



City of
LAUNCESTON

COUNCIL MINUTES

**COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2026
1:00 PM**

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

Date: 16 April 2026

Time: 1:00 pm

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 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 was 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>

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - AGENDA ITEM 8

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

Please note the following important information:

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

Your respectful contribution is welcome and appreciated.

LEGISLATIVE TERMINOLOGY - GENERAL MANAGER

At the City of Launceston, the title Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*. For the avoidance of doubt, *Chief Executive Officer* means *General Manager* for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* and all other legislation administered by or concerning Council.

Present:

Mayor Councillor M K Garwood
Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie
Councillor A G Harris
Councillor T G Walker
Councillor J J Pentridge
Councillor A J Palmer
Councillor L M McMahon
Councillor S Cai
Councillor K M Preece
Councillor R A I Marsden

In Attendance:

Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)
Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)
Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)
Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)
Zara Dawtrey (Senior Communications Officer)
Wezley Frankcombe (Senior Leader People, Governance and Safety)
Lucas Lim (Governance and Legal Officer)
Taylor Murphy (Procurement and Contracts Officer)
Keara Downey (Administration Officer, Governance Support)
Dean Edsall (Acting Executive Leader Community Assets and Design)
Dileep Karna (Town Planner) (Agenda Item 11.1)
Richard Jamieson (Senior Leader City Development) (Agenda Item 11.1)
Catherine Mainsbridge (Senior Town Planner - Development) (Agenda Item 11.2)
Ben Clark (Team Leader Community Place) (Agenda Item 17.1)
Colin James (Community Development Officer)(Agenda Item 17.1)
Sophie Appleby (Place and Heritage Officer) (Agenda Item 17.1)
Fleur Marshall (Senior Leader Stakeholder Experience) (Agenda Item 17.3)
Byron Fraser (Senior Leader Finance and Technology) (Agenda Item 19.1)
Michelle Grey (Properties and Legal Officer) (Agenda Item 19.3)
Duncan Campbell (Team Leader Legal) (Agenda Item 22.4)
Michael Newby (Senior Major Projects Advisor)(Agenda Item 22.4)

Apologies:

Councillor A J Britton
Councillor D C Gibson

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1. OPENING OF MEETING - STATEMENT, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 8

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, opened the meeting at 1.00pm and provided the following statement:

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.

Following the statement the Mayor noted an apology from Councillor A J Britton and Councillor D C Gibson.

2. MAYORAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mayor acknowledged Councillor D C Gibson, who submitted his resignation to the Chief Executive Officer earlier today.

Councillor Gibson has been a steady and valued presence through many changes at Council. Fifteen years of service represents a significant contribution, and on behalf of Council, the Mayor thanked Councillor Gibson for his dedication and the lasting legacy he leaves with the City of Launceston.

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).

Councillor A J Palmer declared an interest in Agenda Item 17.3. Outgoing Grants Policy and Event Grants Program Documents

Councillor D H McKenzie declared an interest in Agenda Item 19.3. Disposal of Interest in Land - 23-29 Blamey Road Punchbowl

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 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

DECISION: 16 April 2026

MOTION

Moved Councillor R A I Marsden, seconded Councillor A G Harris.

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council held on 2 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED 10:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor K M Preece and Councillor R A I Marsden

AGAINST VOTE: Nil

5. COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

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

No Council Workshops were identified as part of these Minutes.

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

No Councillors' Leave of Absence Applications or Parental Leave Notifications have been identified as part of his Agenda.

7. COMMUNITY REPORTS

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

7.1. Community Report - Society of Women Writers Tasmania Incorporated - Rocelyn Ives & Yvonne Gluyas

FILE NO: SF6368

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

Unfortunately, the Society of Women Writers Tasmania were unable to attend the meeting. Their presentation will be provided at a future Council meeting.

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 - Robin Smith - Parking at the Northern Inveresk Car Park - 2 April 2026

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Keara Downey (Administration Officer- Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 2 April 2026 by Robin Smith, have been answered by the Senior Leader Health and Regulations.

Question 1:

How much revenue has been generated from the Northern Inveresk Car Park?

Response:

As of March 2026 total parking revenue generated at the Northern Inveresk Car Park since financial year 2020/2021 is \$57,327.97.

Question 2:

What options are there to make it free parking?

Response:

Council is committed to ensuring that parking is managed in a way that supports both the community and local businesses. As part of this, Council will be reviewing the strategic direction for both on and off-street parking over the coming years. This review will consider how parking spaces are managed, including affordability and access.

8.2. Questions Without Notice by Members of the Public

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 37

No Public Questions Without Notice were identified as part of these Minutes.

9. PETITIONS

No Petitions were identified as part of these Minutes.

10. DEPUTATIONS

No Deputations were identified as part of these Minutes.

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. PSA-LLP0036 - Partial rezoning of land at 27 Vermont Road, Mowbray, from the Recreation Zone and General Residential Zone to the Inner Residential Zone, and modification of the Local Heritage Place overlay

FILE NO: PSA-LLP0036

AUTHOR: Dileep Karna (Town Planner)

APPROVER: Dean Edsall (Acting Executive Leader Community Assets and Design)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To decide whether to reject or agree to initiate and exhibit proposed Amendment PSA-LLP0036 to the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule at 27 Vermont Road, Mowbray pursuant to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applicant:	6ty
Area of the Site:	27 Vermont Road, Mowbray (CT 164061/1 and CT 112266/1)
Existing Zones:	Recreation Zone, General Residential Zone and Rural Zone
Existing Use:	Sports and Recreation
Receipt Date:	18 September 2025

