, a \$97 million increase on the previous year. Over the past 5 years \$1.77 billion worth of development was approved across 3,133 applications:

- 2024/25 — \$469M across 520 applications
- 2023/24 — \$372M across 535 applications
- 2022/23 — \$315M across 635 applications
- 2021/22 — \$235M across 672 applications
- 2020/21 — \$383M across 771 applications.

The Strategic Land Use Planning Team successfully appointed a Principal Strategic Land Use Planner in August, and recruitment for senior positions commenced in September. Project highlights:

- **St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan:** The draft Infrastructure Funding Framework, which forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan, was shared with councillors, internal council staff, key stakeholders, service providers and major landowners in August. Feedback was considered and taken into account in the final Neighbourhood Plan and Infrastructure Funding Framework which will be presented to Council with a recommendation for adoption in October.
- **Launceston Housing Plan 2025-2040:** On 29 May 2025, Council unanimously adopted the Plan. Projects identified as part of the implementation have commenced.

- **Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan:** Several consultants have been engaged to prepare technical inputs to assist with guiding the direction of the Neighbourhood Plan, with MESH Planning engaged to consolidate the findings and prepare the overall Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan. The anticipated delivery of a draft Neighbourhood Plan for future community consultation is December 2025.
- **Northern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy (NTRLUS):** The current Northern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy is undergoing a comprehensive review with input from all northern Tasmanian councils to identify future regional strategic projects. Council's Strategic Land Use Planning Team has been actively participating in the process through working groups including feedback on the draft State of Play and Regional Strategic Directions document. City of Launceston is now Chair of the Regional Planners Group and involvement and participation will be ongoing into 2026.

SENIOR LEADER INFRASTRUCTURE & ENGINEERING

The Transport Team has returned to full operational capacity following the successful recruitment of the Road Asset Engineer, Traffic Engineer, and Strategic Transport Advisor. This has enabled a shift from reactive service delivery to proactive planning and execution, aligning with Council's strategic infrastructure and mobility objectives.

With resourcing stabilised, the team has recommenced delivery of several high-impact programs that were previously deferred. These include the annual line marking maintenance program, large-scale bridge repairs, and detailed planning for capital road reconstruction projects, notably Margaret Street. Internal design capabilities are being leveraged to accelerate the development of FY 2026/27 capital works program designs and cost estimates, ensuring readiness for budget cycles and funding opportunities.

Strategic procurement activities are underway to strengthen asset intelligence and lifecycle planning. The Bridge Condition Assessment tender will provide ongoing monitoring and emergency recovery capability, while the Road Network Condition Assessment will enhance data-driven decision-making across the transport portfolio.

Progress continues on City Heart Stage 2, with internal project management plans nearing completion for the 2-Way Streets initiative and the Launceston Bus Interchange review. These projects are being positioned for Council endorsement and will play a critical role in shaping the future of urban mobility and public realm activation.

The State Government has approved funding for the Cimitiere Street Signalised Pedestrian Crossing under the Vulnerable Road User Program, supporting Council's commitment to safer, more inclusive transport infrastructure. While the Innes Street application was unsuccessful, learnings will inform future submissions.

Forward planning is underway for the FY 2026/27 resurfacing programs for both roads and footpaths. This work supports long-term capital investment planning and ensures continuity in service delivery and asset renewal.

Work continues to progress on the Flood Intelligence and Disaster Dashboard project, with several key milestones achieved. This includes engagement with a consultant to review the Corra Linn rating curve and develop a forecasting system, which will enhance Council's emergency response capability and flood resilience planning.

The team is actively collaborating with the Department of State Growth to support strategic infrastructure upgrades, including bridge strengthening and deck renewal at Kings Bridge. In parallel, coordination with Vestas is facilitating the movement of 411 oversize loads through the municipality, enabling delivery of the St Patricks Plains Windfarm project and supporting regional energy transition goals.

Flood resilience remains a priority, with a scheduled flood gate closure exercise on 15 October requiring temporary closure of Charles Street Bridge/East Tamar Highway. This exercise is a critical component of Council's emergency preparedness framework and ensures operational readiness in the event of a flood event.

A longstanding infrastructure issue in Cypress Street, Newstead has been resolved, with a sewage crossover affecting two premises rectified after five years. This outcome reflects effective cross-team collaboration and responsiveness to community concerns.

Rehabilitation works at Hargrave Crescent Reserve have transformed a historically neglected site into a valued community asset. The project, delivered through multi-agency partnerships, culminated in a community celebration on 25 September and has significantly enhanced local amenity.

Subdivision activity remains strong, with new developments commencing at Raglan Street Stage 2, Waverley Road, and Hargrave Crescent. Completed subdivisions include Raglan Street Stage 1 (practical completion), and the formal transfer of Avenger Avenue and Negara Street to Council.

Customer experience has been improved through a joint initiative with the Customer Service Team, which has streamlined the driveway application process. This reform enhances accessibility and supports more efficient service delivery.

SENIOR LEADER INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

With respect to major project works; efforts from this reporting period include:

- Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Theatre redevelopment project
 - 90% documentation complete
 - Main Works Package released to Early Contractor Involvement company to enable tender. The tender is currently scheduled to be considered by Council 13 November
 - Client-side Project Manager and Superintendent services procured for duration of project
 - Stakeholder engagement held 10 September regarding auditorium seating
- NTCA Redevelopment Project
 - Development of architectural materials for Development Application submission, further advocacy and to seek Council approval for next steps (including staged detailed design)
- The business case process has begun required to determine the feasibility a future, major road investment.

The Infrastructure Planning Team also welcomed its third employee with the commencement of our Urban Designer – Infrastructure Planning. The role focuses on supporting major project functions and urban growth infrastructure planning with respect to urban form and open space infrastructure investment planning. With respect to urban growth infrastructure planning; undertakings from this quarter include:

- Ongoing support for the St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan and Infrastructure Funding Framework
- Investment strategies are nearing conceptual maturity for the St Leonards Village Green and Bibra Place park areas
- Master planning as required under the St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan has begun for the St Leonards existing village and the Waverley Lake area.

SENIOR LEADER PROJECT DESIGN & DELIVERY

The Project Design and Delivery team is currently overseeing 53 active projects, comprising 27 in the design phase and the remainder under construction. The total value of all active construction projects is \$16.1 million (excluding Albert Hall additional works).

During the early part of Quarter 1, efforts were directed towards finalising outstanding 2024/25 capital projects. Subsequent focus was placed on the preparation of design documentation and contract packages for the Johnston Road pavement stabilisation, South Esk Road guardrail replacement, City Park play space, McKellar Road rehabilitation, Hardwicke Street rehabilitation, Cook Crescent rehabilitation, the road and footpath reseal programs, the bus stop upgrade program and the delivery of additional works at the Albert Hall.

Key project updates:

Trevallyn Road Retaining Wall

- Scope: Stabilisation of existing bluestone wall and construction of matching facing wall
- Status: Practical Completion issued 29 September 2025

Cavalry Road Reconstruction

- Scope: Pavement rehabilitation and structural upgrades
- Status: Practical Completion issued 4 July 2025

Johnstone Road Pavement Stabilisation

- Scope: Foam Bitumen Pavement Stabilisation between St. Leonards Road and Station Road.
- Status: Contract awarded to Stabilised pavements of Australia on 3 October 2025

YMCA

- Scope: Construct new laundry and shower facilities
- Status: Practical Completion achieved and Certificate of Occupancy issued 8 October 2025

City Park Play Space

- Scope: Redevelopment of playground to meet safety standards and renew aged assets
- Status: The final construction tender is currently on hold pending advice from the City of Launceston legal team regarding the process for relocating the train known as “Hutch” to the Don River Railway.

Reseal Programs 2025/26

Program	Budget	Actual	Actual + Commitments	Comments
Road Reseal Program	\$ 4,270,000	\$ 2,426,079	\$3,464,861	40 Road sites completed
Footpath Renewal Program	\$ 1,132,856	\$ 464,125	\$ 830,873	13 Footpath sites completed

SENIOR LEADER ASSET MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Asset Management Project commenced fully in August 2025. The project has been initiated to enhance and refine asset management practices throughout the City of Launceston, following the completion of the Asset Management Health Check earlier this year. The project will focus on identified Annual Plan Action K3: *Improve asset management governance, practices and processes*.

Key achievements for the project in the first quarter include:

- The Asset Management Steering Committee was re-established, with terms of reference confirmed and an inaugural meeting held on 8 September 2025.
- The Asset Management Governance Framework (30-Rf-056) was updated and approved.
- Initiation of the development of Asset Criticality rules applicable to all asset classes.
- Launch of a review and update process for the Capital Project Prioritisation methodology.
- Commencement of a project aimed at enhancing organisation-wide asset management capabilities through targeted training.

BUILDING ASSETS AND INVESTIGATIONS

Building Assets and Investigations delivered significant progress this quarter across refurbishment, asset management, and operational improvements. Renovations at the Remount Road Depot are nearing completion, including new furniture, internal painting, carpet replacement, and the removal of internal walls to enhance functionality. Modifications to the Gallagher access system at the depot front gate are also finalised, improving both security and site access.

The team has also successfully assumed responsibility for reactive maintenance at the Launceston Aquatic Centre, with early results indicating improved response times and more coordinated maintenance delivery.

Progress continued on strategic asset management initiatives, including the Building Portfolio review and the development of the Facility Hierarchy. Presented at the Council workshop on 4 September 2025, the hierarchy received strong support from the organisation, and a final draft has now been completed. Building condition reporting remains on track for completion by December, with substantial progress achieved during the quarter, including the conclusion of major reports for QVMAG at Inveresk.

Since August 2025, the team has resumed maintenance control of key Council-owned buildings, prioritising operational requirements and planning for significant investments in the coming financial years. Looking ahead, a key milestone for the next quarter will be the

grand reopening of Albert Hall and the Conservatory, with refurbishment works concluding over the coming weeks.

CAPITAL PROGRAMS PROJECT VALUES BY STATUS

Status	Actuals (\$M)	Actuals + Commitments (\$M)
Not started	\$0	\$2.62
Preliminary works	\$1.14	\$5.71
Work in progress	\$4.86	\$7.11
Practical completion	\$0.09	\$0.09
Sub totals	\$6.09	\$15.53

Excludes Vehicle and Plant replacement, Town Hall Annexe, Albert Hall, Princess Theatre & EAC Masterplan.

KEY STATISTICS

Please note some statistics were not reported this quarter due to unavailability.

Item	This quarter	Last quarter
Customer Service and Work Orders		
CSRs – Open <90 days	295	268
CSRs – Open >90 days	100	151
CSRs – New	2,892	2,665
CSRs – Closed	3,168	2,692
Average CSR time (days)	23 days	33 days
WOs – Open <90 days	360	279
WOs – Open >90 days	253	268
WOs – New	2,187	2,044
WOs – Closed	2,261	2,202
Average WO time (days)	29 days	45 days
Planning & Infrastructure		
New DAs	157	124
Decided under delegation	123	121
Decided by Council	4	5
Average statutory timeframe to assess Discretionary Applications (days)	33.4	33.5
Average stop the clock period for applications determined during the quarter (days)	32	31
Number of Requests for Information sent	103	94
Permits		
Plans Sealed	13	12
Driveway Permits Issued	21	16
Heavy Vehicle Permits Issued	131	71
Road Occupation Permits Issued	63	46
Stormwater Connections Issued	9	8
People		
New employees	15	7
Vacancies	24	36
Internal promotions	1	1

Note: Identified a number of WOs with no start date. For this reason we have had to rely on the WO creation date in order to calculate average WO time.

Other		
Building Condition Reports completed	42	25
Grant applications submitted	0	3
Grant applications received	1	0
Trees planted	220	0
Tube stock planted	300	1,800

WORKSHOPS

Community Asset and Design presented this quarter (excluding DAs):

- Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan (17 July)
- Launceston Housing Plan - Implementation Projects (24 July)
- NTCA (24 July)
- Economic Benefits of Residential Development (7 August)
- St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan (14 August and 18 September)
- Building Hierarchy (4 September)
- NTCA (18 September).

POLICY ADOPTIONS

Nil.

PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

Project	Program	Budget	Note
Built projects			
Albert Hall – Eastern Wing construction and Additional Works	Variance	Variance	Eastern Wing complete. Additional works scheduling in progress.
Princess Theatre (Design)	On track	On track	
NTCA Sports Complex Master Plan	In planning	In planning	
Strategic work			
Building Heights and Massing project	Delayed	On track	Slight delays due to resourcing constraints and project priorities.
Housing Plan Implementation	On track	On track	Adopted. Implementation commenced.
St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan and Infrastructure Funding Framework	On track	On track	Final report being finalised for Council Meeting on 23 October.

South Prospect Neighbourhood Plan	In review	In review	Delays due to resourcing constraints and project priorities.
Local heritage listings - Planning Scheme Amendments (1 st Amendment)	Delayed	On track	Planning Commission hearing next quarter.
Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan	On track	On track	Project commenced. Several consultants engaged for technical inputs and neighbourhood plan preparation.
Building Hierarchy and Level of Service plan	On track	On track	
Parks Services Level of Service review	Deferred	Deferred	Approach under review by Strategy and Innovation
Asset Management Health Check	Complete	Complete	

Definitions: Delays = Progress is delayed by more than 2 weeks compared to project plan / On track = Budget or Program is tracking according to plan / Variance = Budget has varied from budgeted amount / In review/planning = Being reviewed and no timeframes and/or budget committed. / Scheduled = Work is planned and awaiting resourcing to commence / Deferred = On hold.

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 Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

19.2. St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan and Infrastructure Funding Framework

FILE NO: SF7874

AUTHOR: Claire Fawdry (Team Leader Strategic Land Use Planning)

APPROVER: Chelsea van Riet (Executive Leader Community Assets and Design)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To adopt the St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan (Structure Plan and Infrastructure Funding Framework) (ECM Doc Set ID: 5207026), October 2025.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 18 September 2025 – St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan – Project Update

Workshop – 14 August 2025 – St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan – Project Update

Council – 19 June 2025 – Agenda Item 19.2 St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan Stage 2 Community Engagement Feedback

Council – 27 March 2025 – Agenda Item 19.4: St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan Stage 2 Community Engagement

Workshop – 20 March 2025 – St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan – Project update

Council – 13 February 2025 – Agenda Item 19.1: St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan – Project Update

Workshop – 30 January 2025 – St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan – Project update

Council – 12 December 2024 – Agenda Item 22.2: St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan project update

Council – 31 October 2024 – Agenda Item 17.3: St Leonards Structure Plan Update

Council – 8 August 2024 – Agenda Item 17.1: Non-Application of Public Tender Process for the St Leonards Structure Plan and Infrastructure Funding Framework

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. adopts the St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan (Structure Plan and Infrastructure Funding Framework) (ECM Doc Set ID: 5207026), October 2025, attached as Attachment 1 to the Council Report.

REPORT:

1. Background

In July 2024, the City of Launceston received Commonwealth Government funding under the Housing Support Program (HSP) Stream 1. The \$1.5 billion HSP supports the delivery of increased housing supply by funding projects that seek to deliver enabling infrastructure, provide amenities to support new housing development and improve building planning capability. The co-funded project was to deliver a structure plan (also known as a neighbourhood plan) and supporting infrastructure funding framework for the St Leonards and Waverley residential growth area.

The project is known as the 'St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan'. This area of St Leonards and Waverley is identified in regional planning policy, through the Northern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy (NTRLUS), as an area for residential growth.

The area has seen several large land parcels rezoned and subdivided for urban development in recent years, however these developments have occurred in an ad-hoc manner, placing strain on existing infrastructure and services.

As a key deliverable of the council's endorsed Launceston Housing Plan 2025-2040, the Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to the necessary housing supply for Launceston. The growth area will deliver over 3,200 new homes over the next 30 years.

The Neighbourhood Plan is also a key action of the council's endorsed Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035.

2. The Project

Following the engagement of a lead consultant and sub-consultant team in September 2024, the project has progressed over the last 13 months to deliver a Neighbourhood Plan and Infrastructure Funding Framework at a scale, that is unprecedented for Launceston.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a guide for how a local area should evolve and develop over time. It sets a framework for how future development will be coordinated with the delivery of roads, open space, shops and community services.

A Neighbourhood Plan can also incorporate an Infrastructure Funding Framework to address how infrastructure such as roads, intersections, recreation facilities and other community infrastructure will be funded and delivered. The Infrastructure Funding Framework component of the Neighbourhood Plan is the enabler to get homes and development on the ground quicker in a coordinated and sequenced manner.

Technical sub-consultant reports were prepared to support the Neighbourhood Plan in relation to:

- Transport
- Drainage
- Retail and Community Needs
- Historic Heritage
- Aboriginal Heritage
- Land Capability
- Natural Values
- Bushfire
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to build on previous work and deliver a high-level plan for development of the area to ensure it is sustainable, connected and vibrant. The vision for St Leonards and Waverley as set out in the Neighbourhood Plan is:

“The St Leonards and Waverley growth area is a dynamic community balancing new homes with its existing semi-rural surrounds. It safeguards the environment, including waterways, landforms and vegetation, while honouring the area’s history.

Building homes here focuses on accessibility, sustainability and community through integrated transport, open spaces and local amenities. This is where people come to live, work and thrive in an inclusive and vibrant community.”

The three strategic directions of the Neighbourhood Plan implement the vision for St Leonards and Waverley. The Strategic Directions have been informed by the background work, policy direction and technical guidance. Each direction contains a catalyst project which will kick off the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan:

Strategic Direction 1: Sustainable Growth

The Neighbourhood Plan sets a Strategic Direction for Sustainable Growth which builds on the NTRLUS strategic direction G2.1 sustainable urban settlement patterns. This is achieved through definition of a growth area boundary that responds to context and land use constraints. Housing density responds to technical information (such as flooding, natural values and heritage as per NTRLUS strategic direction G3.1), with denser housing proposed close to amenities.

CATALYST PROJECT 1

Rezone the northern new development area (referred to as Planning Implementation Precinct 1 in the Implementation section) and prepare a Specific Area Plan to unlock new housing and amenities.

Strategic Direction 2: Connected Communities

The Neighbourhood Plan sets a Strategic Direction for Connected Communities to achieve integration of infrastructure delivery with land use planning, consistent with NTRLUS strategic direction G1.2. Safe, inclusive, and sustainable connections are proposed to support all forms of transport, for enhanced walkability and convenient access to community amenities including open space and activity hubs (consistent with delivering an inclusive community as per NTRLUS strategic direction G2.4).

CATALYST PROJECT 2

Prepare streetscape Master Plans for Station Road / Benvenue Road and Hogarth Street which identify opportunities for footpath widening, street furniture and tree planting opportunities consistent with the aspirations of the City of Launceston Urban Greening Strategy 2023 – 2040.

Strategic Direction 3: Vibrant Places

The Neighbourhood Plan sets a Strategic Direction for Vibrant Places which builds on the NTRLUS strategic direction G2.3 (promotion of local character values) by protecting view lines, natural values, cultural and historic heritage. The Neighbourhood Plan emphasises responsive design, integration of green infrastructure, and creation of vibrant hubs that support community interaction, amenity, and liveability.

