



City of
LAUNCESTON

COUNCIL AGENDA

**COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 28 MAY 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: 28 May 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.

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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.

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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 14 May 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 - 21 May 2026

FILE NO: SF4401

AUTHOR: Keara Downey (Administration Officer- Governance Support)

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

1. Workshop conducted on 21 May 2026:

Site Visit - Princess Theatre

Councillors undertook a site visit to 57 Brisbane Street, to view the Princess Theatre work site

DA0135/2026 - 14 West Tamar Road, Trevallyn - Signs - Installation of an Illuminated Billboard Sign

Councillors undertook a site visit to 14 West Tamar Road, Trevallyn to discuss DA0135/2026 - Signs - Installation of an Illuminated Billboard Sign.

DA0048/2026 - 19 Audrey Avenue, St Leonards - Residential - Construction of a New Dwelling and a New Crossover

Councillors undertook a site visit to 19 Audrey Avenue, St Leonards to discuss DA0048/2026 - Residential - Construction of a dwelling and new crossover.

Executive Leader Updates and General Business

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

Councillors Connect

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

Four-Year Delivery Plan and Annual Plan 2026/27 Update - Post Public Consultation

Councillors received an update on the outcomes of the public consultation on the draft Four-Year Delivery Plan 2026/27 - 2026/30, the draft Annual Plan 2026/27 and the draft Budget 2026/27.

2026/2027 Budget Update - Post Public Consultation Feedback

Councillors received an update on the 2026/2027 budget.

Rates Modelling

Councillors received an update on the proposed rates for the 2026/2027 financial year.

In Attendance: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai, Councillor A J Britton and Councillor K M Preece.

Absent: Councillor R A I 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

Councillors' Leave of Absence Applications will be considered in Closed Council at Agenda Item 23.2 - Application for Leave of Absence by Councillor T Walker.

No Parental Leave Notifications have been identified as part of this Agenda.

7. COMMUNITY REPORTS

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

No Community Reports have been identified as part of this Agenda

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

8.1. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 38

8.1.1. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Ray Norman - QVMAG Governance - 5 May 2026

FILE NO: SF5784, SF6381

AUTHOR: Keara Downey (Administration Officer- Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 5 May 2026 by Ray Norman, have been answered by the Director of QVMAG.

Question 1:

Will the City of Launceston's CEO please provide ratepayers, donors and sponsors with a financial summary of the QVMAG operation that includes:

- The estimated total operating cost for the QVMAG for 2025/26; and
- The estimated total operating budget for the QVMAG for 2026/27; and
- The equivalent full-time staff employed by the QVMAG; and
- The number of grants the QVMAG received, and the total amounts of grant monies received 2025/26; and
- The cost to ratepayers et al of providing the QVMAG as a cultural destination and research entity ... the metrics ... the total cost divided by attendees; and
- The total amount of earned income, donations and cash sponsorships received in the 2024/25 financial year; and
- When will Council move strategically to either appoint QVMAG Trustees or a QVMAG Commissioner to oversee the transformation of the QVMAG into a standalone Company Limited by Guarantee?

Response:

- ***The estimated total operating cost for the QVMAG for 2025/26***
The Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery have a total net operating budget for the year of \$7,006,418.
- ***The estimated total operating budget for the QVMAG for 2026/27***
The draft 2026-2027 financial year budget for QVMAG is \$6,916,869.
- ***The equivalent full-time staff employed by the QVMAG***
FTE 48.01

- **The number of grants the QVMAG received, and the total amounts of grant monies received 2025/26**

To 30 April 2026, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery has received operational grant funds totaling \$1,924,657 (from two funding sources).

- **The cost to ratepayers et al of providing the QVMAG as a cultural destination and research entity ... the metrics ... the total cost divided by attendees**

Budget (\$5,427,633), minus revenue generated (\$920,323), divided by visitation (129,032) = \$34.90 per visit.

NB: the dollar verses visitation amount requested, will continue to decrease as the financial year progresses, with further visits and income generation throughout the last six weeks of the financial year.

The research and preservation of Launceston and Northern Tasmanian's heritage has value beyond that realised through visitation. The cost per capita for the Northern Tasmanian catchment (156,393 as of June 2025) is \$28.82.

- **The total amount of earned income, donations and cash sponsorships received in the 2024/25 financial year**

To 30 April 2026, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery have received the following revenue exclusive of grants already mentioned above:

Fees Revenue (including bookshop, planetarium and other) \$632,398.00

Cash Contributions (including Other Donations) \$8,106.00

Admission related Donations only \$7,114.00

Bequest funds received

\$108,008.00 Interest - Bequest \$60,773.00

Other Revenue \$3,924.00

Total \$920,323

- **When will Council move strategically to either appoint QVMAG Trustees or a QVMAG Commissioner to oversee the transformation of the QVMAG into a standalone Company Limited by Guarantee?**

Council officers are currently preparing a detailed report for consideration by the Museum Governance Advisory Board and Council regarding future governance arrangements for QVMAG.

This report will outline the benefits, risks, and implications of transitioning QVMAG to a standalone Company Limited by Guarantee, ensuring Council is fully informed before making any decisions in the best interests of the Launceston community and its ratepayers.

Given the complexity of this reform and the need to obtain specialist legal, financial, and governance advice, it is anticipated that Council will be able to consider and determine its preferred approach later in 2026.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ECM 5367385 v 1 Questions on Notice - QVMAG governance - Norman, Ray redacted [8.1.1.1 - 3 pages]

8.1.2. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Ros Lewis - Climate Change Budget - 5 May 2026

FILE NO: SF4729, SF6381

AUTHOR: Keara Downey (Administration Officer- Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 5 May 2026 by Ros Lewis, have been answered by the Team Leader Sustainability & Innovation.

Question 1:

How much (what proportion) of our budget does climate change currently cost the City of Launceston? That includes mitigating for disasters, emergency response and recovery after.

Response:

The City of Launceston does not currently maintain a single, discrete budget line item that captures the full cost of climate change. This reflects the reality that climate-related expenditure is embedded across a wide range of Council functions, services, and capital programs, rather than being centrally accounted for.

Climate related costs are however, incurred across three broad categories:

1. Mitigation and Adaptation

This includes proactive investments aimed at reducing risk and improving resilience. Key areas include stormwater network upgrades, flood mitigation works, urban greening and heat mitigation initiatives, asset design improvements, and land and fuel management practices. These costs are largely incorporated within capital works and asset management programs and form part of Council's long term infrastructure planning.

2. Emergency Preparedness and Response

Council plays a direct role in emergency management through staffing, coordination, and on the ground response activities. Costs in this category include emergency management planning, staff resourcing, plant and equipment deployment, and immediate response actions during severe weather or disaster events. These costs are typically absorbed within operational budgets across multiple departments.

3. Recovery and Reinstatement

Following significant events, Council incurs costs associated with clean up, debris removal, asset repairs, and reinstatement of critical infrastructure such as roads, drainage systems and public facilities. While a proportion of these costs may be offset through State and Commonwealth disaster funding arrangements, there remains a direct financial

impact on Council through co contributions, unfunded works, and timing of reimbursements.

Due to the distributed nature of these costs, it is not currently possible to provide a single precise proportion of Council's total budget attributable to climate change.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Attendance at Australian Local Government Association Conference - Climate change action - Lewis, Ro [8.1.2.1 - 5 pages]

8.1.3. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Robin Smith - e-Bikes and e-Scooters - 7 May 2026

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Keara Downey (Administration Officer- Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 7 May 2026 by Robin Smith, have been answered by the Engineering Permits and Investigations Officer.

Question 1:

Early in 2021, City of Launceston partnered with City of Hobart to evaluate the introduction of hire-and-ride e-scooters. City of Hobart's e-scooter programme is now being terminated - having just resolved to wholly transition to e-bikes. Irrespective of the commitment to the current operations here, would this again be an opportunity for council to explore hire-and-ride 'docking' e-bike options?

Response:

An assesment of the feasability of shared usage mobility options including e-bikes is being planned for 2026/27.

Question 2:

Does the end-of-trip reporting data Council has access to have the granularity to differentiate between end-of-trip parking in the 38 designated bays versus randomly on the street in the CBD?

Response:

The Monthly Operation Ride Utilisation Reports do not contain this information, but if information of this nature is required, Beam Mobility can provide and has in the past provided information used to make informed changes to the network.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ECM_5368775_v1_Questions on Notice - e-bikes and e-scooters - hire-and-ride and parking patterns - Smith, Robin_redacted [8.1.3.1 - 1 page]
-

8.1.4. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Ash Towns - Remediation Work - Glyndon Court, Norwood - 9 May 2026

FILE NO: SF1489, SF6381

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 9 May 2026 by Ash Towns, have been answered by the Senior Leader City Infrastructure.

Question 1:

There were recently street works undertaken in Glyndon Court, Norwood to repair an issue created by one of the local residents.

How much did rate payers pay for this work?

Response:

The value of the works undertaken by contractors is commercially sensitive and is subject to commercial in confidence.

Question 2:

How much is being sought/received from the offending party?

Response:

Enforcement and compliance investigations remain ongoing with the offending party. Council is not in a position to disclose further information at this time due to privacy obligations.

Question 3:

Is there Council permission for the offending party's secondary crossover (ie second driveway)?

Response:

Council is unable to provide further comment at this time due to the sensitive and confidential nature of compliance investigations.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ECM 5369477 Question on Notice - Remediation of area - 8 Glyndon Court - Towns, Ashleigh redacted [8.1.4.1 - 1 page]

8.1.5. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Arthur Balado - Eradication of Spanish Heath - 14 May 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 14 May 2026 by Arthur Balado has been answered by the Parks Planning Officer.

Question 1:

Has the Council adopted new procedures to eradicate Spanish Heath?

Response:

*Council manages Spanish Heath (*Erica lusitanica*) in the same manner as other weeds of state and national significance across the municipality. Management activities are undertaken by both Council's Roads Team and Parks Operations Team, as part of ongoing weed monitoring and control programs on Council-managed land.*

In addition to identified weed infestation sites, Council relies on reports from community members to help identify emerging infestations and priority treatment locations.

To support this process, the preferred method for reporting weed infestations is through the [Snap Send Solve app](#). Reports submitted through the app are automatically logged within Council's customer request system and include location information and photographs, assisting staff to assess and prioritise response actions.

Council appreciates community members taking the time to report weed infestations, as this plays an important role in supporting coordinated weed management outcomes across the municipality.

**8.1.6. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - Ros Lewis - Climate
Emergency Declaration Awareness - 14 May 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 14 May 2026 by Ros Lewis, has been answered by the Team Leader Sustainability and Innovation.

Question 1:

Are the Councillors elected after the Climate Emergency was declared in 2019 sufficiently aware about the climate emergency or is there a need for more information?

Response:

The Climate Emergency Declaration is reflected across Council's sustainability strategies and action plans available to elected members since 2019, providing a consistent reference point for Councillors.

8.1.7. Questions on Notice by Members of the Public - David Boarder (President, Friends of the Library) - Laneway Beside the Library - 14 May 2026

FILE NO: SF6381, SF7442

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 14 May 2026 by David Boarder (President, Friends of the Library) have been answered by the Senior Leader Health and Regulations.

Question 1:

The laneway beside the library has No Parking signs which are put up by Council. On investigation, the original purchase agreement from the Crown, purchased from Launceston City Council specifically lists a number of rights of way associated with that strip of land. Reservation conditions benefiting easement the right of carriageway, right of drainage, right of footway and right of access which means that the right of way is held by the Crown, not the Council.

Does Council have the authority to issue permits or fines?

Response:

The City of Launceston has the authority to regulate parking in the laneway adjacent to the Launceston Library under the Road Rules 2019.

Question 2:

Is there are written agreement to authorise Council to restrict access to the library?

Response:

Council is not a party to any separate agreement that specifically authorises the restriction of access in this location.

As the land is subject to an easement, the Crown/Launceston Library's access rights are governed by the terms and intent of that easement, subject to applicable controls under the Road Rules 2019. A separate agreement is not necessary.

- 8.2. Questions Without Notice by Members of the Public**
Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 37

9. PETITIONS

No Petitions have been identified as part of this Agenda

10. DEPUTATIONS

No Deputations have been identified as part of this Agenda

11. PLANNING AUTHORITY

Under the provisions of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, Council acts as a Planning Authority in regard to items included in Agenda Item 11 - Planning Authority.

11.1. DA0135/2026 - 14 West Tamar Road Trevallyn - Signs - Installation of an Illuminated Billboard Sign

FILE NO: DA0135/2026

AUTHOR: Anushka Dissanayake (Town Planner)

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

DECISION STATEMENT:

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

PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applicant	Town Planning Solutions Pty Ltd
Site	14 West Tamar Road, Trevallyn
Proposal	Installation of an illuminated billboard sign at Tamar Rowing Club
Zoning	Recreation
Codes/SAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Coastal Inundation Hazard Code- Natural Assets code- Flood-prone Hazard Areas Code- Safeguarding of Airports Code- Cataract Gorge Management Specific Area Plan
Use Class	N/A
Standards assessed through performance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- C1.6.1 Design and siting of signs - P1.1 and P1.2- C1.6.2 Illuminated signs - P1- C1.6.3 Third party sign - P1- LAU-S11.7.4 Height and bulk of buildings - P2
Public Notification	11 April 2026 - 27 April 2026
Representations	2
Deemed Approval	18 May 2026

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That, in accordance with sections 51 and 57 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston, a permit be refused for DA0135/2026- Signs - Installation of an illuminated billboard sign at Tamar Rowing Club 14 West Tamar Road, Trevallyn for the following grounds:

C1.0 Signs Code

C1.6.1 Design and siting of signs - P1.1 and P1.2

The proposed billboard sign fails to meet the Performance Criteria P1.1 and P1.2 . The sign is considered to result in an unreasonable loss of amenity to the surrounding area and will contribute to visual clutter.

C1.6.2 Illuminated signs - P1

The proposed illuminated billboard sign fails to meet Performance Criterion P1. The proposed billboard sign is not compatible with the existing streetscape and is considered to contribute to visual clutter, and is inconsistent with the established character of the locality.

C1.6.3 Third party sign - P1

The proposed illuminated billboard sign fails to meet Performance Criterion P1 and considered not compatible with the natural and built environment of the surrounding area.

LAU - S11.0 Cataract Gorge Management Specific Area Plan

LAU-S11.7.4 Height and bulk of buildings - P2

The proposal fails to meet Performance Criterion P2(a) and is not considered consistent with the intent of the local area objectives set out for Management Unit 16.

REPORT:

1. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is for the installation of a freestanding light emitting diode (LED) billboard sign at the Tamar Rowing Club site, located at 14 West Tamar Road, Trevallyn.

The proposed sign has a maximum height of 5.98m and a width of 5.86m, including a supporting structure of 3m in height. The digital display area measures 17.46m² (5.86m × 2.98m).

The sign is to be located in the north-western corner of the subject site, with a setback of 0.1 metres from the West Tamar Road reserve.

The billboard will display third party advertising in a digital format, with images changing approximately every 30 seconds. The sign is oriented to face approaching traffic travelling along West Tamar Road towards the city.

2. LOCATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER



14 West Tamar Road Trevallyn - not to scale

The subject site is located within the Recreation Zone and is currently occupied by developments associated with the Tamar Rowing Club.

The site adjoins River Flats Reserve to the north at 26 West Tamar Road and West Tamar Road to the west. Land located directly opposite the site, on the western side of West Tamar Road, is zoned General Residential and contains established residential uses.

The site is also covered by the Cataract Gorge Specific Area Plan, Natural Assets Code, Coastal Inundation Hazard Code, Flood-Prone Hazard Areas Code, and the Safeguarding of Airports Code.

3. PLANNING SCHEME REQUIREMENTS

The full assessment against the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston is detailed in Attachment 1. The following section provides an assessment of the application's discretionary components.

7.0 - General Provisions

7.10 Development Not Required to be Categorised into a Use Class

7.10.1 An application for development that is not required to be categorised into one of the Use Classes under sub-clause 6.2.6 of this planning scheme and to which 6.8.2 applies, excluding adjustment of a boundary under sub-clause 7.3.1, may be approved at the discretion of the planning authority.

Complies

7.10.2 An application must only be approved under sub-clause 7.10.1 if there is no unreasonable detrimental impact on adjoining uses or the amenity of the surrounding area.

Does Not Comply

The application is considered to have an unreasonable detrimental impact on the amenity of the surrounding area, as it is inconsistent with the existing character of the area and will cause an unreasonable loss of visual amenity to the surrounding area.

7.10.3 In exercising its discretion under sub-clauses 7.10.1 and 7.10.2 of this planning scheme, the planning authority must have regard to:

- (a) the purpose of the applicable zone;
- (b) the purpose of any applicable code;
- (c) any relevant local area objectives; and
- (d) the purpose of any applicable specific area plan.

Does Not Comply

In considering sub-clause 7.10.3(a), the **Recreation zone purpose** is as follows:

28.1.1 To provide for active and organised recreational use and development ranging from small community facilities to major sporting facilities.

28.1.2 To provide for complementary uses that do not impact adversely on the recreational use of the land.

28.1.3 To ensure that new major sporting facilities do not cause unreasonable impacts on adjacent sensitive uses.

The subject site currently accommodates development associated with a sporting facility (Tamar Rowing Club) and is consistent with the purpose of the zone. Further, the proposed billboard sign is not expected to adversely affect the site's ability to achieve the purpose of the zone.

In considering sub-clause 7.10.3(b), the **Signs Code purpose** statement is as follows:

C1.1.1 To provide for appropriate advertising and display of information for business and community activity.

C1.1.2 To provide for well-designed signs that are compatible with the visual amenity of the surrounding area.

C1.1.3 To ensure that signage does not disrupt or compromise safety and efficiency of vehicular or pedestrian movement.

The application is assessed as not meeting the purpose of the Signs Code, particularly clause C1.1.2, as the proposed sign is considered to adversely impact the visual amenity of the surrounding area. A detailed assessment of this is provided in the Signs Code assessment section of the report.

In relation to sub-clauses 7.10.3(c) and 7.10.3(d), which require consideration of relevant local area objectives and the purpose of any applicable Specific Area Plan, the subject property is located within the Cataract Gorge Management Specific Area Plan (SAP), specifically within Management Unit 16. Accordingly, the subject SAP purpose and the applicable local area objective is as follows.

The **purpose of the Cataract Gorge Management Specific Area Plan** is as follows:

LAU-S11.1.1 To protect the Cataract Gorge Reserve from incremental loss and degradation of its character and values.

LAU-S11.1.2 To require that development within the Cataract Gorge Management Area is appropriately planned, located, designed and constructed to minimise the impact on the natural, historic, cultural, heritage, landscape and scenic character and values of the Cataract Gorge Reserve.

The **local area objectives for Management Unit 16** (MU16) are as follows:

- (a) to provide for development that is of an appropriate character and scale, in order to maintain the established natural, historic, cultural, heritage, landscape and scenic character and values of the entry to the Cataract Gorge Reserve, the associated historic setting of the Gatekeeper's house, Kings Bridge and other buildings of historic interest;
- (b) to maintain the established natural, historic and cultural, heritage, landscape and scenic character and values of the management unit when viewed from prime viewpoint locations within the Cataract Gorge Management Area; and
- (c) to recognise that this management unit is part of a riverside area currently developed for a mixture of commercial, marine and recreational purposes, which has an identified walking trail running through it.

The application is assessed as not meeting the purpose of the SAP or the local area objectives set out for Management Unit 16, as the proposed billboard sign is expected to have an adverse impact and is not sympathetic to the natural, cultural, landscape, and scenic character and values of the entry to the Cataract Gorge Reserve. The proposed sign is considered inconsistent with the character of the area. A detailed assessment of this is provided under the Cataract Gorge Management Specific Area Plan assessment section of this report.

3.1 Zone Purpose

C1.0 Signs Code

The purpose of the Signs Code is:

C1.1.1 To provide for appropriate advertising and display of information for business and community activity.

C1.1.2 To provide for well-designed signs that are compatible with the visual amenity of the surrounding area.

C1.1.3 To ensure that signage does not disrupt or compromise safety and efficiency of vehicular or pedestrian movement.

Not Consistent

The proposed illuminated LED screen billboard is considered inconsistent with the purpose of the Signs Code, particularly the objective of ensuring well-designed signage that is compatible with the visual amenity of the surrounding area. The illuminated LED billboard is considered to adversely affect the established character of the surrounding area and create an unreasonable visual impact.

C1.6.1 Design and siting of signs

That:

- (a) signage is well designed and sited; and
- (b) signs do not contribute to visual clutter or cause an unreasonable loss of visual amenity to the surrounding area.

Not Consistent

The proposed billboard sign is considered to result in an unreasonable loss of visual amenity to the surrounding area.

A1 A sign must:

- (a) be located within the applicable zone for the relevant sign type set out in Table C1.6; and
- (b) meet the sign standards for the relevant sign type set out in Table C1.6, excluding for the following sign types, for which there is no Acceptable Solution:
 - (i) roof sign;
 - (ii) sky sign; and
 - (iii) billboard.

Relies on Performance Criteria

The proposed billboard sign is located within the Recreation Zone, where this is an allowable sign type as set out in Table C1.6. However, the proposal does not meet the requirements of clause C1.6.1 A1(b), as billboard signs are excluded from the Acceptable Solution provisions of the clause. Accordingly, the proposal must be assessed against the relevant Performance Criteria.

P1.1 A sign must:

- (a) be located within an applicable zone for the relevant sign type as set out in Table C1.6; and
- (b) be compatible with the streetscape or landscape, having regard to:
 - (i) the size and dimensions of the sign;
 - (ii) the size and scale of the building upon which the sign is proposed;
 - (iii) the amenity of surrounding properties;
 - (iv) the repetition of messages or information;
 - (v) the number and density of signs on the site and on adjacent properties; and
 - (vi) the impact on the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

Does Not Comply

P1.1 A sign must: (a) be located within an applicable zone for the relevant sign type as set out in Table C1.6; and

The site is located within the Community Purpose Zone, where billboard signs are listed as an allowable sign type in accordance with Table C1.6 of the Planning Scheme.

(b) be compatible with the streetscape or landscape, having regard to: (i) the size and dimensions of the sign;

The proposed sign comprises a digital display screen measuring 5.86m in width and 2.98m in height, supported by a freestanding structure with a height of 3m, resulting in an overall development height of 5.98m. The scale of the proposed sign is inconsistent with the surrounding streetscape and landscape character of the area. The subject property adjoins the River Flats Reserve to the north, which provides a densely vegetated buffer, with the Tamar River located beyond. In addition, the subject area

has a view towards the Cataract Gorge First Basin Reserve and the Penny Royal site, which the area including the subject site is covered by the Cataract George Management SAP. The SAP aims to protect the Cataract Gorge Reserve from incremental loss and degradation of its character and values and to encourage appropriate developments and to minimise the impact on the natural, historic, cultural, heritage, landscape and scenic character and values of the Cataract Gorge Reserve. The site also fronts West Tamar Road. The opposite side of West Tamar Road comprises an established residential character, characterised by mature landscaping and established dwellings, the dwelling at 7 West Tamar Road is listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register and is also subject to the Local Historic Heritage Code. The dwelling at 7A West Tamar Road is subject to the Local Historic Heritage Code. Both dwellings are located directly opposite the proposed sign, within approximately 50 metres of the site. Further, some of the other dwellings in the area have historic value and are proposed to be included in the Local Historic Heritage Code. The locality is also characterised by elevated topography with steep sloping landform conditions, with approximate AHD levels ranging from 5 m to 23 m, providing expansive views over the Tamar River.

In contrast, the subject site has an approximate AHD level of 2.5 m, resulting in a lower-lying position within the broader landscape context. In this context, the proposed signage is not considered to be compatible with streetscape or landscape surrounding area. The proposal would result in a visually dominant element within the streetscape and is considered to detract from the established character and visual quality of the locality. Overall, the size and scale of the proposed sign is considered excessive for the site context and is unlikely to integrate satisfactorily with the surrounding streetscape and landscape character.

- (ii) the size and scale of the building upon which the sign is proposed;**
Given the sign is free standing and not attached to a building, this clause is not applicable to the proposal.

- (iii) the amenity of surrounding properties;**
The surrounding area is characterised by a mix of natural landscape interfaces and established residential development, particularly along the opposite side of West Tamar Road, where dwellings are set within mature landscaping and a low-scale built form. The majority of these residential properties benefit from elevated outlooks and views towards the Tamar River, contributing to their existing amenity and the visual quality of the locality.

Having regard to the location and scale of the proposed sign, it is considered that the development would introduce a highly visible and visually dominant element within the streetscape and landscape setting. The scale, height, and illuminated nature of the proposed sign will significantly increase its visual prominence, resulting in visual intrusion within key view corridors and diminishing the existing visual character of the area.

Accordingly, the proposal is considered to have an adverse impact on the visual amenity of surrounding properties and is not consistent with maintaining the existing streetscape and landscape character of the locality.

(iv) the repetition of messages or information;

The proposed billboard sign itself will not result in the repetition of messages at the same location. In addition, the advertisements displayed on the billboard are proposed to change at a rate of one message every 30 seconds, and are therefore expected to display different messages and information over time. However, there is a similar LED screen billboard located at 279 Brisbane Street, Launceston, approximately 700 m from the subject site, importantly, facing the same traffic flow approaching from West Tamar Road. Accordingly, there is potential for the repetition of advertising messages or information being viewed by motorists travelling along this corridor within a relatively short travel distance, depending on the content displayed on each sign.

(v) the number and density of signs on the site and on adjacent properties; and

The site contains two existing signs, with no additional signage on adjoining properties or within the immediate vicinity. Accordingly, the overall number and density of signs is considered reasonable and not excessive.

(vi) the impact on the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians

The application was referred to the Department of State Growth as the road authority, and no objection was received. Further, the Traffic Impact Assessment submitted with the application concludes that the proposed signage will not adversely affect the safe and efficient movement of vehicles on West Tamar Road.

Accordingly, having regard to the amenity of the surrounding area, the proposed sign is not considered to be compatible with the established streetscape or landscape character, and is therefore not considered to comply with the relevant Performance Criterion.

P1.2 If a roof sign, sky sign or billboard, the sign must:

- (a) be located within the applicable zone for the relevant sign type set out in Table C1.6;
- (b) meet the sign standards for the relevant sign type in Table C1.6; and
- (c) not contribute to visual clutter or cause unreasonable loss of amenity to the surrounding area, having regard to:
 - (i) the size and dimensions of the sign; the size and scale of the building upon which the sign is proposed;
 - (ii) the amenity of surrounding properties;
 - (iii) the repetition of messages or information;
 - (iv) the number and density of signs on the site and on adjacent properties; and
 - (v) the impact on the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

Does Not Comply

The proposal comprises an illuminated billboard to be erected on the western corner of the lot, positioned in front of the existing building.

The detailed performance criteria assessment is as follows;

P1.2 If a roof sign, sky sign or billboard, the sign must: (a) be located within the applicable zone for the relevant sign type set out in Table C1.6;

The site is located within the Community Purpose Zone, where billboard signs are listed as an allowable sign type in accordance with Table C1.6 of the Planning Scheme.

(b) meet the sign standards for the relevant sign type in Table C1.6; and

Pursuant to Table C1.6, the sign standards require that a billboard sign have a maximum vertical dimension of 3m and a horizontal dimension of 6m. According to the submitted plans, the proposed sign comprises a digital display screen measuring 5.86m in width and 2.98m in height, supported by a freestanding structure with an overall height of 3m. As such, the proposed dimensions for the digital billboard is considered meet the relevant sign standard.

(c) not contribute to visual clutter or cause unreasonable loss of amenity to the surrounding area, having regard to:

(i) the size and dimensions of the sign;

The planning scheme defines *amenity*, in relation to a locality, place or building, as any quality, condition or factor that contributes to making the locality harmonious, pleasant or enjoyable. While the planning scheme does not define the term *unreasonable*, it has been interpreted in previous TASCAT decisions as meaning *immoderate or exorbitant*. This interpretation is applied in the assessment of the proposal. As previously discussed, the proposed illuminated LED billboard sign will have an overall dimension of approximately 5.86 m in width and 2.98 m in height. While the dimensions of the sign itself complies with the applicable limits of the code, the proposed overall elevated height with the supporting structure is considered to result in a structure of increased scale and visual prominence. The illuminated nature of the sign further increases its visibility and visual impact, particularly during night-time hours. The subject site is located within a sensitive visual setting, adjoining the River Flats Reserve, with proximity to the Tamar River and broader scenic views towards the Cataract Gorge First Basin Reserve, which is also a listed Local Heritage Place.

The immediate surrounding area also exhibits an established residential character on the opposite side of West Tamar Road, comprising dwellings with mature landscaping and characterised by a low-scale built form. In this context, the proposed sign will introduce a visually dominant element that is inconsistent with the surrounding area, specifically the streetscape, residential character, and landscape setting. The scale, height, and illumination of the sign will contribute to visual clutter and reduce the overall visual amenity of the area. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to result in an unreasonable impact on visual amenity and does not satisfy the relevant performance criteria.

(ii) the size and scale of the building upon which the sign is proposed;

Given the sign is free standing and not attached to a building, this clause is not applicable to the proposal.

(iii) the amenity of surrounding properties;

The proposed illuminated LED billboard sign is considered to have an adverse impact on the amenity of surrounding properties. The surrounding area is characterised by a mix of natural landscape interfaces and established residential development, particularly along the opposite side of West Tamar Road, where dwellings are set within mature landscaping and a low scale built form. Majority of these residential properties benefit from elevated outlooks and views towards the Tamar River, which contribute to their existing amenity. Having regard to the location and scale of the proposed sign, it is considered that the development would introduce a highly visible and dominant built form element within these view corridors, resulting in visual intrusion and a reduction in the quality of outlook currently enjoyed by these properties. The scale, height, and illuminated nature of the proposed sign would further increase its visual prominence, amplifying its presence within the landscape and surrounding residential interface. This is considered inconsistent with the existing low scale and visually cohesive character of the area. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to have an adverse impact on the amenity of surrounding residential properties and does not maintain the level of visual amenity currently enjoyed within the locality.