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

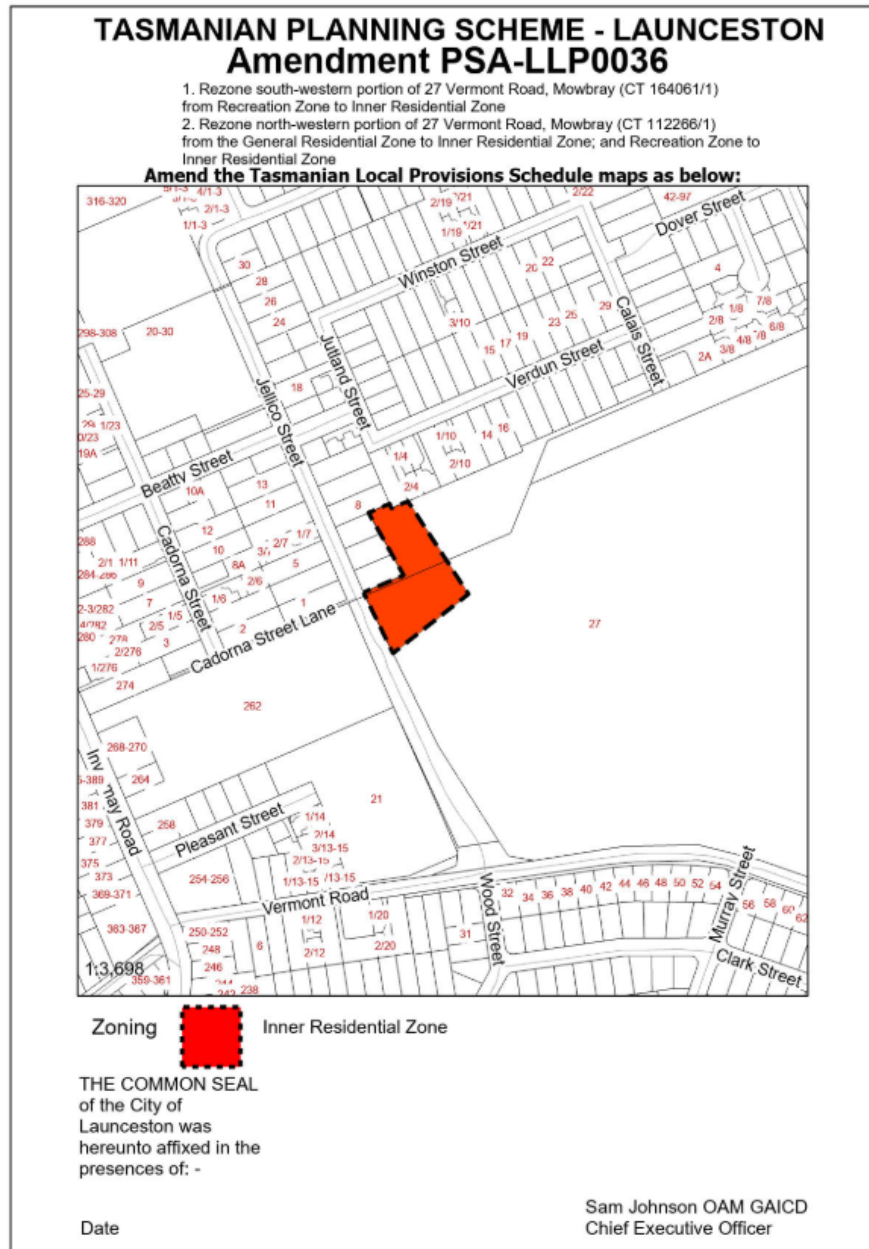
N/A

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-LLP0036 to the Launceston Local Provisions schedule to:
 - (a) rezone south-western portion of 27 Vermont Road, Mowbray (CT 164061/1) from Recreation Zone to Inner Residential Zone.


- (b) rezone north-western portion of 27 Vermont Road, Mowbray (CT 112266/1) from the General Residential Zone to Inner Residential Zone; and Recreation Zone to Inner Residential Zone.
- (c) remove Local heritage place from south-western portion of 27 Vermont Road, Mowbray (CT 164061/1)



Instrument 1 – Rezoning

TASMANIAN PLANNING SCHEME - LAUNCESTON
Amendment PSA-LLP0036

Remove Local heritage place from south-western portion of 27 Vermont Road,
Mowbray (CT 164061/1)



Code Overlay Local Heritage Place

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

Date

Sam Johnson OAM GAICD
Chief Executive Officer

Instrument 2 - Removal of a portion of the Local Heritage Place

Dileep Karna (Town Planner) and Richard Jamieson (Senior Leader City Development) were in attendance to answer questions in respect of this item. A table of questions asked by Councillors during the debate is included after the decision.

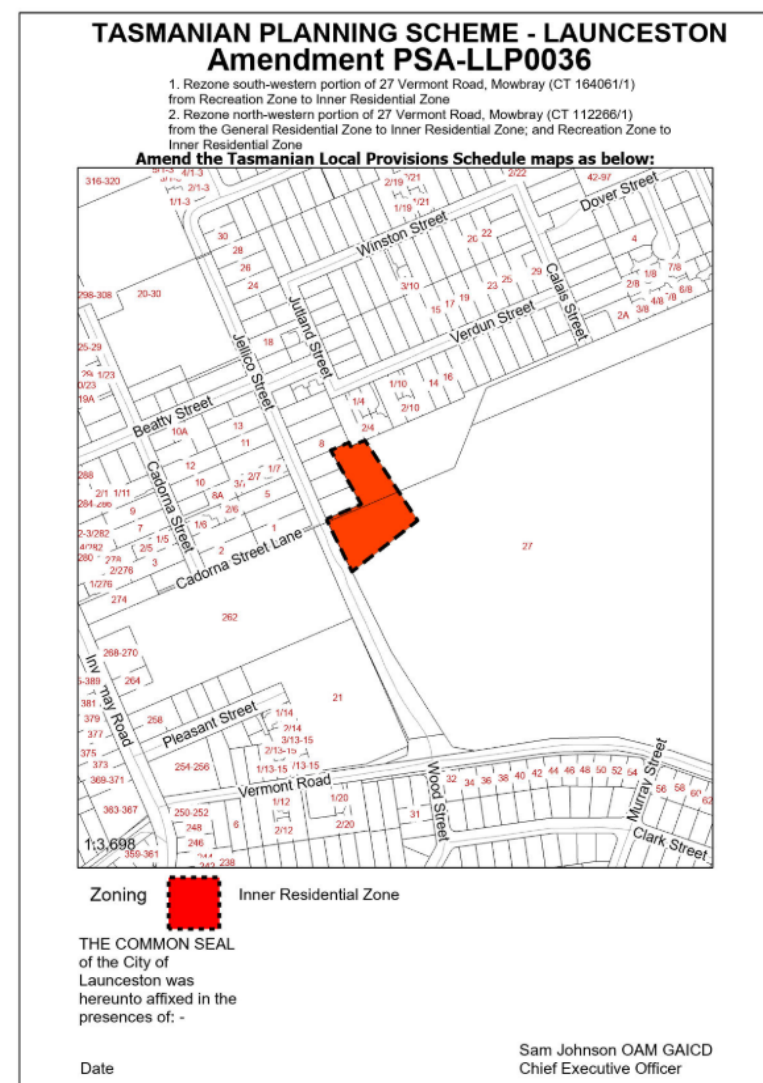
DECISION: 16 April 2026

MOTION

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

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-LLP0036 to the Launceston Local Provisions schedule to:
 - (a) rezone south-western portion of 27 Vermont Road, Mowbray (CT 164061/1) from Recreation Zone to Inner Residential Zone.
 - (b) rezone north-western portion of 27 Vermont Road, Mowbray (CT 112266/1) from the General Residential Zone to Inner Residential Zone; and Recreation Zone to Inner Residential Zone.
 - (c) remove Local heritage place from south-western portion of 27 Vermont Road, Mowbray (CT 164061/1)



Instrument 1 – Rezoning

COUNCILLOR	QUESTION	RESPONSE
Councillor T G Walker	Regarding being inner residential rather than residential was that a preference of Council, a negotiated outcome, or was it a request of the landowner?	<p>Town Planner</p> <p><i>We did have previous consultation with the applicant and the planning consultant to understand what exists in that area. As you know Mowbray Activity Centre is major in terms of the Northern Regional Land Use Strategy. When you look at the spatial hierarchy, the activity centre is surrounded by inner residential, which is the prevailing zone. That is one aspect.</i></p> <p><i>Then in our Housing Plan one of the key principles is strong supply. Looking at the existing general residential zone around activity centre we may apply inner residential zoning for higher density. Allowing some discretionary pathways for commercial activities, such as a medical centre, food services, and a few other options within that discretionary pathway.</i></p>

11.2. Lot 3, 18-20 Ellison Street, Newstead - PSA-LLP0033 - 40T Combined Scheme Amendment - Change of Zone from Community Purpose to General Residential; DA0340/2025 - Residential - Construction of 10 dwellings

FILE NO: PSA-LLP0033, DA0340/2025

AUTHOR: Catherine Mainsbridge (Senior Town Planner - Development)

APPROVER: Dean Edsall (Acting 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 combined draft planning scheme amendment to the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule and permit application.

PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applicant:	6ty° Pty Ltd
Address:	Lot 3, 18-20 Ellison Street, Newstead.
Existing Zone:	Community Purpose
Existing Use:	Site vacant, Previous use was a residential hostel

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston
Northern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council - 5 February 2026 - Agenda Item 11.2

1. Initiated Combined Draft Amendment PSA-LLP0033, to Change of Zone from Community Purpose to General Residential; and
2. Approved DA0340/2025 - Residential - Construction of 10 dwellings

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. in accordance with sections 40K and 42 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, considers the merit of any representation received during public exhibition of combined draft planning scheme amendment and permit application PSA-LLP0033 and DA0340/2025.
2. recommends to the Tasmanian Planning Commission that the combined draft planning scheme amendment and permit application PSA-LLP0033 and DA0340/2025 be approved as exhibited.

Catherine Mainsbridge (Senior Town Planner - Development) and Richard Jamieson (Senior Leader City Development) were in attendance to answer questions in respect of this item.