CATALYST PROJECT 3

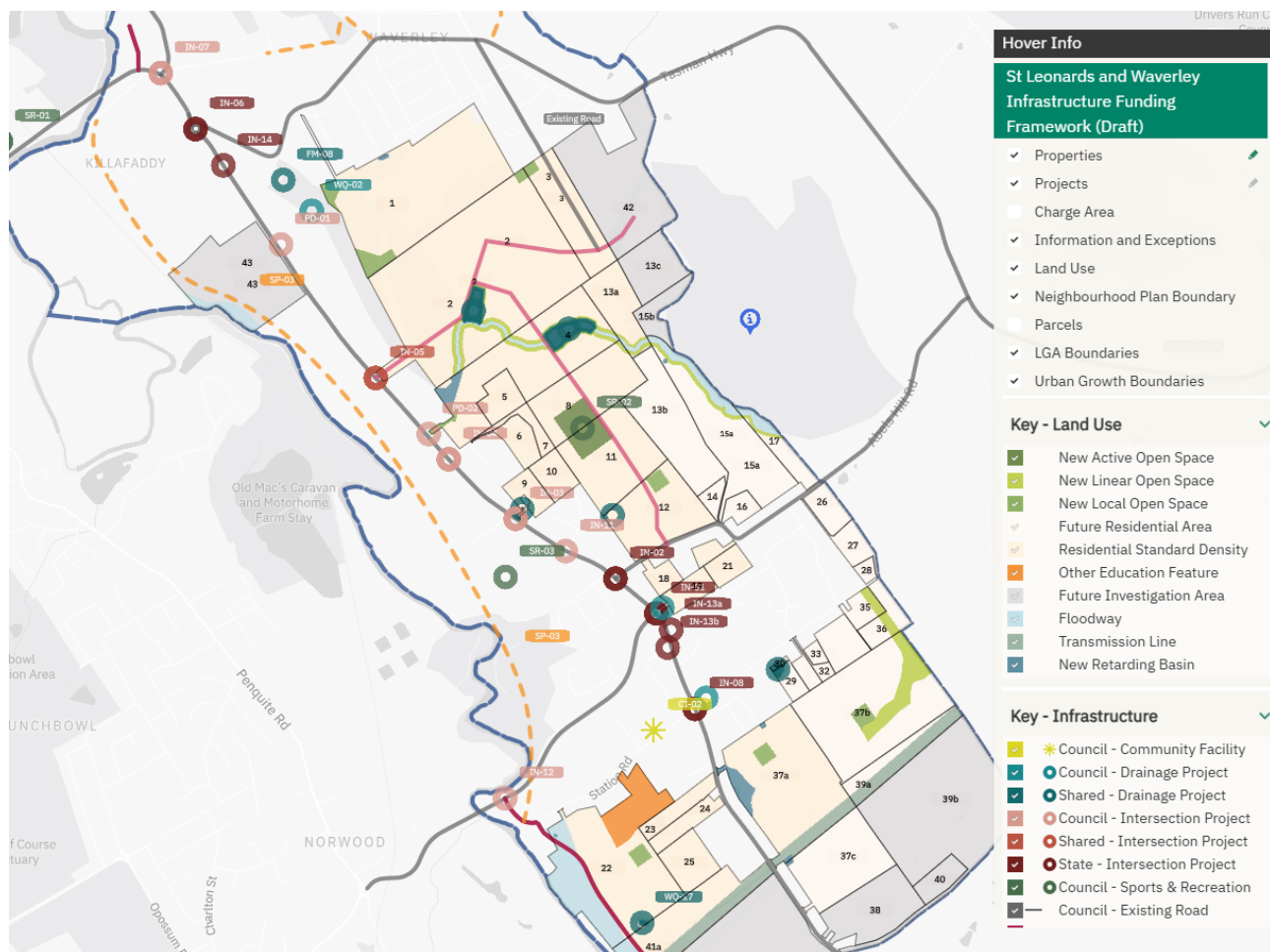
Prepare a Landscape Master Plan for the Waverley Lake Park that identifies opportunities for improved shared path connections, consistent with the Draft City of Launceston Recreation and Open Space Strategy.

The Neighbourhood Plan document is structured in six parts:

- 1. Introduction and Context:**
Overview of the area, regional context and purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2. Neighbourhood Plan Purpose:**
Outlines the role of the Neighbourhood Plan and why it has been prepared.
- 3. Preparing the Neighbourhood Plan:**
Outlines the inputs and steps that informed the Neighbourhood Plan, including how the community has informed the plans directions.
- 4. The Neighbourhood Plan for St Leonards and Waverley:**
Sets the long-term vision for St Leonards and Waverley including the Strategic Directions for the corridor, and strategies and actions for how change will occur.
- 5. Implementation:**
Outlines proposed zoning and actions for further strategic work, as well as an approach to staging development and infrastructure funding and delivery.
- 6. Monitoring and Review:**
Sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan will be reviewed and updated over time to ensure its content remains relevant and accurate.

The Neighbourhood Plan provides the blueprint for the sustainable development of the St Leonards and Waverley area over the next 30 years and beyond. It identifies new residential areas, an enhanced village core, new and enhanced activity centres, open space and active transport links, and improved infrastructure connectivity and services.

The final deliverables of this project are the written document – St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan, and the online platform for the Infrastructure Funding Framework – known as Parsel (<https://portal.parsel.online/2ee2663e-fd6c-4927-a535-373c912e114e>). The link to Parsel to access the Infrastructure Funding Framework will be made available on council's website. The interactive platform allows for property specific infrastructure contributions to be understood with the click of a mouse – refer to image extract below. This ensures that the Infrastructure Funding Framework is easily accessible and transparent.



3. Community Engagement

The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed with consultation and input from the key landowners and the broader community through ongoing dialogue and two formal stages of community engagement.

3.1 Stage 1 Engagement (7 November 2024 to 6 December 2024)

The objective of the first stage was to reintroduce the project following previous engagement with the community in 2018, and to understand whether previous feedback which was provided is still relevant.

A total of 418 survey responses were collected, providing a comprehensive representation of residents from St Leonards and Waverley with key priorities identified below:

Key Engagement Priorities - Stage 1

The community's key priorities from the analysis of survey results from the Stage 1 Engagement are summarised below.



Transport and movement

- Additional walking paths, cycle ways and bushwalking connections.
- Safe, connected and accessible footpath network.
- Frequent and reliable bus services connecting the area to service centres such as Kings Meadows and the Launceston CBD.
- Enhanced road safety and better management of congestion and speeding.



Open space and recreation

- Improved playground equipment and family-friendly open spaces.
- New amenities in local parks such as BBQs, public toilets and lighting.
- Improved off-leash, fenced dog parks.



Social infrastructure

- Community facilities suited to host events and gatherings.
- Local health services, particularly general practitioners and a pharmacy.
- Additional childcare services, improved schools and the addition of a high school.



Retail and commercial services

- More shops and retail services:
 - Supermarkets and service stations.
 - Local cafes and food businesses.
 - Small businesses such as a butcher, florist or convenience store.



Residential development

- Mixed views on residential growth.
- Acknowledgement that growth will result in additional facilities and services.
- Concern around density and the loss of the existing 'village feel'.



Community perceptions and safety

- Desire for increased police presence to address anti-social behaviour.
- Negative sentiment regarding social and community housing.
- Stigma associated with the socio-economic profile of the area, particularly Waverley.

3.2 Stage 2 Engagement (29 March 2025 to 29 April 2025)

The purpose of the second stage was to seek feedback on the contents and direction of the consultation draft Neighbourhood Plan, specifically in relation to the three strategic directions.

This engagement included two community pop-up events in St Leonards and Waverley where people could learn more about the project and provide feedback directly to the project team. A community workshop was also held in St Leonards, and online engagement was available via a survey. Written submissions were also received from major landowners/developers within the study area as well as State Government agencies and service providers.

The key priorities were identified as follows:

Sustainable Growth

- Participants involved in face-to-face engagement activities demonstrated strong support for sustainable growth strategies that focus on early and coordinated infrastructure delivery, and clear planning for future development. Survey respondents rated infrastructure considerations as a top priority, along with the need for designated areas to guide where new housing should and should not be located.
- Feedback from in-person sessions showed a preference for well-located, environmentally responsive housing while expressing a desire to maintain the area's established character.

Connected Communities

- Feedback highlighted strong support for connected communities in St Leonards and Waverley. Survey respondents rated high-quality streets and roads, easy access to open spaces, and improved bus services as top priorities. There was also significant support for encouraging walking and cycling through new paths and cycle lanes.
- Feedback from pop-up sessions showed strong approval for establishing a road network linking people to services, promoting active transport and advocating for better public transport. Workshop participants emphasised the need for safe, fit for purpose roads, addressing traffic congestion and enhancing transport connections and accessibility.

Vibrant Places

- Community feedback indicated strong support for enhancing the character of St Leonards and Waverley. Survey respondents rated improving parks and playgrounds, protecting heritage values, enhancing tree cover and landscaping as top priorities. There was also significant support for providing new shops, businesses and facilities to meet future community needs.
- Feedback from pop-up sessions showed strong approval for supporting local businesses, investing in community infrastructure, and enhancing public spaces. Workshop participants expressed the need for additional services and facilities, greener and more inclusive public spaces and better local connectivity.

3.3 Draft IFF (22 August 2025 to 12 September 2025)

Targeted engagement with key landowners, State Government and service providers occurred on the draft Infrastructure Funding Framework. Written feedback was provided and various meetings and briefing sessions were held. Feedback was taken on board and incorporated into the final Infrastructure Funding Framework.

4. Next Steps

Following adoption, the Strategic Land Use Planning Team will prepare the necessary planning scheme amendments to implement the Neighbourhood Plan and Infrastructure Funding Framework into the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Launceston Local Provisions Schedule.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be supported with communications activities including a dedicated webpage, microsite, typographic lockup, and other materials to ensure the success of the Neighbourhood Plan in attracting new residents to these suburbs. Communications will articulate the objectives of the plan and the associated investments and opportunities anticipated. Coordination via council will ensure consistent messaging to all stakeholders.

Work has already commenced on the Catalyst Projects and some of the the actions listed with a short term time scale (0-5 years). As these implementation projects progress, updates will be presented at future council workshops and meetings for input, advice and endorsement by Council.

Consultation with the community will also occur during the preparation of individual implementation projects over the 30 year time scale to allow for feedback and input as required.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Residential growth areas offer significant benefits across economic, environmental and social spheres. Economically, increasing housing supply supports local job creation, stimulates investment, and contributes to a more resilient city. From a social perspective, aligning new housing with community needs can enhance quality of life, improve access to suitable housing, and reduce barriers for vulnerable populations. While all housing development has an environmental impact, these can be managed to ensure that natural values are protected and sustainable growth is achieved.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Strategic Pillar 2 - Place

Goal 2.1 Plan for current and medium-term housing and infrastructure needs while maintaining a focus on a longer-term growth projection of 100,000 residents.

Objective 2.1(a)	Facilitate an increase in housing supply to meet current demand and align with planned growth, aiming and planning for 4,300 new homes in priority development and infill areas by 2035.
Objective 2.1(b)	Enable and encourage delivery of medium density houses in and around activity centres and transport corridors, and more diverse, sustainable and energy efficient housing.
Objective 2.1(c)	Proactively address affordability, homelessness and housing insecurity.

Strategic Pillar 2 - Place

Goal 2.2 Launceston's transport system connects communities, reduces car dependency in activity centres and corridors, and promotes active transportation options.

Objective 2.2(a)	Partner with the state government and local councils to expand access to reliable and frequent public transport services in and around Launceston.
Objective 2.2(b)	Work with partners to enable convenient daily travel by supporting public transport and investing in key road infrastructure between Launceston and rural and regional communities and surrounding facilities (e.g. Launceston Airport, Bell Bay).
Objective 2.2(c)	Develop a safe, pleasant and connected walking and active transportation network that is integrated with the transport system, across Launceston's urban footprint.

Strategic Pillar 2 - Place

Goal 2.3 Launceston's community is connected to our Aboriginal and built heritage, while growing a city of the future.

Objective 2.3(b)	Ensure that significant heritage elements are respected while addressing the future housing, commerce and recreational needs of the community.
-------------------------	--

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.1 Community members have access to green, diverse, and inclusive open spaces and facilities enabling them to lead active lives, enjoy nature, and connect with others.

Objective 3.1(a)	Enhance community members' access to climate-change resilient leafy, well-maintained, inclusive public open spaces, prioritising areas with low wellbeing measures.
Objective 3.1(b)	Leverage Launceston's network of waterways by rehabilitating and connecting riparian corridors, connecting them with the public open space network and supporting improvements to the Kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary and surrounding precinct.
Objective 3.1(c)	Ensure neighbourhoods are well-served through community activity hubs that are accessible and inclusive, provide a range of amenities, create opportunities for a diverse range of community activities and support Launceston's diverse cultural, economic, and age groups.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Commonwealth Government was delayed in providing the first instalment of funding under the Housing Support Program Stream 1, as it had to be arranged with the State Government. The Funding Agreement was signed on 28 May 2025, and the first installment was received on 3 June 2025. The balance payment will be transferred upon completion of the project.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Attachment 1 - St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan (Structure Plan & Infrastructure Funding [**19.2.1** - 126 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan, Background Report, Mesh [**19.2.2** - 102 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan, Stage 1 Engagement Summary, 2025, Era Ad [**19.2.3** - 8 pages]
4. Attachment 4 - St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan, Stage 2 Engagement Summary, 2025, Era Ad [**19.2.4** - 10 pages]
5. Attachment 5 - St Leonards Neighbourhood Plan, Integrated Transport Assessment, 2025, Pitt & Sherry [**19.2.5** - 67 pages]
6. Attachment 6 - St Leonards Structure Plan, Stormwater - Stage 2 Report, 2025, P Itt & Sherry [**19.2.6** - 240 pages]
7. Attachment 7 - St Leonards Stormwater Management, F M 01 Concept- Investigation Report, 2025, Pitt & [**19.2.7** - 68 pages]
8. Attachment 8 - St Leonards Structure Plan, Retail and Community Infrastructure Needs Analysis Report [**19.2.8** - 60 pages]
9. Attachment 9 - St Leonards Structure Plan, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, 2025, Cul [**19.2.9** - 84 pages]
10. Attachment 10 - St Leonards Structure Plan, Historic Heritage Assessment Report, 2025, Cultural Heri [**19.2.10** - 114 pages]
11. Attachment 11 - Waverley- St Leonards Structure Plan, Agricultural Land Capability Assessment, 2024, [**19.2.11** - 34 pages]
12. Attachment 12 - St Leonards Structure Plan, Bushfire Advice Report, 2025, North Barker Ecosystem Ser [**19.2.12** - 18 pages]
13. Attachment 13 - St Leonards Structure Plan, Natural Values Constraints, 2024, North Barker Ecosystem [**19.2.13** - 83 pages]

19.3. Response to Notice of Motion - Councillor A E Dawkin - Traffic Calming on Gorge and Trevallyn Roads

FILE NO: SF2075

AUTHOR: Lachlan Peterson (Traffic Engineer)

APPROVER: Chelsea van Riet (Executive Leader Community Assets and Design)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the Notice of Motion – Traffic Calming on Gorge and Trevallyn Roads actions.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Road Rules Act 2019
Traffic Act 1925
Vehicle & Traffic Act 1999
Local Government Highways Act 1982

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council – 11/2/2021 - 15.1 - Traffic Calming on Gorge and Trevallyn Roads
Workshops – 13/5/2021 & 2/12/2021

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes the works completed to date; and accepts that no further actions will be undertaken due to other initiatives in the area that are contributing to the goal of overall safety and efficiency of the road network.

REPORT:

Background

On 27 January 2021, a Notice of Motion carried requesting that Council investigate and implement traffic calming measures on Trevallyn and Gorge Roads. These measures included speed reduction, physical barriers such as speed humps and roundabouts, and safe pedestrian crossings.

The following 14 actions were presented at Council Workshops on 13 May 2021 and 2 December 2021:

1. Install 50km/h signage.
2. Install centreline reflectors.
3. Install sharrow bicycle symbol line marking.
4. Develop an education campaign referencing driving on narrow and hilly city streets as part of the broader education campaign in the Launceston Transport Strategy Work Plan.

5. Undertake improvements to existing safety barriers to ensure safe operation in line with current standards.
6. Monitor vehicle speeds following completion of short-term improvements.
7. Develop initial design concepts and test feasibility of a raised junction at South Esk Road, Trevallyn.
8. Request the Transport Commission to reduce the speed limit on Gorge Road and Trevallyn Road to 40km/h.
9. Conduct a risk assessment to identify hazards that can be relocated successfully.
10. Identify feasible opportunities to widen footpaths.
11. Dependent on initial feasibility findings, undertake further design work for the construction of a raised intersection platform at the Trevallyn/South Esk Road, Trevallyn junction.
12. Identify a suitable location for a formal pedestrian crossing point in the vicinity of Trevallyn Road/South Esk Road, Trevallyn.
13. Improve lighting on the flat section of Trevallyn Road
14. Investigate accelerating the reseal of Gorge Road hill with skid resistant asphalt.

As of 1 October 2025, the following actions have been completed:

Items 1, 2, 3 and 14:

- 50km/h signage, centreline reflectors, and sharrow bicycle markings installed on Trevallyn Road
- Gorge Road hill resurfaced with skid-resistant asphalt
- Edgelines painted on Trevallyn Road to narrow and channelise traffic.

Item 6

- The denial of the speed limit reduction subsequently made item 6, (to monitor speeds following the completion of short-term improvements) obsolete.

Item 8

- A request was made to the Department of State Growth to lower speeds on Gorge Road and Trevallyn Road from 50km/h to 40km/h. This was denied due to inconsistency with the state speed management framework

Residual Actions and Future Direction

Residual actions from the original Notice of Motion fall into three categories:

- Driver education – item 4
- Trevallyn Road/South Esk Road Intersection – items 7, 11, and 12
- Risk assessment and potential outcomes (lighting upgrades, safety barriers, and removal of hazards) – items 5, 9, 10, and 13

Broad driver education campaigns are of limited effectiveness compared to practical improvements and do not progress any strategic goals in this space, as outlined below further initiatives are occurring within the area and as a result it is recommended that item 4 is not actioned.

Sightlines at the Trevallyn Road/South Esk Road intersection prevent a safe pedestrian crossing facility without full signalisation which would come at significant expense. Due to the low utilisation of the pedestrian crossing this option was not deemed viable. Further, extreme grades would make compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act improbable limiting the function of the crossing.

A more effective option is the upcoming works by the Department of State Growth renewing Kings Bridge. This presents an opportunity to request wider footpaths and a safer crossing facility at or near the bridge. This would serve a broader range of users than a facility at South Esk Road. Discussions with the Department of State Growth regarding the Kings Bridge renewal are currently occurring.

Furthermore, the anticipated signalisation the Forest Road/West Tamar Highway intersection by the Department of State Growth will see substantial changes to the use of Trevallyn Road. This will greatly change its importance as a link for people travelling from Trevallyn to Launceston City Centre. The new signals, likely to be installed within the next 18 months, will enable pedestrians and cyclists to safely cross the West Tamar Highway to the existing shared path on the river side and vehicles to safely turn right onto the West Tamar Highway towards Launceston Central Business District. The diagram below (Figure A) shows the anticipated change to the desired path of drivers from Trevallyn north of Gorge Road post-signalisation.

This is expected to reduce traffic volumes on Trevallyn Road and Gorge Road which will lead to an increase in safety for all road users.