(iv) the repetition of messages or information;

The advertisements displayed on the billboard are proposed to change at a rate of one message every 30 seconds and are therefore expected to display different messages and information over time. Accordingly, the proposed billboard sign itself will not result in the repetition of messages at the same location.

(v) the number and density of signs on the site and on adjacent properties; and

The site currently contains two existing signs, with no additional signage on adjoining properties or within the immediate vicinity. Accordingly, the overall number and density of signs is considered reasonable and not excessive.

(vi) the impact on the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

The application was referred to the Department of State Growth as the road authority, and no objection was received. Further, the Traffic Impact Assessment submitted with the application concludes that the proposed signage will not adversely affect the safe and efficient movement of vehicles on West Tamar Road.

Accordingly, the proposal is assessed as not complying with the Performance Criteria.

A2 A sign must be not less than 2m from the boundary of any lot in the General Residential Zone, Inner Residential Zone, Low Density Residential Zone, Rural Living Zone or Landscape Conservation Zone.

Complies

The proposed sign is not located within 2 m of any of the listed zones.

A3 The number of signs for each business or tenancy on a road frontage of a building must be no more than:

- (a) 1 of each sign type, unless otherwise stated in Table C1.6;
- (b) 1 window sign for each window;

<p>(c) 3 if the street frontage is less than 20m in length; and (d) 6 if the street frontage is 20m or more, excluding the following sign types, for which there is no limit: (i) name plate; and (ii) temporary sign.</p>
<p>Complies The subject site currently contains one existing sign along the road frontage. The addition of the proposed sign will result in a total of two signs on the frontage. The proposal complies.</p>

C1.6.2 Illuminated signs

<p>That:</p> <p>(a) illuminated signs are compatible with the streetscape; (b) the cumulative impact of illuminated signs on the character of the area is managed, including the need to avoid visual disorder or clutter of signs; and (c) any potential negative impacts of illuminated signs on road safety and pedestrian movement are minimised.</p>
<p>Not Consistent The proposed illuminated billboard sign is not considered to be compatible with the existing streetscape. The impact of illuminated sign on the character of the area will not be appropriately managed and is likely to contribute to visual clutter and visual disorder inconsistent with the established character of the locality as further assessed under C1.6.2 P1 below.</p>
<p>A1 No Acceptable Solution.</p>
<p>Relies on Performance Criteria</p>
<p>P1 An illuminated sign must not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity to adjacent properties or have an unreasonable effect on the safety, appearance or efficiency of a road, and must be compatible with the streetscape, having regard to:</p> <p>(a) the location of the sign; (b) the size of the sign; (c) the intensity of the lighting; (d) the hours of operation of the sign; (e) the purpose of the sign; (f) the sensitivity of the area in terms of view corridors, the natural environment and adjacent residential amenity; (g) the intended purpose of the changing message of the sign; (h) the percentage of the sign that is illuminated with changing messages; (i) proposed dwell time; and (j) whether the sign is visible from the road and if so the proximity to and impact on an electronic traffic control device.</p>
<p>Does Not Comply Based on the assessment below, the proposed sign is considered to have an unreasonable loss of amenity to adjacent properties and not compatible with the streetscape.</p> <p>(a) the location of the sign; The sign location will be prominent within the streetscape and visible along a key transport corridor, and is expected to be visible from a distance of approximately 500 m, thereby contributing to visual clutter within the broader visual catchment. Given the prominent location of the site within a sensitive landscape and residential interface, the</p>

proposed sign is considered to adversely affect the visual cohesion and established character of the streetscape.

(b) the size of the sign;

The proposed sign is considered excessive in size for the site and its surrounding context. With an overall dimension of approximately 5.86 m in width and elevated off the ground at a height of 3m in height (the overall height of the sign including the supporting structure is 5.98m), the sign will present as a visually dominant element within the streetscape and surrounding landscape setting, contributing to visual clutter and detracting from the established character of the area.

(c) the intensity of the lighting;

(d) the hours of operation of the sign;

The proposed illuminated billboard sign is not considered to be compatible with the existing streetscape. The applicant has confirmed that the sign will operate between 6:00 am and 11:00 pm with a relatively low night-time luminance level of 2.5 lux, and in relation to the overall illumination of the signage, the information provided confirms that the illumination will be consistent with *AS/NZS 4282:2023 Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting* and the *Austrroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 13*. This is noted; however, compliance with these standards alone does not adequately address potential visual amenity or streetscape impacts.

The sign is a large scale illuminated advertising structure, with its visibility influenced by its size, elevated position, and prominent location along West Tamar Road. The extended operating hours result in prolonged daily exposure of the illuminated display, increasing its overall visual presence within the locality.

In this context, the proposed illumination, and extended operation is considered likely to increase visual prominence and introduce additional visual elements into the streetscape.

Accordingly, the impact of the illuminated sign is expected to contribute to visual clutter and is not considered compatible with the existing streetscape.

(e) the purpose of the sign;

The proposed development is an illuminated LED billboard sign intended for the display of changing commercial advertising content visible to passing traffic along West Tamar Road. The primary purpose of the sign is off-site commercial advertising, promoting goods, services, or activities unrelated to the use of the subject land.

In this context, the purpose of the sign creates a continuous and highly visible presence within the streetscape. This level of commercial advertising is not consistent with the surrounding residential interface, scenic landscape setting, and character of the area.

(f) the sensitivity of the area in terms of view corridors, the natural environment and adjacent residential amenity;

The area is considered sensitive in terms of view corridors, the natural environment, and adjacent residential amenity which also have heritage values. It includes important scenic views towards the Tamar River and Cataract Gorge precinct, as well as vegetated landscapes that contribute to the natural character of the locality. The residential properties located on the opposite side of West Tamar Road rely on views towards the Tamar River and surrounding landscape qualities to maintain their visual amenity.

In this context, the introduction of visually prominent development has the potential to

interrupt key view corridors, reduce the dominance of natural landscape elements, and introduce additional visual intrusion within a sensitive setting. This is likely to adversely affect both the streetscape and the visual amenity experienced by nearby residential properties.

(g) the intended purpose of the changing message of the sign;

The intended purpose of the changing message of the sign is to display rotating commercial advertising content directed at passing traffic along West Tamar Road. The variable digital format is designed to allow frequent changes in advertising messages in order to maximise exposure to a wide audience over time.

(h) the percentage of the sign that is illuminated with changing messages;

The proposed digital screen has an area of 16.59 m² and will be fully illuminated to display changing messages. This means the entire sign face (100%) will be illuminated with changing messages.

(i) proposed dwell time; and

The sign will display changing messages with a dwell time of 30 seconds.

(j) whether the sign is visible from the road and if so the proximity to and impact on an electronic traffic control device.

The sign is positioned with a setback of 0.1 m from the road reserve boundary, resulting in a very close interface with the roadway environment.

There are no traffic control devices in the immediate vicinity of the site and there are no direct interface impacts with such devices.

Based on the above assessment, the proposed sign is considered to result in an unreasonable loss of amenity to adjacent properties and is not compatible with the streetscape. Accordingly, the proposal is assessed as not complying with the relevant Performance Criterion.

A2 An illuminated sign visible from public places in adjacent roads must not create the effect of flashing, animation or movement, unless it is providing direction or safety information.

Complies

The billboard sign is visible from public places along the adjacent roads. However, it will not include flashing, animated, or moving effects, as it will display static images that are changed periodically.

C1.6.3 Third party sign

To:

- (a) provide for third party signs that are compatible with the streetscape and the character of the area in which it is proposed to be located;
- (b) manage the cumulative impact of third party signs on the character of an area; and
- (c) minimise any potential impact of third party signs on road safety.

Not Consistent

A1 No Acceptable Solution.

Relies on Performance Criteria

P1 A third party sign must be compatible with the natural and built environment of the surrounding area, having regard to:

- (a) the content of the sign;
- (b) the necessity for the advertisement to be in the location;
- (c) opportunities for alternative locations or other methods to achieve the intended purpose (e.g. eligibility for Tasmanian Visitor Information System (TVIS) signs); and
- (d) the likely impact on the operation and safety of a railway, road, footpath, or navigable water ; and
- (e) any advice from a State authority.

Does Not Comply

Based on the assessment below, the proposed third-party sign is considered to be incompatible with the natural and built environment of the surrounding area.

(a) the content of the sign;

The proposed sign is intended to display third-party commercial advertising content, which will consist of variable and frequently changing messages.

(b) the necessity for the advertisement to be in the location;

(c) opportunities for alternative locations or other methods to achieve the intended purpose (e.g. eligibility for Tasmanian Visitor Information System (TVIS) signs); and

The proposed advertisement is not considered necessary to be located on the subject site. While the location offers high visibility to motorists, this does not establish a functional requirement for the advertisement to be located specifically on this site, particularly given its sensitive landscape and residential interface. Accordingly, the necessity for the advertisement to be in this location is not demonstrated.

In addition, there is a similar illuminated LED billboard located at 279 Brisbane Street, Launceston, approximately 700 m from the subject site, which also faces the same traffic approaching from West Tamar Road. The presence of an existing illuminated advertising sign within the vicinity indicates that similar advertising functions can already be accommodated elsewhere. The introduction of another prominent illuminated sign in relatively close proximity is therefore not considered necessary and is not considered to be compatible with the natural and built environment of the surrounding area.

(d) the likely impact on the operation and safety of a railway, road, footpath, or navigable water ; and

The submitted Traffic Impact Assessment concludes that the proposed signage would not adversely affect the safe and efficient movement of vehicles on West Tamar Road.

(e) any advice from a State authority.

The application was referred to the Department of State Growth. No objections to the proposal were received.

Having regard to the assessment above, the proposal is assessed as not complying with the Performance Criteria.

C7.0 Natural Assets Code

The purpose of the Natural Assets Code is:

C7.1.1 To minimise impacts on water quality, natural assets including native riparian vegetation, river condition and the natural ecological function of watercourses, wetlands and lakes.

C7.1.2 To minimise impacts on coastal and foreshore assets, native littoral vegetation, natural coastal processes and the natural ecological function of the coast.

C7.1.3 To protect vulnerable coastal areas to enable natural processes to continue to occur, including the landward transgression of sand dunes, wetlands, saltmarshes and other sensitive coastal habitats due to sea-level rise.

C7.1.4 To minimise impacts on identified priority vegetation.

C7.1.5 To manage impacts on threatened fauna species by minimising clearance of significant habitat.

Consistent

C7.5.1 There are no Use Standards in this code.

C7.6.1 Buildings and works within a waterway and coastal protection area or a future coastal refugia area

That buildings and works within a waterway and coastal protection area or future coastal refugia area will not have an unnecessary or unacceptable impact on natural assets.

Consistent

A1 Buildings and works within a waterway and coastal protection area must:

- (a) be within a building area on a sealed plan approved under this planning scheme;
- (b) in relation to a Class 4 watercourse, be for a crossing or bridge not more than 5m in width; or
- (c) if within the spatial extent of tidal waters, be an extension to an existing boat ramp, car park, jetty, marina, marine farming shore facility or slipway that is not more than 20% of the area of the facility existing at the effective date.

Relies on Performance Criteria

The proposal does not satisfy any of the listed acceptable solutions. Therefore, the proposal relies on performance criteria.

P1.1 Buildings and works within a waterway and coastal protection area must avoid or minimise adverse impacts on natural assets, having regard to:

- (a) impacts caused by erosion, siltation, sedimentation and runoff;
- (b) impacts on riparian or littoral vegetation;
- (c) maintaining natural streambank and streambed condition, where it exists;
- (d) impacts on in-stream natural habitat, such as fallen logs, bank overhangs, rocks and trailing vegetation;
- (e) the need to avoid significantly impeding natural flow and drainage;
- (f) the need to maintain fish passage, where known to exist;
- (g) the need to avoid land filling of wetlands;
- (h) the need to group new facilities with existing facilities, where reasonably practical;
- (i) minimising cut and fill;
- (j) building design that responds to the particular size, shape, contours or slope of the land;
- (k) minimising impacts on coastal processes, including sand movement and wave action;
- (l) minimising the need for future works for the protection of natural assets, infrastructure and property;
- (m) the environmental best practice guidelines in the *Wetlands and Waterways Works Manual*; and

(n) the guidelines in the <i>Tasmanian Coastal Works Manual</i> .
<p>Complies</p> <p>The proposed development involves a signage structure, located within an already developed site. It does not involve works within or adjacent to waterways, wetlands, or coastal environments, and will not adverse impact on erosion, sedimentation, vegetation, natural flow regimes, or in-stream habitat. No cut or fill, land reclamation, or modification of natural drainage is proposed.</p> <p>Given its limited footprint and siting, the proposal is not expected to adversely affect natural assets and is consistent with the intent of the performance criteria.</p>

LAU-S11.0 Cataract Gorge Management Specific Area Plan

<p>The purpose of the Cataract Gorge Management Specific Area Plan is:</p> <p>LAU-S11.1.1 To protect the Cataract Gorge Reserve from incremental loss and degradation of its character and values.</p> <p>LAU-S11.1.2 To require that development within the Cataract Gorge Management Area is appropriately planned, located, designed and constructed to minimise the impact on the natural, historic, cultural, heritage, landscape and scenic character and values of the Cataract Gorge Reserve.</p>
<p>Not Consistent</p> <p>The proposal is assessed as not complying with the purpose of the SAP or the local area objectives set out for Management Unit 16, due to non-compliance with Clause S11.7.4 P2.</p>

LAU-S11.7 Development Standards for Buildings and Works

LAU-S11.7.1 Acceptable development

To protect the character and values of the Cataract Gorge Reserve
Consistent
A1 New buildings or works, excluding landscaping, fences, pergolas, dog kennels and the like, must not be located on slopes with an average slope more than 1:3.
<p>Complies</p> <p>The subject site is a relatively flat lot with an approximate average slope of 2.2%.</p>
A4 Development must be inevent on the military crest or on the face of the slope equal to the point that is 11 vertical metres below the military crest when viewed from prime viewpoints or from scenic drives.
<p>Complies</p> <p>The proposed development is not located on a military crest. The sign is located in excess of 11 vertical metres below the military crest when viewed from prime viewpoints or from scenic drives.</p>

LAU-S11.7.4 Height and bulk of buildings

That building height and building footprint are consistent with achieving the local area objectives within the management units.
Does Not Comply
A1 Building height must be not more than 6m.
<p>Complies</p> <p>The overall height of the proposed sign will be 5.98m. The proposal complies.</p>
A2 The building footprint must be not more than 250m ² .

<p>Relies on Performance Criteria</p> <p>The existing development on the site has an approximate footprint of 860 m², and the proposed sign will add approximately 6 m², resulting in a total footprint of approximately 866 m². Therefore, the proposal relies on performance criteria.</p>
<p>P2 Building footprint must be consistent with the local area objectives for the Management Unit, having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the siting of the building; (b) the size of the site; (c) the need to remove vegetation to facilitate a larger footprint; (d) the impact of a larger footprint on natural values present on the site; and (e) the visual impact of the building when viewed from prime viewpoints and scenic drives.
<p>Does Not Comply</p> <p>As outlined in the assessment below, the proposal is considered not consistent with the intent of the local area objectives set out for Management Unit 16.</p> <p>(a) the siting of the building</p> <p>The proposed sign is located in a highly visible roadside position along West Tamar Road within a sensitive landscape and residential interface. While the physical footprint is minor (approximately 6 m²), the proposal is not considered consistent with Management Unit 16 Objective (a), which seeks development of an appropriate character and scale that maintains the natural, historic, cultural, heritage, landscape, and scenic values of <u>the Gorge entry and its associated historic setting</u>. In this context, the illuminated nature of the signage, together with its prominent roadside location, results in increased visual prominence within a sensitive scenic setting. Accordingly, the proposal is considered inconsistent with the intent of the Management Unit objectives.</p> <p>(b) the size of the site</p> <p>The subject site has an approximate area of 1,424 m², and the existing building footprint is approximately 860 m², resulting in a site coverage of approximately 61%. Accordingly, the existing site coverage significantly exceeds the acceptable site coverage of 250 m². However, while the proposed signage itself has a relatively small footprint, it is considered that the additional site coverage associated with the proposal is minimal.</p> <p>(c) the need to remove vegetation to facilitate a larger footprint</p> <p>No vegetation removal is proposed to facilitate the development.</p> <p>(d) the impact of a larger footprint on natural values present on the site</p> <p>There are no identified natural values present within the subject site.</p> <p>(e) The visual impact of the building when viewed from prime viewpoints and scenic drives</p> <p>The closest prime viewpoint to the subject site is the Bridge Road Prime Viewpoint. However, given the orientation of the proposed sign, together with the existing vegetation and surrounding topography, it is not expected to result in any significant visual impact when viewed from this location.</p>

4. REFERRALS

REFERRAL	COMMENTS
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INTERNAL	
Development Services	Conditions recommended.
Environmental Health	Conditions recommended.
Heritage/Urban Design	N/A
Building and Plumbing	Standard notes recommended for the permit.
EXTERNAL	
TasWater	N/A
State Growth	N/A
TasFire	N/A
Tas Heritage Council	N/A
Crown Land	N/A
TasRail	N/A
EPA	N/A
Aurora	N/A

5. REPRESENTATIONS

Pursuant to section 57 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, the application was advertised for a 14 day period from 11 April 2026 - 27 April 2026. Two (2) representations were received. The issues raised are summarised in the following table. All representations received for this application were circulated to Councillors.

<p>Comment This billboard will significantly detrimentally impact the visual outlook from our home. The view across to the river will be significantly blocked. The reason we purchased this house as our home was because of the view of the Tamar river, and we do not want our view impacted by a large digital advertising screen. We have already lost much of the view to the growth from the trees along the river and from the addition of the second story on the rowing club, and this billboard will further erode the little view we have left.</p>
<p><i>Response</i> <i>This matter was discussed in the report under clause C1.6.1 Design and siting of signs P1.2 (iii), based on this performance criteria assessment it is considered that the proposed signage will contribute to visual clutter and reduce the overall visual amenity of the area.</i></p>
<p>Comment It is known that LED lighting is a cause of sleep disturbance. Furthermore, LED light can cause chronic health issues, migraines, headaches and eye damage, which is well documented.</p>
<p><i>Response</i> <i>There are no provisions in the planning scheme applicable to the proposal require the assessment of potential health impacts arising from the proposed development. However, having regard to the nature of the issue raised, it is considered that this matter has been appropriately addressed through the assessment of the proposal's impact on the amenity of surrounding properties, as discussed under Clause C1.6.1 - Design and Siting of Signs, Performance Criterion P1.2(c)(iii) of this report.</i></p>
<p>Comment Construction of such a large digital sign would significantly decrease the property value (by at least 10%), proven in studies due to light pollution and decreased privacy.</p>

<p><i>Response</i> <i>There are no provisions within the Planning Scheme that are applicable to the proposal requiring assessment of any potential impact on property values arising from the development.</i></p>
<p>Comment Such a large sign will be drawing the attention of motorists in an area where they are travelling already at 70km/hr in a known high accident area.</p>
<p><i>Response</i> <i>A Traffic Impact Assessment was submitted with the application, which concludes that the proposed signage would not adversely affect the safe and efficient movement of vehicles along West Tamar Road.</i></p>
<p>Comment The fore-mentioned billboard/pole sign will be constructed directly facing a heritage listed property aptly named 'The Boathouse' located at 7 West Tamar Road, which would be in direct violation of Section C1.6.4 as the outlook is inherent to the property title and streetscape, and will be clearly visible to all front facing rooms and those with a southerly outlook as well.</p>
<p><i>Response</i> <i>The subject property is not heritage listed and is not located within a heritage precinct. Accordingly, the provisions of the Heritage Code are not applicable to the proposal.</i></p>

6. CONCLUSION

Subject to the assessment against the Planning Scheme, it is considered that the proposal be recommended for refusal.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

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

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

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

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Advertised Plans - 14 West Tamar Road [11.1.1 - 42 pages]

11.2. DA0048/2026 - 19 Audrey Avenue, St Leonards - Residential - Construction of a New Dwelling and a New Crossover

FILE NO: DA0048/2026

AUTHOR: Catherine Mainsbridge (Senior Town Planner - Development)

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

DECISION STATEMENT:

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

PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applicant	Design to Live
Site	19 Audrey Avenue St Leonards
Proposal	DA0048/2026 - Residential - Construction of a new dwelling and a new crossover
Zoning	Low Density Residential
Codes	Parking and Sustainable Transport Code Road and Rail Code Safeguarding of Airports Code Landslip Hazard Zone Natural Assets Code
Use Class	Residential
Standards assessed through performance criteria	10.4.2 Building Height 10.4.3 Setback C2.6.3 Number of accesses of vehicles
Public Notification	18 March 2026 to 1 April 2026
Representations	4
Deemed Approval	29 May 2026

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

DA0163/2008.A01 - 71A Benvenue Road, St Leonards - Subdivision - Subdivide land to create 15 lots plus public open space and road (Part Class 5 Land Stability Area)
DA0346/2021 - Audrey Avenue, St Leonards - Residential - Construction of a dwelling and an outbuilding (CT169280/100)

RECOMMENDATION:

That, in accordance with sections 51 and 57 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston, a permit be granted pursuant to a delegation from Council, for DA0048/2026 Residential - Construction of a dwelling and a new crossover at 19 Audrey Avenue, St Leonards, subject to the following conditions:

1. ENDORSED PLANS & DOCUMENTS

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

- a. Cover Page, Prepared by Design to Live, Job No. DRYV14, Drawing No. 1/9, Rev R2, Dated 27/10/2026.
- b. Site Plan, Prepared by Design to Live, Job No. DRYV14, Drawing No. 2/9, Rev R2, Scale 1:200, Dated 27/10/2026.
- c. Ground Plan, Prepared by Design to Live, Job No. DRYV14, Drawing No. 3/9, Rev R2, Scale 1:100, Dated 27/10/2026.
- d. First Floor Plan, Prepared by Design to Live, Job No. DRYV14, Drawing No. 4/9, Rev R2, Scale 1:100, Dated 27/10/2026.
- e. Elevations Nth - Sth, Prepared by Design to Live, Job No. DRYV14, Drawing No. 5/9, Rev R2, Scale 1:100, Dated 27/10/2026.
- f. Elevations Est - Wst, Prepared by Design to Live, Job No. DRYV14, Drawing No. 7/9, Rev R2, Scale 1:100, Dated 27/10/2026.

2. LEGAL TITLE

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

3. HOURS OF CONSTRUCTION

- a) Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Senior Leader Health and Compliance construction activities must only be carried out between the hours of:
 - i. Monday to Friday - 7 am to 6 pm; and
 - ii. Saturday - 8 am to 6 pm.
- b) Notwithstanding the above paragraph, construction activities must not be carried out on public holidays that are observed state-wide (Easter Tuesday excepted).

4. DAMAGE TO COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSETS

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

5. WORKS WITHIN/OCCUPATION OF THE ROAD RESERVE

Prior to commencing any works in (or requiring the occupation of) the Road Reserve the applicant must receive written authorisation from the Road Asset Owner within the City of Launceston.

This includes but is not limited to occupying space with skip bins, construction equipment, hoarding, scaffolding, the use of machinery and facilitating service connections. Any implementation of temporary traffic controls will also require written approval.

6. SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

7. CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALLS

All retaining walls, above (1.5 m), located within 1.5 metres of the property boundaries are to be designed and certified by a suitably qualified person. The design must have regard to the installation of fencing atop the retaining wall and other imposed loading in addition to site conditions on adjoining properties.

8. AMENITY

The construction of the development permitted by this permit must not adversely affect the amenity of the site and the locality by reason of the processes carried on; the transportation of materials, goods or commodities to or from the subject land; the appearance of any buildings, works or materials; the emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit or oil; the presence of vermin, or otherwise.

9. NO BURNING OF WASTE

No burning of any waste materials, including removed vegetation, generated by the development to be undertaken on-site. Any such waste materials are to be removed to a licensed waste disposal facility (e.g. Launceston Waste Centre), reclaimed or recycled.

10. BUILDING ACT 2016 REQUIREMENTS

Prior to acting on this permit, it is recommended that an architect, a licensed building practitioner such as a building surveyor or a building designer be consulted to determine the requirements for any associated building, plumbing or demolition work under the Building Act 2016.

Notes

A. General

This permit was issued based on the proposal documents submitted for DA0048/2026. You should contact Council with any other use or developments, as they may require the separate approval of Council. Council's planning staff can be contacted on 03 6323 3000.

This permit takes effect after:

- a. The 14 day appeal period expires; or*
- b. Any appeal to the Tasmanian Civil & Administrative Appeal Tribunal (TASCAT) is withdrawn or determined; or*

- c. Any agreement that is required by this permit pursuant to Part V of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 is executed; or
- d. Any other required approvals under this or any other Act are granted.

The permit lapses after a period of two (2) years if the development or use has not substantially commenced within that period. An extension may be granted subject to the provisions of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 as amended, by request to Council.

B. Restrictive Covenants

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

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

C. Appeal Provisions

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

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

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

D. Permit Commencement.

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

E. Fixed Equipment Use

Use of fixed equipment (e.g. heat pumps, water pumps, swimming pool pumps) is subject to the Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Noise) Regulations 2016 or any subsequent versions of this regulation.

REPORT:

1. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is for a single dwelling at 19 Audrey Avenue, St Leonards. The lot is currently vacant and the site falls away from the north eastern front corner to the rear south western corner. The proposed dwelling has been designed in response to the terrain, with the dwelling being partially two storey. The lower level, which will be accessed by the existing crossover at the southern end of the frontage, is proposed with a two car garage with store area, fifth bedroom with ensuite, laundry and gym. The upper level, aligns with a proposed second crossover to the northern end of the frontage, is

proposed with a master bedroom suite, a guest bedroom with ensuite, three bedrooms, a bathroom, playroom, study, formal lounge room, formal dining room and open plan kitchen, dining and living room. The latter two rooms have direct access onto an alfresco/outdoor kitchen area.

Construction will primarily be of brick veneer, parts retained with facebrick finish, other sections are rendered and painted. Part of the upper level will be clad in lightweight sheeting, rendered and painted. The pitched roof will be clad in Structuur Nailstrip sheeting.

2. LOCATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER



19 Audrey Avenue, St Leonards (not to scale)

The site is located in a developing residential area on the eastern fringe of St Leonards and the city's urban area. The area generally rises to the east but is also undulating in the immediate vicinity.

Development is principally of single dwellings on larger sites. Land surrounding the subdivision in which the lot is located is predominately zoned General Residential, with the exception of land higher on the hillside, which is zoned Rural, and land along the Abels Hill Road frontage, which is zoned Rural Living.

The subdivision is bound by private covenants limiting development to one dwelling, no strata titling and no community type housing.

3. PLANNING SCHEME REQUIREMENTS

The assessment against the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston is detailed in Attachment 1. The following section provides an assessment of the application's discretionary components:

3.1 Zone Purpose

10.0 Low Density Residential Zone

The purpose of the Low Density Residential Zone is:

10.0.1 To provide for residential use and development in residential areas where there are infrastructure or environmental constraints that limit the density, location or form of development.

10.0.2 To provide for non-residential use that does not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity, through scale, intensity, noise, traffic generation and movement, or other off site impacts.

10.0.3 To provide for Visitor Accommodation that is compatible with residential character.

Consistent

The proposed dwelling is consistent with the zone purpose by providing a residential use and development in a serviced area.

10.4.2 Building height

That the height of dwellings is compatible with the streetscape and do not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity for adjoining properties.

Consistent

The height of the dwelling is appropriate within the streetscape and will not impact on the amenity of the area.

A1 A dwelling must have a building height not more than 8.5m.

Relies on Performance Criteria

The maximum height of the dwelling is 10.4m, this being the height to the top of the ridge of the roof from natural ground level for part of the southern portion of the dwelling. The performance criteria must be addressed.

P1 The height of dwellings must be compatible with the streetscape and not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity to adjoining properties having regard to:

- (a) the topography of the site;
- (b) the height of buildings on the site and adjacent properties;
- (c) the bulk and form of existing and proposed buildings;
- (d) sunlight to habitable rooms and private open space of dwellings; and
- (e) any overshadowing of adjoining properties.

Complies

The performance criteria requires the dwelling to be compatible with the streetscape and not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity to adjoining properties. The adjoining properties being considered under this performance criteria are 17 and 21 Audrey Avenue, with number 17 being a vacant lot.

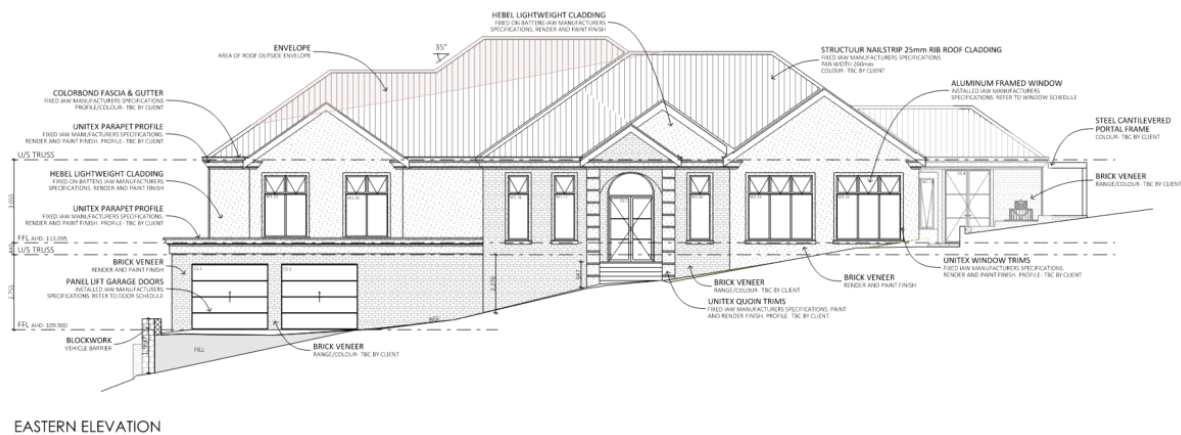
(a) the topography of the site;

The site slopes to the south-west and also falls across the frontage. The dwelling responds to this topography by presenting as a single-storey form at the northern side of the site, where the main and upper floor levels begin. From that point, the building steps down with the land and becomes two storeys.