DECISION: 16 April 2026

MOTION

Moved Councillor A G Harris, seconded Councillor R A I Marsden.

That Council:

1. in accordance with sections 40K and 42 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, considers the merit of any representation received during public exhibition of combined draft planning scheme amendment and permit application PSA-LLP0033 and DA0340/2025.
2. recommends to the Tasmanian Planning Commission that the combined draft planning scheme amendment and permit application PSA-LLP0033 and DA0340/2025 be approved as exhibited.

CARRIED 10:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor K M Preece and Councillor R A I Marsden
AGAINST VOTE: Nil

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, announced that Council no longer sits as a Planning Authority.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

No Items were identified as part of these Minutes.

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.)

Councillor S Cai

Saturday 4 April 2026

- Attended the Easter Saturday Children and Family Festival at Riverbend Park.

Sunday 5 April 2026

- Attended the World Street Eats event at Riverbend Park.

Sunday 12 April 2026

- Attended the Nepalese New Year celebrations hosted by the Nepalese Society of Northern Tasmania.

Other Acknowledgements

Celebrated City Park Radio's 40th birthday. Recognised the role of community radio and thanked volunteers past and present.

Councillor D H McKenzie

Sunday 5 April 2026

- Opened the Northern Tasmanian Easter Croquet Tournament. Praised the croquet club for the high standard of ground maintenance

Thursday 9 April

- Attended a Mayors and Deputy Mayors LGAT meeting.

Monday 13 April

- Attended the Civic Reception at the Town Hall to acknowledge City Park Radio's 40 years. Spoke positively about the station's future including its move into digital broadcasting.

Other Acknowledgements

Reflected on working with Councillor D C Gibson since October 2011, acknowledging his long service, leadership, and contribution to the City of Launceston. Thanked him for his commitment and stated his efforts would be remembered.

Councillor A G Harris

Wednesday 15 April 2026

- Attended a Community Grants Assessment Committee Meeting

Other Acknowledgements

Thanked Danny Gibson, noting they first met in 2009 before Danny joined Council. Acknowledged his significant contribution since entering Council in 2011. Recognised Danny's role in providing stability, wisdom, and experience particularly during a period with many new councillors and said the City would be worse off without his input. Wished Danny well for the future.

Councillor T G Walker

Tuesday 14 April 2026

- Enjoyed attending the City Park Radio 40th anniversary celebration.

Other Acknowledgements

Wished Danny Gibson well in his future endeavours. Acknowledging his significant contribution to Council, his attention to detail and his strong understanding of Council operations.

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 T G Walker - Park and Ride Facilities and West Launceston Bowls Club Building - 2 April 2026

FILE NO: SF2375

AUTHOR: Keara Downey (Administration Officer- Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 2 April 2026 by Councillor T G Walker, have been answered by the Team Leader - Engineering and the Senior Leader – City Infrastructure (Question 1) and Senior Leader - Property Asset Strategy (Question 2).

Question 1:

What communication have we had from the State Government regarding Park and Ride facilities in Launceston, locations and timelines?

Response:

Engineering Officers are providing ongoing support to the Department of State Growth in relation to the implementation of its proposed Park and Ride facilities in Launceston.

The State has identified a preferred preliminary northern location, being the vacant parcel of land situated between 419 and 421 Invermay Road, Mowbray.

The land is currently already utilised for informal parking, with engineering concept design expected to commence by the end of April. Further investigations are being undertaken to explore this site's suitability as a Park and Ride facility.

Once design concepts have been developed, including associated financial estimates, further updates will be provided by the State, with a subsequent update to Council to follow.

Question 2:

West Launceston Bowls Club have vacated the building has Council made any endeavours to determine what it will be used for?

Response:

The newly created Property Team is currently considering the future of several Council properties, including the West Launceston Bowls Club site at 5 Merrys Lane, West Launceston.

Early findings indicate that the site's previous use as a cemetery (from 1828 to 1925) places some limitations on potential uses. The team is exploring options for a short-term lease while considering long-term plans. This matter will be presented to the Council for future decision-making.

14.1.2. Questions on Notice by Councillors - Councillor J J Pentridge - Heritage Listing in Newstead Crescent - 2 April 2026

FILE NO: SF2375

AUTHOR: Keara Downey (Administration Officer- Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 2 April 2026 by Councillor J J Pentridge, has been answered by the Senior Leader City Development.

Question 1:

What was the danger in Newstead Crescent to stop what we were doing with buildings in other areas to focus on Newstead Crescent?

Response:

Over the last 5 years the Council has progressed amendments to the planning scheme to implement heritage precincts and to increase the numbers of locally listed properties. The most recent focus has been on introducing precincts. Newstead Crescent was chosen as a precinct because of its consistent character and importance as an example of intact inter war suburban development. Other precincts likely to progress in the next 12 months are for Babbington/ Middle Street, Mayne Street, and St Leonards.

Within the next 6 months it is also the intention of Council officers to recommend to Council up to 50 properties to be entered onto the local heritage list.

Levels of danger or threats to heritage assets can be difficult to predict and are often only evident with hindsight. The consistent heritage nature of Newstead Crescent means its adoption is likely to be well accepted by the community and therefore a simpler process than a diverse area making it a good choice for an early precinct as Council is developing its understanding of precincts.

14.2. Questions Without Notice by Councillors

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 34

14.2.1. Questions Without Notice by Councillors Name - Subject - Date

No Councillors' Questions on Notice were identified as part of these Minutes.

15. WRITTEN NOTICES OF MOTION

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 19

No Notices of Motions were identified as part of these Minutes.

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committee Reports were identified as part of these Minutes.

17. CONNECTIONS AND LIVEABILITY (INCLUDING QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY)

17.1. Heritage Interpretation Framework

FILE NO: SF7813

AUTHOR: Sophie Appleby (Place and Heritage Officer)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the adoption of the Heritage Interpretation Framework.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 26 March 2026 – Heritage Interpretation Project Progress and Aboriginal Engagement Framework Development

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. adopts the Heritage Interpretation Framework (ECM Doc Set ID 5295609).
-

Ben Clark (Team Leader Community Place), Colin James (Community Development Officer) and Sophie Appleby (Place and Heritage Officer) were in attendance to answer questions in respect of this item.

DECISION: 16 April 2026

MOTION

Moved Councillor A G Harris, seconded Councillor S Cai.

That Council:

- 1. adopts the Heritage Interpretation Framework (ECM Doc Set ID 5295609).**

CARRIED 10:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor K M Preece and Councillor R A I Marsden

AGAINST VOTE: Nil

17.2. Extension of Signature Major Event Sponsorship 2023/2024 - 2025/2026

FILE NO: SF7507

AUTHOR: Roshani Hamal (Acting Grants and Sponsorship Officer)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a one-year extension of Signature Major Event Sponsorship for Junction Arts Festival and Tasmanian Open DanceSport Championship to be allocated from the 2026/27 approved event sponsorship budget.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council - 18 May 2023 - Agenda item 15.1 - Event Sponsorship Signature Events 2023/2024 - 2025/2026

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. approves a one-year extension of the previously approved Signature Event Sponsorship funding for Junction Arts Festival and the Tasmanian Open DanceSport Championship, in the amounts of \$45,000 and \$18,200 respectively.

Organisation	Event	\$Recom
Junction Arts Festival	Junction Arts Festival	\$45,000*
DanceSport Australia Limited**	Tasmanian Open DanceSport Championship	\$18,200*

*Note * This funding reflects a one-year extension of the existing Signature Event funding agreement.*

If approved, these applications will be withdrawn from Major Event Sponsorship Round 1 2026/27.

*** Due to a Conflict of Interest, Councillor Andrew Palmer abstained from assessment and discussion of the Tasmanian Open DanceSport Championship (DanceSport Tasmania)*

Frity Mabin (Executive Producer, Junction Arts Festival) spoke for the recommendation.

Councillor A J Palmer withdrew from the meeting at 1.28pm.