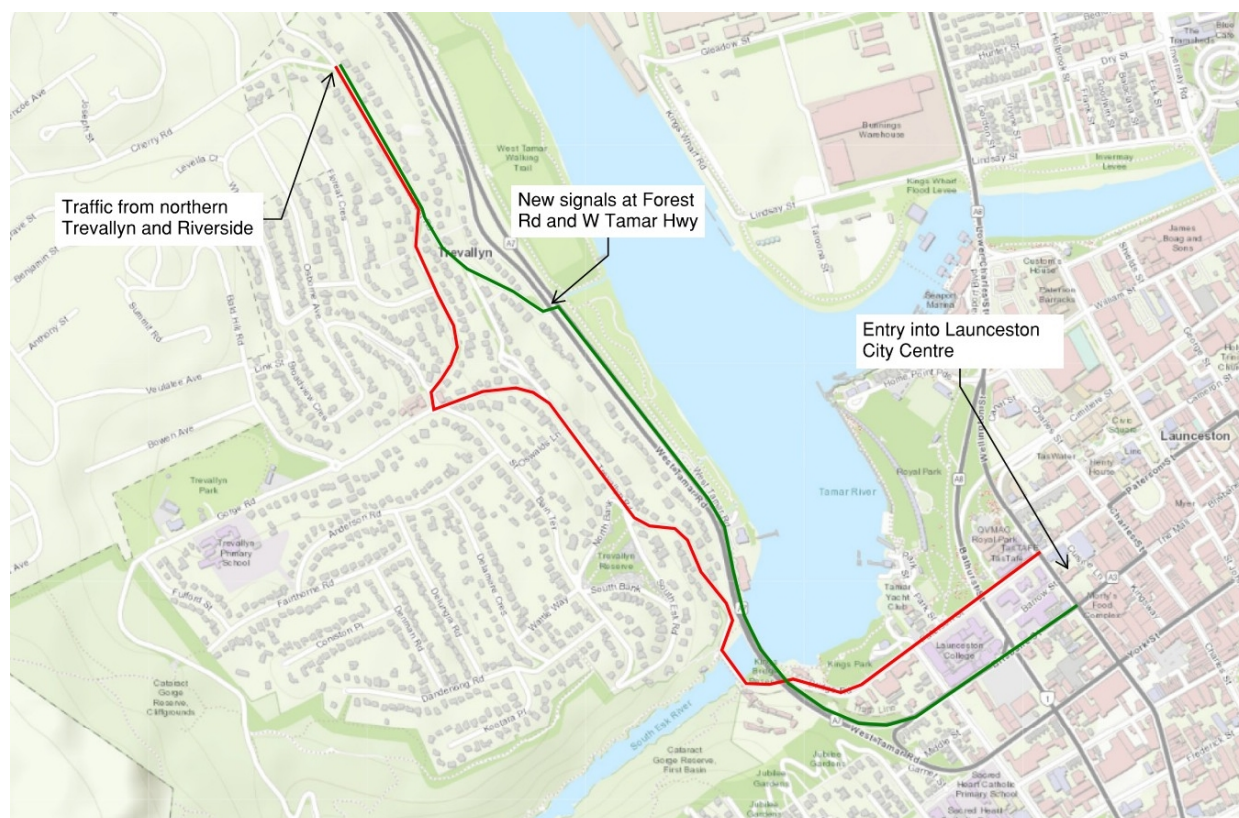


Figure A: Desired driving routes from northern Trevallyn to Launceston City Centre – Red = Existing, Green = Future

Given the anticipated improvements from broader network changes, it is recommended that Council does not action any further items.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Public safety risks regarding road safety on Trevallyn Road, Gorge Road, and South Esk Road are relevant. Vulnerable road users using Trevallyn Road and crossing Trevallyn Road to access South Esk Road, however the implemented actions have improved safety on Gorge Road and Trevallyn Road.

Further improvements in safety on Trevallyn Road and Gorge Road are expected due to the planned network changes at Kings Bridge and lower traffic volumes on both roads due to the installation of traffic lights at the Forest Road/West Tamar Highway intersection.

Despite expected traffic volume reductions, it is noted that residual risks may remain due to the challenging geometry and topography of Trevallyn.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The economic, social, and environmental impact of creating safe, pleasant, and connected walking and active transportation network is relevant.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Strategic Pillar 2 - Place

Goal 2.2 Launceston's transport system connects communities, reduces car dependency in activity centres and corridors, and promotes active transportation options.

Objective 2.2(c)

Develop a safe, pleasant and connected walking and active transportation network that is integrated with the transport system, across Launceston's urban footprint.

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.3 As northern Tasmania's cultural and commercial centre, Launceston's historic city heart is buzzing with activity throughout the day and into the night.

Objective 3.3(c)

Create a walkable centre and optimise the use of public space by reducing car dominance and expanding opportunities for greening and alternative forms of transport.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

No cost is expected if the report recommendations are accepted by council.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

20. DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE

20.1. Delivery and Performance Quarterly Report

FILE NO: SF0927

AUTHOR: Emily Causley (Executive Assistant - Delivery and Performance)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive a report about activities of Delivery and Performance between 1 July and 30 September 2025.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the report noting the activities of Delivery and Performance for the period 1 July and 30 September 2025.
-

REPORT:

Executive Leader Report

While much of the Delivery Performance Team's day-to-day work remains focused on business as usual activities, as outlined in each team's report, there have been several exciting highlights over the past quarter.

Vendor demonstrations for Project Ignite took place for three days (by each tenderer) - a significant investment of time from both the Tender Panel and other Council Officers. A recommendation is due to Council before the end of the calendar year.

The Executive Leader undertook Incident Controller Level 2 Training alongside the Emergency Management Advisor and Executive Leader – Strategy & Innovation for three days at TasWater with staff from various organisations. This training provided a sound basis for future emergency responses.

Negotiations continued with Theatre North with regards to the management agreement for the Albert Hall ahead of the upcoming reopening.

The transfer of University of Tasmania Stadium to Stadiums Tasmania was finalised in July, following many years of negotiations and background work. The many Council staff involved in this process are to be congratulated for their efforts.

Stakeholder Meetings

- Audit Panel Quarterly Meeting
- Major Projects Tasmania Conference
- Asset Management Steering Committee
- Reserve Bank of Australia
- Inveresk Precinct Site Meeting
- Flood Recovery Steering Group
- Barrington Treasury
- Various banking discussions with externals

Council Workshops

- Petition to Amend Sealed Plan – Junction St South Launceston
- Ravenswood Over 50s Club
- Petition to Amend Sealed Plan – 76 Cimitiere Street
- Council Committees
- Gorge Chairlift Proposed Redevelopment

Council Meeting (Open) Reports

- Monthly Financial Performance Reports
- Albert Hall Cafe Update
- Deputy Municipal Management Coordinator and Municipal Recovery Coordinator Roles
- Fees and Charges Amendments 25/26
- Petition to Amend Sealed Plan – 32 Junction Street Newstead
- Audit Panel Meeting – 19 May 2025
- Disposal of Council's Interest in Easement in SP141649 at 76 Cimitiere Street, Launceston
- Committee Membership and Terms of Reference for the CEO's Contract and Performance Review Committee
- 2025/2026 Budget Amendments
- Lease – Tasmanian Ambulance Service

Council Meeting (Closed) Reports

- Lease – Punchbowl Cottage
- Annual Remission of Rates and Charges - Year Ended 30 June 2025 - Charitable Organisations

SENIOR LEADER PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Senior Leader

In addition to supporting the HR, OD and WHS Team to undertake business as usual services and progress project work, the Senior Leader People and Culture has been working on:

Working Groups:

- Child and Youth Safe Framework, including policy and procedure development
- Integrated Planning and Reporting
- Service Management
- AI Roadmap

As well as progressing:

- An ELT Paper to engage with ELT regarding our next Cultural Survey
- An ELT Paper to provide ELT with an update on our Leadership Development Program for the whole leadership team
- Annual Plan actions, including the Aboriginal Partnership Plan actions
- Notice of Motion Close Out Reports
- Plans for the End of Year Celebration team events
- Plans for our People and Culture end of calendar year workshop to check in on our priorities, celebrate achievements and further develop our understanding of conflict using DiSC
- Implementation of random testing in line with our new Alcohol and Other Drugs in the Workplace Policy

The Human Resources (HR) Team have undertaken the following Business as Usual (BAU) work during the last quarter:

- **Employee Departures:**
 - 3.9% Turnover Rate in the last quarter
- **Exit Interviews:**
 - 6 exit interviews conducted
 - 24% of employees who left this quarter participated in an exit interview, reflecting a 26% decrease in participation from the previous quarter
- **Personal Advice Forms:**
 - 61 Personal Advice Forms were processed in the last quarter
- **Remuneration Reviews:**
 - 19 Remuneration Reviews were processed in the last quarter

The HR Team have undertaken the following Special Projects and Initiatives during the last quarter:

Policy and Procedure Reviews

Ongoing reviews to ensure HR policies remain current, practical, and aligned with contemporary workforce standards and Our Values. This work supports consistent, legally compliant, and fair practices across the organisation.

Completed:

- Code of Conduct
- Workplace Behaviour Policy
- Employee Transition to Retirement Policy

In Progress:

- Disciplinary Policy and Procedure – updates to ensure fairness and compliance with legislative requirements
- Communications Policy – provides clearer expectations around internal and external communications
- Fitness for Work Policy – ensures clear processes for managing health, wellbeing, and fitness for duty concerns
- Rehabilitation Policy – strengthens support for employees returning to work after injury or illness

New Policy Development:

- Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Policy – being developed to promote an inclusive, equitable, and diverse workplace culture
- Relocation Policy and Procedure
- Probation Policy and Procedure

Ariarne Titmus Swimming Scholarship

The City of Launceston Ariarne Titmus Scholarship is awarded annually to a talented young swimmer. The scholarship covers one year of standard Swim Club registration fees (up to \$3,000), including full aquatic membership at the Launceston Leisure and Aquatic Centre. The HR Team coordinated the interview and selection process to determine a preferred candidate.

Recruitment Process Sessions with Leaders

The HR Team delivered sessions across multiple sites to support leaders in building their understanding of the end-to-end recruitment process. These sessions helped clarify responsibilities and will improve consistency.

Enterprise Agreement

Enterprise Agreement bargaining is now well underway. The bargaining committee is focused on a constructive and collaborative process. We are currently collating claims from all sides and are working through identifying areas of alignment, as well as areas where there's room to develop mutually beneficial solutions. Employees will continue to be updated as the process progresses.

Careers Session – Skills to Thrive

The City of Launceston partnered with Starting Point Ravenswood Neighbourhood House to deliver the Skills to Thrive program. The first session was held on 4 July 2025 at QVMAG and the second on 19 September 2025 at Town Hall. Staff shared their career journeys and spoke about opportunities within Council, providing an inspiring experience. This initiative was a valuable way to engage with and give back to the community.

Employee Benefits Project

The HR Team is progressing work on enhancing our employee benefits. One initiative involves partnering with a third party provider offering vendor discounts and novated leasing, which is currently at the contract review stage. In addition, the City of Launceston has joined the waiting list for Fitness Passport to provide employees with discounted access to gyms and fitness facilities.

Recruitment Marketing

The HR Team is working with the Communications Team to enhance our recruitment marketing including a new video to promote Launceston (place brand), updates to our Careers website with employee testimonials and videos, improvements to our ads and to the methods we use to target recruitment marketing campaigns for different roles.

HR Special Interest Group (HRSIG)

Our HR Officers attended the HR Special Interest Group meeting, which featured a range of speakers on current and emerging HR topics. The session also provided valuable opportunities for professional development and networking with other councils.

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Team

The Work Health and Safety (WHS) Team have undertaken the following Business as Usual (BAU) work during the last quarter:

Risk Assessments

- 8 Risk assessments with 7 teams across the organisation

PCBU and WHS Committee Meetings

- 3 Facilitations of the WHS Committee Meetings
- 0 Facilitation of a PCBU meetings (the last quarterly meeting did not go ahead due to ELT availability)
- The WHS Team are currently working with the Executive Leadership Team to enhance the PCBU meeting process to be more effective and efficient

Policy and Procedure Reviews

- 13 process and documentation reviews/additional process documentation.
Including:
 - 21-Pr-180 Response to a Positive Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) Result - Standard Operating Procedure
 - 21-Pr-182 Parking Officer Dealing with Threatening or Abusive Conduct by the Public - Standard Operating Procedure
 - 21-Pr-184 Safe Work Procedure Hot Water High-Pressure Cleaner
 - 21-Pr-187 Worker requirement to submit a test sample for Alcohol or Other Drugs - Standard Operating Procedure
 - 21-HLPr-032 Threatening or Abusive Conduct by the Public High Level Procedure
 - 21-Pr-181 Utility Winch VRS V4000 - Safe Work Procedure
 - 21-Pr-186 Safe Handling and Fitting of Shoulder-Strapped Equipment - Standard Operating Procedure SOP
 - 21-ToR-001 Health & Safety Committee Terms of Reference
 - 21-PR-178 Standard Operating Procedure - Random Testing Selection Process
 - 21-Fm-166 Medical Release Form - Baseline Audiometric Testing Results
 - 21-Pr-183 - Safe Work Procedure Komptech Trommel Screen
 - 21-Pr-177 Safe Work Procedure - Cat 730 Articulated Truck
 - 21-Pr-185 NTCA Covering Cricket Wicket in Football Season -Standard Operating Procedure SOP

The WHS Team have undertaken the following Special Projects and Initiatives during the last quarter:

Major Workplace Change: Seriously Entertained Change (SEC)

Collaborated with the HR Team to implement the seriously entertained change relating to Alcohol and Other Drug Management in the Workplace.

Heated Vests and Jackets

Tried the use of heated jackets and vests during the winter months with selected outdoor employees. The results of this trial are currently being compiled for consideration by the Senior Leadership Team.

WHS Management System

Completed a review of our WHS Management System has taken place. An internal audit program will be developed and implemented to determine compliance with our Safety Management System over the coming months.

Volunteer Management

Commenced leading a Working Group to review the volunteer management process across the organisation.

The Organisational Development (OD) Team have undertaken the following Business as Usual (BAU) and project work during the last quarter:

City of Launceston Values

Our Values guide how we work, plan, and engage with each other and our community. This quarter, carousel banners have been used to promote each Value in an engaging, visual way, including key messages linked to *We Go Home Safe and Well*.

Employees are encouraged to recognise colleagues who demonstrate Our Values through Values Recognition cards. This quarter, a total of 125 recognitions were distributed across the organisation to recognise Our Values in Action.

Together, the carousel banners and Values Recognition cards support our Valued to be embedded in everyday work, keeping them visible, front of mind, and part of our daily practice.

DiSC Profiles and Engagement

DiSC is a framework that helps Our People understand different personality styles and how they influence our behaviour and interactions.

Understanding DiSC and styles of others can improve communication, enhance teamwork, and foster more effective interactions in a professional setting.

This quarter the OD Team has issued:

- 30 DiSC assessment reports
- 30 DiSC profiles have been completed.

Employee Development Framework

Designed, planned, and implemented training and development initiatives that are focused on enhancing corporate knowledge and capability while aligning with the Employee Development Framework (EDF) and meeting our compliance requirements.

Compliance Training

During the last quarter, the following Compliance licensing and certifications were completed by City of Launceston team members:

Mental Health First Aid: 5
HSR Training: 3
Operate as Warden: 4
Provide First Aid: 5

Corporate Training

The following corporate training was completed this quarter:

- Introduction to DiSC: 7
- Induction Tour of Facilities: 11
- Safety Circle Essentials: 65
- Code of Conduct: 265
- Issue Resolution Policy: 281
- Performance Management Policy: 271
- SafetyCircle Induction: 255
- Sexual Harassment: 310
- Transition to Retirement Policy: 170
- Workplace Behaviour Policy: 336
- Workplace Health and Safety Policy: 275

Leadership Development Training

The following Leadership and Development Training has been completed in the quarter and includes an outline of upcoming initiatives:

- Diploma in Local Government (for Senior Leaders): 13
- Emerging Leaders (Leda) Program: 9 (this training is ongoing)
- Trauma Informed Leadership: 5

Diploma of Local Government

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Team Leader Organisational Development have concluded their intensive learning journey of Diploma in Local Government, which started on 18th October 2024.

This program is of strategic importance to the City of Launceston, as it directly aligns with our commitment to developing our leaders to provide exceptional services to the community.

During the program, the SLT acquired knowledge from a number of guest presenters and facilitators in their area of expertise, where they discussed and developed skills that address the specific needs of our organisation.

Emerging Leaders Program (Leda) Update

The *LEDA* Emerging Leaders Program empowers our emerging leaders with practical tools to build their confidence in future leadership roles. Through a blend of accredited training, mentoring, and leadership experiences, participants build critical skills in communication, strategic thinking, and team leadership. The program is designed to accelerate personal growth, enhance workplace impact, and prepare leaders for future challenges in dynamic organisational environments:

The focus areas in this quarter have been:

- Develop a Growth Mindset
- Achieve Emotional Self-Control
- Managing Focus

Feedback:

- *"I really enjoyed the opportunity to discuss with others on their reflections from the prompts. I would have liked even more time to do this and learn from them."*
- *"The support from mentors and facilitators has been great, they've been really encouraging and approachable. It's also been great to be on this journey with others from across the organisation."*
- *"Having a mentor has been excellent and I wouldn't have done it without the program."*

Learning Management System (LMS)

Concluded the successful transition to our new Learning Management System (Adobe Learning Manager/MyLearning).

The new platform has already secured strong organisational buy-in with **60% employee adoption** and high course completion (96% completion from start rate), positioning the platform as a strong asset for learning and development.

During phases 1 and 2 of the project, we have customised the platform, integrated the data flow with internal Corporate Applications and developed content tailored to the City of Launceston's needs, including building accessibility for a range of learning styles.

Since implementation 1,853 learning modules have been completed in the LMS.

Organisational Compliance Framework Update

The following tools are continuing to being developed to assist in managing our compliance training processes:

- Training needs analysis relevant to Position Descriptions and key tasks and activities
- Creation of a self-registration process for our leaders and our employees, to reduce administration handling by the OD Team and front-loading participants with key information. This is currently being trialled and will create efficiencies reducing the end-to-end process and enhance employee's interaction with training
- Establishing a preferred provider's matrix.

Capability Framework Review

Commenced a review of the Employee Capability Framework to ensure it aligns with current strategies, evolving skill requirements, and future workforce needs.

To support this work, the team has engaged an external consultant with expertise in Capability Frameworks.

The revised framework will strengthen talent attraction, retention development, workforce planning, and performance alignment, ensuring employees are equipped to deliver on organisational priorities.

Annual Performance Development Discussions (PDDs)

Launched the annual Performance Development Discussion (PDD) program.

This year, the program was delivered using a cascaded approach, beginning with the Executive Leadership Team and progressing through leadership levels to employees. This structure was designed to strengthen the alignment between strategic priorities and operational goals, ensuring a clear line of sight and clear priorities across all levels of the organisation.

To date, 280 employees have completed their PDDs, with a further 350 scheduled for completion. The OD Team is currently reviewing goal outputs to identify common themes in training and development needs, which will inform future capability-building initiatives. Over the coming month, HR and OD Teams will continue working collaboratively to ensure all employees participate in a PDD, in alignment with our Enterprise Agreement obligations.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub

The OD team worked with the WHS Team to refresh and expand the Hub, making it easier for employees to access practical tips, guidance, and resources to support their wellbeing. To promote the Hub, we shared five Viva Engage posts, including *The Power of Connection*, *We All Have Tough Days*, and *Opening Up Lightens the Load*, which directly contributed to increased awareness and engagement. In the past 30 days, the Hub received 65 views (+132%), and a total of 427 views over 90 days, showing employees are actively exploring and using these resources.

Pulse Check Surveys

Our Pulse Check Surveys provide timely, anonymous insights into the experiences of the People and Culture, LAC, and City Amenities teams, helping us understand what is working well and where we can improve. The surveys highlight areas where teams are thriving and identify opportunities for targeted action, enabling leaders to align daily practice with all Our Values, from caring for our people and community, to bringing an open mind, and going home safe and well.

By listening to employee feedback, we can make meaningful changes, celebrate successes, and support teams in living Our Values every day. These insights help us create a workplace where everyone feels valued, heard, and empowered to contribute, ensuring that our Values aren't just words on a page but part of everyday practice.

SENIOR LEADER FINANCE

Accounting

July is a busy time for the Accounting Team as we complete and distribute final Operations and Capital Reports for the 2024/2025 financial year. This July and August also saw the implementation and use for the first time of new software (Cloud YE) to produce the annual Financial Statements. The implementation was not only successful and met the statutory 45-day deadline of 15th August but was completed by Council's newly appointed Senior Financial Accountant. Following completion of the Financial Statements, several team members supported the Tasmanian Audit Office to complete the financial audit for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Simultaneously, there was a large body of work required to prepare and setup for the new 2025/2026 financial year. This involves many tasks which include systems and report maintenance; budget reconciliation and phasing; and account analysis and review. In addition, the Team have contributed towards ongoing system and process improvements reducing the manual overhead to manage tasks. One example is in relation to the Council wide distribution of the monthly operation reports. Individual employee email addresses have been replaced with position email addresses. By using position email addresses, it has reduced the overhead of updating the report distribution list each time an individual employee changes position due to acting or secondment opportunities. The Accounting Team has also provided support to other areas of Council to complete various reporting requirements. A couple of examples throughout this quarter are the Council of Museum Directors (CAMD) Survey and the ABS Energy & Water Survey.