(b) the height of buildings on the site and adjacent properties;

Other properties in the street include single storey, partly two storey and two storey dwellings. Dwellings at 16, 21 and 22 Audrey Avenue are all at least partly two storey. As a result of the terrain the floor level of the upper floor is lower than the dwellings on the higher side of the street. The dwelling has a finished floor level of 113.09m AHD in comparison to dwellings on the opposite side of the road which have finished floor levels ranging from 116m AHD to 120m AHD. The adjoining property at 21 Audrey Avenue has a

finished floor level of approximately 118m AHD which is also higher than the proposal. Therefore, the building is not considered to be incompatible with the streetscape.



(c) the bulk and form of existing and proposed buildings;

The dwelling is similar to other dwellings in the street and vicinity. The proposed building height is a result of the height of the ridge of the roof and the encroachment is only for approximately a third of the section of the roof at the southern side of the property as shown above. It is not considered to have any impact on the amenity of adjoining properties given its position on the lower side of the street and the irregularity in form, size, orientation and topography of the other lots size in the street.

The subject site is currently vacant. Surrounding properties of number 17, 18, 19 and 20 are also yet to be developed. Existing buildings in the vicinity of Audrey Avenue and Tenzing Drive, between Abels Hill Road and Benvenue Road have a range of sizes and configurations responding to the lot sizes, topography and designs configurations. There are single storey, partly two storey or three storey. Some have pitched roofs, others are skillion. The dwelling under construction at 23 Audrey Avenue has delineated gables as proposed for the subject dwelling. While the proposed dwelling is relatively large it is not considered to be inappropriate in the mixed character area.

(d) sunlight to habitable rooms and private open space of dwellings; and

(e) any overshadowing of adjoining properties.

The proposal will not overshadow any habitable rooms or private space of an adjoining property. The dwelling would be setback 11m from 17 Audrey Avenue to the rear south western boundary and adjoins two driveways to the south eastern side of 15 and 17 Audrey Avenue.

While the dwelling exceeds the height limit of the acceptable solution, the upper floor level will sit lower than the adjoining dwelling at 21 Audrey Avenue and lower than dwellings on the opposite side of the road. As a result, the overall height and scale and form of the development will not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity to adjoining properties and is considered to be compatible with the existing streetscape character.

The proposal meets the performance criteria.

10.4.3 Setback

<p>That the siting of dwellings is compatible with the streetscape and does not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity for adjoining properties.</p>
<p>Consistent The dwelling is appropriately sited to be compatible with the streetscape and to not cause a loss of amenity to adjoining properties. Note, adjoining properties are those <i>next to or having a common boundary with</i>.</p>
<p>A1 Dwellings, excluding protrusions that extend not more than 0.9m into the frontage setback, must have a setback from a frontage not less than 8m.</p>
<p>Relies on Performance Criteria Part of the single storey section at the northern side of the site has a setback from the street of only 7.2m and must be considered against the performance criteria.</p>
<p>P1 The siting of a dwelling must be compatible with the streetscape and character of development existing on established properties in the area, having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the topography of the site;(b) the setbacks of surrounding buildings;(c) the height, bulk and form of existing and proposed buildings;(d) the appearance when viewed from roads and public open space adjacent to the site; <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(e) the safety of road users.
<p>Complies The siting of a dwelling is considered to be compatible with the streetscape and mixed character of development in the area. Regard is given to the following:</p> <p>(a) the topography of the site; The site is steep across the frontage and to the south west of the site. As the site also has irregular shape the siting of the dwelling is also more restricted. The northern front corner of the site is narrower and more level. A variation of 800mm to the frontage allows for a greater eastern side setback to be provided. As the setback increases across the frontage impact on the streetscape is reduced.</p> <p>(b) the setbacks of surrounding buildings; Setbacks in the street vary. Number 12 is setback 6m, number 14 is setback 10m, dwellings at number 21 and 22 are setback approximately 8m with other dwellings having a greater setback including number 23 which is currently being constructed. This is in part because the street is irregular in its path of travel, undulating through its depth and variety of lot configurations. Therefore, there is no 'established' setback in the street and the proposed setback is not inconsistent with other setbacks.</p> <p>(c) the height, bulk and form of existing and proposed buildings; Surrounding properties of number 17, 18, 19 and 20 are yet to be developed. Existing buildings in the vicinity of Audrey Avenue and Tenzing Drive, between Abels Hill Road and Benvenue Road have a range of sizes and configurations responding to the lot sizes and configurations. There are single storey, partly two storey or three storey. Some have pitched roofs, others are skillion. The dwelling under construction at 23 Audrey Avenue has delineated gables as proposed for the subject dwelling. While the proposed dwelling is relatively large it is not considered to be inappropriate in the mixed character area.</p> <p>(d) the appearance when viewed from roads and public open space adjacent to the site; and</p>

Following the points mentioned in (b) and (c) characteristics of the site have influenced the design of homes in the area including the subject property. The proposed design breaks down the building form into segments rather than proposing a bulk form of building with a single ridge roof line. The site is located at a lower point within the street and on the outer edge of a bend to result in the site being viewed from differing perspectives.

(e) the safety of road users.

The proposed variation in the setback should not impact the safety of the road. The site has a wide frontage and suitable sight lines to view oncoming traffic.

The proposed variation to the northern frontage setback is considered to be compatible with the streetscape given the variety of scale, forms, setbacks and street alignment. The performance criteria are met.

A2 Dwellings, excluding outbuildings with a building height of not more than 2.4m and protrusions that extend not more than 0.9m horizontally from the building, must have a setback from side and rear boundaries of not less than 5m.

Relies on Performance Criteria

The dwelling is only parallel to the front boundary with other elevations angled away from the side and rear boundaries. A setback of 11.07m is proposed from the rear setback to meet the acceptable solution but side setbacks are only 3m to the south western boundary and of 3.2m to the north east requiring consideration of the performance criteria.

Complies

The siting of a dwelling must not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity to adjoining properties at 17 and 21 Audrey Avenue and regard has been given to the following for the proposal.

(a) the topography of the site;

(b) the size, shape and orientation of the site;

The site falls away to the south west which is also the position of the dwelling. This plus *the size, shape and orientation of the site* limits the development potential of the site.

(c) the setbacks of surrounding buildings;

Development of the lots in the area is ongoing with setbacks of the developed lots diverse given *the size, shape and orientation* of lots in the vicinity. The adjoining dwelling at number 21 is setback approximately 8m from boundary and has a driveway adjoining the common boundary.

(d) the height, bulk and form of existing and proposed buildings;

Only 21 Audrey Avenue, of the three adjoining sites, is developed and this with a part two storey dwelling, which is similar to the proposal. The overall height is up to a maximum of 10.4m but only in the central portion and is a result of the pitch of the proposed multi gable roof form.

(e) the existing buildings and private open space areas on the site;

The site is currently vacant. Following the development and area of 433m² will be retained at the rear of the dwellings as private open space.

(f) sunlight to private open space and windows of habitable rooms on adjoining properties; and

The proposal is southeast of the neighbouring dwelling and should not cause an unreasonable impact.

(g) the character of development existing on established properties in the area.

Dwellings in the wider area have a range of size and configurations upon a varied shaped lots. Therefore, there is limited uniformity or 'established' setbacks in the area.

The proposal should not result in unreasonable impact on amenity of adjoining properties and the performance criteria are met.

Consistent

The site coverage is similar to other properties in the area with sufficient area for open space and landscaping.

A1 Dwellings must have a site coverage of not more than 30%.

Complies

The proposed roof cover will be 427.05m² which is 24.9% of the 1710m² lot to comply with A1.

C2.0 Parking and Sustainable Transport Code

The purpose of the Parking and Sustainable Transport Code is:

C2.1.1 To ensure that an appropriate level of parking facilities is provided to service use and development.

C2.1.2 To ensure that cycling, walking and public transport are encouraged as a means of transport in urban areas.

C2.1.3 To ensure that access for pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists is safe and adequate.

C2.1.4 To ensure that parking does not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity to the surrounding area.

C2.1.5 To ensure that parking spaces and accesses meet appropriate standards.

C2.1.6 To provide for parking precincts and pedestrian priority streets.

Consistent

Car parking is appropriate for the use and development proposed for a site.

C2.5.1 Car parking numbers

That an appropriate level of car parking spaces are provided to meet the needs of the use

Consistent

An appropriate level of car parking will be provided on site for future residents.

A1 The number of on-site car parking spaces must be no less than the number specified in Table C2.1, less the number of car parking spaces that cannot be provided due to the site including container refund scheme space, excluding if:

- (a) the site is subject to a parking plan for the area adopted by council, in which case parking provision (spaces or cash-in-lieu) must be in accordance with that plan;
- (b) the site is contained within a parking precinct plan and subject to Clause C2.7;
- (c) the site is subject to Clause C2.5.5; or
- (d) it relates to an intensification of an existing use or development or a change of use where:
 - (i) the number of on-site car parking spaces for the existing use or development specified in Table C2.1 is greater than the number of car parking spaces specified in Table C2.1 for the proposed use or development, in which case no additional on-site car parking is required; or
 - (ii) the number of on-site car parking spaces for the existing use or development specified in Table C2.1 is less than the number of car parking spaces specified

in Table C2.1 for the proposed use or development, in which case on-site car parking must be calculated as follows:

$$N = A + (C - B)$$

N = Number of on-site car parking spaces required

A = Number of existing on site car parking spaces

B = Number of on-site car parking spaces required for the existing use or development specified in Table C2.1

C = Number of on-site car parking spaces required for the proposed use or development specified in Table C2.1.

Complies

Table C2.1 requires a dwelling in the Low Density Residential zone to have 1 space per bedroom or 2 spaces per 3 bedrooms. The dwelling has five bedrooms and therefore requires four car spaces. Two spaces are provided in the garage with a further two spaces in the driveway either in tandem to the garage and in the circular driveway in front of the dwelling.

C2.5.2 Bicycle parking numbers

That an appropriate level of bicycle parking spaces are provided to meet the needs of the use.

Consistent

Bicycle parking can be provided on site.

A1 Bicycle parking spaces must:

- (a) be provided on the site or within 50m of the site; and
- (b) be no less than the number specified in Table C2.1.

Complies

Table C2.1 does not require residential development of single dwellings in the Low Density Residential zone to provide bicycle parking.

C2.6.1 Construction of parking areas

That parking areas are constructed to an appropriate standard.

Consistent

Parking areas will be appropriately constructed.

A1 All parking, access ways, manoeuvring and circulation spaces must:

- (a) be constructed with a durable all weather pavement;
- (b) be drained to the public stormwater system, or contain stormwater on the site; and
- (c) excluding all uses in the Rural Zone, Agriculture Zone, Landscape Conservation Zone, Environmental Management Zone, Recreation Zone and Open Space Zone, be surfaced by a spray seal, asphalt, concrete, pavers or equivalent material to restrict abrasion from traffic and minimise entry of water to the pavement.

Complies

The carparking spaces and driveway will be sealed with concrete, and drained to the public stormwater system and regulated at the stage of building approval.

C2.6.2 Design and layout of parking areas

That parking areas are designed and laid out to provide convenient, safe and efficient parking.

Consistent

The design and layout will provide safe, convenient and efficient parking.

A1.1 Parking, access ways, manoeuvring and circulation spaces must either:

- (a) comply with the following:

- (i) have a gradient in accordance with *Australian Standard AS 2890 - Parking facilities, Parts 1-6*;
 - (ii) provide for vehicles to enter and exit the site in a forward direction where providing for more than 4 parking spaces;
 - (iii) have an access width not less than the requirements in Table C2.2;
 - (iv) have car parking space dimensions which satisfy the requirements in Table C2.3;
 - (v) have a combined access and manoeuvring width adjacent to parking spaces not less than the requirements in Table C2.3 where there are 3 or more car parking spaces;
 - (vi) have a vertical clearance of not less than 2.1m above the parking surface level; and
 - (vii) excluding a single dwelling, be delineated by line marking or other clear physical means; or
- (b) comply with *Australian Standard AS 2890-Parking facilities, Parts 1-6*.

Complies

The parking design and layout meets (a). Spaces will be level and within the garage. The drive section across the front of the site is approximately 1:5 and meets the Australian Standards. On site turning is not necessary for four vehicles Both crossover are 3.6m wide to meet C2.2 and the internal dimensions of the garage will allow car parking dimensions of at least 2.4m x 5.5m to satisfy C2.3. The floor to ceiling height is 2.75m.

C2.6.3 Number of accesses for vehicles

That:

- (a) access to land is provided which is safe and efficient for users of the land and all road network users, including but not limited to drivers, passengers, pedestrians and cyclists by minimising the number of vehicle accesses;
- (b) accesses do not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity of adjoining uses; and
- (c) the number of accesses minimise impacts on the streetscape.

Consistent

Access to the site will be safe and convenient.

A1 The number of accesses provided for each frontage must:

- (a) be no more than 1; or
- (b) no more than the existing number of accesses, whichever is the greater.

Relies on Performance Criteria

A second access point is proposed requiring consideration of the performance criteria.

P1 The number of accesses for each frontage must be minimised, having regard to:

- (a) any loss of on-street parking; and
- (b) pedestrian safety and amenity;
- (c) traffic safety;
- (d) residential amenity on adjoining land; and
- (e) the impact on the streetscape.

Complies

The proposed second crossover is within the properties 49.1m wide frontage and while an on street parking space may be lost additional parking is provided within the proposed extended driveway. There is no footpath along the frontage of the subject site, and therefore, pedestrian safety will not be compromised.

Traffic safety should not be compromised and has been approved by the road authority. The second crossover is midway across the frontage and well clear of adjoining properties and the crossover should not have a negative impact on the streetscape.

The performance criteria are met.

C3.0 Road and Railway Assets Code

The purpose of the Road and Railway Assets Code is:

C3.1.1 To protect the safety and efficiency of the road and railway networks; and

C3.1.2 To reduce conflicts between sensitive uses and major roads and the rail network.

Consistent

The proposal will not impact on the safety and efficiency of the road network.

C3.5.1 Traffic generation at a vehicle crossing, level crossing or new junction

To minimise any adverse effects on the safety and efficiency of the road or rail network from vehicular traffic generated from the site at an existing or new vehicle crossing or level crossing or new junction.

Consistent

The proposal will have a minimal impact on the road network.

A1.2 For a road, excluding a category 1 road or a limited access road, written consent for a new junction, vehicle crossing, or level crossing to serve the use and development has been issued by the road authority.

Relies on Performance Criteria

The application seeks a second access and relies on the performance criteria.

A1.4 Vehicular traffic to and from the site, using an existing vehicle crossing or private level crossing, will not increase by more than:

- (a) the amounts in Table C3.1; or
- (b) allowed by a licence issued under Part IVA of the *Roads and Jetties Act 1935* in respect to a limited access road.

Complies

The second crossover is only to serve the single dwelling proposed in compliance with (a).

P1 Vehicular traffic to and from the site must minimise any adverse effects on the safety of a junction, vehicle crossing or level crossing or safety or efficiency of the road or rail network, having regard to:

- (a) any increase in traffic caused by the use;
- (b) the nature of the traffic generated by the use;
- (c) the nature of the road;
- (d) the speed limit and traffic flow of the road;
- (e) any alternative access to a road;
- (f) the need for the use;
- (g) any traffic impact assessment; and
- (h) any advice received from the rail or road authority.

Complies

The second crossover is only to serve the proposed single dwelling and should not impact on the safety or efficiency of the road. Regard is given to the following:

- (a) *any increase in traffic caused by the use;*

The second crossover is to serve the proposed dwelling, a dwelling generating approximately 10 vehicle movements per day.

- (b) *the nature of the traffic generated by the use;*

The traffic is for residential purposes and vehicles will be of a domestic scale with it

linking Abels Hill Road to Benvenue Road.

(c) *the nature of the road;*

Audrey Avenue has the status of a local road.

(d) *the speed limit and traffic flow of the road;*

The speed limit of local streets is 50km/hr which serves local domestic vehicles.

(e) *any alternative access to a road;*

The dwelling has an existing crossover to the south end of the frontage also to Audrey Avenue.

(f) *the need for the use;*

The residential use of the site has a 'no permit required status'.

(g) *any traffic impact assessment; and*

An traffic impact assessment was not considered necessary.

(h) *any advice received from the rail or road authority.*

The road authority has granted approval for the crossover.

The proposed second crossover for the dwelling should not cause extra ordinary traffic movements which will cause a traffic hazard in the street. The performance criteria are met.

4. REFERRALS

REFERRAL	COMMENTS
INTERNAL	
Development Services	Conditions recommended.
Environmental Health	Conditions recommended.
Heritage/Urban Design	N/A
Building and Plumbing	Standard notes recommended for the permit.
EXTERNAL	
TasWater	The application was not referred to TasWater
State Growth	N/A
TasFire	N/A
Tas Heritage Council	N/A
Crown Land	N/A
TasRail	N/A
EPA	N/A
Aurora	N/A

5. REPRESENTATIONS

Pursuant to section 57 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, the application was advertised for a 14 day period from 18 March 2026 to 1 April 2026. Four representations were received. The issues raised are summarised in the following table. All representations received for this application were circulated to Councillors confidentially.

Comment The pitch of the roof and therefore height of the development has not been appropriately addressed in respect to the impact it may cause and should be reduced.
Response

The performance criteria requires consideration as to the compatibility of dwellings within the streetscape and impact on adjoining properties. As the dwelling is proposed on the lower side of the street, upon an irregular shaped lot and within an undulating street with a variety of house designs, it is not considered to be incompatible, especially as there is not a predetermined street character. The building has been designed to the terrain with the upper level occupying the main and total footprint based off street level at the northern side of the lot and a lower floor level to the south evolving due to the fall of the site. The maximum height is midway through the width of the site, internal to the outer walls. Given the heights are a result of the roof pitch, it has been considered that the proposal should not impact on the amenity of the adjoining dwellings, being those with a common boundary to the subject site.

Comment

The proposal will impact on views and sense of openness for neighbouring dwellings.

Response

The extent of encroachment beyond the height envelope is limited to the ridge of the roof in the centre of the southern portion of the dwelling. The extent of encroachment increases towards the south where the site falls away and is filled up to 2m to provide a level platform for the lower floor. The block is also an unusual shape with a wide frontage to challenge the design solution but the design is not considered to be a major impact on the streetscape particularly given the irregular street alignment and variety of lot characteristics in the vicinity. The irregularity of the street allows a more open streetscape in contrast to a straight street with buildings constructed with the same setback.

Comment

The cumulative impact of increased building heights within the area risks undermining the established character of a Low Density Residential zone.

Response

As discussed above the height encroachment is only for a portion of the ridge of the roof for the southern 1/3 of the dwelling. In respect of the zone, the character of the zone is mainly determined by the density of development, the lot size and site cover not building height.

Comment

While the proposal suggests overshadowing impacts are minimal, this does not account for the broader amenity impacts, including visual bulk, outlook, and the loss of views, all of which are important considerations for neighbouring residents.

Response

The impacts of the dwelling are acceptable when considered against the necessary provisions of the scheme identified in clause 10.4.2 Building Height and 10.4.3. Setback. Comments raise concern of potential shadowing of adjoining properties at 15 and 17 Audrey Avenue. The dwelling is sited on an angle to the common boundary with 17 Audrey Avenue and is setback a minimum of 11m. 15 Audrey Avenue is a park on the far western side of 17 Audrey Avenue with a separation of at least 60m.

6. CONCLUSION

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

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

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

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

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

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. DA0048/2026 - 19 Audrey Avenue St Leonards - Planning Scheme Assessment [11.2.1 - 8 pages]
2. DA0048/2026 - 19 Audrey Avenue St Leonards - Plans to be Endorsed [11.2.2 - 6 pages]

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 Councillors - Councillor Tim Walker - Traffic Projects in the Vicinity of the Launceston General Hospital - 14 May 2026

FILE NO: SF2375

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

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 14 May 2026 by Councillor Tim Walker, has been answered by the Team Leader Engineering.

Question 1:

In relation to the current works outside Launceston General Hospital and the associated traffic disruptions, is that work being funded by the State Government or does Council contribute to the cost? I understand there are traffic lights being installed in Howick Street and Mulgrave Street, as well as occupation of the road space by the State Government or Department of Health.

Response:

The civil works over the 2 sites at the Launceston General Hospital are to facilitate the new multistorey carpark development within the main LGH city block. The carpark development will provide an additional 470 parking spaces within the LGH precinct.

To facilitate the build, the existing carpark has been closed and a temporary carpark provided off the Howick/ Mulgrave intersection.

All works including the new traffic lights are fully funded by the Department of Health and not the City of Launceston.

Council officers are informed of the works and approved Road Occupation Permits are in place.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

14.2. Questions Without Notice by Councillors

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 34

15. WRITTEN NOTICES OF MOTION

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - regulation 19

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

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committee Reports have been identified as part of this Agenda

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

17.1. Quarterly Report - Connections and Liveability (January to March 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 January 2026 and 31 March 2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the Connections and Liveability Team Quarterly Report for the period 1 January 2026 and 31 March 2026.

REPORT:

COMMUNITY PLACE AND WELLBEING

Leisure and Aquatic Centre

Learn to Swim

The Adult Learn to Swim program was increased over the period, increasing from a capacity of 45 students to 60 students.

Recruitment of new instructors has allowed the addition of additional classes. This has enabled enrolments to remain open over the holiday period, significantly reducing waitlists.

LAFit

There were 1,318 active members at the end of the quarter, with 1,559 unique members attending the period. An additional 120 new members were welcomed, and 95 renewals were supported, reflecting strong ongoing community engagement.

The group fitness timetable has continued to evolve in response to demand. New additions included a Falls Prevention class and a Tabata class, while ongoing reviews have ensured classes align with participation benchmarks and remain sustainable.

Capital investment included the purchase of new treadmills to replace ageing equipment. Overall, the quarter reflects a stable membership base, strong participation, and continued investment in both staff and facilities.

Operations

Stage 1 of Community Energy Upgrade Grant project has been completed with complete replacement of VSD's and motors on all pools. Initial reporting is showing higher than anticipated efficiencies.

The outdoor waterslide has been deconstructed, with support structures to be refabricated during the off season. A new fibreglass slide has been ordered, with expected installation prior to the 2026/2027 Summer season.

Lilydale Pool 25/26 summer season

- 2,317 total admissions
- Busiest day was 21 February 26 with 90 visitors
- 59 visitors was the most amount we had at the pool at any one time
- Toddler Pool was recoated with a soft fall surface

The Lilydale, Basin and outdoor pools are now closed for Winter.

Customer Service & Facility Hire

Carnival season saw us host four Swimming Tasmania meets, 14 school carnivals and two combined High School representative carnivals. Approximately 5,000 students attended for their school carnivals.

There were a total of 95 children's birthday parties held over the period with 65 bookings in the indoor party spaces and 30 in the outdoor space. These parties contributed approximately 2,000 additional patrons to the centre during the period.

Carr Villa Memorial Park

During the past quarter, the Carr Villa Memorial Park (Carr Villa) team delivered 43 burial services and 108 cremations, while also facilitating the placement of more than 65 sets of ashes. The Client Services Team provided direct support to more than 65 families, assisting with the purchase of 78 ash placement locations and 17 pre-purchased Rights of Burial. In addition, the team coordinated the design and installation of 112 memorial bronze plaques. This activity contributed to a strong financial outcome for the quarter, with revenue performance exceeding targets by 5%.

Client and visitor engagement at Carr Villa Memorial Park remains strong, demonstrating ongoing community connection to the site. Over the reporting period, the park welcomed more than 22,000 visitors, reinforcing its dual role as both a place of remembrance and a valued public open space. This connection was further highlighted through the Historical Guided Walking Tour held in February, delivered in conjunction with Marion Sargent from the Launceston Historical Society, which attracted more than 70 attendees and reflects Carr Villa's significance not only as a place of remembrance, but also as an important historical site supporting community connection to the stories, people, and heritage of the region.

Community Wellbeing

Aboriginal Community Engagement

Development of an Aboriginal community engagement framework for the Heritage Interpretation Project has continued. This project will inform the development of an engagement framework for the organisation.

Arts & Culture Grants

Mudlark Theatre Company have completed their supported project and submitted acquittal documentation, clearly showing the benefit to community when projects like theirs are funded and supported by local government. The three remaining projects are underway.

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 meets three times a year at The UTAS Shed and discuss current work and potential project collaboration, with an emphasis on asset-based community development.

Waverley Wonders

Waverley Wonders is a group of young people who are curious about where they live and they want to make their place even better. Waverley Wonders come together to discover the things they love and work on projects to help people. They learn about what's strong, not what's wrong in our community. Activities include on-site projects, incursions, excursions and helping run school events. The program creates a supportive space where students can grow socially, emotionally and physically.

Waverley Walking Group

A Waverley resident, with support from the Community Connector, invited the broader Waverley community to meet, connect socially and improve their health by going for a short walk around the suburb each week. A small number of participants met weekly over six weeks, however, the walk ended due to low participation.

My Place My Future

The Community Development Officer Northern Suburbs continues to:

- Co-facilitate monthly Community Action Groups for Faraday Connect (Waverley/Ravenswood), Community Together 7248 (Newnham/Mowbray), and Rocherlea Action Project (Rocherlea/Mayfield) during January - March 2026.
- Facilitate the Digital Inclusion Working Group, which is progressing through bi-monthly meetings
- Facilitate the Road Safety Working Group, which is progressing through bi-monthly meetings

Collaborative events and projects in the Northern Suburbs included:

- Attending the *Business Tasmania* Digital Event and Launch of new website on 23 February 2026
- Seed Library launch at Starting Point Neighbourhood House on 16 March 2026
- The Community Champions program of capacity-building workshops continued with the Health Funding workshop held on 18 March 2026
- Supporting the FaRM Project in collaboration with TasWater to secure the establishment of a water connection at 18-26 Brussels Street, Mowbray.

Employment Engagement

The Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC) continued to support youth employment pathways, contributing to the Transition to Work program with a focus on budgeting and independent living skills. A key outcome was the development of a youth-led "Transition to Work Cookbook," with recipes now being utilised through the RTO training café *Another Wild Thyme*, reinforcing practical, hands-on learning.

In March 2026, NYCC supported delivery of Troublesmiths workshops at St Luke's, building young people's resilience, problem-solving skills and employment readiness.

Youth Activation

The re-opening of the Royal Park Skate Park was a key highlight, attracting strong attendance and supporting youth connection through active recreation. The event also featured live murals by five local artists, including two young people, providing a valuable professional development opportunity. [Re-cap video](#)

Shaping Policy

Council supported youth participation in statewide policy and advocacy initiatives. In February 2026, participation in work led by Youth Network of Tasmania contributed to the development of the Child and Youth Participation and Empowerment Guide for Department of Children and Young People.

Council also supported Youth Advisory Group members to participate in the Tasmanian Youth Forum hosted by Youth Network of Tasmania, providing 1:1 engagement opportunities to ensure inclusive input. The Mayor supported the forum in a facilitation role alongside Northern Tasmanian young people at the event.

Community Place

Recreation and Sport

Transition of the operation of the Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association (NTCA) Sports Complex to the City of Launceston has progressed, including Council management of facility bookings.

- The Active Launceston program continued delivery gentle exercise, yoga and Tai Chi sessions
- Inclusive Play Guidelines have been developed for the City of Launceston. The guidelines establish a framework for inclusive play across Launceston's parks and open spaces and provide clear actions to improve accessibility, participation and enjoyment for children, carers and families of all abilities, through targeted upgrades and design approaches. The guidelines include:
 - Design Guidelines for use by City of Launceston Planning Officers and Landscape Architects; and
 - An Inclusive Play Audit Checklist for Public Open Space
- A Communication Board, designed by parents and carers with lived experience, the City of Launceston and Variety, will be installed at Riverbend during the week commencing 11 May. A Communication Board is a visual tool installed within a playground or public space that assists children and adults to communicate using symbols, pictures, words, letters, numbers and tactile elements. It is designed to support people who may be non-speaking, minimally speaking, autistic, have an intellectual disability, speech delays, acquired brain injuries, hearing impairments or

other communication differences. The board will include braille and the working group is planning a small event to celebrate the installation.

- Inclusive play high-back swings have been ordered for installation at Heritage Forest and Newstead Reserve
- Sports Ground Bookings - This quarter was the first in which the Bookable online booking platform was utilised for sports ground bookings. Across the six Council managed facilities, booking hours equated to 3,507.

Capital Projects

Punchbowl Play Space

Renewal works continue to progress, with demolition completed and installation of new equipment and landscaping underway. The Flying Fox, as part of Stage 2, has been ordered and will be installed alongside associated landscaping works following completion of Stage 1. Stage 1 is expected to be completed by the end of May.

City Park Play Space

The train 'Hutch' has been removed by Don River Railway and relocated to allow restoration into a fully functioning locomotive. Negotiations with the successful contractor for the play space redevelopment are underway, with project commencement to be advised.

Royal Park Viewing Deck

As part of investigations to inform the design of the new viewing deck, geotechnical works have been completed to determine subsurface conditions. This information will support finalisation of the deck design.

Hoblers Bridge Netball Court Renewal - Stage 2

The tender period for this project has been extended to allow contractors sufficient time to fully cost recent design amendments.

West Tamar Trail

Sealing of the northern section of the trail is scheduled for the coming weeks. Wayfinding signage has now been installed, and the trail is expected to re-open to the public once sealing works are completed.

Open Space

- Canopees have been installed at QVMAG, representing the first installation of a canopee by a local provider in Australia
- Power supply to the Seaport sign has been installed following approval from the Launceston Flood Authority
- Fabrication of the illuminated Seaport sign is underway
- Renewal of the Princes Square gates is underway
- A new picnic table has been installed at the Hargrave Crescent Reserve

Formalisation of Strategic Partnerships (Tamar NRM and TasTAFE)

Memorandums of Understanding with Tamar NRM and TasTAFE have been finalised to support co-ordinated community engagement and practical training opportunities within Council-managed reserves. These partnerships establish clear governance frameworks,

improve volunteer co-ordination and enhance environmental outcomes through shared responsibility and structured on-ground activities.

