



City of
LAUNCESTON

COUNCIL AGENDA

**COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2026
1:00 PM**

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: 20 August 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 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.

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<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.....	8
2. MAYORAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	8
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	8
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	8
4.1. Confirmation of Minutes	8
5. COUNCIL WORKSHOPS	9
5.1. Council Workshop Report - 13 August 2026	9
6. COUNCILLORS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATIONS AND PARENTAL LEAVE NOTIFICATIONS	11
7. COMMUNITY REPORTS	12
8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.....	13
8.1. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public.....	13
8.1.1. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Robin Smith - New CBD Traffic Routes - Mobile Food Vendor Bookings - 29 July 2026	13
8.1.2. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Kyle Barrett - Council Funding and Support for Island Escape Festival - 30 July 2026	15
8.1.3. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Robert, Ravenswood - LGBT Community Support - 6 August 2026.....	16
8.2. Questions Without Notice by Members of the Public.....	18
9. PETITIONS.....	18
10. DEPUTATIONS	18
11. PLANNING AUTHORITY	18
12. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR.....	18
13. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS	18

14. QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS	19
14.1. Questions on Notice by Councillors	19
14.1.1. Questions on Notice by Councillor Krista Preece - Speed Bump Installation at Royal Park - 6 August 2026.....	19
14.1.2. Questions on Notice by Councillor Alex Britton - Use and Bookings of Albert Hall - 6 August 2026	20
14.1.3. Questions on Notice by Councillor Susie Cai - Adopt a Tree Program - 6 August 2026	21
14.1.4. Questions on Notice by Councillor Alan Harris - Reallocation of Dredging Funding - 6 August 2026	23
14.2. Questions Without Notice by Councillors	24
15. WRITTEN NOTICES OF MOTION	25
15.1. Notice of Motion - Councillor A Palmer and Councillor A Britton- 25th Anniversary of The Afghanistan War 11 October 2026	25
16. COMMITTEE REPORTS	28
16.1. Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting - 7 July 2026	28
17. CONNECTIONS AND LIVEABILITY (INCLUDING QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY)	31
17.1. Quarterly Report - Connections and Liveability - 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026	31
17.2. Innovation Partnership and Destination Partnership Grants 2027	53
17.3. Community Event and Fundraising Event Grants Round 2 2026/2027	66
18. COMMUNITY ASSETS AND DESIGN.....	81
18.1. Quarterly Report - Community Assets and Design - 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026	81
18.2. NTCA Sports Complex Redevelopment - Funding Approach.....	90

19. DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE	95
19.1. Quarterly Report - Delivery and Performance - 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026	95
19.2. Response to Notice of Motion - Councillor A Harris - Report into the Effect of Applying a Rate Capping of 20% on Primary Production to Commercial Rate Charge in 2026/27 Budget.....	109
19.3. Register of Interests Policy (14-Plx-042).....	120
20. STRATEGY AND INNOVATION	129
20.1. Quarterly Report - Strategy and Innovation - 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026	129
20.2. Launceston Tramway Museum	146
20.3. Lease - Lilydale Pony Club - Karoola Hall and Recreation Ground.....	151
20.4. Lease - Invermay Bowls Club.....	155
20.5. City of Launceston Annual Plan 2025/2026 - Quarter 4 Progress Report.....	158
20.6. City of Launceston Incoming Grant Management Policy (12-Plx-032).....	161
20.7. Efficiency Dividends Report - Quarter 4	170
21. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK	173
21.1. Quarterly Report - Office of the Chief Executive Officer - 1 April 2026 to 31 July 2026	173
21.2. Correspondence - Minister Ellis - CBD Bus Interchange Security Trial ...	179
22. LATE ITEMS	181
23. CLOSED COUNCIL	181
23.1. Confirmation of the Minutes.....	181
23.2. Tender - Launceston City Heart - Cameron Street Greening CD076/2025	181
23.3. End of Closed Session	181
24. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE.....	182
25. MEETING CLOSURE.....	182

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 6 August 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

5. COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

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

5.1. Council Workshop Report - 13 August 2026

FILE NO: SF4401

AUTHOR: Daniel Gray (Governance Officer)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (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:

1. pursuant to Regulation 10(3)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, notes the Council Workshops conducted on 13 August 2026 and attended since the last Council Meeting, for the purposes described:

Workshops conducted on 13 August 2026:

Development Application Site Visit - Convention Centre

Councillor's visited the proposed Convention Centre development to gain a better understanding of this project.

Executive Leader Updates and Councillor Connect

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

Long Term Financial Plan

Councillors received an update on the development of the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2026-2036.

LGBTIQA+ Action Plan

The City of Launceston LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2026-2030 was workshopped with Councillors.

Economic Presentation - Year in Review FY2026

Councillors were presented key economic findings and had the opportunity to discuss current economic environment and emerging trends, challenges and opportunities for future growth.

CoL Submission: Economic Diversification and Investment Strategy

Councillors discussed the City of Launceston's (CoL) draft submission to the Tasmanian State Government's Economic Diversification and Investment Strategy and were given the opportunity to provide feedback.

City Heart Events Space

Councillors were presented with an overview of the investigations undertaken, key findings, shortlisted options, and proposed next steps of the City Heart Events Space.

In Attendance: Mayor Councillor Matthew Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor Hugh McKenzie, Councillor Alan Harris, Councillor Tim Walker, Councillor Andrew Palmer, Councillor Lindi McMahon, Councillor Susie Cai, Councillor Alex Britton and Councillor Krista Preece.

Apologies: Councillor Joe Pentridge and Councillor Ross Marsden

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

Not applicable:

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

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

No Councillors' Leave of Absence Applications or 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 - Robin Smith - New CBD Traffic Routes - Mobile Food Vendor Bookings - 29 July 2026

FILE NO: SF6145, SF6381, SF7927

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

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 29 July 2026 by Robin Smith, have been answered by the Team Leader Engineering (Question 1) and the Team Leader Customer Experience (Question 2).

Question 1:

Historically, under the City Heart plan, the Paterson Street bus interchange required the introduction of an extra traffic flow direction for departing vehicle traffic (busses departing the interchange) to shortcut counterclockwise back through the inner retail CBD core against the current traffic direction on both Paterson Street and Charles Street.

Charles Street is a very successful retail strip and introducing this full cross-city two-way traffic goes against urban planning such as Gehl Architects 'Public Spaces Public Life (Launceston, Australia)' study for urban living (including pedestrians (shoppers) and cyclists) by bizarrely continuing to introduce entirely new routes for road vehicle traffic cutting a new path through the heart of the inner CBD core.

Whilst this route for buses is now no longer required, unfortunately the plan to introduce this new direction of traffic flow remains embedded as an anomaly within the City Heart Place Plan. With city-wide disruption of road construction, expense and spurious claims of enhanced experiences for pedestrians and businesses, would council consider consulting the opinion of business traders along the affected route?

Response:

The location of the proposed City Heart Bus Interchange Project has been a key dependency that is intrinsically linked to the Two-Way Streets Project. While the location of the Bus Interchange remained unconfirmed, Council's ability to effectively plan, progress, and develop the Two-Way Streets scope and project was constrained. With the endorsement of the Bus Interchange and associated upgrades to be located on St John Street, the project can now advance to the next phase of planning and development. The project remains in the planning phase, with the final scope, network arrangements, and street functionality to be reviewed and refined over the financial year in response to this

confirmed outcome. This means at present, no decisions have been made about changes to direction of traffic within the City Heart. The Two-Way Streets Project will include a stakeholder and community engagement plan that will include engagement with businesses on affected routes.

Question 2:

In the year-and-a-half since the inception of the current Mobile Food Vendor (in Public Open Spaces) Policy (32-Plx-005), as at 09 July 2026:

1. How many vendors were registered to operate under the system;
2. How many bookings were made for (i) 'Eat Street' (High Street, Launceston) and (ii) remaining areas under the policy?

Response:

1. *There are currently 16 unique vendors across all locations.*
2. *Under the policy, there were a total of 39 bookings, made up of:*
 - i. *High Street Launceston is 2 unique vendors with 16 bookings.*
 - ii. *23 booking across the other sites:*
 - *Riverbend park: 19*
 - *Heritage Forest: 1*
 - *Community Park: 1*
 - *Lindsay St West Invermay: 1 (however it was then cancelled)*
 - *Picnic Grounds St Leonards Park: 1*

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ECM 5401582 v 1 Questions on Notice - New CBD traffic routes - Mobile Food Vendor bookings - Smith, [8.1.1.1 - 2 pages]

8.1.2. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Kyle Barrett - Council Funding and Support for Island Escape Festival - 30 July 2026

FILE NO: SF6381

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

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 30 July 2026 by Kyle Barrett, has been answered by the Team Leader Visitation and Events.

Question 1:

What was the value of the funding or in-kind support provided by the City of Launceston for the recent Island Escape Festival?

Response:

Council provided \$30,000 Special Event Sponsorship for Island Escape. According to the post-event acquittal report, the festival attracted 14,604 attendees, of which 49.6% were interstate or international visitors. The event generated an estimated \$8.84 million economic injection into Launceston with an average length of stay of 3.87 days and achieved a national media reach of almost 9.9 million people.

With 44% of visitors booking their trip specifically because of the festival, the event demonstrated a strong ability to drive winter visitation and economic activity for the city. Based on the reported outcomes, Council's investment generated approximately \$8.85 million in visitor expenditure, equating to a return of approximately \$295 for every \$1 invested.

A core function of the City of Launceston event facilitation service is to provide in-kind operational support for events in the Launceston municipality. This support includes coordination of internal Council teams and external stakeholders, permit and venue management, marketing support, site planning, and the coordination of traffic, emergency services, and risk management requirements. This support provides organisers with streamlined access to Council resources, expertise, and key service providers, helping ensure the safe and successful delivery of events.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ECM 5401812 v 1 Questions on Notice - Council funding and support for Island Escape Festival - Barre [8.1.2.1 - 1 page]

8.1.3. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Robert, Ravenswood - LGBT Community Support - 6 August 2026

FILE NO: SF6381

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

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 6 August 2026 by Robert, Ravenswood, have been answered by the Executive Leader Connections and Liveability.

Question 1

Does the Launceston City Council have any plans to assist the LGBT community in the next 12 months?

Response:

Council will soon consider a draft LGBTIQA+ Action Plan developed following extensive community consultation and engagement. The draft Plan contains a range of proposed actions aimed at improving inclusion, wellbeing, safety and participation for LGBTIQA+ people in the City of Launceston. At this stage, no decision has been made regarding the adoption of the draft Plan and any future actions would be subject to Council consideration, resource availability and future business planning processes.

Question 2:

Would there be any chance that we could have a flag pole erected, not just specifically for the LGBT people but also other community groups, like Beyond Blue, where they can raise their own flag?

Response:

Council currently has a Flying of Flags Policy that guides the display of flags at Council-owned locations. While there are no current plans to install an additional community flagpole for use by community groups, Council recognises the value of initiatives that celebrate and acknowledge diverse communities and causes. The suggestion is appreciated and could be considered as part of any future discussions regarding community recognition and the use of civic spaces.

Question 3:

Would there be any possibility we could have a rainbow crossing in Launceston?

Response:

The concept of a rainbow crossing has been identified as a potential initiative within the draft LGBTIQ+ Action Plan. However, Council has not made any decision to proceed with a rainbow crossing and there is currently no approved project, location, funding allocation or timeframe. Any future proposal would require further assessment and consideration through Council's normal planning, safety, consultation and approval processes.

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

No Planning Authority Items have been identified as part of this Agenda

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

No Mayor's Announcements have been identified as part of this Agenda

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 Councillor Krista Preece - Speed Bump Installation at Royal Park - 6 August 2026

FILE NO: SF2375

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

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 6 August 2026 by Councillor Krista Preece, has been answered by the Team Leader Engineering.

Question 1:

Can a speed hump be installed in the lower end of the Park Street car park for pedestrian and child safety?

Response:

Further investigation is required to determine whether a speed hump is warranted at this location. A customer service request has been raised, and a Transport Engineer will contact you to discuss your concerns in more detail and undertake a Traffic Engineering Assessment to evaluate the suitability of traffic-calming measures at this site.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

14.1.2. Questions on Notice by Councillor Alex Britton - Use and Bookings of Albert Hall - 6 August 2026

FILE NO: SF2375

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

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 6 August 2026 by Councillor Alex Britton, have been answered by the Executive Leader Community Assets and Design.

Question 1:

Have we received complaints, questions, queries or concerns from schools, colleges, charities or community organisations regarding use of the Albert Hall, and if so, what were those concerns?

Response:

The Albert Hall is currently being managed by Theatre North. They advise that they receive routine enquiries and feedback from schools, colleges, charities and community organisations regarding the use and operation of the venue.

The matters raised have related to loading and access arrangements; the inability to use the balcony; and managing the movement of performers to and from the stage where their numbers exceed the capacity of the available dressing rooms.

Notwithstanding these operational challenges, 28 community organisations, charities, schools and colleges have used the Albert Hall since October 2025. Theatre North continues to work closely with these groups to identify practical solutions and support their successful use of the venue.

Question 2:

Do we pay any costs for hosting the citizenship ceremonies at Albert Hall?

Response:

Under Council's Agreement with Theatre North, Council is not required to pay hire fee for Citizenship Ceremonies, however Council is responsible for the direct costs associated with the event (e.g. cleaning and staffing).

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

14.1.3. Questions on Notice by Councillor Susie Cai - Adopt a Tree Program - 6 August 2026

FILE NO: SF2375

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

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 6 August 2026 by Councillor Susie Cai, has/have been answered by the the Urban Forrester, Community Place and Wellbeing.

Question 1:

Under the adopted tree project, can a person choose what tree is planted, such as a fruit tree or native evergreen, and can they have more than one tree?

Response:

Residents applying through the Adopt-a-Tree Program can indicate whether they would prefer a native, evergreen or deciduous tree. Council will consider this preference when selecting a suitable species, with the final selection based on the characteristics of the planting site and the tree stock available from Council's nursery.

Fruit trees are not offered through the program, as street trees must be suitable for planting and long-term management within the public road reserve. Fruit trees can create additional maintenance and public safety issues through fallen fruit, increased pest activity and the need for regular pruning and harvesting. The program instead uses species selected for their suitability to Launceston's conditions and their ability to provide long-term canopy, shade, habitat and amenity benefits.

While the program generally provides one tree per request, more than one tree may be planted where Council's assessment identifies sufficient suitable space. This will depend on factors including the length and width of the nature strip, existing trees and vegetation, driveways, sightlines, overhead and underground services, and appropriate spacing for the selected species, and stock availability.

Question 2:

Can tree canopy size/placement be considered, so trees do not grow over where people park on the curb?

Response:

Yes. Tree species and placement are assessed according to the available space and site conditions, including the width of the nature strip, driveways, existing trees, sightlines, overhead and underground services, and access to properties.

However, the purpose of the program is to increase street canopy, and as trees mature their canopies may extend over the roadway or kerbside parking areas. This is generally a desirable outcome, as it provides shade for parked vehicles, footpaths and the surrounding street environment. Trees will be appropriately positioned and maintained to provide suitable clearance, but Council cannot guarantee that a mature tree canopy will not extend over an area used for kerbside parking.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

14.1.4. Questions on Notice by Councillor Alan Harris - Reallocation of Dredging Funding - 6 August 2026

FILE NO: SF2375

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

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 6 August 2026 by Councillor Alan Harris, has been answered by the Senior Leader City Infrastructure.

Question 1:

Can the previous \$4 million state government grant for dredging be redirected or has been extinguished?

Response:

The work of the Launceston Flood Authority is funded through a grant from the Tasmanian Government to the City of Launceston, with contributions from Building Tasmania and the Department of Natural Resources.

The original grant included capital funding for construction of the levees. The ongoing revenue funding post-construction was (at the time of signing the grant deed in 2006) \$400,000 per annum, comprising:

- \$150,000 operational costs for the LFA; and*
- \$250,000 for dredging in the upper reaches of the Tamar River.*

The Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) was established in April 2017 under the Launceston City Deal, at which time the City of Launceston and the LFA ceased dredging the Tamar Estuary. The funding agreed in the grant deed has continued to be paid with annual increases in line with CPI.

The grant deed states that: "If the Authority determines that dredging is not required in any given year, these funds may be used by the Authority for the maintenance of other flood mitigation measures." The dredging component of the grant funding has been redirected into the flood asset management program, at the direction and with oversight of the LFA.

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

15.1. Notice of Motion - Councillor A Palmer and Councillor A Britton- 25th Anniversary of The Afghanistan War 11 October 2026

FILE NO: SF5547 SF2277

AUTHOR: Vanessa Holloway (Executive Assistant - Councillor Rooms)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Andrew Palmer and Councillor Alex Britton regarding the City of Launceston providing support for the commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of The Afghanistan War on 11 October 2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - Regulation 19

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves covering the costs and arranges for the following:

1. A dais for official proceedings.
2. A public address (sound) system, including microphones suitable for speeches and ceremonial proceeding.
3. Chairs for veterans, official guests and community members requiring seating.
4. Preparation of the events Standard Emergency Management Plan (SEMP), including any associated event safety planning and documentation normally provided for civic commemorations.

REPORT:

The service will commemorate Australia's military involvement in Afghanistan and will be conducted simultaneously with the National Commemorative Service at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, as well as a corresponding service at the Hobart Cenotaph.

The 25th anniversary of OPERATION SLIPPER provides an important opportunity for our community to recognise the service and sacrifice of thousands of Australian Defence Force personnel who served in Afghanistan between 2001 and 2021. It is also an opportunity to honour the 41 Australian Defence Force personnel who lost their lives and 261 who were wounded in action, while acknowledging the ongoing contribution and sacrifice of their families.

OFFICER COMMENTS:

The Events Team will be fully engaged in delivering the Little Food Festival at this time so won't be available to support this event on the day. As resourcing will be limited, the RSL will need to be responsible for the overall coordination and conduct of the 25th Anniversary of the Afghanistan War Commemorative Service.

The Event Facilitation Team can provide support through the procurement and coordination of the approved event infrastructure and services, including the dais, public address system, seating and development of a Standard Emergency Management Plan. A City of Launceston officer will be available on the day to provide event support, facilitate liaison with service providers and assist with any operational issues that may arise. Councillors should note that penalty rates will apply as the event is being held on a Sunday.

Cost of Event Equipment Hire and Support

Sound equipment – set up, support and pack down \$2763

Chair hire, Sunday delivery, pack up and down x 150 white chairs \$944.36

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Funding an event outside the Council-approved Events Grant Program may create a perception of inequity, inconsistency and lack of transparency in Council's decision-making processes, potentially undermining the integrity of the established grants framework and leading to increased expectations from other event organisers for similar ad hoc funding support.

- Reputational damage if Council is perceived to favour particular organisations or events.
- Increased requests for funding outside established processes, creating an unsustainable precedent.
- Reduced confidence in the fairness and transparency of the Events Grant Program.
- Challenges in justifying funding decisions to unsuccessful applicants who participated in the approved grants process.
- Potential budget pressures if additional funding requests cannot be accommodated within existing allocations.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

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 event does not form part of Council's current program of supported military events. Consequently, should funding be approved, it would need to be accommodated through the reallocation of funding from other event-related outcomes or budget provisions.

Estimated costs are included in the report above.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 00 01 RSL TAS Request for Council Support 25th Anniversary of OP SLIPPER
Comm Se [15.1.1 - 2 pages]

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS

16.1. Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting - 7 July 2026

FILE NO: SF2965

AUTHOR: Sophie Appleby (Place and Heritage Officer)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive a report from the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held on 7 July 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the report and unconfirmed minutes from the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held on 7 July 2026.
-

REPORT:

Purpose of the Committee:

The primary purpose of the Launceston Heritage Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the Council on heritage matters and to promote the value of heritage places within the Municipality.

Objective of committee:

- Objectives of the Launceston Heritage Advisory Committee are to:
 - Provide advice and recommendations on the development of Council policy relating to heritage matters;
 - Provide advice on and participate in the overview of heritage studies undertaken by Council;
 - Provide advice and recommendations on applications made by Council for heritage funding;
 - Consult with stakeholders to determine community aspirations relating to heritage places and objects;
 - Promote Council's objectives and the principles of reuse of heritage assets in the city;
 - Promote community participation in, and awareness of, heritage activities; and
 - Provide advice to Council in regard to development proposals involving and/or impacting on heritage values on properties, either heritage registered or covered by heritage precinct or overlay.
-

Summary:

The Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) met 7 July and discussed the following:

- Received a presentation from Heritage Skills Sponsorship recipient Luke Smith on the Longford Academy Autumn School, including heritage skills development and opportunities to promote heritage trades.
- Discussed committee continuity during the 2026 Council election period, including caretaker arrangements and the potential for a heritage-focused induction for newly elected Councillors.
- Finalised feedback on the Committee's Draft Terms of Reference.
- Received updates on the Heritage Review Project, including progress on local heritage precincts, individual heritage listings, and upcoming planning scheme amendments.
- Noted progress on several heritage interpretation projects, including the Cataract Gorge Heritage Interpretation Plan and the Make Your Mark Heritage Trail.
- Received an update on the 52 Frankland Street heritage material salvage project, highlighting the reuse of heritage materials and collaborative project outcomes.
- Discussed heritage protection matters arising from the 180 George Street development application and noted Council's advocacy for reform of the local heritage listing process.

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 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.

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. Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes 7 July 2026 [**16.1.1** - 6 pages]

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

17.1. Quarterly Report - Connections and Liveability - 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026

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 April 2026 and 30 June 2026

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the Connections and Liveability Team Quarterly Report for the period 1 April 2026 and 30 June 2026

REPORT:

COMMUNITY PLACE AND WELLBEING

Carr Villa Memorial Park

During the past quarter, the Carr Villa Memorial Park (Carr Villa) team delivered 40 burial services and 100 cremations, while also facilitating the placement of more than 66 sets of ashes.

The Client Services Team provided direct support to more than 65 families, assisting with the purchase of 90 ash placement locations and 16 pre-purchased Rights of Burial. In addition, the team coordinated the design and installation of 96 memorial bronze plaques. This activity contributed to a strong financial outcome for the quarter, with revenue performance exceeding targets by 6%.

Carr Villa Memorial Park welcomed more than 32,000 visitors during the quarter, including just over 2,500 visitors across Mother's Day weekend alone, reinforcing its dual role as both a place of remembrance and a valued public open space. Community education and support also remained a priority, with more than 40 people attending the annual Mother's Day Memorial Service, with crematorium tours delivered as part of Palliative Care Week, helping to improve deathcare literacy and encourage informed end-of-life planning.

Community Place

The Community Place team progressed a broad portfolio of recreation, parks, urban forestry, reserves, public space, public art and heritage work, advancing major capital projects, completing procurement processes, and delivering activation, policy and community outcomes across the municipality.

Highlights this quarter included

- Completion of the DRAFT Recreation and Open Space Plan
- Procurement of services for the Newnham tree planting and Cameron Street greening projects
- Reopening of the West Tamar Trail
- Opening of Tasmania's first customised Inclusive Play Chat Board at Riverbend Park
- Council approval of the Newstead Crescent Local Heritage Precinct
- Adoption of the Mobile Food Vendor Policy.
- Fabrication of the Northern Gateway artwork progressed well, with installation scheduled for Q1 26/27.
- Completed final draft of Council's Inclusive Play Guidelines incorporating best-practice research and community feedback.
- Council's Inclusive Play work was accepted for presentation at the Parks and Leisure Australia Conference, recognising the City's leadership in inclusive recreation.
- Stage 1 of the Punchbowl Playspace upgrade is nearing completion
- Work has commenced on City Park Play Space renewal
- Pump Track Irrigation. Procurement progressed to improve landscape establishment and long-term sustainability.
- Riverbend Accessibility improvements have been planned for and procurement has been undertaken for accessible parking modifications, kerb upgrades and soft fall renewal works.
- Council has assumed full management of NTCA on Bookable commenced, relationships with tenant/user clubs established.
- National Junior Archery Champs successfully held at Churchill Park in April.
- Child Protection signage updated at CoL sports grounds.
- DRAFT Street Tree Masterplan completed
- Mowbray Urban Greening Precinct Plan progressed, and approximately \$39,000 in grant funding has been secured for a Mowbray shopping precinct greening pilot.
- Torrens Street Park interpretative signage is nearing completion.
- Annual Fuel Reduction Program. Coordinated planning for the 2026/27 fuel reduction program, including review of burn priorities, ecological considerations, habitat tree protection, Fire Management Buffer Zones and contractor engagement.
- TasTAFE Outdoor Training Protocol. Finalised the protocol governing the use of Council reserves for practical training, including work planning, WHS requirements and reporting obligations.
- Princes Square Revitalisation. Landscaping works designed and coordinated to improve visibility, safety and

- West Tamar Trail Renewal project progressed during the quarter, with most construction works completed. Due to unsuitable winter weather conditions, the final asphalt sealing has been postponed pending improved weather.
- Hobblers Bridge Netball Court Renewal Stage 2 Tender awarded
- Duck Reach Suspension Bridge Maintenance works to improve the condition and longevity of this important and historic asset are well progressed..
- Royal Park Viewing Deck Renewal geotechnical and environmental assessments were commissioned.
- Gorge Retaining Wall remediation. Following the collapse of a retaining wall within the Gorge precinct engineering consultants were engaged to investigate the failure, with geotechnical assessments, LiDAR surveys and preliminary remediation planning completed during the quarter.
- Lilydale Falls Connection Feasibility. Developed project scope, prepared procurement documentation, refined consultant brief, investigated alignment options along the former North East Rail Corridor, identified engineering, land tenure and environmental constraints.
- Art Box Project. Fabrication works are completed and painting and internal fit-out scheduled. Interweave engaged to curate the inaugural exhibition.
- Tramway Lighting Improvements project was completed with pole light installation and the remaining brighter bulbs replaced.
- Lilydale Pool Improvements The Lilydale Pool Improvements project progressed through contractor site inspections, finalisation of the new gate location, completion of fencing installations, replacement of broken gate hardware, commencement of paving works, installation of picnic tables, completion and transport coordination of the pool stairs, completion of groundworks, progression of project signage and positive community engagement.
- Princes Square Gates. The Princes Square Gates project progressed with completion of the casting of posts, delivery of the gate post to the Glasgow workshop, commencement of hinge installation, and positioning of the gates and posts to test swing and alignment.
- Seaport Sign. The Seaport Sign project was completed, with LED installation, sign fabrication, installation preparations and final installation all successfully completed.
- Northern Gateway. There has been substantial progress on the Northern Gateway artwork during this quarter. Shop drawings and engineering were completed in May, and the artwork fabrication was also progressed. Delivery and Installation of the project is scheduled for Q1 26/27.
- 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.

The following heritage datasheets have been completed by the Heritage Team:

- Newstead Crescent Local Heritage Precinct - Status: Approved by Council (25 June 2026), currently with the Tasmanian Planning Commission.
- Mayne Street Heritage Precinct - Status: Initiated at Council Meeting (11 June).
- 35 Local Heritage Places - Status: Initiated by Council (9 July 2026).
- Babington Street Heritage Precinct - Status: Prepared for Council Meeting in August.

- St Leonards Heritage Precinct.
- Significant Trees, comprising 48 items equaling 650 trees.
- Two archaeological items were approved for formal heritage listing by the Tasmanian Planning Commission, effective 15 May 2026:
 - Braemar / Lamont House - 148 Vermont Road, Mowbray.
 - Section of Mountain Road, Lilydale.

Make Your Mark Heritage Trail. In June 2026, plaques for the Make Your Mark Heritage Trail were printed and prepared for installation, while the accompanying booklet and website progressed towards completion. The trail will feature 24 significant historic sites across the city, including the Post Office and Macquarie House, where visitors can create pencil rubbings of illustrated plaques and learn about each location's history. The trail is scheduled to launch in Q2 2026-27.

Longford Academy

The recipient of the City of Launceston's \$1,500 sponsorship presented to the Heritage Advisory Committee at its July meeting, sharing their experience at the Longford Academy Autumn School. Held from 11-16 May 2026, the program provided the local tradesperson with hands-on training in traditional building conservation techniques.

Braemar / Lamont House Archaeology Dig

In June 2026, Southern Archaeology delivered its final report on the community-supported excavation at the Council-owned Braemar/Lamont House site. Conducted from 23-27 March 2026, the dig uncovered footings and artefacts including blacksmithing equipment, pottery, crockery and coins, some dating to before 1860, that provided insight into the site's historic use.

Community Wellbeing

City of Launceston LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2026-2030

The draft was finalised during the quarter following community and stakeholder consultation, research, and internal review. A significant milestone was the significant contribution of the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan Working Group, whose members generously shared their lived experience, expertise and insights to help shape the plan's priorities and actions. The draft provides a framework to strengthen inclusion, participation, visibility and organisational capability, and is now being prepared for consideration through Council's governance and adoption processes.

Build the Builders

Build the Builders is an established group of community builders who are working with the City of Launceston in community development. The group met to discuss current work and potential project collaboration with an emphasis on asset-based community development. Community Housing Limited and the City of Launceston have partnered to deliver a new monthly industry networking opportunity, **Lunch with the Builders**.

Waverley Wonders and the Tiny Forest signage

Waverley Wonders is a City of Launceston program with young primary school students in Waverley who are curious about where they live and want to make their place even better. Activities over the last three months included learning how to maintain their tiny forest as Forest Keepers, co-design and installation of two forest signs.

Waverley Mills Tote Bag Community Art Project

To celebrate the connection between Waverley Mills and the community, the City of Launceston partnered with the mill to design, make and deliver a series of community embroidery workshops centered around a special Waverley Mills tote bag initiative. Waverley Mills generously designed and produced 100 unique tote bags made from recycled materials and donated them for the benefit of the Waverley community. Local artist, Mae Finlayson, facilitated workshops at both Waverley Mills and Waverley Primary School, where participants personalised their bags by stitching from recycled wool.

Beacon Foundation Partnership

The City of Launceston's partnership with Beacon Foundation was successfully delivered throughout the 2025–26 financial year, with six High Impact Programs delivered across Queechy High School, Lilydale District School and Brooks High School. The partnership engaged 141 students, supported by 10 City of Launceston staff volunteers, alongside educators and industry representatives, to build students' confidence, employability skills and awareness of future career pathways.

The final evaluation report demonstrated strong outcomes for participants, including:

- 90% of students reported benefiting from the program.
- 66% increased their career confidence.
- 81% developed practical employability skills.
- 82% developed a more positive, growth-oriented mindset.
- 82% increased their awareness of career opportunities and pathways.

Student feedback highlighted increased confidence in seeking employment, improved communication skills, and reassurance that career pathways can change over time. Volunteers and educators also reported overwhelmingly positive experiences, with 100% of volunteers indicating they would recommend participating in future Beacon activities and 100% of educators agreeing the program was beneficial for their students. These outcomes demonstrate the value of Council's investment in strengthening connections between education, industry and the community, supporting young people to develop the confidence, skills and networks needed to transition successfully into further education, training and employment.

Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC)

Council continued to lead the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC), facilitating collaboration between government and community organisations to strengthen the regional youth sector. The committee provides a coordinated forum for sharing information, identifying emerging priorities, and progressing collaborative initiatives that improve outcomes for young people.

Community Champions

Officers continued to support the Community Champions program across the Northern suburbs, with a focus on strengthening the capacity and skills of local community members and groups. The following training, workshops and support were delivered during the quarter:

- Square Space training was delivered on 10 April 2026, with five participants attending.

- Results Based Accountability training, facilitated by the Jeder Institute, was held on 22 April 2026, with six participants attending.
- Stories Through the Lens, a videography training session delivered by Praxis Media, was held on 26 May 2026, with six participants attending.
- Ongoing facilitation and support was provided to the three Community Action Groups (Community Together 7248, Rocherlea Action Project and Faraday Connect) throughout April, May and June 2026.

Road Safety Working Group

- As part of National Road Safety Week 2026, the *Let's Talk Road Safety* event was held on 20 May 2026, engaging more than 120 students and teachers from Ravenswood, Waverley, Invermay and St Finn Barrs Primary Schools. The event was delivered in partnership with Tasmania Police, RACT, AusBike, TBUG, BusSAFE, SnagChat and City Mission.
- The City of Launceston submitted a Community Road Safety Grant application on 28 May 2026, seeking funding to enable the *Let's Talk Road Safety* program to continue for a further three years.

Food Security

Key food security activities and updates during the quarter included:

- The water connection for the FaRM project was completed in June.
- LIFE Food Hub: Rodney Spinks completed his Churchill Fellowship, which included travel to the United States and the United Kingdom.

Homelessness

During the last quarter, work has continued to focus on responding to homelessness and strengthening collaboration across the sector. This has included the ongoing monitoring and coordination of sleeping rough requests with regular communication and follow up with outreach services.

In addition, the Community Wellbeing Officer has been attending the Northern Community Action Group to strengthen local partnerships and improve information sharing. This engagement will help align the work of the Northern Community Action Group with the priorities and objectives of the Homelessness Advisory Committee, supporting a more coordinated approach to addressing homelessness across the region.

Aboriginal Community Engagement

Officers continued to work with Milangkani Projects and Jenname consultancy to guide and facilitate engagement with the Aboriginal community on the Heritage Interpretation Project (HIP). The partnership with these organisations has established a strong foundation for the inclusion of Aboriginal content in the HIP - identifying key themes and preferred methods of communication. The Jenname engagement report also identifies areas for further consultation and development, including:

- Language and naming
- Detailed story content
- Cultural permissions and attribution
- Governance and review processes
- Artistic and creative implementation
- Final location-specific story placement

Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework

Officers partnered with Laurel House to deliver two Community Conversations with child-focused organisations from the sports and recreational, as well as arts and cultural sectors. The conversations included a presentation from Laurel House on the prevalence and impact of child sexual abuse and advice regarding the identification of grooming behavior.

Launceston Aquatic and Fitness Centre

Facility Hire

The summer season concluded in April with the closure of the outdoor, Lilydale and Basin pools.

LAC remained busy during the quarter, hosting:

- 5 x school swimming carnivals
- 1 x Swim Tas event
- 1 x South Esk Sprint Meet
- 2 x Masters Carnivals

School Holidays in April saw a number of School Holiday groups utilise the centre for daily activities, with around 100 children visiting. Education Department started their term 2 school program in May.

Various school groups came through the centre during the quarter, including some unique visitors - these included Flinders Island School, Wynyard High School, East Ulverstone Primary School, Geneva Christian School and Boat Harbour Primary School. Activities ranged from learning water polo, having recreation swims and school programs.

Operations

A new heat exchanger was installed on the leisure pool to rectify a long running heating issue. Successful recruitment of experienced lifeguards, with 3 guards being employed to address midweek rostering short falls.

Customer Service

Front desk team accommodated 108,432 visits over the period, selling 594 pairs of goggles during this time. We also sold approximately 325 various pool accessories including kickboards, fins and kids toys, showing that our retail shop is much more than just bathers.

Learn to Swim

Student numbers haven't dropped for winter, with numbers holding at around 2200 active students. Enrolments have remained open due to a steady flow of new instructors. Enrolments for older beginners also continued to increase throughout the quarter. Later classes are now offered for older students, who are sometimes reluctant to come during peak times for younger students. The adult program remains fully booked.

LAfit

LAfit (Complete and LAfit) memberships increased to 1,328 active members at quarter end, with 1,563 unique members attending across the period. We welcomed 118 new members and supported 90 membership renewals.

A member survey was completed during the quarter, with 229 members providing feedback. Overall member satisfaction (agree or strongly agree) was 92%, up from 78.3% in 2025. The results provide valuable insight into member needs and preferences and will help guide future planning.

The group fitness program continued to be reviewed to ensure it remained responsive to member demand, while offering a diverse range of classes across different age groups and fitness levels.

Capital Projects

Outdoor Waterslide – At the conclusion of the summer season, the outdoor waterslide was dismantled and fibreglass disposed of. Support structures were removed, regalvanised and reinstalled ready for a brand-new fibreglass slide to be installed.

Efficient Electrification – All works for the Community Energy Upgrade Grant project were completed. Pools are now utilising state-of-the-art variable speed drives and upgraded motors. The BMS system received a number of upgrades and power factor correction works have all been completed. Works are expected to deliver substantial annual electricity savings

LAfit Cardio replacement - Capital investment included the purchase of an additional Concept2 RowErg, SkiErg and Air Bike, adding to the 8 treadmills purchased earlier in the year, further enhancing the gym's functional training offering. Progress was also made on the disposal of ageing cardio equipment through public auction, supporting the ongoing renewal of gym assets.

QVMAG

During the final quarter of the financial year, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery celebrated a wide range of milestones - from new exhibition openings, feature events, retail sales, visitation, collection management developments and more. The quarter continued to deliver a high frequency of cultural activation for Launceston, with the institution's team busily working to deliver its committed, vibrant exhibition and events schedule.

April delivered on a series of public program activations, inviting community to learn from artists through bespoke workshop opportunities, alongside a fun-filled Holiday Program for families, delivering on a jam-packed schedule of events and activities to engage young minds.

The month started off with a sold-out workshop led by Tasmanian artist Joanna Pinkiewicz, as she led participants through skills and techniques to learn the fundamentals of watercolour painting and colour theory. The following day, visitors to the Art Gallery were able to experience a live Art + Performance event with local saxophonist Spike Mason, and artist Daria Andrews, as live music filled the *Sam Jinks || Mortal Reflections* exhibition galleries, while Daria developed live art for onlookers.

Finally in April, the popular and highly anticipated Holiday Program started with a bang - with a suite of sold-out programs taking families on fun weekly adventures through hands on, interactive workshops and activities, with themes spanning:

- Tool use and building skills
- Bug science
- Dinos, dung beetles & dioramas
- Lino print story patterns, and more

May farewelled the highly successful exhibition *Sam Jinks || Mortal Reflections* at the Art Gallery at Royal Park, following its presentation from June 2025. This first-of-its-kind takeover of the entire first floor of the Gallery delivered sustained high levels of visitation, attracting a total of 35,617 visitors over the exhibition's duration. The exhibition also marked the launch of *Eternal Return*, a remarkable three-metre bespoke sculpture by Sam Jinks, commissioned to remain in the City of Launceston as a significant work within the QVMAG Collection. To mark the exhibition's closure, audiences were treated to a free floor talk with the artist, who travelled from Melbourne to participate in this special event before departing for engagements in South Korea and Ireland. This intimate opportunity welcomed 90 attendees to engage directly with the artist behind the internationally acclaimed hyper-realistic sculptures through a unique "lucky dip" style question-and-answer session.

During the month, a range of public programs were on offer - including the 'Knit a Frog' series, in response to the touring exhibition *Anatomy Lessons* on display at the Museum. This fun and inclusive workshop for all ages welcomed over 35 attendees, and was led in partnership with the QVMAG Friends, encouraging visitors to make use of resources available on site to knit their own frog in response to the knitted works depicting animals within the exhibition, to then form part of a larger community art display that is set to tour Australia alongside this exhibition to all upcoming venues.

The month also enjoyed a live session at the Art Gallery with musicians Bruce Innocent and Ian Chia. Forming part of an annual program series across QVMAG, the *Art + Performance* series offers unique opportunities for visitors to experience musical performances, set to the backdrop of exhibitions across both sites.

June delivered a vivid line up of shows to the Art Gallery and Museum, with a total of four new exhibitions opening to the public throughout the month - offering a blend of national touring shows, QVMAG Collection experiences and community displays.

Touring to Tasmania, visitors were invited to explore an incredible array of works by national artists - spanning 2D, 3D and digital installations. Touring shows for this period included:

- *Beautiful Tensions: Gray Street Workshop celebrates forty years*, on tour from Jam Factory
- *Between the Details: Video Art from the ACMI Collection*, on tour from ACMI

To celebrate the opening of *Beautiful Tensions*, both an evening community exhibition opening (held to over 80 attendees) and an In Conversation live talk public program the following day (to over 40 attendees), engaged local industry and community audiences as guests heard from artists on display during their visit to Tasmania.

To further engage community and touring audiences with the depth of the QVMAG collection, the institution's latest show *Out of the Vault* opened mid-month, showcasing a quirky and eclectic mix of diverse objects as chosen by staff of the institution. While exploring the display, visitors are provided a unique opportunity to discover hidden artwork favourites, unexpected objects, and overlooked curiosities from deep within the collection.

Additionally, this month the community exhibition *Celebrating Identity: Activism + Ecstasy* opened to the public at the Museum at Inveresk in collaboration with local group Rainbow Stable, honouring queer and queer ally history in Lutruwita/Tasmania.

As June saw the celebration of Pride Month, a special event was held within the Launceston Planetarium titled 'StarGAYzing', welcoming guest speaker Dr. Nguyen-Richardson to QVMAG to deliver an exploration of the many stories the night sky holds through mythology, identity and connection to a sold-out crowd on the day.

Finally, this month saw a large body of work undertaken by the Collections arm of the institution as they worked to move all specimens within the Natural Science entomology store to alternate temporary storage locations to facilitate much needed compliance works. This work required a high level of meticulous planning to ensure the safe relocation of this nationally significant collection, and close project management to monitor the delivery of all works within the zone.

During quarter four, the Launceston Planetarium welcomed 2,447 visitors to the facility, through a total of 181 blockbuster shows. The facility welcomed 15 school groups for customised screenings and night-sky viewings (332 students and 59 teaching staff) and welcomed a total of 1,303 adults and 671 children to public screenings during the period, delivering highly engaging and immersive astronomy education to locals and tourists across northern Tasmania.

Brand presence for the institution remained strong for the period, with QVMAG social media achieving 468,700 content views for the period across Facebook and Instagram, from a total of 183,300 users. The institution's website provided valuable content to over 75,000 users during the reporting period, which helped prepare visitors for their time at QVMAG and to share deeper information on exhibitions, events and collection stories for online enjoyment. A series of paid and organic campaign assets remained in market for the period in alignment with the QVMAG Brand Campaign Strategy, providing high visibility and high frequency placement of the QVMAG brand and its offering both statewide through print collateral, television promotion, print media awareness, Google and YouTube campaign advertising, Facebook and Instagram campaign ads, and through tourism partnership collaborations.

STAKEHOLDER EXPERIENCE

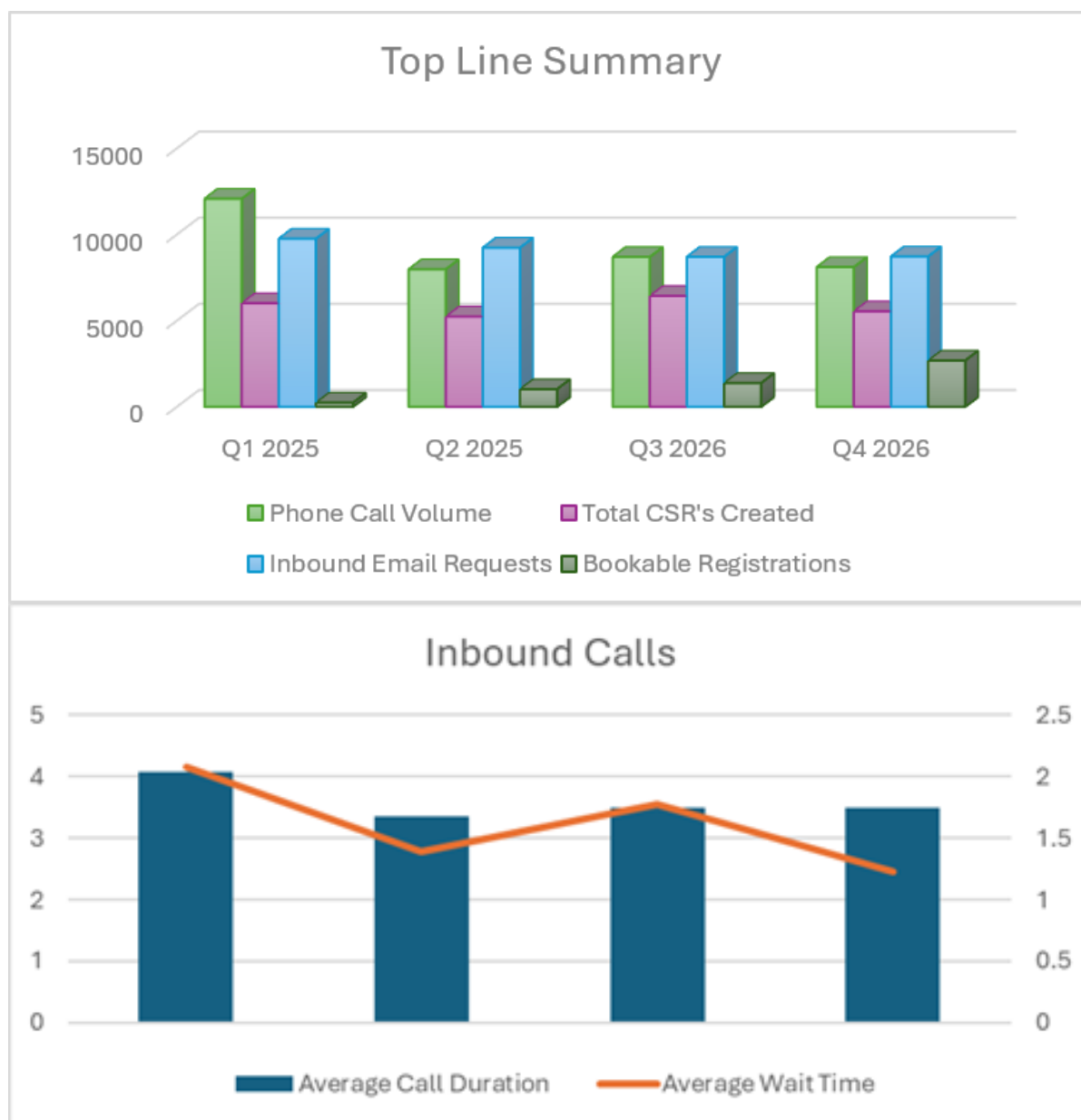
Customer Experience

The Customer Experience team has continued to strengthen service delivery through investment in our people, systems and workplace relationships. During the quarter, team members participated in a range of professional development opportunities, including Knowledge Base administration, mental health and wellbeing, Excel and Sunflower Disability Awareness training, while continuing to embed continuous improvement initiatives that support a consistent, accessible and customer-focused service.

Customer Service and Parking Administration

	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2026	Q4 2026
Inbound Enquiries				
Phone Call Volume Ave P/M	12079	7983	8700	8113
Average Call Duration	4.07	3.35	3.49	3.48
Average Wait Time	2.08	1.39	1.77	1.23
Customer Service Requests				
Total CSR's Created	6017	5238	6439	5545
Waste	715	616	1719	633
Parking	1112	660	697	435
Road, Street & Footpath	629	578	623	882
Inbound Email Requests	9758	9237	8708	8727
Parking				
Requests to Withdraw	597	413	375	296
Made to Stand	88	83	219	130
Withdrawn	122	124	148	139
Final Reminders	3476	2672	1931	1562
Overdue Reminders Issued	2023	1702	1062	1047
MPES Referrals	944	1099	746	587
Bookable				
Total Registered	246	1030	1385	2689
Halls	242	109	289	374
Busking	100	123	106	89
Malls	31	26	7	27
Road Safety Centre	0	423	411	327
Sporting Facilities	0	266	398	1203
Active Launceston	0	33	108	0
Resource	0	50	66	669
After Hours Calls	242	325	288	316

Top Line Summary	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2026	Q4 2026
Phone Call Volume	12079	7983	8700	8113
Total CSRs Created	6017	5238	6439	5545
Inbound Email Requests	9758	9237	8708	8727
Bookable Registrations	246	1030	1385	2689
After Hours Calls	242	325	288	316



Highlights for the Quarter

- The team has successfully embraced the new Key Performance Indicator framework and remains focused on achieving and exceeding month-on-month (MoM) and year-on-year (YoY) performance targets.
- The Average Wait Time KPI has continued to trend downward, demonstrating improved responsiveness and ensuring customer enquiries are being addressed promptly. The average wait time for quarter four is 1.23 minutes.
- Inbound phone call and email volumes have also decreased, reflecting a growing preference within the community to access information and services through Council's online self-service channels.
- The Parking Administration team has consistently maintained service delivery performance within agreed service levels across all key indicators.
- Call abandonment rates have reduced significantly, from an average of 15% per month to 7% per month. This improvement has been supported by enhancements to the customer experience, including the introduction of integrated "One Voice" messaging and updated hold music.

- The Bookable platform continues to perform exceptionally well, with strong quarter-on-quarter growth in community uptake and utilisation.
- A refreshed and enhanced team environment has been delivered through office space improvements and the introduction of new uniforms, contributing to team wellbeing and professional presentation.
- Updates to Council's general fees and charges, along with parking fees and charges, were successfully implemented and communicated.
- Team members completed Sunflower Disability Awareness Training, further strengthening our commitment to accessibility and inclusive customer service.
- Additional agent authorisation has been obtained for the use of the Translation and Interpreting Service (TIS), enhancing Council's ability to support customers from diverse backgrounds.
- Fire Warden Training was completed, with two team representatives attending to strengthen workplace health, safety and emergency preparedness capabilities.

Visitation and Events

The Visitation and Events portfolio delivered a wide range of activities during the quarter that supported Council's goals for tourism, community participation, city activation, visitor experience, stakeholder engagement and economic growth. Through delivering and supporting events, improving visitor infrastructure, promoting Launceston as a destination, progressing the UNESCO City of Gastronomy program, and managing grants and partnerships, the team helped strengthen Launceston's reputation as a vibrant regional city and attractive place to visit. The quarter also focused on building skills and capability, strengthening relationships and partnerships, and laying the groundwork for future growth in both the visitor economy and events sectors.

Events

Events delivered a diverse program of civic, cultural and community events while continuing to strengthen Council's role as both an event facilitator and strategic event partner.

Major civic events included ANZAC Day commemorations and Citizenship Ceremonies, which welcomed 263 new citizens and approximately 450 guests, reinforcing community connection, inclusion and civic pride. ANZAC Day services attracted exceptional participation, with positive recognition received personally from both the Governor of Tasmania and the RSL for the quality of event delivery.

Event Facilitation continued to play a critical role in supporting the municipality's events sector, providing operational and strategic support for 17 facilitated events and a further 20 non-facilitated activities. Key events included Easter celebrations, Mother's Day Classic, McGrath Launceston Running Festival and the ongoing World Street Eats program.

Planning also progressed on several future initiatives, including the inaugural Little Food Festival, an Open House event, and a refreshed collaborative approach to Christmas celebrations, strengthening the city's year-round event calendar. Strategic work also commenced to further explore the long-term potential of Inveresk as a premier events precinct, supporting future investment and attraction opportunities.

Gastronomy

The quarter marked continued progress in establishing the foundations of Council's gastronomy portfolio and embedding the UNESCO City of Gastronomy designation within Council activities, destination development and community outcomes.

A key priority has been the development of strategic relationships across the regional food system, including close collaboration with Gastronomy Northern Tasmania, hospitality businesses, producers, educational institutions and community organisations. These partnerships are critical to maximising the value of the UNESCO designation and supporting outcomes across economic development, sustainability, visitor experience and community wellbeing.

Work commenced on the development of a City of Launceston Gastronomy Framework, which will provide long-term strategic direction and guide investment, partnerships and project delivery. Planning also advanced for a regional food systems mapping project in partnership with SUSTAIN: The Australian Food Network, strengthening Council's understanding of the food system and informing future food policy and food security initiatives.

Destination storytelling remained a strong focus, with development progressing on a gastronomy image and content library to support visitor experiences, destination marketing and the continued development of launceston.com.au. Planning also progressed for the Little Food Festival, creating opportunities to build and strengthen relationships across a diverse network of producers, educators, community organisations, hospitality businesses and industry stakeholders. Development commenced on Table Talk | Plenty to Share, a new initiative designed to strengthen engagement across the hospitality sector, build food literacy and increase awareness and ownership of Launceston's UNESCO City of Gastronomy designation.

The quarter also saw growing engagement with organisations focused on food security, community wellbeing and local food production, including LIFE Food Hub, community gardens and the Food as a Connector initiative, strengthening Council's role as a facilitator and connector within the regional food system.

Visitation

Visitation continued to strengthen destination presentation, visitor servicing and place-brand activation, while progressing key infrastructure projects that support long-term visitation growth.

The Launceston Visitor Information Centre welcomed 4,250 visitors during the quarter and generated \$44,207 in total sales, including \$7,754 in retail sales. While visitation and overall sales were lower than the same period in the previous year, the introduction of a new Launnie-branded retail range delivered strong performance, generating more than \$2,050 in sales and becoming the Centre's leading product category. This success reflects growing demand for place-based merchandise and supports the continued evolution of Council's destination brand.

Visitor servicing capability was strengthened through the recruitment of three additional casual Visitor Information Officers, ensuring capacity to respond to peak visitor periods and maintain high-quality frontline service delivery.

A key milestone was the activation of the Town Hall exhibition space through a partnership with the Hawthorn Football Club celebrating 25 years of Hawthorn in Launceston. The exhibition attracted more than 3,000 recorded visitor movements through the Town Hall exhibition space during its initial activation period.

The strongest activity occurred across the Hawthorn match weekend and the days immediately following, demonstrating the value of aligning civic activations with major events. Visitor movement data is now informing future exhibition programming and helping

Council evaluate opportunities to use the Town Hall exhibition space for future partnerships, major events and destination storytelling initiatives.

Match weekend generated significant activity:

- Friday 3 July: 812 visitor movements
- Saturday 4 July: 737 visitor movements

Destination marketing and place-brand activity continued across multiple platforms through seasonal campaigns, digital promotion, refreshed stadium signage and visitor information assets. Work also commenced on the next stage of launceston.com.au, focusing on strengthening destination content, visitor planning tools and event promotion capabilities.

Supporting future visitation growth, planning and feasibility work also progressed for both the Myrtle Park RV Dump Point and the proposed Northern Inveresk RV Rest Stop, projects that will improve visitor amenities and strengthen Launceston's appeal to the growing caravan and motorhome market.

Partnerships & Grants

The quarter represented a significant step forward in strengthening Council's events funding and partnership framework.

Council adopted a refreshed Events Framework, Outgoing Grants Policy and Event Grant Program Guidelines, creating a more transparent, consistent and strategically aligned approach to funding, investment and event development. The revised model reinforces Council's transition towards a partnership-based approach that seeks to maximise community, economic and destination outcomes.

Council continued to support a diverse range of community and destination events through sponsorship and grant programs, including five Small Sponsored Events, two Major Sponsored Events and the final year of Signature Funding for the highly successful McGrath Launceston Running Festival.

A key achievement was the launch of Council's new Event Grants Program, introducing Innovation Partnership Grants, Destination Partnership Grants, Community Event Grants and Fundraising Event Grants. The inaugural funding round attracted 65 applications across all funding streams, significantly exceeding available funding and highlighting the strength, diversity and ambition of Launceston's event sector.

Collectively, these initiatives have strengthened Council's relationships with event organisers, community groups, industry partners and key stakeholders, while establishing a strong pipeline of future events and activation opportunities that will continue to drive visitation, economic activity, community participation and destination growth.

Marketing and Communications

This quarter, the Marketing and Communications team continued to strengthen community awareness, engagement and participating across a range of Council initiatives, projects and services. Through media relations, growing digital channels, strategic campaigns and community consultation activities, the team supported the delivery of Council's priorities while ensuring residents remained informed and involved in decision-making.

Strong growth was recorded across the City of Launceston digital platforms, with increases in audience reach, engagement and online interactions reflecting the community's ongoing demand for Council information and services. Key achievements included the promotion

and delivery of the Hawthorn 25 Years in Tasmania exhibition at Town Hall, the development of corporate publications and signage projects, and the implementation of a range of community information campaigns that supported awareness of Council services, initiatives and community opportunities.

Community engagement activities continued to support Council's strategic planning and project delivery, providing residents and stakeholders with opportunities to learn about, contribute to and help shape initiatives that will influence the future of the municipality. Feedback gathered throughout the quarter will inform ongoing planning, project development and decision-making.

Media Engagement

This quarter, the Communications and Marketing team issued media releases to keep the community informed of key Council decisions, projects and community initiatives, while also supporting confidence in Council's strategic priorities.

Key media releases included:

- AFL's Hawthorn eviction to cost Northern Tasmania \$80 million – A response from Mayor Matthew Garwood reinforcing Council's commitment to working with key stakeholders to ensure a successful transition of AFL content in Northern Tasmania and providing confidence to the community following the AFL's announcement.
- Carr Villa Mother's Day Memorial Service – Promoting the annual Mother's Day service at Carr Villa Memorial Park and inviting the community to come together to remember and honour loved ones.
- Let's Talk Road Safety – Raising awareness of the annual road safety initiative, highlighting the collaboration between local schools, community organisations, government agencies and road safety advocates to promote safer roads for young Tasmanians.
- Four-Year Delivery Plan 2026/27–2029/30 and Annual Plan and Budget – Communicating Council's adoption of its strategic plans and budget, with a strong focus on the delivery of \$66 million in capital works across the municipality.

Website

The City of Launceston's corporate website continued to attract a growing online audience, with active users increasing by 19% compared to the same period last year. New users also increased by 17.5%, indicating that more people are discovering and accessing Council information and services through the website.

Website engagement also increased by 12.7% year-on-year, demonstrating that visitors are spending more time interacting with content. The growth in both user numbers and engagement highlights the website's importance as a key channel for community information, service delivery and access to Council updates.

Social Media

The City of Launceston's social media audience continued to grow during the quarter, increasing by 1.3%, with overall audience numbers now 9.4% higher than the same period last year. This sustained growth reflects continued community interest in Council news, services and initiatives.

Audience engagement also strengthened, with average post engagement increasing by 13% year-on-year. Notably, average link clicks per post rose by 63% compared to the same period last year. The City of Launceston's LinkedIn engagement rate increased by 40% year-on-year.

The growth in engagement this quarter indicates that content is not only reaching more people but is also driving greater interest and action, with audiences seeking additional information through Council's digital channels.

Key Campaign Highlights:

Hawthorn

Delivered a large-scale exhibition at the Launceston Visitor Information Centre celebrating 25 years of Hawthorn in Tasmania. The exhibition combined historical milestones, photography, partner branding and digital content to tell the shared story of Hawthorn and Launceston, recognising the long-standing partnership and strengthening local pride and visitor engagement.



Torrens Street Signage

To support completion of the Torrens Street Urban Greening Project, interpretive signage was developed to highlight the environmental benefits of the initiative, including its role in supporting endangered species such as the swift parrot. Marketing & Communications coordinated the development of interpretive signage with a creative approach that not only communicates the project's impact but also informs future place branded interpretive signage standards.



Waste App and online services

Supported the launch of the City of Launceston's Waste and Recycling app in April by promoting the launch competition on social media. As part of the launch, the Marketing and Communications team reorganised and embedded the web version of the waste and recycling features and services on the corporate website.

Coordinated the design of professional documents including the City of Launceston Annual Plan 2026/27, Four-Year Delivery Plan, Service Catalogue, Newnham Urban Greening Precinct Plan, Street Tree Master Plan and the Event Grants Policy.

Customer Service and Launceston Visitor Information Centre Signage

Designed updated signage for the newly renovated Customer Service and Visitor Information Centre to promote the region to tourists, create visual cohesion within the multi-use site and create paid advertising opportunities for tourism vendors.



Seaport Banner

Developed a new banner suite for the Seaport precinct to enhance place identity and strengthen the visitor experience. The refreshed designs replace the previous photographic banners with a clean, contemporary visual system that improves visibility, creates greater consistency across the precinct and reinforces Seaport as a destination to meet, eat and wander. The project supports Council's ongoing place branding initiatives and contributes to a more distinctive and cohesive public environment.



Rates

The Marketing and Communications team supported the preparation of rates notices through updating the information provided on the corporate website and coordinating the design of:

- The updated rates notice and accompanying information sheet
- Flyers introducing Payble
- Aquatic Centre vouchers to be included with the rates notices

Community Engagement activities undertaken/and or in progress:

Consultation on Four-Year Delivery Plan, Annual Plan and Budget

Community consultation on the Four-Year Delivery Plan (2026/27-2029/30), Annual Plan (2026/27) and Annual Budget (2026/27) was conducted between April and May 2026. Engagement was facilitated through the Tomorrow Together platform and supported by a community drop-in session at Town Hall. Feedback was collated for consideration in the final Plans prior to being adopted by Council.

Consultation on Launceston Domestic Wood Smoke Plan

The first round of engagement on domestic wood smoke concluded during the quarter, providing valuable insights into household heating practices across the municipality. A second round of consultation was subsequently undertaken on the draft Launceston Domestic Wood Smoke Plan to seek community feedback on proposed approaches to reducing domestic wood smoke emissions and improving air quality and community health outcomes. Feedback from both phases will inform the development of the final Plan.

Consultation on Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan

Community consultation on the draft Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken during the quarter. Community members were invited to review the draft Plan and identify their priorities for the future of the Alanvale area. Community input will help shape final changes to the Plan before it is considered by Council for adoption.

Newnham Urban Greening Precinct Plan

Planning was in progress to prepare project information and communications for the Newnham Urban Greening Precinct Plan and associated planting works. This focused on developing a flyer and online project page to inform residents and stakeholders about the project, proposed works, and anticipated greening benefits.

Margaret Street Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder consultation for the Margaret Street reconstruction project commenced in June 2026. Initial engagement is focused on introducing the project to key stakeholders, providing information about the project scope and objectives, and gathering early feedback to inform the next stages of planning and design.

Tomorrow Together

Community participation through City of Launceston's engagement platform, Tomorrow Together, remained strong during the quarter, with activity representing approximately 13% of all visitors and 9% of all contributors recorded since the platform's launch. The platform also gained almost 9% of its total followers during the reporting period, reflecting ongoing community interest in Council consultations and local decision-making.