In September the Accounting Team participated in two separate multi day workshop opportunities. The first related to Project Ignite which involved demonstrations by two software providers to replace Council's corporate wide software. And the second related to Asset Criticality Workshops organised by the Asset Management Project Team. The purpose is to review the importance of assets within all asset classes across Council. This will help prioritise resources to assets that are crucial for community services and safety.

Asset Accounting has processed the following transactions:

- Capitalisation of 34 assets valued at \$898,429
- Disposed of 165 assets with a combined written down value of \$152,105
- 6 Budget amendments all of which will be reported to this Council meeting

And finally we have welcomed two new team members in recent months.

Payables

Accounts Payable Processing

- Received and actioned 10,438 accounts payable emails over the qtr., averaging 155 emails each weekday.
- The team processed 5158 invoices/credits totally \$36,743,736.38. With a total of 1898 supplier payments totalling \$34,665,318.78 followed over from previous months payment terms.
- The team processed 6 regular fortnightly accounts payable runs, with a few one-off payments.
- There were 124 new suppliers created in our creditors system.
- Created 3815 invoice workflows and sent to employees to be actioned.
- We held 7 purchase order training sessions for 12 employees. Provided daily support from phone queries to at your desk assistance.
- Reconciled 576 supplier monthly statements.
- Reconciled and processed 180 debit card re-loads for 65 debit cards.
- Purchase Order commitment reports created and sent out to employees. Assistance provided to cancel old purchase orders and investigate.
- Created 131 utilities purchase orders (Aurora, Taswater) including discrepancies with new connections/meter readings and suspected water leaks.
- Created ad-hoc purchase orders for our Telstra, Cabcharge.
- Provided information requested by our Legal Team for UTAS transfer and Right to Information requests.
- The team continue to work with Stadiums Tas to finalise supplier accounts with CoL and transfer to Stadiums Tas.

Payroll Processing

- System configuration was completed to facilitate the City of Launceston Enterprise agreement increases to wages and allowances which took effect in mid July.
- City of Launceston Defined Benefit Superannuation Annual Review information was collated and distributed to Care Super.
- The team processed 7 regular fortnightly payroll runs for 639 employees, totalling \$12,652,939.15. Superannuation contributions totalling \$1,797,896.54 have been allocated to 59 superannuation funds.
- Federal Government wage subsidies were administered with \$10,632.80 in funding received.
- State Government Payroll Tax Rebates were administered with \$2,202 received.
- We held payroll inductions and completed system set up for 37 new employees.
- We calculated and processed payments for 24 employees departing the organisation.
- The payroll team worked closely with Stadiums Tasmania on the transfer of CoL employees to Stadiums Tasmania.
- The team continue to work closely with the HR team to analyse and provide information being used for Enterprise Bargaining project.

Receivables;

Rates

The Rates team have issued 33,162 annual rates notices, followed by 4,268 final notices, 283 Supplementary valuation rates notices, a total of 37,713 rates notices issued entirely, either electronically or hard copy. The team issued 1,561 council certificates, 1082 Certificate of Liabilities (132) and 479 Council Land Information Certificates (337). The team processed 621 property ownership transfers, we also processed 53 applications for new garbage bins and 471 changes to existing bins including damaged (257), stolen (144), change in size (51) and swallowed by truck (19). The team have also recorded \$34,813,637.66 rates payments and welcomed a new Rates Officer into the team.

Receivables

We issued 1,410 sundry debtor invoices, with a total invoices amount of \$9,697,204.65 (Inc), total invoices paid \$3,538,960.78. Balance outstanding \$6,158,243.87 (Inc), Largely due to pending grant funding of \$3,500,000.00 for albert hall, \$400,000.00 for gorge project, \$244,270.00 for flood authority, and \$137,500.00 for Northern Gateway Project.

SENIOR LEADER TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Technology Services

Service desk

IT Service desk Stats for the quarter are as follows and contains work completed by the Technology Services Team and the Corporate Applications Team.

Data	Calculation	Result
Total number of IT tickets closed	Incidents + Service Requests completed last quarter.	2790
Total number of end-user generated IT tickets closed	Incidents + Service Requests (exl. Internal tasks, recurring tasks, events etc.) Requests completed last quarter.	1343
Total number of end-user generated tickets that were received via a phone call.	Incidents + Service Requests which have a request mode of "Phone Call" completed last quarter.	172
Knowledge base articles created and reviewed	Number of KB articles reviewed + Number of KB articles created last quarter.	31
Number of Device Deployed/Setup	Devices deployed/setup for the quarter including phone, tablets and pc's	200

Sentinel

These figures outline the volume of security notifications the team review and deal with this quarter.

Data	Calculation	Result
Total number of Sentinel incidents reviewed, actioned and closed	All sentinel security incidents reviewed, actioned and closed last quarter	604
High Severity Sentinel incidents reviewed, actioned and closed	High Severity incidents reviewed, actioned and closed last quarter	266
Medium Severity Sentinel incidents reviewed, actioned and closed	Medium Severity incidents reviewed, actioned and closed last quarter	17
Low Severity Sentinel incidents reviewed, actioned and closed	Low Severity incidents reviewed, actioned and closed last quarter	16
Informational Sentinel incidents reviewed, actioned and closed	Informational incidents reviewed, actioned and closed last quarter	305

Recruitment

Two recently vacated positions recruited and onboarded:

- Cyber Security Specialist
- Senior IT Infrastructure and Systems Administrator

Windows 11 upgrade

Rollout is currently underway with a priority on first replacing and upgrading dated hardware - 120 devices completed so far.

Albert Hall

All required IT Networking infrastructure procured, configured, and installed.

VPN Upgrade

Council's new remote access solution has been extensively tested and is currently being phased into production as we upgrade our devices to windows 11.

Windows Server 2016 end of life

Windows Server 2016 operating system will reach its end of life on 27 January 2027. Work is now underway to upgrade the operating systems on 36 servers, with planning focused on ensuring minimal disruption to business operations.

Network infrastructure upgrades (edge switching)

IT have procured and are configuring and replacing Council's edge switching infrastructure to enhance IT network performance, reliability and to increase Council's IT security posture.

- The following sites have been completed:
 - o Townhall
 - o Townhall Annexe
 - o Carr Villa
 - o Police station
 - o Remount Road
- The following sites are scheduled for completion by early November:
 - o Riverbend Park
 - o QVMAG
 - o Aquatic Centre
 - o Mowbray Central
 - o Car Parks

Application control - Airlock Digital

Strict application control is being implemented across all end-user laptops and desktops to stop the installation of unauthorized software (shadow IT) and enhance the overall security posture of the Council's network.

Implementation is being done in small groups to minimise disruptions - 50 devices enforced so far.

PMGMED2 Server Replacement

Council's backup server that manages data transmission between storage media is being replaced due to age. Projected completion is start of November.

Replacement handheld devices for Parking Team

IT have been working with ADR and the Parking Team to have the updated parking application installed, licensed and functioning on brand new devices. Currently pending advise from software vendor to see if we can have both old and new devices licensed at the same time to minimize parking operations downtime.

Corporate Applications

Recruitment

One vacant position recruited and onboarded:

- IT Business Applications Senior Support Analyst

Microsoft Surface Pro

- Pilot being undertaken - Health Inspections Team - access Full Tech1 Suite Remotely
 - Check in on Efficiencies on 5 November 2025 to determine success rate and next steps

End of Financial Year actions complete

- Rates Direct Payment Plan Schedules
- Annual Invoicing and Reminder Notices for Varying Teams in Council
- Food Billing Licences
- CBD Waste
- Smart Cards

Regulatory Business Processes

- 337s application - rebuild following legislation changes
- ORPR application - improvements (refine/re-sequence)
- Residential Parking Permit - new process

Bookable

- Road Safety Centre - various improvements following customer feedback
- Youngtown Oval, Royal Park Rugby Grounds and Rocherlea Oval went live 27 August 2025
- Churchill Park went live 24 September 2025

Human Resources Online Forms Migration Utilising Technology One Business and Forms Processing

- Individual Flexibility Arrangements
- ERAF - upgraded and now Complete
- Electronic Timesheets - Riverbend Park crew completing online and paper, seeking sign off in October. Staged release, expected final delivery in February 2026

2025A Tech 1 Upgrade

- Technical Upgrade and Installation occurring week commencing 13 October 2025
- Preparing SMEs for 2 rounds of testing
 - 20 October 2025 for Dev Environment
 - 17 November 2025 for Test Environment
- Regular meetings with Tech1 and Implementation team (Lisa Kane, Alex Lowe, Sarah Tighe)

ECM Migration to ELO Digital

- Currently working through Migration details with ELO

Information Services

For this period, Information Services has processed the following:

Data	Calculation	Result
Number of Emails through contacus@launceston.tas.gov.au	Logged as each email arrives	5080
Information Services Enquires	Calls and visits made to Information Services	490
Documents registered into ECM	Reported by each staff member	3319
Mail Opened	Reported by each staff member	1939
Mail Posted	Reported by each staff member	12818
Files Culled (Moved from hardcopy to digital)	Reported by each staff member	1724

PROJECT IGNITE

A non-public tender process commenced in June 2025 and consisted of the evaluation of written submissions and in-person demonstrations.

Demonstrations were conducted in September and Tenderer's were provided a maximum of three (3) days to demonstrate how their proposed solution met the defined criteria in the tender package. Over 100 key stakeholders were involved in the evaluation and delivered important feedback on the suitability of the application.

The Tender Panel has completed the evaluation and will now be involved in site visits to complete reference checking prior to the final short-listing.

An update will be provided to Council in November, before the Tender Report is finalised for a Council decision.

GOVERNANCE

Governance

Training for Council Officers in Doc Assembler (the software that is used to prepare agendas and minutes) has been a focus this quarter. This software brings consistency and sound process to document creation and is becoming more widely used across the Council for a variety of purposes. This includes the review of policy and procedures by the Senior and Executive Leadership teams, for collaboration on quarterly reports, and the collation of the Annual Report.

Insurance

- A personal injury claim lodged last quarter with the public liability insurer was settled with a full denial of liability and a nominal payment.
- A claim lodged with a third-party insurer for damages to a parking asset was settled with a payment made to the Council.
- An over-excess claim related to fire damage at a Council-managed site was initially denied but later overturned upon appeal. Partial coverage will be provided once repairs are completed, expected by the end of November 2025.
- An asset transfer between two entities occurred shortly after the insurance renewal date. Although typically no refund is issued in such cases, a significant premium refund was successfully negotiated due to the timing of the transfer.

Policy

A new process was introduced to review policies across the Council which incorporates consultation across the Senior and Executive Leadership Teams. This process enables feedback on draft policies to be considered jointly. Information received through the process can then be provided to show the responses received and identify whether they have been incorporated or not and the reason, to support endorsement and approval by Council or the Executive Leadership Team.

Work on our Policy Register continues to identify redundant policies and those that require review.

No new or amended Governance policies were adopted by Council this quarter. Governance policies under review include the Councillor Expenses and Resources Policy 14-Plx-016 in consideration of Schedule 5 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and those that need updating to reflect the new *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*. These policies will be presented to Council for adoption at a future Council meeting.

Risk

The Enterprise Risk Management Framework was approved by the Executive Leadership Team in August 2025, including the Enterprise Risk Management Policy, Process and Procedure. The Framework represents a significant step forward in maturing our risk management capabilities. It strengthens governance, simplifies risk processes, and ensures the Council is better positioned to anticipate and respond to risk in an increasingly complex environment.

A Risk Appetite Statement is currently being developed in consultation with Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team.

Procurement

Service contracts

Contract management activities have been a particular focus, with the Procurement team working closely with the Building Asset Management team to review existing service contracts and confirm adherence to service expectations. This includes services around:

- hygiene and sanitary services
- external toilet cleaning
- park maintenance and cleaning

Contracts have been signed and implemented for:

- cash handling Services at Town Hall, Launceston Aquatic Centre, Carr Villa, QVMAG and Launceston Waste Centre
- roadside weed management
- A panel for plumbing services

Supplier onboarding and compliance

75 new suppliers were onboarded and approximately 125 supplier details were updated.

Tenders and requests for quotations

The Procurement team has supported tenders and requests for quotations for the following projects:

- Bridge Condition Inspection Assessments
- Road and Footpath Condition Assessments
- Various Flood Intelligence Projects
- Tamar Yach Club Environmental Assessment
- Road Rehabilitation for McKellar Road and Hardwicke Street
- Punchbowl Reserve Play Space
- Fuel Products Supply
- Ownership and Operation of Electric Vehicle Charger Network

Instances of non-application of the public tender process for:

- Launceston Waste Centre Walking Floor Refurbishment
- Albert Hall Function Kitchen
- ESRI ARCGIS Software
- Royal Park new public amenities facility

The South Esk Road Guardrail Replacement and Johnson Road Pavement Rehabilitation tenders were presented and approved by the Council.

Legal Services

- Completion of the sale of part of land at Trevallyn Road, Trevallyn
- Preparation of Instruments of Authorisation and new identity cards to 48 authorised officers, pursuant to sections 20A and 20B of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas)
- Completed the Transfer of UTAS Stadium from Council to Stadiums Tasmania
- Assisted with the review and update of the Council Land Information Certificate template so that it is in line with the updated *Local Government (General) Regulations 2025*
- Provided legal opinions on various matters, including on a short-term access licence for the Old Velodrome Site
- Northern Gateway contracts
- Launceston Central agreement
- Sinclair Street property access
- LAC community initiatives
- St Leonards/Waverly Infrastructure project
- Negotiating Deed of Assignment - Active Launceston
- Represented the Council at the Magistrates Court in relation to a parking matter
- Preparation of the Theatre North - Albert Hall lease
- The draft Lease and Licence Policy has been submitted for review by Senior Leaders
- Preparation of various agreements for the clubs that currently use the NTCA grounds and facilities
- Contributing to a newly formed working group for landowner consent to ensure that landowner and lessor consent for development applications run smoothly
- Working with liquidators to ensure a smooth transition of the West Launceston Bowls Club vacating the building whilst ensuring the terms of the lease are met
- Preparing for an expression of interest process for the Gorge Restaurant lease
- Various applications for assessed disclosure under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Tas)

Emergency management

Recruitment is under way for an Emergency Management Advisor to fill a vacancy caused by a secondment.

SENIOR LEADER HEALTH AND COMPLIANCE

Leadership Update

Over the past four months, the Council Officer acting as the Senior Leader Health and Compliance was also the Team Leader Environmental Health. This Officer has now been permanently appointed as the Senior Leader Health and Compliance.

During this period, the team welcomed an Acting Team Leader Environmental Health for six weeks. They brought a valuable critical lens to the team, helping the team better understand the risks inherent in our roles. They initiated a project to review workloads and develop a triage matrix aimed at improving operational efficiency and enhancing customer experience.

Alongside this, the Senior Leader has been working closely with the Health and Compliance leadership team to:

- Review workloads and identify efficiency gains.
- Strengthen team culture.
- Set a shared leadership direction aligned with our Strategic Plan and legislative obligations.

The team also placed a temporary pause on the Regulations after-hours service to provide a much-needed respite for the Team Leaders Regulations, who had been covering double shifts for the past eight months. The service has now resumed, and we are working with the Regulations Team to set shared expectations that will future proof the team and elevate cohesion and success.

A key focus moving forward is building leadership capacity and resilience, and supporting leadership development across the team. These initiatives are especially important given the ongoing resourcing challenges, and they mark an exciting phase of growth and transformation for Health and Compliance.

Administration

The Administration Team has focused on improving operational efficiencies across Health and Compliance, including:

- Assuming responsibility for annual ordering for the Parking Team
- Centralising work request allocation for the Regulations Team
- Consolidating stationery and ordering processes department-wide
- Progressing the transition of all templates to new corporate branding, ensuring alignment with current legislative requirements

The Administration Team also coordinate the Immunisation Programs. The 2025 School Immunisation Program was successfully delivered, including service provision for the West Tamar municipality. A review of immunisation services has led to improved delivery and accessibility for the community.

Compliance

Despite ongoing resourcing and recruitment challenges, the Compliance Team has demonstrated resilience and collaboration by covering multiple roles. The Building Compliance role remains vacant due to a long-term secondment to the BAI team, despite extensive recruitment efforts.

Key outcomes include:

- A 25% increase in customer requests (149 total), with a 90% completion rate:
- Building: 55
- Planning: 46
- Plumbing: 34 (107% increase from last quarter)
- Collaborative engagement with the community has led to resolution of non-compliance across alterations, additions, outbuildings, and changes in use. These efforts have prompted professional engagement and permit issuance, reducing development risk.

Environmental Health

Operating under resourcing constraints and during recruitment of a senior leader, the Environmental Health team has maintained service delivery across a broad scope:

Activity Summary:

- 68 inspections/re-inspections
- 88 development applications
- 31 new food licence applications
- 99 food business enquiries
- 90 nuisance complaints
- 45 public health requests
- 9 onsite waste management applications
- 2 notifiable diseases
- 6 improvement notices issued

Notable Achievements:

- Development of a Wood Smoke Plan for Council Workshop.
- RFQ submission for environmental site assessment at Tamar Yacht Club.
- Review of 5 UTAS contaminated land reports to inform future strategy.
- Participation in Launceston College Futures Expo to promote careers in local government.
- Contribution to the 4-year delivery plan workshop.
- Finalisation of an updated Environmental Health Officer position description.

Parking

Team Relocation: Following a Seriously Entertained Change consultation, the Parking Team successfully transitioned from a satellite base to Town Hall. This move supports operational oversight and fosters a more connected and supportive environment, critical given the challenging nature of their work.

Community Engagement and Enforcement: In a legislative environment where enforcement is necessary, the team prioritises community engagement and encourages voluntary compliance. This approach not only improves public understanding and cooperation but also supports the psychological welfare of staff by reducing hostility and conflict, fostering a safer and more respectful working environment.

Road Occupancy Permit Process: The Parking Team continues to collaborate with the Traffic Team to enhance the rollout of the Road Occupancy Permit. An educational approach with contractors has led to increased permit uptake and improved safety. Enforcement strategies are now being explored for repeat non-compliance.

New Role – Parking Coordinator: The creation of the Parking Coordinator role will provide essential support to both the Team Leader and the Parking Team by alleviating operational workload, enabling a stronger strategic focus, and improving the triaging and resolution of complaints. This dedicated role has also created space for innovation and continuous improvement, and will enable the team to respond more efficiently and proactively to community needs. As a result, service levels will improve, with faster response times, clearer communication, and a more consistent approach to parking management - ultimately enhancing the community's experience and confidence in

Council's parking services. The role has been successfully filled with the Coordinator commencing in January 2026.

Regulations

The Regulations Team has remained active this quarter, conducting over 400 site inspections to follow up on overdue dog registrations, reinforcing responsible pet ownership and compliance. The team investigated 41 dog attacks and 89 barking complaints, while also engaging in valuable collaboration and knowledge-sharing with other councils. Highlights include a presentation to Townsville Council showcasing our adaptable evacuation pet container setup, and a meeting with Georgetown Council to share insights on our K9 unit vehicle configuration.

Our long-standing partnership with Delta Dog Safe concluded following their decision to discontinue their national education program, celebrating the delivery of 837 presentations to over 18,370 children since 2004.

In support of sustainability and process improvement, the team reviewed and updated website content to enhance accessibility and streamlined several application forms, including those for keeping multiple dogs and general dog-related requests. These efforts have improved service delivery, increased community awareness, and strengthened operational efficiency across the municipality.