DECISION: 16 April 2026

MOTION

Moved Councillor L M McMahon, seconded Councillor A G Harris.

That Council:

1. approves a one-year extension of the previously approved Signature Event Sponsorship funding for Junction Arts Festival and the Tasmanian Open DanceSport Championship, in the amounts of \$45,000 and \$18,200 respectively.

Organisation	Event	\$Recom
Junction Arts Festival	Junction Arts Festival	\$45,000*
DanceSport Australia Limited**	Tasmanian Open DanceSport Championship	\$18,200*

*Note * This funding reflects a one-year extension of the existing Signature Event funding agreement.*

If approved, these applications will be withdrawn from Major Event Sponsorship Round 1 2026/27.

*** Due to a Conflict of Interest, Councillor Andrew Palmer abstained from assessment and discussion of the Tasmanian Open DanceSport Championship (DanceSport Tasmania)*

CARRIED 9:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor K M Preece and Councillor R A I Marsden

AGAINST VOTE: Nil

ABSENT DUE TO A DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Councillor A J Palmer

17.3. Outgoing Grants Policy (and Event Grants Program Documents)

FILE NO: SF0984

AUTHOR: Laura Keith (Grants and Sponsorship Officer)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the adoption of the Outgoing Grants Policy and the endorsement of the associated Event Grants Program Guidelines.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)
Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023 (Tas)
Personal Information Protection Act 2004 (Tas)
Right to Information Act 2009 (Tas)
Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 26 March 2026 – Agenda Item Grants Policy and Guidelines
Workshop – 4 September 2025 – Agenda Item 1.2 Council Grants Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. adopts the Outgoing Grants Policy (05-Plx-012) as set out below:

OUTGOING GRANTS POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy gives effect to the City of Launceston's commitment to accountable, transparent, equitable and financially responsible grant funding by establishing a consistent framework for all Council grant programs and funding decisions, ensuring grants are used effectively to support Council's strategic objectives and deliver positive outcomes for the Launceston community.

This policy establishes:

- the principles that underpin Council's approach to grant funding;
 - high-level eligibility requirements applicable to all Council grant programs;
 - governance, decision-making and approval parameters for Council grants; and
 - the respective roles and responsibilities of Council, Councillors, officers and assessment panels involved in the administration, assessment and approval of grants.
-

This policy applies to all outgoing grant funding administered by Council and is supported by grant-specific guidelines, assessment panel terms of reference and other operational documents, which may be amended from time to time without affecting this policy.

SCOPE

This policy applies to grant funding administered by all City of Launceston business units, including areas that have not previously operated under a formal grants policy. Funding provided by Council through grant programs may include support for events, projects, partnerships and initiatives where funding is allocated through an application-based or assessed process and is conditional on delivery, reporting and acquittal.

The policy applies to:

1. City of Launceston staff
2. Councillors
3. Assessment panel members
4. Grant applicants and recipients

This policy does not apply to:

1. Incoming grants received by Council or the City from external organisations
2. Activities governed by the City's Procurement Policy; or
3. Funding provided as part of Council's annual budget process or routine service delivery

This policy supersedes the following policies:

1. 05-PI-010 Community Grants (Organisations) Policy
2. 05-PI-019 Community Grants (Individuals/Teams/Groups) Policy
3. 05-PI-012 Event Sponsorship Policy

Sponsorship arrangements are not grants and are excluded from the scope of this policy. Sponsorship is defined as a commercial arrangement in which Council provides a contribution of money or in-kind support in return for specified promotional, branding or other reciprocal benefits. Sponsorship agreements are governed by separate policies or contractual arrangements and are not covered by this policy.

POLICY

Council provides grant funding to individuals, community groups and organisations to support initiatives that deliver public benefit and advance the City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025–2035.

Grant funding is one mechanism through which Council invests in activities that:

- strengthen community connection and wellbeing
- support creativity, culture and inclusion
- activate public spaces and enhance liveability
- build local capability and economic resilience
- respond to emerging community needs and opportunities

Council's approach to grant funding emphasises outcomes, value for money and measurable contribution to Council's strategic objectives. Funding is intended to act as a catalyst for innovation, growth and continuous improvement, rather than to subsidise activities that are financially self-sustaining or repetitively delivered without demonstrated public benefit.

Council may administer grant funding through a range of program formats, including open competitive, targeted, non-competitive, ad-hoc or demand-driven approaches, depending on the purpose, scale and intended outcomes of the funding.

Council may provide financial and/or in-kind assistance through its grant programs, subject to available resources and governance requirements. Any in-kind assistance must be proportionate to the scale and risk of the funded activity, assigned an estimated monetary value, and documented in the relevant funding agreement or approval documentation. In-kind assistance forms part of Council's total contribution to an initiative and is not guaranteed.

In determining funding priorities and decisions, Council will:

1. support initiatives that enhance place, liveability and community connection
2. favour proposals demonstrating strong public value and inclusive outcomes
3. support projects that build long-term capability and sector resilience
4. encourage diversity and innovation in funded activities
5. apply governance arrangements proportionate to risk and value.

This policy establishes Council's overarching framework for grant funding. Detailed operational requirements are contained within grant-specific guidelines and procedures.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for funding under this policy, applicants must meet Council's eligibility requirements and demonstrate capacity to deliver the proposed activity in accordance with any funding agreement. Council may request additional information from applicants to support assessment or eligibility determination. Meeting eligibility or assessment criteria does not guarantee funding.

Council may deem an applicant ineligible where the applicant:

- has an overdue acquittal, report or repayment obligation relating to any previous Council funding
- has breached the terms or conditions of a Council funding agreement within the previous three (3) years
- is party to another agreement with Council that precludes further grant funding
- has an outstanding debt to Council
- does not hold, or cannot reasonably obtain, appropriate insurance coverage commensurate with the nature and risk of the funded activity.
- cannot demonstrate financial or organisational capacity to deliver the proposed activity
- cannot demonstrate compliance with the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework, where the funded activity involves children or young people

- derives revenue from gambling activities. Council funding will not support activities that primarily promote gambling. When determining eligibility, Council may consider the overall public value and community benefit of the proposed activity.
- sells or promotes tobacco or vaping products
- is a government agency or political organisation, or whose primary purpose is political advocacy
- is a current Councillor or Council employee applying in an individual or personal capacity (this does not preclude applications from organisations with which they are affiliated, provided appropriate conflict of interest provisions are declared and managed)

Council may also consider past performance, delivery quality and compliance history when determining eligibility for future funding.

Council may deem a proposed activity ineligible where it:

- does not demonstrate clear public benefit to the Launceston community
- does not align with Council's strategic objectives
- is primarily profit-driven without reinvestment for community benefit
- seeks retrospective funding for activities that have already commenced or concluded (unless expressly permitted in program guidelines)
- involves fundraising for third parties, unless expressly supported through a Council grant program designed to enable fundraising events that contribute to local vibrancy, place activation and community benefit
- lacks required landowner, asset owner or regulatory approvals.

Funding will not generally be provided for routine operational costs or business-as-usual activities unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that the proposed expenditure:

- contributes directly to Council's strategic objectives; and
- delivers public value beyond the applicant's usual activities, including through innovation, capability building or sector development.

Grant program guidelines may include additional eligibility requirements specific to individual programs, reflecting the purpose, scale and risk of the funding. Guidelines may also specify conditions relating to auspicing arrangements, including financial accountability and compliance responsibilities.

Council may require applicants to provide evidence of financial solvency and governance, including recent financial statements, audited accounts, or governance documentation (such as Annual General Meeting minutes). Where requested, this information must be provided to be considered for funding. Individuals applying in a personal capacity are not required to provide audited financial statements but may be required to demonstrate their capacity to deliver the funded activity.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Council is responsible for approving this policy and retains final decision-making authority for grant funding in accordance with its governance framework. Grant programs are administered by Council officers in line with this policy and include design, assessment coordination, eligibility checks, agreement management, monitoring, reporting and review processes. Assessment panels evaluate applications and provide documented recommendations to Council. Council applies a risk-based approach to grant administration, with monitoring, reporting and compliance requirements scaled to the value and risk profile of funding.