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 2.1 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(c)	Proactively address affordability, homelessness and housing insecurity.
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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.
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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(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. Innovation Partnership and Destination Partnership Grants 2027

FILE NO: SF7963, SF7962

AUTHOR: Roshani Hamal (Partnership and Grants Officer)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider funding allocations for the 2027 Innovation Partnership and Destination Partnership Grants.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. approves the following Innovation Partnership Grant applications for funding over a three-year period, with the recommended funding amounts to be allocated from the 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 Event Grants budgets:

Organisation	Event	Multi-Year (3 Years)	Score	\$Requested	\$Recommended
Junction Arts Festival	Junction Arts Festival	3 Years	90.5	\$50,000	\$50,000
Launceston Festivale Committee Inc	Festivale	3 Years	89	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total				\$100,000	\$100,000

Note: Following Expression of Interest (EOI) shortlisting, these applicants were invited by the Panel to submit a three-year funding application.

2. approves the following Innovation Partnership Grant applications for funding, with the recommended funding amounts to be allocated from the 2026/27 Event Grants budget:

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Requested	\$Recommended
Island Events Pty Ltd	Island Escape Winter Festival	87.6	\$50,000	\$50,000
Epic Events and Marketing	McGrath Launceston Running Festival	86.3	\$50,000	\$35,000
Tallboy and Moose	Launceston BeerFest NYE @ Royal Park	82.3	\$50,000	\$35,000

Fungi The Festival c/o Big hART	Fungi The Festival	81.8	\$50,000	\$35,000
Total			\$200,000	\$155,000

Note: Funding recommendations reflect the Panel's assessment of each application and the available program budget and may be for full or partial funding.

3. determines that the following Innovation Partnership Grant applications will not receive funding, as the available funding has been fully allocated in accordance with the Panel's recommendations:

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Requested	\$Recommended
Spartan AUS 3.0 Pty Ltd	2027 OCR Community World Championships	80.1	\$50,000	\$0
Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation Ltd	agriCULTURED	72.8	\$40,000	\$0
Total			\$90,000	\$0

4. approves the following Destination Partnership Grant applications for funding, with the recommended funding amounts to be allocated from the 2026/27 Event Grants budget:

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Requested	\$Recommended
Vibestown Productions	Party In the Paddock	89.1	\$20,000	\$20,000
Festival of Voices	Festival of Voices 2027	88.8	\$20,000	\$20,000
Tennis Australia (Tennis Tasmania)	Launceston International (world professional tour tournament)	86	\$20,000	\$20,000
TARGA AUSTRALIA	Targa Tasmania	83.1	\$20,000	\$20,000
Tennis Australia (Tennis Tasmania)	Launceston Junior International (world junior professional tour tournament)	82.5	\$20,000	\$20,000
Australian Musical Theatre Festival Inc	Australian Musical Theatre Festival	81.8	\$20,000	\$20,000
AusCycling	2027 AusCycling Junior & Masters Road National Championship	81.3	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total			\$140,000	\$140,000

5. determines that the following Destination Partnership Grant applications will not receive funding, as the available funding has been fully allocated in accordance with the Panel's recommendations:

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Requested	\$Recommended
DanceSport Australia Limited	7 Tasmania Open DanceSport Championship	78.8	\$20,000	\$0
BADMINTON AUSTRALIA LIMITED	Under 15 and Under 19 National Badminton Championships	78.6	\$20,000	\$0
Event People	Launceston Country Music Festival	77	\$20,000	\$0
Tasmanian Turf Club Inc.	Ladbroke's Launceston Cup	76.8	\$20,000	\$0
AusTriathlon	2027 Oceania Triathlon Junior Sprint Distance and Junior Championships – Mixed Team Relay	75.8	\$20,000	\$0
TEG Sport Pty Ltd	2027 Freestyle Kings Live	75.6	\$20,000	\$0
Table Tennis Australia	Table Tennis Australia National Veterans Championships	75.5	\$20,000	\$0
Fit City Events	Vineyards Running Festival	72.3	\$20,000	\$0
Total			\$160,000	\$0

REPORT:

Event Grants program structure and funding

The Innovation Partnership Grants and Destination Partnership Grants are strategic funding streams within the City of Launceston's Event Grants Program, designed to support high-impact events that align with Council's Events Framework and Strategic Plan. Innovation Partnership Grants provide funding of up to \$50,000 to support innovative, high-impact events that contribute to a vibrant and diverse events calendar, build organiser capability, and deliver lasting social, cultural and economic outcomes. Destination Partnership Grants provide funding of up to \$20,000 for events that attract visitors, generate overnight stays and strengthen Launceston's destination profile.

The inaugural grant round commenced with an Expression of Interest (EOI) process in May 2026, with shortlisted applicants invited to submit a full application. As part of the Innovation Partnership Grant process, applicants with an established track record of delivering strategically significant events and demonstrating strong alignment with Council's strategic priorities could be invited, following the EOI assessment, to apply for a three-year funding agreement. This approach provides greater funding certainty, supports

long-term planning and encourages the continued development and sustainability of established events.

The inaugural Innovation Partnership Grants and Destination Partnership Grants attracted a strong response, demonstrating significant demand for the City's new strategic event funding streams. A total of 31 Expressions of Interest were received across both categories, with 23 applicants subsequently invited to submit full applications.

Collectively, full applications sought approximately \$690,000 in funding against an available budget of \$395,000. Following the EOI process and comprehensive assessment of the full applications, the Assessment Panel has recommended allocation of the entire available budget, comprising \$255,000 through the Innovation Partnership Grants and \$140,000 through the Destination Partnership Grants. As funding requests significantly exceeded the available budget, 10 eligible applications are not recommended for funding following the assessment process.

Program governance

The Event Grants Assessment Panel is a Special Committee of Council, established under section 24 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas). The Panel consists of two Councillors nominated by Council, together with Council Officers from relevant business areas.

The Panel members for this strategic grant round are:

- Cr Alan Harris (Chair)
- Cr Lindi McMahon (Councillor)
- Henry Williams, Team Leader Prosperity and Investment
- Rebecca James, Parks Planning Officer
- Madi Biggelaar, Senior Visitation Officer

The role of the Assessment Panel is to consider, review and assess eligible applications against the published assessment criteria and make funding recommendations to Council. In determining its recommendations, the Panel also considers strategic alignment, value for money, the available program budget, and the diversity and public value of the overall portfolio of events proposed for funding.

In accordance with the Outgoing Grants Policy and Council's governance requirements, Panel members are required to declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest prior to the assessment process and must not participate in the assessment of that grant round where a conflict has been declared. No Panel members declared a conflict of interest in this funding round.

The Grants and Partnerships Officer supports the administration of the grant process but does not participate in scoring or make funding recommendations. The Officer undertakes an initial eligibility and completeness review of applications against the requirements of the Event Grants Program Guidelines. The Assessment Panel may also determine that an application is ineligible where it does not meet the published program requirements.

Assessment process

The following steps form the assessment process for applications:

- 1. Expression of Interest (EOI) and shortlisting:** Applicants submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) through SmartyGrants. EOIs are reviewed for eligibility and completeness and assessed by the Event Grants Assessment Panel against the published EOI criteria. The Panel determines which applicants are shortlisted and invited to submit a full application. For Innovation Partnership Grants, the Panel may also invite eligible applicants with an established track record and strong strategic alignment to submit a three-year funding application.
- 2. Full application:** Shortlisted applicants submit a full application through SmartyGrants, providing detailed information on the proposed event, outcomes, delivery, budget and supporting evidence.
- 3. Eligibility review:** Full applications are reviewed by the Grants and Partnerships Officer to confirm eligibility and completeness. Where required, applicants may be contacted to provide clarification or additional information.
- 4. Assessment:** Eligible full applications are independently assessed and pre-scored by members of the Event Grants Assessment Panel against the published Event Grants Assessment Rubric before the Panel meets to consider funding recommendations.
- 5. Panel recommendations:** The Assessment Panel considers assessment outcomes, strategic alignment, value for money, the available program budget, and the diversity and public value of the overall event portfolio when determining its funding recommendations to Council.
- 6. Council decision:** Final funding decisions are made by Council through a formal Council Meeting resolution.

Event Grants Assessment Criteria & Scoring Guide

1. Assessment Criteria

Event Quality (30%)

- Event concept and quality
- Distinctiveness / Innovation
- Value for Money

Community & Visitor Impact (30%)

- Community Benefit
- Inclusion & Accessibility
- Economic & Visitor Outcomes

Delivery Capability (30%)

- Delivery Capability
- Planning & Risk Readiness
- Financial Management Capacity

Sustainability & Legacy (10%)

- Environmental & Operational Sustainability
- Legacy

2. Assessment Scoring Framework

Score	Rating	Description
4	Strong	The application fully addresses the criterion with clear, credible and well-evidenced information. No significant gaps or concerns identified.
3	Adequate	The application sufficiently addresses the criterion and demonstrates a reasonable level of evidence. Minor gaps or areas for improvement may be identified.
2	Limited	The application partially addresses the criterion but lacks sufficient detail, clarity or supporting evidence. Significant gaps or risks are identified.
1	Poor	The application does not sufficiently meet the criterion or provides insufficient or unclear information. Significant concerns are identified.

3. Minimum Assessment Requirements

- Align with Council's Events Framework.
- Clearly advance the priorities of the City of Launceston Strategic Plan.
- Achieve a minimum score of 3 (Adequate) in Value for Money, Economic & Visitor Outcomes (where relevant), Delivery Capability, Financial Management Capacity, and Environmental & Operational Sustainability.

Distribution of funding

In accordance with the Outgoing Grants Policy and Event Grants Program Guidelines, the Assessment Panel may recommend full, partial or no funding. Funding recommendations are informed by the assessment outcomes and consideration of the proposed budget and project scope, value for money, financial need, deliverability, previous performance (where applicable), strategic alignment and the available program budget.

Where eligible funding requests exceed the available budget, the Panel may recommend a reduced funding amount where it considers the event can remain viable at that level. In determining its recommendations, the Panel also considers the diversity and public value of the overall portfolio of events proposed for funding. This approach supports the fair and transparent allocation of available funding while maximising the strategic, economic and community outcomes delivered through the Event Grants Program.

Aggregated assessment scores

Each eligible application is independently assessed by members of the Event Grants Assessment Panel against the published Event Grants Assessment Rubric, which comprises 11 assessment criteria across four weighted assessment categories.

Recommended Innovation Partnership Grants:

Junction Arts Festival – Multi-Year Application: Junction Arts Festival is Northern Tasmania's leading contemporary arts festival, transforming Launceston's CBD into a vibrant cultural destination through a diverse program of visual arts, music, performance and public experiences, while delivering significant cultural, community and economic benefits.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	28.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	26
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	28
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8
	Total weighted score	90.5

Festivale – Multi-Year Application: Festivale is Tasmania's premier food, beverage and entertainment festival, attracting around 30,000 patrons annually and showcasing the state's culinary excellence while delivering significant economic benefits and reinforcing Launceston's reputation as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	26.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	26
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	28.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8
	Total weighted score	89

Island Escape Winter Festival - Island Escape Winter Festival is a three-day winter food, beverage, arts and entertainment festival that showcases Tasmania's winter culture, attracting visitors while supporting local businesses, producers and creatives, and strengthening Launceston's reputation as a premier winter destination.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	27
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	27
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8.1
	Total weighted score	87.6

The McGrath Launceston Running Festival - The McGrath Launceston Running Festival is a premier mass participation running event that attracts local, interstate and international participants, delivering significant tourism and economic benefits while promoting health, community participation and Launceston's reputation as a leading sporting events destination.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	27.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7.8
	Total weighted score	86.3

Launceston BeerFest NYE: Launceston BeerFest NYE is a two-day food, beverage and entertainment festival that celebrates New Year's Eve while attracting visitors, showcasing Tasmanian producers, and delivering significant tourism, economic and community benefits for Launceston.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	24.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	23.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	27
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7.3
	Total weighted score	82.3

Fungi the Festival: Fungi the Festival is Australia's only city-wide fungi festival, celebrating gastronomy, science, art and nature while driving winter visitation, supporting local businesses and reinforcing Launceston's UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy identity.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	26
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	24.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	23.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7.8
	Total weighted score	81.8

Recommended Destination Partnership Grants:

Party in The Paddock: Party in The Paddock is Tasmania's largest independent all-ages music and arts festival, attracting significant interstate visitors while delivering substantial economic benefits and showcasing Northern Tasmania as a premier cultural destination.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	26
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	27
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	27.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8.6
	Total weighted score	89.1

Festival of Voices: Festival of Voices is Australia's largest singing festival, delivering a 10-day winter program that attracts visitors, activates Launceston's CBD, supports arts participation, and generates significant cultural, tourism and economic benefits.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	28.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	27.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7.3
	Total weighted score	88.8

Launceston International (world professional tour tournament): The Launceston International is a professional tennis tournament attracting national and international players, delivering significant visitor and economic benefits while strengthening Launceston's reputation as a premier regional sporting destination.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	24
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	25
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	29
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8
	Total weighted score	86

Targa Tasmania: Targa Tasmania is Tasmania's premier tarmac rally and motoring tourism event, attracting competitors and visitors from across Australia and overseas while delivering significant tourism and economic benefits and reinforcing Launceston's reputation as a world-class motoring events destination.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	26
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	24.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	26
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	6.6
	Total weighted score	83.1

Launceston Junior International (world junior professional tour tournament): The Launceston Junior International is an ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors tournament that attracts emerging Australian and international players, delivering visitor and economic benefits while strengthening Launceston's reputation as a destination for international tennis and youth athlete development.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	22.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	27
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7.5
	Total weighted score	82.5

The Australian Musical Theatre Festival: The Australian Musical Theatre Festival is Australia's only musical theatre festival, attracting interstate visitors while delivering significant cultural, tourism and economic benefits and strengthening Launceston's reputation as a leading arts destination.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	23.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	25
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7.8
	Total weighted score	81.8

2027 AusCycling Junior & Masters Road National Championship: The 2027 AusCycling Junior & Masters Road National Championships is Australia's premier road cycling championship, attracting competitors from across the country while delivering significant tourism, economic and community benefits and strengthening Launceston's reputation as a major sporting events destination.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	23.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	6.8
	Total weighted score	81.3

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

There is a limited financial risk associated with funded events not fully meeting their contractual obligations. This risk is mitigated through funding agreements, milestone reporting and acquittal requirements. There is also a potential reputational risk to Council should funded events fail to deliver the intended outcomes or community benefits.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommended event grants will:

- result in positive economic impacts through increased tourism and economic activity, while building the city's profile and reputation as a great place to live, visit and invest.
- be expected to have minimal environmental impacts, with funded events required to implement environmentally responsible practices in accordance with the Event Grants Program Guidelines.
- provide positive social impacts through increased community participation, 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.
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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.
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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.
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.
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BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The 2026/27 budget allocation for the Innovation Partnership Grants and Destination Partnership Grants provides funding for strategic events delivered across the 2027 calendar year.

The available budget and recommended allocations are outlined below.

Funding Stream	Allocated 2026/27 Budget	Pre-committed	Recommended Allocation for 2026/27	Balance
Innovation Partnership Grants	\$255,000	\$0	\$255,000	\$0
Destination Partnership Grants	\$140,000	\$0	\$140,000	\$0

The total 2026/27 budget available for the Innovation Partnership Grants and Destination Partnership Grants is \$395,000. If Council approves the recommended funding allocations, the available budget for these funding streams will be fully allocated.

The recommendation also includes a commitment of \$100,000 per annum from the 2027/28 and 2028/29 Event Grants budgets for the two recommended three-year Innovation Partnership Grant agreements.

The budget implications of this recommendation have been reviewed and approved by the Executive Leader Connections and Liveability.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CONFIDENTIAL - IP G 00012 - Mc Grath redacted [17.2.1 -]
2. CONFIDENTIAL - IP G 00002 Junction Application redacted [17.2.1 -]
3. CONFIDENTIAL - IP G 00006 Beerfest Applctaion redacted [17.2.1 -]
4. CONFIDENTIAL - IP G 00004 Festivale application redacted [17.2.1 -]
5. CONFIDENTIAL - IP G 00010 Island Escape application redacted [17.2.1 -]
6. CONFIDENTIAL - IP G 00015 Fungi the Fest Application redacted [17.2.1 - 29 pages]
7. CONFIDENTIAL - DP G 00004 - Party in the Paddock redacted [17.2.2 - 24 pages]
8. CONFIDENTIAL - DP G 00018 - Festival of Voices 2027 redacted [17.2.3 - 25 pages]
9. CONFIDENTIAL - DP G 00001 - Launceston International Redacted [17.2.4 - 25 pages]
10. CONFIDENTIAL - DP G 00019 - Targa Tasmania redacted [17.2.5 - 17 pages]
11. CONFIDENTIAL - DP G 00005 - Launceston Junior International redacted [17.2.6 - 25 pages]
12. CONFIDENTIAL - DP G 00002 - Australian Musical Theatre redacted [17.2.7 - 24 pages]
13. CONFIDENTIAL - DP G 00009 - 2027 AusCycling Junior and Masters application redacted [17.2.8 - 23 pages]
14. Terms of Reference 2026 [17.2.9 - 9 pages]

17.3. Community Event and Fundraising Event Grants Round 2 2026/2027

FILE NO: SF7960, SF7961

AUTHOR: Roshani Hamal (Partnership and Grants Officer)

APPROVER: Ali Kemp (Executive Leader Connections and Liveability)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider funding recommendations for Round 2 of the 2026/27 Community Event Grants and Fundraising Event Grants.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. approves the following Community Event Grant applications to receive the recommended funding amounts from the Round 2 2026/27 Event Grants budget.

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Requested	\$Recommended
Medium Grants				
World Street Eats	World Street Eats	86.8	\$15,000	\$15,000
Ten Days on the Island	Rayakana Milaythina (Song of Country)	86.1	\$15,000	\$10,000
Van Diemen's Band	VDB Lunchbox Concerts 2027	84.8	\$12,500	\$10,000
Launceston Competitions Association Inc.	Launceston Competitions	82.8	\$10,000	\$10,000
Launceston Lions Sport Club INC	Sri Lankan New Year Festival 2027	82.3	\$10,000	\$10,000
Handweavers, Spinners and Dyers Guild of Tasmania, Inc.	Tasmanian Fibre Festival	81.8	\$15,000	\$10,000
Jacqueline Barnes	Launceston Ukulele Jamboree 2027	80.1	\$15,000	\$10,000
Launceston BMX Club Inc.	Tassie Thunder 2027	80	\$10,000	\$7,500

Tas Junior Cycling Foundation - Gilmore Cycling Classic	Gilmore Cycling Classic	79.3	\$15,000	\$7,500
Small Grants				
Lilydale District Progress Association	Lilydale Winter Solstice Lantern Walk	85.8	\$4,000	\$4,000
Friends of the Library Launceston Inc. (FOLL)	Live at the Library (LatL)	82.6	\$1,500	\$1,500
Rotary Club of Launceston Inc	Soggy Bottom Cardboard Box Regatta	81.8	\$5,000	\$5,000
Launceston and Henley Regatta Association	Launceston and Henley Regatta	79.8	\$5,000	\$5,000
Interweave Arts	Gumboot Gala	78.5	\$5,000	\$3,500
Total			\$138,000	\$109,000

Note: Funding recommendations reflect the Panel's assessment of each application and the available program budget and may be for full or partial funding.

- determines that the following Community Event Grant applications will not be funded by Council, as the available Round 2 funding has been fully allocated in accordance with the Assessment Panel's recommendations.

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Requested	\$Recommended
SPICYMUSIC	SPICYMUSIC 2027 Good Friday Open Air Rave	77	\$5,000	\$0
INDIAN FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA	HOLI - FESTIVAL OF COLOURS	76	\$5,000	\$0
Rock Challenge Tasmania	Rock Challenge - The Last Day Out	75.8	\$10,000	\$0
Grapes of Mirth Pty Ltd	Grapes of Mirth Launceston	75.6	\$15,000	\$0
Nourish Nation Foundation	Roots & Recipes: Stories from Many Homelands	75.3	\$15,000	\$0
Kinda. Collective	FutureFwd	75.3	\$15,000	\$0
Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre Inc.	Northern Tasmanian Easter Croquet Tournament 2027	75.3	\$1,100	\$0

Launceston Malayali Association Inc	Vishu-Easter Celebrations	75.1	\$5,000	\$0
Community of St Patricks River District (Tas) Inc.	St Patricks Valley Day & Mt Barrow Woodchop 2027	75	\$5,000	\$0
IO Performance	Congregation	74.6	\$15,000	\$0
Tasmanian Brick Enthusiasts Inc.	Brixhibition Launceston 2027	73.1	\$5,000	\$0
Dobson Guitar Services	Riverbend Blues 2027	71.8	\$5,000	\$0
Veterans Cricket Tasmania (INC) trading as Masters Cricket Tasmania	Cricket Australia Masters Men's o40s National Cricket Championship	70.8	\$15,000	\$0
Bhuminanda Dhaulidevi Foundation Ltd	Equity Driven STEM Access for Refugee Children	68.3	\$15,000	\$0
Breaking the cycle tassie	STREET UNITY JAM PT5	59.5	\$15,000	\$0
Total			\$146,100	\$0

3. approves the following Fundraising Event Grant application to receive the recommended funding amount from the Round 2 2026/27 Event Grants budget.

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Requested	\$Recommended
Cancer Council Tasmania	Launceston Relay for Life	85.1	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total			\$5,000	\$5,000

4. determines that the following Fundraising Event Grant applications will not be funded by Council, as the available Round 2 funding has been fully allocated in accordance with the Assessment Panel's recommendations.

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Requested	\$Recommended
Soroptimist International of Launceston Inc.	High Tea Fundraiser-2027	72.1	\$3,275	\$0
Rural Business Tasmania Inc.	Rural Relief Fund Fundraiser	71.6	\$5,000	\$0
Launceston Learning Centre for Seniors	Semester 2 Learning and Social Contact for Seniors	61	\$2,000	\$0
Total			\$10,275	\$0

REPORT:

The Community Event Grants and Fundraising Event Grants are responsive funding streams within the City of Launceston's Event Grants Program, designed to support events that strengthen community participation, activate public spaces and contribute to a vibrant, inclusive city.

Community Event Grants provide funding of up to \$5,000 for small grants and up to \$15,000 for medium grants, supporting local community, cultural, sporting and place-based events. Fundraising Event Grants provide funding of up to \$5,000 for events that raise funds for charitable or not-for-profit causes while also delivering a public event that contributes to local participation and vibrancy. Community Event Grants and Fundraising Event Grants operate through two funding rounds each financial year, with applications submitted online through Smarty Grants. These grant streams form part of the City of Launceston's broader Event Grants Program, alongside Innovation Partnership Grants and Destination Partnership Grants.

Round 2 of 2026/2027 is the first funding round delivered under the revised Event Grants Program framework. A total of 33 applications were received across both grant programs, requesting \$299,375 in funding in total, significantly exceeding the available Round 2 budget of \$114,000. Following assessment and moderation of all eligible applications, the Assessment Panel has recommended allocating the full available Round 2 budget of \$114,000 to 15 successful applications across the Community Event Grants and Fundraising Event Grants streams.

Due to demand significantly exceeding the available budget, 18 eligible applications are not recommended for funding.

Program governance

The Event Grants Assessment Panel is a Special Committee of Council, established under section 24 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas). The Panel consists of two Councillors nominated by Council, together with Council Officers from relevant business areas.

The panel members for this grant program are:

- Cr Alan Harris (Chair)
- Cr Andrew Palmer (Councillor)
- Henry Williams, Team Leader Prosperity and Investment
- Rebecca James, Parks Planning Officer
- Madi Biggelaar, Senior Visitation Officer

The role of the Assessment Panel is to consider, review and assess eligible applications against the published assessment criteria and make funding recommendations to Council. In determining its recommendations, the Panel also considers assessment outcomes, strategic alignment, value for money, the available program budget, and the diversity and public value of the overall portfolio of events proposed for funding.

In accordance with the Outgoing Grants Policy and Council's governance requirements, Panel members are required to declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest prior to the assessment process and must not participate in the assessment of that grant round where a conflict has been declared. No Panel members declared a conflict of interest in this funding round.

The Grants and Partnerships Officer supports the administration of the grant process but does not participate in scoring or make funding recommendations. The Officer undertakes an initial eligibility and completeness review of applications against the requirements of the Event Grants Program Guidelines. The Assessment Panel may also determine that an application is ineligible where it does not meet the published program requirements.

Assessment process

The following steps form the assessment process for applications:

1. **Applications received:** Applications are submitted through SmartyGrants and received by the Grants and Partnerships Officer.
2. **Eligibility review:** Applications are reviewed to confirm eligibility and completeness. Where required, applicants may be contacted to provide clarification or additional information.
3. **Assessment:** Eligible applications are independently assessed and pre-scored by members of the Event Grants Assessment Panel against the published Event Grants Assessment Rubric before the Panel meets to undertake moderation and consider funding recommendations.
4. **Panel recommendations:** The Assessment Panel considers assessment outcomes, strategic alignment, value for money, the available program budget, and the diversity and public value of the overall portfolio of events when determining its funding recommendations to Council.
5. **Council decision:** Final funding decisions are made by Council through a formal Council Meeting resolution.

Event Grants Assessment Criteria & Scoring Guide

1. Assessment Criteria

Event Quality (30%)

- Event concept and quality
- Distinctiveness / Innovation
- Value for Money

Community & Visitor Impact (30%)

- Community Benefit
- Inclusion & Accessibility
- Economic & Visitor Outcomes

Delivery Capability (30%)

- Delivery Capability
- Planning & Risk Readiness
- Financial Management Capacity

Sustainability & Legacy (10%)

- Environmental & Operational Sustainability
- Legacy

2. Assessment Scoring Framework

Score	Rating	Description
4	Strong	The application fully addresses the criterion with clear, credible and well-evidenced information. No significant gaps or concerns identified.
3	Adequate	The application sufficiently addresses the criterion and demonstrates a reasonable level of evidence. Minor gaps or areas for improvement may be identified.
2	Limited	The application partially addresses the criterion but lacks sufficient detail, clarity or supporting evidence. Significant gaps or risks are identified.
1	Poor	The application does not sufficiently meet the criterion or provides insufficient or unclear information. Significant concerns are identified.

3. Minimum Assessment Requirements

- Align with Council's Events Framework.
- Clearly advance the priorities of the City of Launceston Strategic Plan.
- Achieve a minimum score of 3 (Adequate) in Value for Money, Economic & Visitor Outcomes (where relevant), Delivery Capability, Financial Management Capacity, and Environmental & Operational Sustainability.

Distribution of funding

In accordance with the Outgoing Grants Policy and Event Grants Program Guidelines, the Assessment Panel may recommend full, partial or no funding. Funding recommendations are informed by the assessment outcomes and consideration of the proposed budget and project scope, value for money, financial need, deliverability, previous performance (where applicable), strategic alignment and the available program budget.

Where eligible funding requests exceed the available budget, the Panel may recommend a reduced funding amount where it considers the event can remain viable at that level. In determining its recommendations, the Panel also considers the diversity and public value of the overall portfolio of events proposed for funding.

This approach supports the fair and transparent allocation of available funding while maximising the strategic, economic and community outcomes delivered through the Event Grants Program.

Aggregated assessment scores

Each eligible application is independently assessed by members of the Event Grants Assessment Panel against the published Event Grants Assessment Rubric, which comprises 11 assessment criteria across four weighted assessment categories.

Recommended Community Event Grants:

World Street Eats: World Street Eats is a free community food and cultural event series celebrating cultural diversity through food, entertainment and community activities, while supporting local businesses, artists and producers and strengthening community connections in Launceston.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	26
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	26.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8.8
	Total weighted score	86.8

Rayakana Milaythina (Song of Country): Rayakana Milaythina (Song of Country) is a new First Nations-led cultural event celebrating Palawa culture through art, performance and storytelling, fostering cultural understanding, community connection and shared learning as the opening event of the 2027 Ten Days on the Island festival.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	26.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	23.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	27
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	9.1
	Total weighted score	86.1

VDB Lunchbox Concerts 2027: VDB Lunchbox Concerts 2027 is a series of affordable daytime concerts showcasing world-class classical and folk performances, enhancing Launceston's cultural vibrancy while supporting local artists, businesses and community participation.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	26
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	23
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	28
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7.8
	Total weighted score	84.8

Launceston Competitions: Launceston Competitions is an annual performing arts eisteddfod that supports artistic development through music, dance, speech and drama competitions, while fostering community participation and contributing to Launceston's vibrant arts sector.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	23
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	24.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	27
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8.3
	Total weighted score	82.8

Sri Lankan New Year Festival 2027: The Sri Lankan New Year Festival is a free multicultural community event celebrating Sinhala and Tamil New Year through traditional food, performances and family activities, promoting cultural understanding, community connection and inclusion in Launceston.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	25
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	25
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	24.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7.8
	Total weighted score	82.3

Tasmanian Fibre Festival: The Tasmanian Fibre Festival is a three-day community arts festival celebrating fibre arts through workshops, exhibitions and creative activities, fostering cultural participation, supporting local artists and businesses, and enhancing Launceston's creative tourism appeal.

Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	24.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	22
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	27
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8.3
	Total weighted score	81.8

Launceston Ukulele Jamboree 2027: Launceston Ukulele Jamboree 2027 is a four-day community music festival celebrating ukulele and folk music through performances, workshops and community activities, attracting visitors while strengthening cultural participation and supporting local businesses.

Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	25
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	23.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	23.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8.1
	Total weighted score	80.1

Tassie Thunder 2027: Tassie Thunder 2027 is a free, family-friendly BMX racing event that promotes active recreation and youth participation while attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and showcasing Launceston as a regional BMX sporting destination.

Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	23
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	23
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	26
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8
	Total weighted score	80

Gilmore Cycling Classic: The Gilmore Cycling Classic is a one-day cycling festival featuring elite and community racing, attracting competitors from across Australia while promoting active lifestyles, supporting local businesses, and showcasing Launceston as a premier cycling destination.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	25
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	23.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	23.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7.3
	Total weighted score	79.3

Lilydale Winter Solstice Lantern Walk: Lilydale Winter Solstice Lantern Walk is a free community event celebrating the winter solstice through a lantern procession, creative activities and family entertainment, fostering community connection, creativity and local traditions.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	27.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	24.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8.3
	Total weighted score	85.8

Live at the Library (LatL): Live at the Library (LatL) is a free community performance series showcasing local artists through live music and interactive arts experiences, promoting cultural participation and strengthening Launceston's vibrant arts and library culture.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	26
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	24
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7.1
	Total weighted score	82.6

Soggy Bottom Cardboard Boat Regatta: The Soggy Bottom Cardboard Boat Regatta is a family-friendly community event combining creativity, recreation and charitable fundraising through cardboard boat races, fostering community participation, teamwork and innovation.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	26
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	23.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	24
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	8.3
	Total weighted score	81.8

Launceston and Henley Regatta: The Launceston and Henley Regatta is an annual rowing event celebrating Launceston's rowing heritage, attracting competitors from across Tasmania while promoting community participation, active lifestyles and the Tamar River as a premier sporting venue.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	24.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	22.5
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	25
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7.8
	Total weighted score	79.8

Gumboot Gala: The Gumboot Gala is a free, family-friendly community event celebrating Inveresk's heritage through creative activities, live entertainment and community partnerships, fostering social inclusion, local identity and precinct activation.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	25.5
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	22
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	24
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	7
	Total weighted score	78.5

Recommended Fundraising Event Grant:

Launceston Relay for Life: Launceston Relay For Life is Cancer Council Tasmania's flagship community fundraising event, bringing the community together to celebrate, remember and raise vital funds for cancer research, support services and prevention programs.		
Event Quality (30%)	Weighted score	24
Community & Visitor Impact (30%)	Weighted score	25
Delivery Capability (30%)	Weighted score	27
Sustainability & Legacy (10%)	Weighted score	9.1
	Total weighted score	85.1

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

There is a limited financial risk associated with funded events not fully meeting their contractual obligations. This risk is mitigated through funding agreements, milestone reporting and acquittal requirements. There is also a potential reputational risk to Council should funded events fail to deliver the intended outcomes or community benefits.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommended event grants will:

- **contribute to positive economic outcomes** through increased local activity, visitor expenditure and support for local businesses, while strengthening Launceston's profile and reputation as a great place to live, visit and invest;
- **have minimal environmental impacts**, with funded events required to implement environmentally responsible practices in accordance with the Event Grants Program Guidelines; and
- **support positive social outcomes** through community participation, inclusion, connection, local identity and capacity building.

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.
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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.
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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.
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.
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BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The total allocated budget for Round 2 of the 2026/27 Community Event Grants and Fundraising Event Grants is \$114,000.

Funding Stream	Allocated Budget	Pre-committed	Recommended Allocation for Round 2 FY 2026/27	Balance
Round 2 2026/2027 - Community Event and Fundraising Event Grants	\$114,000	\$0	\$114,000	\$0

The total 2026/27 budget available for Round 2 of the Community Event Grants and Fundraising Event Grants is \$114,000. If Council approves the recommended funding allocations, the available budget for these funding streams will be fully allocated.

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

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00002 World Street Eats Application redacted [17.3.1 - 17 pages]
2. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00034 - Rayakana Milaythina (Song of Country) application redacted [17.3.2 - 19 pages]
3. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00018 - VDB Lunchbox Concerts 2027 application redacted [17.3.3 - 21 pages]
4. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00013 - Launceston Competitions application redacted [17.3.4 - 19 pages]
5. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00008 Sri Lankan New Year Festival 2027 Application redacted [17.3.5 - 21 pages]
6. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00011 - Tasmanian Fibre Festival application redacted [17.3.6 - 24 pages]
7. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00036 - Launceston Ukulele Jamboree 2027 application redacted [17.3.7 - 23 pages]
8. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00029 - Tassie Thunder 2027 application redacted [17.3.8 - 21 pages]
9. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00058 Gilmore Cycling Classic Application redacted [17.3.9 - 20 pages]
10. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00030 - Lilydale Winter Solstice Lantern Walk application redacted [17.3.10 - 19 pages]
11. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00020 - Live at the Library (LatL) application redacted [17.3.11 - 18 pages]
12. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00016 - Soggy Bottom Cardboard Box Regatta application redacted [17.3.12 - 20 pages]
13. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00042 - Launceston and Henley Regatta application redacted [17.3.13 - 20 pages]
14. CONFIDENTIAL - CE G 00015 - Gumboot Gala application redacted [17.3.14 - 18 pages]
15. CONFIDENTIAL - FE G 00004 - Launceston Relay For Life application redacted [17.3.15 - 19 pages]
16. CONFIDENTIAL - Terms of Reference 2026 [17.3.16 - 9 pages]

18. COMMUNITY ASSETS AND DESIGN

18.1. Quarterly Report - Community Assets and Design - 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026

FILE NO: SF7719

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

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

DECISION STATEMENT:

That Council receives the report noting the activities of the Community Assets and Design team for the period 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the report noting the activities of the Community Assets and Design team for the period 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026.
-

REPORT:

EXECUTIVE LEADER REPORT:

As Council's largest network, Community Assets and Design delivers a diverse range of services across operations, planning and infrastructure that have a significant impact on the community. During the quarter, the State regulator's rejection of TasWater's PSP5 created both financial and land use planning implications for Council. Correspondence outlining these impacts was provided through the Mayor's office. In June, the network's Team Leaders participated in a leadership workshop focused on strengthening leadership capability, fostering cross-team support and enhancing team performance. Progress also continued on several key strategic projects, including the preparation and release of the tender for the CBD Bus Interchange. The tender attracted strong interest from both local and interstate consultants, reflecting the significance of this transformative City Heart project. Beyond addressing a failed road asset, the project presents an opportunity to enhance the public realm and contribute to the long-term revitalisation of the CBD.

EXECUTIVE LEADER STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS:

- Metro Tasmania
 - Devonport City Council
 - Property Council of Australia
 - TasWater
 - Department of State Growth
 - Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
 - JAC Group
 - Coordinator General
-

- Northern Tasmania Development Corporation
- HIP V. HYPE
- City of Marion
- Rail, Tram and Bus Union.

SENIOR LEADER CITY OPERATIONS

City Operations delivered consistent outcomes across Facilities, Roads, Greenspace and Precinct Services, and City Services during the quarter, maintaining a strong focus on service delivery, asset performance, and customer responsiveness while progressing key projects and responding to operational challenges. Customer service performance remained strong, with 2,115 requests received and 2,219 completed, reducing the overall backlog to 121 requests. This continued reduction reflects a sustained focus on efficiency, prioritisation, and timely service delivery across all operational areas.

GREENSPACE AND PRECINCT SERVICES

The team maintained a high standard of presentation across parks, reserves, and key precincts while progressing seasonal programs and targeted landscape improvements that enhance community use and amenity. In collaboration with Roads Services, the team delivered the renewal of the David and Stanley Street roundabouts and the Princes Square activation project, improving both functionality and the user experience within key public spaces. Improvements at the Queen Victoria Museum entrance lawns and the seasonal refresh of the City Park Conservatory further contributed to the presentation of high-profile community assets.

Seasonal programs progressed well, including the commencement of the annual tree planting program and the installation of over 4,500 plantings across the CBD, supporting urban greening and long-term canopy outcomes. Preparation of replacement CBD mall trees ensures future planting success and asset longevity. The team continued to support major community events, including Island Escape and AFL fixtures, while investing in workforce capability through targeted training, strengthening both safety and service delivery outcomes.

ROAD SERVICES

Road Services maintained a high level of operational delivery, completing customer service requests, maintenance tasks and internal service requests that supported the safety, reliability and functionality of the transport network. Key works included bus stop upgrades, preparation for the EZY Parking system and collaborative works within Princes Square, contributing to broader city activation and accessibility outcomes. Ongoing urban and rural maintenance programs continue to improve network condition and resilience. The team also strengthened its emergency response capability, successfully managing the closure of the Hart Street flood gate during a weather event, demonstrating preparedness and the ability to respond effectively to network risks and changing conditions.

CITY SERVICES

City Services delivered stable and reliable performance across Cleansing and the Waste Centre, with a continued focus on operational efficiency, compliance and service sustainability. Cleansing operations continued to respond to customer service requests, scheduled maintenance activities, and 235 graffiti reports. Leaf season remained a

significant operational focus, with an average of 15 tonnes collected daily and processed through FOGO, supporting waste diversion and environmental outcomes. Deep cleaning of key high-traffic areas maintained presentation standards across the CBD.

At the Waste Centre, a 10 percent increase in tonnage highlights growing demand and reinforces the importance of ongoing infrastructure investment. The walking floor rebuild and upcoming electrical upgrades will improve operational efficiency and reliability, while the delivery of a new dozer will further strengthen site capability and reduce operating costs.

FACILITIES

Facilities delivered a substantial program of maintenance and capital works across Council-owned assets, balancing reactive demands with the progression of strategic projects and long-term asset improvements. A key highlight was the near completion of the Cataract Gorge Restaurant project, representing a significant organisational investment and a strong example of cross-Council collaboration. The project revitalises a key heritage asset, enhances the visitor experience, and contributes to the city's broader tourism and economic outcomes. The team also supported high-profile initiatives, including the Hawthorn Football Club Premiership Display and a live television broadcast from Town Hall, demonstrating flexibility and the ability to support whole-of-Council priorities. In partnership with Road Services, upgrades at the Invermay Bowls Club improved safety and usability for the community.

An increase in vandalism and anti-social behaviour across public amenities presented an ongoing challenge, requiring unplanned maintenance and impacting operational budgets. This continues to highlight the need for a coordinated approach to asset protection and community education.

SENIOR LEADER CITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING ASSESSMENTS

In the 2nd quarter of 2026, 153 development applications were approved to the value of \$120 million. A total of 38 new dwellings and 50 new lots were approved.

STRATEGIC LAND USE AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

The Strategic Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Team major achievements this quarter include:

- **St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan:** Implementation ongoing including preparation of a specific area plan and rezoning for Precinct 1 to support integration with the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, a masterplan for St Leonards Village area and a request for quotation to design Waverley Lake Park improvements.
- **Launceston Housing Plan 2025-2040:** Urbis was engaged to undertake the investigation into barriers to development in the Margaret Street Corridor and delivered a draft report in July 2026. Ratio were engaged to prepare analysis on improvements to user-maintained roads and private lanes around Launceston for higher density development, and delivered a final

report in July 2026. Refinement of the Housing Dashboard to track development approvals and housing delivery is ongoing.

- **Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan:** Council endorsed community consultation on the draft from 30 May to 28 June. Community consultation was supported by a dedicated website, mailout to adjoining property owners, community drop-in session, and social media posts. Over 60 submissions were received. Finalisation of the Neighbourhood Plan is to be determined following consideration of concerns raised.
- **South Prospect Neighbourhood Plan:** Council has continued to meet via the working group to ensure collaboration across levels of government, state agencies and landowners on the neighbourhood plan and proposed partial revocation of Kate Reed Nature Recreation Area. North Barker has been engaged to investigate natural value elements to support the Neighbourhood Plan.
- **Northern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy (NTRLUS):** Council's participation on the Regional Working Group continued, with involvement in the preparation of the new draft NTRLUS. Final submission of the NTRLUS to the Minister (via the State Planning Office) is now scheduled for July 2026 due to Steering Committee disagreement on growth framework.

STATUTORY & COMPLIANCE SERVICES

The Statutory & Compliance Services team had a strong quarter with 171 Building Applications being processed and approved, with 27 of those applications being new dwellings, and 3 multiple unit developments resulting in 30 new dwellings. A total of 105 plumbing approvals were also issued as part of this process. Included in the above building and plumbing approvals are projects like the fourth stage of the St Leonards Data Centre, Stages 4 & 5 of the redevelopment of UTAS Stadium, and Stages 1 of the Palliative Care Facility and Alterations to the Department of Medicine Offices. This brings the combined total cost of construction for the quarter to \$95.4 million. Statutory Officers received, processed, and sealed 9 Final Plan of Surveys, resulting in: 96 new lots being created; 11 Strata Plans received and processed with 24 new strata lots created; and completed 75 Building Plan requests. Planning Administration issued 153 Planning Permits and processed 119 applications for public exhibition.

The team also received and investigated 52 possible Illegal Building Works Customer Service Requests, with 14 Building Notices being issued for non-compliant works. A further 34 Possible Illegal Planning Customer Service Requests were received, with 9 Notices of Intention to Issue Enforcement issued.

SENIOR LEADER CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Five staff have completed the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia Professional Certificate in Asset Management, with more staff starting in September. This brings valuable competencies to asset managers in the team.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Princess Theatre & Earl Street Theatre Project

- 95% of demolition complete for both Theatres
- Piling and underpinning redesign work commenced
- Scope increase approved to include a hydraulic orchestra pit at the 14 May 2026 Council meeting.

NTCA Sports Complex

- Detailed design 100% complete
- Pre-tender Quantity Surveyors report received
- Stakeholder engagement continues.

City Heart

- **Two-Way Streets Stage 1 - Cimetière Street Upgrade, St John St to Tamar St:** Design work is commencing but work has been delayed due to the resignation of a key team resource. Recruitment is ongoing with five unsuccessful rounds.
- **Bus Interchange:** The site options assessment is progressing and procurement is underway, with very positive interest and 11 organisations attending a market pre-briefing.
- **Parking:** Work on the S69 Annual Plan Item including CADPIP update is expected to commence next financial year subject to the recruitment of a Traffic Engineer.

ENGINEERING TEAM

Transport

- The Strategic Transport Advisor recruitment had five rounds of unsuccessful recruitment; this has negatively impacted delivery of projects including the Bus Interchange.
- A consultant has been appointed on a short-term basis to work through the backlog of Customer Service Requests to ensure they are actioned within agreed timeframes.
- Unforeseen team leave has impacted some programs such as the Bridge Maintenance, Road Reseal, Footpath Upgrade, and Street Lighting.
- Other projects:
 - The Federal funding bid for the State Government's Kings Bridge Strengthening Project was rejected; discussions are ongoing with DSG to develop a new bid.
 - Kings Meadows Connector Shared path designs progressed with CoL aligning with the Department of State Growth roundabout metering project.
 - Margaret Street Reconstruction is progressing. The project has been split into two stages, with Stage 1 Frankland St to Frederick St expected to start construction this summer. Engagement for Stage 1 is underway.
 - We negotiated with DSG for the East Tamar Highway to be the preferred route for transport of wind turbine components after the project proponent indicated a preference to use George Town Road and Invermay Road, which are not suitable for oversize, overmass vehicles.
- Comprehensive Roads and Footpath condition assessment including Parks and Road Assets is 90% complete. Completion has been delayed by vacancies and a long term absence in the team.

Water and Flood Asset Management

- *Annual Plan K6* - Enhance Flood Intelligence capabilities and communications:
 - Corra Linn rating curve project is well underway, however there have been few rainfall events to test the rating curve.
 - Workshops were held with WaterRIDE consultants who are developing the flood intelligence software platform, which will include public access via a community portal and the ability to purchase property flood certificates.
- *Annual Plan K10 - Flood Mitigation Plan*: The suite of governance documents including the Program Charter have been prepared and are due to go to Council for formal adoption; council received the first grant funding payment from the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund Round 3; work is underway to scope the baseline assessments and technical studies which will be procured externally.
- Completed the Combined Drainage System Delineation Project with TasWater.
- Submitted the five-year comprehensive dam reports to Regulator for flood levees.
- Progressed consultant-led five-year dam inspections and reporting.
- Reviewed and updated the Erosion and Sediment Control Policy.
- Undertook stormwater assessments for various Development Applications.
- Completed stabilisation and stormwater upgrade works on the river embankment at St Leonards Picnic Ground.
- Commenced the RFQ process for Dam and Levee Vegetation Management services.
- Completed the draft Youngtown Regional Reserve Masterplan with consultants.
- Completed the second round of Flood Patrol Coordinator training.
- Represented Council at the IPWEA Tasmania Stormwater Symposium.
- Progressed improvements to East Launceston Flood Gate 1.
- Commenced planning for willow removal at the Gorge Major Project.
- Completed defect remediation works on concrete levees.
- Provided technical input and review for the St Leonards/Waverley Growth Corridor stormwater planning and Alanvale Strategic Neighbourhood Plan.
- Progressed Parklands Parade spillway upgrade through additional analysis and risk assessment.

INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN

The team is currently designing or managing 10 major projects, with a total value of approximately \$21 million and a mix of design and delivery, including:

- Gorge Restaurant refurbishment and structural remediation: Installation of final finishes. Estimated completion end of July.
- Punchbowl Reserve Playspace renewal; Stage 1 95% complete; on track for completion July 2026. Zipline later in year.
- Northern Gateway Project: Fabrication completed, construction to start soon.
- Blue Café Remedial Structural Works: Detailed design stage.
- Kings Meadows shared path: Preparing drawings for tender issue
- Margaret Street reconstruction: Progressing with detailed design Stage 1
- Treherne St Pavement Rehabilitation: Finalising design
- Mitchell St pavement Rehabilitation: Finalising design
- Second River Rd Pavement Stabilisation: Finalising design
- Carr Villa Expansion: Concept design for DA approval; 90% complete
- Bus Stop Program: Round 3 DDA bus stops being designed

- Surveying: Various pre- and post-construction land surveys, levee monitoring, Heritage Forest perimeter drain survey, various stormwater investigations.
- Waste transfer station modifications: Detailed design phase.

PROJECT DELIVERY

During Quarter 4, efforts focused on preparing tenders for the 2026 financial year and finalising 2025 projects currently under construction. Delivery of the road and footpath reseal programs have been completed.

Churchill Park sewer pump station

- Scope: Renew existing Sewer Pump Station and storage well
- Status: Practical Completion has been awarded.

Hardwicke and Outram Streets intersection Rehabilitation

- Scope: Pavement rehabilitation and asphalt reseal
- Status: Project delayed until late 2026 due to unfavourable weather conditions.

McKellar Road Pavement Rehabilitation

- Scope: Pavement rehabilitation and asphalt reseal
- Status: Practical Completion has been awarded.

Park Street Amenities

- Scope: Replacement of existing toilets and construction of new Changing Places facility.
- Status: Project completion is due late July. Delayed finish is due to the availability of TasNetworks completing their work.

City Park Play Space Redevelopment

- Scope: Renewal and upgrade of the City Park Play Space by developing play elements that are functional and act as site specific art.
- Status: Project construction started 13 June 2026. Completion due Feb 2027.

56 Frederick St Redevelopment

- Scope: Remediation and upgrade work on the building's facilities including underpinning and stability works on roof, walls and building structure.
- Status: Tender period is closed. Now in the tender evaluation period.

Engineering Consultancy panel - tender

- Tender Period has closed. A significant number of responses were received. Evaluation of returns to begin shortly.

Road Reseal programs 2025/2026				
Program	Budget	Actual	Actual + Commitments	Comments
Road Reseal Program	\$4,270,000	\$4,202,685	\$4,202,685	48 reseal sites were completed
Footpath programs	\$1,308,908	\$1,232,113	\$1,232,113	26 Footpath Sites were completed

KEY STATISTICS

Item	This quarter (Apr-Jun 26)	Last quarter (Jan-Mar 26)
Customer Service and Work Orders		
CSRs – Open <90 days	142	130
CSRs – Open >90 days	81	66
CSRs – New	2,649	3,144
CSRs – Closed	2,848	3,047
Average CSR time (days)	22 days	17 days
WOs – Open <90 days	214	255
WOs – Open >90 days	429	293
WOs – New	1,945	2,490
WOs – Closed	2,016	2,269
Average WO time (days)	29 days	25 days
Planning		
New DAs	137	145
Decided under delegation	149	106
Decided by Council	8	3
Average statutory timeframe to assess Discretionary Applications (days)	33	36
Average stop the clock period for applications determined during the quarter (days)	24	38
Number of Requests for Information sent	91	82
Permits		
Plans Sealed	9	8
Driveway Permits Issued	-	28
Heavy Vehicle Permits Issued	116	-
Road Occupation Permits Issued	76	-
Stormwater Connections Issued	-	-
People		
New employees	5	3
Vacancies	25	22
Internal promotions	1	3
Other		
Building Condition Reports completed	18	0
Grant applications submitted	0	1
Grant applications received	0	1
Trees planted	20	0
Tube stock planted	800	0

WORKSHOPS

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

- Draft Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan
- Princess Theatre Redevelopment – Orchestra Pit
- Draft concept Princess Theatre Public Realm
- St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan
- Princess Theatre Site Visit
- E-mobility options
- Draft concepts St Leonards Village Masterplan.

POLICY ADOPTIONS

Nil.

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

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

18.2. NTCA Sports Complex Redevelopment - Funding Approach

FILE NO: SF7448

AUTHOR: Michael Newby (Senior Major Projects Advisor)

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

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider Council's funding strategy for the Northern Tasmania Cricket Association (NTCA) Sports Complex Redevelopment Project and consider the submission of a Growing Regions Program Round 3 funding application.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)
Local Government (General) Regulations 2015

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council - 2 October 2025 - 19.2 Northern Tasmania Cricket Association Sports Complex Project Update
Workshop - 18 September 2025 - Northern Tasmania Cricket Association Sports Complex Project Update
Workshop - 24 July 2025 - Northern Tasmania Cricket Association Sports Complex Project Update
Council - 27 March 2025 - 24.3 NTCA Sports Complex – Redevelopment Project – Architectural Services
Council - 6 March 2025 - 19.2 Northern Tasmania Cricket Association Sports Complex Redevelopment Project
Workshop - 5 September 2024 - NTCA Sports Complex Management

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. authorises Council officers to prepare and submit a Growing Regions Program - Round 3 funding application for the NTCA Sports Complex Redevelopment Project;
 2. note that the Growing Regions Program application will seek \$15 million (the maximum grant amount available) in Australian Government funding; and
 3. consider the required Council contribution as part of a future budget following confirmation of grant outcomes and updated project costs.
-

REPORT:

The NTCA Sports Complex is one of Launceston's most significant sporting assets and the oldest first-class cricket ground in Australia. It supports a wide range of community, regional, and sporting activities.

The facility is currently constrained by:

- Ageing infrastructure
- Non-compliant and inequitable amenities
- Limited capacity and functionality.

Council has progressed a redevelopment design to:

- Deliver modern, inclusive facilities
- Expand participation (particularly women and youth)
- Improve accessibility and spectator experience
- Strengthen the venue's ability to attract regional events.

The NTCA Sports Complex redevelopment is strongly aligned with Council's strategic priorities. Our Strategic Plan 2025 - 2035, Goal 3.2 seeks to increase participation in cultural and recreational activities to improve health and wellbeing and foster inclusive communities. Objective 3.2(a) specifically identifies addressing barriers to participation, with the redevelopment of the NTCA Sports Complex nominated as a key action to support the needs of Northern Tasmania.

The project is also recognised as a priority initiative within the Launceston – A City Building Its Future – Advocacy Prospectus 2024/25, supporting its positioning for external State and Federal funding. Further, it is identified in the Northern Tasmania Sports Facility Plan 2023 (endorsed by Council on 24 August 2023) as a regionally significant sporting asset requiring future investment.

The project has progressed to an advanced state of readiness, with key milestones achieved including completion of construction tender design documentation and issuance of the planning permit.

These activities have positioned the project as genuinely 'shovel-ready' significantly strengthening its competitiveness for external funding.

The project will revitalise a deteriorating yet historically significant multi-sport venue, transforming it into a modern, inclusive community sports precinct. Key elements include the construction of two new pavilions, upgraded gender-equitable and accessible changerooms, improved amenities, expanded parking, enhanced administration spaces, and increased public access to open space.

The ground is used by over 22 sporting clubs, representing over 1,000 primary member players and an additional 949 secondary facility users, with participation expected to increase alongside regional population growth and identified facility gaps.

The above players and participation figures do not include spectators, volunteers, away team players or other ad-hoc users of the grounds.

Extensive stakeholder engagement has occurred throughout the design process; particularly with the current member/tenant clubs:

- Launceston Cricket Club
- South Launceston Cricket
- Old Scotch Collegians Football
- East Launceston Junior Football Club
- Northern Rangers Football Club.

The project will enhance the user experience, drive increased participation, particularly among women, children and young people, strengthen club sustainability, and align with Council's strategic priorities for health, inclusion, and community wellbeing.

Economically, the project is expected to deliver substantial regional benefits, including approximately 165 construction jobs. The cost–benefit analysis indicates a benefit–cost ratio of around 1.0 and a near-neutral net present value, with quantified benefits broadly offsetting costs. These benefits include avoided future maintenance expenditure, increased recreation and participation, improved health outcomes, enhanced access to green space, heritage preservation, and increased visitor spending.

Importantly, several key benefits—such as improved inclusion, volunteer contributions, and enhanced user experience—are not fully captured in the economic analysis, suggesting the overall value of the project is understated.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Primary Impact Category	Explanation of Risk
Strategic Objectives	The project is dependent on securing external funding from either State or Federal Governments. There is a risk that funding may not be secured, or may only be partially secured, impacting timing and scope as well as the required council investment amount. Mitigation: The project has been progressed to a shovel-ready status, with completed design, planning approvals, and a confirmed Quantity Surveyor estimate. This materially strengthens the project's competitiveness for external funding.
Cost Escalation	The current estimated total building cost of \$28.7 million is based on prevailing market conditions. There is a risk of escalation due to inflation, market volatility, or procurement delays. Mitigation: A final Quantity Surveyor report provides current cost confidence. The Growing Regions Program Round 3 is set to reopen late this calendar year; a successful application will reduce the likelihood and magnitude of escalation.

Reputation	The project is a priority within Council's advocacy program. Failure to progress may impact Council's credibility with stakeholders and funding partners. Mitigation: Ongoing transparent engagement, combined with clear articulation of project readiness, benefits, and funding strategy, will support Council's reputation and advocacy position.
Procurement/Delivery	Market conditions may reduce contractor participation or result in higher-than-expected tender returns. Mitigation: Comprehensive tender documentation and a prepared construction contract to support procurement. A staged delivery approach will minimise disruption and maintain continuity for user groups.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Contained throughout the report.

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(a)	Enhance community members' access to climate-change resilient leafy, well-maintained, inclusive public open spaces, prioritising areas with low wellbeing measures.
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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.
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BUDGET AND FINANCIAL

The total project cost for the construction phase is estimated at \$32.7 million. An estimated cost breakdown is included below.

The estimate should be treated as indicative until the project is tendered. Costs will change due to a range of factors including inflation, market volatility, contractor availability, and supply chain status at the time of tendering.

Item Estimates	Total (excl. GST)
Preliminaries	\$ 2,932,398
Building and trade costs	\$ 24,439,602
Tender cost	\$ 27,372,000
Construction contingency (5%)	\$ 1,369,000
Total building cost	\$ 28,741,000
Client-side project contingency (5%)	\$ 1,369,000
Consultancy fees	\$ 1,393,335
Client-side consultant contingency	\$ 261,665
Authority fees	\$ 165,000
Furniture, fittings, and equipment	\$ 770,000
Total project cost	\$ 32,700,000

A potential funding opportunity – Growing Regions Program Round 3 has been released by the Australian Government. The upcoming round will offer open competitive grants from \$250,000 to \$15 million for projects that deliver local, place-based benefits. Council will seek the maximum contribution of \$15 million.

Should Council secure the maximum Growing Regions Program contribution of \$15 million, Council's estimated contribution would be approximately \$17.7 million based on current-day, project estimates.

A successful funding application would not constitute approval to proceed with construction. A further report would be presented to Council outlining funding options, budget implications, and delivery arrangements prior to any construction commitment.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Overview plan [18.2.1 - 12 pages]

19. DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE

19.1. Quarterly Report - Delivery and Performance - 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026

FILE NO: SF0927

AUTHOR: Emily Causley (Executive Assistant - Delivery and Performance)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

That Council receives the report noting the activities of the Delivery and Performance team for the period 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Not Applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the report noting the activities of Delivery and Performance for the period 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026.
-

REPORT:

EXECUTIVE LEADER REPORT

While much of the Delivery and Performance Network's day-to-day activity has continued to focus on core business functions, as outlined in each team's report, the past quarter has also delivered several important highlights.

Across this period, the Network has played a critical enablement role for the broader organisation—supporting teams to deliver effectively, adapt to changing priorities, and progress key strategic initiatives. This has included strengthening systems and processes, providing data and insights to inform decision-making, enhancing governance and risk management practices, and driving improvements in efficiency and performance. Through this work, the Delivery and Performance Network continues to underpin organisational success by ensuring that our people, tools and frameworks are aligned to deliver on Council's priorities.

Stakeholder meetings and significant pieces of work for the Executive Leader include;

- Quarterly Audit Panel Meeting
 - Project Ignite external and internal engagement
 - Asset Management Steering Committee meetings
 - Continued work on Council's revised Long Term Financial Plan.
-

- 2026/2027 Annual Plan, Annual Budget and Four Year Delivery Plan refinement including community engagement and councillor engagement
- Safety Circle Steering Committee meetings
- Attended State Budget Lunch
- Ongoing meetings with UTAS regarding shared Inveresk community space
- Kings Wharf Redevelopment
- Launceston Flood Recovery Framework project work, being delivered in conjunction with the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- Ongoing engagement with external and internal stakeholders regarding emergency management
- Completed training for emergency management – Evacuation Centre Training run by Australian Red Cross
- Community Evacuation Centre tour and discussions with relevant external stakeholders
- Various policy updates and approvals
- Visit to Devonport City Council
- Delivery and Performance Leadership day with Senior Leadership team
- NREMC meeting and regional exercise
- Regional Strategic Procurement role development and pre-recruitment work
- Emergency Management Advisor role filled
- Attended the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly- Canberra with Councillors

SENIOR LEADER HEALTH AND REGULATIONS

Leadership Update

Across April to June, the Health and Regulations portfolio continued to deliver key services while progressing policy, compliance and service improvement priorities. This included delivery of the school immunisation program across 16 schools, participation in community education events focused on immunisation and dog safety, consultation on the Domestic Wood Smoke Plan, community engagement to inform the Dog Management Policy review, and development of clearer guidance for operational matters.

Parking

Staffing within the Parking Team was strengthened during the quarter, with the commencement of a new Team Leader Parking & Regulations and new Parking Officers. These appointments will support greater leadership capacity, improved operational coordination and more sustainable delivery of day-to-day parking services.

The EasyPark zoning update has successfully been rolled out, with on-street parking zones updated to align more clearly with individual street segments. The change was designed to improve the customer experience by making parking locations easier to identify in the EasyPark app, while also strengthening Council's ability to analyse parking data, manage temporary changes such as events or works, and support future parking decisions. Parking fees, time limits and enforcement arrangements were not changed as part of the update. Since the new meter wraps and zoning were installed, Council has seen an increase in use of the EasyPark app, indicating the changes have supported a clearer and more user-friendly parking experience.

Over the last quarter, the Parking Team has focused on reviewing standard operating procedures and developing a Parking Officer Manual. This work supports greater consistency in day-to-day operations, strengthens induction and training for new officers, and provides a practical reference point for key processes and expectations.

Administration

The Administration Team continued to provide essential operational support across Health and Regulations during the quarter, balancing business-as-usual responsibilities with several key cyclical workload demands. A significant focus was on dog registrations, with the team supporting the annual registration process and associated customer enquiries. The team also completed the school immunisation process, coordinating administrative requirements alongside ongoing portfolio support.

Regulations

Work continued on the review of Council's Dog Management Policy, with the initial community survey now closed. The feedback received provides an important evidence base to help identify key community priorities, concerns and opportunities for improvement. A revised draft policy will be prepared for a Council Workshop and further community consultation prior to being finalised for Council's consideration.