KEY STATISTICS - DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE

Item	This Quarter	Last Quarter	% change (compared to last quarter)
Customer Service Requests (CSRs)			
CSRs - Open <90 days	128	110	16.36% ↑
CSRs - Open >90 days	127	204	37.75% ↓
CSRs - New	1409	1287	9.48% ↑
CSRs - Closed	1154	1157	0.26% ↓
Governance			
Tenders presented to Council - Number - Value	8 \$2,089,232.14 plus schedule of rates on the Asphalt Placement Periodic Contract and Panel of Providers - Plumbing Maintenance	6 \$1,852,564.16 plus Schedule of Rates on the LWC Scrap Metal Purchase & Removal CD001/2025	33.33% ↑ 12.78% ↑
Insurance claims - Customer Service Requests - Property - Personal	101 46 55	111 43 68	↓ 9.01% ↑ 6.98% ↓ 19.12%

Item	This Quarter	Last Quarter	% change (compared to last quarter)
- Claims received - Claims finalised - Claims flagged with Insurer	5 5 5	6 8 2	↓16.67% ↓37.5% ↑150%
People & Culture			
Recruitments	60	40	50% ↑
- External Appointments - Internal Appointments	33 25	24 15	37.5% ↑ 66.66% ↑
Employee Induction Checklists			
- Total inductions due - Completed inductions - Incomplete inductions	27 15 12	15 8 7	80% ↑ 87.5% ↑ 71.43% ↑
Position Evaluations (Mercer Reports) Completed	10	15	33.33% ↓
Employee Departures	25	27	7.41% ↓
Exit Interviews	6	9	33.33% ↓
Employee Investigations Commenced	19	4	375% ↑
Employee Matters Ongoing	16	22	27.27% ↓
Employee Matters Resolved	23	18	27.78% ↑
Workers Compensation Claims			
- Active Claims - Closed Claims	15 7	16 5	6.25% ↓ 28.57% ↓
Safety Circle Sessions Completed	8	13	38.46% ↓
Number of Attendants	86	113	23.89% ↓
Safety Bulletins, Alerts and Publications			
- Safety Bulletins and Alerts - Safety News Publications	3 3	4 3	25% ↓ -
Audits and Inspections			
- External Audit - WHS Audits/Inspections - HSR Workplace Inspections - Documented Site Interactions	0 1 33 50	1 7 14 47	100% ↓ 85.71% ↓ 135.71% ↑ 6.38% ↑
Incident Investigations Completed	7	7	-
Incident Investigations in Progress	0	8	100% ↓
Risk Assessments on teams/events	8	4	100% ↑
Values Recognitions			
- Our People Matter - We Bring an Open Mind - We Care About our Community - We Go Home Safe and Well	50 17 43 15	26 7 18 9	92.31% ↑ 142.86% ↑ 138.88% ↑ 66.67% ↑
Compliance Training Delivered	17	18	5.56% ↓
Corporate Training Completed	2246	233	863.95% ↑

Health & Compliance			
Building (RBG) Requests Completed	55	57	3.51%↓
Planning (RPL) Requests Completed	46	39	17.95%↑
Plumbing (RPD) Requests Completed	34	11	209.10%↑
Barking Dog Complaints	89	80	11.25% ↑
Dog Attacks	41	47	12.76% ↓
Technology & Information Services			
Total Number of IT Tickets closed	2790	2748	1.53% ↑
Total Number of End-User Tickets Closed	1343	1425	5.75% ↓
Total Number of End-User Tickets via Phone	172	210	18.10% ↓
Knowledge Base Articles Created and Reviewed	31	7	342.86% ↑
Total Number of Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actions and Closed	604	570	5.96% ↑
High Severity Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	266	216	23.15% ↑
Medium Severity Sentinel Incidents Reviewed , Actioned and Closed	17	44	61.36% ↓
Low Severity Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	16	20	20% ↓
Informational Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	305	290	5.17% ↑
Number of Devices Deployed	200	53	277.36% ↑
Number of Emails through contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au	5080	4841	4.94% ↑
Information Services Enquiries	490	513	4.48% ↓
Documents Registered into ECM	3319	3161	5.00 ↑
Mail Opened	1939	1486	30.48% ↑
Mail Posted	12818	10739	19.36% ↑
Files Culled	1724	513	236.06% ↑
Finance			
Payroll Runs Processed	7	6	16.67% ↑
Amount Paid in Wages	\$12,652,939.15	\$10,351,116.09	22.24%↑
Super Contributions	\$1,797,896.54	\$1,439,422.40	24.90% ↑
Payroll Inductions	37	25	48% ↑
Payroll Payments Processed for Departing Staff	24	28	14.28% ↓
Rates Notices Issued	37,713	22,311	69.03% ↑
• Instalment Reminders	-	20807	
• Final Notices	4,268	1504	183.78% ↑
Property Ownership Transfers	621	621	-
Bin Requests			
• New Bin	53	40	32.5% ↑
• Replacement of Damaged Bin	257	221	16.29% ↑
• Replacement of Stolen Bin	144	105	37.14% ↑
• Size Change Requests	51	36	41.67% ↑

• Replacement of Bin Swallowed by Truck	19	15	26.67% ↑
Sundry Debtor Invoices	1,410	1134	24.34% ↑
• Value	\$9,697,204.65	\$9,897,427	2.02% ↓
• Receipted Associated Payments	\$3,538,960.78	\$8,710,845	59.37% ↓

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 Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

20.2. 2025/2026 Budget - Budget Amendments

FILE NO: SF7769/SF7514

AUTHOR: Pieta Sinfield (Team Leader Accounting)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

For Council to consider changes to the Council's 2025/2026 Statutory Estimates and to consider adjustments made during 1 August 2025 to 30 September 2025 by the Chief Executive Officer to the 2025/2026 Budget.

A decision for Recommendation 1. requires an absolute majority of Council in accordance with section 82(4) of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. pursuant to section 82(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) and by an absolute majority, approves the following changes to the 2025/2026 Statutory Estimates:
 - (a) Expenses
 - i. the net increase in operations expenditure of \$241,230.
 - (b) Capital Works Expenditure
 - i. the decrease in the Council's funded expenditure of \$238,913.
 2. notes that amendments from Recommendation 1. result in:
 - (a) the operating deficit being amended to \$1,027,840 (including capital grants of \$10,904,079) for 2025/2026.
 - (b) the capital budget being decreased to \$41,788,472 for 2025/2026.
 3. pursuant to section 82(7) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), receives the Chief Executive Officer's report on adjustments to the 2025/2026 budget for the period 1 August 2025 to 30 September 2025.
-

REPORT:

1. Budget Amendments

The budget amendments are changes to the Statutory Estimates which require a Council decision. The changes relate to external grant revenue, additional funding request, and transfers between operations and capital projects.

	Operations \$'000	Capital \$'000
Statutory Budget as 01/07/2025	2,097	34,007
Adjustments Approved by Council to 31/07/2025	8,020	8,020
Balance Previously Advised as at 31/07/2025	10,117	42,027
Amendments		
Additional Council Funds	(2)	0
Capital to Operations	(486)	(486)
Operations to Capital	247	247
External Funds	0	0
External Funds Not Received	0	0
Statutory Budget as at 30/09/2025	9,876	41,788
Deduct Capital Grants and Contributions	(10,904)	
Underlying Operating Budget Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,028)	

The table summarises all other Budget Agenda Items and includes reconciliations of the budgeted operating result and capital expenditure.

Details of the amendments are as follows:

1(a) The following items need to be allocated additional Council funding:

Project Number	Project Description	Current Approved Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	New Budget
OP25496	Lilydale Football Club NOM	\$0	\$2,317	\$0	\$2,317
	TOTALS	\$0	\$2,317	\$0	\$2,317

The project scope of works:

During the Council Meeting of 29 May 2025, Council passed a Notice of Motion to contribute up to \$6,000 to the Lilydale Football Club to go towards the cost of a building surveyor and drawings. The \$2,317 budget requested is to cover the actual expenditure spent on this project. Due to this work not having been planned in the current budget, a budget amendment is required from the Council's reserves to increase the overall council budget to fund payment to the club regarding this notice of motion.

Additional Council Funding	Operations	Capital
Lilydale Football Club NOM	\$2,317	\$0
TOTAL	\$2,317	\$0

1(b) The following items need to be reallocated from Capital to Operations:

Project Number	Project Description	Current Approved Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	New Budget
CP24740	Town Hall & Annexe Refurbishment 25/26	\$1,000,000	\$325,000	\$0	\$675,000
OP25464	OPM2025 Carr Villa Refurbishment	\$0	\$0	\$85,000	\$85,000
OP25456	OPM2025 Remount Depot Refurbishment	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
OP25506	OPM2026 Town Hall Flat Relocation	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000
	TOTALS	\$1,000,000	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$1,000,000

The project scope of works:

Council has budgeted funds for ongoing office refurbishment works at various Council sites. These funds now require relocation to where the projects are undertaken. This includes works in Carr Villa, Remount Depot, and the Town Hall 'Flat'. Works include furniture, carpet replacement, painting and other maintenance works to make these spaces more comfortable for staff occupation.

Project Number	Project Description	Current Approved Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	New Budget
CP24740	Town Hall & Annexe Refurbishment 25/26	\$675,000	\$161,264	\$0	\$513,736
OP25455	OPM2025 SEC Department Relocations	\$0	\$0	\$161,264	\$161,264
	TOTALS	\$675,000	\$161,264	\$161,264	\$675,000

The project scope of works:

Council has budgeted funds for ongoing office refurbishment works at various Council sites. This particular work has been operational in nature and cannot be capitalised. It therefore requires funds to be transferred from Town Hall & Annexe Refurbishment to SEC Department Relocations. Expenditure incurred includes the hire of skip, labour costs to move staff, purchases of furniture and internal building maintenance to enable the relocation of departments within both the Town Hall and Annexe.

Capital to Operations	Operations	Capital
OPM2025 Carr Villa Refurbishment	\$85,000	(\$85,000)
OPM2025 Remount Depot Refurbishment	\$200,000	(\$200,000)
OPM2026 Town Hall Flat Relocation	\$40,000	(\$40,000)
OPM2025 SEC Department Relocations	\$161,264	(\$161,264)
TOTAL	\$486,264	(\$486,264)

1(c) The following items need to be reallocated from Operations to Capital:

Project Number	Project Description	Current Approved Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	New Budget
OP22527	I&E Traffic Management	\$347,287	\$147,351	\$0	\$199,936
CP24748	All Weather Bus Stop Upgrade Round 3	\$207,000	\$0	\$129,000	\$336,000
CP24795	Henry St - Vermont Rd Intersection Traffic Island	\$0	\$0	\$18,351	\$18,351
OP45968	I&E Street Lighting Management	\$1,229,227	\$100,000	\$0	\$1,129,227
CP24796	Streetlight Renewal 25/26	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
	TOTALS	\$1,783,514	\$247,351	\$247,351	\$1,783,514

The project scope of works:

OP22527 - I&E Traffic Management

The budget will be transferred to CP24748 - All Weather Bus Stop Upgrade Round 3 which is to fulfill Council's co-contribution required as part of the grant deed associated with the project and also to cover for works undertaken on an additional project CP24795 - Henry St - Vermont Rd Intersection Traffic Island.

OP45968 - I&E Street Lighting Management

The budget will be transferred to CP24796 - Streetlight Renewal Program 25/26 to facilitate capitalisation of poles replaced within the maintenance program.

Operations to Capital	Operations	Capital
All Weather Bus Stop Upgrade Round 3	(\$129,000)	\$129,000
Henry St - Vermont Rd Intersection Traffic Island	(\$18,351)	\$18,351
Streetlight Renewal 25/26	(\$100,000)	\$100,000
TOTAL	(\$247,351)	\$247,351

1(d) The following items need to be relocated between Capital projects but do not alter the operating surplus:

Project Number	Project Description	Current Approved Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	New Budget
CP24768	Roads Reconstruction Program 25/26	\$1,300,000	\$1,234,000	\$0	\$66,000
CP24800	McKellar Road - Pavement Rehabilitation	\$0	\$0	\$275,000	\$275,000
CP24802	Hardwicke Street - Intersection with Outram Street Rehabilitation	\$0	\$0	\$297,000	\$297,000
CP24803	Treherne Street Rehabilitation	\$0	\$0	\$352,000	\$352,000
CP24801	Castlemain Road Rehabilitation	\$0	\$0	\$310,000	\$310,000
	TOTALS	\$1,300,000	\$1,234,000	\$1,234,000	\$1,300,000

The project scope of works:

Capital Project CP24768 - Roads Reconstruction Program 25/26 budget from the Roads to Recovery project will be transferred out and the remaining funds reserved as contingency. Each new road rehabilitation project will have a new project code to best manage individual project costs.

Budget will be transferred to the following capital projects:

- CP24800 - McKellar Road - Pavement Rehabilitation
- CP24802 - Hardwicke Street - Intersection with Outram Street Rehabilitation
- CP24803 - Treherne Street Rehabilitation
- CP24801 - Castlemain Road Rehabilitation

2. Chief Executive Officer's Report on Adjustments

Pursuant to section 82(6) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), Council has authorised the General Manager (Chief Executive Officer) to adjust budgets up to \$500,000 so long as the adjustments do not alter revenue, expenditure, borrowings or capital works estimates in total. The Budget Management Policy (12-PI-001), adopted by Council on 13 October 2014, refers to section 82(7) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) which requires the Chief Executive Officer to report any adjustment and an explanation of the adjustment at the first Ordinary Meeting of the Council following the adjustment.

Project Number	Project Description	Budget Before This Adjustment	Adjustment	Revised Budget	Type of Change
CP24741	Streetlight Pole Replacement 24/25	\$9,990	(\$9,990)	\$0	Decrease
CP24796	Streetlight Renewal 25/26	\$100,000	\$9,990	\$109,990	Increase
CP24440	LCH - City Heart Design	\$5,500,000	(\$220,000)	\$5,280,00	Decrease
CP24806	LCH - Cameron Street Greening (Grand Chancellor)	\$0	\$220,000	\$220,00	Increase
OP25458	OPM2026 Corporate Planning Software	\$80,000	(\$32,500)	\$47,500	Decrease
OP25470	OPM2026 Service Management	\$56,000	\$32,500	\$88,500	Increase
	TOTALS	\$5,745,990	\$0	\$5,745,990	

The following capital and operational project adjustments occurred in the period 1 August 2025 to 30 September 2025:

Project Number	Project Description	Current Approved Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	New Budget
CP24741	Streetlight Pole Replacement 24/25	\$9,990	\$9,990	\$0	\$0
CP24796	Streetlight Renewal 25/26	\$100,000	\$0	\$9,990	\$109,990
	TOTALS	\$109,990	\$9,990	\$9,990	\$109,990

The project scope of works:

Capital Project CP24741 - Streetlight Pole Replacement 24/25 budget will be transferred to CP24796 - Streetlight Renewal Program 25/26 to facilitate capitalisation of poles replaced within the maintenance program.

Project Number	Project Description	Current Approved Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	New Budget
CP24440	LCH - City Heart	\$5,500,000	\$220,000	\$0	\$5,280,000
CP24806	LCH - Cameron Street Greening (Grand Chancellor)	\$0	\$0	\$220,000	\$220,000
	TOTALS	\$5,500,000	\$220,000	\$220,000	\$5,500,000

The project scope of works:

A total budget of \$5.5 million for the 2025/2026 financial year has been allocated to the City Heart project to facilitate the implementation of actions from the Launceston City Heart Place Plan 2024-2029 in accordance with the 5-year Implementation Plan and Council's 2025/2026 Annual Plan.

As projects which address the actions under the plans are reviewed and approved by the City Heart Project Steering Group budget amendments will be undertaken to move funds across to projects for work to be undertaken.

This budget amendment is to allocate funds for the project to undertake greening (street trees) within Cameron Street.

Project Number	Project Description	Current Approved Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	New Budget
OP25458	OPM2026 Corporate Planning Software	\$80,000	\$32,500	\$0	\$47,500
OP25470	OPM2026 Service Management	\$56,000	\$0	\$32,500	\$88,500
	TOTALS	\$136,000	\$32,500	\$32,500	\$136,000

The project scope of works:

This budget amendment is because of the revision of the Service Management project & subsequent engagement of CT Management Group. The scope revision occurred through risk being highlighted and escalated. The timeline revision and variation to extend the scope of work with CT Management to enable the first 2 stages of the Service Management project to be delivered by 19 December 2025. Council will proceed with CT Management proposal (scenario 1) for full-service facilitation with 3 x Associates on site at an additional cost of \$32,000 ex GST plus \$500 ex GST for a facilitated Q&A with the Project Reference Group and approve the draft list of services. Scope assessment for the Corporate Planning Software project has highlighted this will form part of Project Ignite. This work is aligned with the Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework and will inform the future Annual Plan, 4-year Delivery Program, Budget and Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP).

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 Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

As per the report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

20.3. Monthly Financial Performance Report

FILE NO: SF7694

AUTHOR: Pieta Sinfield (Team Leader Accounting)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the September 2025 Capital and Operational financial reports against budget.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes the report outlining both Capital and Operational results to the period ending 30 September 2025.
-

REPORT:

Operational Result September 2025

Details are provided in Attachment 1 - Monthly Financial Performance Report September 2025.

The 2025 financial year YTD budget forecasts an underlying deficit of \$2,182,739. The YTD actual underlying surplus is \$859,586. This resulted in a favourable YTD variance of \$3,042,325.

A number of permanent variances to revenue and expenditure are identified as part of the Efficiency Dividend Reporting as part of this Council Agenda.

Rates revenue shows a favourable variance of \$225,368. This positive result reflects stronger than anticipated growth due to supplementary valuations.

User Fees & Charges are favourable to budget by \$1,183,607. The significant variance is primarily due to the Launceston Waste Center receiving a large volume of contaminated soil in September. Also, Contributing is the delay in UTAS stadium transfer (effective as at July 2025) and the trading income from hosting AFL events which was unbudgeted. There is a corresponding unfavourable expense variance for hosting these events. Additionally, there are favourable variances at Carr Villa and the Launceston Aquatic Centre.

Employee costs are lower than the budget by \$1,217,030 due partly to staff vacancies (an allowance is provided in the budget) but primarily due to workers compensation burning cost adjustment provision and payroll tax timing variances – these variances are not expected to be permanent and will decrease as the year progresses.

The favourable variance in salaries amounts to \$255,053. The number of staff vacancies at the EOM is 48 FTE (56 vacancies at September EOM).

Material and Services expenses are favorable at \$550,591 due to insurance premium and corporate training programs. Also, internal charges in waste management are lower than in budget.

Depreciation expenses are unfavourable to budget by \$172,128. This variance is primarily due to the budget being forecasted using a CPI indexation rate of 3.10%. The actual revaluation of roads assets resulted in higher asset values than anticipated, leading to increased depreciation expenses. Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets has also resulted in an unfavorable variance of \$153,172 driven by timing factors. This variance is anticipated to change by the end of the financial year.

Capital Expenditure September 2025

Total capital expenditure budget for 2025/2026 is made up of carried forward budget funds of \$48,734,116, Current Year Council Funds of \$30,884,393 and External Funding of \$10,904,079 for a total budget of \$90,522,588.

The Council currently has a total of 128 capital projects with 19 (14.84%) not started. This is a change from the August period where there was a total of 118 capital projects and 24 (20.34%) not started.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Council operates within a constrained financial environment with an approved deficit operating budget for 2025/2026.

Ensuring that Councillors and the public are provided with timely monthly information regarding Council's financial performance on a regular basis is critical to transparency and informed decision making.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

As per the report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Monthly Financial Performance Report September 2025 [**20.3.1** - 3 pages]

20.4. Request for Remission of Rates and Maintenance Support - Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub

FILE NO: SF7573/SF0523

AUTHOR: Christine Phillips (Senior Leader Finance)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider requests for the remission of rates levied and to provide ongoing maintenance for the property located at 316-320 Invermay Road, Mowbray known as the Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub (the Hub).

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. refuses the request to remit rates and fees of \$21,745.50 levied against the property in respect of the Council's rates for the 2025/2026 year. This includes the Fire Levy, General Charge on three rateable tenancies and the General Rate Industrial;
2. refuses the request to provide ongoing rate remissions upon completion of construction until 30 June 2028;
3. notes the letter received from the Hon Nick Duigan MLC, Minister for Sport dated 30 September 2025 requesting ongoing maintenance support upon completion of construction; and
4. refuses the request to provide maintenance support as requested in this letter.