Cataract Gorge Security

The contract for security services at Cataract Gorge has been awarded. The engagement will commence at the beginning of the new financial year and will include opening and closing of the inclinator, as well as provision of static guards on-site during the Basin Pool operational period.

Delivery of Event Approvals and Technical Oversight

Technical assessment and approval were provided for 24 events across Council parks and reserves, ensuring compliance with Council requirements and protection of park assets.

This included review of site plans, traffic management and operational impacts, while balancing community use with environmental and infrastructure considerations.

Preparation for the 2026 Autumn Burn Program

Planning and site preparation activities for the 2026 Autumn Burn Program have commenced, including coordination of works, stakeholder engagement and alignment with ecological and fire management objectives. This work supports risk reduction while maintaining biodiversity values within Council bushland reserves.

Cross-Departmental Technical Advice and Project Support

Specialist arboricultural and environmental advice continued to be provided to internal teams including Parks, Planning, Waterways and Major Projects. This ensured tree protection, environmental constraints and long-term asset outcomes were appropriately considered and integrated into project planning and delivery.

Installation of AEDs Across Key Open Spaces

Installation of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) has been coordinated at Riverbend Park, City Park and Heritage Forest to improve public safety within high-use open spaces. This included site selection, stakeholder co-ordination and ensuring appropriate placement to maximise accessibility and community benefit.

Urban Greening

Street Tree Masterplan

The Street Tree Masterplan has reached the 100% draft milestone and is progressing toward final endorsement.

Newnham Urban Greening

The Newnham Urban Greening Precinct Plan has been finalised and will be available for residents to view via Tomorrow Together in June, 2026. The plan will inform the next five years of greening initiatives within Newnham.

Tree Planting Program

Tree orders have been completed for the planting of 1,500 trees across Newnham and Mayfield in Q1 FY26/27. A Request for Tender (RFT) has been issued for contractors to deliver tree planting and establishment maintenance services in Newnham, while internal crews will continue delivery of street tree planting within Mayfield.

Cameron Street Greening (City Heart Project)

A Request for Tender (RFT) has been issued for design services to progress streetscape upgrades and greening works along Cameron Street, with the project scheduled to commence in Q1 FY26/27.

Adopt-a-Tree Program

Planning is underway to transition from the current "Request a Tree" model to an "Adopt-a-Tree" program. The new approach will enable residents to request a street tree while committing to watering and early establishment care, helping to expand the program while reducing maintenance demands on Council crews.

Heritage

Heritage List Review

Council's Local Heritage List is being updated to ensure our beautiful city continues to grow and thrive, while respecting our history for generations to come.

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

Newstead Crescent Local Heritage Precinct was presented to Council on 2 April, with the amendment 'initiated'. This item will be submitted to the Planning Commission for formal local heritage listing in due course.

The following heritage datasheets have been completed by the Heritage Team and have been submitted for formal amendment to the Planning Team, which will be brought to Council in due course:

- Mayne Street Heritage Precinct
- Babington Street Heritage Precinct
- St Leonards Heritage Precinct
- Significant Trees, comprising 48 items equalling 650 trees

Heritage Interpretation

Heritage Interpretation Framework

The Heritage Interpretation Framework, produced by heritage consultants *Lovell Chen* in June 2025, was endorsed at the Council meeting on 16 April, 2026.

Heritage Interpretation Plan – Stage 2

Heritage consultants *Supersense Studio* have been engaged to prepare a Heritage Interpretation Plan for Cataract Gorge, with the intent to expand the project's reach throughout the municipality in future years.

The Heritage Interpretation Plan will draw on the recommendations in the Heritage Interpretation Framework and engage with the community and Tasmanian Aboriginal engagement specialist. The Stage 2 output will comprise a Heritage Interpretation Plan for the Council-owned site, including an action plan and concept design for a Stage 3

installation (2027–28 FY), with indicative costings. This plan is due for delivery by 30 June, 2026.

Make Your Mark Heritage Trail

A series of plaques have been designed for installation at 24 significant historic sites across the city, including the Post Office and Macquarie House. Each plaque features a stylised line illustration of the location, alongside a short description of its historical significance. At each stop, visitors of all ages will be invited to create a direct rubbing of the plaque using paper and pencil, capturing the artwork by taking a textured imprint. An accompanying printed booklet (also available to download) will be available for collection at the Visitor Information Centre. Plaques are expected to be printed and ready for installation by late June, 2026.

Longford Academy

The City of Launceston offered a sponsorship valued at \$1,500 to support a local tradesperson to attend the Longford Academy Autumn School, held from 11-16 May, 2026. The program provides hands-on training in traditional building conservation techniques.

Braemar / Lamont House Archaeology Dig

An archaeological dig was undertaken at the Council-owned Braemar/Lamont House site from 23-27 March, 2026 by Southern Archaeology. The dig involved community members and university students who volunteered during the excavation. The excavation uncovered footings, possibly from former outbuildings, along with a diverse range of artefacts. These included blacksmithing equipment, pottery, crockery, coins and other items, with some dating to pre-1860, providing a significant insight into the historic use of the site. A report is being prepared, due for delivery by 30 June, 2026.

Seaport Placenames Report

A proposal to officially recognise the area directly North of Royal Park, Launceston as 'Seaport' has been prepared for submission to Placenames Tasmania.

Art and Culture

Seaport Levee Wall Mural

Following a public expressions of interest process co-ordinated by the City of Launceston, acclaimed Australian artist Georgia Hill was selected to transform the wall, which spans more than 120m along a prominent section of Lower Charles Street as it transitions into the East Tamar Highway. Hill is a multidisciplinary artist renowned for her murals and installations which often blend bold lettering with textured black and white patterns. The Seaport mural features the evocative phrase "The way you see it, it's beautiful,".

The commission expands on the City of Launceston intensive investment into Public Art and is significant as the city's first nationally broadcast public art opportunity. The Seaport Levee Wall mural supports a greater interconnectivity of creative dialogue between Launceston and mainland Australia and sets the stage for greater investment in public art during the commissioning of works for Thoroughfare.

Music in the Park

The 2026 season of Music in the Park has concluded with over 8,500 attendees over the season. Acting on growing community attendance and popularity, Music in the Park was

extended to the end of March, expanding the City of Launceston's arts and culture contributions deep into the warmer season. The 2026 season presented community favourites, historic big bands, and introduced the community to emerging youth talent.

Music in the Park expanded its audience reach through the presentation of a greater variety genre from indie-psych-rock, to jazz, to Celtic tunes. The City of Launceston's investment in Music in the Park has delivered a truly unique program that promotes high quality artistry with a sensitivity to City Park as a space and the trust built with its most avid attendees. Music in the Park contributes to a richer ecosystem of opportunities for musicians and technicians throughout the year, in line with the City of Launceston's greater Cultural Strategy outcomes.

Thoroughfare

Thoroughfare was a resounding success, transforming the CBD into a vibrant celebration of creativity, music, food and community on Saturday. With the delivery of 12 associated large-scale public art projects, live music, skate demos, and family friendly activities,

Thoroughfare drew an estimated 10,000 people into the CBD throughout the day. St John Street served as the bustling central hub, while artists brought new life to surrounding laneways including Tatler Parade, Centreway Arcade, Dicky Whites Lane and the Quadrant Mall. Thoroughfare represents the development of a key offering within the event calendar.

Skate of Mind

Big Hart delivered a series of workshops within the Launceston municipality between 24/03/26 and 28/03/26. Big Hart provided facilitators to attend a local skate park and community spaces to facilitate organic workshops. This included skate coaching, digital art creation and trick shows. As part of the Council's inaugural street art festival (Thoroughfare), Big Hart set up a mobile half pipe in St John's Street, Launceston. Big Hart facilitated skate workshops and shows across the festival activation.

Northern Gateway

The Northern Gateway commission is progressing with Urban Art Projects working with the shortlisted artist, Kaite Stackhouse, to fabricate the shortlisted design. The City of Launceston is currently collaborating closely to deliver the Northern Gateway Artwork by August, 2026.

Artbox

Progress is being made in the delivery of Artbox. The project builds on successful models implemented by multiple Southern Tasmanian Councils. It aligns with the City of Launceston Public Art Strategy, which identifies an Outdoor Gallery as a recommended opportunity for activating public space. An appropriate design has been completed.

Arts and Culture Grant

The pilot Arts & Culture Grant Program has supported creative practitioners and organisations, increased access to arts and cultural activity for the Launceston community, and tested the demand for an ongoing Council run arts funding program. The grant round has been completed, with funding paid. One acquittal is completed, with three remaining and one approved extension in place.

QVMAG

Throughout the reporting period of January to March 2026, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery celebrated on a range of fronts.

This three-month period welcomed growth in visitation across both the Museum and Art Gallery sites, totalling to 40,941 - a 4.4% increase from the previous quarter.

A total of 680 public enquiries were received, including 608 general queries relating to QVMAG and 72 booking enquiries.

Donations for the period totalled \$6,765.80, welcoming a 21% increase in donations compared to the previous quarter.

Shop sales for the period remained strong, totalling \$158,763.13 across three months, spanning shop fronts at the Art Gallery and Museum sites. During this time, sales of jewellery rose by 34.7%, toys and science toys combined saw a 22.5% sales increase, gifts up by 11.9% and general books and children book sales up by 36.6%.

Programming across the institutions two sites generated an activated period of engagement within community, celebrating a total of 2,545 visitors engaged with events on offer - including 157 attendees to the beloved family Holiday Program, 83 attendees to *In Conversation* events within exhibitions on display, 209 visitors across 10 exhibition-specific public programs on offer, and more.

The Planetarium delivered on strong visitation during the reporting period, sharing stories of the universe with 2,675 visitors. During this time, 176 students from across Northern Tasmania were engaged through astronomy education sessions within the facility, delivering a unique and immersive educational experience for students spanning primary and high school cohorts.

Marketing efforts during the period maintained healthy and frequent visibility of both the QVMAG brand and programming offerings. A total social media reach of 1,008,557 was achieved during the three-month period, thanks to a total of 64 posts on Facebook and 81 posts on Instagram engaging with the institution's online audiences.

Interaction with the institution's website remained high, totalling 95,714 page views during the period - offering access to exhibition, event and collection information for local and touring audiences.

Paid advertising on Google returned high impact and high visibility awareness for the institution, achieving a total of 496,029 advertising impressions and a total of 525 advertising click throughs to the QVMAG website for further information.

Content on *YouTube* continued to encourage online audience engagement with behind-the-scenes content of both the institution, educational content and exhibitions on display with a total of 151,592 video views for the period and 47,270 impressions.

Additionally, February saw the release of the institution's new monthly email newsletter for audiences and celebrated 157 new subscribers in the first 30 days of its release.

On the collections front, a total of 2,224 specimens were colled through field work in Northern Tasmania - further strengthening the institution's invaluable natural sciences collection.

At the end of the reporting period, a total of 7,243 collection objects and 155 loaned objects were on display throughout January to March across the Art Gallery and Museum sites, and a total of 670 objects/specimens were digitised - further enhancing the institution's collection records.

In March, a major milestone was achieved as the institution worked to deinstall the large Bleriot plane, suspended from the ceiling within the Tasmanian Connections Gallery at the Museum at Inveresk. This incredible project saw a multi-disciplinary team work to safely dismantle the existing natural science taxidermy display - situated directly underneath the plane within the Gallery - to enable workers to rig and gently lower the plane, enabling QVMAG to remove the Azani engine within the plane back to its lender after 25 years on loan to the institution.

Additionally, March welcomed the re-installation of Tasmanian artist David Hamilton's public art sculpture, *Earth Drill* (2007) to the front lawn of the Museum at Inveresk following its temporary deinstallation to support the Inveresk Precinct re-development in 2021. Commissioned by the QVMAG Friends in 2007, this sculpture was designed to acknowledge the vital role played by the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in the cultural life of Launceston and to create a symbolic link between the Museum's two sites, at Inveresk and Royal Park.

Quarter three enjoyed a diverse range of exhibition programming across both sites - with the extension of the ever-popular *Sam Jinks || Mortal Reflections* display at the Art Gallery, and the opening of three new feature exhibitions. The successful *Helen Wright* and *Chris Bell* solo exhibitions closed out at Royal Park Art Gallery this quarter, with a recorded 18,126 visitors. The ebullient *Alexander Racket 100* exhibition also closed out in quarter 3 after 4 months of high visitation and active programming that had people talking tennis all summer. All the exhibition-aligned marketing and merchandise drove an uplift in retail sales across both sites, providing clear evidence of audience engagement and a consistent desire among visitors to carry elements of the exhibition experience with them beyond their visit.

Now in its 31st year, the enduring curated education display *ArtRage*, launched in January with 102 works representing 69 students from 28 schools. This investment in Tasmania's next generation of artists is supported again by the launch of *RISE* in February. This biennial exhibition commitment seeks to introduce audiences to new generations of significant Tasmanian artists and provide visibility and support to all phases of artists' creative practice and career progression - with 2026 welcoming 11 artists on display.

On tour from NorthSite Contemporary Arts in partnership with Torres Strait Regional Authority's Gab Titui Cultural Centre (TSRA), and toured by Museums & Galleries Queensland, *Billy Missi Wakain Thamai* honours the late Torres Strait Islander artist Billy Missi (1970-2012), born on Mabuia Island.

To celebrate the opening of this exhibition at the Art Gallery at Royal Park on 7 March, a community celebration was held inclusive of a welcome to country and a dance

performance by members of the Missi family, before visitors were invited to explore the exhibition and more than 50 of Billy Missi's most iconic works on display. Finally, March delivered a new offering for the beloved Guan Di Temple exhibition display at the Art Gallery at Royal Park, in the form of a new audio tour. Visitors can now enjoy this display through a new in-depth guided audio experience on their own device, while learning about the history of this display and objects featured within. This great new initiative is one of the many ways long-term displays are being re-imagined to further enhance audience engagement with the institution's collection and displays.

STAKEHOLDER EXPERIENCE

Customer Experience

Quarterly Report - Customer Service

	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2026
Inbound Enquiries			
Phone Call Volume Ave P/M	12079	7983	8700
Average Call Duration	4.07	3.35	3.49
Average Wait Time	2.08	1.39	1.77
Customer Service Requests			
Total CSR's Created	6017	5238	6439
Waste	715	616	1719
Parking	1112	660	697
Road, Street & Footpath	629	578	623
Inbound Email Requests	9758	9237	8708
Parking			
Requests to Withdraw	597	413	375
Made to Stand	88	83	219
Withdrawn	122	124	148
Final Reminders	3476	2672	1931
Overdue Reminders Issued	2023	1702	1062
MPES Referrals	944	1099	746
Bookable			
Total Registered	246	3753	4355
Halls	242	109	289
Busking	100	123	106
Malls	31	26	7
Road Safety Centre	0	423	411
Sporting Facilities	0	266	398
Active Launceston	0	33	108
Resource	0	50	66
After Hours Calls	242	325	288

	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2026
Top Line Summary			
Phone Call Volume	12079	7983	8700
Total CSR's Created	6017	5238	6439
Inbound Email Requests	9758	9237	8708
Bookable Registrations	246	3753	4355
After Hours Calls	242	325	288



Considerations

After-hours calls

During the quarter, the after-hours service received 288 calls - 186 for animal related matters, 60 for infrastructure and water, and 35 for security related issues.

Customer Service Requests (CSRs)

A total of 6,439 CSRs were processed. This number increased due to the annual February/March Hard Waste collection.

Online bookings (Bookable)

The *Bookable* system was not fully implemented until Q2, with the categories: Road Safety Centre, Sporting Facilities, Active Launceston and Resource (Kiosks and Change Rooms).

Snap Send Solve

Customer Service was awarded for YTD 2026 two awards focusing on productivity, specifically: 'Top Solvers Award' and 'Digital Community Award', demonstrating that both

our residents and the team are committed to reporting and finding solutions for our community.

Marketing and Communications

Overview

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

The focus has been on promoting cultural events, including Thoroughfare, public engagement opportunities, including consultation on wood heater usage and infrastructure projects, including the City Park and Punchbowl Reserve play space upgrades.

This work aligns with our commitment to fostering innovation, inclusivity and connectivity in Launceston, in line with the Strategic Plan's pillars of Prosperity, Place, and People.

Media engagement

This quarter, the team issued 20 media releases to inform the community about key Council activities and opportunities.

Key highlights included:

- Music in the Park: Promotion of this free music concert series held in City Park each summer
- Royal Park Skate Park reopening: Promotion of community celebration event to mark reopening of the skate park following infrastructure upgrades
- Community engagement: Developed consultations on the Council's Annual Budget, wood heater usage in Launceston and formalisation of the 'Seaport' name
- Play space upgrades: Promoted upcoming upgrades to two key play spaces - Punchbowl Reserve and City Park
- Thoroughfare: Promoted this new street art festival in Launceston via media release, social media, marketing collateral and other promotional channels

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

Social Media

The City of Launceston's social media audience grew by 8.8% to 67,000 followers, increasing our ability to communicate with the community through digital channels.

Content reached 3,109,940 people, representing a 16% increase compared to the same quarter last year, while engagement increased by 24%. Council's proactive media activity generated an Advertising Value Equivalency of more than \$740,000, across more than 950 individual news items spanning traditional media outlets, websites and community social media channels.

Key Campaign Highlights

The Marketing and Communications team provided strategic support for several high-impact initiatives, driving awareness and participation across the community.

Thoroughfare

Delivered an event website, branding, marketing collateral, digital assets and media releases to support this new event, helping attract an estimated 10,000 people into the CBD during the day.

LoopedIn Councils

Supported promotion of this new smartphone app platform to the Launceston community. Wood heater consultation: Communications and engagement support for consultation across the municipality.

Major Events

Delivered communications for the Foo Fighters concert, providing timely updates on access, parking and navigation to support a positive visitor experience.

Launceston.com.au

Worked with the Visitation team to launch the website, strengthening the City's place brand and enabling Council's first low-cost lead-generation campaign, which collected 11,803 email addresses for future visitation marketing.

Place-based Merchandise

Collaborated with the Visitation team to develop merchandise aligned with the Launceston brand, strengthening place identity and visitor connection.

CEO Office Support and Recruitment Uplift

Delivered internal and external communications supporting inclusion of the four-day work week in the proposed Enterprise Agreement. This announcement drove strong recruitment interest with the Positions Vacant page recording a 23% increase in views, 35% increase in user interactions for the quarter and a 409% spike in views on the announcement day (23 January). Applications for employment increased by 35% per job listing on seek compared to the same period the previous year, supported by authentic social media storytelling that highlighted the diverse projects and impact of Council staff.

Community Engagement

Engagement undertaken/and or in progress (January to March 2026):

Between January and March 2026, community engagement activity was reduced due to the Project Shape restructure and associated staffing changes within the engagement team. During this period, resourcing was limited while recruitment was underway, which meant only a small number of consultations could be delivered. Engagement included:

- **Proposal to Recognise Seaport as an Unbounded Locality:**
Between 27 February and 27 March 2026, community engagement was undertaken for the proposal to recognise Seaport as an unbounded locality and place name. The consultation was delivered via the Tomorrow Together survey and received 580 views and 138 contributions. Feedback is to be collated and presented to the project team, who will prepare a report for Placenames Tasmania.
- **Future Planning for Lilydale Falls Reserve (Notice of Motion):**
On 30 March 2026, an engagement summary was released for the Future Planning for Lilydale Falls Reserve. The summary was shared via the Tomorrow Together

platform to report back to the community on the outcomes of the consultation process.

- **Consultation on Four-Year Delivery Plan, Annual Plan and Budget:**
In March, consultation materials were prepared for the Four-Year Delivery Plan (2026/27–2029/30), Annual Plan (2026/27), and Annual Budget (2026/27). Community consultation was scheduled to run from 2 April to 26 April 2026 via Tomorrow Together and Konveio, with a community drop-in session to be held at Town Hall on Tuesday 14 April.
- **Consultation on Launceston Domestic Wood Smoke:**
The first round of engagement on domestic wood smoke in Launceston commenced on Wednesday 25 March, with a survey launched to gather information on how households heat their homes during the winter months. The feedback will help build a clearer picture of current heating practices across the community and inform future planning and education around domestic wood smoke and air quality.

Visitation and Events

Events

Civic and Community Event Delivery

The Events function delivered a diverse and high impact annual program of civic, cultural and community activations, supporting strong participation outcomes, enhanced city vibrancy and strengthened community connection across multiple precincts and demographics.

Civic programming remained a core component of the events portfolio. The citizenship ceremonies delivered during the period welcomed 100 conferees and approximately 250 guests, supported by attendance from VIP's and dignitaries. These ceremonies continue to play a critical role in reinforcing civic identity and advancing diversity, inclusion and community belonging, while strengthening the city's capacity to deliver meaningful civic milestones in a professional and welcoming setting.

Event Facilitation

Event Delivery and Operational Support

During this reporting period, the Event Facilitation function delivered significant operational coordination and strategic support across civic programming, community activations, commercial partnerships and emerging large scale event delivery, with a total of 34 events facilitated across the Launceston municipality.

Key programming highlights included a diverse portfolio of established civic and community events such as Festivale, the Soggy Bottom Cardboard Boat Regatta, Water Lantern Festival, and ongoing World Streets Eats activations. Collectively, these events contributed to sustained city vibrancy, increased visitation, and strong utilisation of public spaces across multiple precincts, while continuing to support community participation, cultural expression and accessible local entertainment throughout the municipality.

Major Events

A major milestone during the period was the Event Facilitation team's role in supporting the delivery of the Foo Fighters concert at UTAS Stadium in partnership with Stadiums Tasmania. The facilitation effort involved extensive cross agency coordination across traffic management, parking operations, accessibility arrangements, visitor servicing and safety planning to ensure seamless end to end event delivery.

This included detailed operational planning, stakeholder alignment and real time co-ordination across multiple service areas, to support safe and efficient movement of more than 25,000 attendees and effective precinct management across the event footprint. The scale and complexity of delivery demonstrated strong interagency capability, high level event facilitation expertise and operational readiness to support large-scale, high-profile events within Launceston.

Strategic Event Precinct Development

Strategic precinct development work also progressed during the reporting period, with investigation and testing of new and emerging event locations. Key focus areas included Fairy Dell within Cataract Gorge Reserve, the Roundhouse site within the Northern Inveresk carpark and the Southern Inveresk precinct.

Visitation

Strategic Planning and Destination Development

The Visitation function delivered significant progress in strengthening Launceston's destination infrastructure, visitor economy capability and long-term strategic positioning through integrated destination planning, external funding attraction, digital activation, enhanced visitor servicing and coordinated place brand delivery.

A key milestone was the delivery and Council endorsement of the City of Launceston Visitation Framework, establishing a long-term integrated approach to destination marketing, visitor servicing and infrastructure investment. The Framework provides a co-ordinated foundation for future visitor economy growth and improved alignment across destination development initiatives.

Visitor Infrastructure and External Funding

Strong progress was achieved in securing external funding to enhance visitor infrastructure and improve traveller amenity across key precincts. This included the RV Dump Point at Council-owned Myrtle Park and the RV Rest Stop through the Northern Inveresk car park revitalisation.

A combined \$392,644 was secured through the Caravan and Motorhome Market Program and the Spirit Preparedness Fund, supporting increased visitation capacity, improved traveller servicing and stronger dispersal across the city.

Digital Destination Marketing and Campaign Delivery

Digital destination capability was significantly advanced through the stage one launch of [Launceston.com.au](https://launceston.com.au), establishing a contemporary, city-led platform to centralise visitor information, improve discoverability of local experiences and strengthen destination marketing across tourism, events and lifestyle sectors.

The platform also provides a broader strategic foundation to support attraction of visitors, students, residents, workers and investment through a unified place based digital presence.

The platform enabled agile campaign delivery, including a rapid response destination microsite developed to leverage a nationally significant visitation opportunity. This was supported by the Return to Launnie campaign, delivered via Launceston.com.au, which generated 11,780 competition entries, strong uplift in digital engagement and the creation of a new visitor marketing database to support ongoing campaign development and audience growth.

Place Branding

A refreshed Launnie retail range was introduced, delivering strong early performance across apparel, homewares and branded merchandise, reflected in quarterly retail sales growth of approximately 80 per cent to \$11,806, driven by increased uptake of higher value items alongside continued demand for core souvenir lines. A collaborative partnership with Waverley Woollen Mills is also in development to further strengthen the retail offering through premium Tasmanian-made place brand products. Additional product lines are planned to align with Launceston's UNESCO City of Gastronomy positioning.

Place brand activation also continued across the municipality through co-ordinated deployment of destination flags, bollard covers, visitor maps and collateral, event campaigns, stadium signage and digital destination promotion, supporting a consistent and recognisable destination identity across physical and digital environments.

Visitor Information Centre

Town Hall welcomed 6,105 visitors and generated strong growth, including a 16 per cent quarterly increase in total visitor spend to \$107,962.

Hawthorn Football Club Partnership

The City of Launceston's partnership with the Hawthorn Football Club continues to deliver strong strategic value through national destination exposure, visitor attraction and coordinated place brand activation. The partnership remains a significant platform for positioning Launceston as a leading regional events and sporting destination while strengthening the city's profile across national audiences.

During the reporting period, Launceston hosted the opening AFL fixture of the season at UTAS Stadium, with Hawthorn taking on the GWS Giants on 29 March. The match attracted a near capacity crowd of 14,021 attendees and achieved a national broadcast audience of approximately 367,869 viewers, generating significant visibility for Launceston across key domestic markets.

A strong focus throughout the quarter was leveraging the partnership to maximise destination exposure and place brand integration. This included co-ordinated Launceston branding outcomes across stadium presentation, broadcast visibility, promotional assets and game day activations, alongside ongoing utilisation of Melbourne Cricket Ground advertising opportunities to strengthen national destination awareness.

Additional partnership activation included the integration of Launceston branding across Hawthorn Football Club coach and staff apparel, supporting consistent national exposure

throughout the AFL season and reinforcing Launceston's identity within high visibility sporting environments.

Planning also progressed for future partnership activations and the upcoming 25-year milestone of Hawthorn's presence in Launceston, with a continued focus on maximising visitation, national profile and strategic city branding outcomes through the partnership.

Collectively, these initiatives continue to strengthen Launceston's positioning as a connected, experience rich regional city with a growing and increasingly integrated visitor economy.

Partnerships and Grants

Council adopted a refreshed suite of strategic funding and governance documents, marking a significant step in strengthening the overall events funding system. The updated framework includes the Events Framework, Outgoing Grants Policy and Event Grant Program Guidelines. Collectively, these instruments establish a more consistent and transparent foundation for event funding, assessment, delivery and reporting.

The revised approach has strengthened governance and transparency across all funding streams, improved consistency in assessment and decision making, supported a clear shift toward a partnership-based investment model, and enhanced alignment between funded activities and Council's strategic objectives.

Event sponsorship and community grant activity continued to demonstrate strong demand and positive delivery outcomes across all streams during the quarter. Between January and March, six sponsored small events were successfully delivered, including Run Launnie, Wobble, the Soggy Bottom Regatta and the Henley Regatta. Ongoing community activations also continued, including World Street Eats, a multicultural food market that supports the local food system, activates Civic Square and delivers a vibrant mix of local music and cultural performances. The Friends of the Launceston Library live music program also continued, showcasing emerging and professional musicians through free community performances.

Major event activity during the quarter included the 2026 Ladbrokes Launceston Cup, which attracted approximately 9,000 attendees and introduced several new elements, including the inaugural Launceston Cup Wine Walk. This initiative showcased local hospitality venues and Tasmanian wine producers, alongside expanded entertainment and hospitality offerings across the race week program. Festivale 2026 also delivered strong outcomes, attracting almost 30,000 attendees across three days and generating significant visitation and economic activity through a curated program of Tasmanian food, beverage and entertainment experiences. Attendance figures for the Gilmore Cycling Classic are still being finalised, however the event again attracted strong community participation and interstate competitor interest.

In February, funding rounds opened for the 2026 to 2027 Small and Major Event Sponsorship programs for events scheduled between August and December 2026. These rounds attracted strong interest, with 18 small event applications and 13 major event applications received. During the same period, Round 2 of the Community Grants Program also opened, with eight applications submitted across areas including social inclusion,

cultural activities and local capacity building, reflecting continued community engagement and demand for grassroots support.

Strategic event investment during the period included a \$150,000 dollar contribution toward the Foo Fighters concert and support secured for Island Escape Festival winter activation programming. These investments continue to strengthen Launceston’s profile as a competitive destination for major and seasonal events.

Looking ahead, the program maintains a strong delivery pipeline, with future events scheduled to support ongoing visitation, community engagement and economic activity across the city.

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.

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.
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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. QVMAG Museum Governance Advisory Board Membership

FILE NO: SF2244

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

APPROVER: Executive Leader Connections and Liveability

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the appointment of new members to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG) Museum Governance Advisory Board (MGAB).

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 - section 24 – Special Committees

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes the recent resignation of Albert van Zetten from the Museum Governance Advisory Board and acknowledges his contribution to the Board.
 2. notes the advice from the MGAB Chair, James Riggall, of his intention to resign from the Board once new member recruitment is completed, and thanks him for his leadership and service.
 3. resolves to invite the following individuals to be appointed as members of the Museum Governance Advisory Board, in accordance with the MGAB Terms of Reference:
 - a. Claire Beale
 - b. Louella McCarthy
 - c. Sophie Rowlands
 - d. Kim McCarthy
 - e. Joanna Lang
 - f. Pam Allan
 - g. Emily-Rose Wills
 - h. Rod Sweetnam
-

REPORT:

The Museum Governance Advisory Board (MGAB) is established under the City of Launceston's governance framework to provide independent, expert and strategic advice to Council and the QVMAG Director on the stewardship, strategic direction and public value of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. The role, composition and functions of the MGAB are defined in the MGAB Terms of Reference.

Recent changes to the Board include the resignation of Albert van Zetten, and advice from current Chair James Riggall of his desire to step down from the Board. Council thanks both departing members for their significant contributions to QVMAG and its governance during their tenure. Existing MGAB members Dave Mangenner Gough, Susi Reid (Chair of the Arts Foundation), Vicki Drewsbury (Chair of the Friends of QVMAG) and Mayor Garwood will continue to provide continuity and strong stakeholder connection.