Across Health and Regulations, the workload statistics show a mixed quarter, with some demand areas easing while others increased significantly. Animal management matters generally reduced compared with last quarter, including barking dog complaints, dog attacks and nuisance/stray animal matters, while found dogs and impounded dogs increased. Regulatory amenity matters also reduced across several areas, particularly fire hazard/unkept property investigations and overgrown vegetation, noting these categories can be influenced by seasonal conditions and targeted inspection activity.

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Team's primary focus during the quarter was the development of the draft Domestic Wood Smoke Plan, including community engagement through a survey process and review of the draft Plan. The feedback helping to inform the revised Plan and its proposed actions. This work supports a more evidence-based and community-informed approach to managing the impacts of domestic wood smoke across Launceston.

Recruitment also progressed for Environmental Health Officer and Environmental Officer positions, bringing the team closer to being fully resourced and strengthening capacity to deliver both regulatory and strategic priorities.

Environmental Health activity remained substantial, with strong increases in food business inspections and tattoo/piercing inspections, reflecting a significant uplift in proactive regulatory work this quarter. Referral and application volumes were generally steady to lower, with 337 referrals, DA referrals and several application categories reducing compared with last quarter, while food enquiries/complaints increased modestly. The team also undertook proactive noise monitoring to better understand and assess potential impacts associated with community events.

SENIOR LEADER PEOPLE, GOVERNANCE AND SAFETY

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Team

The WHS Team continued delivery of BAU and Team Plan work during the quarter, with key activity statistics captured in the Key Statistics table below.

WHS Communication and Initiatives

- 2 Health and Safety Committee Meetings facilitated (April and June)
- Monthly Safety News communication to the organisation
- Safety Bulletins and Alerts distributed:
 - Near Miss - Mower Loss of Stability
 - Electrical Shock response
- Engaged a specialist consultant for on task specific guidance and coaching in relation to manual handling - excellent feedback received
- WHS Team Facilitated three Safety Circle sessions
- Commenced Team Planning work for priority focus and resource allocation for the new Financial Year

Policy and Procedure Reviews

- 21-Fm-131 Grading and Re-sheeting Roads (SWMS)
- 21-Pr-156 SOP Rinsing of agricultural horticultural chemical containers
- 21-Pr-210 SWP - Co2 dart gun
- 21-Pr-087 HSR Work Group and Recruitment Detailed Procedure
- 21-Pr-158 COL Safe Work Procedure Workman GTX Electric
- 21-Fm-158 SWMS Tree Crew General
- 21-Fm-159 SWMS Bushlands General Maintenance
- KF 21: 21-Pr-087 HSR Work Group and Recruitment Detailed Procedure
- Continued to support teams across the organisation with WHS Risk Assessment work

Governance and Information Services

- There have been three successful recruitments for the Governance and Information Services team. Training will be a focus for the next quarter.
- Preparations are underway for the 2026 Local Government elections, including updates to the General Manager's Electoral roll and liaison with the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.
- The Policy Review Project is progressing and the following Policies have been reviewed and updated by the broader People Governance and Safety team and approved by the Executive Leadership Team or Council:
 - 14-Plx-043 Political Advertising and Election Signage
 - 14-Plx-038 Local Government Election Caretaker Policy
 - 14-Plx-016 Councillor's Expenses and Resources Policy
 - 22-Plx-048 Volunteer Policy
- Insurance claims and enquiries have been steady.

Legal Services

- Legal information sessions have continued in Q2, 2026, with a session provided to the Senior Leadership Team covering child safety and mandatory reporting, right to information (RTI) and delegations.
- The team have continued to receive, process and complete an increased number of RTI applications.
- The Child Safety Officer has developed an online child safety training package, and supported the implementation of new signage at the Leisure and Aquatic Centre .
- The Risk Officer has completed consultation on the Risk Appetite Framework with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Leadership Executive Team (ELT), and is finalising consultation on the revised Bribery, Fraud and Corruption Policy and Plan.

People and Culture

- In partnership with leaders, Payroll and WHS teams, implemented the City of Launceston Enterprise Agreement 2026 through extensive leader training and support, communication, system configuration and implementation activities. The Enterprise Agreement introduced enhanced workplace flexibility, additional leave and wellbeing benefits. Combined with new external partnerships that expanded employee benefits and lifestyle offerings, these initiatives support strengthened workforce attraction, retention and wellbeing while enhancing the City's reputation as an employer of choice.
- Launched the 2026 Performance and Development Discussion (PDD) program in partnership with Organisational Development, including updated resources, enhanced communications and organisation-wide leader training to support performance and capability development.
- Strengthened HR service delivery and organisational capability through enhanced workforce reporting, people insights and the continued implementation of the Human Resources Business Partner model, improving strategic workforce support, decision-making and workforce planning capability across the organisation.

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management team continued to progress key preparedness, response and recovery initiatives during the quarter, with a focus on strengthening emergency management arrangements, flood preparedness and partner collaboration.

- Received approval from the State Controller for the updated City of Launceston Municipal Emergency Management Plan, ensuring contemporary arrangements are in place to support coordinated emergency management activities across the municipality.
- Completed the review and approval process for the updated Flood Warning Plan, enhancing our planning and warning arrangements.
- Continued engagement with key emergency management partners, maintaining strong collaborative relationships to support emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery outcomes.
- Finalised the procurement process for the Launceston Flood Recovery Planning Project, progressing Council's capability to plan for and coordinate flood recovery activities and community resilience initiatives.

- Continued delivery of business-as-usual emergency management functions, including participation in regional emergency management meetings and ongoing plan and capability improvement activities.

SENIOR LEADER FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Receivables

Rates Notices & Payments

A total of 21,941 rates notices were issued across the fourth instalment cycle, delivered via electronic and hard copy channels:

- 1,476 final notices issued for Instalment 3
- 20,465 reminder notices issued for Instalment 4

These notices supported strong revenue collection outcomes, resulting in \$16,364,171.69 in rates payments received during the period. The scale of distribution reflects continued engagement across the ratepayer base and effective collection processes. The receivables Team had a total of 446 with the collection agency as of 30 June 2026, which is 30 accounts less than 2024/25.

Property Certificates & Ownership Transfers

The team processed a significant volume of property-related transactions supporting sales and settlements:

- 1,314 council certificates issued, generating \$157,519.80 in revenue, 894 Certificate of Liabilities, and 420 Council Land Information Certificates
- 595 property ownership transfers finalised

These activities ensure timely and accurate property data for legal, conveyancing, and settlement processes.

Waste Management – Bin Services

The team processed 424 bin-related service requests, supporting household waste service continuity:

- 50 new garbage bin applications
- 374 bin service changes, including: 230 damaged bins, 98 stolen bins, 2 removed bins, & 44 bin size changes

Sundry Debtors & Revenue Processing

- 1,397 sundry debtor invoices issued, totaling \$11,094,995.00
- \$7,366,044.00 in associated payments receipted

This continues to demonstrate strong financial administration across non-rates revenue streams and consistent receipting performance.

Systems & Transformation Projects

The successful implementation of the Payable Payment Platform represents a significant milestone in the Council's digital transformation program. Following an extensive body of work led by the Receivables team, in close collaboration with Digital Futures, Project Management and key stakeholders, the platform is now fully operational. The implementation has delivered a modern, customer-focused payment solution that is

already providing tangible benefits, with more than 1,000 ratepayers actively using the platform. User uptake is expected to continue increasing in the lead up to the first rates instalment due on 31 August 2026, further enhancing the accessibility and convenience of Council's payment services.

In preparation for the 2026/27 rates levy, the valuation adjustment factors for every rateable property across the municipality were successfully imported into the rating system, ensuring the integrity and accuracy of the annual rates calculation process. The completion of these key initiatives reflects the Receivables team's strong project delivery capability and commitment to continuous improvement, while supporting Council's broader objective of delivering efficient, contemporary and customer-centric services.

Payables

During the quarter, core financial operations were delivered consistently alongside significant organisational and system change support.

Payroll Operations

- Processed 6 fortnightly payrolls with a total value of \$12.64M
- Supported 660 employees across the organisation
- Paid \$2.02M in superannuation to 55 funds
- Conducted 22 payroll inductions for new employees

Payroll delivery remained stable and accurate while accommodating onboarding and offboarding activity as well as significant system maintenance to introduce changes for the CoL Enterprise Agreement 2026 and reconciling end of financial year payroll data for upload to the ATO.

Accounts Payable

- Completed 11 creditor payment runs
- Processed 5,255 invoices
- Paid \$32.28M across 2,240 supplier payments
- Established 136 new suppliers in the system

The team maintained strong processing volumes while ensuring timely supplier payments and system integrity.

Key Projects & Continuous Improvement

- CoL EA 2026:
Implemented organisational changes, including changes to working patterns, pay rate increases, new leave types, new allowances, and changes to leave accruals.
- Project Ignite (System Upgrade):
Participated in Accounts Payable, Procurement, Human Resource and Payroll Workshops to scope and determine system requirements for new software implementation. Worked closely with the Procurement and Human Resources Teams to ensure seamless integration between the modules.
- Pay Day Super Legislation Changes - configured, tested and implemented changes to our process to comply with changes effective 1 July 2026.
- Procure to Pay Audit - participated in an internal compliance review of CoL's end-to-end processes for supplier contracts, ordering, receipting, invoicing account

payments, delegations, segregation of duties, masterfile changes and assessing policy framework design and governance.

Accounting

The Accounting Team completed the annual budget process for 2026/2027 in Quarter 4, undertaking a significant volume of work to support the finalisation of budget information. The budget was approved by Council on 18th June 2026.

Project Ignite continues to involve a substantial workload for the Team, particularly in relation to workshops and reviews of the system specific documentation required to be signed off by the team.

The interim audit for the 2025/2026 financial year continued into quarter 4, with site visits and testing by Audit Tasmania.

The Accounting Team was able to fill the vacant position from the prior quarter and ended the quarter with a full complement of staff.

Technology Services

Service Desk Performance

- Total tickets closed: 3,778
- End-user tickets closed (incidents & requests): 1,924
 - Logged by phone: 378
 - Logged by email: 800
 - Logged by self-service portal: 460
 - Logged in-person: 271
 - Logged by chat: 15
- Knowledge base articles (created/reviewed): 47
- Devices deployed/redeployed: 107

Security Operations (Microsoft Sentinel)

- Total incidents managed: 273
 - High severity: 51
 - Medium severity: 16
 - Low severity: 18
 - Informational: 188

Key Deliverables (Completed Q3)

- Town Hall Committee Room audio visual infrastructure upgrade
- Aquatic Centre Front counter display remote management capability implementation
- SAN (Storage Area Network) infrastructure replacement and data migration
- PCI DSS audit and compliance confirmation
- PaperCut print management system implementation and end-user onboarding
- Replacement and configuration of Council Meeting streaming device
- Commvault backup media agent replacement and configuration
- Secure VPN Rollout

Major Upgrades & Projects (In Progress)

- Legacy VoIP telephony system replacement - Microsoft Teams calling and Contact Centre
 - TasmaNet selected as MS Teams calling provider, ipSCAPE selected as contact centre
 - Finalising procurement of headsets for end users and handsets for front of house spaces
- Public Wi-Fi infrastructure Renewal
 - Reviewing and comparing options
- Replacement of legacy endpoint remote access tool
 - ScreenConnect solution procured
 - Testing commenced
- Replacement of legacy server patch management tool
 - Action1 procured
 - Configuration rollout ongoing
- Windows 11 rollout
 - 4 desktops remaining (New ETA Q1)
- Windows Server 2016 upgrade
 - 19 servers remaining inc. T1
- ESXi server replacements
 - Global AI Capital spending has increased RAM and storage price significantly over the last 8 months
 - Increase of over 600% on pre capital budget quote
 - Reviewing options

Digital Futures

Project Ignite

- Verification design workshops completed
- Change champions (Igniters) onboarded
- Design Specification sign-off in progress
- Data Migration Training in progress
- Preparation for Key User Training (KUT)
- Onboarding of Project Support Officer
- Change management and engagement plan in progress
- Recruitment for 2 FTE positions in progress

Transformation Projects

- Bookable - Training and Access for Asset Officers
- Bookable - Training and Access for NTCA Ground Team
- Bookable - NTCA Bookings (Live 1/7)
- Payble - Rates payment platform (Live 1/7)
- M365 Power Automate – Communications Calendar
- LoopedIn Councils – Waste app & digital vouchers (Live 1/7)

Efficiency Projects

- M365 Power Automate - Asset Committee minutes workflow complete
- Electronic Form Development - Compressed Work Week (EA)
- Electronic Form/Notification Development - SLT Timesheet
- Electronic Form Development - Organisation & Development

Reporting & Analytics

- ECM Overdue Tasks Report Update
- CBDW Service Count/Report
- Waste Levy Report
- Planning Reports

Maintenance & System Support

- EOFY Support - Rates 26/27
- EOFY Support - Dog Renewals 26/27
- EOFY Support - Health Licenses 26/27
- EOFY Support - CBD Waste
- EOFY Support - Customer Service Charge Control Updates
- EOFY Support - Updates for Bookable
- Hardwaste Fee Processing
- Update processes to support transition to Tas Petroleum
- Review options to support LAC Pool Vouchers
- Update process to include customer acknowledgement for Sleeping Rough Requests

Procurement

Tenders Awarded

- CD060/2025 – Cataract Gorge Security Services - Schedule of Rates Contract 2 year Contract with 2 year option

Awaiting Decision

- CD029/2025 – Provision of Banking Services (3 submissions)

Requests for Quotation (RFQ)

- Awarded
 - CD008/2026 – Flood Recovery Framework Project
KPMG — \$245,000
 - CD018/2026 – 4 day week feasibility Study
Productivity Bargain - \$117,304

Contract Renewals

- Launceston Waste Centre Gatehouse Operations Renewal

KEY STATISTICS – DELIVERY & PERFORMANCE

Item	This Quarter	Last Quarter	% Change (compared to last quarter)
People, Governance and Safety			
Number of Emails through contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au	5887	5249	+12.2%
Information Services Enquiries	447	426	+4.9%
Documents Registered into ECM	3172	2872	+10.4%
Mail Opened	1525	1338	+14.0%
Mail Posted	14565	9905	+47.0%
Files Culled	4	63	-93.7%
Employees trained in ECM	36	17	+111.8%
Public incidents reported:			
• Personal (including Launceston Aquatic Centre)	65	67	-2.98%
• Property	36	40	-10.0%
Employees trained in Doc Assembler	17	15	+13.3%
Successful Recruitments	47	45	+4.4%
• External Appointments	34	26	+30.8%
• Internal appointments	13	19	-31.6%
Employee Departures	22	20	+10.0%
Exit Interviews	5	3	+66.7%
Safety Circle Sessions completed	3	4	-25.0%
• Number of attendants	20	31	-35.5%
Safety Bulletins, Alerts and Publications			
• Safety Bulletins and Alerts	1	3	-66.7%
• Safety News Publications	3	3	0%
Audits and Inspections			
• External Audit	0	0	-
• HSR Workplace Inspections	14	16	-12.5%
• Documented Site Interactions	47	53	-11.3%
Incident Investigations Completed	3	0	-
Incident Investigations in Progress	10	4	+150.0%
Risk Assessments on teams/events	6	3	+100.0%

Item	This Quarter	Last Quarter	% Change (compared to last quarter)
Senior Leader Health and Regulations			
Barking Dog Complaints	70	87	-19.5%
Dog Attacks	36	40	-10.0%
Found Dogs (community)	37	22	+68.2%
Dogs impounded	60	54	+11.1%
Nuisance / stray animals	51	70	-27.1%
Abandoned vehicles	70	71	-1.4%
Illegal dumping investigations	8	15	-46.7%
Fire hazardous or unkept properties investigations	12	123	-90.2%
Overgrown vegetation investigations	40	77	-48.1%
337 referrals	432	444	-2.7%
DA referrals & RFI responses	73	83	-12.0%
Premises and mobile food applications	33	36	-8.3%
Food fit-out applications	10	12	-16.7%
Tattoo / piercing licence applications	7	5	+40.0%
Events & Place of assembly permits	14	22	-36.4%
Food business inspections	195	86	+126.7%
Tattoo / piercing inspections	9	2	+350.0%
Private sewage system applications	20	17	+17.6%
Environmental nuisance complaints	113	114	-0.9%
Food enquiries / complaints	132	118	+11.9%
General enquiry to Environmental Health	17	36	-52.8%
Public health enquiries	32	35	-8.6%
Notifiable disease investigations	8	15	-46.7%
Traffic and Parking complaints	783	827	-5.3%
Parking general enquiries	16	19	-15.8%
Senior Leader Finance and Technology			
Total Number of IT Tickets Closed	3,778	3,830	-1.4%
Total Number of End-User Tickets Closed	1,924	1,932	-0.4%
End-User Tickets Raised via Phone	378	358	+5.6%
End-User Tickets Raised In-Person	271	195	+39.0%
Knowledge Base Articles Created and Reviewed	47	43	+9.3%
Total Number of Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	273	353	-22.7%

Item	This Quarter	Last Quarter	% Change (compared to last quarter)
High Severity Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	51	83	-38.6%
Medium Severity Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	16	19	-15.8%
Low Severity Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	18	23	-21.7%
Informational Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	188	228	-17.5%
Number of Devices Deployed / Redeployed	107	161	-33.5%
Payroll Runs Processed	6	6	-
Amount Paid in Wages	\$12,648,732.61	\$10,839,448.72	+16.7%
Super Contributions Employer	\$1,791,263.51	\$1,493,983.68	+19.9%
Super Contributions Employee	\$237,731.80		-
Payroll Inductions	22	22	-
Rates Notices Issued	21,941	23,255	-5.7%
Property Ownership Transfers	595	472	+26.1%
Bin Requests			
• New Bin	50	46	+8.7%
• Replacement of Damaged Bin	230	308	-25.3%
• Replacement of Stolen Bin	98	139	-29.5%
• Size Change Requests	44	46	-4.3%
Sundry Debtors Invoices			
• Invoices	1,397	1,361	+2.6%
• Value	\$11,094,995.00	\$6,497,336.02	+70.8%
• Receipted Associated Payments	\$7,366,044.00	\$4,589,824.47	+60.5%
Tenders presented to Council	1	4	-75.0%

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

Not applicable:

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. Response to Notice of Motion - Councillor A Harris - Report into the Effect of Applying a Rate Capping of 20% on Primary Production to Commercial Rate Charge in 2026/27 Budget

FILE NO: SF0521

AUTHOR: Byron Fraser (Senior Leader Finance and Technology)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the report prepared at the request of Councillor Allan Harris' Notice of Motion – 5 August 2026 presented at the Council meeting of 6 August 2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)
Valuation of Land Act 2001 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council – 6 August 2026 – Agenda Item 22.1 Notice of Motion - Councillor Alan Harris - Report into the Effect of Applying a Rate Capping of 20% on Primary Production to Commercial Rate Charge in 2026/27 Budget - 5 August 2026
Council - 18 June 2026 - Agenda Item 4.3 2026/2027 Rating Framework
Workshop – 12 March 2026 – Budget and Fees & Charges 2026/27
Workshop – 26 March 2026 – Budget 2026/27
Workshop – 21 May 2026 – Budget and Rates Modelling 2026/27

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receive the report in response to Councillor Allan Harris' Notice of Motion requesting a report into the effect of applying a rate capping of 20% on Primary Production to Commercial Rate Charge in 2026/27 Budget; and
2. note the analysis of potential financial and policy implications associated with extending a 20% capping mechanism to additional rating categories.

REPORT:

At the Council meeting of 6 August 2026, Councillor Harris submitted a Notice of Motion requesting a report on the impacts of the 2026/27 rating process and Council's current rate capping arrangements. The Notice of Motion requested that the report include, where available:

- A summary of impacts identified following the issue of 2026/27 rate notices.

- Information regarding the application and outcomes of Council's existing 20% capping arrangements, including the number and type of properties that have received relief under the policy.
- Identification of any other rating categories or individual assessments that have experienced rate increases exceeding 20%.
- A comparison with rating approaches adopted by other Tasmanian councils where similar rating structures or equalisation arrangements exist.
- Analysis of the implications, including financial impacts, associated with extending a 20% capping mechanism to all rating categories.
- Advice regarding any consequential changes required to Council's rating strategy, rates policy, budget or revenue position should Council wish to consider broader application of a capping mechanism.

Introduction

Each year, rates are set by estimating the annual cost of services, infrastructure and projects needing to be funded.

Estimates are calculated to determine how much revenue will be received as grants from the State and Federal Governments, as well as Council-issued fees and other smaller revenue sources such as interest earned on cash and investments. The balance of the expenditure is funded from rates and charges.

Council's total budgeted rates revenue for the 2026/27 financial year is \$89.2 million (excluding the fire service levy), which makes up 56% of Council's total revenue. Of this number, \$65.7 million (74%) is levied through the **general rate charge** with the remainder of the monies levied from the fixed general rate charge (\$380 per property in 2026/2027) and waste related charges.

The general rate charge is calculated per property by multiplying the **Assessed Annual Value (AAV)** by **a cent in the dollar rate set by Council**.

The AAV is an estimate of the property's yearly rental value, set by the Office of the Valuer-General and provided to Councils.

Council set a cent in the dollar rate for eight different categories, based on a property's usage type (as determined by the Valuer-General). These categories, used by Council, are residential, commercial, industrial, primary production, public service, quarry & mining, sports & recreation and vacant land.

As part of the 2026/27 budget and rates setting process, changes to the rates in the dollar applicable to the eight rating categories were considered by Councillors at the 21 May 2026 Council Workshop. Councillors were presented with modelling based on actual median properties within each rating category, including examples of the financial impact on individual properties arising from the proposed rating framework. Feedback was actively sought during the workshop process, and Councillors were provided with the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes further with Council Officers outside of workshop settings prior to adoption of the 2026/27 Rating Framework.

A key policy consideration in the 2026/27 rating framework was the equalisation of the rate in the dollar between Primary Production, Commercial and Industrial properties. These categories are generally characterised as income-generating property types, where rates are commonly treated as a deductible business operating expense. This differs from residential properties, where rates are typically paid from household income and are not ordinarily deductible. On this basis, the alignment of Primary Production with other business-related rating categories was intended to improve equity and consistency across property types that derive income from the use of land, while maintaining a distinction from the residential rating category. As a result of the equalisation measures, many residential and commercial properties have had an overall dollar increase to their General Rate of less than 4.9%.

Summary of Impacts

Feedback received to date suggests that a significant proportion of concern is coming from smaller lifestyle, hobby farm and rural residential properties that are currently classified by the Office of the Valuer-General as Primary Production land, despite not operating as a genuine commercial farming business. There is likely a significant number of properties currently classified as Primary Production that would be more appropriately be classified as Residential.

Definition of a Primary Production Property

Under the State Revenue Office guidelines, Primary Production classification is intended for land used substantially for the business of primary production undertaken in a business-like manner with a reasonable expectation of profit.

Primary Production properties include those carrying on of 1 or more of the following activities in a business-like manner, substantially on the land, with a reasonable expectation of profit

- (a) cultivating land to sell the produce of the cultivation
- (b) maintaining animals or poultry for sale or selling their natural increase or bodily produce
- (c) keeping bees to sell the honey
- (d) commercial fishing and cultivating aquatic plants or animals, including the preparation for fishing and the storage and preservation of fish and fishing gear
- (e) cultivating or propagating for sale plants, seedlings, mushrooms or orchids.

([Valuation Adjustment Factors | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania](#))

Guidance from the *Australian Taxation Office* states: *You are not operating a business if the activity is better described as a hobby, a form of recreation or a sporting activity.* ([Who is a primary producer? | Australian Taxation Office](#))

Prior to 2026/2027, the Primary Production rate in the dollar was lower than the Residential rate in the dollar. As a result, there was a financial disincentive for owners of hobby farms, rural residential or similar properties to seek a change in classification where the land was principally used for residential purposes. The 2026/27 rating framework has altered this position, based on the concept of equalisation with Commercial and Industrial properties as incoming generating property types, with the Primary Production rate in the dollar now exceeding the Residential rate in the dollar.

This has highlighted circumstances where some properties currently classified as Primary Production may no longer have a classification that accurately reflects their predominant use.

Property Type	2025/26 Cents/\$AAV	2026/27 Cents/\$AAV
Residential	5.4088	5.2759
Primary Production	5.1043	7.1225

Note: residential properties received a 5% AAV uplift for 2026/2027 which impacted the rate in the dollar setting for this property classification. No other property classifications had an adjustment.

If a property owner seeks a review of their land classification, Council will apply the rating category change confirmed by the Office of the Valuer-General and amend the rates assessment where required. This allows property owners who believe their property is incorrectly classified, to go through the appropriate process and have their property reclassified to the most suitable use. This approach recognises that property classification is a matter determined independently by the Office of the Valuer-General and provides ratepayers with an opportunity to have their classification reviewed before Council seeks payment of any disputed amount.

2026/27 Rating Framework Impact Analysis

As part of the changes to the rating framework for the 2026-27 financial year, Council adopted a 4.9% increase in the **total rates revenue** combined with a 1.75% increase in the 'residential' and 'commercial' categories to account for growth through way of new properties or changes to property valuations throughout the year received from the Office of the Valuer-General.

Note this does not mean that individual properties each receive a 4.9% increase in their general rate, but rather that the total revenue to be raised from the general rates charge increases in total by 4.9% (combined with a 1.75% increase for growth).

Furthermore, Council also decided to change the category weightings to improve equity across business-related property categories. Council was mindful that maintaining the previous differential would continue the longstanding disparity between business-related categories. Furthermore, the weighting for vacant land was also changed, to encourage development and usage.

These changes affected the general rate portion of the total rate charge as follows:

Category	2025/26 Cents/\$AAV	2026/27 Cents/\$AAV	% Change
Commercial	7.0067	7.1225	2.0%
Industrial	6.3014	7.1225	13.0%
Primary Production	5.1043	7.1225	39.5%
Vacant Land	4.2388	6.2256	46.9%

This had the following implications:

Primary Production:

- 541 properties experienced a 39.5% increase in their general rate component of their total rates charge
- 7 properties experienced a greater than 40% increase as their AAV increased as a result of a supplementary valuation
- 3 new properties were created
- 1 property experienced a reduction in their general rate as their AAV decreased as a result of a supplementary valuation

Vacant Land:

- 1,019 properties experienced a 46.9% increase in their general rate component of their total rates charge
- 2 properties experienced a greater than 47% increase as their AAV increased as a result of a supplementary valuation
- 5 new properties were created
- 1 property experienced a reduction in their general rate as their AAC decreased as a result of a supplementary valuation

The table below shows the total number of properties and their associated change in total general rate charge cost from the prior year in each of the bands.

	Primary Production		Vacant Land	
Cost Band	# of Properties	% of Total	# of Properties	% of Total
>\$10,000	2	0.4%	0	0.0%
\$5,001 to \$9,999	7	1.3%	0	0.0%
\$1,001 to \$4,999	136	24.6%	31	3.0%
<\$1,000	404	73.2%	991	96.5%
New	3	0.5%	5	0.5%
Total	552		1,027	

Note: AAV on Vacant Land is significantly lower than properties which contain a built asset hence the dollar impact is significantly lower.

As at 10 August 2026, 11 formal objections from primary producers have been submitted to Council by property owners outlining the specific impacts of the matter on their circumstances. These objections are being monitored and followed up on a weekly basis, with respondents advised that the matter remains under further consideration.

In addition to the formal objections received, Council has received correspondence expressing general concerns regarding the increase, including correspondence from TasFarmers. There has also been a substantial volume of telephone enquiries, with call volumes estimated to be in the hundreds.

Affected ratepayers are being encouraged to submit their individual concerns in writing. This ensures that matters raised are formally recorded and can be appropriately considered as part of Council's ongoing assessment of the issue.

Maximum Percentage Increase ("Capping")

Rate capping is not mandatory in Tasmania. Under section 88A of the Local Government Act 1993, councils may choose to apply a maximum percentage increase to rates, but there is no legislative requirement for them to do so. Tasmania does not have a state-imposed rate-capping system, with individual councils responsible for setting rates based on their budget, service delivery requirements, and community needs. While some councils adopt capping or transitional arrangements to help manage the impact of revaluations or significant rate changes, these measures are discretionary and form part of each council's local rating strategy rather than a statutory obligation.

For the 2026/27 financial year, Council set a maximum percentage increase cap on the general rate charge of 500% where that increase has occurred as a result of municipal revaluation undertaken in accordance with section 20 of the Valuation of Land Act 2001. Furthermore, this cap was varied to 20% for all land which is used or predominantly used for residential purposes.

It is important to note that this cap only applies for increases that occur as a result of **municipal revaluations**. AAV adjustments as a result of supplementary valuations (i.e. additions/improvements to a property) **are not subject to capping**.

The Office of the Valuer-General completed a full revaluation of all properties in the City of Launceston, based on values as of 1 July 2023. These new values have been used to calculate rates from 1 July 2024.

Revaluations happen every six years, with value updates (indexing) every two years in between.

The 2026/27 financial year was an adjustment year, and saw all residential properties receive a 5% increase in their AAV. No other adjustments were made to any other category.

Therefore, as the municipal revaluation increase was limited to 5%, **no capping was applied to any property in any category**.

Comparison to other Tasmanian Councils

The table below shows the cents in the dollar applied by a selection of Tasmanian councils, based on Assessed Annual Value (AAV) or Capital Value, as applicable. The benchmarking highlights significant variation in how councils structure and adjust differential rates across property categories. There is no uniform approach adopted across Tasmania, with each council determining its rating policy based on local circumstances, community expectations, strategic priorities and revenue requirements.

City of Hobart (capital value)	25/26	26/27
Residential	2.264	2.316
Commercial	5.659	5.635
Industrial	5.659	5.635
Primary Production	N/A	2.316
Clarence Council (capital value)		
Residential	1.649	1.738
Commercial	4.865	5.096
Industrial	3.768	3.954
Primary Production	1.649	1.738
Kingsborough City Council (capital value)		
Residential	2.436	2.231
Commercial	5.093	5.134
Industrial	4.265	4.691
Primary Production	2.436	2.231
Northern Midlands Council (AAV)		
Residential	6.195	5.214
Commercial	7.589	6.257
Industrial	9.354	8.630
Primary Production	2.224	2.659
Burnie City Council (AAV)		
Residential	7.803	7.169
Commercial	12.968	12.859
Industrial	N/A	N/A
Primary Production	8.099	8.267
Waratah-Wynyard Council (AAV)		
Residential	5.539	5.810
Commercial	5.539	5.810
Industrial	5.539	5.810
Primary Production	7.148	9.235
Dorset Council (AAV)		
Residential	5.299	5.625
Commercial	5.299	5.625
Industrial	5.299	5.625
Primary Production	7.745	9.664
Break O'Day Council (AAV)		
Residential	7.237	6.271
Commercial	9.104	6.734
Industrial	9.104	6.734
Primary Production	6.534	6.689
West Tamar Council (AAV)		
Residential	7.056	6.603
Commercial	6.806	6.413
Industrial	6.806	6.413
Primary Production	6.806	6.413

Rate Capping within Tasmania

As noted above, rate capping is not a legislative requirement in Tasmania and is not widely adopted across Tasmanian councils, as demonstrated by the review of rating policies outlined in the table below. Most Tasmanian councils do not apply rate capping and instead utilise differential rating structures and other rating tools available under the

Local Government Act 1993 to achieve their revenue and equity objectives. Accordingly, any proposal to extend rate capping should be considered in the context of equity across all income-generating property types, including Commercial and Industrial properties, as well as the long-term sustainability of Council's revenue base.