REPORT:

Request for rate remissions

The Department of State Growth previously applied for, and was granted, rate remissions for 316-320 Invermay Road, Mowbray, in 2023 and 2024.

Council also waived the Development Application and Advertising Fees and has paid for the removal of asbestos from the site and for an initial feasibility study at the site.

Council's contribution to the Hub at 316-320 Invermay Road, Mowbray has totalled \$1,267,539.

This contribution is made up of:

- \$101,521 for initial feasibility studies and due diligence on the site of the Hub; and
- \$1,100,000 for the removal of asbestos from the site.
- \$34,786 remitted at the Council meeting 7 September 2023 for the Development Application and Advertising.
- \$13,402 remitted at the Council meeting 7 September 2023 for rates payable for the 2023/2024 year.
- \$17,830 remitted the Council meeting 19 September 2024 for rates payable for the 2024/2025 year.

These contributions reflect Council's strong and ongoing commitment to enabling the development of community infrastructure that delivers long term social, health, and recreational benefits for the Northern Suburbs of Launceston and for the broader Launceston community.

However, it is also important that Council maintains a sustainable financial position and applies a consistent approach to rate remissions. Council faces ongoing financial pressures arising from:

- Increases in construction, utilities, and insurance costs impacting operational and capital budgets;
- Growing demand for essential services and community infrastructure renewal;
- Reduced grant funding and slower revenue growth from external sources; and
- The need to maintain financial capacity to respond to Council's Strategic Plan and unforeseen events.

In this context, providing further rate remissions for a property that has already benefited from substantial financial support would place additional strain on Council's limited revenue base and may reduce the funds available for other community priorities and services.

The request also includes a proposal for ongoing rate remissions through to 30 June 2028. Given that the property will transition to an operational facility providing recreational services, continuing to exempt or remit rates would be inconsistent with Council's policy intent and broader financial management responsibilities.

While the Hub is a valuable community asset and aligns with Council's strategic objectives, it is recommended that the request for rate remission be refused. Council's prior investment represents a significant contribution, and ongoing remissions would not be financially sustainable nor equitable relative to other community and commercial ratepayers.

Request for maintenance support

The request for the City of Launceston to maintain outdoor areas at the Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub does not align with Council's Strategic Plan or its Service Delivery Framework. The Hub is a State Government owned facility, and Council's strategic priorities focus on maintaining and improving assets that are either owned or managed by Council. Accepting responsibility for a State-owned asset would:

- Divert focus from core responsibilities such as maintaining Council owned parks, recreation facilities, and public spaces.
- Create governance ambiguity, as Council would be managing infrastructure outside its jurisdiction without clear authority or long-term agreements.
- Set a precedent for similar requests from other State or private entities, potentially leading to unsustainable obligations.

Council's strategic objectives emphasise financial sustainability, community benefit, and asset management within its ownership portfolio. This request does not meet those criteria.

Assuming maintenance responsibilities for the Hub would impose a significant unbudgeted financial burden on Council. These costs are not included in Council's current budget and would require reallocation from priority projects or additional funding approvals, undermining Council's commitment to financial sustainability.

Council provides owns and operates a number of facilities that do not always typically fall under the remit of Local Government in Tasmania, including but not limited to:

- Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery
- Launceston Aquatic Centre
- Carr Villa Memorial Park
- Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre
- Albert Hall.

Whilst these are incredibly important and valued community facilities, they all come at a significant cost to the City of Launceston and ultimately ratepayers who must fund the continued operation of these assets.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Granting the remission would reduce Council's rate revenue and may set a precedent for other organisations or developments seeking similar concessions. This could have a cumulative financial impact and undermine Council's ability to deliver services and maintain infrastructure at expected levels.

Approving further remissions for this property, given the significant prior financial support already provided, may be perceived as inequitable by other ratepayers and community organisations. This may lead to an increase in requests for remissions or subsidies, challenging Council's ability to apply consistent and transparent decision-making principles.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The Hub is expected to deliver long-term social and health benefits through enhanced community participation and recreation opportunities. However, these benefits are balanced against Council's need to ensure equitable treatment of ratepayers and sustainable financial management.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.1 Community members have access to green, diverse, and inclusive open spaces and facilities enabling them to lead active lives, enjoy nature, and connect with others.

Objective 3.1(c)	Ensure neighbourhoods are well-served through community activity hubs that are accessible and inclusive, provide a range of amenities, create opportunities for a diverse range of community activities and support Launceston's diverse cultural, economic, and age groups.
-------------------------	--

Strategic Pillar 3 - People

Goal 3.2 Participation in cultural and recreational activities is widespread across the community and promotes health and wellbeing at all ages while bridging social, cultural and geographical gaps.

Objective 3.2(a)	Achieve an improvement in health and wellbeing through addressing barriers to inclusion and promotion of physical and social activity such as community arts, sports and recreation.
-------------------------	--

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Refusing the request will maintain Council's revenue base for 2025/2026 and future years. Granting further remissions would result in foregone income of \$21,745 this financial year and approximately \$40,000 per annum upon completion of construction. Totalling approximately \$101,745 to 30 June 2028.

Providing maintenance support for the Hub is not budgeted for in Council's annual budget or Long-Term Financial Plan.

Were the request to be supported, Council would need to counter by either increasing rates revenue or reducing service levels within the City Amenities team in other parts of the municipality.

Council's contribution to the Hub at 316-320 Invermay Road, Mowbray has totalled \$1,267,539, which is detailed above in the Report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. State Growth - Letter - CEO City of Launceston - Rates Remission - Redacted [20.4.1 - 1 page]
2. State Growth - Email - Requesting Rates Remission [20.4.2 - 1 page]
3. Letter - Minister Duigan to Mayor Matthew Garwood [20.4.3 - 2 pages]

20.5. Audit Panel Meeting - 26 September 2025

FILE NO: SF3618

AUTHOR: Emily Causley (Executive Assistant - Delivery and Performance)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive a report from the Audit Panel for the meeting held on 26 September 2025.
Relevant Reference

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the report from the Audit Panel Meeting held on 26 September 2025.

REPORT:

The full Audit Panel Agenda and Minutes are available for Councillors in Docs On Tap.

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

6.1	Internal Audit Report
Details:	The internal auditors provided an update and members discussed the upcoming audits, Risk Management Framework and resourcing challenges.
Action:	The Audit Panel noted the item.
7.1	External Audit Report
Details:	The External Auditors provided the Annual Audit Outcome report.
Action:	The Audit Panel noted the item.
7.2	Outstanding Internal and External Audit Items
Details:	The Audit Panel reviewed outstanding items and approved the inclusion of updates and comments for remaining items.
Action:	The Audit Panel noted the outstanding external audit items.
8.1	Capital Report
Details:	The Panel considered the Capital Report for the period ended 30 June 2025.
Action:	The Panel noted the item.
8.2	Budget Amendments (for Audit Panel)
Details:	The Panel considered changes to the Council's 2024/2025 Statutory Estimates and reallocations for the 2024/25 financial year which were approved by council.
Action:	The Panel noted the item.
8.3	Investment Returns and Balances
Details:	The Panel considered the investment returns and balances summary for the period ended 30 June 2025.
Action:	The Panel noted the item.

9.1	Credit Card Review
Details:	The Panel considered the credit card statements of the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Leaders and the Mayor from 1 April 2025 - 30 June 2025.
Action:	The panel noted the item.
10.1	Risk Report
Details:	The Panel received an update on the Risk Management Framework.
Action:	The Audit Panel noted the item.
10.2	Work Health and Safety
Details:	The Panel received the Work Health and Safety Report dated April - June 2025.
Action:	The Panel noted the item.
12.1	Chief Executive Officers Risk Certificate
Details:	The Panel received the Chief Executive Officer's Risk Certification dated 14 August 2025.
Action:	The panel noted the Chief Executive Officers Risk Certification.
12.2	Chief Executive Officer's Annual Card Charges
Details:	The Panel considered the Chief Executive Officer's credit card transaction listing for the period 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025
Action:	The Panel noted the Chief Executive Officer's Annual Card Charges.
13.1	Audit Panel Charter
Details:	The Panel considered the current Audit Panel Charter and were invited to suggest amendments. Feedback received from The Panel included they would like to have papers for a minimum of 6 days, include the review of credit card transactions and add mention of confidentiality. The updated Charter is recommended for approval on the Council Meeting Agenda for 13 November 2025.
Action:	The Panel reviewed the Audit Panel Charter and provided amendments for inclusion.
13.3	Strategic Plan 2025-2035
Details:	The Panel considered the newly adopted 2025-2035 City of Launceston Strategic Plan.
Action:	The Panel noted the Council's Strategic Plan (2025-2035), which was approved at the 19 June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting.

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 Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Audit Panel has responsibilities for oversight of Council's financial management and reporting, as outlined in the Audit Panel Charter.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

20.6. Correspondence - Minister for Local Government, Office of Local Government - Discussion Paper: Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances

FILE NO: SF0327

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a Discussion Paper on Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 30 January 2025 – Item 1.6 Future of Local Government Review - Priority Reform Program 2024-2026 – Discussion

Workshop - 30 January 2025 – Future of Local Government Review - Priority Reform Program 2024-2026

Council – 12 December 2024 – Item 21.2 – Tasmanian Government Response to the Future of Local Government Review Final Report Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes the letter received from the Hon. Kerry Vincent MLC, Minister for Local Government (attachment 1, ECM Doc Set ID 5283334), accompanying the Discussion Paper on Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances (attachment 2, ECM Doc Set ID 5283335); and
2. supports the proposed reform outlined in the Discussion Paper detailed above; and
3. requests that by 7 November 2025, the Chief Executive Officer makes a submission in response to the letter and Discussion Paper detailed above, that submission being as per the draft letter included as attachment 3 (ECM Doc Set ID 5292444).

REPORT:

On 15 September 2025, the Tasmanian Government released a Discussion Paper proposing reform to Councillor Numbers and Allowances for public consultation.

The proposed changes, following consultation, are to be implemented by the next Local Government elections in October 2026.

Tasmania has one of the highest ratios of Councillors to residents in Australia, yet Councillor allowances are among the lowest nationally. This reform proposes to reduce the number of Councillors and redistribute savings to increase individual Councillor payments by at least 14.25%.

The aim is to attract more highly qualified candidates with relevant skills and experience, making Councils more effective. As the role of a Councillor becomes increasingly complex, it is important that allowances reflect these growing responsibilities.

Correspondence in relation to the above and broader legislative reform discussed below was recently received by the Hon. Kerry Vincent MLC, Minister for Local Government. The Senior Leader Governance emailed the correspondence to Councillors on 17 September 2025 for feedback.

In addition to reform around Councillor numbers and allowances, the Discussion Paper seeks Council input on the following matters:

1. **Quorum management:** Should the Government consider any strategies/guidance for council decision making where a quorum cannot be maintained?

Page 9 of the Discussion Paper refers. If the proposed reform to Councillor numbers and allowances proceeds, City of Launceston will move from 12 Councillors to 9 Councillors. It is likely that there will be instances where a quorum (5 Councillors) will be impacted by Councillor absences and/or conflicts of interest as there are instances of this occurring with 12 Councillors. Opportunities for flexible attendance at Council meetings and provision for decision making in an 'alternative manner' as suggested in the Discussion Paper will be helpful in these circumstances. For this reason, it is recommended that the Council supports strategies/guidance for council decision making where a quorum cannot be maintained, along the lines of the suggestions made in the Discussion Paper.

2. **Superannuation:** Should the *Local Government Act 1993* be amended to require councils to pay a 12% superannuation equivalent payment from allowances into a Councillor's nominated superannuation fund?

Page 10 of the Discussion Paper refers. This proposed reform is supported. As suggested in the Discussion Paper, it is not widely understood that Councillors receive a 12% superannuation equivalent payment as part of their allowances. Clarity in legislation would be helpful for transparency and increased understanding. In framing this reform, the Office of Local Government may wish to consider the way this is handled by equivalent legislation in New South Wales. Further information is available at [22-04 Payment of councillor superannuation – Office of Local Government NSW](#).

3. **Setting the foundation for future reviews:** Should the methodology and ongoing review framework for councillor allowances and numbers be embedded in legislation to provide certainty and transparency to the sector and community?

Page 10 of the Discussion Paper refers. This proposed reform is supported as one way that local government can respond in a timely manner to demographic and other relevant changes. It is suggested that the review is timed to occur in the lead up to a general local

government election, with a view to any changes being implemented at the time of the election.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Please refer to the discussion paper where the risks of maintaining the status quo are discussed generally.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The aim of the proposed reforms is, broadly, to attract more highly qualified candidates with relevant skills and experience to the office of Councillor, making Councils more effective.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This reform proposes to reduce the number of Councillors and redistribute savings to increase individual Councillor payments by at least 14.25%, with a view to being cost-neutral overall.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter from the Minister for Local Government to Launceston City Council GM Sam Johnson (ECM Doc Set ID 5283334) [**20.6.1** - 2 pages]
2. Discussion paper - Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances (ECM Doc Set ID 5283335) [**20.6.2** - 36 pages]
3. DRAFT Submission Discussion Paper Councillor Numbers and Allowances (ECM Doc Set ID 5292444) [**20.6.3** - 2 pages]

20.7. Motions - Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General Meeting - 20 November 2025

FILE NO: SF0331

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To provide voting direction to the Council's delegate for the items listed for decision at the Local Government Association of Tasmania General Meeting to be held on 20 November 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

That, in respect of the items listed for decision at the Local Government Association of Tasmania's General Meeting on 20 November 2025, Council directs its delegate to vote as follows:

Motion No.	Items for Decision	Submitting Council	City of Launceston Comment
No. 1	Advancing the Circular Economy Across Tasmania That the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT): 1. Recognises the circular economy as a key opportunity for Tasmania to reduce waste, strengthen regional economies, lower emissions, and increase community resilience through smarter use and reuse of materials and resources. 2. Advocates to the Tasmanian Government for the development and implementation of a Statewide Circular Economy Strategy, developed in consultation with local government, regional waste groups, industry, the community sector, and education and research institutions. 3. Encourages continued collaboration among Tasmanian councils and regional waste groups to: • Share best practices and resources for circular initiatives (e.g. reuse markets, repair hubs, community composting); • Identify and pursue joint procurement and regional partnerships that support circular outcomes; • Align local policies (e.g. waste, procurement, planning) with circular economy principles. 4. Calls on the Tasmanian Government to: • Provide continued funding, policy support, and incentives for local governments and regional waste groups to pilot and scale circular economy projects; • Ensure state infrastructure investment (e.g. waste and resource recovery facilities) supports circularity and regional equity; • Support skills development and community education focused on repair, reuse, sustainable design, and local circular enterprise.	Break O'Day Council	Officer Comment: Michael Attard (Team Leader Sustainability) The Tasmanian Government through the Waste & Resource Recovery Board and associated legislated Act has Circular Economy firmly embedded within the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-26. Promoting/investing in Circularity is one of the four pillars of this strategy. CoL via its membership with the regional waste group in Circular North, is well positioned for collaboration and shared opportunities. A comprehensive Material Flow Analysis is pivotal to underpinning Tasmanian circularity. Recommendation: Supported.

	5. Requests LGAT to: - Facilitate a working group or forum of interested councils to engage with the Tasmanian Government on the circular economy agenda; - Include the circular economy as a standing item in relevant LGAT policy discussions and submissions (e.g. waste, climate, economic development). 6. Request the Tasmanian Government compile and provide a publicly available material flow analysis for the State and each region to provide clear data to support public and private infrastructure investment in locations to maximise diversion and reuse in the Tasmanian economy		
No. 2	Developing a Statewide Local Government Workforce Renewal Program <i>It is recommended that LGAT work with the State and Federal Governments to develop and implement a program similar to the NSW Local Government Apprentice, Trainee, and Cadet Fresh Start Program in order to effectively implement Recommendation 35 of the Future of Local Government Review, addressing workforce shortages, enhancing diversity, and building sustainable local government capacity.</i>	Break O'Day Council	Officer Comment: Roxanne Chugg (Senior Leader People and Culture) <i>The City of Launceston continues to invest in building a future-ready workforce through targeted development initiatives. As part of our broader commitment to organisational capability, we are currently undertaking a review of our Learning and Development Policy to ensure it aligns with strategic priorities and evolving workforce needs.</i> <i>A key focus of this review is the development of a refreshed Apprentice, Graduate, Traineeship, and Internship Program. This initiative aims to strengthen talent pipelines, support</i>

			early career pathways, and enhance diversity across the organisation. The program will be designed to attract emerging professionals into local government and provide meaningful opportunities for skill development and long-term career growth. Recommendation: Supported.
No. 3	State Waste Levy Reinvestment That LGAT lobby the State Government to reinvest a portion of the State Waste Levy into initiatives that reduce the financial burden on low-income households and communities.	Central Coast Council	Officer Comment: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance) Support in principle, subject to learning more about these initiatives – is it by way of financial support specifically for low-income households and communities? Or are other initiatives proposed? Recommendation: Supported.
No. 4	Dark Sky Planning Guidelines for Tasmania That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby State government on behalf of all 29 Councils, to create Dark Sky Planning Guidelines, over the whole of Tasmania including the Islands.	Central Highlands Council	Officer Comment: Michael Attard (Team Leader Sustainability) Recommendation: Supported.
No. 5	Legislative Powers to Local Government under the Boundary Fences Act 1908	George Town Council	Officer Comment: Natasha Tempest (Senior Leader Health and Compliance)

Call on the Tasmanian Government to legislate powers to Local Government under the Boundary Fences Act 1908 for:

- 1. Councils to require property owners and lessee's to install, maintain and repair their property fences to prevent the escape of livestock onto Local Government controlled roads or neighbouring properties within respective local government areas. Further and as part of the provision of such powers, the Act shall clearly define the term livestock*
- 2. Regulations to be developed provisions for Local Government to issue infringement notices and standardised monetary penalties to enable enforcement of non-compliance with newly legislated powers.*

Recommendation:

The Boundary Fences Act 1908 currently provides a framework for the erection and maintenance of boundary fences between adjoining landowners. However, it does not extend enforcement powers to Local Government for fencing related to livestock containment.