Assessment and Approval

Assessment panels independently assess and score eligible applications against documented assessment criteria and provide recommendations to Council. Assessment panels comprise relevant Council officers and up to two Councillors, with composition proportionate to the scale, complexity and value of the funding program. External expertise may be engaged where specialist knowledge is required. Any individual who has submitted, or is directly associated with, an application in the current funding round must not participate in the assessment, scoring or discussion of applications for that round.

Where appropriate, moderated review processes may be applied to ensure consistency of scoring, fairness of outcomes and alignment with assessment criteria. Moderation processes must be documented and conducted in accordance with Council's governance requirements. A non-scoring probity officer may attend assessment panels to oversee compliance with governance requirements, manage conflicts of interest, and ensure decisions are transparent and appropriately documented.

Final funding decisions are made by Council through formal resolution, having regard to documented recommendations, available budget and strategic priorities. Councillors participating in an assessment panel must not seek to influence Council's final decision outside the documented assessment process.

Roles and Responsibilities

Council officers are responsible for program design, administration of assessment processes, execution of funding agreements and ongoing management of grant recipients. Councillors may participate in assessment panels in accordance with this policy and retain responsibility for approving grant funding decisions. All panel members must comply with conflict-of-interest obligations and governance requirements at all stages of the process. Applicants and recipients are responsible for providing accurate information, complying with funding agreements, and completing required reporting and acquittal.

Probity and Conflicts of Interest

All grant processes must be conducted ethically, impartially, lawfully and transparently. Actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest must be declared and managed in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas). Individuals with a conflict of interest must not participate in, or seek to influence, any part of the assessment or decision-making process for the application round in which the relevant application is

being considered. Applications from organisations in which Councillors or Council employees hold a role must be declared and managed in accordance with this policy to ensure transparency and probity in decision-making.

Accountability and Record Management

Grant decisions must be documented and supported by clear rationale. Appropriate records must be maintained to demonstrate compliance with this policy and to support audit, review and public accountability. All grants must be governed by a written funding agreement outlining approved activities, deliverables, reporting requirements and compliance obligations. Funding is conditional upon delivery of agreed outcomes and compliance with funding agreements, including reporting and acquittal requirements proportionate to the value and risk of the grant. Any significant change to the approved activity scope, scale or deliverables must be approved by Council in writing.

Council may apply staged payments, monitoring, audit or other assurance measures proportionate to the value and risk of funding. This includes financial and in-kind contributions provided by Council. Council reserves the right to request evidence of expenditure, vary, suspend or terminate funding, and recover funds where grant conditions are not met.

Funding Management

Where grant funding approved through Council's budget process is uncommitted, withdrawn or returned (for example where a funding round is undersubscribed, a funding agreement is not executed or an approved activity does not proceed), Council may reallocate the available funds to other eligible initiatives within the relevant grant program. Reallocation may occur across funding streams within the program where this supports Council's strategic priorities and remains consistent with the objectives of the grant program. Reallocation delegation is approved at an Executive level, in accordance with Council's governance framework.

Reallocation may be undertaken through either a competitive or non-competitive process, including targeted invitations to apply. Where a non-competitive process is used, applications must be assessed against the relevant assessment criteria and documented in accordance with this policy and the program guidelines.

Transparency

Information about approved grants will be made publicly available in accordance with Council's transparency obligations and relevant legislation.

PRINCIPLES

Council grant funding is guided by the following principles:

Strategic Alignment

Grants must advance the objectives of the City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025–2035 and contribute to community wellbeing, inclusion, economic vitality and environmental sustainability.

Public Value

Funding is directed to initiatives that deliver clear community benefit and outcomes that would not otherwise occur without Council investment.

Equity and Accessibility

Grant programs are designed to promote fair access and inclusive participation across Launceston's diverse communities.

Capability Building

Council prioritises initiatives that strengthen local capability, encourage innovation, and build resilience within community, cultural, environmental and economic sectors.

Accountability and Transparency

Grant decisions are made openly and responsibly, with clear governance, documentation and reporting to ensure public funds are used effectively.

Integrity

All grant processes are conducted ethically, impartially and in accordance with Council's organisational values and legislative obligations.

RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES

This policy is supported by related guidelines, procedures and operational documents, which may be amended from time to time without requiring amendment to this policy, including;

- Grant Program Guidelines & Procedures
- Assessment Panel Terms of Reference
- Funding Agreement Templates
- Assessor Handbooks
- Fraud Control Policy 2023
- Customer Service Charter 2024
- City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025–2035
- City of Launceston Events Framework 2025

RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*
- *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023 (Tas)*
- *Personal Information Protection Act 1994 (Tas)*
- *Right to Information Act 2009 (Tas)*
- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (Tas)*

REFERENCES

- Australian Government Department of Finance; Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024
- Victorian Auditor-General's Office 2022; Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants
- SmartyGrants; Grant Administration Best Practice Guidance
- Local Government Inspectorate 2019; Protecting Integrity: Yarriambiack Shire Council Investigation

DEFINITIONS

Acquittal A report confirming grant funds were used in accordance with the funding agreement, including outcomes achieved and expenditure. Requirements are proportionate to grant value and risk.

Application process The documented steps required to apply for funding, including eligibility and assessment criteria.

Approver (Decision-maker) The person or body authorised to approve grant funding under Council's governance framework.

Assessment criteria Standards used to evaluate eligible applications. Criteria may be weighted.

Auspicing An arrangement where an incorporated organisation applies for and administers funding on behalf of an unincorporated group or individual and is responsible for compliance.

Conflict of interest A situation where private interests could improperly influence, or be perceived to influence, public duties.

Eligibility criteria Mandatory requirements assessed on a met/not met basis.

Grant Financial or in-kind assistance provided by Council subject to a funding agreement.

Grants administration All processes relating to grant design, assessment, agreements, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Grant agreement A legally binding agreement setting out funding conditions and obligations.

Grant guidelines Program-specific documents outlining objectives, eligibility, assessment and operational requirements.

Grant program type The format through which funding is offered, including:

- **Open competitive grants** – publicly advertised and comparatively assessed.
 - **Targeted or restricted competitive grants** – competitive programs open to defined applicants.
 - **Non-competitive open grants** – applications assessed individually over a set period.
 - **Non-competitive closed grants** – invited applications assessed individually.
 - **Demand-driven or first-in first-served grants** – funded in order of eligible applications until funds are exhausted.
 - **One-off ad hoc grants** – exceptional grants for urgent or unforeseen circumstances.
-

In-kind assistance Non-monetary support such as services, facilities or equipment.

Sponsorship A commercial arrangement involving reciprocal promotional benefit and not considered a grant under this policy.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at least every five (5) years, or earlier where required due to legislative change, operational needs or Council direction. Minor administrative amendments that do not materially alter the intent of this policy may be approved by the Executive Leadership Team.

2. endorses the draft Event Grants Program Guidelines (ECM Doc Set ID 5356551); and
3. notes draft Event Grants Assessment Panel Terms of Reference is also provided for Council's information and consideration for adoption at a future Council Meeting.

Fleur Marshall (Senior Leader Stakeholder Experience) were in attendance to answer questions in respect of this item. A table of questions asked by Councillors during the debate is included after the decision.

Councillor A J Palmer reattended the meeting at 1.35pm.

DECISION: 16 April 2026

MOTION

Moved Councillor L M McMahon, seconded Councillor A G Harris.

That Council:

1. **adopts the Outgoing Grants Policy (05-Plx-012) as set out below:**

OUTGOING GRANTS POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy gives effect to the City of Launceston's commitment to accountable, transparent, equitable and financially responsible grant funding by establishing a consistent framework for all Council grant programs and funding decisions, ensuring grants are used effectively to support Council's strategic objectives and deliver positive outcomes for the Launceston community.