To ensure the MGAB continues to operate with the appropriate mix of skills, experience and independence required under the Terms of Reference, an Expressions of Interest process was undertaken and advertised in the local newspaper and on Council's and QVMAG's social media platforms and professional networks. Submissions were received from 16 very high caliber applicants. The Expression of Interest originally sought to identify 6 candidates however with the recent resignation of Albert van Zetten and due to the quality of submissions, 8 candidates are being recommended, bringing total membership to 12 providing a strong balance between diversity, capability, and effective governance by bringing together a wide range of skills, perspectives, and stakeholder representation while still remaining manageable in size. It enables the formation of well-functioning working groups if needed and ensures resilience in the face of absences, turnover, or conflicts of interest and supports succession planning.

The recommended candidates were selected by the Executive Leader Connections and Liveability and the Councillor representative on MGAB, Mayor Matthew Garwood, with input from current Board members. Candidates were assessed against governance capability, cultural sector expertise, strategic insight, community connection and capacity to contribute constructively to an advisory board environment.

The recommended candidates bring a highly complementary mix of experience across museum and gallery governance, collections stewardship, cultural leadership, statutory board service, local government, academic research and community engagement. Collectively, they strengthen the Board's ability to provide informed, independent advice supporting QVMAG's strategic objectives, ethical stewardship and long-term sustainability.

Under the MGAB Terms of Reference, Board members elect the Chair of the Board from the existing membership.

Summaries for each recommended candidate are provided below.

Claire Beale

Claire has been selected for her nationally recognised leadership in the cultural and creative industries, underpinned by deep governance experience and strong expertise in collections, design, curation and public engagement. She brings senior board chair experience, executive leadership in cultural institutions and a contemporary understanding of audience-focused, sustainable cultural practice.

Key qualifications and experience:

- Bachelor of Arts (Textile Design) with Distinction (RMIT University); BA (Hons) Fine Art (University of Melbourne); Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Teaching and Learning (RMIT University).
- National President and Chair, Design Institute of Australia, leading organisation-wide governance reform.

- Executive Director, Design Tasmania, overseeing strategic renewal and expanded exhibition programming.
- Chair, DIA Awards Committee; Life Fellow of the Design Institute of Australia.
- Extensive curatorial practice and national peer assessor roles for Arts Tasmania and Creative Australia.

Louella McCarthy

Louella has been selected for her exceptional depth of expertise in public history, museums and community-centred learning, supported by formal governance training and extensive academic and advisory leadership. She brings strong ethical, research-based and public value perspectives to cultural governance.

Key qualifications and experience:

- PhD (History); Master of Arts; BA (Hons).
- Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.
- Current board member, Australian Social Investments Trust.
- Former Associate Professor and academic leader with extensive committee and chairing experience.
- President and Vice President, Australian & New Zealand Society for the History of Medicine.
- Significant experience delivering museum exhibitions, heritage projects and grant-funded initiatives.

Neville (Ned) Pankhurst

Ned has been recommended for his exceptional depth of governance, strategic leadership and advisory experience across the arts, higher education, science and business sectors. He brings senior executive and board-level expertise, including direct experience chairing a major council-controlled cultural institution, alongside a strong personal commitment to QVMAG and Launceston's cultural life.

Key qualifications and experience:

- PhD and DSc, with an internationally recognised academic and research leadership career.
- Former Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Griffith University, with responsibility for institutional strategy, governance, budgets and large-scale capital programs.
- Chair, Home of the Arts (HOTA) Gold Coast, leading governance of a major civic cultural institution, including delivery of a new art gallery during periods of significant organisational and external change.
- Extensive board and chair experience across statutory, not-for-profit and joint government–industry organisations.
- Practising visual artist with current sector engagement, providing firsthand understanding of creative practice and audiences.

Harriet Edquist

Harriet has been recommended for her outstanding scholarly authority, curatorial experience and senior institutional leadership across architecture, design and art history, combined with deep expertise in collections stewardship and cultural governance. She

brings nationally recognised subject-matter expertise and hands-on experience establishing and leading a significant design and archives collection.

Key qualifications and experience:

- Professor Emerita, School of Architecture and Urban Design, RMIT University, with a distinguished academic and leadership career.
- Former Head of School at RMIT, providing senior executive-level governance and strategic leadership experience.
- Founding Director of the RMIT Design Archives, with responsibility for collections governance, public engagement, partnerships and digitisation.
- Extensive curatorial experience for major Australian institutions including the National Gallery of Victoria, Bendigo Art Gallery, State Library of Victoria and RMIT Gallery.
- Highly regarded author and researcher on Australian architecture, design and art history.
- Active engagement with Tasmania's cultural sector and direct research interest in QVMAG collections.
- Strong capacity to contribute expert advice on collections strategy, interpretation, research activation and long-term stewardship.

Kim McCarthy

Kim has been selected for his long-standing expertise in museum management, cultural governance and community engagement, combined with prior leadership of the Museum Governance Advisory Board. He brings continuity, scholarly authority and deep institutional knowledge of QVMAG.

Key qualifications and experience:

- PhD in Museum Management and Marketing.
- Former Chair and Member, QVMAG Museum Governance Advisory Board.
- Visiting Research Fellow and Adjunct Associate Professor; former Senior Lecturer and Discipline Leader.
- Member, City of Launceston Cultural Advisory Committee.
- Peer Reviewer for Arts Tasmania and board member of several cultural organisations.
- Practising visual artist, curator and researcher.

Joanne Lang

Joanna has been selected for her highly specialised expertise in collections care, conservation and museum ethics, supported by senior leadership experience in major international museums and strong engagement with regional and community museums in Tasmania.

Key qualifications and experience:

- Master's Degree in Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art; postgraduate studies in Museology.
 - Former Main Conservator and Principal Registrar, Warsaw Rising Museum.
 - Recipient of national cultural and heritage conservation honours.
 - Director, professional conservation practice serving public and regional collections.
 - Committee member, Furneaux Museum; professional member of AICCM and ICOM.
-

Pam Allan

Pam has been selected for her outstanding governance leadership, statutory Board and chairing experience and extensive public-sector experience. She brings strong strategic oversight, regulatory understanding and commitment to civic institutions and public value.

Key qualifications and experience:

- Graduate, Australian Institute of Company Directors.
- Chair, Forest Practices Authority Tasmania.
- Chair, Waste and Resource Recovery Board Tasmania.
- Commissioner, Tasmanian Planning Commission.
- Former NSW Minister for the Environment and extensive non-executive director experience.
- Adjunct Professor, University of Tasmania.

Emily Rose Wills

Emily-Rose has been selected for her strong contemporary cultural sector experience, local government practice and active governance roles across Tasmanian arts organisations. She brings a community-connected, future-focused perspective to museum governance.

Key qualifications and experience:

- Bachelor of Contemporary Arts.
- Arts and Culture Officer, George Town Council.
- Nearly eight years' experience at MONA, including program management roles.
- Board member and secretary roles across multiple arts organisations.
- Governance and leadership training through Centre for Social Impact, Tanck, ARLF and the Tasmanian Leaders Program.
- Advisory roles supporting accessibility, diversity and equitable cultural practice.

CONCLUSION

Collectively, these candidates provide a balanced and complementary mix of governance expertise, cultural sector knowledge, community insight, statutory experience, collections stewardship and regional representation. Their combined skills position the Museum Governance Advisory Board to provide strong, independent and future-focused advice in support of QVMAG's strategic objectives and public purpose.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The appointment of suitably qualified advisory board members mitigates governance, reputational and strategic risk by ensuring Council receives high-quality, independent advice regarding QVMAG operations and strategic direction. No additional environmental, public safety, WHS or legal risks have been identified

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Strong governance and advisory capability supports the social and economic contribution of QVMAG as a cultural, educational and visitor asset for Launceston.

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.

Strategic Pillar 1 - Prosperity

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

Objective 1.1(c)

Expand Launceston's position as an arts and cultural hub by providing an environment for creative industries to thrive.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report. MGAB members are appointed in an advisory capacity and within existing operational budgets.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Executive Leader has no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

18. COMMUNITY ASSETS AND DESIGN

18.1. New Street Names - Winterbourne Street and Sidbury Street

FILE NO: SF0621, DA0117/2024

AUTHOR: Julie Ross (Administration Officer)

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

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the approval of two new street names Winterbourne and Sidbury; two streets resulting from a new subdivision located at 169 St Leonards Road, St Leonards.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government (Highways) Act 1982

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. pursuant to the provision of section 54 of the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982*, approves the names Winterbourne and Sidbury Streets, accessed off Pinsley Drive, St Leonards:



REPORT:

The proposed street names, Winterbourne and Sidbury, have been provided by the developer. Both names relate to the early 19th century history of Paterson's Plains, with Winterbourne the name of an early farm in the area and Sidbury a residence that overlooked the North Esk, later becoming a school for girls.

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

Objective 2.1(a)	Facilitate an increase in housing supply to meet current demand and align with planned growth, aiming and planning for 4,300 new homes in priority development and infill areas by 2035.
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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. New Street Name - Rocky Creek Court

FILE NO: SF0621, DA0242/2025

AUTHOR: Julie Ross (Administration Officer)

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

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider approval for the new street name, Rocky Creek Court; a new street resulting from a subdivision located at 1924 Lilydale Road, Lilydale.

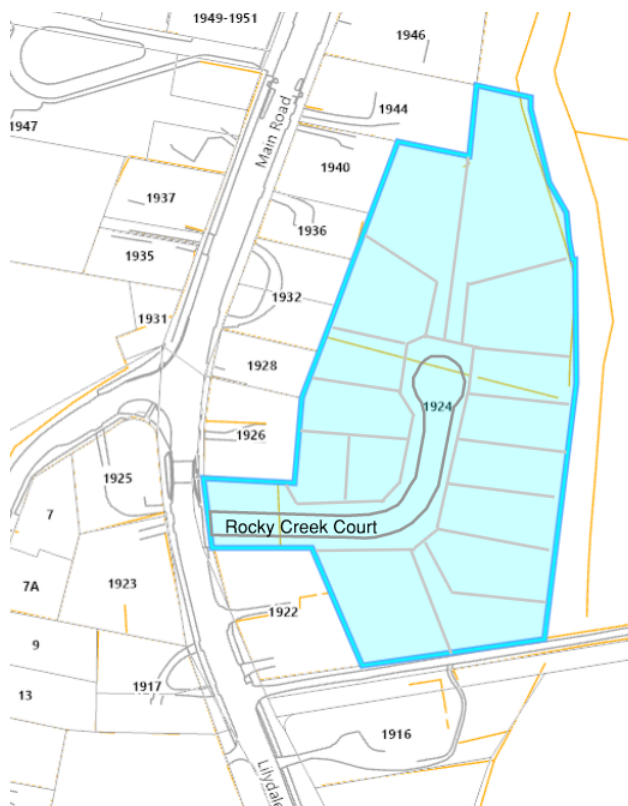
RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government (Highways) Act 1982

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. pursuant to the provisions of section 54 of the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982*, approves the name Rocky Creek Court accessed off Lilydale Road.



REPORT:

The proposed street name, Rocky Creek, has been provided by the developer in reference to a creek that borders the new development.

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

Objective 2.1(a)	Facilitate an increase in housing supply to meet current demand and align with planned growth, aiming and planning for 4,300 new homes in priority development and infill areas by 2035.
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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

18.3. Draft Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan - Update and Public Exhibition

FILE NO: SF7851

AUTHOR: Fintan Langan-Clarke (Principal Strategic Land Use Planner)

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

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the Draft Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan for community consultation for a period of 28 calendar days prior to adoption.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 17 July 2025 – Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan - Update

Workshop – 23 April 2026 – Draft Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan Update and Community Consultation

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. endorses the draft Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan (ECM Document Set ID 5372105, Attachment 1) and draft Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan Report (ECM Document Set ID 5373289, Attachment 2) for community consultation for a minimum period of 28 calendar days commencing Saturday 30 May until Sunday 28 June 2026.
-

REPORT:

1. Background

For several years, preparation of a development plan for the Alanvale area was identified to guide the orderly residential development of land to the west of Mount Stuart Drive and north of Alanvale Road, with the East Tamar Highway forming the defined urban boundary for northern Launceston. The area was subsequently identified as a key development priority in the Launceston Housing Plan 2025–2040 and is recognised by the Northern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy (NTRLUS) as a ‘Supporting Consolidation Area’ requiring a local strategy to ensure strategic and orderly growth.

Previous work includes a high-level masterplan prepared by MESH Planning in 2018 with a supporting Stormwater Management Strategy prepared by Neil M Craigie Pty Ltd in 2019; however, neither proceeded to endorsement due to subsequent organisational and strategic priority changes. Development interest in the area has since increased, with planning scheme amendments lodged in 2024 for properties at 45 Mount Stuart Drive and 208 Alanvale Road, and the owner of 40 Vermeer Avenue intent on pursuing residential development.

Neighbourhood Plan preparation commenced in late 2025 with MESH Planning engaged as lead consultant. The plan aims to deliver between 700 and 1,200 new dwellings — with

potential for a higher yield subject to stormwater land reclamation — in a well-connected and cohesive manner consistent with best practice strategic planning.

2. The Site

The Neighbourhood Plan area encompasses approximately 164 hectares, located approximately seven kilometres from the Launceston CBD. The area is bounded by the East Tamar Highway, George Town Road and University Way, and comprises the following properties:

- 208, 210, 259 and 269 Alanvale Road, Newnham
- 253 and 329 George Town Road, Rocherlea
- 45 Mount Stuart Drive, Newnham
- 40 Vermeer Avenue, Newnham

It is noted that the East Tamar Highway transects the properties at 259 and 269 Alanvale Road; however, only land to the east of the highway has been considered for development, as the highway provides an appropriate boundary between the urban and rural areas of northern Launceston. Land within 259 Alanvale Road and 45 Mount Stuart Drive has also been identified as a potential connection point for a proposed second Tamar River crossing being investigated by Building Tasmania (formerly Department of State Growth), though no preferred alignment or delivery timeline has been established.

The Neighbourhood Plan area contains a mixture of Rural, General Industrial and General Residential zoned land. Additional planning considerations within the area include bushfire risk, flooding, heritage items, scenic road corridors, utility buffers and landslip.

3. The Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan is a coordinated strategic framework designed to guide future growth and development within the growth area over the next twenty years. It seeks to address longstanding challenges such as fragmented land ownership and infrastructure constraints while ensuring that development opportunities are integrated, orderly, and responsive to the site's unique landscape.

The Neighbourhood Plan is structured around several key elements and themes that define its core directions:

- *Residential growth and housing diversity:* The plan aims to accommodate approximately 1,400 new dwellings. It encourages a mix of housing types, with medium-density housing prioritised in well-serviced areas near a new activity centre and open space areas.
- *New activity centre:* A new neighbourhood activity centre is proposed to interface George Town Road with the provision for 3,400–4,500m² of retail and commercial space. This would provide the opportunity for a limited-line supermarket and provide local employment and services to the existing and future area.
- *Blue-Green Infrastructure:* Environmental outcomes are managed through an integrated system of drainage and open space. Key features include a centralised wetland, distributed local level parks, and the opportunity for a large active open space for sports and recreation.
- *Movement Network:* The plan establishes a permeable internal street network, including a multimodal collector road linking George Town Road in the north,

through the site to Mount Stuart Drive in the south. It also prioritises active transport, completing gaps in walking and cycling paths, particularly along the highway corridor.

- *Site-Responsive Design*: Development must respond to Alanvale's steep topography and visual sensitivity. This includes orienting streets across slopes to minimise visual prominence and protecting heritage assets like the Mount Stuart and Eastfield Homesteads.
- *Multifunctional Buffers*: To protect residential amenity while maximising multifunctional opportunities within a buffer zone, the neighbourhood plan has been designed to landscaping, drainage, and shared active transport paths along the interface to the East Tamar Highway.

4. Proposed Neighbourhood Plan Implementation

Following consideration and adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, a number of planning projects have been identified to support its implementation:

- Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA): Rezoning of rural land to a combination of General Residential, Inner Residential and General Business zones to enable development consistent with the plan.
- Specific Area Plan (SAP): To provide an accessible pathway for higher-density development and to ensure delivery of key elements within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Infrastructure Funding Framework (IFF): To ensure equitable cost-sharing for shared assets, including the centralised wetland, road infrastructure upgrades and active open space.
- Activity Centre Masterplan: To guide the delivery of a high-quality, functional and community-focused activity centre that meets the needs of the existing and future communities of Newnham and Rocherlea.
- Heritage investigations: Further investigations into certain aboriginal heritage and historical heritage elements within the Neighbourhood Plan area to ensure they are adequately addressed.

The plan also incorporates built-in flexibility to allow for further investigation of land identified for a potential second Tamar River crossing, and to integrate that land into the broader development area should the bridge not proceed.

5. Community Consultation

The draft Neighbourhood Plan will be open for community consultation for a minimum of 28 days, and is anticipated to run from Saturday 30 May to Sunday 28 June 2026. Feedback can be provided through Council's Tomorrow Together webpage, with physical copies of the draft plan available for viewing at Council offices. The public exhibition will be further supported by an online community survey, social media content, and an in-person drop-in session in the Newnham/Rocherlea area

6. Next Steps

At the conclusion of the consultation period, Council officers will review all feedback received and compile it into a Consultation Feedback Summary. Any proposed amendments to the draft Neighbourhood Plan, along with a recommendation for formal

adoption of the Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan, will then be reported to Council in July 2026.

If adopted, work on the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan will be progressed.

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

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

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 Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan - COUNCIL REPORT [18.3.1 - 1 page]
2. Draft Alanvale Neighbourhood Plan Report - COUNCIL REPORT [18.3.2 - 66 pages]

19. DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE

19.1. Quarterly Report - Delivery and Performance (January to March 2026)

FILE NO: SF0927

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

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive a report about activities of Delivery and Performance between 1 January and 31 March 2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the report noting the activities of Delivery and Performance for the period of 1 January to 31 March 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
 - ELT Delegates visit to City of Marion (Adelaide)
-

- Successful recruitment for Senior Leader Finance & Technology and Senior Leader People, Safety & Governance.
- Development and finalization of Internal Audit Strategic Plan
- 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
- Safety Circle Steering Committee meetings
- Ravenswood Community Centre
- 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, including handover with departing staff member.
- Met with the State Grants Commission
- AusAlert Community based trial in Launceston discussion with the National Emergency Management Agency
- Meeting with Theatre North regarding ongoing arrangements at the Albert Hall
- ELT Planning Day
- Various policy updates and approvals
- Entry meeting with Audit Tasmania for 2025/2026

SENIOR LEADER HEALTH AND REGULATIONS

Leadership Update

Health and Regulations continued to focus on strengthening leadership capability, stabilising team structures and supporting operational service delivery across a diverse and high-demand portfolio.

A significant focus during the quarter was the continued embedding of new leadership arrangements across the portfolio following a period of organisational change, recruitment activity and higher duties arrangements. This included onboarding and supporting newly appointed leaders, progressing team development initiatives and continuing to build consistency across service delivery, decision-making and operational practices within teams operating in complex and often reactive environments. Across the portfolio, work also progressed on reviewing and modernising position descriptions, strengthening operational documentation and improving service consistency.

Parking

Governance and continuous improvement remained a key focus, with 12 Standard Operating Procedures reviewed and updated and a Parking Officer Manual nearing completion. This work strengthens systems and consistent decision-making, supports staff safety when working in a compliance environment that can at times be challenging, and provides a clearer foundation for training and onboarding new team members.

New handheld devices were introduced for on-street operations to better withstand field conditions, improve service efficiency and integrate better with parking software.

Performance snapshot: Digital payments continued to increase across parking facilities. Compared with the same period last year, multi-storey car park revenue increased by 4.3% (with almost 90% of transactions by card), and metered parking revenue increased by 14.2%, with EasyPark used for 73.2% of payments. This reflects a continued shift toward digital payments across both on-street and multi-storey parking, with higher average yield per transaction. Current parking patterns indicate a trend toward multi-storey and off-street facilities being used more for longer-stay parking, while on-street parking continues to support short-stay parking and CBD visitation.

The new Parking Ranger role commenced during the quarter, using licence plate recognition technology and on-street observations to identify trends and support fair, customer-focused operations and continuous improvement.

Operational coordination continued to be supported during periods of leave, and recruitment remains underway for the Team Leader Parking and Regulations role.

Administration

The Administration Team provided key operational support across the portfolio during a period of resourcing constraints, helping to keep day-to-day services running smoothly.

- Supported Parking and Regulations with document control, invoicing, and back-scanning of historical records.
- Assisted the after-hours regulatory contractor arrangements, including evidence collation to support infringement reviews and equipment planning.
- Commenced coordination for the upcoming school vaccination program, liaising with schools, parents and State Health.
- Completed annual equipment calibration and organised procurement of field equipment to support Environmental Health operations.

Regulations

The Regulations Team continued to deliver core animal management and amenity services across the municipality, maintaining service levels through a period of reduced staffing capacity.

- Animal management remained a priority, including investigation of barking dog complaints and dog attacks.
- A high volume of abandoned vehicle and overhanging vegetation matters required inspections and follow-up action to address community concerns and improve local amenity.
- Fire hazard management remained a key focus. Where notices were not complied with, Council arranged contractor works to ensure timely risk mitigation, including 41 contractor notices issued this quarter.
- Staffing capacity improved with the induction of two new team members (a Regulations Officer and Coordinator Regulations), supporting more sustainable service delivery moving forward.

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Team progressed a range of regulatory and public health priorities during the quarter, alongside recruitment and preparedness activities.

- Following a Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT) appeal, officers negotiated a varied registration outcome and the appeal was withdrawn.

- Recruitment was completed for a dedicated Food Safety Officer position, strengthening capacity to support food safety regulation and education.
- Environmental Health officers completed inspections supporting Festivale and other public events.
- The team participated in Exercise Auxilium 2026 to support emergency preparedness and inter-agency coordination.

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 Committee Meetings

- 1 Facilitation of the WHS Committee Meeting (moved to a bi-monthly schedule in 2026 - meeting held in Feb)

Policy and Procedure Reviews

- 4 documents updated
 - 21-HLPr-027 Micromobility Device and Bicycle Use High Level Procedure
 - 21-Fm-153 SWMS AusRivas Monitoring
 - 21-Fm-109 Investigation Form Basic 5 Why
 - 21-Fm-110 Incident Investigation Form ICAM Template
- 13 new documents developed
 - 21-Pr-207-SWP Toro Compact Utility Loader
 - 21-Pr-209-SWP Excavator
 - 21-Pr-196 SOP Loading excavator on trailer
 - 21-Pr-199 SOP Agrotec General Use of the Waste Cover Machine
 - 21-Pr-208-SOP Room and Catering Set Up for Council and Workshop Meetings
 - 21-Pr-198-SOP Loading and Unloading Truck and Float
 - 21-Pr-200 - 21- Pr-206 (7 in total) new SOPs for Toro Utility Loader TX-1000
 - Auger Driver Operations
 - Bucket Operations
 - Installing Auger Driver and Auger Bit
 - Installing Bucket Attachment
 - Installing Trencher Attachment
 - Trencher Attachment Operations
 - Unload and Load Toro Utility Loader

Governance

- Commencing work on policy project
- Filled coordinator information services role
- Beginning recruitment for two other roles in governance
- Insurance renewal completed and submitted 3 days prior to closure date.

Legal Services

- Big increase in demand on Right to Information (RTI) resources
- Bella Hunt is settling into the Legal team well as Child and Youth Safety Officer, busily working on updating policies and the development of a child safety training package
- The sale agreement for the 'Hutch' train removal has been finalised
- Recovery of \$10,000 claim cost for disputed damage to Council infrastructure
- Consultation is underway on the Risk Appetite Framework

People and Culture

- Supported the organization-wide restructure (Project Shape). This was a significant component of work for the HR team, ensuring strong support for leaders and employees while updating documentation and systems
- Finalised the City of Launceston Enterprise Agreement 2026, approved by the Fair Work Commission, introducing expanded flexible working arrangements (including compressed working patterns)
- Strengthened HR capacity by filling all HR vacancies, resulting in a fully resourced team to enhance leader support and proactive service delivery.
- Improved recruitment governance by re-introducing an ELT-endorsed Recruitment Business Case and approval process, ensuring consistent, transparent and strategically aligned recruitment decisions.

SENIOR LEADER FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Receivables

Rates Notices & Payments

A total of 23,255 rates notices were issued across the third instalment cycle, delivered via electronic and hard copy channels:

- 2,527 final notices issued for Instalment 3
- 20,728 reminder notices issued for Instalment 3

These notices supported strong revenue collection outcomes, resulting in \$19,135,300.31 in rates payments received during the period. The scale of distribution reflects continued engagement across the ratepayer base and effective collection processes.

Property Certificates & Ownership Transfers

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

- 1,530 council certificates issued, generating \$174,595.32 in revenue, 1,086 Certificate of Liabilities, and 444 Council Land Information Certificates
- 472 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 541 bin-related service requests, supporting household waste service continuity:

- 46 new garbage bin applications
- 495 bin service changes, including: 308 damaged bins, 139 stolen bins, 2 removed bins, & 46 bin size changes

Sundry Debtors & Revenue Processing

- 1,361 sundry debtor invoices issued, totalling \$6,497,336.02
- \$4,589,824.47 in associated payments received

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

Systems & Transformation Projects

Significant progress was achieved in digital and payment system improvements during the period. The Payble Payment Platform advanced through strong cross-functional collaboration between Receivables, Digital Futures, and Project Management teams, progressing toward a planned soft launch by the end of April. The platform has been designed to streamline payment processing ahead of full data migration and is being positioned for full operational readiness ahead of the 2026/27 rates levy cycle. In parallel, preparation work commenced for Project Ignite, with a focus on the banking module software upgrade workshops to ensure readiness for upcoming system enhancements and improved process alignment.

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 \$10.84M
- Supported 645 employees across the organisation
- Paid \$1.49M in superannuation to 55 funds
- Conducted 22 payroll inductions for new employees

Payroll delivery remained stable and accurate while accommodating onboarding activity and organisational changes.

Accounts Payable

- Completed 11 creditor payment runs
- Processed 5,344 invoices
- Paid \$29.30M across 1,805 supplier payments
- Established 113 new suppliers in the system

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

Key Projects & Continuous Improvement

- **Project Shape:**
Worked closely with HR to implement organisational changes, including updates to structures, roles, and payroll processing requirements
- **Enterprise Agreement 2026:**
Provided advice and implemented administrative and system changes to support new and amended employee entitlements
- **Project Ignite (System Upgrade):**
Undertaking preparation for upcoming software upgrade workshops for both Payroll and Accounts Payable systems

Accounting

The Accounting Team commenced the annual budget process for 2026/2027 in Quarter 2, undertaking a significant volume of background work to support the development and distribution of budget information. The process has progressed to the public consultation phase, with budget reviews and refinements continuing.

Project Shape has resulted in a substantial workload for the Team, particularly in relation to system configuration and the distribution of reports across the organisation. In parallel, groundwork for Project Ignite has formally commenced, with the project being prioritised alongside day-to-day operational responsibilities.

To addition to regular duties, the Asset Accountant processed the following transaction during the quarter

- Acquisition including:
 - Capitalisation of 125 assets valued at \$5,427,700.01.
 - Subdivision assets take-up of 23 assets valued at \$528,159.80.
- Disposal including:
 - Disposal of 101 assets with a combined written down value of \$414,512.
 - Subdivision asset partial disposal of 2 assets with a combined written down value of \$1,878.98.
- 41 Budget Amendments were processed for Q3 and reported to Council 3 times (November, December & January during Q3)

The interim audit for the 2025/2026 financial year commenced in Quarter 3, with the Team actively supporting audit requirements.

While recruitment efforts are ongoing to fill vacant position, the Accounting Team continues to provide essential support to the organisation despite operating with limited resources.