Council	Rates Cap Applied	Additional Notes
Hobart	5% Commercial and Industrial	Excludes supplementary valuations
Clarence	Capping not noted in publicly available policy	
Kingborough	Capping not noted in publicly available policy	
Northern Midlands	Capping not noted in publicly available policy	
Burnie	Capping not noted in publicly available policy	
Waratah Wynyard	Capping not noted in publicly available policy	
Dorset	30% General Rate	Excludes supplementary valuation factors
Break O'Day	Capping not noted in publicly available policy	
West Tamar	Capping not noted in publicly available policy	
Meander Valley	Capping not noted in publicly available policy	
Devonport	Capping not noted in publicly available policy	

Implementation Considerations for Amended Rates Notices

If Council determines to apply a rebate or revised capping arrangement, the adjustment can be administered through the existing processes. This would involve matching each affected property assessment number to the approved rebate amount and applying the adjustment directly to the relevant rates account.

Affected properties would also require an amended instalment plan. Any revised arrangements would need to comply with the relevant legislative requirements, including the requirement to provide ratepayers with at least 30 days' written notice of any change to the amount originally levied.

It is proposed that amended instalment arrangements could comprise three payment dates:

- 30 November 2026
- 31 January 2027
- 30 April 2027

This approach would remain broadly aligned with the existing 2026/27 rates due date schedule, while reflecting the practical timing required to process amended rates notices and provide the required notice period. The revised amount payable would be apportioned across three instalments rather than the original four.

Revenue Foregone and Service Impacts

If capping at 20% is applied to the Primary Production and Vacant Land categories, this would result in \$416,547.81 in revenue foregone, split as follows:

- Primary Production - \$246,966.44
- Vacant Land - \$169,581.37

This is a significant shortfall to a budget that set at an operating loss of \$2.238 million.

From a prudent financial management perspective, any decision to reduce budgeted revenue should be accompanied by a commensurate reduction in budgeted expenditure. Should Council determine to forego revenue through the broader application of a capping mechanism, it will therefore be necessary to identify corresponding reductions, deferrals or cancellations to existing services, projects or programs. This approach is required to maintain budget discipline, limit any further deterioration in the adopted operating position, and ensure that the financial implications of the decision are appropriately recognised. The following projects and programs have been identified as potential expenditure reductions to offset the revenue foregone:

- Scaled back Public WiFi Program - \$25K
- Service reduction in health immunisation program - \$10K
- Scaled back Child and Youth Safe Organisation Framework project - \$5K
- Delay Launceston Flood Recovery Project - \$70K
- GIS Review Contract Labour - \$30K
- Delayed Strategic Land & Property Review - \$20K
- Delayed/reduced scope Organisational Culture Survey - \$15K
- Delayed Service Monitor and Livability Index - \$25K
- Remove Continuous Improvement Facilitation - \$7K
- Closure of Nunamara Transfer Station - \$20K
- Delay/cancel Lilydale Memorial Hall Floor Remediation - \$100K
- Reduction in Public Art Program - \$45K
- Delayed renewal of Gorge Swimming Pool - \$55K

Total - \$427,000

Implications of no rate in the dollar increase to Primary Production properties

Winding back the Primary Production rate in the dollar to the 2024/25 level would result in an estimated financial impact of approximately \$570,000 in foregone general rate revenue. The practical effect of this option would be that Primary Production properties would not

receive any increase in their general rate for the 2026/27 financial year. This would be inconsistent with the broader budget and rating framework adopted by Council, which was based on an increase in total rates revenue to fund service delivery, infrastructure renewal and the adopted operating position. Any such reduction in revenue would need to be offset through expenditure reductions, service level changes, project deferrals or an alternative revenue source.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The report identifies options to provide rate relief to properties within the Primary Production rating category. Any decision to introduce a capping mechanism or alternative relief may reduce Council's projected rates revenue and create expectations for similar relief measures from other rating categories. There is also a risk that altering the current rating framework may reduce equity and consistency between Primary Production, Commercial and Industrial properties, which were aligned through Council's rate equalisation decision adopted on 18 June 2026. Conversely, not providing relief may result in ongoing community concern and reputational impacts arising from the significant increase experienced by some Primary Production ratepayers.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The report considers potential relief measures for Primary Production ratepayers affected by the 2026/27 rating framework. Feedback received to date indicates a significant proportion of concerns relate to smaller lifestyle and hobby farm properties currently classified as Primary Production. Any decision to provide rate relief may reduce Council's rates revenue and will require consideration of equity and consistency across other income-generating rating categories, including Commercial and Industrial properties, which were also subject to the rate equalisation decision adopted by Council. No direct environmental impacts have been identified. Socially, the report seeks to address community concerns regarding affordability, classification equity and confidence in the rating system.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Not applicable:

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

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The budget and financial implications of this matter are detailed throughout the report, particularly in relation to the potential revenue foregone from applying a broader capping mechanism and the corresponding expenditure reductions required to maintain Council's adopted budget position. If a 20% cap were applied to the Primary Production and Vacant Land categories, the estimated revenue foregone would be \$416,547.81, against an adopted operating deficit of \$2.238 million.

From a prudent financial management perspective, any reduction in budgeted revenue should be offset by a corresponding reduction in expenditure. Accordingly, should Council determine to provide additional rate relief, it would be necessary to reduce, defer or cancel

identified services, projects or programs to avoid further deterioration in the operating result and to ensure the financial consequences of the decision are appropriately recognised.

Comprehensive analysis is provided throughout the report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

19.3. Register of Interests Policy (14-Plx-042)

FILE NO: SF7956

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

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider adopting the Register of Interest Policy (14-Plx-042) and note the accompanying procedure and form.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)
Local Government (Code of Conduct) Orders 2024
Personal Information Protection Act 2004

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council – 12 December 2024 – Agenda Item 21.1 - Proposal to Establish a Public Register of Interests
Workshop – 16 October 2025 – Agenda Item 1.2 - Development of a Register of Interests Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. adopts the the Register of Interest Policy (14-Plx-042) (ECM Doc Set Id 5372330), as follows:

Register of Interests Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the establishment of a Register of Interests, maintained by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), which contains details of certain interests held by each Councillor.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Councillors.

This policy also requires the CEO to maintain the Register of Interests which is established under this policy.

POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1. All Councillors will have interests outside of the Council. There is nothing inappropriate about having outside interests.
- 1.2. Under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) (LG Act) and the *Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024* (Tas) (Code of Conduct), Councillors are only required to declare such interests if and when a conflict of interest (or in some cases, a potential or perceived conflict of interest), arises in a matter which comes before the Council (or in some cases a Council committee, special committee, controlling authority, single authority or joint authority).
- 1.3. All Councillors of the City of Launceston are committed to observing those requirements of the LG Act and Code of Conduct, as and when conflicts of interest or potential or perceived conflicts of interest arise.
- 1.4. In addition to those requirements, the Council has created this policy framework whereby Councillors will make 'standing' declarations of certain interests held by that Councillor (and certain other related persons), on an ongoing basis. That information is then included in a publicly available 'Register of Interests', maintained by the CEO.
- 1.5. This means that information regarding Councillor interests will be made publicly available, whether or not those interests ever give rise to a conflict of interest in a matter which comes before the Council.
- 1.6. Further, for completeness and added transparency, the financial and other benefits which Councillors receive by virtue of holding office as Councillors will also be recorded in the Register of Interests.
- 1.7. Council maintains the Register of Interests in good faith, in the interests of transparency. Information derived from the Register of Interests should not be published by others unless information constitutes a fair and accurate summary of the information, and it is published in the public interest and without malice.

2. Register of Interests

- 2.1. The CEO will maintain a register, to be called the 'Register of Interests', which includes the information required under this policy.
- 2.2. The CEO will make the Register of Interests publicly available for inspection on the Council website.
- 2.3. The Register of Interests will be divided into two parts:
 - 2.3.1. Part A, containing information regarding interests which Councillors hold by virtue of their appointment as Councillors;

- 2.3.2. Part B, containing information regarding other interests of Councillors and Related Persons.
- 2.4. With respect to disclosures of information made by Councillors for the purpose of Part B of the Register of Interests:
 - 2.4.1. A Councillor is required only to disclose information that is known to the Councillor or ascertainable by the Councillor by the exercise of reasonable diligence;
 - 2.4.2. A Councillor is not required to disclose the actual amount or extent of a financial interest;
 - 2.4.3. A Councillor may disclose information in such a way that no distinction is made between information relating to the Councillor personally and information relating to a Related Person.

3. Part A – interests HELD by virtue of appointment as Councillor

- 3.1. The CEO will include the following information in Part A of the Register of Interests, for each Councillor:
 - 3.1.1. Allowance payable to the Councillor under the LG Act;
 - 3.1.2. Any resources, facilities and support provided to the Councillor;
 - 3.1.3. Any instance of reimbursement paid by the Council to the Councillor;
 - 3.1.4. Any instance of any other payment made by the Council to the Councillor.
- 3.2. The information recorded in this Part of the Register will be from the commencement of this policy.

4. Part B – other interests of Councillors and of related persons

- 4.1. The CEO will include the following information in Part B of the Register of Interests, for each Councillor:
 - 4.1.1. Any source of income for the Councillor or any Related Person through paid employment in the preceding 6 months where the income exceeds \$10,000 in that period;
 - 4.1.2. A description of any Interest in Property held by the Councillor or any Related Person, including a description of the suburb or locality of the relevant land and the use of the land within the Launceston municipal area;
 - 4.1.3. The name of any company or other body (whether incorporated or unincorporated) in which the Councillor or a Related Person holds office whether as a director or otherwise;

- 4.1.4. The name or description of any company, partnership, association or other body which the Councillor or a Related Person:
 - 4.1.4.1. has deposited money with, or lent money to, that has not been repaid and the amount not repaid equals or exceeds \$10,000; or
 - 4.1.4.2. holds, or has a beneficial interest in, shares in, or debentures of public or private companies where the combined total value is more than \$10,000; or
 - 4.1.4.3. holds a policy of life insurance issued by the body;
- 4.1.5. Superannuation fund and any other funds;
- 4.1.6. Trusts that the Councillor is a trustee or a beneficiary of (other than testamentary trusts);
- 4.1.7. Personal debt over \$10,000 (excluding financial institutions);
- 4.1.8. Sponsored travel or hospitality exceeding \$300 received. This does not replace the requirement to maintain the Gifts and donations register under the LG Act;
- 4.1.9. Election campaign donations. This does not replace the requirement to maintain the Gifts and donations register under the LG Act
- 4.1.10. A description of any other interest of the Councillor or a Related Person which is not otherwise described above but which the Councillor:
 - 4.1.10.1. considers to be substantial; and
 - 4.1.10.2. foresees as having the potential to give rise to a conflict of interest under the LG Act or Code of Conduct at any stage.
- 4.2. Within 28 days of the adoption of this policy, each Councillor will inform the CEO of any interests of any of the kinds described in clause 4.1 held by that Councillor or a Related Person.
- 4.3. Where any new Councillor is elected to the Council they must, within 90 days of their election, inform the CEO of any interests of any of the kinds described in clause 4.1 held by that Councillor or a Related Person.
- 4.4. If, at any time during their term of office, a Councillor obtains or becomes aware of an interest of a kind described in clause 4.1 or becomes aware that a Related Person has obtained such an interest, that Councillor must inform the CEO of that interest as soon as practicable.
- 4.5. If a Councillor become aware that any information in the Register of Interests with respect to that Councillor or a Related Person is no longer correct, that Councillor must inform the CEO of this as soon as practicable (and, if relevant, provided updated information).

5. Personal Information

- 5.1. If a Councillor discloses information to the CEO in accordance with this policy, and that information constitutes personal information of the Councillor or a Related Person within the meaning of the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* (Tas), the following applies:
- 5.1.1. The purpose for which the information is collected is to fulfil the Council's commitment to maintaining a Register of Interests in accordance with this policy;
 - 5.1.2. If a Councillor discloses any information regarding a Related Person in such a way that the identity of the Related Person is apparent or is reasonably ascertainable, the Councillor will make the Related Person aware of this policy (and the Related Person may contact the CEO with any queries about this policy);
 - 5.1.3. This policy is intended to be a statement of all of the matters set out in clause 1(3) of Schedule 1 to the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* (Tas).

PRINCIPLES

The Council's Organisational Values apply to all activities.



Our people matter



We care about our community



We bring an open mind



We go home safe and well

RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES

14-Pr-019 Register of Interests Procedure
14-Plx-016 Councillor's Expenses and Resources Policy
14-Plx-031 Acceptance of Gifts and Donations by Councillors Policy
14-HLPr-008 Pecuniary Interests Procedure

RELATED LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas);
Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024 (Tas)
Personal Information Protection Act 2004 (Tas)

REFERENCES

14-Fm-019 Councillor Register of Interests Declaration Form
14-Fm-006 Councillor Pecuniary Interest Declaration Form

DEFINITIONS

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	The general manager of the Council.
Code of Conduct	<i>Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024 (Tas).</i>
Councillors	All persons elected to the Council including. To avoid doubt, this includes the Mayor.
Interest in Property	Any estate, interest, right or power, in law or in equity, in or over real property. This includes sole ownership, joint tenancy, tenancy in common, and equitable and/or beneficial ownership.
LG Act	<i>Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).</i>
Related Person	Related Person with respect to a Councillor means any of the following: • the Councillor's spouse/partner; • any children who are wholly or mainly dependent on the Councillor for support.
Register of Interests	The register established by this policy and referred to in clause 2.1.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed no more than 2 years after the date of approval (version) or more frequently, if dictated by operational demands and with Council's approval.

2. notes the Register of Interests Procedure (14-Pr-019) (ECM Doc Set Id 5372329) and the Councillor Register of Interests Declaration Form (14-Fm-019) (ECM Doc Set Id 5372328) developed to support the introduction of the Register of Interest Policy.

REPORT:

Background

Tasmania is the only Australian jurisdiction that does not require Councillors to lodge a Personal Interests Return (PIR) that discloses and records interests held by Councillors in property, corporations and business partnerships, membership of organisations, as well as sources of income.

State and Federal members of Parliament must also lodge returns of interests.

The City of Hobart decided in April 2023, at its own initiative, to adopt and implement its Public Interests Register Policy and Public Interest Register available on their website (<https://www.hobartcity.com.au/Council/Elected-Members>).

In November 2023, the Government released a discussion paper outlining proposed reforms to the framework for managing Councillors' conflicts of interest and a position paper in response to the submissions received. The framework proposed the introduction of new arrangements for submitting and managing personal interest returns, with

Councillors required to submit an initial personal interest return shortly after being elected and updated on an annual basis. The legislative changes have not progressed to fruition.

At the Council meeting on 12 December 2024, the Council received and indicated its support for the development of a proposed policy requiring:

- The Chief Executive Officer to maintain a publicly available register containing details of certain interests of Councillors; and
- Councillors to proactively disclose outside interests to the Chief Executive Officer for the purpose of inclusion in that register.

The purpose of adopting such a policy would include demonstrating the Council's commitment to transparency, protecting the organisation's integrity and reputation, and protecting Councillors from allegations of impropriety.

Relationship with conflict of interest provisions

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) (LG Act) and the *Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024* (Code of Conduct), declarations of interests are only required to be made by Councillors at the time when a relevant item of business actually arises during a meeting.

Pecuniary interests which are disclosed under the LG Act must also be recorded by the Chief Executive Officer in a register of pecuniary interests. However, an entry is only made if and when a particular interest is actually declared in a meeting.

It is open to the Council to establish a policy framework whereby Councillors will also proactively make 'standing' declarations of certain interests held by that member and/or certainly closely related/associated persons, on an ongoing basis. Such disclosures would then be included in a public register.

Like declarations made during meetings, it is not proposed that disclosures made for the purpose of this proposed register would include details such as exact dollar figures of outside income or exact addresses of property. The intention is that the existence and general nature of interests will be made available to the public on an ongoing basis, rather than only being declared if, and when, an item of business happens to arise during a meeting which happens to give rise to a conflict (or potential conflict) with that interest.

It is not intended that the register of interest will include every conceivable different interest which might ever give rise to a conflict of interest, but rather only a few key types of interests such as income, property interests, and corporate directorships.

If it is proposed that disclosures would relate to Councillors and other persons closely related/associated (e.g. spouse and dependent children, and possibly others), then it is suggested that a Councillor may disclose information in the register in such a way that no distinction is made between information relating to the Councillor personally and information relating to those related/associated persons. Such an approach is adopted by Councillors who report interest's interstate.

Any interest which gives rise to a conflict of interest under the LG Act or the Code of Conduct would still need to be declared during a meeting at the relevant time, whether or not that interest is also recorded in the proposed register of interests.

Relationship with other requirements

Any register of interests voluntarily established by the Council would not replace the requirement to disclose gifts and donations for inclusion in the separate gifts and donations register which must be kept under the LG Act.

It is also not proposed, as part of this report, that there be any alteration to the Councillor's Expenses and Resources Policy, approved at the 6 August 2026 Council Meeting. What is proposed, however, is that payments which are made under that policy (e.g. reimbursements for travel and accommodation) will be included in the register of interests, providing additional transparency to ratepayers.

The Register of Interests Procedure (14-Pr-019) (ECM Doc Set Id 5372329) and the Councillor Register of Interests Declaration Form (14-Fm-019) (ECM Doc Set Id 5372328) have been developed to support the introduction of the Register of Interest Policy.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The absence of a Register of Interests Policy creates governance, reputational and compliance risks. Without a standing disclosure framework, Councillors' interests would generally only be disclosed when a relevant matter arises under the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024*. This increases the risk of interests being identified late, inconsistently disclosed, or becoming the subject of complaint or adverse public scrutiny.

Adoption of the policy will strengthen transparency, support public confidence in Council decision-making, and provide an additional governance control to assist in managing conflict of interest risks. Privacy and information-handling risks associated with the collection and publication of personal information are addressed through the policy's limits on disclosure detail and its alignment with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Not applicable:

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. DRAFT 14 Plx 042 Register of Interests Policy [**19.3.1** - 6 pages]
2. DRAFT 14 Pr 019 Register of Interests Procedure [**19.3.2** - 5 pages]
3. DRAFT 14 Fm 019 Register of Interests Declaration [**19.3.3** - 4 pages]

20. STRATEGY AND INNOVATION

20.1. Quarterly Report - Strategy and Innovation - 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026

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 the non-annual plan related activities and responsibilities within the Strategy and Innovation (S&I) Team for 1 April to 30 June 2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the report noting the non-annual plan related activities of the Strategy and Innovation Team for the period of 1 April to 30 June 2026.

REPORT:

EXECUTIVE LEADER REPORT

This report for the Strategy and Innovation (S&I) Team is for the period 1 April to 30 June 2026. The Executive Leader Strategy & Innovation attended the following:

- **Executive Leader Stakeholder Engagement / Deliverables Roundtable with NBN Co** - Enabling Innovation with presentation from CoL Smart Cities Officer on recent projects
- **TEMT Master Plan Working Group** - Inaugural meeting post adoption of the Master Plan to agree Terms of Reference and way forward
- **Emergency Management** - Two off-site visits / inspections undertaken:
 - Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub with PCYC to discuss options for an Emergency Evacuation Centre on the northern side of confluence.
 - Review of three existing Evacuation Centre sites and discussion on suitability.
 - Regular monthly check-in with Tas Police Commander, Inspector and Regional Emergency Management Coordinator x 3
 - Northern Regional Emergency Management Committee (NREMC) - Meetings x 2 and NREMC Regional Training Exercise
- **Tamar River Cruises** - On-site meeting
- **Waste and Resource Recovery Board Tasmania - Regional Waste Organisation Workshop** - Inaugural meeting
- **Department of Foreign Affairs Engagement Forum** (Canberra)

- **Resilient Leadership in Action** - Strategies for Thriving Teams - Online
- **Tramway Museum** - On-site meeting
- **Australian Tidy Towns Awards Dinner**
- **National Automobile Museum of Tasmania (NAMT)** - Meeting with external and internal stakeholders
- **NAMT** - On-site meeting with Councillors
- **Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC)** - Meeting with NTDC Outgoing CEO
- **Tas Chamber of Commerce** - State Budget Event
- **Recovery Partners Network** - Meeting #2 2026
- **Regional Activator Alliance (RAA)** - Meeting #2 2026
- **Australian Institute of Company Directors** - Training (Hobart)

As Acting Chief Executive Officer:

- **NTDC Members Strategy Workshop** - Off-site meeting
- **Boags** – Meeting with Boags CEO – Announcement of proposed brewery closure
- **TEMT Infrastructure and Assets Master Plan Working Group**
- **TEMT Infrastructure & Amenities Master Plan** - Meeting to discuss TEMT Initiatives
- **State of the State address by Premier Rockliff** - Hobart
- **Launceston Airport Event**
- **Launceston Chamber of Commerce** - Industry Event - Boags Closure
- **TEER Strategy & Partnership Committee Meeting**

SENIOR LEADER PROSPERITY & INNOVATION

Prosperity and Investment

All roles have now been filled with the Team Leader role commencing the end of April 2026. Outstanding projects were completed whilst planning also commenced for items in the FY27 annual plan.

Grants

Work has been progressing with the Grants Management Policy, moving through the consultation and approval period with key internal stakeholders, Senior Leaders, and Executive Leaders. A Council Workshop is scheduled for July 2026 with anticipated adoption at an August 2026 Council meeting.

Meetings continue with the finalisation of the Project Ignite grants module that will assist in the management and reporting across Council.

Consultation has commenced across Council to identify projects that will align with the upcoming Federal Government Grants.

These include:

- Growing Regions Program (GRP) - supporting capital projects that enhance the livability, productivity and resilience of regional, rural and remote communities.
- Thriving Suburbs Program (TSP) - supporting community infrastructure, place activation and livability outcomes in urban, suburban and per-urban areas.

- Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) - \$2 billion program designed to fund housing-enabling infrastructure that unlocks residential development and accelerates housing supply.

Projects will be prioritised based on the grant criteria, strategic alignment, and existing budget requirements for matching funding.

Economic Development

Council briefing papers

Investment & Prosperity provided several briefing papers to Councillors including:

- Fuel Supply impact,
- Boags Brewery,
- Data Centres,
- Business Improvement Districts.

Night Time Economy Economy Research

Council participated in a night-time economy research paper, which found that Launceston's night-time economy is strong compared with other cities. Council is also participating in the 2026 study, with findings to be compared with the previous year and shared with Council and industry stakeholders in the coming weeks.

Launceston Central Operational Agreement

A regular fortnightly Launceston Central meeting was established in quarter 4 that includes representation from Prosperity and Investment, City Heart and Events. The cadence of steering meetings was reduced to increase the strategic value of these meetings. In quarter 1, Prosperity and Investment team will review the scope of our agreement with Launceston Central to ensure this reflects shifting workload changes from an expanded launceston.com.au website.

Sister Cities – Delegation to Ikeda, Japan

The 2025 Ikeda delegation close-out actions were completed in quarter 4. An ELT paper was considered on 9 July 2026 that highlighted challenges with our Ikeda wombat collaboration. The paper included draft international security and foreign arrangements procedures to manage CoL's foreign interference and legislative compliance risks. These procedures will be refined and disseminated in quarter 1. Prosperity and Investment will also work on a detailed review of our international relationships in 2026-27.

Hawthorn Football Club

In quarter 4 the team provided strategic advice regarding the future of Hawthorn Football Club matches in Launceston and the transition to the Tasmanian Devils, assessing economic impacts, visitation outcomes and opportunities to retain Launceston's position as a major events destination.

Federal and State Budget Reviews

In quarter 4 the team delivered Council's first internal Federal Budget Review, identifying funding opportunities and implications for Launceston and Northern Tasmania. Along with

this, the team delivered Council's first internal State Budget Review, highlighting funding opportunities and informing advocacy priorities.

Develop the Invest Launceston Program

In quarter 4, the Team Initiated development of the Invest Launceston Program, including stakeholder engagement mapping, project planning, website scoping and preparation of supporting briefing materials.

Data Analytics

Localis

- Investigated and evaluated Localis, a platform that provides visitation, sentiment, flight, accommodation, event and spending data.
- Presented the platform to relevant teams and supported the decision to proceed with a subscription.
- Organising staff training sessions to support implementation.
- Replaced an existing system, reducing annual costs by approximately \$6,000.
- Incorporated Localis data into the Economic Snapshot.

Business Activity Survey (BAS)

- Worked with the GIS team and Launceston Central on improvements to the Business Activity Survey.
- Aligned BAS outputs with Launceston Central KPIs and planned CBD spending analysis.
- Supported training and collaboration across teams involved in business intelligence and CBD monitoring.
- Managed and processed new survey data, which will be distributed across the organisation.

This work is strengthening the Business Activity Survey as:

- A long-term record of business activity within the municipality.
- A source of business intelligence that can be combined with spending, demographic and place-based datasets.

Efficiency Dividends

- Co-authored and refined the Q4 2025/26 Efficiency Dividends Report.
- The report identified \$1.085 million in savings across FY2025/26, exceeding the \$800,000 target by 36%.

General Advisory and Capability Building

- Analysed Domestic Wood Smoke Survey results, with a focus on insights from written responses, and shared findings with Environmental Health staff.

Sustainability and Innovation

Sustainability Team

EV Fleet Charging Infrastructure

Following the completion of fire engineering and structural assessments last quarter, the majority of pre-approvals and in-principle agreements were received, and the project commenced the tender phase for fire risk mitigation works and charger install.

Towards Zero Emissions Action Plan (TZEAP) 2021–2025

The final report was completed for the TZEAP 2021–2025. Over the five-year period, the City of Launceston reduced total emissions by 19%, from 81,460 tCO₂e in 2021 to 65,931 tCO₂e in 2025.

This represents an average annual reduction of approximately 3.8%, exceeding the 2.5% benchmark aligned with global best practice for limiting warming to 1.5°C (United Nations and Science Based Targets initiative frameworks). It also surpasses the annual reduction rate required to meet Australia's national emissions target (approximately 3.2% per year to achieve a 43% reduction by 2030).

This performance positions the City of Launceston as a leading local government in climate action. Scoping of the next TZEAP chapter is underway.

Water and Solar Monitoring

Solar meters and water data loggers were installed across Council facilities to improve understanding of solar generation and water usage patterns to increase operational efficiencies. Data is presented on a monitoring dashboard and alerts provided to staff.

Climate Adaptation

Ongoing participation in the Climate Adaptation Working Group, including six-weekly meetings and contributions to the development of the Northern Regional Climate Resilience Strategy and maturity dashboard coordinated by NTARC and funded through the Disaster Ready Fund.

Repair Café Program

The monthly Repair Cafe has moved to Windmill Hill Memorial Hall after the sale of Pilgrim Church Hall. 364kg of waste was repaired in Q4 through the program. The Adaptation Game (a tabletop gaming experience designed to prepare the community for the impacts of climate change) is also being played by community members on the day with player spots booked out well in advance.

Internal Sustainability Fund

Applications were reviewed against the criteria and recommendations prepared to inform the Executive Leadership Team's decision-making.

Waste & Environment Team

Concession Entry Program 2026/27

In accordance with Policy 12-PI-014, Council received 31 applications for the 2026/27 Charitable Waste Concession Program.

The program supports eligible charitable organisations by reducing waste disposal costs, allowing more of their available funds to be directed towards community programs and services. For Council, the program also supports reduced operational costs at the Launceston Waste Centre by encouraging participating organisations to reduce the volume of waste they send to landfill.

By encouraging waste reduction, the program contributes to extending landfill life, reducing methane emissions and minimising the generation of landfill leachate. The application process also provides an opportunity for Council to identify and recover valuable resources, including precious metals, that may otherwise be lost to landfill.

Digital Waste Vouchers

After the successful launch of the *Waste and Recycling App*, the transition from the paper-based waste voucher system to a digital approach within the app launched 1 July 2026. Each year, the City of Launceston provides each household with one voucher for free entry to a Council-managed waste centre at any time throughout the year.

This change will make it easier for residents to access their vouchers when needed, reducing the risk of vouchers being lost or misplaced.

Biosecurity Audit

Launceston Waste Centre annual Biosecurity Registered Quarantine Premise audit for 2026 was completed in June.

Leachate Autosampler

The autosampler at the Launceston Waste Centre was re-installed to ensure safe and efficient sampling of the leachate dam for environmental compliance.

Bin Bypass Baskets for Public Bin Container Refund Scheme

Bin Bypass Baskets have been installed in high traffic areas (e.g. Civic Square and CBD malls) and high-use community spaces (e.g. River Bend Park). Council Officers have noticed these baskets are being used.

Council partnered with Recycle Rewards to design and deliver the baskets. A contractor conducted a baseline bin audit prior to installation, with a follow-up audit scheduled for later this year to assess the effectiveness of the initiative before any further rollout is considered.

Environmental Monitoring

Installation of environmental sensors at the Launceston Waste Centre, capturing weather, noise and air quality data continues waiting for suitable weather to complete.

Organics Processing Facility (OPF)

OPF reporting completed for Apr–June.

Daily temperature monitoring is in place to ensure compliance with Australian composting standards and support safe future use.

Waste and Levy Compliance Reporting

Landfill Levy reporting completed for April to June 2026.

Monthly reporting continues on material volumes entering and exiting the Launceston Waste and Transfer Station (recycling, organics processing facility and landfill), ensuring compliance with State Government requirements and accurate levy payments.

Environmental Compliance and Planning

Review of the Environmental Management Plan for the Launceston Waste Centre has been submitted to the Environment Protection Authority to meet Environmental Protection Notice requirements.

Waste Transfer Stations

The Nunamara Waste Transfer Station closed on 26 June 2026. To date, one complaint has been received, and ongoing surveillance of the area continues to monitor and deter illegal dumping activities.

Design work for the Lilydale Waste Transfer Station continues and in addition to a review of the service supplied to the community.

Service Improvements and Operations

Contamination letters are being issued to residents identified by the collection contractor as having contaminated recycling bins.

The transport of the daily cover machine has been addressed by utilising existing plant retained on site to undertake this task.

Policy and Strategic Work

Review of the Sustainable Pricing Model has been completed. A workshop for interested staff will be held in July 2026.

The draft update of Council's Single Use Plastic Policy was completed, and internal feedback has been received.

Ground And Surface Water Monitoring – Tri Monthly (May Sampling Round)

Water monitoring was undertaken at the Launceston Waste Centre in May 2026 in accordance with the endorsed Water Monitoring Plan and Environment Protection Notice No. 7175/3.

The program included sampling from eight groundwater boreholes and six surface water locations at the Launceston Waste Centre, as well as 11 surface water sites within Heritage Forest associated with the former landfill. Monitoring helps identify potential

contamination from landfill, leachate, composting and site operations, and supports Council's ongoing environmental compliance obligations.