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Applicants and recipients are responsible for providing accurate information, complying with funding agreements, and completing required reporting and acquittal.

Probity and Conflicts of Interest

All grant processes must be conducted ethically, impartially, lawfully and transparently. Actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest must be declared and managed in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas). Individuals with a conflict of interest must not participate in, or seek to influence, any part of the assessment or decision-making process for the application round in which the relevant application is being considered. Applications from organisations in which Councillors or Council employees hold a role must be declared and managed in accordance with this policy to ensure transparency and probity in decision-making.

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Reallocation may be undertaken through either a competitive or non-competitive process, including targeted invitations to apply. Where a non-competitive process is used, applications must be assessed against the relevant assessment criteria and documented in accordance with this policy and the program guidelines.

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- Assessment Panel Terms of Reference
- Funding Agreement Templates
- Assessor Handbooks
- Fraud Control Policy 2023
- Customer Service Charter 2024

- City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025–2035
- City of Launceston Events Framework 2025

RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*
- *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023 (Tas)*
- *Personal Information Protection Act 1994 (Tas)*
- *Right to Information Act 2009 (Tas)*
- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (Tas)*

REFERENCES

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Sponsorship A commercial arrangement involving reciprocal promotional benefit and not considered a grant under this policy.

REVIEW

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2. endorses the draft Event Grants Program Guidelines (ECM Doc Set ID 5356551); and
3. notes draft Event Grants Assessment Panel Terms of Reference is also provided for Council's information and consideration for adoption at a future Council Meeting.

CARRIED 9:1

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor K M Preece and Councillor R A I Marsden

AGAINST VOTE: Councillor T G Walker

COUNCILLOR	QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>Councillor T G Walker</p>	<p>What is it we are trying to fix? What is the problem that was broken that we needed to fix in making these changes?</p>	<p><i>Executive Leader Connections and Liveability</i> <i>The most important issue was that the existing policy was too specific to a single grant round. From time to time, Council runs other grant rounds. For example, last year there was an Arts and Culture Grant that was not covered by the existing policy, meaning there was no policy framework to support it. Council has also run other grant processes that fell outside the scope of the policy. The new policy is a higher level, all encompassing policy that will apply to any grant Council chooses to run in the future, with specific guidelines developed for individual grant programs.</i></p>
<p>Councillor T G Walker</p>	<p>I am concerned that we are removing community members from panels that have been part of events grants assessments in the past. What is the rationale behind that change?</p>	<p><i>Executive Leader Connections and Liveability</i> <i>Generally, efficiency. Being able to have smaller committees makes them more efficient. We haven't had great attendance at a lot of meetings. It keeps them smaller, refined, focused and becomes people's jobs rather than something that is a burden on somebody.</i></p>
<p>Councillor D H Mc Kenzie</p>	<p>There is the ability for us to appoint community representatives to specific funding rounds. Can you explain how that is done and who makes the decision on that?</p>	<p><i>Executive Leader Connections and Liveability</i> <i>The panel consists of Councillors and Council Officers. If they got grant applications they did not have the expertise on or felt there was more expertise out there then that panel would ask somebody to come to the meetings and provide that expert advice.</i></p>

18. COMMUNITY ASSETS AND DESIGN

No Items were identified as part of these Minutes

19. DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE

19.1. Monthly Financial Performance Report - February 2026

FILE NO: SF7694

AUTHOR: Zakia Afroz (Team Leader Accounting)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the February 2026 Capital and Operational financial reports against budget.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes the Monthly Financial Performance Report outlining both Capital and Operational results to the period ending 28 February 2026.
-

Byron Fraser (Senior Leader Finance and Technology) were in attendance to answer questions in respect of this item. A table of questions asked by Councillors during the debate is included after the decision.

DECISION: 16 April 2026

MOTION

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

That Council:

1. **notes the Monthly Financial Performance Report outlining both Capital and Operational results to the period ending 28 February 2026.**

CARRIED 10:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor K M Preece and Councillor R A I Marsden

AGAINST VOTE: Nil

COUNCILLOR	QUESTION	RESPONSE
Councillor T G Walker	Has Council taken recent, concrete actions to address the materials and services cost overrun, particularly in response to rising fuel costs and resource pressures, and are efficiency measures being actively applied or reviewed?	<p><i>Executive Leader Delivery and Performance</i></p> <p><i>At the Executive meeting held earlier this morning, a report was received on the situation with fuel prices, which is being monitored very closely in relation to the materials and services overruns. These overruns are broken down on page three in the attachments.</i></p> <p><i>There is an unbudgeted contract that was entered into with a technology provider as a result of a Council decision, which supports the digital transformation project currently underway.</i></p> <p><i>Additional factors include renovation works at Town Hall and Remount Road to improve staff accommodation, which has been underfunded over a long period of time, as well as increased expenditure on community facilities that was not budgeted at an appropriate level.</i></p> <p><i>Overall, the variance reflects a combination of unbudgeted costs and responses to broader market pressures, including fuel prices, which also have a knock on effect on electricity costs.</i></p>

19.2. 2025/2026 Budget - Budget Amendment

FILE NO: SF7769,SF7514

AUTHOR: Zakia Afroz (Team Leader Accounting)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

For Council to:

1. consider changes to the Council's 2025/2026 Statutory Estimates.

A decision for Recommendation 1. requires an absolute majority of Council in accordance with section 82(4) of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

2. consider adjustments made during 1 February to 28 February 2026 by the Chief Executive Officer to the 2025/2026 Budget.

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) Revenue
 - i. the net increase in revenue from external grants and contributions of \$86,175.
 - (b) Expenses
 - i. the net increase in operations expenditure of \$466,000.
 - (c) Capital Works Expenditure
 - i. the net increase in expenditure from external funds of \$86,175.
 - ii. the decrease in the Council's funded expenditure of \$466,000.
2. notes that amendments from Recommendation 1. result in:
 - (a) the operating deficit being amended to \$1,914,196 (including capital grants of \$23,685,350) for 2025/2026.
 - (b) the capital budget being decreased to \$53,733,788 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 February to 28 February 2026.

Byron Fraser (Senior Leader Finance and Technology) were in attendance to answer questions in respect of this item. A table of questions asked by Councillors during the debate is included after the decision.

DECISION: 16 April 2026

MOTION

Moved Councillor A G Harris, seconded Councillor K M Preece.

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) Revenue
 - i. the net increase in revenue from external grants and contributions of \$86,175.
 - (b) Expenses
 - i. the net increase in operations expenditure of \$466,000.
 - (c) Capital Works Expenditure
 - i. the net increase in expenditure from external funds of \$86,175.
 - ii. the decrease in the Council's funded expenditure of \$466,000.
2. notes that amendments from Recommendation 1. result in:
 - (a) the operating deficit being amended to \$1,914,196 (including capital grants of \$23,685,350) for 2025/2026.
 - (b) the capital budget being decreased to \$53,733,788 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 February to 28 February 2026.