Technology Services

Service Desk Performance

- Total tickets closed: 3,830
- End-user tickets closed (incidents & requests): 1,932
- Phone-based tickets: 358
- Knowledge base articles (created/reviewed): 43
- Devices deployed/redeployed: 161

Security Operations (Microsoft Sentinel)

- Total incidents managed: 353
 - High severity: 83
 - Medium severity: 19
 - Low severity: 23
 - Informational: 228

Key Deliverables (Completed Q3)

- Network edge switch infrastructure fully replaced across all sites
- Application control (Airlock Digital) implemented to prevent unauthorised software
- New handheld devices deployed for Parking Team
- Active Directory & M365 environment restructure (Project Shape) completed
- ClearPass server upgrade delivered (enhanced network access control)
- Remount Road Board Room upgraded with MS Teams video conferencing system

Major Upgrades & Projects (In Progress)

- Windows 11 & VPN rollout
 - Laptops and VPN migration completed
 - ~50% desktop upgrades remaining (ETA Q4)
- Windows Server 2016 upgrade
 - 30 servers remaining (ahead of 2027 end-of-life)
- SAN (Storage Area Network) Replacement
 - RFQ completed; vendor selection finalised
 - Installation, data migration & decommissioning on track for completion by Q

Digital Futures

Project Ignite

- Project kick-off completed
- SMEs and key users onboarded
- Verification workshop preparation underway
- Project Management Lifecycle module workshop delivered
- Recruitment of 3 FTE in progress

Transformation Projects

- Project Shape – T1 application reconfiguration
- Carr Villa – Online booking platform
- Bookable – Sports fields booking
- M365 Power Automate – Corporate Planner (communications)
- LoopedIn Councils – Waste app & digital vouchers
- Payble – Rates payment platform

Efficiency Projects

- Health Licence proforma updates (FY26/27)
- Bookable demo (street banners replacement)
- Regulatory updates – Environmental & DA minor amendments
- Electronic timesheets – Pilot review & SLT rollout
- M365 Power Automate – Assets Committee minutes workflow

Reporting & Analytics

- Bookable debtor report
- Rates notice redesign (aligned to new print format)
- Power BI reports: Housing, Overdue ECM tasks, WHS data issue, Health & Compliance, Parks & Recreation CSR, Park infringements, ContactUs & HR metrics
- CPD traffic light reporting (metrics)

Maintenance & System Support

- Legacy T1 upgrade (on hold – technical issue)
- Rates (AAV) adjustments
- Non-production database refresh (x3)
- SQL scheduled jobs audit
- IPO load – Strategic assets
- Disk space investigation & resolution

Procurement

Tenders Awarded

- CD059/2025 – Park Street Amenities (Demolition & Construction)
T-Built Pty Ltd — \$172,157
- CD057/2025 – Road & Footpath Condition Assessment
Infrastructure Management Group Pty Ltd — \$236,000
- CD052/2025 – City Park Playspace
SLS Landscape Group Pty Ltd — \$1,443,835
- CD045/2025 – Fuel Product Supply
Tas Petroleum — 5-year supply contract

Not Awarded / Cancelled

- CD006/2026 – St Leonards Village Green (Design & Construction)
2 submissions — Project ceased (budget constraints)

Requests for Quotation (RFQ)

- Awarded
 - CD005/2026 – LAC Changeroom Upgrade
JAW Architects — \$95,855
 - CD078/2025 – Line Marking Renewal Program
Line Marking Tasmania Pty Ltd — \$180,000
 - CD041/2024 – Waste Centre Crib Room
T-Built Homes Pty Ltd — \$179,550
 - CD077/2025 – IT Data Storage (SAN)
Brennan IT Pty Ltd — \$331,362
 - CD070/2025 – St Leonards Village Masterplan
McGregor Coxall Australia Pty Ltd — \$99,990
 - CD004/2026 – Community Satisfaction Survey
Traverner Research Group — \$31,300
- No Submissions
 - CD001/2026 – St Leonards & Waverley Signage
 - CD081/2025 – QVMAG Collection Valuation

EOI Status

- CD079/2025 – WH&S Software
6 submissions — Under review (budget constraints)
- CD071/2025 – Mobile Food & Café
2 submissions — Non-compliant
Current RFQ
- CD008/2026 – Flood Recovery Framework Project
Closes 24 Apr 2026

KEY STATISTICS - DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE

Item	This Quarter	Last Quarter	% Change (compared to last quarter)
People, Governance and Safety			
Number of Emails through contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au	5249	4027	+30.3%
Information Services Enquiries	426	246	+73.2%
Documents Registered into ECM	2872	2320	+23.8%
Mail Opened	1338	1542	-13.2%
Mail Posted	9905	11645	-14.9%
Files Culled	63	2120	-97.0%
Employees trained in ECM	17	N/A	-
Successful Recruitments	45	40	+12.5%
• External Appointments	26	24	+8.3%
• Internal appointments	19	16	+18.8%
Employee Departures	20	26	-23.1%
Exit Interviews	3	2	+50.0%
Safety Circle Sessions completed			
• Number of attendants	4	3	+33.3%
	31	17	+82.4%
Safety Bulletins, Alerts and Publications			
• Safety Bulletins and Alerts	3	3	-
• Safety News Publications	3	3	-
Audits and Inspections			
• External Audit	0	0	-
• WHS Audits/Inspections	9	3	+200.0%
• HSR Workplace Inspections	16	13	+23.1%
• Documented Site Interactions	53	52	+1.9%

Item	This Quarter	Last Quarter	% Change (compared to last quarter)
Incident Investigations Completed	0	0	-
Incident Investigations in Progress	4	5	-20.0%
Risk Assessments on teams/events	3	12	-75%
Health and Regulations			
Building (RBG) Requests Completed	59	77	-23.4%
Planning (RPL) Requests Completed	38	28	+35.7%
Plumbing (RPD) Requests Completed	12	13	-7.7%
Barking Dog Complaints	84	55	+52.7%
Dog Attacks	40	40	-
Found Dogs (community)	22	25	-12.0%
Dogs impounded	53	34	+55.9%
Nuisance / stray animals	69	52	+32.7%
Abandoned vehicles	70	41	+70.7%
Illegal dumping investigations	12	6	+100%
Fire hazardous or unkept properties investigations	119	75	+58.7%
Overgrown vegetation investigations	79	29	+172.4%
337 referrals	444	403	+10.2%
DA referrals & RFI responses	83	80	+3.8%
Premises and mobile food applications	36	44	-18.2%
Food fit-out applications	11	10	+10.0%
Tattoo / piercing licence applications	5	8	-37.5%
Events & Place of assembly permits	23	21	+9.5%
Food business inspections	86	162	-46.9%
Tattoo / piercing inspections	2	22	-90.9%
Private sewage system applications	17	4	+325.0%
Environmental nuisance complaints	114	90	+26.7%
Food enquiries / complaints	118	185	-36.2%
General enquiry to Environmental Health	36	23	+56.5%
Public health enquiries	35	19	+84.2%
Notifiable disease investigations	15	0	-

Item	This Quarter	Last Quarter	% Change (compared to last quarter)
Traffic and Parking complaints	827	896	-7.7%
Parking general enquiries	17	2	+750.0%
Finance & Technology			
Total Number of IT Tickets Closed	3,830	3326	+15.2%
Total Number of End-User Tickets Closed	1,932	1535	+25.9%
Total Number of End-User Tickets via Phone	358	308	+16.2%
Knowledge Base Articles Created and Reviewed	43	77	-44.2%
Total Number of Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	353	262	+34.7%
High Severity Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	83	75	+10.7%
Medium Severity Sentinel Incidents Reviewed , Actioned and Closed	19	14	+35.7%
Low Severity Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	23	14	+64.3%
Informational Sentinel Incidents Reviewed, Actioned and Closed	228	159	+43.4%
Number of Devices Deployed	161	226	-28.8%
Payroll Runs Processed	6	7	-14.3%
Amount Paid in Wages	\$10,839,448.72	\$13,852,688.86	-21.8%
Super Contributions	\$1,493,983.68	\$1,824,317.05	-18.1%
Payroll Inductions	22	16	+37.5%
Rates Notices Issued	23,255	21,062	+10.4%
Property Ownership Transfers	472	730	-35.3%
Bin Requests			
• New Bin	46	48	-4.2%
• Replacement of Damaged Bin	308	279	+10.4%
• Replacement of Stolen Bin	139	128	+8.6%
• Size Change Requests	46	44	+4.5%
Sundry Debtor Invoices	1,361	1,233	+10.4%
• Value	\$6,497,336.02	\$8,664,326.55	-25.0%
• Receipted Associated Payments	\$4,589,824.47	\$5,171,751.68	-11.3%

Item	This Quarter	Last Quarter	% Change (compared to last quarter)
Tenders presented to Council	4	9	-55.6%

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. Fees and Charges 2026/2027

FILE NO: SF2968

AUTHOR: Byron Fraser (Senior Leader Finance and Technology)

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To determine various Council fees for the 2026/2027 financial year in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas).

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 12 March 2026 – 2026/2027 Budget Update

Workshop – 26 March 2026 – 2026/2027 Budget Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. pursuant to section 205 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), sets the fees as detailed in ECM Document Set ID 5374262 which is attachment 1 to this agenda item for the financial year ending 30 June 2027.
-

REPORT:

Fee revenue for 2026/2027 is estimated at 26.1% of total operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions). However, it should be noted that not all fees that comprise this revenue are set by Council through this process, for example, property certificates fees and other types of fees associated with penalty units are set by the State Government.

A complete schedule of the proposed fees for 2026/2027 is provided in the attachment. A general 5% increase has been applied as a baseline increase in line with Councils proposed increase in rates. Teams right across council have reviewed the proposed increase and made adjustments where applicable. In some instances, where the fee amounts are small, a change may appear as a larger percentage increase. Rounding also impacts percentage increases.

Principles

The review of fees for 2026/2027 continues to be predicated on the same principles as applied in previous years.

- the real value of fees should be maintained over time; therefore must increase annually by at least the consumer price index. It should be noted that previous year's increases have remained below Hobart CPI figures.
 - in the context of this budget a general baseline of 5.0% increase has been applied. This has been affected by rounding in many instances.
- the majority of fees and charges should be commercially appropriate.
 - competitive in the market (not subsidised by rates).
 - provide an adequate business return.
 - ensure compliance with competitive neutrality principles.
- fees and charges that relate to services provided should be cost reflective.
- fee concessions should be provided in a consistent and strategic context.
 - targeted provision of concession.
 - appropriate relativity between full and concessional fees.
- structure fees to assist with the achievement of strategic customer outcomes and behaviours.
- continued simplification and consolidation of fees wherever possible.
- the appropriate setting of fees is an important way in which the City of Launceston can obtain a wider contribution to regional facilities.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

An explanation of the varying GST status is as follows:

GST Status	Description
GST Exempt (Div. 81)	Excluded from GST by Division 81
GST Free	Supply is specifically GST Free under the GST Act
Mixed	Part is subject to GST and part is exempt under Division 81
Non Taxable	Beyond the scope of the GST Act
Taxable	Represents a taxable supply under the GST Act, GST is applicable

Specific Comments:

Parking Fees

Parking fee structures have been reviewed and simplified to reduce complexity and improve customer understanding. A new framework has been introduced, grouping all parking locations into simpler categories, for example, CBD, Fringe CBD, and Tourism, etc.

Carr Villa Cemetery and Crematorium

Cremation fees have been maintained at current levels, with no increase applied for the year. This decision reflects the introduction of a second private cremator through a local funeral home, increasing competition within the market. Maintaining existing pricing ensures the service remains competitive while continuing to provide accessible and cost-effective options for the community.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The council ensures all fees and charges are in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) and any other relevant legislation.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

To the extent to which some fee changes impact behaviour through reduction in waste disposal or increase use of public transport, there is likely to be a positive environmental impact. The effect on household budgets has the potential to have some impact, but this is considered to be marginal given the spread of the impact of increased fees across the broader community.

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.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Fees and Charges 2026-2027 v 5 [19.2.1 - 24 pages]

19.3. Provision of Bicycles to Tasmania Police

FILE NO: SF5547

AUTHOR: Lucas Lim (Team Leader Governance and Information Services)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider rescission of its previous decisions regarding provision of bicycles to Tasmania Police.

The decision for Recommendation 2. requires an absolute majority of Council.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council - 12 December 2024 - Agenda Item Number 15.5 - Notice of Motion - Mayor Councillor M K Garwood - Bicycle Donation to Tasmania Police - 12 December 2024
Council - 27 March 2025 - Agenda Item Number 20.7 - Memorandum of Understanding - Provision of Bikes to Tasmania Police

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes:
 - (a) its decision of 12 December 2024 to purchase two fit-for-purpose bicycles, to be provided to Tasmania Police, for the purpose of reintroducing bike patrols within the Launceston Central Business District, supported by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and
 - (b) its subsequent decision of 27 March 2025 authorising the Chief Executive Officer to continue negotiations with Tasmania Police, with a view to presenting a finalised draft MOU to Council for formal approval.
 2. pursuant to regulation 22 of *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, and by absolute majority, rescinds its previous decisions as set out in Recommendation 1.
 3. notes, for the avoidance of doubt, that the term Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager within the meaning of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
-

REPORT:

On 12 December 2024, Council approved the purchase of two fit-for-purpose bicycles, to be provided to Tasmania Police to support the reintroduction of bike patrols within the Launceston Central Business District. This decision was to be supported by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

On 27 March 2025, Council further authorised the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to continue negotiations with Tasmania Police to enable a finalised draft MOU to be presented to Council for approval.

Since that time, Council officers have engaged with various representatives of Tasmania Police and commenced the negotiation process. This has included seeking feedback and an understanding of their operational requirements for the proposed bicycles.

The most recent advice from Tasmania Police is that, while they acknowledge and appreciate Council's proposed contribution and the intent of the initiative, further internal assessment is required. This includes consideration of practical matters such as training for its officers, logistics, and resourcing. Tasmania Police has indicated its support for the Council to close this matter at this time, with the option to revisit it in the future once their assessment is complete.

The Recommendation is made in accordance with regulation 22 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, which provides that a Council may rescind a previous decision by absolute majority.

Local Government (Meeting) Regulations 2025 - Regulation 22(3)

In accordance with regulation 22(3), the following matters are noted in relation to the proposed rescission motion:

(a)	If resolved in the affirmative, the proposed motion would overturn the entirety of the Council's decisions of 12 December and 27 March 2025 relating to the purchase and provision of the bikes to Tasmania Police. (collectively referred to as "the Previous Decisions").
(b)	
(c)	The Previous Decisions directed that: (1) Two bicycles be purchased for Tasmania Police; and (2) negotiations be undertaken to finalise an MOU between Council and Tasmania Police regarding the arrangement.
(d)	The Previous Decisions have not been wholly or substantially carried out. While discussions and negotiations were undertaken with Tasmania Police regarding the proposed MOU, an in-principle agreement was not reached and, accordingly, the purchase of the bicycles has not proceeded.

Given the above, it is considered appropriate for Council to formally rescind its Previous Decisions. This will allow the matter to be properly closed from a governance perspective,

while retaining the ability for Council to reconsider the initiative at a future time, should circumstances change.

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 Executive Leader have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

19.4. Local Government Election Caretaker Policy (14-Plx-038)

FILE NO: SF0142

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

APPROVER: Nathan Williams (Executive Leader Delivery and Performance)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider approval of the Local Government Election Caretaker Policy (14-Plx-038) enabling Council to operate in a caretaker period during the 2026 Local Government elections.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop - 7 June 2022 - Chief Executive Officer's Update and General Business
Council – 28 July 2026 - Agenda Item 17.1 - 2022 Local Government Elections - Caretaker Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. adopts the the Local Government Election Caretaker Policy (14-Plx-038), as follows:

Local Government Election Caretaker Policy

PURPOSE

To enable the Council to maintain its operations at required service levels and establish clear guidelines for the conduct of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and employees during a Local Government election process.

SCOPE

The Policy applies to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and Council employees during the Caretaker Period.

POLICY

Section 1: Functions Not To Be Exercised

During the Caretaker Period the Council, Chief Executive Officer or any other delegate must not exercise the following functions:

- 1.1 Appoint, dismiss or renew the contract of the Chief Executive Officer. An Acting General Manager may be appointed in accordance with Section 61B of the Local Government Act, if required;
- 1.2 Enter into any contract or undertaking involving an expenditure or receipt of the Council of an amount to or greater than 1% of the Council's revenue (including Capital Grants) as proposed in the forward estimates for the financial year in which the election is to be held. However, capital and/or operational projects or works as approved by Council as part of the annual budget process and subsequently approved by the awarding of a tender, can proceed during the Caretaker Period, regardless of their scale.
- 1.3 Initiate an application to make, amend or repeal a local planning instrument under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (i.e. a planning scheme, a temporary local planning instrument or a planning scheme policy). For clarity, this restriction does not apply to applications initiated by third parties;
- 1.4 Make a new By-Law;
- 1.5 Approve or renew any Council policies, and approve or review any plans and reports pursuant to Division 2 - Plans and report of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

If, in the view of the Chief Executive Officer, it is in the best interests of the community to deal with a matter that requires the exercise of the above functions during the election period (for instance to achieve a significant financial saving or resolve a time-sensitive matter), the Chief Executive Officer's report to the Council will detail the financial and other consequences of postponing the matter until after the elections.

Section 2: Normal Business of the Council to Continue

During the Caretaker Period the normal business of Council must be continued and therefore, the Council, Chief Executive Officer or any other delegate will continue to exercise the following functions:

- 2.1 Council meetings, including any Special Council meetings, shall continue to be held and will consider Agenda items that relate to the ordinary business of Council other than those matters in Section 1 of this Policy;
- 2.2 Development Applications will be determined by the Council acting as a Planning Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA). The Council is required to comply with the LUPAA statutory timeframes for determining development Applications. Therefore, this Policy cannot defer consideration of applications during the Caretaker period as it would be solely reliant on an applicant's willingness to grant extensions of time to determine applications, which cannot be relied upon;

- 2.3 The organisation will continue to provide support to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors with respect to their normal day-to-day Council business. Out-of-pocket expenses paid by Councillors during the election for costs incurred in the performance of their duties, which do not relate to any election campaign, will be reimbursed as normal;
- 2.4 The Chief Executive Officer may still exercise all delegations provided by Council, including the appointment of employees;
- 2.5 The Mayor (or Acting Mayor) will still be the spokesperson for Council in accordance with Section 27 of the Local Government Act and shall carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office during the Caretaker Period. However, if the Mayor is a candidate, no electronic newsletters (or similar) are to be published with a Mayoral Column, and the Mayor is to refrain from participating in any regular radio, television, social media interviews and/or articles;
- 2.6 Council media releases are to be limited in number and should only relate to Council services and activities;
- 2.7 In undertaking their duties employees should take all steps to avoid any real or perceived support for a candidate in order to protect the organisation's ability to impartially serve any incoming Council following an election.

Section 3: Requirements for Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors

During the Caretaker Period the following will apply to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors:

- 3.1 Council resources, including offices, support staff, hospitality services, equipment, email address and stationery is to be used exclusively for normal Council business and cannot be used in connection with an election;
- 3.2 No electoral material relating to specific candidates is permitted to be displayed or distributed on any Council owned or managed property;
- 3.3 Operational requests are to be directed through the Customer Requests system;
- 3.4 The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors are not to use their position as an elected representative, or their access to employees or resources, to gain media attention in support of their, or any other candidate's election campaign;
- 3.5 The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors are not to use their membership of a Council Committee or appointment as a member of an external group to disseminate information or promote their, or any other candidate's election campaign;

- 3.6 Attendance at externally organised events will not be funded by the Council for any elected members who are candidates so as to avoid the potential (real or perceived) for Council funds to be utilised for election campaigning.

PRINCIPLES

In addition to the Council's Organisational Values, the following principles underpin this policy:

- Appropriate elected member conduct (use of public resources).
- Fairness and equality - Provide all persons the opportunity to participate equally in local government elections
- Accountability, transparency and community acceptance
- No disadvantage - separation of Council role from that of a political campaign

RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES

14-Plx-016 Councillor's Expenses and Resources Policy

14-Plx-001 Council Meetings Policy (Frequency and Commencement Time)

26-Plx-009 Political Advertising on Council Facilities Policy

11-Plx-004 Code for Tenders and Contracts

RELATED LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1993

Tasmanian Electoral Act 2004

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993

REFERENCES

N/A

DEFINITIONS

Candidate means a person standing for election.

Caretaker Period means the period from the issuing of the notice of election through until the close of the polls of the relevant local government general election.

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.

Council means the City of Launceston.

Election Campaign means the activities of candidates to win voter support in the period preceding an election and includes activities such as door knocking, bulk emails, production of signs and flyers, telephone canvassing, social media campaigns and advertising.

Electoral Material means any advertisement, handbill, pamphlet, notice, flyer, letter or article that is intended or calculated to affect the result of an election.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed no more than 4 years after the date of approval (version), 6 months prior to an election or more frequently, if dictated by operational demands and with Council's approval.

REPORT:

The Local Government Election Caretaker Policy (the Policy) was originally adopted in 2022 to support the conduct of fair and impartial elections. It restricts Council from making major policy decisions, entering into significant contractual commitments, or using public resources for electioneering during the election period. The Policy is based on standard principles established by the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The *Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Bill 2025* proposed the introduction of legislated caretaker provisions governing council conduct during election periods. However, these legislative changes will not be progressed prior to the 2026 election. In the absence of legislated requirements, the Policy continues to provide clear direction for Councillors during the caretaker period.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not adopting the Policy exposes Council to governance, reputational and operational risks, including unclear decision-making boundaries during the election period, perceived or actual misuse of public resources, reduced public confidence, and the potential for decisions to inappropriately bind an incoming Council. The absence of a formal framework also limits Council's ability to demonstrate impartiality and alignment with best practice.

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 038 Local Government Election Caretaker Policy May 2026 - tracked changes [**19.4.1** - 5 pages]
2. ECM 4750693 v 2 14- Plx-038 Local Government Election Caretaker Policy [**19.4.2** - 5 pages]

20. STRATEGY AND INNOVATION

20.1. Quarterly Report - Strategy and Innovation (January to March 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 activities and responsibilities within the Strategy and Innovation (S&I) Team for 1 January to 31 March 2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the report noting the activities of the Strategy and Innovation Team for the period of 1 January to 31 March 2026.
-

REPORT:

EXECUTIVE LEADER REPORT

This report for the Strategy and Innovation (S&I) Team is for the period 1 January to 31 March 2026.

The Executive Leader attended the following stakeholder meetings from January to March 2026:

- Ministerial Launch of the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) Kanamaluka / Tamar Infrastructure & Amenities Master Plan.
 - TEMT Taskforce Meeting.
 - TEMT Wetland Restoration & Revegetation Steering Committee.
 - TasTAFE and Launceston Chamber of Commerce Networking Event.
 - Devonport City Council.
 - City of Marion, South Australia.
 - Municipal Emergency Management Meeting (MEMC).
 - Tongan Delegation Visit to Tasmania and Disaster Preparedness and Management.
 - Japanese Student Delegation - Ritsumeikan Moriyama High School.
 - Economic Development Australia Roadshow & Workshop.
 - Office of the Co-Ordinator General.
-

Project Shape

With the adoption of Project Shape, recruitment was progressed to appoint the three Senior Leader roles:

- Sarah McRobbie was appointed as the Senior Leader Prosperity and Innovation.
- Erica Deeegan was appointed as the Senior Leader Property and Asset Strategy.
- Julie Maule was appointed as Senior Leader Corporate Planning and Strategy - commencing in quarter 4.

Recruitment is progressing for Team Leaders and other Officer roles to complete the new look team.

SENIOR LEADER PROSPERITY & INNOVATION

Project Shape

Preparation was undertaken to support the transition of Innovation and Performance functions into the Prosperity & Innovation Team, including the integration and handover of departing functions.

Prosperity and Investment

Team Resourcing

The Prosperity and Investment team was established through Project Shape to support delivery of the Strategic Plan. The Economic Development Officer role had been vacant since July 2025 and recruitment was completed in the quarter, with the Senior Economic Development Officer commencing in late March 2026. Appointments to remaining roles are scheduled, with the Economic Development Officer and Team Leader Prosperity & Investment commencing in early and late April 2026 respectively.

The Advocacy and Grants incumbent returned to the role in March 2026 following an extended secondment at QVMAG.

Grants

Consultation of the draft Incoming Grants Policy is currently underway with key internal stakeholders. The draft policy will be presented for approval and adoption during the next quarter. This work is being undertaken in parallel with Project Ignite that includes a dedicated grants module that will assist in the management and reporting across Council.

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 will ensure grant-funded initiatives align with Council's strategic direction, are deliverable within organisational capacity, and meet accountability, governance and legislative requirements.

Economic Development

Economic Development Association (EDA) Roadshow

The City of Launceston sponsored the EDA Roadshow held at the Tramsheds on 13 March 2026. Officers attended, contributing to shared discussions, building connections

with peers, and gaining insights into current economic development approaches. The event supported ongoing engagement with the sector and helped maintain Launceston's presence in broader conversations.

Regional Australia Institute Membership

The City of Launceston assessed the value of membership and joined the Regional Australia Institute. This supports access to research, insights, and national networks, strengthening evidence-based decision-making and alignment with regional priorities.

Being a member enables us to participate in the Regional Activator Alliance program, which is a dynamic coalition of organisations united by a shared belief in the potential of regional Australia, with a focus on regional growth and prosperity, shaping the future of regional Australia.

Launceston Central Operational Agreement

The biannual report was received by Councillors at the Workshop on 2 March 2026.

Forward planning and the development of governance protocols were progressed during quarter 3.

Sister Cities – Delegation to Ikeda, Japan

The outstanding budget amendment for the Ikeda delegation was finalised and close-out actions were progressed in Quarter 3. A major operational budget proposal was submitted for 2026/27 to support further research into international engagement, including assessing opportunities, potential benefits and implications for Council.

Regional Collaboration and Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC)

An internal review of regional collaboration arrangements was undertaken to inform Council's decision on entering into the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC) Members Agreement 2026 - 2029.

The review assessed the effectiveness of current models including NTDC, identifying key limitations in governance structures, voting equity and outcome focus. It also explored alternative approaches aligned with best practice in regional collaboration.

The Council determined a decision at the meeting on 19 March 2026 to enter into a new Agreement with NTDC from 1 July 2026. and the team will progress Council's decision.

Data Analytics

Foo Fighters – Spend Analysis

Delivered analysis of event-related spend for the Foo Fighters concert, identifying overall growth, visitor-driven impacts, and local economic benefits across key precincts and spend categories. The insights were presented to Council at Workshop on 12 March 2026.

Ongoing Spendmapp Analysis/Briefings

Briefings and explanatory material on visitor vs resident spend, escape spend and the growth in online spend.

Supporting and onboarding new colleagues using Spendmapp and other economic analysis/insights tools.

Business Activity Survey (BAS) - Redesign, Dashboarding and Governance

- Leading discussions with the GIS team on how to simplify and improve BAS variables (dropping confusing fields, consolidating codes, clarifying dashboard “detail” views).
- Aligning BAS outputs with Launceston Central KPIs and future CBD spend analysis.
- Supporting training and cross-team discussions with Launceston Central and internal staff.
- Producing and sharing a structured BAS status paper and briefing material in late March / early April.

This work positions BAS as:

- A “memory” of business activity over time.
- A mechanism to layer qualitative business intelligence with Spendmapp data.

Efficiency Dividends

Co-authoring and refining Q3 2025/26 Efficiency Dividends drafts.

Translating operational inputs into a Council-ready narrative (delivered efficiencies, avoided costs, additional expenses).

Providing support to colleagues to complete reports by the deadline.

General Advisory

Economic and analytics questions, Spendmapp usage and interpretation and Launceston Central Agreement data/reporting design.

Sustainability and Innovation

Team Leader

- Attended two Circular North Regional Waste Group meetings as Chair of Technical Committee and attended a Steering Committee meeting in this role.
- Chaired three Waste and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) Tas branch meetings as Tas branch President.
- Assisted Keep Australia Beautiful National Office to coordinate the national awards held in Launceston on 16 May 2026.
- Meeting with procurement and Veolia to discuss global fuel supply issue and impacts on contracted services with the waste provider.
- Planned and delivered annual kerbside hard waste collection - collected 40 tonnes of large hard waste items and recycled 50% of this volume.
- Attend Tas Recycle official opening at the new site in Launceston.
- Attended and presented on CoL FOGO compost at Resilient Soils field day held on a farm in Westbury as part of partnership with UTAS, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and NRM North. Resulted in increased FOGO compost sales
- Coordinated Council workshop for future of Nunamara Waste Transfer Station
- Registration to formalise an account to be able to own and sell Australian Carbon Credit Units generated by diverting CoL organics away from landfill via FOGO

Sustainability Team

Sustainability Action Plan

Annual review and reporting completed.

EV Fleet Charging Infrastructure

Fire engineering and structural assessments have been completed on the identified site.

Towards Zero Emissions Action Plan (2026–2030)

Scoping of corporate emissions targets is underway.

Energy and Water Monitoring

Sites are being scoped for installation of water data loggers and energy meters across Council facilities.

Climate Adaptation

Ongoing participation in the Climate Adaptation Working Group, including monthly meetings and contributions to the Northern Regional Climate Resilience Project (NTARC), funded through the Disaster Ready Fund.

Repair Café Program

Monthly events continue, including administration, coordination and data reporting.

Internal Sustainability Fund

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

Waste & Environment Team

Clean Up Australia Day Event

On 5 March 2026 over 10 staff members participated in an event organised by the Sustainability and Innovation Team which targeted litter collection along Faraday Street and around Waverley Lake. Over 10 large bags of litter were collected.

Waste and Recycling App

Following several months of design and development, the Waste and Recycling App was finalised and officially launched on 15 April 2026. The app provides comprehensive, locally tailored content for City of Launceston residents.

Ongoing work is progressing to transition from the paper-based waste voucher system to a digital approach within the app. The platform now includes over 200 items in the A–Z Waste and Recycling Guide, along with clear education on how and where materials are processed, helping to improve community understanding and confidence in recycling.

City of Launceston is the first council in Tasmania to deliver a dedicated waste app tailored specifically for its community.

Bin Bypass Baskets for Public Bin Container Refund Scheme

Bin Bypass Baskets have been constructed and are currently being shipped to Tasmania, with installation scheduled for early May. Locations have been prioritised for high-traffic areas (e.g. CBD malls) and high-use community spaces (e.g. parks).

Council partnered with Recycle Rewards to design and deliver the baskets. A contractor has also been engaged to undertake bin audits to establish a data baseline, with stakeholder engagement completed to support implementation.

Environmental Monitoring

A project has commenced to install environmental sensors at the Launceston Waste Centre, capturing weather, noise and air quality data.

Organics Processing Facility (OPF)

OPF reporting completed for January–March.

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 December-February.

Monthly reporting continues on material volumes entering and exiting the Launceston Waste and Transfer Station (recycling, OPF 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 commenced to meet Environmental Protection Notice requirements.

Internal fencing has been completed at Russells Plains Farm.

Waste Transfer Stations

A review of a Nunamara waste transfer station has been undertaken, including an assessment of the extent of use resulting in operational recommendations to be presented to Council. Communication with residents is being undertaken.

Design work for the Lilydale Waste Transfer Station is ongoing.

Service Improvements and Operations

A process has been established for issuing recycling contamination letters to residents identified by the collection contractor.

Amendments to the daily cover alternative transport arrangements are ongoing, with a suitable truck identified for panel consideration.

Policy and Strategic Work

Review of the Sustainable Pricing Model is underway.

Content development and review is in progress for Council's Single Use Plastic Policy.

Heritage Forest and LWC Water Monitoring - February

Tri-monthly water sampling at the legacy landfill located at Heritage Forest and the current landfill located in Mowbray. The collection of data allows the team to meet EPA regulations and meet our environmental responsibilities as the owner of a landfill site.

Water sampling includes taking small samples of ground water at various locations around each site, having the samples lab analysed and compiling a report on the results.

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

K15 - Public EV Charging - Transition to a Private Operator

Officers completed the Expression of Interest (EOI) process to better understand whether the operation of public EV charging infrastructure could be transitioned to a private operator. The EOI confirmed that there is interest and capability within the market, including organisations with strong local experience in Tasmania and the capacity to operate and expand EV charging infrastructure in Launceston.