Reporting was completed for Tas Water, EPA, Mowbray Golf Club and Mowbray Turf Club.

GPS Monitoring at Landfill

The monthly monitoring of trucks on the tip face allows City of Launceston to see how material is compressed and optimises fill of the live cells. Data is pulled from the software linked to the trucks, which is then collated into a spreadsheet.

Innovation

AI – Council's Future Direction

Council's existing Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy is currently under review and will be supported by an updated risk assessment. The refreshed policy will focus on the safe, responsible and considered use of large language model (LLM) AI tools across Council. The policy will closely align with training programs and e-learning modules.

The review has been identified as a priority due to AI fast evolving and increased usage rates which brings associated risks relating to privacy, security, information management, and decision-making. The updated policy will provide clear guidance for staff while enabling Council to responsibly realise the benefits of AI.

It is anticipated that the revised policy will be finalised and adopted during the fourth quarter of 2026.

Laptop & PC Donation Program

Two refurbished desktop computers have recently been donated to the Rocherlea Community Shed to support digital inclusion. The computers will be freely available for community use for tasks such as web browsing, job searching, accessing government services, online learning, and other everyday tasks. The initiative is supported by the free public Wi-Fi network deployed by the City of Launceston in Rocherlea in 2022.

The donated computers are part of Council's ongoing technology reuse program which is about making the most of ex fleet equipment. Over the past 18 months, Council has donated more than 100 computers and laptops through initiatives including the Tech4Kids program and an expression of interest process that has provided devices to community centres and community groups supporting communities in need.

Through this program, Council helps provide positive social and environmental outcomes by extending the life of existing technology, reducing e-waste, and improving access. The program has been a collaboration between the Sustainability and Innovation Team, Community Development Team, and Technology Services Team.

Undergraduate Innovation Project Partnership with UTAS

Council has partnered with the University of Tasmania School of Information and Communication Technology to provide students with a real-world challenge that delivers community benefits.

Earlier this year, Council provided a range of potential project opportunities for final year Capstone students to consider, with the aim of supporting student learning while providing innovative solutions to local issues. The selected project focuses on recycling contamination, noting that recycling contamination has increased in Launceston in recent times, which is also a common trend nationally. The project will use existing waste data to better understand contamination trends and support targeted education initiatives.

The students are currently part way through the 12-week program where they are working with Council staff in a mentoring capacity to develop a data analytics and visualisation tool.

The proposed platform will analyse contamination data captured by Council's waste contractor and present insights through an interactive dashboard and mapping interface, helping officers identify contamination hotspots and better target future education campaigns.

The project provides students with industry experience while giving Council the opportunity to evaluate an innovative scenario that may assist in improving recycling outcomes and reducing waste sent to landfill.

Smart Irrigation Trial to Improve Water Efficiency

Council has launched a smart irrigation program across six sites and will be trialing new technology during the 2026/27 financial year. The project supports the City Innovation Strategy, Sustainability Strategy and City of Launceston 10-Year Strategic Plan by testing innovative technology that has the potential to improve operational efficiency, reduce water consumption and support more sustainable management of public open spaces.

Unlike traditional irrigation systems that rely on fixed watering schedules, smart irrigation technology uses real time information from sources such as weather forecasts, rain sensors and soil moisture sensors to automatically determine when and how much watering is required.

Six sites have been selected for the trial, Riverbend Park, Coronation Park, Royal Park (Regatta Grounds area), Windmill Hill, Brickfields and Civic Square with a total investment of \$30,630 in upgraded infrastructure, much of which was already due for renewal.

The trial will evaluate water savings, operational efficiencies, maintenance benefits, and user experience across a full year of seasonal conditions. Similar systems implemented by other Tasmanian councils have reported significant reductions in water consumption and associated costs. Detailed reporting including benchmarking will be conducted throughout the trial, with the findings helping inform future decisions about the broader adoption of smart irrigation technology across Council managed sites.

SENIOR LEADER CORPORATE PLANNING AND STRATEGY

Corporate Planning and Performance

Four-Year Delivery Plan: 2026/27 - 2029/30 and Annual Plan 2026/27 Drafting

Drafting of the Four-Year Delivery Plan 2026/27-2029/30 and Annual Plan 2026/27 during quarter 4 saw the Plans released for public consultation in April (1 April to 26 April) alongside the Annual Budget.

Feedback received during the consultation, which included an online feedback submission option, an in-person drop-in session, and the option for email submissions, was collated and presented to the Executive Leadership Team and the Councillors in May 2026 for consideration, prior to final edits being applied to the two plans.

A special Council Meeting was held on 18 June 2026 whereby both plans were adopted by Councillors, noting the insertion of the Annual Budget 2026/27 following the meeting and its respective adoption.

An engagement plan supported effective internal circulation of the plans, timely publication to our website, and submission to the Director of Local Government and Director of Public Health per requirements under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), to be implemented from 1 July 2026 when the plans take effect.

Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework

Council engaged an external consultant with deep local government corporate planning expertise to assess the maturity of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IPRF) and recommend improvements. The framework strengthens the link between long-term community goals, Council strategies, budgets, assets, and transparent and clear public progress reporting.

Cross-functional Project Integration

The Corporate Planning and Performance Team have continued to collaborate with the following project teams to ensure essential integration and dependencies are captured and considered between project outcomes and the ongoing Corporate Planning processes, including:

- Service Management Project,
- 2026/27 Budget development and integration with the published Annual Plan and Budget document,
- Project Ignite,
- Establishment of Project Management Office.

Project Management Office (PMO)

Establishment of the Project Management Office

In June, the Project Management Office (PMO) was soft-launched across the organisation, timed to coincide with the adoption of the Annual Plan and Four-Year Delivery Plan. An intranet page was established to provide information about the PMO, its role and services, and to make preliminary project management tools and resources available to staff. Leaders were encouraged to share these resources within their teams to support more consistent project planning and delivery practices.

To support awareness and engagement, a series of drop-in sessions were scheduled throughout July at the Town Hall and Remount Road offices. These sessions provide staff with an opportunity to meet the PMO team, learn more about project management practices, and become familiar with the tools and support available.

Alongside these activities, PMO staff worked closely with the Project Ignite Working Group to identify and document configuration requirements for the Project Lifecycle Management

(PLM) module within TechnologyOne. Once implemented, PLM will provide a single source of truth for project information and support governance, monitoring and reporting across operational and capital projects. The system will be administered by the PMO.

The team also engaged with PMO leads from the City of Devonport and the City of Marion to share knowledge and learn from their experiences. Insights gained through these discussions and the PLM configuration process have informed the scope and development of the Project Management Framework (PMF), associated tools and templates. Development and implementation of the PMF is an Annual Plan action for 2026-27.

Establishing Launceston City Heart Engagement & Communications Program

During the quarter, engagement and communications support was provided across a range of City Heart projects. This included advising internal project leads and contributing to the development of consultant-produced engagement and communications plans to help ensure activities were aligned with City Heart objectives, Council requirements and best-practice engagement approaches. This work supported greater consistency across projects and strengthened the integration of engagement and communications considerations into project delivery.

Work also progressed on the development of the City Heart Measurement Framework, which will provide a structured approach to monitoring and evaluating the outcomes and impacts of City Heart initiatives over time. This included reviewing the existing framework, progressing indicators with the Economic Development Data Analytics team, and exploring partnership opportunities with UTAS.

A comprehensive City Heart stakeholder database was established to support relationship management, engagement planning and communications activities. The stakeholder list provides a centralised record of community, business, government and industry contacts with an interest in the City Heart, enabling more coordinated and targeted engagement across projects and programs.

Alongside representatives of the Economic Development and Events and Visitation teams, the City Heart Engagement and Communications Officer is an active member on the Launceston Central Steering Group, working to ensure more regular and streamlined communication on project-level opportunities and challenges.

Staff members participated in a knowledge-sharing session with Brisbane City Council regarding the planning, implementation and operation of parklets, sharing Launceston's learnings with other local government looking to replicate the project.

Attendance at the Gastronomy Northern Tasmania 2026 Forum provided opportunities to strengthen connections with regional food, tourism and hospitality stakeholders and build understanding of emerging trends and opportunities within the sector. Insights gathered through the forum will help inform future activation, partnership and storytelling initiatives within the City Heart.

Support was also provided to the delivery of the Roam event through pedestrian count monitoring. This work contributed to ongoing learnings around evaluating the effectiveness of activation initiatives in increasing activity and vibrancy within the city centre.

Portfolio Management

The PMO oversees the City Heart Portfolio and chairs the City Heart Portfolio Steering Group (PSG). At the start of the quarter, an updated governance model was adopted to support delivery of the portfolio as projects transition into implementation. Under the revised model, the PSG will meet monthly, supported by a newly established City Heart Working Group that meets fortnightly.

The City Heart Working Group was inaugurated at the end of June 2026, bringing together representatives from eight teams across the organisation. The group provides a forum for coordination, information sharing and issue resolution across more than 20 City Heart projects, programs and activities, helping to maintain alignment between related initiatives and support coordinated delivery of the City Heart Place Plan.

Future City Heart activities will be reported via Annual Plan reporting in 2026/27.

Corporate Planning and Performance Support

While ownership of the Service Management Project has transferred to the Corporate Planning and Performance team, the PMO continues to provide active support, guidance, and governance oversight to maintain momentum and delivery.

During the quarter PMO staff worked with Corporate Planning to develop a multi-year transition plan for the Service Management Project that will see Service Management processes established and embedded within business-as-usual planning, reporting and review processes, and an Engagement, Change and Communications Plan.

Future Service Management activities will be reported in Annual Plan reporting for 2026/27.

Organisational Development

Organisational Culture Survey

The OD team commenced scoping and planning for a 2026/27 City of Launceston staff Culture Survey. The survey will provide a current, evidence-based view of organisational culture. The findings will help leaders and teams understand what is working well, where improvement is required, and what actions are needed to strengthen performance and move towards the desired culture.

City of Launceston Values

Continued promotion and recognition of our Values. Between 1 April and 30 June 2026, 55 Values recognition submissions were received an increase of 10 from the previous quarter.

- Our People Matter: **18**
- We Bring an Open Mind: **11**
- We Care About Our Community: **17**
- We Go Home Safe and Well: **9**

Onboarding & Induction

Induction Tour

- The Team facilitated one Induction Tour for 20 participants.

DiSC Profiles and Introductory Sessions

- Two Introduction to DiSC sessions for 24 participants

Apprentices & Trainees

- Heavy Commercial Mechanical Technology (Cert III)
- Civil Construction
- Information Technology traineeship

Employee Learning & Development

The OD Team coordinated the following corporate training activities between April and June 2026, informed by development goals identified through the 2025 Performance Development Discussions and FY24/25 Team Plan training priorities:

- Online Catalyst workshops were delivered to Team Leaders and Senior Leaders to support the effective use of the Catalyst platform as a leadership development tool. The workshops provided leaders with resources and practical approaches to build self-awareness, strengthen team relationships, and facilitate productive development conversations: **32**
- Excel Training: Beginner: **4**
- Excel Training: Intermediate: **7**
- Writing for Influence in Local Government: **19**
- Due Diligence, PCBU Duties and Psychosocial Risk Management: **26***

*Due Diligence, PCBU Duties and Psychosocial Risk Management training was delivered to Executive and Senior Leaders, the Work Health and Safety Team, and representatives from the People, Governance, and Safety Teams. The training strengthened participants' understanding of their obligations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (Tas) and enhanced capability to identify, assess and manage workplace risks, including psychosocial hazards. This supports Council's commitment to meeting its legislative obligations and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace.

Learning Management System

The MyLearning platform is now operating as a core organisational learning system, with current reporting showing strong uptake across compliance, induction and capability-based training.

The focus has shifted to optimisation, including improved data quality, and monitoring completion. This includes refining accessible eLearning design and using reporting insights to target follow-up actions and future module development.

The MyLearning Platform reports showed strong engagement, including:

- **83%** overall course completion across all assigned learning to date
- **88%** completion among active users in the specific period from April to June 2026
- An average of **55 minutes** spent per user during the quarter
- **79%** on-time compliance for learning records with a deadline

Top Completed Courses:

- Artificial Intelligence at CoL (**221**)
- Code of Conduct (**82**)
- Sexual Harassment (**71**)
- Issue Resolution Policy (**66**)
- Workplace Behaviour Policy (**64**)

Leadership Development

Local Government Professionals Australasian Management Challenge

City of Launceston's two teams achieved first and third place respectively in the 2026 Australasian Management Challenge, competing against councils from across Tasmania.

The first-place team will now represent Tasmania at the Australasian Final in Hobart in August 2026, where they will compete against leading local government teams from across Australia and New Zealand.

The Challenge provides participants with opportunities to strengthen leadership capability, collaboration and problem solving through simulated local government scenarios.

Emerging Leaders Pilot Program

The 2025 Emerging Leaders Pilot Program has concluded, with all eight remaining participants successfully graduating from the pilot cohort. Evaluation of the pilot identified positive outcomes for participants and the organisation, including increased confidence, leadership capability and readiness for future leadership opportunities. Learnings will inform the design and delivery of future leadership programs.

Performance Development Discussions 2026

OD partnered with Human Resources to refine the process and support provided to leaders and teams. These changes improved usability, streamline training needs assessment and reporting, and support clearer communication about the Performance and Development process.

SENIOR LEADER PROPERTY AND ASSET STRATEGY

Property

Strategic Land and Property Review

As part of the Strategic Land and Property Review, a report was presented to Council recommending that non-essential acquisitions and disposals be paused until the vacant Strategic Officer position is filled, and the review is completed. The purpose of the pause is to ensure property decisions are considered in a coordinated and strategic manner, aligned with Council's long-term property objectives, resourcing capacity, and future portfolio priorities.

Leases and Licences

Specific leasing activities completed during the quarter included:

- Mowbray Cricket Club,
- UTAS Chopping Arena,
- Macquarie House Basement,
- St Leonards Soldiers Memorial Hall to NOSS Inc.,
- Ravenswood Over 50's.

Licence agreements progressed during the quarter included:

- LGAT – office space in Town Hall,
- Department of Health – Launceston Aquatic Centre.

Deeds of extension progressed during the quarter included:

- Dan Murphy Carpark,
- Coles Kings Meadows car park,
- Up Tippet – Remount Road,
- Telstra – First Basin.

Business-as-usual activities associated with the lease and licence portfolio continued during the quarter, including agreement preparation, property inspections, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring to ensure compliance with lease and licence obligations.

Expression of Interest (EOI)

QVMAG Cafe – Officers commenced an Expression of Interest process on 26 June 2026 to explore suitable operating models for the cafe space.

Projects and Initiatives

Officers worked with TasWater to establish a water connection to 108 Forster Street, Invermay, in support of Council's October 2024 decision to dispose of the land.

Kings Wharf Land Transfer

Following Council's April 2026 decision, officers continued progressing the transfer of land and associated lease arrangements. This included coordination with relevant parties to support the proposed acquisition and tenure arrangements.

St Leonards Village Master Plan

Officers worked in conjunction with internal teams to support property-related inputs for the St Leonards Village Master Plan, including consideration of land tenure, site constraints and future property requirements.

1 Connaught Crescent

Officers continue to work with the external solicitor to progress the contract for sale of the land to RSL Tasmania, in line with the Council decision dated 19 February 2026. Discussion occurred during the quarter regarding the limitations of the transfer.

National Automobile Museum of Tasmania (NAMT)

A workshop presentation was completed as part of a request for Council to dispose of the property located at 84 Lindsay Street, Invermay. Officers will continue to work with NAMT.

Launceston Tramway Museum

A workshop presentation was completed as part of ongoing discussions with the museum regarding a proposed expansion of their site.

Asset Strategy

During the quarter, the Asset Strategy Team progressed key activities supporting asset management governance, capital works planning, system implementation and organisational capability development.

- Coordinated two Asset Management Steering Committee meetings and related governance activities.
- Finalised the 2026/27 capital works program to support budget adoption and inform long-term financial planning.
- Completed the 2025/26 capital project close-out process, including ELT endorsement of projects to be carried forward into 2026/27 and associated budget amendments.
- Supported asset management capability development, with three Asset Strategy staff and nine staff across the organisation completing the IPWEA Professional Certificate in Asset Management Planning and preparing asset management plans for their respective service areas.
- Progressed Project Ignite subject matter expert activities, including asset management design, data preparation and change readiness activities to support implementation of the new corporate systems platform.
- Completed grant reporting and progress payment activities to support compliance and the delivery of funded projects.

Other operational activities completed during the quarter included:

- Generating 3,261 operational work orders through maintenance schedules.
- Creating 15 capital work orders to enable delivery of capital projects.
- Creating 334 assets in the corporate asset management system as part of project finalisation and capitalisation processes.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

During the quarter, the GIS Team focused on the following key activities and outcomes:

- Maintained business-as-usual GIS operations, including spatial analysis, mapping support, system administration, technical support and data maintenance services for internal stakeholders across Council.
- During Q4 the GIS Team advanced the GIS Services Reset Program with ELT endorsement in May 2026 of the Project Management Plan.
- Successfully recruited GIS Administrator and GIS Officer vacant positions bringing the GIS Team to a full complement of staff and capability.
- With a full GIS Team at the end of this quarter, the team is now ready to support Council's broader digital transformation through Project Ignite and the GIS Reset Project.

- GIS Service Desk system is now embedded improving prioritisation processes into day-to-day work practices.
- Team members participated in the Tasmanian State of GIS 2026 spatial industry forum, ensuring Council remains informed of emerging trends, technologies and best practice in spatial information management and local government GIS.

Throughout the quarter, the GIS Team supported the broader organisation by:

- Actioning and resolving 84 GIS Service Desk requests, including:
 - Preparing a new Business Activity Survey,
 - Finalising Housing Dashboard tool,
 - Prepared data for new Council waste app,
 - Prepared data supporting WaterRIDE Flood Response system,
 - Improved staff access to up-to-date aerial imagery services,
 - Requests for 3D modeling data.
- Contributing to the processing of 432 Section 337 Certificates.
- Delivering 1,889 Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) responses through automated workflows, supporting the protection of City of Launceston underground infrastructure.

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. Launceston Tramway Museum

FILE NO: SF2967

AUTHOR: Sharin Imlach (Team Leader Property)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider supporting the expansion of the Launceston Tramway Museum.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council – 2 July 2007- 15.2 - Launceston Tramway Museum Society Inc.
Workshop – 16 July 2026 – Launceston Tramway Museum

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes Council's ongoing support for the Launceston Tramway Museum Society Inc. and its proposed expansion at the Inveresk site;
2. notes that landowner consent to lodge a Development Application for the proposed expansion would require approval through Council's landowner consent process;
3. note that any future expansion of the leased footprint would require a future decision of Council; and
4. notes that once a viable footprint for the building has been agreed, a future report will be brought to Council.

REPORT:

Background

The Launceston Tramway Museum Society Inc. (LTMS) has proposed a significant expansion and enhancement of its current Inveresk site, aimed at:

- Increasing museum capacity and functionality.
- Improving storage and preservation of heritage assets.
- Enhancing visitor experience, education, and tourism value.
- Strengthening integration with the broader Inveresk Precinct.

The proposal includes expanding the existing leased footprint to the front of the building to enable the development of a new purpose-built facility.

LTMS's long-term vision is to create a cultural and heritage attraction displaying Launceston's tramway history and have been working with Council officers over several years to progress the project.

Key Proposed Features

- Expanded museum building (approx. 850m² indicative need).
- Two display galleries for larger vehicles and exhibitions.
- Interactive workshop visible to visitors.
- Second-story storage for flood resilience.
- Rotating exhibition space to showcase the 2,700-object collection.

Purpose of Expansion

- Address space constraints in the current facility.
- Bring off-site stored artefacts back on display.
- Support growth of the tram collection and operations.
- Expand education, tourism, and community engagement outcomes.

Current Lease and Licence

LTMS currently occupies part of the Inveresk site under existing lease and licence arrangements with Council. The lease provides exclusive use of the current building utilised as a museum and workshop; whilst the licence allows non-exclusive use over the forecourt and tramlines. The proposed expansion would extend beyond the current leased footprint and require further decision of Council.

Constraint - TasNetworks Easement and Right of Way

A TasNetworks electricity infrastructure easement and associated right of way are registered over part of the proposed expansion area. These interests allow TasNetworks to access the land with personnel, vehicles, equipment and machinery to operate, inspect, maintain, repair, replace and upgrade the substation and associated electricity infrastructure.

Access through the right of way must remain safe and unobstructed at all times. Buildings, structures, footings, fencing, stored materials, landscaping or temporary works must not be placed within the easement or right of way without TasNetworks' prior written consent. Any development within or near these areas must also protect the electrical infrastructure and allow TasNetworks to undertake its work without restriction.

Accordingly, the proposed expansion cannot assume that the entire forecourt area is available for development. The final building footprint and lease boundary must be informed by detailed site investigations, concept design work, and consultation with TasNetworks. Any works affecting the easement, right of way or access arrangements must receive the required written approval from TasNetworks.

Proposed Pathway and Further Actions

The next step is for LTMS to undertake the necessary due diligence and develop designs for the proposed expansion. The designs should demonstrate how the proposed facility could be accommodated within the site, having regard to planning and statutory

considerations, the TasNetworks easement and right of way, access and servicing requirements, building requirements, indicative costs and funding needs.

Council officers will provide LTMS with any relevant information held by Council that may assist with the due diligence and concept design process.

The completed due diligence and concept designs will be used by LTMS to assess whether the proposal is feasible and to identify an appropriate building footprint. If the proposal is considered viable, LTMS will be required to apply for landowner consent through the City of Launceston's standard process before progressing to formal statutory approvals.

Subject to landowner consent and the outcomes of the due diligence and concept design process, LTMS will be responsible for lodging any required Development Application and obtaining all other necessary approvals.

Any expansion of the leased area will require a future Council decision. A Memorandum of Understanding will also be needed to define each party's roles, responsibilities, costs, approval requirements and delivery obligations for the expansion and ongoing museum operations.

Expansion Area

The plan below shows the key constraints that must inform any future building design and leased area, including the electrical substation, easements and the area leased to Blue Café. The extent of any future leased area will be confirmed after LTMS completes its due diligence and design work, including confirming that a suitable building footprint can be accommodated while addressing the TasNetworks easement and right of way, planning requirements, site access, servicing and other relevant constraints. Any proposed expansion of the leased area will remain subject to future Council approval.



*Figure: Forecourt Area showing indicative constraints (Orange)
(Blue Cafe Leased Area, Substation & Easements)*

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The TasNetworks substation and its associated easement constrain the land available for the proposed expansion. Development within or over the easement may be restricted to preserve safe, unobstructed access to the substation and protect existing electrical infrastructure. The final building footprint and site layout will therefore need to maintain the required clearance and access arrangements and remain subject to confirmation by TasNetworks and the relevant approval authorities.

There is a potential financial and asset risk to Council if the project commences but is not completed by LTMS.

There is a potential reputational risk to Council if a project is commenced and unable to be completed or is delayed over an extended period of time as funding is sought.

The absence of a Council endorsed site master plan also presents a risk. There is no overarching document to guide appropriate development and investment on the Inveresk precinct to optimise potential uses and provide an integrated approach to the site's growth. Any such plan would need to consider and align with the University of Tasmania, and Stadiums Tasmania aspirations for the site.

This project has not been identified in Council's Strategic Plan *Shaping Futures*, the 4-Year Delivery Program, or funded within the long-term financial plan.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The proposed expansion may provide positive economic and social outcomes by strengthening the Inveresk Precinct as a visitor destination, supporting heritage tourism and creating additional opportunities for education, volunteering and community participation. Any economic benefits will depend on the proposal's feasibility, funding and successful delivery.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Not applicable:

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

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no immediate budget implications arising from the recommendation, as Council's involvement at this stage is limited to facilitating preliminary officer advice and providing available information to support LTMS's due diligence.

LTMS would be responsible for costs associated with investigations, design, approvals, funding applications and delivery of the proposed expansion unless otherwise determined by Council. Any request for Council funding, expenditure, asset contribution or changes to the leased area would require separate assessment and a future decision of Council.

There is a potential financial and asset risk to Council if the project commences but is not completed by LTMS. As landowner, Council may be required to consider funding or otherwise facilitating completion of the works to make the site and building safe, secure and fit for purpose. Council could also become responsible for ownership of the building and associated ongoing costs, including maintenance, compliance, depreciation, and insurance.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

20.3. Lease - Lilydale Pony Club - Karoola Hall and Recreation Ground

FILE NO: SF2967

AUTHOR: Scott Edwards (Senior Property Officer)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the lease with Lilydale District Pony Club Inc for Karoola Memorial Hall and Recreation Grounds.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council - 25 July 2016 - 18.1 - Lease Karoola Memorial Hall

Council - 15 July 2021 - 19.3 - Lease Karoola Recreation Ground and Hall

Council - 6 August 2026 - 20.1 - Lease Lilydale Pony Club - Karoola Hall and Recreation Ground

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. pursuant to section 179 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*, decides to lease 1126 Pipers River Road Karoola (CT218477/1 and CT229586/1), known as the Karoola Memorial Hall & Recreation Grounds to the Lilydale District Pony Club Inc. as identified on the plan below:



2. requires that the lease is on the following basis:
 - a. the lease is to commence on 1 August 2026 for a period of 5 years;
 - b. the commencing rent will be \$356.72 per year;
 - c. the lessee to be responsible for:
 - i. energy costs;
 - ii. volumetric and connection charges for water;
 - iii. contents insurance;
 - iv. hall and ground bookings;
 - v. other service charges if any.
 - d. the lessee will continuously maintain:
 - i. building and grounds in good and reasonable order;
 - ii. and keep clear all noxious growth from premises;
 - iii. hold public liability insurance of at least \$20 million;
 3. notes the Council is to be responsible for structural maintenance;
 4. requests the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a. determine the exact dimensions of the land to be leased and all remaining terms and conditions;
 - b. exercise any of Council's rights, options, or discretions necessary for the proper administration of the lease; and
 5. 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*.
-

REPORT:

Council previously resolved to continue negotiations with the Lilydale District Pony Club Inc. (LDPC) outside the requirements of the Lease and Licence Policy, subject to any resulting lease remaining consistent with the objectives and principles of the Policy.

Following those negotiations, a proposed lease for the Karoola Memorial Hall and Recreation Grounds has been prepared and is now presented for Council's consideration.

Background

The Lilydale District Pony Club (LDPC), established in 1984, manages the Karoola Hall and Recreation Ground under a lease with the City of Launceston.

LDPC has operated from the site since 2002 and has historically used the premises for rallies, training and equestrian events. The Club's use of and connection to the premises has increased over the years, progressing from Hall hire bookings to occupy to its current role as lessee, responsible for the day-to-day coordination of the hall and grounds, including bookings, key management and grounds maintenance. The Club's proximity to the site is particularly important given its rural location and the equestrian activities conducted on the premises.

The LDPC delivers a range of equestrian activities, including training, competitions, camps, private lessons and community events. The Club supports community participation, recreation and local engagement, with the grounds remaining accessible for informal community use.

The premises are utilised for a range of community purposes, including local services, Tasmanian Electoral Commission activities, Department of Education meetings and equestrian events. In addition, the Karoola Hall is identified within the Municipal Emergency Management Plan as a potential evacuation centre and is also designated as a Neighbourhood Safer Place during emergency events.

Current Lease

The lease arrangement provided for local, hands-on management and consistent occupation of the site, including the coordination of hall bookings, key access and day-to-day operational requirements. Local management of key access for community users avoids the need to collect keys from Town Hall, improving accessibility and enabling timely activation of the community asset. The lease also reflected the Club's community-based operating model, with revenue reinvested into the hall, grounds maintenance, insurance, operating costs and community events.

Throughout the lease term, LDPC administered the premises as a community asset with minimal Council involvement. As the existing lease has now expired, a new lease is proposed outside Council's Lease and Licence Policy, while remaining consistent with the objectives and principles of the Policy.

Hall and Ground Hire

Based on information provided by the Lilydale District Pony Club, the hall and recreation ground were hired on 42 occasions during 2025, generating approximately \$7,000 in revenue. Hirings included private functions, weddings, funeral services, Tasmanian Electoral Commission activities, Department of Education meetings, and equestrian events.

Lilydale District Pony Club reported expenditure of \$6,297.72 for the same period, primarily associated with ground maintenance, emergency and evacuation lighting, mowing, energy costs and other general premises operating expenses.

It should be noted that hall hire demand is variable, and revenue generated from hirings fluctuates from year to year. As such, this income stream cannot be considered a reliable or consistent source of revenue.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The proposed lease mitigates the risk of under-utilisation or reduced community access to the premises by providing for the continued activation of the premises and the hands-on management of the hall and maintenance of the grounds. This arrangement supports the ongoing stewardship of an important rural community asset and assists in the delivery of recreational opportunities and broader community benefits across the Karoola and Lilydale region.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The proposed lease recognises the Club's unique location and operating circumstances while supporting the continued use of the facility for pony club and broader community activities. This contributes to community participation, social cohesion, and the effective use of a Council asset. No significant environmental impacts have been identified.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Not applicable:

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

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

In accordance with the policy, the recommended annual rent is \$356.72 which is 182 fee units established by the *Fee Units Act 1997*. The Act establishes a value for each financial year, with such value indexing in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Hobart.

The area to be leased has an Assessed Annual Value (AAV) of \$19,980 per year, which results in an effective subsidy of \$19,623.28.

That comparison does not take into account the individual circumstances of the site, such as capital improvements or maintenance responsibilities.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

20.4. Lease - Invermay Bowls Club

FILE NO: SF2967

AUTHOR: Scott Edwards (Senior Property Officer)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the Lease of Part of 2 Invermay Road, Invermay to the Invermay Bowls and Community Club Inc.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council - 21 October 2021 -19.2 Lease - Invermay Bowls and Community Club Inc.

That Council:

1. pursuant to section 179 of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) decides to lease part of the land situated at 2 Invermay Road, Inveresk (CT189130/2) known as Invermay Bowls and Community Club Inc (IBCC) as shown below:



2. requires that the lease is on the following basis:
 - a. the lease is to commence on 1 October 2026 for a period of five years;
 - b. the commencing rent will be \$4,508 per year;
 - c. the lessee is to be responsible for:
 - i. energy costs;
 - ii. volumetric and connection charges for water;
 - iii. contents insurance;
 - iv. building insurance; and
 - v. other service charges, if any.
 - d. the lessee will continuously maintain:
 - i. the premises in good and reasonable order;
 - ii. the premises free from noxious growth; and
 - iii. public liability insurance of at least \$20 million.
 3. notes that the lessee is to be responsible for structural maintenance;
 4. requests the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a. determine the exact dimensions of the land to be leased and all remaining terms and conditions;
 - b. exercise any of Council's rights, options or discretions necessary for the proper administration of the lease; and
 5. 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*.
-

REPORT:

The Invermay Bowls Club was established in December 1909 through a partnership between its founding committee and the Launceston City Council. In the early 1960's, a new pavilion was constructed, significantly enhancing the Club's capacity to support both sporting and community activities.