CARRIED 9:1

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor K M Preece and Councillor R A I Marsden

AGAINST VOTE: Councillor J J Pentridge

COUNCILLOR	QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>Councillor T G Walker</p>	<p>In relation to the proposed works at Princes Square, can Council clarify how this can be considered operational given it will trigger known heritage concerns from the community. I'd like to know what the process is and how we can call it operational?</p>	<p>Executive Leader Delivery and Performance <i>The City Heart Project steering group have assessed the application for that project. It does address deliverables under the City Heart Place. I will take the question on notice and get some more information for you.</i></p> <p>Chief Executive Officer <i>Whilst I do not have the full project details, I am aware a good portion of that relates to vegetation issues within Princes Square. I know that our Open Spaces team have been working for with landscape architects on how they could revegetate Princes Square and deal with antisocial behaviours identified around some of the types of trees that we have. I suspect a lot of that will relate to a significant amount of landscaping.</i></p>
<p>Councillor D H McKenzie</p>	<p>How is the City Heart budget put together, is there specific information on that? If there is and that money was to be spent on something else, does that mean we are not doing that project any longer or alternatively is there a bucket of money we are going to need to advance the City Heart project?</p>	<p>Executive Leader Delivery and Performance <i>Each of the projects that are being allocated funding from that centralised City Heart, they are denoted as Launceston City Heart projects. They are serving the purpose of what City Heart is. It is just moving money from that centralised capital project to a more specific capital project which more accurately represents what that individual project is delivering.</i></p>
<p>Councillor D H McKenzie</p>	<p>Did we have projects in mind when we put that \$3.2 million together, which we are now diverting into other projects, and therefore won't necessarily now be spent on that?</p>	<p>Executive Leader Delivery and Performance <i>That is correct. It is not a bucket of money. There is a rationale behind each project that was allocated to that major project.</i></p>

<p>Councillor D H McKenzie</p>	<p>If we take projects which were not originally envisaged in the \$3.2 million, York Street Car Park for example at \$75,000. That \$75,000 may have been planned for something else, will that now not be able to be spent or is it going to be future budgeted?</p>	<p>Executive Leader Delivery and Performance <i>It will be a mix of some scope changes and some efficiencies they found in the budget. It would depend on the nature of each individual project. That is \$75,000 in terms of the overall scheme of the budget, over \$3 million is minor. Not an insignificant amount of money in a vacuum, but we will ensure that next year's capital budget is appropriate to make sure that the team can deliver on what they need to in the City Heart project.</i></p>
<p>Councillor D H McKenzie</p>	<p>Are we reviewing how we cost our projects year on year, given the regular movement of expenditure from capital to operations, with a view to better reflecting operational components upfront, so that we are not continually required to transfer costs later, noting the significant impact this has on the overall bottom line?</p>	<p>Executive Leader Delivery and Performance <i>When we begin a capital project we understand more about what is under the ground, what we are doing in terms of the nature of the work and if it can be capitalised under our capitalisation framework.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the Asset Management Steering Committee, we have started to review the mix between capital and operations between each project. It has probably, in the past, typically been a case of majority rules. If most of the project is capital, it will sit in capital.</i></p> <p><i>You will see this in the major operational budget for next year. There are different projects capital and operational projects. Using the Princes Theatre as an example; we have got a major operations project for the facade for around \$600,000 as well as a significant capital project.</i></p> <p><i>For those significant projects next year, yes. We will start to see more of that.</i></p>
<p>Councillor S Cai</p>	<p>In relation to the Ravenswood over 50s Club roof costing \$280,000. Will that go into an insurance claim or are we paying for that?</p>	<p>Executive Leader Delivery and Performance <i>There is no insurance claim I'm aware of with regards to the roof. That is simply bringing that up to standard.</i></p>

Councillor A G Harris	The bus interchange from City Heart was \$5 million, we have a bus interchange transfer of \$620,000 and the City Heart two-way streets costing \$690,000. I would imagine that is not sufficient. Is that what is simply going to be spent on these projects?	Executive Leader Delivery and Performance <i>I would strongly suggest and we will clarify for you, it is just for this year's work. Question Taken On Notice.</i>
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19.3. Disposal of Interest in Land - 23-29 Blamey Road Punchbowl

FILE NO: SF2963

AUTHOR: Michelle Grey (Properties and Legal Officer)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider granting an easement over public land at 23-29 Blamey Road, Punchbowl to the Launceston Golf Club

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes the Valuer-General's valuation for the land.
2. pursuant to section 178 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*, forms an intention to create an easement in favour of the Launceston Golf Club totalling approximately 70m² over Certificate of Title 246804/1 as generally indicated in the image below for \$2,396.70 (plus GST) subject to the easement dimensions being more accurately identified.



3. requires that the purchase price for the easement be at the rate of \$34.12 (plus GST) per square metre (with the exact price to be determined at the time of final survey) plus all relevant costs as follows:
 - (a) public advertising of the intention to dispose, approximately \$1,200 (plus GST);
 - (b) \$1,732 (plus GST) being the Council's fee for disposal of an interest in Council and; and
 - (c) all survey, legal and Land Titles Office registration fees and costs associated with the conveyance.

 4. requests the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - (a) ensure that formal notice is given of the intention to create the easement, as required by subsection 178(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas); and
 - (b) subject to any objection received during the statutory notice period:
 - i. determine the exact dimensions of the easement and all remaining terms and conditions; and
 - ii. exercise any of Council's rights, options or discretions necessary for registration of the easement.

 5. notes, for the avoidance of doubt 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).
-

Michelle Grey (Properties and Legal Officer) was in attendance to answer questions in respect of this item.

Deputy Mayor D H McKenzie withdrew from the meeting at 2.06pm.

DECISION: 16 April 2026

MOTION

Moved Councillor A G Harris, seconded Councillor K M Preece.

That Council:

1. notes the Valuer-General's valuation for the land.
2. pursuant to section 178 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*, forms an intention to create an easement in favour of the Launceston Golf Club totalling approximately 70m² over Certificate of Title 246804/1 as generally indicated in the image below for \$2,396.70 (plus GST) subject to the easement dimensions being more accurately identified.



3. requires that the purchase price for the easement be at the rate of \$34.12 (plus) GST) per square metre (with the exact price to be determined at the time of final survey) plus all relevant costs as follows:
 - (a) public advertising of the intention to dispose, approximately \$1,200 (plus GST);
 - (b) \$1,732 (plus GST) being the Council's fee for disposal of an interest in Council and; and
 - (c) all survey, legal and Land Titles Office registration fees and costs associated with the conveyance.
4. requests the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - (a) ensure that formal notice is given of the intention to create the easement, as required by subsection 178(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*; and

- (b) subject to any objection received during the statutory notice period:
 - i. determine the exact dimensions of the easement and all remaining terms and conditions; and
 - ii. exercise any of Council's rights, options or discretions necessary for registration of the easement.
5. notes, for the avoidance of doubt 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).

CARRIED 9:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor K M Preece and Councillor R A I Marsden

AGAINST VOTE: Nil

ABSENT DUE TO A DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie

Councillor D H McKenzie re-attended the meeting at 2.08pm.

20. STRATEGY AND INNOVATION

No Items were identified as part of these Minutes.

21. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK

No Items were identified as part of these Minutes.

22. LATE ITEMS

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – regulation 10(7)

22.1. Acceptance of a Late and Urgent Item - Princess Theatre Redevelopment Project - Electricity Infrastructure Easement

AUTHOR: Kelsey Hartland (Team Leader Governance and Information Services)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider accepting a late and urgent item regarding the Princess Theatre Redevelopment Project - Electricity Infrastructure Easement.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council:

1. by absolute majority and pursuant to Regulation 10(7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* (Tas), determines to deal with this matter, being one that was not included in the published Agenda; and
 2. notes the advice from the Chief Executive Officer in respect of the reason it was not possible to include this matter in the Agenda and that the matter is urgent, that advice having been provided to Councillors by email on 15 April 2026 and in the report attached to this Agenda Item.
 3. notes, for the avoidance of doubt, that Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager within the meaning of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
-

Duncan Campbell (Team Leader Legal) and Michael Newby (Senior Major Projects Advisor) were in attendance to answer questions in respect of this item.

DECISION: 16 April 2026

MOTION

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

That Council:

- 1. by absolute majority and pursuant to Regulation 10(7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 (Tas)*, determines to deal with this matter, being one that was not included in the published Agenda; and**
- 2. notes the advice from the Chief Executive Officer in respect of the reason it was not possible to include this matter in the Agenda and that the matter is urgent, that advice having been provided to Councillors by email on 15 April 2026 and in the report attached to this Agenda Item.**
- 3. notes, for the avoidance of doubt, that Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager within the meaning of the *Local Government Act 1993*.**

CARRIED 10:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor K M Preece and Councillor R A I Marsden

AGAINST VOTE: Nil

22.4. Princess Theatre Redevelopment Project - Electricity Infrastructure Easement

FILE NO: SF0371

AUTHOR: Duncan Campbell (Team Leader Legal Services)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider granting an electrical easement in favour of TasNetworks

This decision requires an absolute majority of Council.