Recommendation:

That Council advocate for the Tasmanian Government to amend the Boundary Fences Act 1908 to:

- 1. Legislate specific powers to Local Government** enabling Councils to require property owners and lessees to install, maintain, and repair fencing to prevent the escape of livestock and animals onto Council-controlled roads and neighbouring properties within their municipal boundaries.
- 2. Include a clear definition of “livestock” and “animals”** within the Act to support consistent interpretation and

		<i>application of the proposed powers.</i> 3. Develop supporting regulations that empower Local Government to issue infringement notices and apply standardised monetary penalties for non-compliance, thereby strengthening enforcement mechanisms. <i>Currently, Council may issue an abatement notice under Section 200 of the Local Government Act 1993 - Division 6: Nuisances, requiring property owners to contain livestock and maintain fencing. While effective in some cases, this mechanism lacks the immediacy and deterrent effect of infringement notices.</i> <i>The introduction of new regulatory powers, including infringement notices and standardised penalties, would be a welcome enhancement. It would support responsible livestock and animal management, reduce risk to public safety, and provide councils with a practical enforcement tool to address non-compliance swiftly and consistently.</i>
--	--	--

No. 6	Mandatory online learning for Local Government Election Candidates <i>That on behalf of the sector, the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the Tasmanian Government to legislate that intending candidates for the 2026 Local Government elections are required to complete the Learn to Lead online learning modules Learning Pack 1 and Learning Package 2 as current councillors are required, so that intending candidates are educated on the Role of a councillor and have an understanding of the responsibilities of representing the community prior to nominating for election.</i>	Latrobe Council	Officer Comment: <i>Leanne Purchase (Senior Leader Governance)</i> <i>Prospective Councillors will be better able to plan for and respond to the immediate demands placed upon them following an election, if they are provided with an opportunity to undertake the training before taking office.</i> Recommendation: <i>Supported.</i>
No. 7	Motion to Enhancing Flood Risk Management through Policy Alignment and Local Data Recognition <i>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) advocate to the Tasmanian Government for the following actions to strengthen flood risk management and planning integrity across the state:</i> <i>1. The State Planning Office be resourced and directed to urgently coordinate a statewide LPS amendment process to update Flood-prone Areas Hazard Overlays with updated Tasmanian Strategic Flood Maps any detailed studies where requested by a Council, and provide clear guidance on the role of the State Emergency Service (SES) and the information produced by the SES in the planning process.</i> <i>2. The State Planning Office or Tasmanian Planning Commission be resourced and directed to undertake a review of Hookway v Northern Midlands Council [2025] TASCAT 106 and Au v Glenorchy City Council (No 2) [2024] TASCAT 50 to recommend urgent changes for high-risk flood zones with</i>	Northern Midlands Council	Officer Comment: <i>Richard Jamieson (Senior Leader City Development)</i> <i>The Launceston City Council is actively engaged with the review of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme flood provisions and supports the process currently underway led by the SES. The further resources suggested by this motion would assist the completion of the work currently underway.</i> Recommendation: <i>Supported.</i>

	<i>significant hazard levels that ensure long-term safety of people and property and maintain the autonomy of Councils as planning authorities.</i> 3. <i>The Tasmanian Government review the use of flood risk mapping by insurance companies and engage with insurers to ensure they actively participate in the Land Use Planning and Building Control Policy for Flood Risk Management Project, with the objective of developing policy solutions and recommendations that would address rising costs and declining availability of flood insurance.</i>		
No. 8	Motion to Amend Regulation 47 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 <i>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) advocates an amendment to Regulation 47 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 to allow councils the discretion to approve a councillor's leave of absence retrospectively in cases of unforeseen circumstances such as illness or work commitments, provided that appropriate documentation is submitted.</i>	Northern Midlands Council	Officer Comment: <i>Leanne Purchase (Senior Leader Governance)</i> Recommendation: <i>That our delegate listens to the debate on the day and votes as they feel is appropriate.</i> <i>I note that a scan of leave requirements for Councillors in other jurisdictions require leave applications to be made in advance.</i> <i>If the motion is to be supported, amendment to the vacation of office clause in Schedule 5 of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) may also be required.</i>
No. 9	Public Disclosure Act <i>LGAT advocates to the Tasmanian State Government in support of a review of Tasmania's Public Disclosures Act 2002 to strengthen the</i>	Waratah-Wynyard Council	Officer Comment: <i>Leanne Purchase (Senior Leader Governance)</i>

	<i>Act to ensure that the services provided to our communities are not impaired due to ineffective protections for prospective whistleblowers.</i>		<i>People who see and report wrongdoing in government are key to increased accountability and transparency and should be protected for speaking up.</i> Recommendation: <i>Supported.</i>
No. 10	Motion to review, clarify and amend s28ZN of the Local Government Act 1993 That LGAT: 1. Conducts a comprehensive review of the Local Government Act 1993, in particular the anomaly between s.341 and s.28ZN and the exceptions created by s.28ZN to clarify the obligation of Council to indemnify Councillors in Code of Conduct proceedings. 2. Prepares a formal submission to the relevant government body or inquiry outlining specific recommendations for legislative amendments, based on the findings of the review. 3. Engages with other stakeholders to advocate for the proposed legislative changes. 4. Reports back to Councils at the next LGAT General Meeting on the progress of this initiative and the outcomes of the Submission.	West Tamar Council	Officer Comment: Leanne Purchase (Senior Leader Governance) Recommendation: That our delegate requests the matter be deferred and advice sought from Crown Law in relation to the practical operation of both clauses.

REPORT:

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General Meeting will be held in Hobart on 20 November 2025. The Notices of Motion proposed by various Tasmanian Councils are included in the table above, with recommended voting direction from City of Launceston Officers for consideration by Councillors.

Background reports relating to each proposed Notice of Motion are included in the attachments to this report. The Agenda for the General Meeting was not available at the time of publication, but will be included in the Minutes of this meeting.

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with an opportunity to comment on these items and to direct the vote of the City of Launceston's delegate at the General Meeting.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The risks associated with supporting or not supporting the Notice of Motions proposed as part of the LGAT General Meeting have been considered as part of the officer's comments.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The economic, environmental and social impacts associated with supporting or not supporting the Notice of Motions proposed as part of the LGAT General Meeting have been considered as part of the officer's comments.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The budget and financial implications associated with supporting or not supporting the Notice of Motions proposed as part of the LGAT General Meeting have been considered as part of the officer's comments.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Motion 1 - Advancing the Circular Economy Across Tasmania - Break O' Day [**20.7.1** - 3 pages]
2. Motion 2 - Developing a Statewide LG Workforce Renewal Program - Break O' Day [**20.7.2** - 3 pages]
3. Motion 3 - State Waste Levy Reinvestment - Central Coast Council [**20.7.3** - 2 pages]
4. Motion 4 - Dark Sky Planning Guidelines for Tasmania - Central Highlands [**20.7.4** - 2 pages]
5. Motion 5 - Legislative Powers to Local Government under the Boundary Fences Act 1908 - George Town Council [**20.7.5** - 2 pages]
6. Motion 6 - Mandatory Online Learning for LG Election Candidates - Latrobe Council [**20.7.6** - 2 pages]
7. Motion 7 - Enhancing Flood Risk Management through Policy Alignment and Local Data - Northern Midlands Council [**20.7.7** - 3 pages]
8. Motion 8 - Councillors Retrospective Leave (Amending Regulation 47) - Northern Midlands Council [**20.7.8** - 2 pages]
9. Motion 9 - Public Disclosure Act - Waratah Wynyard Council [**20.7.9** - 4 pages]
10. Motion 10 - West Tamar - Review, Clarify and Amend s 28 ZN of the Local Government Act 1993 [**20.7.10** - 3 pages]

21. STRATEGY AND INNOVATION

21.1. Quarterly Report - Strategy and Innovation

FILE NO: SF7738

AUTHOR: Debbie Pickett (Executive Assistant - Strategy and Innovation)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

This report provides a general update on activities and responsibilities within the Strategy and Innovation (Sal) Team for 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the report noting the activities of Strategy & Innovation for the period of 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025.
-

REPORT:

EXECUTIVE LEADER REPORT

The Strategy and Innovation (Sal) Team was formed in mid-January 2025 through the reorganisation of staff into five portfolios.

The broad functions of the Sal Team include:

- Internal services that underpin efficient delivery across Council (data and analytics, engagement support);
- Delivery of strategic projects (economic development, city innovation, coordination of cross-organisational projects such as City Heart); and
- Organisational planning and accountability (10-year strategic plan, 4-year delivery plan, levels of service, annual planning, and reporting)

This is the third report to the Council on the activities of the Strategy and Innovation (Sal) Team (1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025).

Executive Leader Stakeholder Meetings

The Executive Leader attended the following stakeholder meetings from July 2025 to September 2025:

- Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Program (TEER) Strategy and Partnerships Committee Meeting.
- SEMZ Weekly meetings and other briefings x 10.
- Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) Infrastructure and Amenity Steering Committee Meetings x 2.
- TEMT Wetland Restoration and Revegetation Steering Committee x 2.
- Tech One Overview Meeting with Shoalhaven Council.
- Department of State Growth - Kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary Masterplan.
- Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC) Population Program Consultation.
- ACIM Solutions Emergency Management Incident Controller Training x 3 days.
- Launceston Chamber of Commerce Member Connect Event and Celebrating 175 Years Events.
- Launceston Chamber of Commerce 2025 Business Excellence Awards.
- Launceston Chamber of Commerce meeting with CEO.
- NRM North - TEER Kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary Program meeting.
- Firmus Technologies (AI Factory) Site Visit.
- University of Tasmania - Meeting with Pro Vice Chancellor.
- University of Tasmania - Jobs and Skills Roundtable.
- CT Management - Service Management Planning x 2.
- Northern Regional Emergency Management Committee (NREMC).
- Municipal Coordinators meeting.
- Department State Growth meeting with Tasmanian Leaders.
- Jack Jumpers Launch event.
- Red Cross Get Emergency Redi Tasmania.
- Local Government Professionals Tas Conference (Devonport).
- NRM North Annual General Meeting.

SENIOR LEADER INNOVATION AND PERFORMANCE

Strategy, Economic Development and Analytics (SEDA)

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

FME Server Upgrade

The Spatial Analytics team has completed a major upgrade of the FME server platform, which is an important step in improving how the team manages and uses spatial data. FME is a key system that supports the movement and transformation of data between different applications.

The upgrade involved extensive testing, configuration, and coordination to make sure it works smoothly with the existing systems and processes. The result is a more reliable, efficient, and future-ready platform for managing spatial data. FME underpins important initiatives such as Smart Cities projects, infrastructure planning, and emergency response by enabling real-time data integration and automation.

Quarterly Progress Update - 337 Certificates and Land Activity

This quarter has seen 515 Section 337 certificates issued, bringing the calendar year-to-date total to 1,683, placing Council on track to exceed 2,000 certificates for the first time since COVID - the highest in five years. In addition, 170 land parcels and 145 properties have been processed during the last quarter, reflecting steady activity across development and property transactions.

Analytics

Development of an Efficiency Dividends Report

Following Council's request during the 2025/2026 Budget adoption (19 June 2025) for greater visibility of financial savings, efficiency measures and unbudgeted expenses, the first report for quarter 1 is complete. In addition, work has progressed in developing a routine reporting system.

Processes have been established to streamline future reporting, incorporating input from key users and involvement by the Senior Leadership Team. A Reference Group has also been formed to oversee the approach and ensure opportunities are identified and captured in future.

Strategic Plan Data Packs

The development of data packs has progressed this quarter, building on the initial collation of data and insights for the Strategic Plan goals. Each pack is being expanded to include context and background, key stakeholders and enablers, available levers, challenges, opportunities, and case studies from other cities where relevant.

The data packs were also introduced to subject matter experts at the recent workshops and are continuing to inform the planning process. A data framework to support ongoing monitoring of the Strategic Plan implementation will be developed over the next two quarters.

Advocacy and Grants

The new Advocacy and Grants Officer was supported to undertake a secondment opportunity as Director at QVMAG, reflecting a commitment to cross-organisational collaboration. The Grants and Advocacy Officer role is currently being fulfilled through a three-month secondment, scheduled to conclude in the middle of the next quarter.

A comprehensive audit of grants across the organisation is underway. The audit will improve oversight and inform the development of the grants policy. Progress has been made on the draft Grants Policy which will support consistent, transparent, and effective grant management practices.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Officer role has been vacant since 21 July 2025. Recruitment will commence in quarter 2 for an Economic Development Officer and Senior Economic Development Officer, both resourced from current operational labor budgets.

Launceston Central Operational Agreement

The Launceston Central Agreement was signed in July 2025 by both parties. Progress has been made on the establishment of the project steering group and Launceston Central continue to organise initiatives and engage with businesses.

Sister Cities – Ikeda Trip

Earlier this year, the Ikeda Mayor extended an invitation to the City of Launceston to visit Ikeda, Japan to mark the 60th anniversary of the Sister City relationship. Background data and a proposed itinerary were prepared to inform the Council's decision-making process and define the delegation objectives.

At the 11 September Council Meeting, the Council moved the motion for a delegation of up to five Councillors including the Mayor, up to four council staff including the CEO, and two community members, whose expenses were partially covered.

A working group was established and comprises the SEDA team, the CEO's Office and Mayor's Office. Delegation planning is on track. A report on the outcomes of the visit will be prepared and presented to the Council.

City Innovation

K15 - Public EV Charging - Transition to a Private Operator: *Annual Plan Action Item K15 Identify a partner with a sustainable business model for electric vehicle chargers*

In collaboration with the Governance Team, the Innovation & Performance team is advancing the transition of Council's public electric vehicle (EV) charger network to a private operator.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) was launched at the end of September and is now publicly available via the Tenderlink platform. The EOI will remain open until the end of October, inviting submissions from capable operators interested in assuming ownership, operation, and maintenance of the existing chargers.

Following the close of the EOI period, submissions will be reviewed during the first two weeks of November, with a preferred operator expected to be identified shortly thereafter. Elected Members will be kept informed by a Council workshop scheduled in December to provide an update on the direction of the transition.

As part of the process, individual licence agreements will be established for each EV charger site. These agreements will preserve Council's control over the sites and associated car parks, while enabling the transfer of charger hardware to a private operator.

The EOI aims to secure reliable and innovative charging solutions for both locals and visitors, aligned with Council's sustainability and economic development goals. Submissions will be evaluated based on technical expertise, financial stability, and alignment with Council's vision for innovation and community benefit, with particular emphasis on sustainable business models, maintenance strategies, and future upgrade proposals.

Parks of Launceston - A Minecraft World

Following the Innovation and Performance team's success at the TasICT Awards in June 2025, winning the Social Innovation category, the submission progressed to the national stage as part of the process.

It was then entered into the national iAwards held in Adelaide in August, where it was recognised as a national finalist. Although it did not take out the top prize, the project attracted significant interest and was one of only two finalists representing Local Government across Australia.

Local Government National AI Summit Event

Smart City Project Officer Cameron Smith, IT Core Infrastructure Team Leader Jason Quach and the CEO attended the Local Government National Summit on AI conference in September. The conference highlighted the opportunities AI presents for councils, while reinforcing the importance of strong governance, cross-organisational involvement and staff education to ensure its responsible and effective use.

Launceston is well positioned, with an AI Policy already in place, and the next step is to embed its principles and explore opportunities to deliver value while managing risks. A Council Workshop has been scheduled in December to provide elected members with an update on our current position, recent policy development, and the pathway ahead.

Performance and Planning

The Team Leader Performance & Planning Role has been vacant since 7 August 2025. Recruitment will commence in quarter 2, with a second corporate planning role (currently vacant) resourced from current operational labor budgets.

K1 & K2 - Business Improvement

Business improvements are underway within the team for two Annual Plan Actions; Action ID # K1 development of a new Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework (IPRF) and Action ID # K2 delivery of the Service Management Project. The Service Management Project will form part of the IPRF and will establish a structured approach to prioritising business improvement initiatives, support service planning, and guide improvement initiatives across the organisation.

Corporate Planning

Annual Plan and Budget 2025/2026

Finalisation of the published Annual Plan and Budget 2025/2026 occurred early in July. The adopted version required some amendments post adoption to accurately represent the Capital Works Projects published. These amendments were applied, and the updated version distributed and published ensuring compliance with the Local Government Act Tas (1993).

Strategic Plan

A *Strategic Plan on a Page* reference document was created and shared across the organisation. This was designed to be a helpful tool for staff to easily connect and align with our overarching strategic direction from our Strategic Plan.

K1 - Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework: Annual Plan Action Item # K1 Develop a new Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework

An update on the progress of this project has been included in the Annual Plan Quarterly Progress report for quarter 1. The development of recognised framework components such as the Four-year delivery plan and Annual Plan 2026/27 are underway with consideration to a revision of the framework and associated links. The Corporate Planning Officer participated in the demonstrations run by the Project Ignite project team as part of the Core Applications Transformation Project to assess how the software can support effective corporate planning and reporting and enablement of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

K1 - Four-Year Delivery Plan: 2026/27 - 2029/30

To enable implementation of the Strategic Plan, drafting work to develop the Four-Year Delivery Plan commenced this quarter, being supported by the Performance and Planning Team in partnership with the Strategic Projects Team and Executive Advisor.

An initial training session, followed by 9 x workshops have been held with selected officers who were identified as subject experts. Facilitated by an external consultant, these workshops have seen officers start to apply the structured planning approach being used to form the proposed mid-term actions that aim to achieve the vision and goals of our Strategic Plan: 2025 – 2035. A second round of workshops has been scheduled to occur in quarter 2 to continue these works.

With the commencement of the Executive Advisor role within the Strategy and Innovation Team this quarter, refinements to the project plan are underway to ensure clear deliverables are defined and the alignment with connected corporate planning processes such as the Long Term Financial Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plan and Annual Planning and Budgeting processes are thoroughly considered. The Corporate Planning Officer will participate in these refinement works and continue to participate in discussions with these connected projects to ensure alignment with the delivery timelines for the Four-Year Delivery Plan.

K1 - Annual Plan Quarterly Progress Reporting:

- *Quarter 4 – Annual Plan 2024/2025*
The final progress report and summary was submitted to Councillors at the ordinary meeting held on 21 August 2024. A summary of the final progress against our Annual Plan 2024/2025 was provided to our Governance Team for inclusion in the Annual Report.
- *Quarter 1 – Annual Plan 2025/2026*
Preparations for quarter 1 progress reporting has commenced. Work to design a new report that aligns with our newly adopted Strategic Plan and Annual Plan has been completed. A change in the administrative process to compile the report has been introduced following approval by the Senior and Executive Leadership Teams. This change in process will see Doc Assembler used as a software tool to collect updates from Action Item Owners, with a focus to streamline the approval process and minimise administration for Officers. The quarter 1 progress report is scheduled to be presented to Councillors at an ordinary meeting on 23 October.

K2 - Service Management Project (Levels of Service): Annual Plan Action Item ID # K2
Deliver the Service Management Project

The Service Management Project is reported in the Annual Plan Progress Report. During quarter 1, the project team and Project Reference Group (PRG) were established. The PRG has advised the consultant on development of a draft Service Management Framework, list of services, Service Profile template, draft Service Profiles for each service area and the Service Managers responsible for each service

This project is transitioning to the Strategic Projects team for delivery.

Community Engagement

Engagement undertaken/and or in progress (July to September 2025)

Please visit the City of Launceston's engagement platform Tomorrow Together Launceston (tomorrowtogetherlaunceston.com.au) for detailed information on past, current and upcoming engagement activities.

1. Engagement undertaken/and or in progress

Dates	Details	Method/s	Views	Contributions	Status
			@ 7 October 2025		
Community Emissions Action Plan - Round 2					
30 June to 28 July 2025	Engagement with community and stakeholders to seek final feedback on the draft Community Emissions Action Plan.	• Tomorrow Together page • Konveio Tool • Pop-up sessions	2,148	138	The Action Plan has been endorsed, and work is underway on a communications plan to encourage community to take a pledge on one or more actions.
Northern Gateway Project - Round 2					
15 September to 12 October 2025	The second round of engagement is currently under way, inviting the community to vote for their preferred artwork.	• Tomorrow Together page • Online & in person voting	13,715 views	868	Voting closes 12 October 2025 and results will be presented to Council following this.

LGBTQIA+ Community Survey					
5 June to 20 July 2025	Initial engagement with community to influence the development of a LGBTQIA+ Action Plan.	• Tomorrow Together page • Survey	2,703	635	Data currently being reviewed and analysed.
Street Tree Master Plan					
27 June to 20 July 2025	Initial engagement with community to influence the development of a Street Tree Master Plan.	• Tomorrow Together page • Survey • Mapping tool	1,317	340	Data currently being reviewed and analysed and internal workshops being held.

2. Tomorrow Together Residents Survey

The next Tomorrow Together campaign will be a different approach than previously. The Tomorrow Together Residents Survey will seek information on relevant/required project topics as well as values-based questions. Participants will be asked in a way that we will be able to generate measurable and comparable results every two to four years from a larger demographic cohort than we have ever had before. The data will help to build the future that Launceston residents say they want. Work is underway and the campaign will be launched towards the end of November 2025.

3. Engagement Data Accessibility and Enablement

The Engagement Data Accessibility and Enablement Project aims to maximise the value of community insights collected through engagement activities. By improving how engagement data is accessed and used, the project seeks to ensure community feedback informs current and future initiatives, supports corporate planning, helps track progress and reduces engagement fatigue by understanding what the community has already shared with the Council.

To achieve this, the Engagement Team has undertaken extensive research into best practice approaches, consulting with other councils, internal stakeholders, and the wider sector. This work has included benchmarking, desktop analysis, and trials of emerging data analysis and AI tools. A comprehensive report has now been drafted, outlining findings and recommended actions to enhance how engagement data is managed and utilised across the organisation.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS ADVISOR

Ten-Year Strategic Plan / 4-Year Delivery Plan

Following formal adoption of the 10-Year Strategic Plan in June 2025, work has begun on translating the Strategy into a long-range outcomes-focused action plan which will form the basis of the Four-Year Delivery Plan. Strategic Projects has worked closely with the Performance and Planning Team to develop a methodology, engage a consultant and organise a series of 18 facilitated planning workshops with subject matter experts from across the organisation. The first nine workshops are complete, with Strategic Projects staff participating in all sessions.