The Club owns all buildings and associated infrastructure on the site and is responsible for the ongoing maintenance, repair, and improvement of these assets. As part of its long-term activation strategies, the Club continues to invest in the premises with upgrades to ensure the venue remains contemporary, accessible, and fit for purpose. Recent improvements include the conversion of the bowling greens to synthetic surfaces, enabling year-round use and reducing maintenance requirements. Additional upgrades to bathroom and change room facilities, improve accessibility and ensure compliance with today's standards. These investments have helped maintain the Club's reputation as one of Tasmania's premier bowling facilities.

With a membership base of 366 members, the Club's role extends well beyond the sport of bowls. It serves as an important community hub, providing access to its facilities to a broad range of local groups and organisations. Benefitting from the club's well maintained and well-lit facilities, regular users include sewing and dance groups, the Old Launceston Football Club (OLFC) and Reclink Tasmania, which delivers community arts and crafts programs. Through these partnerships, the Club supports social inclusion, community participation, social connection and recreational opportunities, maximising the community benefit of the site for residents of Launceston.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The Club's capacity to implement its long-term strategic plans for the site, including future facility improvements and initiatives designed to ensure the long-term viability of the Club and increase community use and participation, could be undermined.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Lease renewal would provide certainty for the Club and its user groups, supporting the continued activation of sporting, recreational and community activities.

Conversely, non-renewal may negatively affect community access to established local premises and could result in additional costs and disruption for user groups seeking alternative accommodation.

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:

In accordance with the Council's Lease and Licence Policy, the recommended annual rent is \$4,508 which is 2300 fee units established by the *Fee Units Act 1997*.

The Act establishes the value of a fee unit for each financial year, such value indexing in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Hobart.

The area to be leased has an Assessed Annual Value (AAV) of \$43,200 per year, resulting in an effective subsidy of \$38,692.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

20.5. City of Launceston Annual Plan 2025/2026 - Quarter 4 Progress Report

FILE NO: SF7151

AUTHOR: Emily Lewis (Corporate Planner)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive and consider the progress against Council's 2025/2026 Annual Plan Actions as at the end of quarter four period from 1 April 2026 through to 30 June 2026, noting this is the closing report for this Annual Plan.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) - Part 7, Division 2

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council - 28/05/2026 - 20.4 - City of Launceston Annual Plan 2025/2026 - Quarter 3 Progress Report

Council – 19/02/2026 - 21.4 - City of Launceston Annual Plan 2025/2026 - Quarter 2 Progress Report

Council - 23/10/2025 - 21.2 - City of Launceston Annual Plan 2025/2026 - Quarter 1 Progress Report

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 period 1 April 2026 through to 30 June 2026;
 2. approves the deferral of partially complete action items S6, S9, S11, S15, S17, K1, K6, K9, K12, and K17 per the report;
 3. approves the cancellation of action items S1, S2, K14 and K15 per the report; and
 4. notes that this is the final reporting period for the 2025/2026 Annual Plan.
-

REPORT:

Progress against the 2025/2026 Annual Plan Actions for the fourth and final quarter of the financial year, covering the period from 1 April 2026 through to 30 June 2026, is provided in the attached report.

The following table shows an overview of the final status of the 34 Actions at the end of the quarter period, and overall Annual Plan period.

For full details on the status, supporting comments, and an overview of the outputs completed for each Action Item, Councillors should refer to the attached progress report.

Status Overview:

The table below provides a summary of the progress report, showing the number of Actions in each status as at the end of the quarter and overall plan period:

Action Status	No. of Actions	Percentage
On Schedule	0	0%
Behind Schedule or Delayed	0	0%
On Hold	0	0%
Deferred - partially complete	10	29%
Cancelled	4	12%
Complete	20	59%
Total	34	100%

There were 34 Actions included in the Annual Plan for the 2025/2026 financial year. As at the end of the plan period, 30 June 2026, 59% or 20 Actions were complete. The remaining 41% of Actions were either deferred (10) or cancelled (4).

- Of the 10 Actions deferred:
 - 8 are multi-year projects where some outputs originally scheduled for delivery in 2025/26 financial year have been re-phased into future financial years within the same Four-Year Delivery Plan objective.
(Action items S6, S9, S11, S15, K1, K6, K12, and K17)
 - 2 Actions have been rescoped and extended from single-year projects to multi-year projects, where remaining outputs will continue into future financial years within the same Four-Year Delivery Plan objective.
(Action items S17 and K9)
- Of the 4 Actions cancelled:
 - 3 were cancelled due to a change in organisational priorities or focus reflecting a change in community needs.
(Action items S1, K14 and K15)
 - 1 has been cancelled due to a non-successful application for grant funding.
(Action item S2)

This summary and additional graphs showing the status information are provided on pages 4 - 6 of the attached report.

Work is underway to strengthen Integrated Planning and Reporting, including feedback, governance and formal processes for adapting planned outputs.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Primary Impact Category	Explanation of Risk
<i>Loss of trust / confidence or morale (public and employees) including reputational risk</i>	<i>Status of Action Items may result in questions or loss of trust from Councillors and/or community members.</i>
<i>Organisational objective or outcomes</i>	<i>Failure to deliver Annual Plan Actions, which contribute to overall delivery of Strategic Plan.</i>
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	<i>Failure to deliver Annual Plan Actions, which contribute to overall delivery of Strategic Plan.</i>

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035
City of Launceston Annual Plan 2025/26

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. City of Launceston Annual Plan 2025/26 Quarter 4 Progress Report [20.5.1 - 90 pages]

20.6. City of Launceston Incoming Grant Management Policy (12-Plx-032)

FILE NO: SF0489

AUTHOR: Janelle Middleton (Advocacy and Grants Officer)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the adoption of the City of Launceston Incoming Grant Management Policy (12-Plx-012).

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)
Financial Management Act 2016
Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024
Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023 (Tas)
Right to Information Act 2009 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 30 July 2026 – Incoming Grants Management Presentation and Briefing

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. adopts the City of Launceston Incoming Grants Policy (12-Plx-032) - ECM Doc Set ID 5403412, as follows:

City of Launceston Incoming Grant Management Policy (12-Plx-032)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent, transparent and strategic framework for the City of Launceston to identify, assess, apply for, manage and acquit incoming grant funding. The policy ensures that grant-funded initiatives align with Council's strategic direction, are deliverable within organisational capacity, and meet accountability, governance and legislative requirements.

This policy establishes:

- the principles that underpin Council's approach in seeking, managing and acquitting incoming grant funding
- the approval, governance, and decision-making parameters for applying and accepting incoming grant funding

- the respective roles and responsibilities of Council and Council staff in the management of incoming grant funding that have been considered in line with the long-term financial plan and strategic asset management plan
- council recognises the valuable role that grants play in supporting the delivery of services, projects, and community outcomes.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all incoming grant funding pursued or received by the City of Launceston where Council is accountable for delivery, compliance, financial management or asset ownership.

In scope:

- competitive grant programs offered by Federal and State Governments, external organisations and groups
- unsolicited and non-competitive funding offers, (including State or Federal budget allocations and election commitments)
- joint or partnership-based applications where Council retains financial liability, delivery, responsibility, compliance obligations or ownership of the relevant asset
- grants may support operational functions or capital projects

Not in scope:

- ongoing or recurring funding arrangements that do not require an application and/or acquittal process to occur
- funding provided to Council under an ongoing service agreement
- philanthropy donations and bequests
- reimbursements or allocations made under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
- grants, sponsorship or funding programs administered by Council for external organisations or community groups, which are governed by Council's *Outgoing Grants Policy*.

POLICY STATEMENT

Council will seek and accept incoming grant funding only where proposed projects and programs are strategically aligned with adopted Council plans or legislative requirements, appropriately planned and resourced, represent value for money demonstrating alignment with capital budgets and long-term financial plan and can be delivered in accordance with applicable funding conditions and compliance requirements. Council is committed to applying for, and managing, funding in a fair, transparent manner that supports the achievement of endorsed strategic and operational objectives.

Where unsolicited or time-critical funding opportunities arise, Council retains discretion to accept, decline, or seek to renegotiate funding terms, subject to the relevant approval and delegated authority framework.

PRINCIPLES

This policy is guided by the following principles:

- 1. Strategic and Operational Alignment:** Incoming grant funding must support the City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035, other adopted Council plans (e.g. Four-Year Delivery Plan, Annual Plan), legislative requirements and endorsed priorities.
- 2. Delivery Capacity:** Projects seeking incoming grant funding must be deliverable within Council's capacity, with realistic timeframes and compliance obligations.
- 3. Financial Management:** Incoming grant funding must be assessed against full financial implications of the project, including co-contributions, ongoing operational impacts, maintenance obligations and any unfunded long-term liabilities.
- 4. Risk Management:** Incoming grant funding must have financial, operational, legal, reputational and delivery risks identified, assessed and managed.
- 5. Governance, Transparency and Accountability:** Incoming grant funding must have clear decision-making, management and reporting processes that are documented and auditable.
- 6. Consultation.** Projects seeking incoming grant funding must be developed in consultation with internal and external stakeholders to ensure collaboration, efficiencies and compliance.

GOVERNANCE and DELEGATIONS

Application for incoming grant funding must be carried out in accordance with the following approval framework.

Threshold	Approval for Application
Grants up to \$10,000	Approved by Senior Leader (SL) in consultation with Executive Leader (EL)
Grants from \$10,001 to \$100,000	Approved by Executive Leader (EL) in consultation with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and CEO
Grants exceeding \$100,001	Approved by Council When submission deadlines do not allow for Council approval prior to application the CEO retains the delegated authority to authorise an application. Ratification must occur at the first available Council meeting
Unsolicited grants	Must be reviewed and approved per thresholds above

Acceptance of grant funding must comply with the Signing of Council Agreements and Documents Policy (14-Plx-035).

GRANT ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

Council will administer grant funding in an efficient, effective, transparent and accountable manner that ensure the requirements of the grantor are satisfactorily met as outlined in the funding agreement and that Council's reputation and future funding opportunities are protected.

To facilitate this, all grant information for planning, approvals, grant management and reporting must be managed in accordance with the incoming grants protocol via City of Launceston's Tech1 platform.

In accordance with City of Launceston Information Resource Policy documents pertaining to incoming grant funding must be registered in Council's electronic records system and included in the Legal's Index. These include but not limited to: grant applications, approvals notifications, funding deeds, reports, variations and acquittals.

Roles and Responsibilities

Application for incoming grant funding must be carried out in accordance with legislative delegations and the following approval framework:

The Council	Approval of incoming funding applications over \$100,001 Oversight of City of Launceston incoming grants through quarterly reports
CEO	Approval of incoming funding applications over \$100,001 when submission deadlines do not align with Council meetings Approval of incoming funding applications in consultation with Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for funding \$10,001 to \$100,000
Executive Leaders (EL)	Consultation with Senior Leaders (SL) for incoming funding applications up to \$10,000 Approval of incoming funding applications in consultation with Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and CEO for funding \$10,001 to \$100,000
Senior Leaders (SL)	Consultation with Project Team and Executive Leader (EL) for incoming funding application approval Provide information required to obtain funding application approval Approval of incoming funding applications up to \$10,000

Team Leader (TL)	Consultation with Project Team and Senior Leader (SL) for incoming funding application approval Provide information required to obtain funding application approval
Project Manager	Consultation with Project Team, Team Leader (TL), Senior Leader (SL), internal and external stakeholders for incoming funding application approval Provide information required to obtain funding application approval Undertake and submit grant application in accordance with funding guidelines If unsuccessful receive and document feedback If successful, manage the funding requirements including but not limited to: • acting as the primary contact for City of Launceston to the funding body • coordinate funding agreement/deed content and required authorisation • negotiate milestones and undertake required reports to the funding body • work with Finance to ensure invoicing is timely and accurate • coordinate approvals for variations to the deed through appropriate delegation channels • coordinate final acquittal and reporting • provide Council and operational reporting as required
Advocacy and Grants Officer	Provide oversight, assistance and regular reporting on the City of Launceston's incoming grants program. Assist staff in all aspects of incoming grants management Support project prioritisation and facilitate combined applications

Approval information and associated processes must be prepared and managed in accordance with Council's adopted protocols. This includes Council reporting requirements and SLT/ELT approval procedures.

REPORTING

A quarterly report on incoming grant activity will be provided to Council that includes:

- incoming grant opportunities
- projects that have applied for funding
- projects that have been awarded funding
- unsuccessful projects including relevant feedback where available
- status updates of projects that have received funding including any concerns, risks or approved variations to the funding deed
- a list of projects that have been acquitted and finalised
- the status of Councils current financial liability in relation to funding agreements

Council reports will be provided for grant application approvals for funding over \$100,001.

Project managers to ensure regular reporting is undertaken as required for the Annual Plan in accordance with reporting cycles outlined in Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All staff and Elected Members must declare any manage any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas), the Local Government Code of Conduct Order 2024 and Council's Code of Conduct.

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;

- City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025–2035 Set ID 5240776
- City of Launceston Outgoing Grant Management Policy (05-Plx-010)
- City of Launceston Budget Management Policy (12-PI-001)
- Signing of Council Agreements and Documents Policy (14-Plx-035)
- Asset Management Policy 2020 Set ID 4415030
- Lease and Licence Policy 2026 Set ID 5354630
- City of Launceston Code of Conduct (22-PI-030)
- City of Launceston Disclosure of Information Policy (17-plx-009)
- Information Resource Policy (17-PI-001)
- Enterprise Risk Management Policy Set ID 191575
- City of Launceston Procurement Policy (11-Plx-001)

RELATED LEGISLATION

This policy must be implemented in accordance with relevant legislation, including but not limited to:

- Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)
- Financial Management Act 2016
- Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024
- Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023 (Tas)
- Right to Information Act 2009 (Tas)

REFERENCES

- City of Launceston 10 Year Strategic Plan 2025-2035 Set ID 5240776
- Four Year Delivery Plan Set ID 5343492
- Annual Plan Set ID 5353639
- Long Term Financial Plan 2022 -2032 Set ID 4765233
- Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) Set ID 4745628

DEFINITIONS

Incoming Grant Funding:	Financial or in-kind support from external entities for specific purposes.
Funding Agreement/Deed:	A legal document outlining the terms and conditions of the grant.
Unsolicited Grant:	Funding offered without a competitive application process.
Co-contribution:	Financial or in-kind resources committed by Council to support a grant-funded project
Milestones	Agreed project stages or deliverables used to measure progress and determine funding release or reporting requirements
Funding Acquittal	Reporting process that confirms grant funding has been used for its approved purpose, supported by financial evidence and any required activity or outcomes reports
Variation	A formal approved amendment to a grant agreement that adjusts terms such as timelines, budget or scope to address unforeseen circumstances without changing the project's original purpose

REPORT:

This report presents the new City of Launceston Incoming Grants Policy for Council adoption.

Background Information

The *Incoming Grants Policy* will provide a clear and consistent framework for the identification, approval, application, management and acquittal of externally funded grants.

Its purpose is to ensure grant-funded projects are strategically aligned, financially and operationally viable, appropriately approved, and effectively monitored.

This framework will support transparency, risk management, compliance with funding conditions, and accurate reporting. It will facilitate active consultation and information sharing using a collaborative approach to seeking external funding.

The policy facilitates a proactive approach and clear approval thresholds along with well-defined roles and responsibilities for seeking external funding. This process will be supported by a new grants module as part of Project Ignite providing a mechanism for data gathering, storing, and reporting.

Comprehensive consultation in the development of this policy has occurred with relevant internal stakeholders including Council Officers, Team Leaders, Senior Leaders, and Executive Leaders. A Councillor workshop occurred on 30 July 2026 to present the policy and address any questions.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The adoption of the City of Launceston Incoming Grants Policy will provide a clear and consistent framework for the management of incoming grants. The policy provides a framework that will mitigate the risks associated with applying for and receiving funding that is not strategically aligned and beyond Councils' capacity to deliver. It will ensure that the City of Launceston grant applications are aligned with the funding bodies aims in a clear and professional manner increasing the probability of success.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The City of Launceston Incoming Grants Policy will support positive economic, environmental and social outcomes in supporting the projects and programs provided by Council.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Not applicable:

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

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The City of Launceston Incoming Grants Policy will support Council by facilitating the generation of external funding for projects and programs.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. City of Launceston Incoming Grant Management Policy (12- Plx-032) [20.6.1 - 7 pages]

20.7. Efficiency Dividends Report - Quarter 4

FILE NO: SF7852

AUTHOR: Tony McDonald (Data Analytics)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive the Efficiency Dividends Report for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2025/26.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the Efficiency Dividends Report covering the fourth quarter of the financial year 2025/26.
-

REPORT:

The Efficiency Dividends Report has been developed and the report reflecting the fourth quarter of the 2025/26 financial year is provided as an attachment.

During the 2025/26 financial year total efficiency dividend savings of **\$1,431,230** were realised. Additional expenses associated with approved initiatives and other unbudgeted items totaled **\$346,167**, resulting in a net favourable outcome of **\$1,085,063**. This exceeds the annual efficiency dividend target of **\$800,000** by **\$285,063**, representing a **36% improvement** on the target.

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.

Savings		
Savings / Operational	Localis software	\$6,000
	Council Decision: 14 May 2026 – 18.2 - Launceston CBD Bus Interchange	\$123,000
	Unspent MOPS Budget for 2025/26	\$47,500
	Engagement Institute (IAP2) membership	\$1,800
Efficiencies / Capital		
Additional Revenue		
Q4 Total	\$178,300	
Q1 Efficiency dividends	\$1,062,519	
Q2 Efficiency dividends	\$190,411	
Q3 Efficiency dividends	\$0	
Q4 Efficiency dividends	\$178,300	
Total Savings	\$ 1,431,230	

Expenditure	
Council Decision: 2 April 2026 - 18.3 - Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub planning fees waiver	\$39,368
Council Decision: 2 April 2026 - 18.4 - East Launceston Croquet Club fees waiver	\$1,815
62 Gorge Road, Trevallyn Expression of Interest for removal of cottage	\$1,155
Q4 Total	\$42,338
Q1 Expenses	\$46,612
Q2 Expenses	\$62,144
Q3 Expenses	\$195,073
Q4 Expenses	\$42,338
Total Expenditure	\$346,167

Overall total of efficiency dividends over financial year 2025/26: \$1,085,063

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.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Not applicable:

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

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

As per the report provided.

The Monthly Financial Performance Report presented to Council provides a holistic view of the overall operational and capital budget performance year to date.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. DRAFT Efficiency Dividends Report Q4 2025 26 [20.7.1 - 9 pages]

21. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK

21.1. Quarterly Report - Office of the Chief Executive Officer - 1 April 2026 to 31 July 2026

FILE NO: {custom-field-file-no}

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Team Leader Executive Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider and note a quarterly update on key strategic matters and major initiatives progressed through the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, including engagement on the Boags Brewery site, collaboration with the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation, regional shared services opportunities and other city-shaping initiatives advanced during the period 1 April 2026 to 31 July 2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council has previously considered matters relating to regional collaboration, strategic advocacy, NTDC membership and governance, major city-shaping opportunities and the ongoing delivery of Council's strategic priorities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes the update on key initiatives progressed through the Office of the Chief Executive Officer for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 July 2026.
-

REPORT:

This report provides Council with a summary of several key strategic matters progressed through the Office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) during the last quarter. The period has involved a significant level of stakeholder engagement, regional collaboration and internal organisational leadership across matters that are material to the future of Launceston and Northern Tasmania.

The CEO Office has continued to play an active role in progressing city-shaping opportunities, strengthening regional collaboration, supporting organisational reform and positioning Launceston as a leading regional city. The areas of particular focus during the quarter have included the future of the Boags Brewery site, collaboration with the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation, regional shared services and procurement

opportunities, leadership and workforce reform, emergency management coordination, Tamar Estuary matters, and broader economic development advocacy.

Key diary meetings and Stakeholder Engagements

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1 April 2026 | • Meeting with Hon Bridget Archer MP to discuss preventive health. |
| 2 April 2026 | • Councillor Feedback Session - Annual Plan, Four-Year Delivery Plan and Budget |
| | • Council Meeting |
| 13 April 2026 | • Mayor and CEO meeting |
| | • Roundtable with NBN Co CEO Ellie Sweeney – Enabling Innovation |
| 16 April 2026 | • Council Meeting |
| 17 April 2026 | • Meeting with Anthony Loone |
| 18 April 2026 | • Attended: Launceston Airport presents TSO Live Sessions at Du Cane Brewery |
| 20 April 2026 | • Mayor and CEO meeting |
| 21 April 2026 | • Attended: Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board Workshop |
| | • Councillor 1:1 with Cr Preece |
| 22 - 23 April | • Attended: DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) 2026 Foreign Engagement Forum |
| 24 April 2026 | • Attended: Northern General Managers/CEO's Regional Meeting |
| 25 April 2026 | • Attended: Round 7 - Hawthorn v Gold Coast Suns game at UTAS Stadium |
| 27 April 2026 | • Mayor and CEO meeting |
| 28 April 2026 | • Councillor 1:1 with Cr Britton |
| | • Attended: Meeting with Rosemary Armitage MP |
| 29 April 2026 | • Attended: Citizenship Ceremony at Albert Hall |
| | • With Mayor Garwood attended: Meeting with new Jack Jumpers CEO Trent Jacobs, and Tasmania Jewels Head Coach, Claudia Brassard |
| 30 April 2026 | • Council Meeting |
| 4 May 2026 | • Mayor CEO Meeting |
| 5 May 2026 | • Attended: Meeting with Launceston Chamber of Commerce CEO Alina Bain |
| | • Councillor 1:1 with Cr Marsden |
| | • With Mayor Garwood attended: Meeting with Senators the Hon. James McGrath and Senator Wendy Askew |
| 6 May 2026 | • Attended: Roundtable discussion with Senator McGrath - Shadow Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cites; focus on city deals |
| | • Attended: Quarterly meeting with Jon Perry and Dennis Hendrick from the Office of the Coordinator General |
| | • Attended: Meeting with Metro Tas CEO Jessica Paton |

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 7 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Workshop• Attended: Meeting with Dean Cocker from JAC Group about the Kate Reed NRA Access Road and Kinds Meadows Link t South Prospect |
| 11 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: Devonport City Council with the Executive Leadership Team |
| 12 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: Launceston Flood Authority Meeting• Attended: NTDC Regional Development Strategy meeting |
| 13 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: Newton and Henry Federal Budget Breakfast at the Hotel Grand Chancellor• Councillor 1:1 with Deputy Mayor McKenzie• Attended: Enterprize Board meeting briefing |
| 14 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Meeting |
| 15 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: National Keep Australia Beautiful Awards (hosted by City of Launceston) |
| 18 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: Audit Panel meeting• Mayor and CEO meeting |
| 19 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor 1:1 with Councillor Harris (e-bike round the municipality observations)• Attended: Enterprize Board meeting |
| 20 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor 1:1 with Cr Britton |
| 21 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Workshop• Attended: Launceston Flood Authority meeting |
| 25 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor CEO Meeting |
| 27 May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: Launceston Chamber of Commerce Leadership Group event: Preparing Launceston for Convention Centre Delivery and Business Events |
| 24 June 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: Leader Session, City of Launceston Enterprise Agreement 2026 |
| 29 June 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended Meeting to discuss the Boags Brewery, held on with Lion representatives |
| 25 June 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Meeting |
| 29 June 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor and CEO meeting |
| 29 June 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enterprise Agreement Discussions |
| 30 June 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor 1:1 catch-up meeting with CEO |
| 7 July 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: Meeting with NDTC Chief Executive Officer Michael Bailey |
| 8 July 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: Examiner roundtable to discuss the Boags Brewery site |
| 10 July 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitated: Leadership Team Session, held on at QVMAG Inveresk |
| 13 July 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce Meeting |
| 16 July 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Workshop |
| 17 July 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: Northern General Managers/CEO's Regional Meeting |
| 27 July 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended: Northern Tasmania Economic Opportunities discussion |

Boags Brewery Site

The future of the Boags Brewery site has emerged as an important strategic matter for the city. The site is closely connected to Launceston's heritage, visitor economy, built form and Central Business District (CBD) identity. The CEO Office engaged with Lion representatives, facilitated Councillor exposure to the site through a workshop and tour, and participated in external stakeholder discussion regarding the site's future.

The meeting with Lion representatives on 29 June 2026 provided an opportunity to open direct dialogue regarding the site and its future. This was followed by a Council workshop and site tour on 16 July 2026, allowing Councillors to better understand the physical, heritage, and strategic context of the site. The Examiner roundtable on 8 July 2026 also reflected wider community and stakeholder interest in the site's significance and potential.

The strategic importance of the Boags site is broader than a single property matter. It relates to the future activation of the CBD, protection and adaptive reuse of heritage assets, tourism development, employment, visitor experience, and the broader story of Launceston as a city that respects its history while actively shaping its future.

NTDC Collaboration and Regional Shared Services

The CEO Office has continued to work closely with the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC) and northern councils on opportunities to strengthen regional collaboration. This work has included regional procurement, shared services, project management capacity, grant coordination, strategic advocacy, and regional economic development.

During the quarter, correspondence and discussion papers considered opportunities for a regional Project Management Office, a shared specialist skills pool, joint procurement opportunities, grant registry and support services, and stronger regional coordination. The NTDC shared services material identified regional project management as a high opportunity area, particularly given the increasing infrastructure, grant delivery and project oversight requirements facing councils.

The CEO Office has also been engaged in NTDC strategic planning and governance matters, including the review of NTDC's strategic purpose and operations, the development of its next strategic planning cycle, and the transition to new NTDC executive leadership.

Other Major Initiatives Driven by the CEO Office

In addition to the Boags site and NTDC collaboration, the CEO Office has advanced several other major initiatives during the quarter, including organisational reform, workforce leadership, leadership capability, Tamar Estuary matters, and broader economic development and city positioning.

The implementation of the City of Launceston Enterprise Agreement 2026 has been a significant organisational priority. Leader sessions have been held to support consistent application of the new agreement, including changes relating to hours of work, overtime, time in lieu, rostered days off, flexible working arrangements, leave, allowances, probation and employee lifecycle processes.

The agreement also supports continued exploration of more contemporary work models, including compressed working weeks and the four-day or nine-day fortnight arrangements

now available subject to operational viability and approval. This reflects the organisation's broader focus on productivity, flexibility, recruitment, retention, and modern workforce practice.

The Leadership Team Session held on 10 July 2026 formed part of the ongoing work to align the Executive Leadership Team and Senior Leadership Team around strategy, culture, delivery and organisational performance. Continued investment in leadership capability remains central to Council's ability to deliver its adopted strategic priorities and respond to an increasingly complex operating environment.

The CEO Office continued engagement with key stakeholders and participated in the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce. These matters remain important to the city's operational readiness, environmental resilience, liveability and long-term infrastructure planning.

Strategic Assessment

The matters outlined in this report demonstrate an increasingly important aspect of the CEO Office's role, the alignment of Council's internal delivery capacity with external strategic influence. Many of the most important opportunities and challenges facing Launceston sit beyond the control of Council alone. They require relationship building, advocacy, regional coordination, commercial engagement, State and Federal Government alignment, and sustained leadership.

The Boags site is an example of a city-shaping opportunity that requires early engagement and strategic positioning. NTDC collaboration is an example of the need to move beyond discussion and into practical regional delivery. Workforce reform is an example of the need to ensure the organisation has the capability and culture required to deliver on behalf of the community. Together, these initiatives demonstrate a proactive approach to city leadership and regional stewardship.

The CEO Office has also been engaged in NTDC strategic planning and governance matters, including the review of NTDC's strategic purpose and operations, the development of its next strategic planning cycle, and the transition to new NTDC executive leadership. The appointment of Michael Bailey as NTDC Chief Executive Officer provides a further opportunity to reset and strengthen the working relationship between the City of Launceston, NTDC and the broader region.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

There are no immediate legal or financial risks arising from Council noted within this report. However, the matters discussed involve strategic, reputational, financial, and delivery-related considerations. Key risks include reputational risk if Council is not seen to be actively engaged in major city-shaping opportunities such as the Boags site, delivery risk if regional collaboration initiatives do not progress beyond discussion into practical outcomes, financial risk if shared procurement and service opportunities are not pursued where they may deliver savings or improved value, strategic risk if Launceston does not maintain a strong leadership role in regional economic and infrastructure matters, organisational risk if workforce reform, leadership development and internal capability are not adequately supported, and stakeholder risk if expectations regarding major sites or regional initiatives are not clearly managed.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The initiatives outlined in this report have potential economic, environmental, and social impacts. The Boags site has potential economic and social significance through its relationship to heritage, tourism, CBD activation, local employment, city identity, and visitor experience. NTDC collaboration and shared services opportunities may support improved economic outcomes across the region by reducing duplication, strengthening delivery capacity, improving procurement value, and supporting regional advocacy. Environmental impacts are particularly relevant to the Tamar Estuary, emergency management, and infrastructure-related initiatives. Social impacts include improved community outcomes through better service delivery, stronger regional cooperation, improved civic leadership, and a more capable organisation.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Council's consideration of this matter supports the delivery of the Strategic Plan by progressing leadership, regional collaboration, city-shaping opportunities, organisational capability and long-term community outcomes.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no direct budget adjustments arising from this report; however, future initiatives referred to in the report may require further budget or resource consideration if they progress to implementation. Where financial implications arise, they will be reported to Council through the appropriate budget, procurement, or decision-making process.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil.

21.2. Correspondence - Minister Ellis - CBD Bus Interchange Security Trial

FILE NO: SF4912

AUTHOR: Daniel Gray (Governance Officer)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To note the correspondence from the Hon Felix Ellis MP, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management regarding the Bus Interchange Security Trial

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes the correspondence from the Hon Felix Ellis MP dated 10 August 2026 regarding the Bus Interchange Security Trial (ECM Doc Set ID: 5406518).
-

REPORT:

Mayor Councillor Matthew Garwood wrote to the Hon Felix Ellis MP on 9 April 2026 providing an update on the security trial of the bus interchange on St John Street seeking contribution towards the cost of security services – Attachment 1

Correspondence was received from the Hon Felix Ellis MP on 10 August 2026 regarding the Bus Security Interchange Security Trial – Attachment 2

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

Not applicable:

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. 20260409 Mayor Garwood Minister Ellis Interchange security [21.2.1 - 2 pages]
2. Response to Request for Support for CBD Bus Interchange Security Trial [21.2.2 - 2 pages]

22. LATE ITEMS

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

No Items have been identified as part of this Agenda

23. CLOSED COUNCIL

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 – regulation 17(1)

RECOMMENDATION:

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

23.1. 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.

23.2. Tender - Launceston City Heart - Cameron Street Greening CD076/2025

REASON FOR CLOSED COUNCIL:

This item is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with regulation 17(2)(e) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

(e) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.

23.3. End of Closed Session

24. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held at 1.00pm on 3 September 2026 at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 18-28 St John Street, Launceston.

25. MEETING CLOSURE