Following the EOI, Officers reviewed the outcomes and worked through potential operating scenarios, including maintenance responsibilities, upgrade requirements, commercial considerations and site constraints across the existing network. This assessment highlighted that viable private operating models typically rely on long-term tenure arrangements to support return on investment, particularly where upgrades to existing infrastructure are required.

Based on these findings, officers progressed a refined approach focused on retaining and improving a targeted number of Council-owned EV charging assets, while shifting Council's role toward facilitating and enabling further private sector investment as the market continues to mature.

AI – Council's Future Direction

Following the establishment of the AI Steering Group and completion of the staff AI survey, a tailored eLearning module has now been developed and deployed through Council's Learning Management System. The module has been designed specifically for the City of Launceston and is based on key themes outlined in Council's AI policy.

The interactive module includes practical example scenarios and multiple choice questions to demonstrate understanding and reinforce safe, responsible use of AI tools.

Development of the module was undertaken collaboratively by the Organisational Development Team and the Sustainability & Innovation Team, with input from members of the AI Steering Group to ensure alignment with governance, policy and operational considerations.

The e-Learning module was initially rolled out to the Executive Leadership Team, followed by the Senior Leadership Team, team leaders, and then all staff. Within the first month of release, approximately one third of the organisation has completed the training, with reminders now being issued to remaining staff. The intent of the module is to provide staff with confidence that AI tools are being used in a safe, secure, and responsible manner across the organisation.

Knowledge Sharing – AI

In parallel with building internal capability, the City of Launceston co-facilitated a Local Government Special Interest Group workshop focused on AI in March 2026, alongside Devonport City Council and supported by LG professionals. The session attracted almost 50 attendees representing 16 councils from across Tasmania, including southern councils, North West Councils and even Flinders Island Council. This was the highest attendance LG Professionals Special Interest Group session to date, highlighting the rapidly growing interest in AI across the local government sector.

Graffiti Data Capture Tool

To support the routine work undertaken by the Cleansing Team in removing graffiti, the Sustainability & Innovation team, in partnership with the GIS Team, has developed an in-house digital tool to capture key details at the point of removal. The tool automatically records location data and maps each instance spatially, supporting consistency and accuracy in data collection.

Cleansing Team staff attach before and after photos and complete a small set of standard questions, including time and date, time taken to clean and whether the graffiti is considered offensive. The tool has now been set up for eight Cleansing Team staff and has been supported by multiple in-person, hands-on training sessions delivered collaboratively with the Spatial Team. Staff engagement has been strong, with the team highly motivated and actively using the tool as part of day-to-day operations.

Within the first month of use, 120 individual graffiti removal instances were captured, creating an emerging dataset that provides improved visibility of the scale, location, and nature of graffiti activity across the city. This dataset will support identification of trends and enable more informed evaluation of place-based interventions such as public art installations, lighting improvements, security patrols, and other preventative measures.

With data now being captured consistently, the next phase of the project will focus on working with the Cleansing Team and Spatial Team to explore effective visualisation methods to represent the data and tell clear, evidence-based stories to inform decision-making and service improvements. Subject to ongoing success, this approach will be used to support similar initiatives, including data capture for dumped rubbish response activities.

Flood Camera – Live Time Lapse

The Sustainability & Innovation team activated three publicly accessible live time lapse video streams of the South Esk and North Esk rivers, providing a new way to observe changing river conditions across the city. The video streams capture a single updated

image every hour and are intended to support both operational awareness and community interest in river behavior over time.

The time lapse imagery is expected to be a strong point of interest during major flood events, allowing both Council and the broader community to visually understand river movement and conditions as events unfold. This initiative was delivered by utilising existing camera hardware and multi-purposing current infrastructure, enabling Council to achieve a meaningful new capability with minimal additional cost.

Privacy considerations have been front of mind throughout the design and implementation of the streams. Camera positioning, image resolution and update frequency have been carefully managed to ensure no inappropriate or identifiable information is captured or displayed while still providing useful environmental context.

The next step for the project is to coordinate a suitable location within Council's public website to host the time lapse streams, supported by additional explanatory content to help the community interpret the imagery and understand how it fits within broader flood preparedness efforts.

This initiative forms part of Council's broader flood intelligence system, which includes river level sensors, high-end pan tilt zoom (PTZ) cameras and real-time dashboards that support the Emergency Management Team with situational awareness and decision-making during flood events. The Flood Intelligence System program is supported by funding from the National Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Ready Fund, helping to strengthen Council's flood preparedness and response capability.

Smart City Web Page Portal Development

The Sustainability & Innovation Team is working alongside the Communications Team to develop a dedicated Smart City portal within the existing Council public website. The portal will bring together existing content that has a smart city overlap, creating a single, easy-to-navigate location for the community to explore how technology and data are being used across the city.

The portal will consolidate material currently spread across multiple webpages, including content related to the City Innovation Strategy, the 3D City Model, open data initiatives, dashboards, and Council's data privacy policy and considerations. It will also highlight emerging and evolving areas of work, such as the promotion of public EV charging opportunities, Council's progress in adopting AI in a safe and secure way, access to real-time air quality data, and other smart city projects.

By presenting this information in one place, the Smart City portal will help the community better understand the range of innovative and interesting projects underway at the City of Launceston, as well as how these initiatives connect to broader strategic priorities and everyday outcomes for residents, businesses and visitors. The portal will also provide a clearer narrative around how Council approaches innovation responsibly, with transparency, privacy and community benefit front of mind.

Once established, the Smart City portal will act as a foundation that can be expanded over time to showcase new projects, trials and partnerships as they emerge, supporting ongoing engagement and awareness of Council's smart city journey.

SENIOR LEADER CORPORATE PLANNING AND STRATEGY

Project Shape

Established Corporate Planning & Strategy Team, including welcoming the Organisational Development Team transitioning from HR, and establishment of the Project Management Office (PMO) and Corporate Planning & Performance Teams. Senior Leader has been recruited and commenced late April, with recruitment of Team Leaders and officers for PMO and Corporate Planning and Performance underway.

Corporate Planning and Performance

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

Activities to develop the Four-Year Delivery Plan 2026/27-2029/20 continued throughout quarter three. This included several workshops held with Senior Leadership, Executive Leadership, and elected Councillors.

The drafted Proposed Plans are on track at the end of quarter three for public consultation release in April (outcomes of this will be reported in the quarter four network report).

Annual Plan Action Item # K1 Develop a New Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

An update on the progress of this project has been included in the Annual Plan Quarterly Progress report for quarter 3 that will be submitted at the Ordinary Council meeting on 28 May 2026. Please refer to the update provided in that report for the Corporate Planning teams' progress on this project.

Cross-functional Project Integration

The Corporate Planning Officer has 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
- Project Ignite
- Establishment of Project Management Office

Project Management Office (PMO)

Establishment of the Project Management Office

The Project Management Office (PMO) was formally established through implementation of Project Shape in late February 2026. The PMO will hold responsibility for developing, maintaining, and supporting implementation of the Project Management Framework (PMF) and play a key role in configuration and oversight of the project management component of the new corporate application. Staff have participated in various internal groups and committees including the Asset Management Committee, the Housing Delivery Committee, and the Service Management Project Reference Group.

PMO staff have worked closely with the Project Ignite team to build an organisational understanding of the Project Lifecycle Management (PLM) module within TechOne. This work has clarified key requirements ahead of system configuration and identified how the

PLM module can be aligned with and support implementation of the proposed Project Management Framework (PMF) and associated tools.

Recruitment of permanent, full-time staff has been a key focus for the team. In addition to project management professionals and an administrative staff member, the team includes a dedicated communications and engagement role to coordinate messaging and stakeholder engagement for the City Heart. A highly experienced candidate was successfully recruited in late February.

Launceston City Heart Place Plan

Portfolio Management

The PMO is responsible for managing the overall City Heart Portfolio.

During the quarter, the City Heart Portfolio Steering Group (PSG) continued to meet fortnightly, providing strategic oversight and driving the delivery of the City Heart Implementation Plan. It plays a leading role in administering the overall project budget, providing high-level coordination across project streams, reviewing project plans to assess maturity and strategic alignment, and acting as a liaison point for project teams to ensure consistent communication and integration. The steering group has added clear value to the project by improving coordination across teams, helping to identify and address issues early and has allowed funding to be used strategically to enhance events and initiatives that support City Heart outcomes.

Key responsibilities of PMO staff in the PSG include chairing PSG meetings and facilitating effective decision-making, preparing fortnightly reports for the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), coordinating quarterly and CPD reporting requirements, engaging with PSG representatives, and liaising with internal and external stakeholders as needed.

Urban Design Guide Review

PMO staff are coordinating a review of the Urban Design Guide, an operational document developed alongside the City Heart Place Plan, following a request from the Place Steering Group (PSG).

During the quarter, the team established and initiated the review process, including convening a cross-organisational panel, developing the terms of reference, and setting the overall approach. PMO is continuing to manage and facilitate the review.

Delivery of the updated guide is expected by end of financial year (EOFY), and will establish a place vision, urban structure, built form directions and public realm performance outcomes within CoL urban footprint.

Corporate Planning and Performance Support

4-Year Delivery Plan and Annual Plan

During the quarter, the PMO team supported the Corporate Planning and Performance team and the Executive Advisor in developing the Draft Annual Plan and Four-Year Delivery Plan.

Building on the review completed in the previous quarter, we established a structured process and worked with teams across the organisation to translate outputs from planning workshops into the required formats.

We supported teams to incorporate these into the Four-Year Delivery Plan template and then further refine them into clear annual plan actions and milestones.

The PMO also helped coordinate and participated in the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) workshop, where the draft plans were collectively reviewed and refined.

Service Management

While the temporary Service Management Officer role has transitioned to the Corporate Planning and Performance team through Project Shape, the PMO has continued to provide active support, guidance, and governance oversight to maintain momentum and delivery.

During the quarter, the Service Management Officer progressed work beyond Annual Plan commitments, with a strong focus on building organisational understanding and capability in service management. This included developing supporting reference materials, delivering training to over 30 Team Leaders, and working with the Project Ignite team to begin further defining services and progressing financial mapping. A second round of service planning was also completed, which will result in a more refined and higher-quality service catalogue.

A significant additional initiative this quarter was the Community Satisfaction Survey. Work commenced on scoping, development of the project brief, and initial project planning, including engagement of a consultant.

Organisational Development

The Organisational Development (OD) Team have undertaken the following BAU and Team Plan work during the last quarter:

City of Launceston Values

The Organisational Development (OD) team continued promoting Our Values through internal visual banners with a focus on 'We Go Home Safe and Well'. A total of 42 Values Recognition submissions were received between January 1, 2026, and April 8, 2026: Our People Matter (11), We Bring an Open Mind (6), We Care About Our Community (20), and We Go Home Safe and Well (5).

The OD team has redeveloped the ColConnect Values page to improve clarity and accessibility. The updated page provides enhanced information on the Values behaviour descriptors, incorporates employee testimonials demonstrating how each Value is lived in practice, and includes an up-to-date Values acknowledgement graph for employee reference:

- Our People Matter: 14
- We Bring an Open Mind: 6
- We Care About Our Community: 27
- We Go Home Safe and Well: 5

Employee Development and Training Program

The OD Team delivered a broad range of compliance, leadership and development, and capability-based training across networks.

The OD Team has organised the following training (JAN-APRIL) noting that the compliance training function was relocated into WH&S Team as part of *Project Shape* on 23 February 2026.

Compliance Training

- HLTAID009 Provide CPR: **38**
- Safety Circle Essentials: **26**
- Before You Dig Excavation Safety Awareness: **30**
- Sexual Harassment Online Training: **21**
- Provide First Aid: **14**
- Mental Health First Aid: **14 (including 4 Accredited)**
- Health & Safety Representative Training: **2**
- DECYP Safeguarding: Your Obligations: **2**
- Forklift Competency: **2**
- Boom Type Elevating Work Platform HR Licence: **1**
- Dogging Licence (Green Card / High Risk): **1**
- Responsible Serving of Alcohol: **1**
- Working with Vulnerable People: **1**
- Parks Facilities Inspectors Course: **1**

Leadership Development

The Australasian Management Challenge

This Australasian Management Challenge is a simulation-based program designed to support team building, learning, and networking, utilising real local government scenarios.

In 2026, two teams of six employees were formed through a voluntary expression of interest process. Teams are established rapidly, with microstructures developed around participants identified strengths and supported by an assigned mentor. In May 2026, the City of Launceston teams will compete alongside teams from other councils as part of the Challenge.

The Emerging Leaders Program

The Emerging Leaders Program has progressed to its final phase, with all participants up to date in their learning journeys. The cohort of eight participants is currently completing the final three journeys of the program. The group has also recently completed two in-person reflection sessions and a DiSC WorkSmart workshop: *'Helping your team Navigate Change'*. The OD team is assessing remaining operational budgets to enable all participants to undertake the Gallup Clifton Strengths assessment.

Capability and Corporate Training

Learning Management System

The MyLearning platform has successfully transitioned from its launch phase into a period of high-impact operational delivery. The OD Team has worked on accessible eLearning design, ensuring all employees can interact with training in an inclusive environment.

The platform saw strong engagement with a **96%** course completion rate, **33** minutes average time spent per user, and over **90%** compliance.

Top Completed Courses

- Artificial Intelligence at CoL (118)
- Sexual Harassment (24)
- Onboarding Induction (17)
- Workplace Policies (11)
- SafetyCircle Induction (11)

Induction Tour

The Team has facilitated one Induction Tour for 16 participants.

DiSC Profiles and Catalyst Project

During this period, eight new DiSC assessments were completed, and 31 employees finalised their Catalyst profiles, with positive feedback about the platform usage.

The OD Team facilitated two Introduction to DiSC sessions to 18 employees.

Apprentices and Trainees

The Organisational Development team continues to support employees undertaking Apprenticeships and Traineeships across diverse fields, with three directly employed apprentices in Civil Construction and Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology (Cert III), and one trainee in Information Technology, all receiving ongoing enrolment support, regular check-ins and coordination with training providers.

SENIOR LEADER PROPERTY AND ASSET STRATEGY

The Property and Asset Strategy Team was established on 22 February 2026 as part of Project Shape, bringing together staff with substantive roles from five teams across the organisation. This report reflects actions undertaken by those staff during the reporting period, as relevant.

Key priorities for the quarter included transitioning into and establishing the team within the Strategy & Innovation Group, embedding ways of working as a new function, and

progressing recruitment to fill the six vacant positions that existed at the time of the team's establishment.

The Senior Leader Property & Asset Strategy represented the City of Launceston on a panel discussion at the IPWEA Tasmania Asset Management Symposium, held in Hobart on 20 March 2026.

Property

Strategic Land and Property Review

Officers have commenced a review of Council's land and property assets, building on previous work to deliver a coordinated, organisation-wide approach that assesses properties against strategic objectives.

Disposals

Council endorsed the disposal of 1 Connaught Crescent to RSL Tasmania for the purpose of housing development. Conveyancing is currently being undertaken by external solicitors.

Leases

Specific leasing activities during the quarter included:

- Commencement of a lease with Just Cats for the Northern Regional Cats Shelter on 5 February 2026.
- Council consideration and approval of an intention to lease the Gorge Restaurant, located at 64 Gorge Road, Trevallyn, to Gunn & Parkinson Pty Ltd on 5 February 2026.
- Preparation of multiple lease matters for consideration by Council in April/May 2026.

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Following a Council recommendation on 19 March 2026, an Expression of Interest process will commence on 24 April 2026 for the removal of a cottage located on leased land at 62 Gorge Road, Trevallyn.

Projects and Initiatives

Officers are progressing the establishment of a coffee cart within City Park, adjacent to Albert Hall, following a successful Expression of Interest process.

Policy

The revised Lease and Licence Policy was adopted by Council on 19 March 2026.

Licences

11 agreements have been entered into, including:

- Strike It Out – use of land in Park Street for storage lockers to support the homeless community
 - Tasmanian Yard Dog Association – use of land at Blessington Hall for sheepdog trials
-

- NTCA – office space at the NTCA complex
- Cricket Tasmania – office space at the NTCA complex
- RSL Band – practice space at QVMAG
- Launceston Elderly Citizen Club – use of car park at Queen Street, Invermay
- Metro – communications tower in Trevallyn
- TS Navy Cadets – use of pontoon at Home Point
- Department of Health – use of Lilydale Pool for swimming lessons
- Rio Tinto – use of the Aquatic Centre
- Shape – use of car park at 112 Kings Meadows Road for a site office

Asset Strategy

Through the Asset Management Steering Committee, with two meetings held within the quarter, the Asset Strategy team progressed key governance and capability reforms, including:

- Approved updated Asset Management Steering Committee Terms of Reference, reflecting Project Shape changes to membership, sponsorship and decision-making roles.
- Endorsed the revised Asset Management Governance Framework, aligned to the new organisational structure and progressed to ELT for approval.
- Oversaw implementation of actions arising from the Asset Management Health Check and Improvement Plan, confirming alignment with the Asset Management Project and transition to the Property & Asset Strategy Team
- Reviewed and endorsed priority elements of the 2026/27 Capital Works. Program, including project prioritisation and funding adjustments ahead of budget deliberations.
- Endorsed a staged asset management capability and training program, including Asset Management Fundamentals and enrolment of staff in the IPWEA Professional Certificate in Asset Management Planning.

Throughout the quarter, the Asset Strategy team also:

- Delivered a total of 5,019 operational work orders generated through maintenance schedules.
- Created 20 capital work orders, representing \$1,361,489.20 in planned expenditure, alongside the creation of 473 new assets in the system.
- Completed grant reporting and progress payments for \$2.4 million in grant reporting and progress payments were completed, ensuring compliance and supporting the delivery of funded projects.
- Commenced preparation for Project Ignite.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

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

- Progressed and strengthened governance and planning for the GIS Reset Project, supporting Council's broader digital transformation through Project Ignite.
- Embedded improved prioritisation processes into day-to-day work practices
- Rebuilt and republished eleven City of Launceston public-facing maps, with Kerbside Collection Pickup Days the most-viewed map, averaging approximately 130 views per day.

- Processed significant datasets to enable the timely release of the LoopedIn Council Waste app.
- Supported development of the Graffiti Data Capture Tool, enabling the reporting of 65 issues during the initial trial period (March).

Throughout the quarter, the GIS team also supported the broader organisation by:

- Actioning 72 GIS Service Desk requests.
- Contributing to the processing of 445 Section 337 Certificates.
- Delivering 1,869 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. Lease - Macquarie House Basement

FILE NO: SF2967

AUTHOR: Sharin Imlach (Team Leader Property)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the lease of Macquarie House basement to Sawtooth ARI inc.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

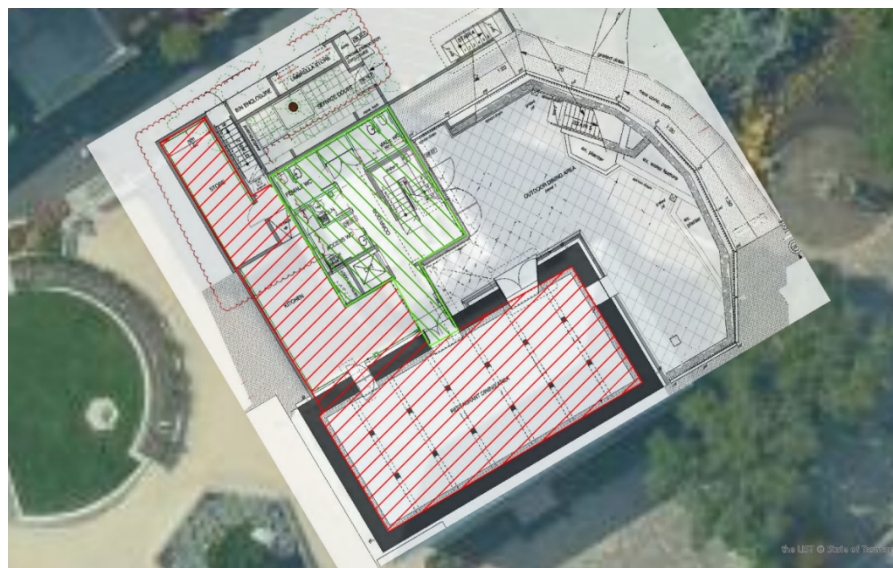
Council – 22 August 2019 - 16.1 - Lease of basement – Macquarie House

Council – 6 March 2025– 20.3 - Intention to lease basement level of Macquarie House 92 – 94 Cameron Street Launceston

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. pursuant to section 179 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*, forms the intention to lease part of the land situated at 92 Cameron Street, Launceston (Part of CT118058/1), known as the The Macquarie House basement, as identified in the plan below:



City of LAUNCESTON Leases

Lease Type
Leased Area (Red hatched)
Shared (Green hatched)

0 0 0 0.01 Kilometers

NOTE: While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information portrayed on this plan its purpose is to provide a general indication of the location of Council services. The information provided may contain errors or omissions and the accuracy may not suit all uses. A site inspection and investigation is recommended before acceptance of any project based on this data. This note forms an integral part of this map product based on the data. This note forms an integral part of this map product based on the data. City of Launceston 2026. Printed 6/05/20

2. Undertakes a development application for the change of use of the basement from food services/ cafe to a use consistent with the requirement to operate a community not-for-profit art gallery.
 3. Requires the terms of the intended lease be as follows:
 - a) The lessee will be Sawtooth ARI Inc.;
 - b) The lease will commence on the completion of recommendation 2, or 28 May 2026 which ever is the later and concludes on the 18 August 2029;
 - c) The commencing rent will be \$347.62 per annum;
 - d) The lessee to be responsible for:
 - i. Energy costs;
 - ii. Volumetric and connection charges for water;
 - iii. Contents insurance; and
 - iv. Other service charges if any.
 4. The lessee must continuously maintain:
 - a) Building in good and reasonable order;
 - b) Keep clear all noxious growth from premises; and
 - c) Hold public liability insurance of at least \$20 million.
 5. The Council is to be responsible for structural maintenance.
 6. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a) Determine the exact dimensions of the land to be leased and all remaining terms and conditions;
 - b) Implement the intention to lease the premises by signing a binding lease agreement with the lessee; and
 - c) Exercise any of Council's rights, options, or discretions necessary for the proper administration of the lease.
 7. 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:

Macquarie House Background

Macquarie House is a prominent four-level sandstone building of significant heritage value.

Following a major restoration completed in 2018, the building successfully preserved its historic character while being sensitively adapted for contemporary use. It is currently anchored by Enterprize Tasmania, which occupies the upper levels to support business development, innovation, and entrepreneurial activity.

Since completion of the restoration works, the basement level has remained vacant.

While the space presents a compelling opportunity for activation, there are several important factors to consider in identifying its most suitable use.

Access to the basement is primarily via stairs, with alternative pathways available through the main building for visitors requiring step-free entry. This arrangement highlights the

importance of maintaining a strong, collaborative relationship with the primary tenant to ensure smooth and inclusive access for all users.

The space itself offers a distinctive character, with an intimate footprint, lower ceiling height, and limited natural light. These features naturally lend themselves to creative, targeted uses that can take advantage of a more contained and atmospheric environment.

The site does not include dedicated parking, encouraging consideration of user groups and activities that are well suited to central, walkable civic locations. Its proximity to Civic Square is a significant advantage, providing strong visibility and opportunities to connect with vibrant public life. At the same time, it invites a degree of flexibility, as nearby events and activations may influence access, sound, and day-to-day operations.

The availability of a shorter-term lease, aligned with the tenure of the current anchor tenant, supports uses that are agile, low-cost, and adaptable. This provides an excellent platform for testing innovative ideas, pilot programs, or temporary activations that can respond dynamically to the space and its context.

Despite these considerations, the space offers a unique and engaging opportunity for creative and responsive uses that can capitalise on its location, character, and potential for activation.

Sawtooth ARI – Proposed Use

Sawtooth ARI (Artist-Run Initiative) is a well-established not-for-profit organisation based in Launceston, committed to supporting emerging and experimental artistic practices. The organisation plays a vital role in fostering local creative communities while also engaging with national audiences through exhibitions, events, and collaborative projects.

Currently located at Inveresk within a warehouse setting, Sawtooth ARI operates from a site that experiences limited casual foot traffic. Relocating or expanding into the Macquarie House basement presents an opportunity to significantly increase public visibility and engagement by situating the organisation within a high-traffic, city-centre environment.

The proposed use of the basement as a gallery and creative space aligns strongly with both the constraints and opportunities of the site. The intimate scale, reduced lighting conditions, and enclosed nature of the space lend themselves well to contemporary art exhibitions, immersive installations, and experimental works. Importantly, the flexible and low-impact operational model of an artist-run initiative is well suited to a short-term lease arrangement.

Through exhibitions, workshops, artist talks, and opening events, Sawtooth ARI would bring a regular and diverse program of cultural activity into the space. This would not only activate an otherwise underutilised area of Macquarie House but also contribute to the vibrancy of Civic Square, drawing visitors into the precinct and fostering a stronger cultural presence in the city centre.

In addition, the activation would support broader strategic objectives around place-making, creative sector development, and community engagement. By providing a platform for

local artists and creative practitioners, the initiative would strengthen Launceston's cultural ecosystem while enhancing the public value of a significant heritage asset.

While the initial approach to Sawtooth ARI envisioned a short-term 3–6 month pop-up activation to enliven Civic Square and increase the organisation's visibility, it became evident that the costs associated with temporarily relocating staff and establishing the basement as a functional gallery space were disproportionate to the limited tenure. As a result, this option was not considered viable.

This has led to further exploration of a longer-term tenancy model, with a reduced level of ongoing operational commitment, allowing Sawtooth ARI to activate the space in a sustainable way while continuing to seek a more suitable permanent location. This approach provides greater value for both parties, enabling meaningful activation of the site without the inefficiencies of repeated setup and relocation.

This recommendation is based on a strong strategic alignment between the organisation's purpose and the opportunities presented by the space, as well as the demonstrated capacity of Sawtooth ARI to deliver consistent cultural programming that will contribute positively to the activation of Macquarie House and the broader Civic Square precinct.

Governance

Officers have determined that leasing the property without undertaking a public Expression of Interest process can be supported under the Disposal or Alienation of Council Assets Policy. The policy provides that Council may proceed without a public process *"in response to a direct approach where it determines that given all circumstances a better outcome would not have been achieved through a public process."*

Enterprize Tasmania has been consulted on this proposal and is supportive of exploring options to utilise the basement in a way that complements the existing operations within Macquarie House.

The proposed lease term will align with the remaining term of the existing lease held by Enterprize Tasmania and will expire on 28 August 2029. Aligning the expiry dates of both leases will provide Council with the opportunity to consider future tenancy arrangements for the site in a coordinated and strategic manner once both agreements conclude.

Legislative Requirements

The current building use classification for the basement is Food Services (Café). To facilitate the operation of an art gallery, the use class will need to be changed to Retail. Council officers will manage and submit the Development Application for this change of use at no cost to the proposed lessee. Approval of the application will enable the basement to be used as an art gallery, including the sale of artwork, hosting exhibitions, exhibition openings, and the delivery of workshops.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Leaving the basement of Macquarie House vacant presents several risks, including gradual deterioration due to lack of use, increased maintenance costs, and missed opportunities for revenue and community engagement.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Activating the basement as a community art gallery would introduce foot traffic, support local artists and create additional value aligned with the innovation and enterprise focus already present within Macquarie House.

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 Councils Lease and Licence Policy, the recommended annual rent is \$347.62 which is 182 fee units established by the *Fee Units Act 1997*. The Act establishes a 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 \$42,650 per year, resulting in an effective subsidy of \$42,302.38.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

20.3. Russells Plains Farm Future Plan

FILE NO: SF6138

AUTHOR: Rachael Eberhardt (Waste and Environment Officer - Operations)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the future plan for Russells Plains Farm owned by Council at 126-128 Russells Plains Road, Rocherlea.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council – 21 September 2023 – 18.1 - 126-128 Russells Plains Road, Rocherlea
Workshop - 12 February 2026 – Russells Plains

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Notes that 126-128 Russells Plains Road, Rocherlea is not required for future landfill development.
 2. Notes that 126-128 Russells Plains Road, Rocherlea will form part of the Strategic Land and Property Review, and its future use will be considered as part of that process to determine its highest and best use.
-

REPORT:

On 14 March 1997 the Council purchased 126-128 Russells Plains Road, Rocherlea for \$725,000 as a future landfill site to service the City of Launceston. The property is located adjacent to the current Launceston Waste Centre (LWC), covering an area of approximately 860 hectares consisting of grazing land and vegetated sections.



Figure 1: 126-128 Russells Plains Road, Rocherlea (Source: DAS)

The site has been subject to numerous vandalism events and management issues over the past decade, resulting in a report to the Council in 2023 recommending the removal of remaining dwellings and determining landfill feasibility with the intent to review future options for the property.

In 2024, the remaining dwellings were removed and a licence agreement with a local farmer commenced to run a small herd on the property and to act as caretaker for the land. During this period, there have been almost no antisocial activities on the property, including illegal dumping, fire lighting, wood theft, and trespassing. In addition, boundary and internal stock proof fencing has been reinstalled across the property. The property continues to be utilised by local orienteering clubs, horse riders, and SES for training purposes.

In early 2025, the Council engaged GHD to prepare a landfill feasibility assessment at Russells Plains Farm. Since the purchase of the property, the following changes have occurred:

- Community attitudes have shifted regarding location of landfills.
- Land available for development is becoming increasingly difficult to source close to Launceston.
- Council has made a Towards Zero commitment for carbon emissions, with a new landfill potentially conflicting with this commitment.

- The future of waste management is changing, with the council’s role in regional waste management being reviewed.
- Increase in waste diversion initiatives at the Launceston Waste Centre, shifting from landfill-focused disposal to a multi-stream recovery including organics (FOGO), reuse and recovery.

Considering these changes and the feasibility of landfill development, Council can decide whether the property should be retained for its original use, repurposed for alternative use/multiuse, or be divested.

