MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: Wednesday 25 November 2026

Free weekend parking to support festive season in Launceston CBD

Shoppers and businesses in Launceston's city centre this festive season will benefit from free parking on selected weekends following a decision at the first meeting of the new-look City of Launceston Council last night.

The initiative is designed to support community participation at festive events, including this weekend's combined Light up the Tree and Launceston Lions Twilight Christmas Parade, to held on Saturday 28 November, encourage visitation to the CBD and provide some cost-of-living relief for families during the Christmas period.

Mayor Matthew Garwood said the initiative aimed to make it easier for people to enjoy the city's festive activities and support local businesses.

"Christmas is one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year in Launceston, with thousands of people coming into the city to shop, attend events and spend time with friends."

"This year, the City of Launceston is supporting a bumper calendar including for the first time combining the Light up the Tree and Lions Club Twilight Christmas Parade as well as other initiatives in the mall.

"Providing free parking to align with some of these events is a practical step we can take to help make it easier and more affordable for people to enjoy everything the city has to offer during the festive season."

Free parking will be available in participating Council-managed car parks from 10am until 6pm on:

- Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November
- Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December
- Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 December
- Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 December
- Saturday 26 to Monday 28 December inclusive

The initiative applies to Council-managed multi-storey and off-street car parks in the CBD, including CH Smith, Elizabeth Street, Paterson Street West and Paterson Street East as well as off-street car parks Bathurst Street, Cimitiere-Cameron Street and York Street West.

On-street parking arrangements will continue to operate as normal. Permit and private bays within participating car parks will remain subject to existing conditions and enforcement. The free parking period coincides with major festive events including the Christmas Parade, Lighting of the Tree and Carols in the Park.

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City of LAUNCESTON