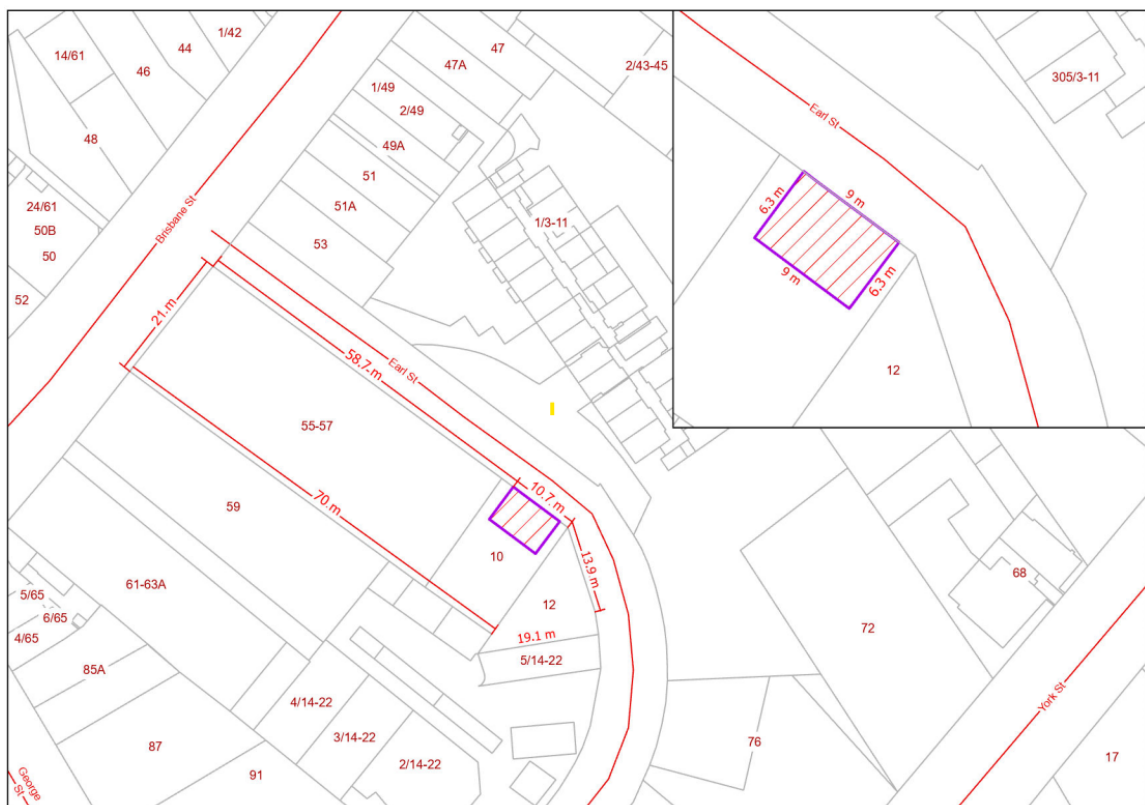
RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council:

1. forms an intention to grant an electricity infrastructure easement over 10 Earl Street, Launceston in favour of Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd (TasNetworks), as generally indicated in purple in the plan below:



- requires that notice of the intention to grant the easement is provided as required by section 178(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) (LGA).
- subject to any objection being received during the public notification period, requires that the exact location and extent of the easement be confirmed at the time of final survey and then registered against the title to the land.

Duncan Campbell (Team Leader Legal) and Michael Newby (Senior Major Projects Advisor) were in attendance to answer questions in respect of this item. A table of questions asked by Councillors during the debate is included after the decision.

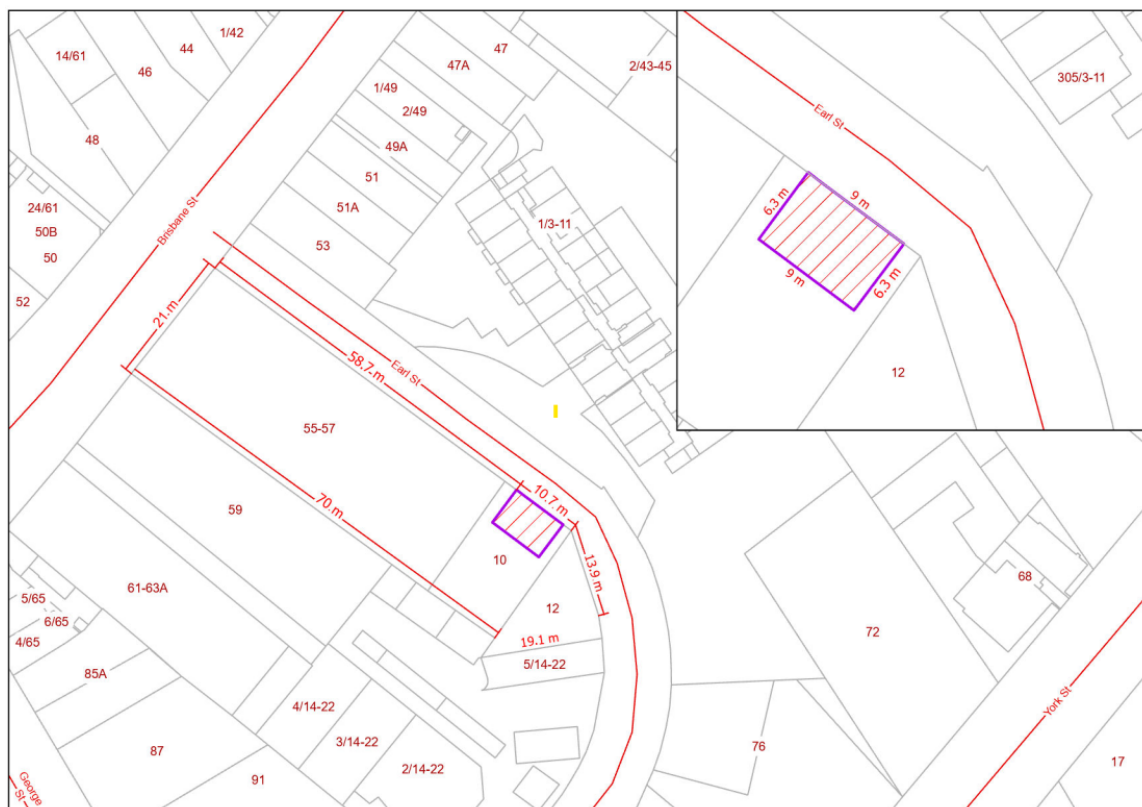
DECISION: 16 April 2026

MOTION

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

That Council:

- forms an intention to grant an electricity infrastructure easement over 10 Earl Street, Launceston in favour of Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd (TasNetworks), as generally indicated in purple in the plan below:**



- requires that notice of the intention to grant the easement is provided as required by section 178(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) (LGA).**

3. subject to any objection being received during the public notification period, requires that the exact location and extent of the easement be confirmed at the time of final survey and then registered against the title to the land.

CARRIED 8:2

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor K M Preece and Councillor R A I Marsden
AGAINST VOTE: Councillor T G Walker and Councillor J J Pentridge

COUNCILLOR	QUESTION	RESPONSE
Councillor T G Walker	I want to question the location where the infrastructure is being moved to? It was always the plan to keep it on site. There was some discussion that the infrastructure might leave the site, but that is not an option?	Senior Major Projects Advisor <i>No, certainly not at this stage.</i>

23. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held at 1.00pm on 30 April at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 18-28 St John Street, Launceston.

24. MEETING CLOSURE

The Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood, closed the Meeting at 2.12pm.