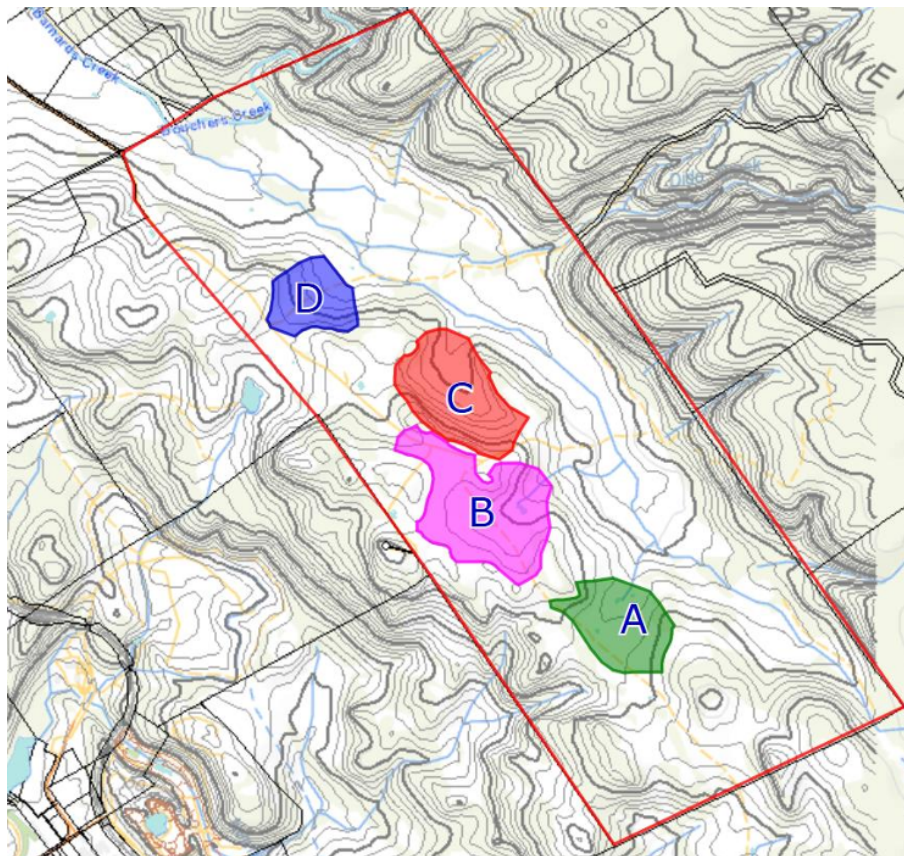


Figure 2: Potential locations for landfill development (Source: GHD Report, 2025)

Figure 2 identifies the potential landfill locations; however, each site would operate independently, as they cannot be easily interconnected due to environmental constraints and regulatory requirements.

The table below (Table 1) provides a summary of the identified locations including size and potential issues. The current landfill footprint is 40 hectares, and each of the identified areas is considerably less in size.

Table 1: Summary of potential landfilling areas

Location ID (refer to Figure 10)	Area (hectares)	Description
A	15	May be visible and therefore may require additional work to lower landfill, such as excavation. Which may in turn reduce landfill capacity.
B	28	Largest identified landfill area, however may be visible to surrounding suburbs and Launceston. May be able to construct with adjacent area C.
C	20	May be visible and therefore may require additional work to lower landfill, such as excavation. May be able to construct with adjacent area B.
D	10	Potentially less visible, but smaller landfill area. At a distance to other identified areas and may require separate infrastructure and services.

In summary, the assessment area has potential to provide some areas which may be suitable for landfill development based on the assessment of the Landfill Sustainability Guidelines 2004 principles. However, the locations available for landfilling are substantially reduced due to the presence of permanent watercourses through the site, shallow groundwater, and topographic considerations. Some areas of the property have the potential to be visible from surrounding areas in Launceston, which may not be acceptable under landfill licensing requirements. Approximately 8% of the site could be utilised for landfill; however, their central location within the property would compromise and devalue the remaining land impacting overall development potential.

Developing a landfill adjacent to the existing LWC has the benefit that the existing infrastructure could be retained and reused, such as the toll booth/weighbridge, site roads, leachate diversion, landfill gas capture and resource recovery areas. The current LWC site has established resource recovery infrastructure, and operational facilities in place, which could be utilised if access to the Russells Plains property was constructed from the current LWC site. This would assist in reducing impacts on surrounding suburbs such as Rocherlea. Some of the Russells Plains land bordering the current landfill site could be retained for future landfill construction and operations.

Council is unlikely to require additional landfill capacity for another 30 years. In this time there may be changes to approvals and regulation which will apply to landfill development. There are also likely to be changes in the environment, technology, and community attitudes, which may impact the future development of a landfill within the assessment area.

In 2025, a comprehensive valuation report was prepared for Council which valued the property at \$4.55m. In terms of land use planning, the site is zoned Rural under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. Potential rezoning can be considered in future strategic land use investigations.

Based on the above considerations, the current Russells Plains site is not ideal for whole use landfill development. Future strategic land use investigations may identify potential uses for the site, for example, divesting, rezoning to industrial or residential, conservation and future waste management technologies.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The Report notes only around 8% of the site may be usable for landfill, and its central location could compromise or devalue the remaining land, impacting broader development potential and future options.

The finding that the site is not required for landfill development reinforces the importance of optimising and strategically managing existing waste assets, including the Launceston Waste Centre, to maximise capacity, efficiency and lifespan. Failure to prioritise diversion and resource recovery may increase future reliance on new landfill capacity.

The site has experienced historical vandalism and management issues (illegal dumping, fire lighting, wood theft, trespassing). While these have reduced significantly under the current caretaker/licence arrangement, the risk may re-emerge if management arrangements change.

Potential rezoning or repurposing options identified e.g., industrial/residential, conservation, future waste technologies, divestment will require appropriate planning pathways and investigations; outcomes may be constrained by existing zoning and planning requirements.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Economic

The property was purchased as a future landfill site and is now valued at \$4.55m (2025 valuation). Decisions to retain, repurpose, or divest have material implications for Council's financial position and potential future returns/use value.

The landfill feasibility findings indicate the site is not ideal for whole-of-site landfill development, and that landfill development could compromise the value and development potential of the remaining land due to limited suitable area and central placement.

Incorporating 126-128 Russells Plains Road, Rocherlea into the Strategic Land and Property Review will enable alternative value pathways such as rezoning, divestment, conservation, or other uses. These alternatives may improve long-term economic outcomes compared with reserving the land for an unlikely near-term landfill need and consider highest and best use.

Environmental

Environmental constraints materially limit landfill suitability, including permanent watercourses, shallow groundwater, and topography.

The report notes Council's Towards Zero commitment and that a new landfill may conflict with that commitment.

Social

Community attitudes toward landfill locations have shifted, and visibility from surrounding areas may be unacceptable under licensing requirements - indicating potential social licence impacts if landfill development were reconsidered.

Since the caretaker/licence arrangement commenced, antisocial behaviour has reduced significantly, suggesting positive local amenity outcomes where active land management continues.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

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

The report relates to Annual Plan 2026/2027 Action Item S13 *Explore opportunities for Russells Plains relative to Council's future needs for the site.*

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Council acquired the property in 1997 for \$725,000 for future landfill purposes.

A 2025 valuation assessed the property at \$4,550,000, indicating a materially higher current asset value and making future use/divestment decisions financially significant.

The report notes that developing a landfill adjacent to the existing Launceston Waste Centre could enable reuse of some existing operational infrastructure for example, weighbridge/toll booth, roads, leachate diversion, gas capture, resource recovery areas, which may reduce potential capital requirements if landfill were ever pursued however, feasibility constraints and long lead-times remain.

The Strategic Land and Property Review and a comprehensive review to determine highest and best use for 126-128 Russells Plains Road, Rocherlea may incur costs, it is proposed these will be funded from existing budgets. A comprehensive review may require the engagement of a suitably qualified third-party advisor.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 12660636- RE P- Russells Plains Desktop Landfill Feasibility Assessment [20.3.1 - 170 pages]
2. J B 4211224_ _ Final Report pedv Cb Po E Eiz J 0 Nbp m Zac A [20.3.2 - 51 pages]

20.4. City of Launceston Annual Plan 2025/2026 - Quarter 3 Progress Report

FILE NO: SF7151

AUTHOR: Emily Lewis (Corporate Planning Officer)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the progress against council's 2025/2026 Annual Plan Actions for the quarter 3 period from 1 January 2026 through to 31 March 2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

The *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas): Part 7 – Administration, Division 2 – Plans and reports.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

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 quarter 3 period (1 January 2026 - 31 March 2026) presented in the attached report.
-

REPORT:

Progress against the 2025/2026 Annual Plan Actions for the third quarter of the financial year, covering the period from 1 January 2026 through to 31 March 2026, is provided in the attached report.

The following table shows an overview of the status of the 34 Actions at the end of the quarter period.

For full details on the status, supporting progress comments, and overview of the activities 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:

Action Status	No. of Actions	%
On Schedule	20	59%
Behind Schedule or Delayed	9	26%
On Hold	2	6%
Deferred	2	6%
Cancelled	1	3%
Complete	0	0%
Total	34	100%

Summary of status changes since previous quarter:

Since the end of the previous quarter (quarter two), we have had several Action Items change status.

We have seen one action (S14) progress from *Behind Schedule* to *On Schedule*. However, three actions (K3, K6 and K16) have regressed from *On Schedule* to *Behind schedule or delayed*.

A further one action (K14) has been deferred, a change from *Delayed* in quarter two; and one action (S2) has been cancelled following a period of being *On hold*.

The reasons for each of these status changes are provided under each individual Action Item within the attached report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Primary Impact Category	Explanation of Risk
Loss of trust / confidence or morale (public and employees) including reputational risk	<i>Status of Action Items may result in questions or loss of trust from Councillors and/or community members.</i>
Organisational objective or outcomes	<i>Failure to deliver Annual Plan Actions, which contribute to overall delivery of Strategic Plan.</i>
Strategic Objectives	<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

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. Annual Plan 25-26 Q 3- Progress- Report [**20.4.1** - 77 pages]

20.5. Efficiency Dividends Report - Quarter 3

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 third 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 third quarter of the financial year 2025/26.

REPORT:

The Efficiency Dividends Report has been developed and the report reflecting the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year is provided as an attachment.

A table summarising key actions is presented below; however, Councillors are encouraged to refer to the attached report for the full details of activities undertaken.

Surplus		Expenditure	
Savings / Operational		Launceston CBD Bus Interchange additional Civic Square option	\$123,000
Efficiencies / Capital		Repairing Emergency Pet Container	\$7,506
Additional Revenue		Delegation to Sister City Ikeda Japan October 2025	\$50,401
		Withdrawal of Fees and Infringements	\$14,166
Total	\$0	Total	\$195,073

Q1 Surplus	\$1,035,265
Q2 Surplus	\$190,411
Q3 Surplus	\$0
Running Total	\$1,144,676

Q1 Expenditure	\$50,296
Q2 Expenditure	\$62,144
Q3 Expenditure	\$195,073
Running Total	\$307,513

Overall running total of efficiency dividends: \$837,163

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. Efficiency Dividends Report Q 3 2025 26 [20.5.1 - 9 pages]

20.6. Strategic Land and Property Review Update

FILE NO: SF2967

AUTHOR: Sharin Imlach (Team Leader Property)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive an update on the Strategic Land and Property Review and note the pause on all acquisitions and disposals.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Receives the report on the progress of the Strategic Land and Property review;
 2. Notes the temporary pause on acquisitions and disposals of Council-owned land pending completion of the Strategic Land and Property Review; and
 3. Notes that the temporary pause does not apply to leasing and licensing matters, easements and encroachments, or property transactions already under consideration.
-

REPORT:

Strategic Land and Property Review

In March 2025, Council employed an Acquisition and Property Holding Advisor, with a key responsibility of undertaking a Strategic Land and Property Review of all Council-owned real property assets. The purpose of the Review is to provide a comprehensive overview of Council's real property holdings to support informed decision-making and ensure alignment with Council's strategic objectives and long-term asset management planning.

The Strategic Land and Property Review is intended to provide a detailed assessment of each property title, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of Council's property portfolio. This information will assist in future decision-making in relation to the disposal of surplus properties, the repurposing of existing assets, and the acquisition of properties required to complement Council's existing portfolio of land and facilities.

Preliminary findings from the review have identified approximately 350 Council-owned real property titles within the Launceston municipal area, excluding road reserves. The review includes consideration of:

- The purpose and function of the land;
- Any buildings or structures located on the site;
- Current occupants and users of the land or facilities;
- Existing agreements in place, including leases and licences; and
- Internal stakeholders with an interest within the property.

Conducting the Strategic Land and Property Review is important to ensure Council has a clear and contemporary understanding of its property portfolio, including how assets are currently being used, managed, and maintained. A comprehensive review supports informed and transparent decision-making and assists Council to align its property holdings with strategic priorities, service delivery needs and long-term financial sustainability.

The review will also assist Council to:

- Identify underutilised or surplus properties that may be suitable for disposal or alternative use;
- Identify opportunities to improve utilisation of existing assets and community facilities;
- Ensure appropriate governance and management arrangements are in place across Council-owned land and buildings;
- Better understand existing leasing, licensing and occupancy arrangements;
- Support future infrastructure and service planning;
- Identify gaps within the existing property portfolio and opportunities for strategic acquisitions; and
- Improve coordination and accountability across Council networks responsible for property management.

Undertaking the review will provide Council with a stronger evidence base to support future strategic, operational and financial decisions relating to property ownership, investment and management.

Current Challenges

The Strategic Land and Property Review has commenced, but progress has been limited as the Acquisition and Property Holding Advisor was reassigned to other critical priorities during 2025 and early 2026 aligned to Council's strategic direction and decisions. These included:

- Contract support for the redevelopment of 118-124 Brisbane Street ('Birchalls');
- The disposal of 1 Connaught Crescent (RSL Veterans Housing project);
- Consideration of constraints and possible future plans for Macquarie House;
- Identifying options for market and event spaces in the CBD; and
- Considering development options for a CBD property for medium-density housing.

The Property Team was established in February 2026 through Project Shape, bringing together two existing roles from across the organisation to strengthen capability and support improved outcomes in the management of Council's property portfolio. Project Shape also recognised the need to increase resources in the newly established Property team commensurate with the expectations and workload in this area of Council activities. Two new roles were created given the breadth and complexity of Council's property

portfolio, and need for an integrated approach to managing these assets. Recruitment is underway for these roles; however, the team are not yet at capacity. Further, this has been impacted by the recent resignation of the Acquisition and Property Holding Advisor.

The team continues to operate in a complex environment, shaped by legacy fragmentation of responsibilities, varied stakeholder expectations, and evolving governance arrangements associated with its establishment as a new function. There are also an increasing number of requests, both internally and externally through community organisations and stakeholders being made of this team that cannot be actioned with current resources available.

With the establishment of the new team, staff are currently progressing work to improve internal governance, clarity, coordination, and consistency, with a focus on defining the operating model and framework through '*creating clarity, accountability, and alignment across Council's property portfolio*'. Concurrently, the team has and is responding to a range of ongoing and complex property matters from across the community, Council, and external stakeholders, given the volume of requests this is no longer sustainable.

Ad hoc property requests have continued to impact the team's capacity to progress strategic priorities, including the Strategic Land and Property Review. The resignation of the Acquisition and Property Holding Advisor has impacted this. Whilst recruitment is currently underway, the completion of the Strategic Land and Property Review will remain a key priority for the incoming officer; however, will not be progressed in the interim.

Pause on acquisitions and disposals

It is proposed that a temporary pause on property acquisitions and disposals is warranted until the Strategic Land and Property Review is completed. The review is intended to provide Council with a clear, whole-of-portfolio understanding of its land and building assets so that future decisions are aligned with strategic priorities, service needs and long-term asset management objectives.

In the absence of a completed review, there is a risk that Council may dispose of land with future strategic, operational or community value, or acquire property that duplicates existing assets or does not address an identified need. A temporary pause will reduce the risk of fragmented or reactive decision-making and ensure significant property decisions are made on a coordinated, evidence-based basis, whilst allowing available staff to focus on managing ongoing work requests at an operational level.

A temporary pause will allow Council to:

- Assess acquisitions and disposals within the context of the broader property portfolio;
- Identify whether existing Council-owned land or facilities could meet future operational or community needs before pursuing acquisitions;
- Ensure surplus property decisions are supported by clear strategic justification;
- Avoid unintended impacts on future infrastructure planning, service delivery or community outcomes;
- Align property decisions with Council's long-term financial and asset management strategies; and

- Ensure consistency, transparency, and accountability in property-related decision-making.

Implementing a temporary hold does not prevent Council from responding to urgent or exceptional circumstances or proceeding where the process has already been initiated. Rather, it provides an opportunity for Council to complete the Strategic Land and Property Review and establish a clear strategic framework to guide future property decisions. It is estimated that the pause would continue until the end of the 2026 calendar year, or until such times as the Land and Property Review is adopted by Council.

Expectations will be managed through clear and consistent communication. Any requests for property acquisitions or disposals received during the pause period will be assessed to determine whether they warrant consideration on the basis of urgency, regardless of whether the request originates from an internal or external party.

For clarity, the following activities would continue during this period:

- Leasing and licensing matters as per current processes;
- Discussions relating to easements and encroachments;
- Disposal of 1 Connaught Crescent, West Launceston (Council Meeting 19 February 2026);
- Acquisition of land at Kings Wharf Road, Invermay (Council Meeting 30 April 2026);
- Discussions with key stakeholders, such as Launceston Tramways Museum and the National Automobile Museum Tasmania (NAMT) around future opportunities;
- Consideration of acquisitions related to specific council decisions, such as to enable the delivery of the St Leonards and Waverley Neighbourhood Plan.

Officers have recently received representations from external stakeholders in relation to Invermay Bowls Club, Kings Meadows Bowls Club, 56 Fredrick Street, 87 Margaret Street and Tatler Parade.

To date, these have not been discussed or presented to Council due to resource constraints. It is intended to pause these requests as they relate to the work of the Strategic Land and Property Review which will provide an appropriate process under which they can be considered.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Proceeding with property acquisitions or disposals prior to completion of the Strategic Property Review may result in decisions being made without a full understanding of Council's broader property portfolio, future service requirements or strategic priorities.

This creates a risk that Council could dispose of land with future operational or community value, acquire assets that are unnecessary or duplicative, or make decisions that are inconsistent with long-term financial, infrastructure and asset management objectives. Premature decisions may also limit future opportunities, create inefficiencies across the portfolio, and reduce Council's ability to undertake coordinated and evidence-based property planning.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Decisions made without a comprehensive understanding of current and future community needs may result in the loss of land or facilities that provide social, recreational, cultural or community value.

This could reduce access to community services and public spaces, limit future opportunities for community infrastructure, and create uncertainty for existing user groups, tenants, and stakeholders. A coordinated review process helps ensure property decisions support broader community outcomes and long-term social benefit.

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:

This pause will not have direct budget impacts. However, proceeding with property acquisitions or disposals before the Strategic Land and Property Review is completed may create financial risks for Council, including inefficient use of resources, duplication of assets, and missed opportunities to optimise the existing property portfolio.

Decisions made without a comprehensive strategic assessment may also result in unforeseen ongoing costs relating to maintenance, operational requirements, asset upgrades or future reacquisition of strategically important land. Deferring significant property decisions until the review is completed will assist Council to ensure future expenditure and potential revenue opportunities are aligned with long-term financial planning and asset management objectives.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

**20.7. Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation (NTDC) Quarter 3 2026
Progress Report - FY 2025/2026**

FILE NO: SF0793

AUTHOR: Sarah McRobbie (Senior Leader Prosperity and Innovation)

APPROVER: Jane Lewis (Executive Leader Strategy and Innovation)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation Ltd. (NTDC) Quarter 3 Progress Report for the financial year 2025/2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council Meeting - 23 March 2023 – Agenda Item 19.2 - Northern Tasmania Development Corporation

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation Ltd (NTDC) Report for Quarter 3, January – March 2026 for the financial year 2025/2026.
-

REPORT:

Northern Tasmania Development Corporation Ltd (NTDC) is the regional development body for Northern Tasmania, funded by seven northern councils: City of Launceston, Dorset, Northern Midlands, Meander Valley, West Tamar, George Town and Break O'Day.

The Quarterly Report for Quarter 3, January to March 2026 provides a progress update on NTDCS's activities across the six strategic priority areas.

At the Council Meeting on 23 March 2023, the Council resolved to enter into a Members Agreement 2023-2026. The current Members Agreement will expire on 30 June 2026.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

NTDC is tasked with growing Northern Tasmanian prosperity through: Economic Development, Regional Collaboration, Advocacy and Communications.

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.
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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(a)	Position Launceston as a national testbed for urban innovation (e.g., pilot smart city projects, future mobility solutions, and climate-adaptive urbanism).
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Objective 1.3(b)	Attract and retain young professionals (25 - 34 year-olds) to Launceston.
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BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Members Agreement 2023-2026 commits the City of Launceston to an annual funding contribution to the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation Ltd (NTDC) to 30 June 2026.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. NTDC Quarterly Report Jan- Mar 2026 [20.7.1 - 12 pages]

21. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK

21.1. Chief Executive Officer Quarterly Report (January to March 2026)

FILE NO: SF0008

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Team Leader Executive Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

This report provides a general update on activities and responsibilities within the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) remit.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the report noting the activities of the Chief Executive Officer for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026.
-

REPORT:

To consider Council receives quarterly updates on matters that are for information noting and not requiring specific decisions. Any matters falling within this portfolio requiring a decision on policy, financial or strategic direction will be presented as recommendation reports on a Council agenda.

This report provides Council with updates on general matters within the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) remit. If further information or clarification is required on any matters within the report, Councillor's are encouraged to contact the report author prior to the Council meeting.

Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders, including residents, businesses, community groups, and partners, is undertaken constructively and in good faith, even where issues are complex or contentious. Refer below to Schedule of Engagements for a comprehensive list of engagement opportunities that were undertaken during the quarter.

Schedule of Engagements

Date	Engagement
8 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended a Special Council meeting
13 January 2026b	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting with Helene Boyer - Author "On the Swamp"

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with representatives to discuss Waverley Community Development
15 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Council Workshop
21 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Jo Palmer MP
22 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Council Meeting
23 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Citizenship Ceremony
27 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Katie Cooper, CEO Launceston Airport
29 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Council Meeting
30 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a meeting with Solstice Energy representatives
2 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a meeting with Amanda Castray, UTAS Vice-Chancellor
3 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a meeting with Janie Finlay MP and The Hon Josh Willie
4 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a meeting with Jerome Muir Wilson
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the Ministerial Launch of the TEMT Kanamaluka/Tamar Infrastructure & Amenities Master Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a meeting with Biran Colins, CEO Enterprize
5 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Council Meeting
6 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAFM (4 Day Work Week discussion)
6 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Vicki Brereton, CEO Central Coast Council
10 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Scott Lovell to discuss the proposed 4-Day Work Week
11 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Alex Stephens, Account Manager, Technology One
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Stadiums Tasmania regarding the North Launceston Football Club – Clubrooms Project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the TasTAFE and Launceston Chamber of Commerce Networking Event
12 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Council Workshop
16 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a meeting with Scott Kelleher (Director, Department of Foreign Affairs - Tas)
18 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Michael Bailey to discuss the proposed 4-Day Work Week
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) Meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the Confluence Trail Network Inception meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Dennis Hendriks (Office of the Coordinator General)
19 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Council Meeting
23 to 25 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the City of Marion (SA) with Executive delegates
26 February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Council Workshop
2 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a representatives discussion meeting about the Gorge Chairlift
3 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a meeting with Archana Brammall
4 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a meeting with Sam Marshall, Manager Community Engagement, NBNC
5 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Mr Peter Frazer, CEO of SARAH Group about National Road Safety Week

10 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Phaedra Deckart, CEO Solstice Energy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended Launceston Flood Authority
12 to 13 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended the LGAT General Managers/CEO's Workshop
13 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended the TFC - Club Update and Overview with Brendon Gale and Kath McCann
17 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended a meeting with Kim Seagram (Chair) at FermentHQ
18 to 19 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended Resonate26 Government Communication Conference
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended TEMT Infrastructure & Amenity Steering Committee Meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended TasWater's Council Connect lunch followed by Launceston Sewer Transformation
26 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended Council Workshop
27 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended Northern Chairs Breakfast
30 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended a Minister for Housing and Planning Roundtable about fast tracking rezoning for housing with Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
31 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended a meeting with George Theo (CEO, TasWater) and Matt Derbyshire (GM Sustainable Infrastructure)

Councillor One on One

Councillors are invited to attend One on One meetings each quarter to enhance engagement, and the schedule below indicates meetings held to date.

Councillor	1	2	3	4
Mayor Councillor M K Garwood (Weekly meetings)	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor D C Gibson		✓	✓	
Councillor A E Dawkins	✓	Resigned		
Councillor A G Harris	✓	✓		
Councillor T G Walker	✓	✓		
Councillor Prof G Razay	✓	Resigned		
Councillor J J Pentridge	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor A J Palmer	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor L M McMahon		✓		
Councillor S Cai	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor A J Britton	✓	✓		
Councillor K Preece		✓		
Councillor R Marsden		✓		

Some of the special projects and organisational priorities that are ongoing include:

Enterprise Agreement (EA)

While the new City of Launceston Enterprise Agreement 2026 is being reviewed by the Fair Work Commission, we are starting to plan for one of its key changes: compressed working week options for full time employees. Under the new EA, eligible full-time

employees may request to work their 38 hours as either, a 4-day week, with one rostered day off each week, or a 9-day fortnight, with one rostered day off each fortnight.

Support for the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce

The Kanamaluka/Tamar Infrastructure & Amenities Master Plan (the Plan) was formally released on 4 February 2026 by Minister for Infrastructure and Transport the Hon. Kerry Vincent.

The Plan was developed through extensive consultation with community and business stakeholders and at its core, proposes upgrading existing event spaces, enhancing the shared path network, and transforming underutilised foreshore areas into accessible, community-friendly gathering spaces. This ambitious vision will create opportunities for business investment, bringing people to the water through improved recreation and cultural events.

Investment in Professional Development and Shared Services

The City of Launceston continues to collaborate across councils to develop a disciplined performance framework that underpins operational excellence, clear accountability, and consistent delivery through a Performance and Organisational Review (PoR) process and Executive Leaders had the opportunity to observe high performance systems and operational metrics designed and implemented at the City of Marion that closely align with what we are seeking to embed at Launceston. Observing a mature, well-embedded model has given our Executive Leadership Team clarity and confidence in the direction we are pursuing, while significantly reducing the risks associated with designing such systems in isolation, through building trusted professional relationships that are delivering tangible benefits. We are also progressing with Devonport City Council and are well positioned to significantly accelerate organisational performance and capability at the City of Launceston. By partnering with organisations already operating in a best-in-class environment, we can maximise early wins and successes while avoiding unnecessary risks, costs, and time delays. These relationships do not remove the need to tailor systems to suit our own operating rhythm and context, but they provide us with a proven foundation from which to build, as we explore regional shared service arrangements.

Housing and Planning Roundtable

At the 2025 election, the Tasmanian Government made a commitment to take action to deliver a range of reforms to improve the planning system and examine options to help deliver more houses sooner, through a review of land use strategies including updated regional land use strategies and local strategic plans. Attendees were encouraged to provide feedback about experiences with the rezoning process, what parts of the process are causing issues and key challenges, and offered suggestions for opportunities for improvements and/or changes at either the state or local government level.

Project Shape

Project Shape continues to progress as a key organisational reform initiative, focused on strengthening how we operate, deliver services, and support our people. Over the past quarter, solid groundwork has been completed across structure, process improvement, and capability uplift, with early changes now being embedded across the organisation. Encouragingly, we are beginning to see tangible benefits, including clearer accountability, improved alignment to our Strategic Plan, and more consistent approaches to service delivery. Engagement with staff has remained a priority, with feedback actively shaping implementation and helping ensure changes are practical and sustainable.

While there is more work ahead, particularly in fully embedding new ways of working and realising long term efficiencies, Project Shape is building positive momentum. It remains a critical enabler for a more agile, responsive, and high performing City of Launceston, positioning the organisation well to meet future community needs.

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

21.2. Status Report on Council Decisions as at 21 May 2026

FILE NO: SF2346

AUTHOR: Keara Downey (Administration Officer- Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive the Status Report on Council Decisions made up to, and as at, 21 May 2026.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the Status Report on Council Decisions as at 21 May 2026 (Attachment 1).
-

REPORT:

It is important that Councillors and community members are informed on an ongoing basis of progress in relation to the implementation of Council decisions and addresses outstanding items.

The Status Report is a document that is used to track the progress of Council decisions, providing a history which can be used for evaluation and reviewing purposes.

The Report will continue to be refined, and items marked as completed within this report will be removed from future reports.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Tracking Council decisions will also identify potential risks ensuring strategies can be put in place to manage them.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

This has already been considered when the individual items were presented to Council.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

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

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Status Report on Council Decisions as at 21 May 2026 [21.2.1 - 25 pages]

21.3. Status Report on Notices of Motion as at 21 May 2026

FILE NO: SF5547

AUTHOR: Keara Downey (Administration Officer- Governance Support)

APPROVER: Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive the updated Status Report on Notices of Motion.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. receives the Status Report on Notices of Motion as at 21 May 2026 (Attachment 1).
-

REPORT:

In accordance with regulation 19(1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, a Councillor may give to the Chief Executive Officer a written notice of motion, (at least 7 days before a meeting), together with supporting information and reasons, to be included on the agenda of that meeting.

To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, updates regarding the status of Notices of Motion will be reported to each Council meeting.

Items marked as 'completed' will be removed from the list following the meeting at which this is reported.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

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

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Status of Notices of Motion as at 21 May 2026 [21.3.1 - 9 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. Application for Leave of Absence by Councillor T Walker

REASON FOR CLOSED COUNCIL:

This item is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with section 17(2)(i) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

(i) requests by councillors for leave of absence.

23.3. End of Closed Session

24. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held at 1.00pm on 11 June 2026 at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 18-28 St John Street, Launceston.

25. MEETING CLOSURE