S12 - Redevelopment of Council owned land at 118-124 Brisbane Street

Directed by staff, SEMZ Property Advisors facilitated a comprehensive Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the redevelopment of the Birchalls and Katies buildings. At the end of the last quarter the development proposals had gone through an extensive review process, and a proposal was selected that aligned closest with Council Objectives and the Strategic Plan.

Following selection of the preferred developer, the Term Sheet was negotiated and presented to Councillors for approval before signing. The Term Sheet includes works to the Mall ('Mall Initiatives') which are being coordinated by the Strategic Projects team, and which relate to Annual Plan item S14 Brisbane Street Mall Activation.

The next step is the development of the formal binding contract.

S9 - Launceston City Heart Place Plan - Implementation Plan

The Strategic Projects team is responsible for managing the overall City Heart Portfolio. During the quarter, staff established the City Heart Portfolio Steering Group (PSG) to provide strategic oversight and drive the delivery of the City Heart Implementation Plan. The PSG convenes on a fortnightly basis to monitor progress, address emerging issues, and ensure alignment with broader organisational priorities. It plays a leading role in administering the overall project budget, providing high-level coordination across project streams, reviewing project plans to assess maturity and strategic alignment, and acting as a liaison point for project teams to ensure consistent communication and integration.

Key responsibilities of Strategic Projects staff in the PSG include chairing PSG meetings and facilitating effective decision-making, preparing fortnightly reports for the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), coordinating quarterly and CPD reporting requirements, engaging with PSG representatives, and liaising with internal and external stakeholders as needed.

The Strategic Projects Team is also responsible for leading City Heart sub-project S9-7. Discussions are underway with Harvest Market, and fee proposals are being sought for a feasibility study into an alternative preferred location for the market.

Land and Property Review

Staff are undertaking project planning for a comprehensive review of the Council's Land and Property assets. This project will build on work by Community Assets and Design which assessed building assets. It is linked with various sub-projects which are underway concurrently, including the Carpark Reallocation Study (brought forward in the City Heart Implementation Plan to FY25/26) which considers potential reuse of Council-owned off-street car parks, the Increasing Housing Diversity in the Municipality NoM, and the City Heart project noted above (On-Street Events Space - Cameron Street).

K2 - Service Management Project

The Service Management Project is transitioning into the Strategic Projects team for the project delivery phase. Staff have reviewed the project documentation, attended Project Reference Group meetings, undertaken handover with the outgoing project manager, the previous project lead and the consultant, and taken on tasks relating to the project including organisation of the consultant-led on-site workshop and 1:1 sessions to be undertaken in early October.

Project Management Framework and Project Management Office

Following preparation of a discussion paper last quarter, Staff prepared a Briefing Paper for ELT to recommend implementation of an updated Project Management Framework (PMF) and an organisation-wide Project Management Office (PMO), to be established within Strategic Projects. The Paper made recommendations on the scope and structure of the PMO and implementation pathways.

Numerous crossovers with other organisational change projects have been identified. Staff are liaising on an ongoing basis with project managers for the corporate application replacement project (Ignite), the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, the 4-Year Delivery Plan, the Service Management Framework and the Asset Management Framework to manage risks and facilitate alignment of outputs.

Corporate Planning Support

Strategic Projects staff are actively participating with Corporate Planning staff in a series of internal sessions focused on planning for several inter-related projects which involve development of linked structures and processes, as well as interim solutions to bridge the current period. These projects include the Integrated Planning and Reporting System, the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, the Four-Year Delivery Plan, and the Annual Plan.

S13 Russell Plains Road, Rocherlea

Preliminary investigations have progressed to assess the Council's future needs for the Russell Plains Road site. A desktop Landfill Feasibility Assessment has been completed by GHD and presented to Councillors at a Workshop in September by the Sustainability team. Strategic Projects staff have remained informed of project developments to ensure timely and effective support can be provided as required.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

21.2. City of Launceston Annual Plan 2025/2026 - Quarter 1 Progress Report

FILE NO: SF7151

AUTHOR: Emily Lewis (Corporate Planning Officer)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the progress against council's 2025/2026 Annual Plan Actions for the quarter one period from 1 July 2025 through to 30 September 2025.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

The *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), Div 2.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council - 19/06/2025 - 21.4 - City of Launceston Annual Plan 2025/2026
Workshop - 22/05/2025 - Annual Plan and Budget 2025/2026 - Public Consultation
Feedback and Review
Workshop - 20/03/2025 – Budget and Annual Plan 2025/2026 Update
Workshop - 27/02/2025 – Budget and Annual Plan 2025/2026 Update
Workshop - 12/12/2024 – Budget and Annual Plan 2025/2026 Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council

1. receives and notes the progress against the 2025/2026 Annual Plan Actions for the quarter 1 period (1 July 2025 - 30 September 2025).
-

REPORT:

Progress against the 2025/2026 Annual Plan Actions for the first quarter of the financial year, covering the period from 1 July 2025 through to 30 September 2025, is provided in the attached report.

The following table shows an overview of the status of the 34 Actions at the end of the quarter and for full details on the status, supporting progress comments and overview of the activities completed for the Actions, Councillors should refer to the attached progress report.

Status Overview:

The table below is a summary of the detailed progress report showing the number of Actions in each status as at the end of the quarter:

Action Status	No. of Actions	%
On Schedule	18	53%
Behind Schedule	13	38%
Delayed or On Hold	2	6%
Deferred or Cancelled	1	3%
Complete	0	0%
Total	34	100%

Quarterly Report Improvements – 2025/2026 Financial Year

A number of improvements to the Annual Plan quarterly progress report have been applied. The improvements aim to enhance both the quality and timeliness of information provided to Councillors and the community and include:

- **Reduced turnaround time:** The time between the end of each quarter and the release of the report has been significantly reduced to provide more timely access to Annual Plan updates.
- **Updated report layout:** In response to feedback received from Councillors during the 2024/2025 financial year, the report layout and reporting indicators have been revised to improve readability and clarity.
- **New design:** The report has been refreshed and aligned with Council's brand guidelines.
- **Improved access to reports:** Quarterly reports will now be published directly on the Council website, making them easier for the community to access. Previously, reports were accessible through Council Agendas and Minutes.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Annual Plan 2025-26 Quarter 1 Progress Report [21.2.1 - 74 pages]

21.3. NRM North Annual Report FY2025

FILE NO: SF2377

AUTHOR: Debbie Pickett (Executive Assistant - Strategy and Innovation)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive the NRM North Annual Report for the financial year 2024-2025.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc (NRM North) Annual Report for the financial year 2024-2025 (Doc Set ID 5287348).
-

REPORT:

Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc (NRM North) has provided the Council with its 2024-2025 Annual Report which is included as Attachment 1. The report shares the highlights from the diverse projects NRM North has delivered across the past 12 months and acknowledges the value of the ongoing impact NRM North has in working collaboratively to protect, sustainably manage and improve natural resources for the shared environment, cultural, social and economic benefit of the community in northern Tasmania.

The City of Launceston, together with other Councils and government agencies entered into a Collaboration Agreement with the Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association (trading as NRM North) in relation to the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program. The signed Agreement commenced on 1 July 2024 and ends on 30 June 2028.

The Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program was established in 2008 and is a regional collaboration between the agencies responsible for management of the kanamaluka/Tamar estuary and Esk rivers.

The TEER Program provides a coordinated management approach and guides solutions and investment in activities that protect, maintain, and enhance the kanamaluka/Tamar estuary and Esk river systems from catchment to coast. The program focuses on improving our scientific understanding of issues impacting on the health of these waterways to better identify and target priority areas requiring investment in on ground works.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The TEER Program fosters collaboration and works closely with a range of industry, community, government, research and business partners to monitor and report on water health as well as coordinate activities to reduce pollutants entering our waterways.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. NRM North Annual Report F Y 2025 [21.3.1 - 80 pages]

21.4. Efficiency Dividends Report - Quarter 1

FILE NO: SF7852

AUTHOR: Cameron Smith (Smart City Project Officer)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive the Efficiency Dividends Report first quarter of financial year 2025/26.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the Efficiency Dividends Report covering the first quarter of financial year 2025/26.

REPORT:

A new Efficiency Dividends Report has been developed and the report reflecting the first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year is provided as an attachment. A table summarising key actions is presented below, however, Councillors are encouraged to refer to the attached report for the full details of activities undertaken.

Surplus			Unbudgeted Expenditure	
Operational Savings	Tiger Bus - Cease of contract	\$341,748	Fee Waiver Road Occupation	\$44,296
	Travel & Visitor Information Centre Relocation	\$47,000	Lilydale Football Club Contribution	\$2,316
	Brisbane Street Parking Office Relocation	\$39,271		
	CCTV Systems Report	\$80,000		
Efficiencies/Capital Savings	Walking Floor Refurbishment	\$360,000		
	Royal Park Skate Park Renewal - Changes to access Road	\$50,000		
Additional Revenue	Installation of Metal Recycling Bay - Revenue Stream	\$144,500		
	Total	\$1,062,519	Total	\$46,612

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Low overall. This report is informational only. Controls in place (standard templates and cross-functional validation panel) limit financial, legal/regulatory, and reputational risks. Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

As per the report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Efficiency Dividends Report 6 10 25 [21.4.1 - 10 pages]

22. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK

22.1. Chief Executive Officer Quarterly Report - 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025

FILE NO: SF0008

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Team Leader Executive Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

This report provides a general update on activities and responsibilities within the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) remit.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives and notes the report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025
-

REPORT:

To consider Council receives quarterly updates on matters that are for information noting and not requiring specific decisions. Any matters falling within this portfolio requiring a decision on policy, financial or strategic direction will be presented as recommendation reports on a Council agenda.

This report provides Council with updates on general matters within the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) remit. If further information or clarification is required on any matters within the report, Councillor's are encouraged to contact the report author prior to the Council meeting.

Schedule of Engagements

Date	Engagement
2 July 2025	Meeting with Nick Terracall
4 July 2025	- Meeting with Archana (Sweetbrew) - Meeting with QVMAG Leadership Team
7 July 2025	Meeting re: Redevelopment 118-122 & 124 Brisbane Street
8 July 2025	Attended meeting with Michael Mogridge (Acting Director Department of Local Government)
11 July 2025	Attended Northern Tasmania Development Corporations (NTDC) – State Election Priorities Session
	Attended meeting with Meeting: Carl Cooper (Bass Nationals Candidate) - State Election Priorities
15 July 2025	Meeting with Ben Goodsir (Chief Executive Officer) and Sandra Hogue from the Department of State Growth about TEMT's Trial Wetland Project
23 July 2025	Meeting with Sarah Hingston (Senior HR Consultant) Chapman Executive CEO
25 July 2025	Attended LGAT General Meeting and AGM (Launceston)
29 July 2025	- Meeting with Ian Goninon re: City of Launceston budget/asset management and QVMAG - Meeting with Tm and Jackson Shaw about South Prospect development
30 July 2025 to 1 August 2025	Attended Local Government Chief Officers Group Forum
5 August 2025	- Meeting with Selina Palmer (CEO Swimming Tasmania) re: Lilydale Pool - Attended a site visit to Firmus Technologies
6 August 2025	- Attended Citizenship Ceremony - Attended a meeting with Byron Cubit (Branch Secretary RTBU) re: Tiger Bus - Attended Launceston Airport Farewell Celebration for Shane O'Hare (CEO)
7 August 2025	Attended RDA Tasmania Board Networking event
8 August 2025	- Attended a meeting with Dorset Council Mayor Rhys Beattie, and General Manager John Marik - Attended a meeting with Don Cameron (Mudbar restaurant)
12 August 2025	- Attended a meeting with Dean Cocker - Attended a meeting with Michael Larissey and Janette Elmore (Tasmanian Transport Council)
13 August 2025	Attended (online) Greenx7 - Let's Lead the Way in Building Thriving Communities
19 August 2025	Attended meeting at St Lukes Wellness Hub with Christine Finnegan (CEO Tasmanian Basketball)
20 August 2025	Attended meeting with Rufus Black (UTAS Vice-Chancellor)
22 August 2025	- Attended a meeting with Senator Wendy Askew, Mayor Garwood and James McKee (RDA Tasmania) - Attended the Northern GM's Regional Meeting

27 August 2025	• Attended a meeting with Andy Howell (Managing Director Howell Property Group) • Attended a meeting with Rob Fairs MP
29 August 2025	• Attended the Northern GM's Special Workshop
1 September 2025	• Attended New Councillors declaration and Swearing in Ceremony
3 September 2025 to 4 September 2025	• Attended LG Innovate 2025 - The National AI Summit for Local Government
5 September 2025	• Attended Legends Business Lunch
	• Attended Australian Institute of Company Directors Essential Director Update 2025 (Livestream)
8 September 2025	• Attended a meeting with Senator Bridget McKenzie (Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development)
9 September 2025	• Attended a meeting with Chris Griffin (CEO NTDC) • Attended Launceston Flood Authority meeting
12 September 2025	• Attended a meeting with Katie Cooper (CEO Launceston Airport)
16 September 2025	• Attended a meeting with James McKee (Chief Executive Officer & Director of Regional Development, RDA Tasmania)
18 September 2025	• Attended a personal tour of the Art Gallery at Royal Park with Her Excellency the Governor & Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers
19 September 2025	• Attended a meeting with Graig Richman (Owner, The Sebel Launceston)
23 September 2025	• Attended a Meeting with Gabrielle Dicarlantonio (Executive Officer, Launceston Central)

Councillor One on One

Councillors are invited to attend One on One meetings each quarter to enhance engagement, and the schedule below indicates meetings held to date.

Councillor	1	2	3	4
Mayor Councillor M K Garwood	Weekly	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	
Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor D C Gibson	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor A E Dawkins		✓	Resigned	
Councillor A G Harris	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor T G Walker	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor Prof G Razay	✓	✓	Resigned	
Councillor J J Pentridge	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor A J Palmer	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor L M McMahon	✓		✓	
Councillor S Cai	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor A J Britton	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor K Preece			✓	
Councillor R Marsden			✓	

Some of the special projects and organisational priorities that are ongoing include:

Enterprise Agreement (EA)

Enterprise Agreement bargaining is now underway. The bargaining committee is focused on a constructive and collaborative process. We are currently collating claims from all sides and are working through identifying areas of alignment, as well as areas where there's room to develop mutually beneficial solutions. Employees will continue to be updated as the process progresses.

Stakeholder Engagement

Refer to Schedule of Engagements at the beginning of this report for a comprehensive list of engagement opportunities that were undertaken during the quarter.

Support for the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce

The Taskforce is continuing to progress the outcomes of the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce Phase One: Implementation Plan through collaboration with stakeholders, including local, state and commonwealth representatives to address issues such as river sedimentation (including freshwater flow events from the catchment, and accumulation due to tidal processes), and wetland ecosystem restoration of the North Esk River flood plain, increasing soil and vegetation stability.

Enterprize

Enterprize makes an impact on the local economy by supporting entrepreneurs through a range of education programs, collaborative workspaces, a mentor network, and public events, that aim to support growth and success for entrepreneurs.

Building strong promotional partnerships with leading organisations, Enterprize is continuing to expand across Tasmania with the Evolve program being launched in August 2025, connecting with businesses and communities statewide. Enterprise is seeking to build on this momentum and to leverage, with the potential for lasting impacts across the business community.

Shared Services

At a recent workshop facilitated by Sally Darke (Chairperson, Tasmania Community Fund), work being undertaken by the group to build a proposal on a regional model that could facilities shared services was discussed.

Councillor Resignations and New Councillor's

Following the resignations of Councillor Andrea Dawkins and Councillor Professor George Razzay, a recount was undertaken by the Electoral Commission in accordance with section 307 of the Local Government Act 1993, resulting in Krista Preece and Ross Marden being declared elected to fill the councilor vacancies until the 2026 ordinary elections of Council.

On 1 September 2025, our Councillor's Elect undertook their Declarations of Office and were formally welcomed to the City of Launceston.

I take this opportunity to formally recognise former Councillors Dawkins and Razay, whom I enjoyed a proactive and professional working relationship. I wish them well in their endeavors.

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 Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter meets a legislative requirement.

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

22.2. Status Report on Council Decisions as at 16 October 2025

FILE NO: SF2346

AUTHOR: Taylor Murphy (Administration Officer - Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive the Status Report on Council Decisions made up to, and as at, 25 September 2025.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)
Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the Status Report on Council Decisions as at 25 September 2025 (Attachment 1).
-

REPORT:

It is important that Councillors and community members are informed on an ongoing basis of progress in relation to the implementation of Council decisions and addresses outstanding items.

The Status Report is a document that is used to track the progress of Council decisions, providing a history which can be used for evaluation and reviewing purposes.

The Report will continue to be refined, and items marked as completed within this report will be removed from future reports.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Tracking Council decisions will also identify potential risks ensuring strategies can be put in place to manage them.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

This has already been considered when the individual items were presented to Council.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Chief Executive Officer have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Status of Council Decisions as at 16 October 2025 [22.2.1 - 17 pages]

22.3. Status Report on Notices of Motions as at 16 October 2025

FILE NO: SF5547

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Team Leader Executive Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive the updated Status Report – Notices of Motions.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the Status Report of Notices of Motions as at 25 September 2025 (Attachment 1).
-

REPORT:

In accordance with regulation 19(1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, a Councillor may give to the Chief Executive Officer a written notice of motion, (at least 7 days before a meeting), together with supporting information and reasons, to be included on the agenda of that meeting.

To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, updates regarding the Status Report - Notice of Motions will be reported to each Council meeting.

Items marked as 'completed' will be removed from the list following the meeting at which this is reported.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Council's consideration of this matter supports delivery of a core service or function.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and Chief Executive Officer have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Status of Notices of Motion as at 16 October 2025 [**22.3.1** - 11 pages]

23. LATE ITEMS

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – regulation 10(7)

No Items have been identified as part of this Agenda.

24. CLOSED COUNCIL

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – regulation 17(1)

RECOMMENDATION:

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

24.1. Confirmation of the Minutes

REASON FOR CLOSED COUNCIL:

Regulation 40(6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* states that at the next closed meeting, the minutes of a closed meeting, after any necessary correction, are to be confirmed as the true record by the council or council committee and signed by the chairperson of the closed meeting.

24.2. Application for Leave by a Councillor - Councillor S Cai

REASON FOR CLOSED COUNCIL:

This item is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with section 17(2)(i) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

(i) requests by councillors for leave of absence.

24.3. Status of Closed Council Decisions as at 16 October 2025

REASON FOR CLOSED COUNCIL:

This item is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with regulation 17(2) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to:

- (a) *personnel matters, including complaints against an employee of the council;*
- (b) *industrial relations matters;*
- (c) *information that, if disclosed, is likely to confer a commercial advantage or impose a commercial disadvantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposes to conduct, business;*
- (d) *commercial information of a confidential nature that, if disclosed, is likely to –*
 - (i) *prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it; or*
 - (ii) *confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council; or*
 - (iii) *reveal a trade secret;*
- (e) *contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal;*
- (f) *the security of –*
 - (i) *the council, councillors and council staff; or*
 - (ii) *the property of the council;*
- (g) *proposals for the council to acquire land or an interest in land or for the disposal of land;*

- (h) information that is –*
 - (i) of a personal and confidential nature; or*
 - (ii) provided to the council on the condition that it be kept confidential;*
 - requests by councillors for leave of absence;*
- (j) notifications by councillors of leave of absence for parental leave;*
- (k) matters relating to actual or possible litigation taken, or to be taken, by or involving the council or an employee of the council;*
- (l) the personal hardship of any person who is resident in, or is a ratepayer in, the relevant municipal area.*

24.4. End of Closed Session

25. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held at 10.30am on 13 November 2025 at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 18-28 St John Street, Launceston.

26. MEETING CLOSURE